



OXFORD CND

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2023



Not once but twice NEVER AGAIN

11am SUNDAY 6th AUGUST 2023

**For the anniversary of the dropping/testing
by US bomber pilots of 2 nuclear bombs in 1945**

August 6th

HIROSHIMA

Uranium bomb

80,000 civilians killed immediately

August 9th

NAGASAKI

Large plutonium bomb

40,000 civilians killed immediately

While a peace treaty was being negotiated

**Meet at
Bonn Square**

see back page for details

Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

01865 248357 oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop

Whistle Blowing

LOOKING BACK MANY YEARS later to his leaking of the *Pentagon Papers* in 1971 on the Vietnam war, Daniel Ellsberg recalled the realisation that had led him to risk 115 years in jail on charges of espionage:

“The public is lied to every day by the President, by his spokespeople, by his officers. If you can’t handle the thought that the President lies to the public for all kinds of reasons, you couldn’t stay in the government at that level, or you’re made aware of it, a week...”

As the British public comes to terms with revelations of lying in high places on an industrial scale, this strikes a close chord. And for all who campaign for political honesty and world peace Ellsberg’s story, both in his long life and as he approached his recent death, should be an inspiration.

I am tempted to devote this column entirely to Ellsberg’s open letter which he wrote in March this year after learning that he was dying from pancreatic cancer. He was lucky and grateful, he wrote, that he had been able to devote the years since he revealed the Papers “to doing everything I could of to alert the world to the perils of nuclear war and wrongful intervention”. He only wished he could report greater success, for modernization of nuclear weapons is underway in all nine nuclear weapons states and most of all in the US. Their continued existence is an existential risk to the future of the world as great as that of climate change – both risks known for decades while they were officially denied.

“It is long past time – but not too late! – for the world’s publics at last to challenge and resist the willed moral blindness of their past and current leaders. I will continue, as long as I’m able, to help these efforts”. Sadly, Ellsberg only had three more months.

The *Pentagon Papers* revealed the lies of successive US administrations over the Vietnam War (and they brought down that of Richard Nixon) but Ellsberg insisted on a deeper truth: The US had not just intervened foolishly in a “civil war”

between the North and South. It was a war in which one side, the South, was entirely equipped and paid by a foreign power: “In terms of the UN Charter and of our own avowed ideals, it was a war of foreign aggression, American aggression.” It was not the last one.

Ellsberg’s primary job during those administrations had been as a nuclear war planner, and he planned to release a second dossier of documents on nuclear war plans after the *Pentagon Papers*. In case he was jailed, he arranged for this second dossier to be hidden, but while he was on trial this dossier (by a mishap that would be comical if not so serious) was lost in a tropical storm.

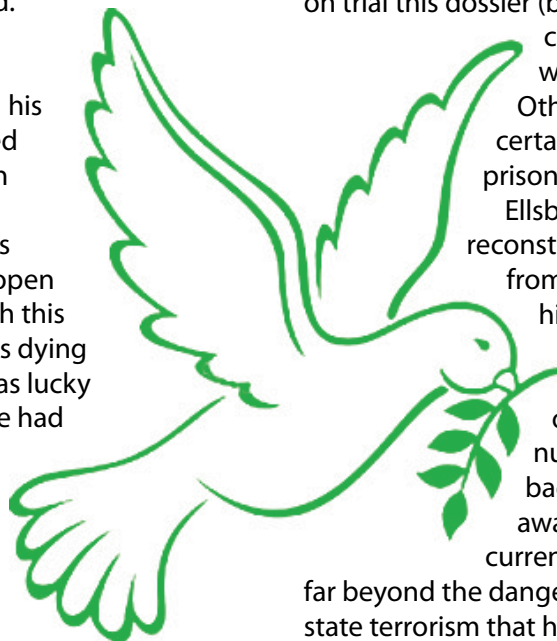
Otherwise its publication would certainly have sent Ellsberg to prison for life.

Ellsberg has told the story, and reconstructed much of the material from declassified sources, in his *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner* (2017). The risks of nuclear war and ensuing nuclear winter that appalled him back in the 1960s have not gone away: “The present risks of the current nuclear era”, he wrote, “go

far beyond the dangers of proliferation and non-state terrorism that have been the almost exclusive focus of public concern for the past generation and the past decade in particular. The arsenals and plans of the two superpowers represent not only an insuperable obstacle to an effective global anti-proliferation campaign; they are in themselves a clear and present existential danger to the human species, and most others.”

In 2021 Ellsberg released classified documents which he had also copied showing how the Pentagon in 1958 drew up plans to use nuclear weapons against China in a Taiwan crisis – today’s tense situation over Taiwan is a reminder of the continuing danger. Ellsberg was the first in a series of lone whistle-blowers who have exposed lies on a succession of wars and nuclear threats – Julian Assange is the latest. Governments may brand as them as traitors: we hail them as defenders of peace and of our right to know. ■

John Gittings





Who is the real threat in the Pacific?

A Map of the US Encirclement of China

Congolese Peace Woman to talk at the August Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

"OF ALL THE PLACES we have visited this is the most natural", Margy, one of our Australian activist visitors, remarked during her visit to our July camp towards the end of her XR and Peace direct action trek around Europe.

And indeed, the camp is rather lovely with its situation, down in a dell, overhung by oak and pine trees, as long as you don't look across at the complicated network of buildings at the far end, the nuclear weapons factory of Aldermaston, about 30m south of Oxford.

Our last camp included a variety of workshops: on the nature of Plutonium, the Legacy of Pollution from UK and US nuclear tests on the native reservation of the Western Shoshone Nation and a wonderful workshop of Lotions, Potions and Commotions. In the evening there was a rip-roaring Open Mike session and Cocktail Party led by the dramatic and magical Scary Little Girls duo who re-energized the Greenham Spirit and our camp.

The Camp, open to all women, happens on the second weekend of every month and varies between bigger ones with planned events and between 30 and 60 women and other quieter times with maybe only 8 women. August had been going to be one of the quieter months but now we have

heard that Marie Claire Faray from the Democratic Republic of Congo has volunteered to talk at the August Camp on Saturday 12th. She will be speaking about women's resistance to the war, the exploitation of minerals - the root cause of war. So, we are expecting more women once again.

Later plans are to join the No Nuclear Day on Sept 6th. during the DSEI Arms Fair and to go across to Lakenheath at the end of September to start a tentative little overnight peace camp, hopefully with locals to protest against the polluting and insidious new nuclear bomber jets to be sited there.

For more information or to arrange transport to Aldermaston or the other events, contact Nuala Oxford 749459

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO CAMP PERHAPS CONSIDER DONATING TOWARDS TRANSPORT COSTS OR PORTALOOS. Contact me, nualayoung@hotmail.com and I will send you the camp treasurer's bank details.

Lorna, one ex-Greenham AWC camper said:

"Visiting or staying becomes much less scary for newer women once they know they can pee in peace. And, for the rest of us, my god, a portaloos is such a delight. I can drink all the tea I want, no consequences." ■



Upper Heyford remembered

FORTY ONE YEARS AGO, at the height of the Cold War, with news leaking of proposals within the US government of a "limited" nuclear war in Europe we were alerted by a group of young people that RAF Upper Heyford, 10 miles north of Oxford, was actually a US base with F1.11 planes carrying nuclear weapons on standby 24 hours a day. With support from local people a peace camp was established at the Camp Road end of the Portway, a bridle path, once a Roman Road that had illegally been intersected by the base. The following year 1983, the runway was extended to enable a new type of aircraft, the EF 1 11s, to jam "enemy" radar enabling those jets and their nuclear cargo to become first strike weapons. A second Peace Camp was set up to the north of the base.

A year later we heard that one of the planes had got as far as the East German border by computer mistake. In early 1983, the peace campers decided to call a 4-day blockade of the base for June and toured the length and breadth of the UK, preparing groups to take part. Each day was allotted to a different part of the UK and we in the Southern Region had the first day.

During the blockade, the only communication was by walkie talkies - no mobile phones, but a steady flow of protesters was maintained at each gate. More than 5,000 people took part and 752 people were arrested. Until the media coverage of the blockade, most people in Britain were unaware

that we had nuclear weapons on our soil.

So, on June 3rd. 2023 to commemorate this achievement and warn that the risk has now returned with small "usable" nuclear bombs as part of the schedule for USAF Lakenheath, one of the original Peace Campers, Steve Barwick organised a gathering at Upper Heyford to celebrate the success of that Blockade 40 years ago.

A group of people including many of the original peace campers and organisers met at the camp. The event was enlivened by Dave Huish, his daughter Jill and her 2 children Uriel and Aurora. To commemorate Pam Hopcraft, their very active grandmother who had campaigned at the base, Jill brought along one of Pam's jumpers. A wonderful example of the spirit of principled protest through the generations!

The young woman, Setarah, who feature on the original leaflet for the blockade was there as well. On one of the string of banners we hung across the bridleway was a very artistic one off an F 1 11 flying over the Wittenham Clumps by a young 10 yr. old Richard from Botley.

We all proceeded to the Heritage Centre, where we talked to the Curator and discussed how the role of the Peace Camp could be better represented. It was actually a very enjoyable day out and resulted in a lot of coverage over the day, on BBC South and our local newspaper devoted a whole page to it . ■

Nuala Young

All Wars End through Diplomatic Means



Foreign Secretary James Chievely visits Estonia.

FORMER CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, Lord David Roberts reflected that “All wars end through diplomatic means”, but his wisdom doesn’t seem to be reflected by those members of our government who should be responsible for that diplomacy.

Lord Roberts also warns that Crimea should be treated differently from the rest of Ukraine as it

has historically been part of Russia for hundreds of years.

Retired Admiral, Chris Parry recently warned that Ukraine will do well to leave Crimea alone. “It’s absolute cryptonite to the Russians. They will die in numerous ditches to hold on to it, even if they lose everything else”. ■



NATO Myth and Reality

NATO IS CONTROVERSIAL. Some see its expansion over the past three decades as a factor in the Ukraine war, and many – particularly in the global south, see its militarisation and wars – like the 20-year war in Afghanistan - as wholly negative. Others, like the UK's media and major political parties tend to subscribe to NATO's self-description – that it promotes democratic values and says it is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

CND has a very clear position in opposition to NATO: because it's a nuclear-armed alliance which has a first use policy. Indeed, Britain's nuclear weapons are assigned to NATO, and that is why Britain claims it can't have a no first use policy.

In 1960, CND voted for British withdrawal from NATO as a nuclear armed alliance.

During the Cold War NATO forces were not involved in a single military engagement. When the Warsaw Pact was wound up in 1991, there were hopes that NATO would be dissolved too and international relations would be founded on a new basis, putting the goals of the UN into force. It was also hoped there would be a peace dividend, with vast sums going from military into social expenditure.

This did not happen. As the Russian economy collapsed, the US devised a new strategy – the Wolfowitz Doctrine of 1992. This noted the U.S.'s status as the world's only remaining superpower and proclaimed its main objective to be retaining that status.

That approach has determined US actions ever since – and NATO, which was now redundant in terms of its initial mission statement as a cold war alliance, was repurposed to support the US in that objective.

NATO has expanded its territorial membership, its sphere of influence and the scope of its activity. The 1990s saw NATO inviting new members to join the alliance.

In March 1999, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic were all admitted as full members. Ten days later they found themselves at war with their neighbour Yugoslavia, as part of NATO's illegal bombing campaign. But developments at that time were not limited to expanding its membership.

At NATO's 50th anniversary conference in Washington in April 1999, a new "strategic concept" was adopted. This moved beyond NATO's previous defensive role to include "out of area" – in other

words offensive – operations, anywhere on the Eurasian landmass.

Subsequently, NATO moved to adopt a global role for itself, often claiming to be a force for humanitarian relief. In Europe, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania were admitted to NATO in 2004 – they were not only former Warsaw Pact members, but also former Soviet republics in the case of the Baltic states, Albania and Croatia became members with Montenegro joining in 2017 and Macedonia in 2020, and then of course Finland joined earlier this year.

This scale of expansion has contributed to international tension as Russia has seen itself as increasingly surrounded by US and NATO bases. This was exacerbated in 2008, when NATO agreed that Georgia and Ukraine should eventually become members of NATO. This was a red line for Russia as it would mean a huge additional border with a hostile nuclear armed alliance.

NATO's wars devastated the Middle East and Africa, where Libya destroyed with terrible consequences. NATO operations have also been undertaken in the Horn of Africa over the last decade and it now attempts further involvement in Africa via the African Union.

NATO unveiled a new Strategic Concept at its 2022 summit meeting, setting its long-term orientation towards a military build-up in the Asia-Pacific region to counter China with an intensification of focus on Russia and eastern Europe. Taken together with an escalating militarization across our societies, the summit outcomes indicate a deepening preparation for major war, in Europe or beyond.

NATO's new emphasis goes back to the Wolfowitz Doctrine: how to maintain US dominance in a world where China is rising economically? NATO's answer is to expand its orientation to the Asian Pacific, to deal with the 'impact' of the emerging China. NATO will now treat China as a 'full-spectrum systemic rival, rather than a purely economic player'.

The great danger is that NATO's policies have not only backed Russia into a corner through military expansionism, but that they will now also do the same with China. This approach will not help stop a war, instead the danger is it will start one.

The question has to be, how do we get off this

escalatory military spiral? How can international relations be organised differently so that military alliances and military confrontation do not appear to be the only option available?

There is an increasing desire to build new security frameworks that aren't dependent on warfighting. We hear that message from the Pope, the United Nations, and other global leaders.

We need to advocate an alternative before the world descends into further war and nuclear use. In the 1980s, the former Swedish prime minister, the great Olof Palme, pioneered the principle of common security – that no state or community can be secure without others experiencing that same

level of security.

Last year Common Security 2022 was published by the Olof Palme Centre, the International TUC and the International Peace Bureau. It builds on the work and role of the UN, OSCE, the ICJ and numerous regional bodies that are already established as common security mechanisms. These include the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the League of Arab States and many others.

Much of the framework for a new approach already exists. We have to work to make sure that the non-military alternatives win out. ■

Kate Hudson, General Secretary CND

Clusterbombs

CLUSTER MUNITIONS CONTAIN dozens or hundreds of smaller munitions in rocket or bomb form. After launch the container opens up, dispersing the smaller munitions which are spread indiscriminately over a wide area. Many do not explode on contact but remain armed, becoming de facto landmines.

114 countries have joined the Treaty that comprehensively bans cluster bombs because of the danger they pose to civilians. Ukraine did not join the treaty and the Human Rights Watch reported that the present government had used them in the Donetsk region during the coup of 2014.

On June 7, 2023, the US Department of Defense announced that President Joe Biden

had signed a "determination" that the transfer of cluster munitions to Ukraine was necessary for the national security interests of the United States. He authorized the transfer of an unspecified number of cluster munitions that have a greater than one percent unexploded ordnance rate to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Cluster bombs have a range of 200 miles so cluster bombs set off from the Ukraine could reach Sebastapol.

The Global Women for Peace Network actively lobbied this year's NATO meeting in Brussels urging

an end to the fuelling of war in the Ukraine and instead that the NATO members should work for diplomacy for peace. In particular they condemned the sending of Cluster Bombs and Depleted Uranium weapons, which have been banned in Europe but not the US. There is a history of unexploded brightly coloured cluster bombs being picked up by children mistaking them for toys, with

awful consequences. Depleted Uranium, when ingested will over time cause cancer. It is felt that the US is dumping these unlawful weapons on Ukraine in its proxy war against Russia.

The women

"The Global Women For Peace United Against NATO network with representatives of over 120

organizations from 35 countries, strongly opposes the use of Cluster Bombs and Weapons that contain Depleted Uranium and condemns the countries, namely the United States and the United Kingdom, that are sending them for use in Ukraine.

"We warn the Government of Ukraine and the Russian Federation against the illegal and criminal use of these weapons."

The women noted that the use of Cluster Bombs and Depleted Uranium would leave a toxic and long-lasting burden for this region of Europe. ■



Diary

August

Hiroshima Day August 6th

Oxford, Bonn Square, 11am near the Peace Plaque. Music from the Sea Green Singers and banners to commemorate. We can also share thoughts and short poems.

Abingdon Peace Group are celebrating 40 years of working for peace, at St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helens Street, Abingdon OX14 5EB on **Sunday 6th August** from **3-5pm**. Tea, cakes and a small exhibition of photos and memorabilia. It is also Hiroshima Day so we will be making peace cranes and sharing the story of Sadako, the young Hiroshima girl who died of the after-effects of the atom bomb. COME AND JOIN US! Further information from abingdonpeace@gmail.com or on our Facebook page.

August 11-13

Aldermaston Peace Camp
camp set up on Friday evening main event Saturday Marie Claire Faray from the Congo to speak – minerals as root cause of war. All welcome during the day but women only evening and night. For more info or transport, phone Nuala 01865 749459.

September

September 4th to 15th

Protests against the DSEI Arms trade Fair 1000 companies to meet representatives from some of the worst known countries for human rights abuses to network with UK Ministers and Government officials to disrupt the setting up –

September 4th to 11th

No Nukes and Women Against War – **September 6th** To protest during the fair – **September 12th to 15th**.

Best list of news items, webinars etc:

https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items
<https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/events>
<https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk>



Latest News

Two key co-ordinators of **Oxford CND**, Nigel Day and Margaret Downs are both recovering after serious operations and will have to stand back for the moment. We will need to have an AGM in the Autumn to elect a more co-ordinators but, in the meantime, it would be great if we could have a team of volunteers to rebuild the campaign at this time of high nuclear risk and worsening war. Nigel and Margaret were also the key **Nukewatchers**, watching at certain places by the A34 whenever the Nuclear Convoy started on its trips to Brize Norton or to Faslane in Scotland, often passing Oxford, for the transportation of nuclear materials and even nuclear warheads. If you are possibly able to be a watcher on occasions or could join our team, contact **Nuala** on **01865 749459** and leave a contact address or number. We will try to arrange a workshop for people to recognise the convoys and their various accompanying vehicles.

Membership subscriptions 2023

Please pay your subscription soon!

If you pay your subscription by cheque please can you pay us as soon as possible. Oxford CND needs that money to campaign and send you information and newsletters. We are also very grateful for extra donations.

Subs are very reasonable – £10 or £5 low wage, but are essential for us to continue to campaign. Standing orders can continue as before. Make cheques for 2023 payable to Oxford CND and send to: **Membership, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP**

Oxford CND Newsletter by email

Some members already receive the Oxford CND newsletter only by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter online please let Liz Taylor, the membership secretary know on: **liz.taylor5@virgin.net**

Oxford Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Please contact: Nuala Young
nualayoung@hotmail.com



Contributions to the next issue...

Please send letters and items to:
Newsletter, 22 Downside Road, Oxford, OX3 8HP
No later than: **Monday, September 11th**