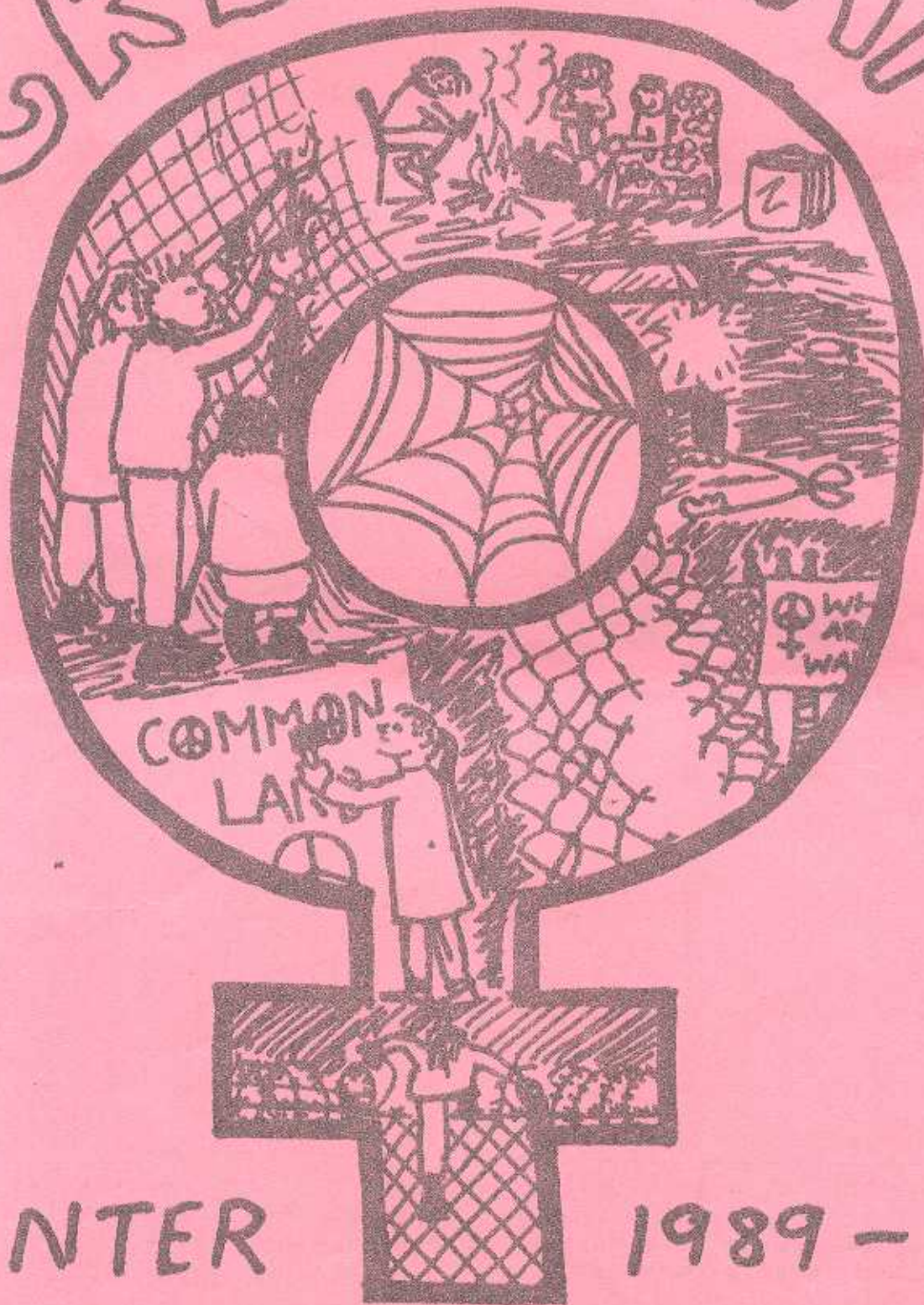


# GREENHAM



WINTER

1989 - 90

# NEWSLETTER

## AGGIE'S ADVENTURES

We were given Aggie ( a garish silver Bedford, for those of you who don't know her personally ) at the beginning of September to use as a wimmin's van for peace travels. Since then she has travelled all over the place with surprizingly few problems given her rather knackered condition. During her first week with us she went north to Paslane with Emma, Jemima, Ippi, Kay and a Brighton ♀ for a wimmin's week at the camp there. No sooner had she returned to warmer southern climates but she was off again to stay at Bloo gate and busy sorting out Brown Van's MOT with the Woad Gate Wimmin, stopping the support on it's way back and covering it with red porridge, transporting the Greenham Wimmin's Bridge Decorating Group on a midnight mission, and waiting for hours in a cold and desolate field for a convoy which had sneaked off to Boscombe Down instead of going home.

She then decided to spend a few days at home carrying around wimmin in Brighton for the WILPF extended executive, and a couple of weeks later assisting the Brighton ♀♀ and Emma, Jemima, Kath and Lorna to hang a banner off one of the Brighton piers for the Labor Party Conference.

Getting itchy feet at all these little trips, she was soon off back to Bloo Gate just in time for the pre-prison party at the beginning of October and then off to the Aldermaston Wimmin's camp. Nearly forgot, around this time she went too to Hazel's Nicaraguan benefit in Worthing.

The next week she took the Brighton ♀♀, Kath and Kay up to Manchester for the NVDA network gathering and came back via Suffolk with a detour to Sizewell to check out developments there and draw little maps of the area - heh heh heh.

Then it was up to Orange Gate for the gathering to do all kinds of naughty things and meet up with wimmin not seen for ages. Back home via Dover to drop off Ilse and Yolande who were returning to Belgium.

The first week in November Aggie was back off up to Manchester for the Anti-Trident network meeting with the Brighton ♀♀ and Jewels from Bloo. On the way back to camp she just had to detour to have a look at Springfields and Inskip, no doubt to plot future visits there. Next week its Aldermaston, again and Aggie hopes that she will see loads of you wimmin there !!

P.S. Having a great thirst for liquid refreshment, Aggie is an expensive but useful asset - with this in mind, we are always looking for work to help pay her running costs. If anyone wants anything moved anywhere for a small donation plus petrol etc please write to : Brighton Wimmin, c/o Resource Center, Brighton Peace Center, 28 Trafalgar Street, Brighton or phone us direct on (0273-601724).

Brighton ♀♀

### The Greenham Earwig Home

There was an earwig in my tent  
It was just the other day  
It sprang out of my sleeping bag  
And I legged it to fetch Kay  
She came out in her underwear  
Her socks and shorts and vest  
And lifted up my bedmat-thats where we found the nest.

I expressed my reservations  
of where I was to sleep  
Those insects can get anywhere  
God knows where they might creep  
and so I slept in Emmas tent  
A brand new spacious dome  
and looked back at my lonely tent  
The Greenham Earwigs home.

LISA BLOO

## Non-violent Resistance for Human Rights

On Nov 25th Ronika and I arrived in Paris to attend and speak at a conference on Nonviolent Resistance for Human Rights.

Our workshop was Nonviolent Resistance to Nuclear Armament. Also speaking was Solange Fernex from France and Jutta and Volk Volken from the Peace Houde outside the Pershing base at Mutlangen, West Germany. Ronika spoke wonderfully in French ( I didn't understand it so I could be wrong). I spoke in English and was translated (wotta wimp). The workshop went well, lots of people came and there was a good debate at the end, though by this time we both were rather out of our depths.

The afternoon session was v. good, except that altho' chaired by a O, the other main participants were men. there were 5 men, from Lebanon, Palestine, South Africa, Uruguay and Bangladesh, speaking about their experiences) - emotionally and informatively about the horrors and traumas they themselves had been through and their countries are continually going through.

They spoke of problems when making alliances with groups not opposed to violence, and the misconception that the term nonviolence means apathy and passivity. They pointed out that for some countries it is impossible to "sit on the fence", for example, in South Africa, white passivity towards apartheid and taking a "neutral position" in reality contributes to apartheid. To understand oppression you must talk to the oppressed not the oppressor!

Most of the speakers were religious and gained strength from their beliefs. The knowledge of what is going on all around you everyday that you can never be sure that your life is safe, or your family's, is enough to keep you struggling and gives you the energy never to give up.

Despite all their harrowing experiences, they remained hopeful and positive, gaining strength from other countries' non-violent experiences - both successful and unsuccessful. They got strength and hope from other peoples' personal testimonies and actions. The Palestinian speaker said his strength came from his mother. His father and others were killed, and his mother told him "Do not make orphans and widows by killing".

To see pain and suffering around you causes anguish but also courage. These emotions transmit themselves and strengthen other people to go on. As the speaker from Uruguay said, it is not possible to be happy when others close by are crying".

Many people sent best wishes and strength to everyone involved with Greenham.

Cath and Ronika.

We now have a GREENHAM BOAT to go and get those sea launched nuclear missiles e.t.c. as well as the ground launched cruise. Its stored in Southampton, a Zodiac Mark 2 inflatable and a 7.5 hp engine its yours to use if you want it, so get in your wetsuits and out with your snorkles and flippers and we'll have 'em all shaking in their shoes!

CATH



## CONVOY NEWS

August dispersal: support vehicles left the base on Aug 8th but by the time the rest of the convoy went out, it was past midnight and therefore Nagasaki day. The Soviet inspection team arrived while it was out, and the convoy returned, after being blockaded at Shrewton, to be inspected, on Aug 17th.

September & October:

Convoy went out on Sept 14th but, probably because of Wilts police being occupied at Stonehenge with Autumn equinox celebrations, it went to Boscombe Down Airbase instead of returning here on the 21st, from Bulford Ranges on the Plain (which are very close to Boscombe). The support vehicles did return to Greenham though and were blockaded by wimmin at the Swan roundabout near Grenham.

Support vehicles went out again on 9th October, the convoy moved back to the Plain and the whole lot came back on Oct 16th.

November: the convoy went out on Nov 9th- the day the Berlin Wall was breached. Strange way to celebrate that event. It went to the Imber ranges. Events on the return journey are on another page.

December: barely back from the Nov exercise, the convoy left early in Dec. to get the exercise over in time to get the troops back home for Christmas. QQ were very angry to find the USAF sending out a double convoy, i.e. 2 flights, something they haven't done for ages.

The outsize convoy went out as part of a large exercise on the base, in which they were simulating an attack on the base and being inspected for their operational readiness. The last Operational Readiness Inspection was at the time the INF Treaty was being signed. This time it co-incided with the Bush/ Gorbys boat trip when they declared the Cold war over.

Planes did dives & low flying for 2 days, but we particularly noticed how much attention they paid to the perimeter

On the return QQ once again blockaded supports at the Swan as this is a spot where traffic often has to stop. 5 QQ boarded a Reo carrying camouflage netting & water, climbed onto the roof and covered the windscreen with a banner to make sure it didn't drive off. After 10 mins or so sufficient police had mustered to cope. The QQ were not arrested - but there were 2 arrests for obstruction later on. We have never seen a convoy move as fast as that night when the main convoy came back.

There is a rumour circulating that this may have been the last convoy out. Lets hope thats true- what sense is there in carrying on? See what happens in January

## LETS STOP NUCLEAR TESTING

Starting on International QQ Day for Disarmament, May 24th We want to link up with QQ all over the world to make a big protest on that day, so that all the nations which indulge in this life-destroying habit receive protests from QQ all over the world.

We are trying to assemble information about nuclear testing, and also to assemble the addresses and telephone no's of Governments Embassies etc. (HELP please). We also want to make contact with QQ who are interested in this project.

A further possibility is an international contact network to inform each other when a test is about to or has just taken place, so that we can all protest to the country which carried it out. QQ may also want to take up this theme in local actions- lets share ideas.

## PYLE HILL

Pyle Hill is the longest Hill in the World  
When you're tired and wet and cold  
When the handles have split on your plastic bags  
And you can't get a proper 'hold'.  
When your rucksack's piled high with bedding  
Your kagul hood's slipping over your eyes  
Your bootlaces have come undone  
And your trousers are slipping down past your thighs.

.....  
Yes, Pyle Hill can seem neverending  
Because just as you're ready to drop,  
There's an extra bend you'd forgotten about  
And an extra rise at the top.

There's a bit where the pavement narrows  
Where you can't walk with a pack on your back  
Where branches stick out from the hedgerow  
To scratch you and catch y u a crack.

.....  
Yes, and Pyle Hill can seem like Mount Everest  
When it's icy or slushy with snow  
If you've just missed a lift from the Friends' House  
And how you'll make it you really don't know.  
Then you're up! and walking the grass verge,  
There's a fire! and women! you can see  
Faces turn to look as you're shouting  
"Women! put the kettle on! It's Me!"

.....  
Yes, Pyle Hill could well be Mount Everest,  
You're at the top and the view is just BLISS!  
Aw no, c'mon! Pyle Hill's summit has Blue Gate!  
You couldn't begin to compare Everest with this!

HAZEL

## ALDERMASTON

Recent developments at Aldermaston include the announcement that private management will take over the Establishment. There is increasing concern about safety standards under the new regime, especially as they have been dropping in the past year anyway. Aldermaston QQ Campaign has written to the Thames Valley Water Authority and to the European Parliament about radioactive waste discharges from Aldermaston, Burghfield and Harwell. This follows measurements at the discharge points by the QQ Boat.

Naomi, over on a visit from Nicaragua, was at the December camp. Camps are still on the second week-end of every month, all QQ welcome.

March 31st is Anti-Trident day of action, Aldermaston details to be decided in January.

Dear Women,

When we first gathered at Greenham, we knew what we wanted - nuclear disarmament but we didn't know how to get it.

Now we know a lot more.

We know that grassroots actions particularly sideways imaginative ones by women, demonstrate to governments the depth of feeling among ordinary people on an issue. Politicians seriously interested in ending the arms race also know that these active women are the tip of the iceberg and that there is underlying widespread support for disarmament.

By making public support for disarmament visible, Greenham women and others have made the political environment in which initiatives and talks can succeed.

However, the underlying causes of aggression, enemy mentality, power greed, racism, repression and injustice have not been addressed politically, except by green parties in Europe and else where. That is why the arms race continues unabated in parallel with reduction talks. The understanding, compassion and strength which led women to take action in the first place was not a shallow thing now lost and gone. This powerful life force continues with a greater political awareness gained through our struggle. We are laying the foundations for an interdependent world where mothers do not raise sons to kill and be killed as a method of resolving international disputes.

Such work is long and seemingly slow. But we have a voice disproportionate to our numbers because the whole iceberg supports us. If we give up the iceberg will sink, if we go on it will stop the ship of global destruction in its path. Politicians do not want to self destruct they will twist and turn to suit the climate. And if it is not our iceberg but the economic one which forces the ship to turn back, that is all right for now, because our women's iceberg will still be there to block the way forward for the political/industrial/military complex.

Now that we know the process for disarmament, we can work for it more directly rather than randomly, using all the skills we have, in every direction. But our greatest contribution to the future is in building new ways of working, without committees, voting, hierarchies and leaders. Every woman's voice should be heard. Space must be given to the shy, the less articulate, the unconfident, and those of us who talk a lot need to shut up and listen!

DI + more from Di

Nov. 11th 1989: Tory Party Chairman Kenneth Baker was dashing around the Hants/ Berks/ Surrey borders, encouraging the party faithful. Whitchurch was to be the scene of his 'attack on Labour's defence policy' - not difficult for most people! But what he said about Tory policy was interesting.

First he said what defence was for: from foreign offensive and from terrorism. Then a message repeated in different ways:

- 1) There is a move away from reliance on nuclear deterrence.
- 2) There is a shift away from heavy reliance on nuclear weapons.

Although K. Baker went on quickly to change the subject and say Labour were still unilateralist, it seemed as though he was laying the ground for getting rid of some nuclear weapons. When I asked him about Trident in the light of changes in Europe and the U.S. Congress back-tracking on missile production funding, he replied 'The U.S. will stand by their obligations to Trident'. He didn't sound very confident, probably hoping no-one knew that the British Ambassador to Washington is going round knocking on Senators' doors pleading for Trident missiles.

In the corridor afterwards, I asked him if they were really not going to cut the Trident programme and he said 'No'.

'But the U.S. aren't going to come up with the goods'.

'Tom King has already made a statement about that'.

'You must be going forward on a wing and a prayer'.

'Yes'.

1 GRACIAS, HERMANAS INDIAS!

Panamá, Republic of Panama

Dear Comrades (*compañeras*),

Last September I, along with a friend and her children, visited "Blue Gate" at Greenham Common, and I had the happy chance to speak with three comrades who maintained their long and militant vigil. One was Elizabeth another was Georgina, and I can't remember the name of the youngest one.

It was a very special time for me who had followed the struggles of the women of Greenham Common for nearly ten years! After bringing myself up to date on the situation and learning about some of the small triumphs-- which you yourselves described in your bulletin--and some of the difficulties, which are never lacking, I promised to share that wonderfully rich experience with the women from the groups in Panama, in order to encourage them and to express our mutual solidarity in the struggle for life, which we share even though we are on different continents, separated by an ocean.

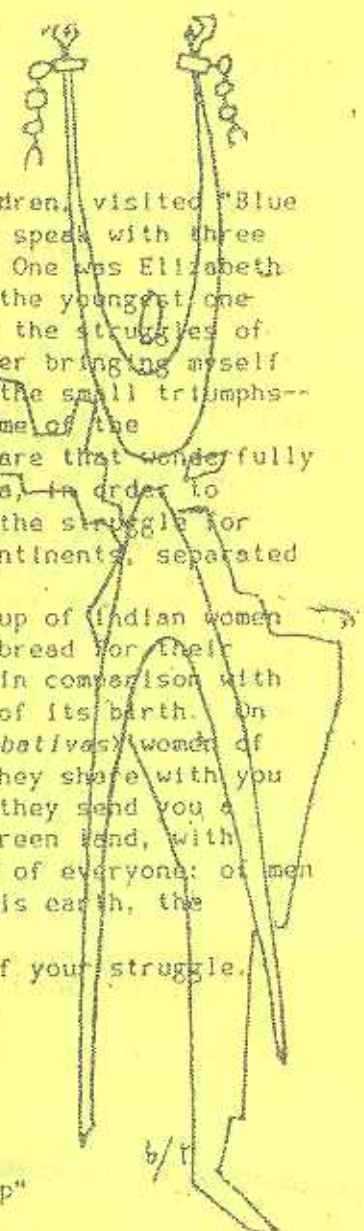
The "Jun Mara Embera Crincha Group" is a small group of Indian women which fights for their daily survival: for a roof, for bread for their children, for health care which protects a life which, in comparison with other people's, has been disadvantaged from the moment of its birth. On listening once more to the battles of the spirited (*combativas*) women of Greenham Common, they wanted, through me, to say that they share with you the joy of the fight, that they think of you, and that they send you a sisterly embrace. They are also fighting to regain a green land, with trees and streams and clean air, which is the patrimony of everyone: of men and women and especially of the first inhabitants of this earth, the Indians.

Thank you for your example and for the testimony of your struggle.

In solidarity,

Mercedes Cumberbatch

writing for the "Jun Mara Embera Crincha Group"



What happened at the December 13th Court hearing

This was the occasion when all the suspended trespass cases would have been up for plea had the House of Lords heard their case and decided against us. That hadn't happened, but the Court had made no attempt to inform all the OO concerned that it was not necessary to appear in court on Dec 13th. So some of us did.

Altho' the bye-laws were re-instated in Oct 1988, the Court was only dealing with trespass cases between Feb and Aug 89. Feb was when the MOD first started using a summons procedure to keep a record of trespasses, Aug was when they gave the first batch of summonses out, mostly to camp OO. No-one has received any paperwork in respect of incursions since Aug yet.

We were not allowed to plead - 3 new plea dates have been set- 21/ 22/ 23 March 1990. We don't yet know if the House of Lords will have done their bit by then or not. Our attempts to get an assurance that cases would be dealt with individually, not in bulk, were not successful. That, we were told, would be for the Court to decide at the time.

We were told unofficially that unheard cases dating from before Feb 89 may be dropped as "stale". By March 1990 a lot more cases could be declared "stale".

3 THAT WOULD BE AN EASY WAY OF ERASING YET MORE OF GREENHAM OO'S HISTORY

September 15th Protesting against the Cruise Missile Convoy.

A group of wimmin went to the swan round a bout to protest at the USAF continuing their abhorrent nuclear missile exercises. Support vehicles for the cruise missile convoy were returning from Salisbury plain to Greenham.

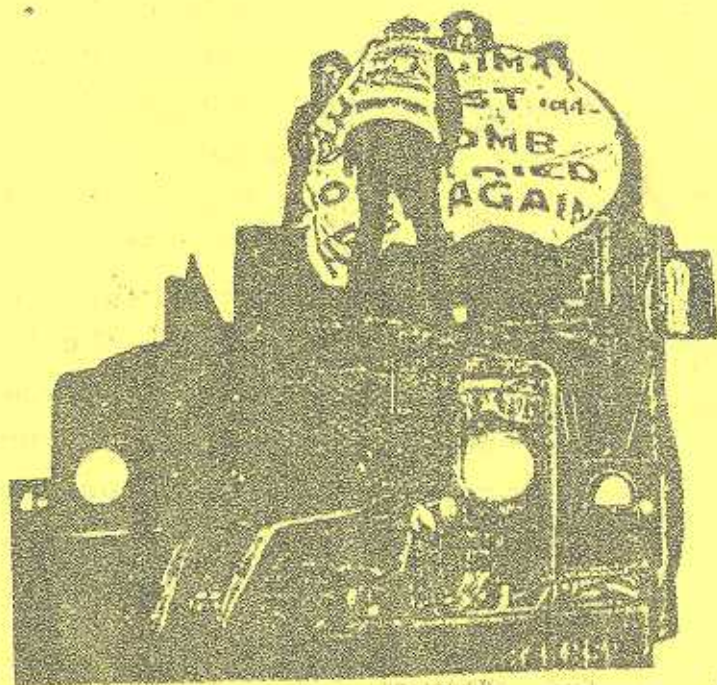
Red gloop was thrown at the vehicles to mark them as part of the cruise convoy?? To undermine the military?? To show our disgust at the military?? For many, many reasons I expect. We held a banner reminding soldiers of the horror of Hiroshima and our determination never to let anything like that happen again. Two MOD police arrived in a transit van, picked out Chris from the group, and arrested her for suspicion of criminal damage (yawn). Could it be what because Chris is usually the smallest she usually gets arrested?

Several wimmin successfully blockaded one of the big Reo trucks by standing across the road holding banners. Cath climbed up the side and 3 of us scrambled on to the top of the cab. We placed our banners over the windscreen. The mod plods arrived they suggested we would get hurt if we did not come down and would certainly get arrested. We suggested it was their responsibility not to hurt us if they tried to get us down and certainly they shouldn't arrest us. We communicated a little with one of the USAF guys, but his opinion of us was fairly low-never mind. Cath was assaulted by a passing, off duty, abusive, male member of the USAF-no doubt outraged at some wimmin stopping his fellow countrymen protect us from the commies. Well, the MOD arrested him but it didn't take them long to de-arrest him again-what can you expect!!!?

After 10/15 minutes with Emma, Kay and me sitting, standing, waving our banners on top of the stationary Reo, the mod plods decided to fairly carefully grab us and carry us down one at a time. It's quite a weird experience to not participate in getting off a high vehicle-allowing yourself, your body to be in the control of policemen who lift you, pass you put you down-very weird. A bit frightening-a little painful too. Emma, Kay and I decided to not co-operate with our arrest so that involved a good deal of being hoiked out of vans, into vans, out of portakabins, into portakabins. As the MOD got more fed up they took less care how they moved us-ouch.

In the portakabins we met Chris who they still hadn't released. We were eventually all let out in time to get freezing cold waiting for the non-arrival of the cruise convoy of launchers and control vehicles, which unusually did not return to Greenham that night. Chris was not charged (suprise, suprise). Kay, Emma and I were charged with obstructing a police man in the execution of his duty (Funny I thought we obstructed a huge, big truck on a public highway!)

JANE at bloo gate.





A day trip to Upper Heyford

For a change of scenery, I decided to spend this years Hiroshima day at Upper Heyford. I was not the only one, as well as the peace campers there were also many people from peace and christian groups and a suprisingly large number of press.

For me, the days thoughts were dominated by the tragic death of Helen Thomas the night before at greenham in addition to the harrowing images this date always provokes. However it was good to be at Upper Heyford and to take part in the actions throughout the day.

After a short service at one gate and a vigil at another, a group of about 9 christians (including a nun and a monk), symbolically chained together, led a procession along the perimeter fence. Reaching their destination, crosses were attached to the fence and then to the total surprise of the onlooking police 9 pairs of boltcutters appeared from under habits, robes, shirts etc... and the fence was well and truly snipped at. The press loved it - nuns cutting fences obviously makes good coverage and so they pushed and shoved to get the best shots, often hampering the cutters themselves.

The police soon sprung in to action and arrested the first few offenders only to find that everyone was chained together and nobody seemed to know who had the key. A wpc sheepishly asked to borrow a pair of boltcutters and cut the chain so she could continue with her arrest. The 9 cutters were then, very gently, very politely asked to follow the arresting officers into the waiting police van - which they did stopping to do T.V. interviews on the way. The 9 were charged with criminal damage and released a few hours later. The charges have since been dropped and the boltcutters returned to their rightful owners.

In the meantime, at another place along the fence a group of people were exercising their right to walk the bridleway which crosses upperheyford base. The case has been to court and been won, so whilst the police were arguing over this with the group trying to get in, we merrily unpicked the fence under their noses and climbed through before they had time to say "we are only our job". Well these poor police boys obviously hadn't been very well briefed and were a tiny bit stiffed and baffled as everyone poured in after us including the TV cameras and several newspaper reporters. After a bit of a stroll along the bridleway, a few of us were "randomly" grabbed at and ushered into a sherpa. There were 6 of us and we looked at each other and knew each other, we were all greenham women (and one upper Heyford peace camper) - hhhmmmm - funny that. We were simply driven round the base to the main gate and released - so we, simply, went back through our holes etc... and so it went on... All in all a success full day was had by all

RONIKA.

For those who don't know Naomi; she's an unassuming though brilliant woman, loved by us who knew her when she lived at Greenham a few years ago.

About 2½ yrs ago, she went on a Coffee Picking Brigade to Nicaragua and while there fell in love with the country and the people. She was impressed particularly by the positive attitude of the people there and their determination to survive. After returning to U.K. she took an intensive course and qualified in Primary Health Care, then learned Spanish and any other skills which might best fit her to help in any way she could.

After the Hurricane struck Nicaragua late last year, hardly any news of it was coming through our media. She became desperately anxious about what might be happening to the people there, so, in January this year, Naomi brought a one way ticket, and went/. To us who know and love her it was just as if she had dropped off the edge of the world, and we anxiously waited for news.

Since then we have received the most wonderful letters and tapes describing her work, the country and the people. Jill and Jane who have visited her on separate occasions during the year, have brought back accounts of the amazing amount of work and achievements she has accomplished.

Naomi is working in a region called El Cua, which is situated in a mountainous area to the North of Nicaragua. At one time there was virtually nothing there but the Garda post; but after villages and farms, within a radius of a hundred miles or so, were destroyed by the Contras, and people killed, raped and tortured, the survivors moved to the comparative safety of El Cua.

Jill and Jane have brought back photographs and slides of the Health Centre which serves the area. It is, of course, desperately short of all medical supplies; the treatment room is horrifyingly stark and under-equipped, but nevertheless it is a major achievement considering the desperately poor circumstances.

Naomi's work includes visiting women, talking and holding workshops to find out what they require, what are their main priorities and what projects they wish to start; then helping them to achieve these. The women said they wanted a library. They were given the use of an old arsenal, and after a lot of very hard work they transformed it; now it is the main centre and meeting place for the people. Here they learn not only how to read but gain all manner of crafts and skills, and information on contraception, water pollution, health care. Jane described the scene beautifully when she spoke of her visit there; a room crammed with groups of all ages, from tiny tots to the elderly, and mentioned a young soldier standing near the doorway deeply absorbed in a book of poems.

Naomi has also started a vegetable garden, and is now experimenting to find which vegetables are best suited to the climate.

There is a wonderful tape from Naomi describing her daily life and work, which has one dissolving into both laughter and tears.

We have started a fund called 'Nicaragua Direct' every penny of which is sent directly to Naomi by courier. Contributors to this can get feed back on what their contributions have helped to achieve.

Money can be sent to the bank account:- 'Nicaragua Direct'  
Account No. 77630363348950, T.S.B: Chapel Rd, Worthing, Sussex.  
or to me:- Hazel Rennie, 157 Lyndhurst Rd, Worthing, Sussex

Please will everybody write to the U.S. Defence Secretary and anyone else they can think of, letters of strong protest, demanding that the U.S. immediately reverse the decision to continue giving support to the Contras.

If anyone would like a copy of Naomi's tape, please send (£150) £1.50 to cover cost of tape & postage; and then please be patient! I'm taking ages to get the copies done, I'm sorry to say,

MY FIRST SPELL IN HOLLOWAY ...

My first spell in Holloway began on 9th October. As it was for an unpaid fine dating from trespass on the Plain in August 1988 I had had plenty of time to prepare myself. The experience can be mainly summed up in the word "Boring" and as lots of other women know all about it and I won't go into any details about the few days I spent as a guest of H.M. except to say that it was lovely to be greeted by Annabel and Cath. What was different, in my case, was the fact that I was sent down by Witney Magistrates, the fine having been transferred. Witney is on the map mainly as a town where blankets are made; the local police and court have little experience of Greenham Women or peace protesters in general. Consequently there were some amusing aspects of the situation. Having been found guilty of "wilful refusal to pay the fine" and given seven days, the WPC came forward and led me towards the door leading into the foyer; we emerged, my supporters hugging me and shaking my hand, in an untidy gaggle. The usher asked the wpc where she was taking me and she said "oh, I was just going to walk her to the station" i.e. along the street, past the fire station and in the front door of Whitney nick! The usher suggested the back way was more appropriate so there we went and I was put into a cell. A young policeman observing my obviously o.a.p. status asked sympathetically "couldn't you pay the fine?" on being told that my refusal like the alledged offence, was an act of conscience, he said "oh, -I see" which he clearly didn't.

After a short while I was put in a car and driven to the police station (all of 200 yards). The seargeant there was surly but the wpc that took charge of me was really nice. She let me take my chocolate and cigarettes into the cell, apologised for removing my lighter and said to call her if I wanted to smoke. She also asked if I wanted lunch. I asked for a vegetarian meal which arrived half an hour later and was delicious. I was also given a cup of coffee and a light for my cigarette when I'd finished eating. I then arranged a blanket as a pillow and went to sleep. Judith the wpc woke me at about 2.30 and took me to the waiting police CAR the driver was not communicative but Judith chatted all the way to London. We were held up in the traffic in the out skirts and when we got through it turned out that neither the driver nor the wpc knew the way to Holloway. I don't know London well, but I told them I thought it was near Camden town. With this info, we eventually arrived. As we stopped at the barriers I remarked "I don't think you'd have got here at all if I hadn't been with you". The driver viewing the massive sliding doors said "Cor, they've got good security here - better than Whitney police station." So I entered Holloway on a stifled giggle.

I am really grateful to Lorna for spending the night with me before the court appearance and telling me just what to expect in prison; to Lorna, Judith, Jane, and Maggie for meeting me on my release, and all the other people who sent cards letters and flowers. If this was meant to be a deterrant it hasn't really worked as I now feel strong enough to face another sentence if necessary.

JEAN-FROM-WHITNEY

Quote: "It is a dramatically changing world. Yet I have a nostalgia for the Cold War ... then we knew who to hate." (Lady Olga Markland)

"Will I take your place at the C.T.B.T. Demo because you'll be hospital? Of course I will"

I was replying in answer to a request from Edwina.

"Oct. 24th outside the Russian Embassy? O.K."

"And will I take three banners, a pile of leaflets and a letter to hand in to Mr Shevardnadske? Sure, no problem"

"Hmm, lovely banners, two small square ones with emblems, ah yes, and one narrow one with the message on it, about 4ft wide"

"No, I won't take the poles, because on my way up there I have to see my sister off from Gatwick, she's flying back to Canada."

"No problem, we'll all hold the banners between us."

With fond agonised farewells from my sister gloomily echoing in my ears, I arrived early 12.40pm, so no one had yet arrived. I strolled up Ken.Pal.Gdns. to check the Embassy, strolled back, but no one had yet arrived. Started giving out leaflets informing people that we would be holding a Silent Vigil between 1pm - 2pm. At 1pm no one had yet arrived. Went to deliver the letter. Rang the bell at the Gate, told the talking box what 'we' were about, and was let in. Asked at the desk to see Mr Shevardnadske. No I couldn't. But was assured that the letter would be delivered. Gave him a leaflet, unrolled the banners and said 'we' would be displaying them outside. He said O.K. or something of the sort. Went out and hung the banners on the wall. Two cops came up and said "'ere 'ere, not 'ere" or something. I said I'd just got permission from the Embassy. They got pushy about it being a Private Rd bla bla bla. So I said I'd prefer to display them in Bayswater Rd anyway, more people would get to see them. Rolled up my banners and went back, fervently hoping to see a crowd of demonstrators there. Not a soul. The dilemma then was, how to display three banners, hand out leaflets and hold a Silent Vigil of one? The two handy little banners had no message. So it had to be the 4ft wide one! Shoved the two small ones in my bag, stretched the banner and my arms as wide as they'd go, plus a bunch of leaflets in one hand, and there I stood on Bayswater Rd, in the crucifix position, wagging the hand that clutched the leaflets saying to the FFW passers-by "Willyou take a leaflet?" A copper came up of course. Said he'd have to inform his boss, then waxed jovial about my arms, my fistful of leaflets and my lonely state then added insult to injury by saying he wouldn't bother to inform his boss and strolled off. My arms began to ache of course, but I'd told the coppers I'd be there for an hour and I knew they were watching for me to give in, ready with sarcy remarks. Then somebody took a leaflet and a dozen others fluttered to the pavement. It was a relief to bend down and pick them up. Gripped my banner, once more flung my arms wide. A woman walked by and openly laughed at me. Couldn't think why. Then a taxi driver stopped with his cabful of passengers, wound down his window and called out "You need to sort your banner out if you want people to see what it says" I glanced down. OH NO! I'd got it the wrong way round with the words to my chest! I called out a dignified "Thanky you to the cabbie, and sorted it out. Minutes crawled by, 1.35pm a woman arrived on a bike, said she'd come to join the demo and where was everybody? She didn't immediately take hold of the banner out said "Oh there's nothing about Russia on your banner" She still didn't take hold but asked couldn't we tie it to the railings? "No" said I "The police would take it down" She didn't seem sure about that. Then she asked why I hadn't brought poles. I gritted my teeth and explained about seeing my sister off at Gatwick "Oh" she replied "so it was convenient for you to come on here then?" In response to my little dance of rage, she remarked that I seemed a bit jumpy! Then she took one side of the banner. But my trials weren't over, as she turned out to be an action packed dynamic soul, who shouted at people who walked past without taking a leaflet. At 1.50pm I told her it was 2pm and packed up.

I nominate this as Flop of the Year. If anyone can beat it Let's hear it!

Hazel

Talking to women, in Wales, at CND conference &  
in other places, there is a lot of interest in a gathering at  
Greenham in the Spring to plan and hope for a green Britain  
and build on the progress of reclaiming the common.

With best wishes  
Thalia Campbell

# WOMENS VISIONS FOR A GREEN FUTURE

a gathering for all women  
at  
Greenham Common  
on April 28th + 29th

meeting at Green Gate  
(1st left off A339 from A36)  
Followed by Beltane celebrations

There will be an open planning meeting for this  
event on Sun. January 21st 2pm at Wood Gate.

## COURT CASES

Elizabeth and Georgina have had their 3rd hearing in the County Court, and were ruled to have no standing in their case. It's against the MOD, and the OO are going forward as members of the public, asking for a declaration that the inclosure of the common is illegal, on the grounds that public rights of access still exist. At an unbelievably biased pre-trial hearing on Dec 5th, they were told only commoners could bring such a case. Now they are forced to appeal - yet more expense - to prove that wrong.

### Bail problems

August 9th: Kim, Dian, and Kimberly were refused bail after trespassing on the base on Nagasaki day, on the excuse that Blue Gate was not an acceptable address. They appeared in Newbury Magistrates court the next day and were bailed straight away till 13th Dec. along with the other trespasses.

August 14th: Kim was given conditional bail after being arrested for criminal damage, but after "reporting" to police at Yellow the next day the charge was dropped.

### Trespass

Over 700 cases this year, but because the bylaws appeal has not been heard yet (

... in the Lords we are still being reported and bailed till December 13th. Summons have been received for trespasses up to August 6th.

Blockading : apart from the 3 arrests for obstruction on Nov. 15th,

Blockade Take 2 : we blockaded again on Dec 7th. OO were not arrested despite climbing on vehicles again and being removed. 2 OO were arrested later for doing nothing (charged with obstructing the Highway)

All these cases will be heard in January.

Both these blockades were highly successful in that USAF vehicles were held up at the roundabout, with normal traffic passing, with OO crawling about all over them, for 10 - 15 mins. 9

\* Emma got 12 months conditional discharge + £70 costs

### Criminal damage

3 cases have been adjourned awaiting Georgina and Eliza's case. 2 have been granted legal aid. Emma was served a warrant, while waiting in the cells at Newbury, for criminal damage to a World War 2 replica convoy that thought it could get away with visiting Greenham.

There are 2 cases to be heard on January 12th of criminal damage to the Blue Gate box (another lie). 2 women were arrested for suspicion of criminal damage and burglary after the MOD police process centre was redecorated. They have since been summonsed for criminal damage, unlawful possession of police clothing and handling stolen goods, namely some convoy equipment that's been in the old vicarage garden since the beginning of time. Their first hearing is November 23rd. This equipment was discovered during a search of the camp in which there were several irregularities and complaints have been made.

### Public Order Act

Kim was arrested for glooping a convoy vehicle at Wood, the driver was distressed that someone should want to do such a thing to US Air Force vehicle so she was charged with causing him alarm, distress, and harassment.

Juley was also charged under this section of the act for refusing to climb down off a convoy support vehicle at the Swan roundabout.

Kim's case is to be heard on Jan 11th and Juley's in mid-January.

### Unpaid fines

Several women have recently had means tests, in Newbury, to decide their ability to pay fines from trespasses and criminal damage cases some from 1 or 2 years ago. 9 women served between 5 and 14 days in Holloway after refusing to pay, 2 women were given time to pay.