

Mr Baldock wrote last week in praise of the act of bombing Japan with nuclear weapons in 1945.

I wonder if, at the time of that event, he would have been happy to express the same sentiments standing in the midst of the radioactive ruins and surrounded by the corpses of 75,000 civilian dead (at Nagasaki) or in the broken shadow of the tower monument(at Hiroshima).

His argument, in favour of what was done, would have made as much sense at that place and time, as it does in Salisbury here and now. Namely, in my view, none at all. Because I see the use of weapons of mass destruction against civilians as inexcusable in any case whatever.

I can't expect everyone to share that view.

But let's think for a moment about Salisbury as we see it today, under the shadow of our own weapons-of-mass-destruction event. In which only a single life civilian life was lost. Does Novichok not suggest another way of thinking? What if the whole population of the City and District had died?

Indiscriminate violence, and certainly against civilians, must be wrong, whoever does it, whatever the excuse or provocation. That is why nuclear disarmament is necessary.

But I am not writing this for recruitment purposes: the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament did not celebrate the Candle Float on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> for that, but as a commemoration of the hundreds of thousands of Japanese people who died under those bombs. I feel, in a very real sense, that their lives were sacrificed for us.

Christopher Browne  
Salisbury

10. 8. 18.