

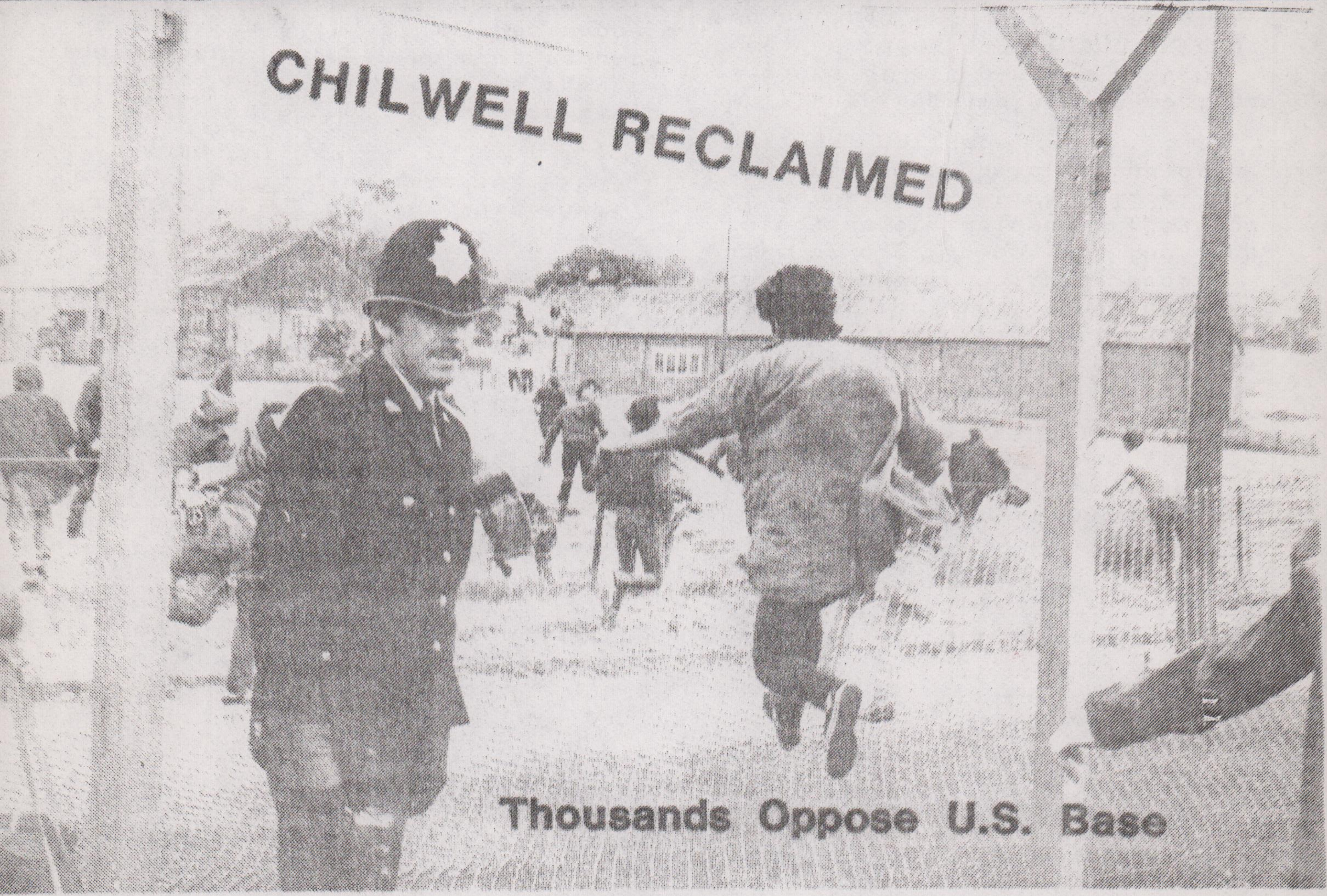
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FOREST FIELDS
PEACE
GROUP

CHILWELL RECLAIMED



Thousands Oppose U.S. Base

Peace protesters invade USAF Chilwell as part of the 'Reclaim Chilwell' action on Sunday July 1st. See article in this issue for details.

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UNILATERAL NUCLEAR

DISARMAMENT

In recent issues we have run articles on specific aspects of the nuclear arms race: Cruise, Tornado, and Civil Defence to name but three. It is, however, important to examine the fundamental issue of CND. Why should we disarm and why should we do so unilaterally (i.e. regardless of whether other countries get rid of their nuclear weapons).

The Government tells us we need our nuclear weapons because they have kept the peace for 40 years and they act as a deterrent to acts of Soviet aggression. They deter the Soviets, it is argued, because they know that if they should threaten or attack us we would retaliate with our genocidal nuclear weapons.

However look at this argument more closely. If the Government says our weapons act as a deterrent then this must mean that the Government is prepared to use them. This means the Government is prepared to kill millions of innocent Soviet people. It also means that it is prepared to sacrifice millions of innocent British people, because in a nuclear war nearly all men, women and children would be slaughtered.

The Government says it wants peace and to disarm its nuclear weapons but will only do so when it is a negotiated, multilateral disarmament. This means we only get rid of some of our weapons if the Soviets get rid of some of theirs. The Soviets say the same thing. Why then have they failed to negotiate any kind of disarmament?

For many years the superpowers have held series of talks on arms reductions. There has been no arms reductions. The only thing that has happened is that both sides have built up their number of nuclear weapons. Both sides openly declare that they will consider arms reduction if they can do so from a position of strength and retain a military advantage over the other. When both sides enter disarmament negotiations from this perspective there can be no disarmament.

It is therefore clear that both superpowers and their allies see military advantage and having the capacity to inflict more destruction on one another as a higher priority than peace and disarmament. Thus we can see that the "multilateralists" and the "unilateralists" of the peace movement are not groups who share a common desire for disarmament and are merely in conflict about how this is achieved: rather that the "multilateralists" are pro-military domination, pro-nuclear arms and pro-war and the "unilateralists" are pro-disarmament, anti-nuclear arms and anti-war.

Put simply, the "multilateralists" are the rearmlers, the unilateralists the disarmers.

For what is the sense in having nuclear weapons? If used they can only mean suicide. There are no winners in nuclear war. Millions on both sides will perish.

The Government's nuclear strategy confirms that it believes it has the right of control over our life and death. Many put it as crudely as "better dead than red".

But the peace movement is making more and more people come to realise that no government, organisation or individual has the right to say whether ordinary people live or die. No-one has the right to devise or implement a "system of deterrence" which will kill my children, your children and other nations' children.

Only when Britain has no nuclear weapons of its own and no U.S. weapons based on our shores can we be free from the threat of nuclear war. Only when we stop preparing for nuclear war can we be free from the threat of such a catastrophic war.

This is what the peace movement is demanding. If you want your children's children to be free from this threat, shouldn't you join us?

Reclaim Chilwell

Sunday July 1st saw Nottingham's largest ever direct action protest. The action was to demonstrate the fierce opposition to the decision to lease part of Chilwell Ordnance Depot to the United States Air Force.

The Government has failed to confirm how many U.S. bases there are in Britain, but it is currently believed there are 135. Chilwell would be the 136th, and the first of at least 60 new sites to be acquired by the U.S. Air Force.

The increasing military presence of the U.S. military in Britain puts the people of Britain at an ever greater risk. Britain has become an unsinkable U.S. aircraft carrier.

The protest on July 1st was to Reclaim Chilwell from the U.S. military back to the British people. It was an unqualified success.

Hundreds of police and soldiers were drafted in to guard the base. Extra barbed wire fences were erected a few days before the protest.

But none of these obstacles were enough to stop the peace movement. Hundreds of demonstrators managed to get onto the base, in the full knowledge that they were at risk of being charged with breaking a minor law, but knowing also that their actions were upholding greater laws : laws of humanity, morality and peace.

Several members of FFPG took part in Reclaim Chilwell. We got onto the base at the recreation ground after attempts at the Nottingham Road gate were prevented by massive police presence. While on the base we unfurled our banner reading "CHILWELL: 136th U.S. BASE "(which was shown on BBC News), later we tied the banner to the pedestrian bridge over the Nottingham Road. A group played football wearing bibs that spelled "We RECLAIM CHILWELL" and U.S. BASES OUT OF U.K. OK."

There was a great atmosphere on the base and everybody in our group enjoyed being a part of the successful action demonstrating our rejection of the American take over of Chilwell.

British sovereignty is completely undermined by the presence of U.S. troops, missiles and bases in this country. That is why the peace movement calls for:

U.S. troops out of Chilwell
U.S. bases out of Britain.



THE ARMY WERE USED FOR THE FIRST TIME AGAINST PEACE PROTESTERS AT THE RECLAIM CHILWELL ACTION. HERE THEY MOVE IN TO REMOVE PROTESTORS FROM SITTING ON A SECTION OF PULLED DOWN FENCE.

MINERS AND PEACE

In our last edition one writer described how the National Coal Board's plan of pit closures was part of a concerted attempt by the Government to make Britain dependant on nuclear power, the dangers of which we are all aware.

It was argued that, as campaigners for peace, we must oppose all pit closures. Unity with the miners is essential in their fight for jobs, for survival and to stop the nuclear industry.

By the same token, the plan of pit closures is a further indication of just where this Government's priorities lie: little or no investment in jobs and industry; savage cut-backs in services for children, the sick, the elderly and the poor. Yet investment in the arms race escalates.

The miners' fight is not just about pit closures - it is a real fight for jobs, freedom and peace. It is not just their struggle, it is our struggle. That is why we must join and support the striking miners.

A Strike Centre has been set up at the A.U.E.W. offices at 218 Mansfield Road where donations of money, food, clothing and household goods etc will be received. Please give all possible support to the striking miners. It is our fight too.

SARAH TISDALL

Sarah Tisdall has now spent 3 months in prison and is due out on July 23rd. She was imprisoned after leaking the secret MOD memo about the expected date of arrival of Cruise Missiles at Greenham Common and the handling of "public response" to their siting.

There was a huge public outcry against the severity of the sentence, and the issue of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act was once again raised. Over 500 people in Nottingham signed a petition which has been sent to Mr Alf Dodds MP, who showed considerable support to Sarah at the time of the trial. I would like to thank all those who signed the petition for showing concern about Sarah and the way her case was handled.

If anyone is interested in going to Maidstone to greet Sarah on her release and show support for her action please contact me (Barbara) at the Neighbourhood Centre or phone on 626721.

STREET REPS

We have restarted the Street Rep Scheme to get more personal contact with those members who cannot come to meetings and to keep them informed of what is going on in the Peace Group. There is now a rep for about every 10 members and we hope to be visiting regularly to keep in touch. If you want to know who your rep is or if you would like to be a rep yourself, please contact Cathy at the Neighbourhood Centre or phone 788655.



A SCENE FROM THE 'RECLAIM CHILWELL' ACTION.

CRUISE DEMO

In the early morning of Tuesday 26th June Cruise left the Greenham Common Air Base for the third time. Most of the vehicles in the convoy returned within a few hours but at least one of the launchers remained out until Thursday. This was the first full practise run.

Nottingham Women for Peace set up a peace camp in Market Square and at 5 O'clock about 60 people turned up to register their protest at the exercise.

A megaphone siren sounded and we lay down in front of the Council House. Crowds of people returning from work passed by. Some refused even to take the leaflets that were being given out, others stopped to read them, many had not known that Cruise was out.

It is important that people know each time these convoys are brought out. We must not accept Cruise. Already the Government is calling these exercises routine, the media is silent. Did you know that the convoy was stopped several times by protesters? Or that a member of a Leicester Affinity Group managed to climb onto one of the control vehicles?

Next time Cruise comes out have a poster ready to put in your window to let people know. Come to Market Square at 5 O'clock and join the protest. We must not let them forget that we refuse Cruise.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters and articles for the Newsletter about the arms race or the Peace Movement or relevant issues are most welcome.

Membership of FFPG costs just £1 annually this includes receiving the Newsletter every month keeping you in touch with local and national events.

If you would like to submit a contribution or make a donation or find out more about FFPG please contact us at the Neighbourhood Centre, 69, Wiverton Road, or 'phone 788655.

NVDA MEETING

To follow on from the Reclaim Chilwell action on July 1st it was agreed to arrange a meeting of all FFPG members who are interested in taking part in and organising more non-violent direct actions. This meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd July, 7.30pm at the Neighbourhood Centre.

New members are always welcome to join the group and as a matter of priority any preparation for an action would include comprehensive training. It is also important that as many people as possible help organise actions as this gives an opportunity for all members to share their feelings and anxieties about taking part in such actions, and also to feel part of the decision making process rather than isolated from it.

The purpose of NVDA is two-fold: to draw greater publicity to the many and various issues related to the arms race which tend to be ignored or suppressed in the media; and to show the strength and vigour of our opposition to the arms race in a way which will both inspire many others to lend their weight to the peace movement and also mount greater pressure on the Government to abandon its suicidal nuclear policies which threaten all our lives.

Remember, is it enough to simply subscribe to CND or give out the occasional leaflet? Or is it vital that the peace movement grows and we are all actively involved in the campaign to protect our children's (and their children's) lives? NVDA need not mean risking arrest. There are many important functions. Can you afford not to take part?

Why it is Important to be Active in the Peace Movement

A number of people we have spoken to have said:- "Yes you're right. Nuclear weapons are mad and don't defend us, but there's nothing we can do to stop them."

THERE IS SOMETHING EVERYONE OF US
CAN DO TO STOP THE BOMB AND THE
DESTRUCTION OF CIVILISATION.

WE CAN JOIN TOGETHER AND BE PART
OF THE BIGGEST PROTEST. THIS
COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN. A PROTEST
SO BIG AND POWERFUL, THE
POLITICIANS WILL NOT DARE IGNORE
US OR OPPOSE US.

Throughout the world, history is littered with situations where ordinary people have brought about sweeping changes in the policies of their governments. Now more and more people are joining together and insisting on the most important change of all : a world of peace and non-aggression. A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

In Britain an estimated 25% of the population believe that Britain should have no nuclear weapons. If everyone of those people persuaded one or two of their friends to join the peace movement and raise their voices against the destructive road to war, then more than half of the British population would be fighting for peace.

no government could resist us.

That is what you can do. By joining your local peace group or CND group, you can become part of the largest growing protest group in history.

Contact Forest Fields Peace Group
Tel. Paddy or Cathy on 788655 or
write to us c/o Forest Fields
Neighbourhood Center, 69 Wiverton
Road, Forest Fields..

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ACTIVE IN THE PEACE MOVEMENT

People can be involved in campaigning at many different levels:-
Writing, printing or distributing leaflets ;
Writing, editing, printing and distributing newsletters ;
organising And taking part in NVDA demonstrations ;
Public meetings ;
Door to door campaigning ;
Canvassing people on the streets ;
Supporting as many public events as possible ;
Organising and running fundraising events ;
Using practical skills (e.g, photography, banner - making etc)

The peace movement will only grow if more people become involved at grass - roots level. The issues at stake are vital :- the pupose is vital. Every contribution from every individual is precious.

The Forest Fields Peace Group is open to all individuals concerned with peace and disarmament. Your involvement is needed and is very welcome.

F.F.P.G. M E E T I N G S

--- Wednesday 1th July at 8pm.
--- Thursday 26th July at 8pm.

FFDAG / NVDA Meeting.
Sunday 22nd July at 7.30pm.

All meetings take place at Forest Fields Neighbourhood centre, 69 Wiverton Road, (off Sherwood Rise)