

July 1982

CHAIN REACTION

No 20

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TELFORD ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP

National Demonstration

Everyone who attended must have been greatly encouraged by the numbers of people who came. Before the day we must all have felt pessimistic as the media and press have during the most recent part kept up a total coverage of the war in the South Atlantic at the expense of all other news. In spite of the media's bias the demonstration was as large as the previous event in October 1981. The strength of feeling expressed by many and determined nature of the demonstration itself must serve as a lesson to us all.

However it will not be enough to do the same again year in year out we must find other means to express our anger at the stupidity of allowing the deployment of American controlled missiles here in Europe. To be a member of a peace group or part of the campaign does not mean that we must remain passive.

The most important immediate action we can take is to organise activities against the government's civil defence exercise Hard Rock which takes place in October.

P. Wolfe



The Other War Game....

One of the points Peter Watkins would have stressed in his film is that the Government's civil defence plans are a major assault on civil liberties, in addition to being totally inadequate as a protection against the effects of nuclear war. Civil defence plans are directed towards tricking and bullying civilians into compliance in the run-up to a nuclear war, then imposing authoritarian rule on any who are still alive after it. Civil and military authorities in Britain will be practising how to do this between September 29th and October the 5th, in an exercise called 'Hard Rock 82'.

'Hard Rock' is intended to involve local authorities more than the last 'Home Defence' exercise 'Square Leg' did in 1980. The nuclear free zone local authorities will probably not be co-operating, though the Government may try to pressure them into some amount of participation. Shropshire County Council seems likely to join in willingly, which would probably involve manning the Civil defence basement under Shirehall. The Royal Observer Corps (which was very busy during Square Leg) also has a radiation proofed headquarters in Shrewsbury, which is at the centre of a set of 31 monitoring post bunkers in Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire. What can TANG and the other CND groups in Shropshire do about 'Hard Rock'? An obvious priority is to make sure that as many people as possible know the reasons for opposing civil defence. TANG is preparing an exhibition about civil defence in Shropshire which we hope to show in a number of places in Telford from early August onwards. At the start of September we have arranged three performances of the 'War Game' in Wellington, Shifnal and Broseley each followed by a talk from a visiting speaker.

continued

All this will serve to prepare the public for protests during 'Hard Rock 82'. TANG has not yet decided what forms of action we are going to use during the exercise. Many CND and peace groups are already committed to using civil disobedience, which in the context of civil defence would involve direct action like sit-down blockades of bunkers. Properly planned and performed direct action can be more effective as a means of persuasion than less demanding methods of protest. For example in March Mid-Glamorgan council abandoned building a County War Headquarters bunker at Bridgend after CND demonstrators occupied the site and non-violently obstructed construction work. Possibly civil disobedience might persuade Shropshire County Council of the strength of opposition to its involvement in Nuclear War preparations more effectively than letters and demonstrations. Civil disobedience might also make part-time civil defence volunteers like the members of the Royal Observer Corps, who are for the most part well-intentioned but ill informed, have second thoughts about the morality of what they are doing.

On the other hand direct actions can be uncomfortable to take part in (the Bridgend protestors had liquid concrete sprayed on them at one stage) and can involve legal penalties, though for relatively mild direct action like sit-down blockades these are not especially terrifying, normally consisting of small fines or being bound over to keep the peace. Some people would also argue that civil defence is an absurdity that should be resisted to the point of breaking the law. Direct action against 'Hard Rock' will be discussed at TANG's next business meeting on July 8th at Dawley information centre. The Shropshire Peace Alliance will be meeting to discuss Hard Rock at 7.45p.m. on Tuesday 13th July at College Hill House, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

M. Davies.

**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT CND...**

A LETTER FROM THE PEACE TAX CAMPAIGN

Of all the various campaigns gathered under the umbrella of the Peace Movement the Peace Tax Campaign is one that is least understood. 'It doesn't apply to me because I'm on P.A.Y.E.' These are popular misconceptions. If you are concerned about the vast amount of money being spent on arms to the detriment of this country and the Third World then the Peace Tax does concern you.

Let me explain briefly the aim of the Campaign. A few years ago a group of Pacifists, concerned at the amount of money being spent on armaments, felt that there had to be a way that they could help to redress the balance. Whilst working for Peace they were in fact paying for a war in which they believed it would be immoral for them to take part. Approx £6 a week is paid by each person in this country, and to someone who is doing their best to end the arms race the situation is one of paying for the very activities that the Peace Movement seeks to change! The Campaign is trying to have an amendment made to the 1982 Finance Bill. This would allow individuals to pay their £6 into a Peace Fund rather than armaments. The actual mechanics of how this would be done so as to benefit all who wish to take advantage of it are laid out in the Campaign leaflet. It might seem that the Campaign is only for those who feel that they cannot contribute to war and that those who feel the need for conventional defence have no part to play. This is not so. The Campaign needs all who would agree that, for those who wish to pay for Peace, the opportunity should be there. In other words many may agree in principle whilst not wishing to take advantage of such a law should it be passed.

We hope that many involved in the Peace Movement will sign our declaration of support. Some may wish to become further involved and we will be delighted to welcome them. However, this article is an appeal to those who feel that they may wish to support us to contact the Campaign, and watch out for local Peace Tax events. For further information please write to me at;

130 Watling Street, Wellington, Telford.

love and peace to all TANG members

Mary Brickett

After the War.....

When the war is over with one person dead or every two of the Falklands population.

What are the lessons to be learnt?

One thing is the width that separates the Labour Party leadership mean when they talk of being unilateralist.

One lesson that the Labour leadership emphasizes is that concentration on nuclear arms has weakened Britain's conventional armed forces and that therefore we ought to be spending more on these. Opposition to Thatcher's cuts in the navy being put on a par with opposition to the cuts in educational and social services.

One lesson most CND members have emphasized is that any war can escalate. There were already two Tory M.P.s calling for nuclear attacks on Buenos Aires. Had the exocets hit the QEII the Hermes or the Canberra there would have been hordes.

One Labour "Unilateralist" (with a few saving exceptions & not counting the old Russian patriot) wishes to keep the normal framework of militarism up to & including NATO, & merely sees nuclear weaponry as inefficient for its purposes.

Most CND members - even non-pacifists regard wars as useless for solving disputes between nations.

Laurens Otter

Breakdown of International Arms Sale to Argentina.

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|---------|--|
| Germany | 33% (mostly warships and armoured vehicles) |
| USA | 17% (mostly aircraft) |
| France | 15% (mostly aircraft and missiles) |
| Israel | 14% (mostly fast patrol boats and aircraft) |
| Britain | 10% (mostly naval equipment and electronics) |

British Weapons Sold to or ordered by Argentina.

- 1 Second-hand aircraft carrier
- 6 Second-hand coastal minesweepers
- 2 Type 42 Frigates
- Seacat Ship-to-Air Missiles
- 12 Sea Dart Ship-to-Air Missiles
- 20 Tigercat Surface-to-Air Missiles
- 10 Lynx helicopters
- 9 Canberra B62 Bomber aircraft

Peace Film Disaster.

The future of Peter Watkins new nuclear war film project is now in doubt after Central Television objected to an increase in its production cost. The film's producer is now trying to find alternative financial backing for the film but in any event it seems unlikely that Shropshire peace groups will be involved in making it.



The sign of the Peace Tax Campaign

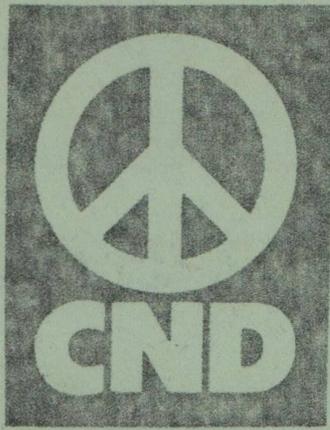
THE PEACE TAX will have a stall in the Square on July 10th - Shrewsbury Peace Groups Survival Saturday, and a meeting of all those who wish to help with the Campaign is to be held on August 26th at College Hill House College Hill Shrewsbury. 7.30p.m.

T.A.N.G.
BARBECUE
at
35, Simpsons Lane,
Broseley,
Saturday 3rd July, 5pm.
£1.25
Children 50p.

peace news

for nonviolent revolution

8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham. Tel: 0602-53587.



Diary

- Sat :- 3rd July Barbecue, 39 Simpsons
Lane, Brocton, 5p.m.
- Thurs:- 8th July Tang Buisness mt.
7.30. Dawley Info. Centre.
- Sat:- 10th July 'Survival Sat.'
The Square Shrewsbury.
- Tues:- 13th July Shropshire Peace
Alliance, College Hill Hs.
Shrewsbury.
- Thurs:- 22nd July Chain Reaction mt.
Dawley Info Centre 7.30.
- Tues:- 27th July - Sun Aug 1st
'The Greens are gathering'
Worthy Fm. Pilton Somerset.
- Thurs:- 26th Aug - 'Peace Tax Campaign'
College Hill House, Shrewsbury.

Professionals to oppose the Arms Race

A new professional society
opposed to nuclear weapons
has been formed by a group of
barristers and solicitors who
have resolved to contribute
toward the disarmament effort by
working in their own field of
knowledge.

Aims of the already 200 - strong
organisation range from the legal
implications of nuclear weapons
and issues arising out of their
existence and production to
publicising the 'Illegality of
nuclear weapons.'

Contact points :-

David Smith
23 Telford Rd,
Dawley.

Peter Templeton,
125 Withywood Drive,
Malinslee
Telford Tel: 503020.

PLEASE PUBLICISE :-

NEXT SHROPSHIRE PEACE ALLIANCE
MEETING IS AT 7.45 PM.

COLLEGE HILL HOUSE,
COLLEGE HILL, SHREWSBURY.

TUESDAY, 13TH. JULY.

MAIN TOPIC : 'HARD ROCK' IN SHROPSHIRE.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR
GROUP REPRESENTED.