

ABOLISH WAR

Newsletter No: 3 Summer 2005



Our soon-to-be ex-treasurer, Tim Wallis, talking with UN Under-Secretary-General for the Least Developed Countries, Anwarul Chowdhury of Bangladesh during the GPPAC conference at the UN in July. See Tim's report inside.

WHAT KIND OF EUROPE DO WE WANT?

"Towards security with ethical responsibility"

A one-day conference organised by MAW
Saturday 1st October - 10.30 pm

Vaughan House

46 Francis Street, London SW1

Speakers will include Bruce Kent, Steve Dawes (Kent Peace Alliance) and a representative from the Europe Movement.

Free entry.

More info from MAW on 020 8347 6162 or www.abolishwar.org.uk

Letter from the Chairman

The last few months have been a bit of a roller coaster. The high point was that a quarter of a million people went to Edinburgh on the 2nd of July to call on the G8 leaders to "Make Poverty History". Did the G8 leaders listen? The commitments on debt relief, writ large, look great but the small print is not so encouraging. That such a crowd did gather is an indication of the power to mobilise the major agencies like Oxfam, Christian Aid, Cafod and the like. MAW was there with our impressive new banner. So too were several other peace and disarmament groups. We came to remind the crowds that poverty and militarism are inseparable evils. We have to tackle both.

The low point of recent weeks were the suicide and murder bombs in London. The follow-up amazes me. One would think that never before have there been attacks on civilians

for political or religious purposes. Hiroshima? Nagasaki?

The suggestion from our political leaders that these London bombs have nothing to do with the ongoing exploitation and humiliation of parts of the Muslim world is simply ludicrous. To try to understand is not to begin to excuse.

More positively, Remembrance Sunday and Week are only four months away. Our MAW discussions with the British Legion have been very positive. Please make sure that in your area our message is heard. The best way to honour the dead, military and civilian, of past wars is to build a world in which we do not 'solve' conflict by killing other people. Wars are not earthquakes or floods. They are not inevitable. Making that change in public thinking is what MAW is all about.

Bruce Kent

WHY THE NEW TITLE?

Well, it has become clear after discussions at committee meetings, that we are all finding the title 'Movement for the Abolition of War' a bit of a mouthful, and if we shorten it to MAW, then people ask "What does that stand for?" The decision to formally change our name to Abolish War will be put to the members at the AGM in November. In the meantime, let us know what you think. One of the suggestions for this newsletter is that we should have a Letters Page. So get writing, by post or email (address details on the back page). Let us have your views and your news. This is, after all, *your* newsletter.



Our new banner, strutting its' stuff on the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh on July 2nd.

The Movement for the Abolition of War

11 Venetia Road LONDON N4 1EJ Tel/Fax 020 8347 6162 www.abolishwar.org.uk

News & Views

Non-Proliferation or No Progress?

New York - May 2005

The Setting At the beginning of May over 1,780 NGO's from all around the world, including 100 Mayors from 60 cities descended on New York to participate in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (RevCon). On Sunday 1 May, thousands of people from some 120 countries had marched through New York to call for a nuclear weapon free world, together with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and a brave number of 'hibakusha' - atomic bomb survivors. The march, officially estimated at 45,000 activists, ended in Central Park, where prominent peace activists spoke of the dire consequences of another nuclear catastrophe. The conference was opened by Sergio Duarte, President of the NPT 2005 Review Conference. Despite months of consultation leading to the RevCon, no agenda had been agreed.

The Challenge The United States says that Iran and North Korea have exploited loopholes in the NPT to pursue nuclear weapons programs and threaten world stability. The new nuclear states of Pakistan, India and Israel remain outside the treaty. But if the United States continues its own current nuclear stance, over time, substantial proliferation of nuclear weapons will almost surely follow. Nations such as Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Taiwan will very likely initiate nuclear weapons programs, increasing the risk of their use.

The Bush administration's nuclear program, alongside its refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), will be viewed, with reason, by many nations as equivalent to a U.S. break from the treaty. It says to the non-nuclear weapons nations, "We, with the strongest conventional military force in the world, require nuclear weapons in perpetuity, but you, facing potentially well-armed opponents, are never to be allowed even one nuclear weapon."

The State and the People The review conference opened with two very different attitudes. Though lip-service was paid to the NPT as the "cornerstone" of non-proliferation, the great hall of the General Assembly, which should have been packed with the representatives of nearly 190 states parties, was half empty. By contrast, hundreds of NGOs and representatives of civil society, including elected Mayors and officials from cities and towns around the world, queued for hours to get into the United Nations building because they wanted to bear witness to the vital importance of eliminating nuclear weapons.

The Non-Result The NPT Review Conference closed without achieving anything. However, it was inspiring to be there, and new initiatives were discussed in the corridors and workshops inside the UN building. On a positive note, Tadastoshi Akiba, the mayor of Hiroshima, told the protesters who had gathered in Central Park, '*There is nothing normal, natural or necessary about nuclear weapons. They're a deadly cancer on the planet that need to be removed.*' And Robert McNamara, former US Secretary of State, recently said that he believes the United States must no longer rely on nuclear weapons as a foreign-policy tool. To do so is '*immoral, illegal, and dreadfully dangerous*'.

Vijay Mehta

A Peace Trail Through London

A very informative illustrated leaflet, describing several well known and lesser known sites in London that have peace connections. Copies 40p plus postage.

5 copies add 40p postage. 10 copies, add 50p postage.

From 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ.

Cheques payable to Valerie Flessati.

Does your city have a similar leaflet? If yes, can we advertise it? If not, then why not produce one!

And on a similar theme -

Walk in Peace: a silent walk in peace for peace, 1st Sunday of every month. Meet at the café - Ices/Honest Sausage just south of Speakers Corner in Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube) at 10.55am to start walking at 11.00am. Info: Clare on 020 8755 0353 or beatricemillar@freuk.com

Not All is Doom and Gloom!

Belgian House of Representatives asks for withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe

Brussels, July 15th 2005 - the Belgian House of Representatives has adopted a resolution on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, calling for the withdrawal of the US nuclear weapons based in Europe. They also want to exclude nuclear weapons from the common EU security policy. This is the second time that a parliamentary assembly in Europe has demanded the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons. The Belgian Senate approved a similar resolution last April 21st 2005, just prior to the NPT Review Conference in New York which ended in failure. An estimated 480 U.S. tactical nuclear weapons are suspected to be based in Belgium, Germany, England, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. The United States is currently the only country to have nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of other countries.

The resolution of the Belgian House comes just prior to the 60th anniversary of the first Trinity nuclear test in the "Jornada del Muerto"-valley in New Mexico on July 16th 1945. Since that day 2,053 nuclear weapons have been detonated, on average 1 every 10 days since 1945. Three weeks after the successful nuclear blast in New Mexico the inhabitants of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were to suffer the first A-bomb attacks, resulting in an estimated 237,062 casualties.

More information:

<http://www.motherearth.org.walk/tests.php>

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PEACE & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

European Parliament, Brussels, 20/21 October 2005

If you would like to attend, please contact Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Russell House, Bulwell Lane, Nottingham, NG6 0BT, tel: 0115 978 4504, email: elfeuro@compuserve.com

www.russfound.org

Also available from Russell House -

Tony Bunyan's report *Countering Civil Rights* (free), about the 'counter-terrorism' measures emerging in the EU.

The Dodgiest Dossier (£5), containing the leaked Government papers on the Iraq war.

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defence than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. *Martin Luther King*

Letters

A man, his wife and their 11 year old daughter Tara sat down to watch Jo Wilding's film 'A Letter to the Prime Minister' In her father's words, "Tara got up and left the room towards the end; I heard her going upstairs and, well - it's a lot to take in for a child of that age so fair enough. But when the film ended and I went upstairs, she'd written a letter to Blair! I thought you'd like a copy. All her own work - even the spellings and wild exaggerations!"

So - to open our first Letters Page, here is Tara's letter.

Dear Tony Blair,

I writing to you on behalf of my concerns for Iraq. I have just watched a film containing scenes of children being taken into hospital and having to have operations because bombs have fallen on there houses. Most of there families have not survived. One man had a wife and they had been married for just one week before a bomb fell on there house and killed his wife along with his sister and another girl. It is awful that people of such a young age have been forced to live in this sort of environment. Where are the weapons of mass destruction that you so eagerly went to war for? Millions of people are dying every day because of this and you are not giving them enough time to help the innocent people that have been hurt in the war. On the film was a little boy who had severe cuts on one side of his face. Did that little boy ever attack you? There was a girl of just 14 who would probably never be able to walk again and had deep gashes in her head. One house had been bombed that had no landmark near for the bomber to aim at and yet they WERE bombed. I am only 11 years of age and already I know that what you are doing is wrong.

Yours sincerely
Miss. T. Harris

To Kofi Annan, from MAW committee member, Sally Reynolds

Dear Kofi Annan,

RE: United Nations Summit, 14-16 September 2005

Suggestion for action on Priority Area "Rule of Law"

As the UK organisation which arose from the 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace conference, we warmly welcome your report for the September summit "In Larger Freedom". We

particularly welcome your paragraphs on "Reducing the prevalence and risk of war" and "Use of force", and strongly support the priority you give to the "Rule of Law".

We note that at the Summit, Heads of State will discuss criteria against which states must judge their decision to go to war and will consider adopting the Responsibility to Protect concept.

The Problem

For many decades, we have been relying on the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva conventions and the Hague conventions to try to limit the damage caused by war. However we continue to have wars because these "laws of war" actually legalise war and make it acceptable in certain circumstances.

The Solution: Make war illegal.

We believe that a way to make war unacceptable is to make war illegal. We can do this by repealing certain clauses in the UN Charter and the Geneva and Hague conventions, to bring an end to the legality of war. This will compel parties in dispute to settle the issue diplomatically.

We wonder whether the United Nations could create a High-level Panel for drafting a "Peace Charter" to replace the laws of war. Membership of this new Panel could include one or more representatives from the peace movement, in line with the UN's stated desire for NGO and civil society involvement in achieving its goals.

We realise that it is too late for this idea to be added to the agenda for the UN September Summit. However, if the idea was simply to be mentioned, either openly or privately, during the Summit, then a number of Heads of State would be aware of the concept.

Please be assured that millions of people worldwide support your efforts to "Make War History".

Yours in Peace,
Dr Sally Reynolds, committee member, MAW

At a legal inquiry last November, Judge Christopher Weeramantry (International Court of Justice 1991-2000) was asked about making war illegal. His reply - that under International Law it already is illegal, although no one law that actually states that. He felt that trying to create a specific law to make war illegal would result in government lawyers writing in built-in loopholes before allowing the law to be enacted. What do you think? Let us have your views for the next Letters Page!

Please note - newsletter winter issue - deadline date for letters and copy November 28th



**A LETTER TO THE
PRIME MINISTER
JO WILDING'S DIARY FROM IRAQ**

This new DVD was recently premiered at the Barbican. It follows activist Jo Wilding (who first went to Iraq with Voices in the Wilderness in 2003) as she experiences the invasion first hand, meeting the wounded, recording the damage and finding ways to bring some brightness into the lives of traumatised children. Moving, funny, distressing and recommended! The DVD can be purchased on-line at www.alettertotheprimeminister.co.uk, or from Voices in the Wilderness, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. It costs £18 (inc. p&p), and can be used for **non-profit** screenings. Please contact info@yearzerofilms.co.uk if you're interested in organizing a commercial screening in your area.

WAR NO MORE

Our video War No More now comes in a very smart DVD and booklet version, priced at £7.99 from Kevin Mayhew Publishers (www.kevinmayhew.com) With this professional marketing, it will hopefully reach a much wider audience.

Order by post from: -
Kevin Mayhew Publishers
Buxhall
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP14 3BW
Tel: 01449 737978
Email: sales@kevinmayhewltd.com

In every country, the people are more peaceably and liberally inclined than their governments.
Franklin D Roosevelt

THE BEST WAY TO HONOUR THEIR MEMORY

Many of you will be aware of the work of one of our committee members, **Christine Titmus** and her success in engaging the Royal British Legion in some very fruitful discussions. For those who need to be updated, here is Christine's résumé: -

In November 2003 I wrote to the Royal British Legion's secretary general about the way they conveyed war in their schools material and visits. I wrote as a parent of two daughters, then aged 13 and 15. My concerns were that war was presented as inevitable, that armed might provided meaningful security, and an overwhelming emphasis on soldiers' deaths gave the impression that civilian casualties were in the minority. I also requested that a prominent quote on their website be withdrawn - "*unfortunately there will always be wars*, and as long as there are, the Legion will always be standing by to help".

In March 2004 I received a thoughtful reply from the Director of Communications Stuart Gendell which I answered. In April 2004 the secretary general, Ian Townsend, wrote a personal letter to me to say they had withdrawn the quote and why. He said "war is a catastrophic event and there are no more ardent peacemakers than those of us who have experienced it." I sensed the potential to unify our respective positions.

At this time MAW was exploring ideas for an annual link-up with Remembrance, and I had been working on some of these. I sent an appreciative reply to Ian, in which I outlined these ideas asking for his comments. I explained that I had recently joined the national committee of MAW due to my concern for our young peoples' future. I introduced the phrase - 'A pledge to prevent war - the best way to honour their memory' - which I later found had struck a chord with RBL.

This letter was passed to Stuart Gendell. We talked in the late summer 2004 and had a very fruitful chat about our common aims. Stuart was sincerely interested about MAW's views on the RBL current schools pack, which was due to be revised making it more relevant to the concerns and worldview of modern youngsters. He was also keen to explore other common ground. We talked candidly about past antagonism between the traditional 'peace movement' and the Legion.

In December 2004 we met and formalised a plan for MAW to contribute to the new RBL schools pack.

We also talked about ways to incorporate the war prevention message into Remembrance events. Due to the confidential nature of the discussion I will not detail the problems involved but suffice to say 'slow and sensitive' is better than 'too much too soon'. Due to past misunderstandings - on both 'sides' - it is vital to be tolerant, sensitive and use as a basis *that which unites us*. That is - the need to work much harder for a peaceful resolution to conflict, and the need to tackle the causes of wars. This is a sound focus for any MAW contribution to Remembrance, which should not offend or cause unrest!

We agreed that if young people want to really help those in the armed services, it makes sense that they be encouraged to do all they can to reduce the number that will be left in need of help (from RBL). I took care to work on our common ground and left alone those areas of potential disagreement. By carefully weaving my way along via the road of 'the best way to honour their memory' the message remained acceptable to both of us. I asked Stuart to speak at the MAW AGM this November, which he was pleased to accept. When the revised RBL schools pack is published, the MAW website address and telephone number will be included. A new RBL CDrom launched for next year, will include several pieces on issues like war prevention/causes/international relations and the UN. These are in a form for students to explore and study in accordance with national curriculum guidelines.

I'm sure that MAW would like to say 'thank you' through this newsletter to Stuart and others at the Legion, who have shown insight, courage and vision in entering into this dialogue!

How Can We Build on This Initiative?

There is one action that we can all take, wherever we live, and whether we act as individuals or as members of a local peace group. At the beginning of November MAW is placing an advert in one of the national newspapers. **We would like you to do the same in your local papers.** The wording will be on the following lines (or use your own words to convey the same message) : -

THE BEST WAY TO HONOUR THEIR MEMORY IS TO MAKE WAR HISTORY

**Every Year We Remember Them
But isn't it time we did more to save their descendents from
the same fate?**

**Modern warfare means that 90% of deaths will be civilian,
half of these children. We MUST find another way and we
believe it's possible!**

**The Movement for the Abolition of War
11 Venetia Rd. London N4 1EJ
www.abolishwar.org.uk**

Please do your best to get an advert like this into your local press - we want to spread the message that the best way to honour the memory of those who died in war is to end war. If this also encourages people to become members of MAW, so much the better!

What else can we do? Take part on Remembrance Sunday. Our long-term aim - *all* those who die in war should be remembered, and that memory can best be honoured by working to prevent war. But this will not happen overnight. We need to be as careful and sensitive as Christine was in her dialogue. *And* as patient! Here are some suggestions from Christine: -

Make contact with a local RBL representative few weeks before Remembrance Day, to ask if you can contribute a reading at the ceremony on the theme of preventing war/addressing causes of war. Try to use the expression 'the best way to honour their memory' as it unites/builds trust by 'speaking the same language.' Offer to discuss the chosen reading - be willing to negotiate, compromise, to re-word it - sometimes it's the language rather than the meaning which can be divisive. Although at a national level there is trust and understanding between MAW and the RBL, this is not to be counted on across all local branches. There will a wide range of responses to the above suggestion, so please be sensitive. We will not begin to heal any longstanding hostility or mistrust associated with the 'peace movement' by imposing lofty ideals or using divisive language.

If you have a UNA flag ask if your peace group could walk behind this as part of the main procession. Remember - it is for *us* to move forward by 'fitting in' with their programme.

Ask if you could wear and/or lay a wreath of red and white poppies together. Ask if you could lay a teddy bear or other toy labelled appropriately i.e.. 'Today, half of all war victims are children'. It may be more effective to approach your local branch as an individual - perhaps as a concerned parent, or a relative of a veteran (your father/grandfather) and say you'd like to do a reading. This is less threatening than announcing yourself as 'chair of This Town's Peace Group'. The barriers may go up quickly - a new language is better offered a word at a time! It may seem easier for peace groups to hold their own ceremonies separately, but we are a '*movement*'! Our message must go where it is not currently heard. Let's take courage and cross that traditional 'divide', taking with us humility, patience, respect and openness. Over time, the message of war prevention/addressing war causes may become as standard at Remembrance events as the 'last post' it's up to us, making those first steps.

If you want to discuss this with Christine then phone her on 01767 651136 or email her - Christine.Titmus@abolishwar.org.uk

IS A PLEDGE TO PREVENT WAR

Some readings for Remembrance Day Services

This letter was written to Bruce Kent by a woman who had lost her brothers in WW1. He describes it as "one of the saddest letters I've ever had".

Sir

Thank you for your short talk on BBC last evening.

I should like to describe my brother's very last words to me 1916. He was on leave before going to France. He had said goodbye to my Mother in another room and he said to me (he came from Richmond Park, his last training to kill) "we have a line of sacks and we use our bayonets to push through centre of sack as through a man." My brother Harold was the grandest of sons - devoted to my Mother and his father - he left loaded at his back. I have never forgotten my brother and the War Graves Commission is burying my ashes in Cambrai Memorial. I have been there a few times. God above has passed blessings on both sides. My brother Sergeant Harold ----- had to kill men he did not know. He has always been with me all these years, we were always together as children. My devoted Mother died of shock, second brother killed in action - What for?

Yours Truly -----

(That letter must have been so hard to write; Its very simplicity demonstrates the pain, the grief and the utter futility of war. Editor.)

THE VETERAN'S LAMENT

A reflection for Remembrance Sunday

So here we stand again.

A year has passed.

Once more our sorrow turns to millions killed.

What have we learned?

What do you say to us, dear soldier,

From your eternal silence?

Do you implore us to improve our killing efficiency,

To make bigger and better bombs,

Condemning millions more to your sad fate?

Do you cheer us on in our blindness?

How many thousands have we added to your number

This past year?

I hear your pleading.

I hear you cry to us across the years:

"Weep not for me but for those yet unborn

And after standing here, go forth -

Save your own children from a fate far worse than mine.

Go! - thank me by walking away today

To speak against the futility and waste, and the lie

That I have known, and you have repeated over and over -

For where do your billions go,

If not to ensure far more will know the hell I knew?

It is too late for me -

I have no voice now but yours,

So please - speak for me

And when you stand here again,

When this next year has passed,

Come here in certainty

That you have taken some small step

Along a different road."

Bill - WW2 veteran from North Bedfordshire

WHOM SHALL WE MOURN

Whom shall we mourn this day,

When we lay our poppy wreath?

How many, many, go un-named

On our memorials of death?

Shall we count them,

The lost ones,

The others, dead by war?

The mothers who died too young

Worn out with widowhood,

The street of bombed-out houses,

And the children gone for good.

Shall we remember?

Shall we grieve

For the other dead of war?

The countless graves of rubble,

The blood and poisoned wells,

The nurses and the firemen

Beneath exploding shells.

The empty hearths, the orphans,

The battered and the torn,

The scarred, the limbless and the mad,

The dreams of peace unborn.

Shall we weep

For what we lose

Each time we fight a war?

Red poppies for the soldier,

And the sailor lost at sea.

White poppies for the others,

Just folk like you and me.

As time it bleaches the bones,

So it touches the petals blood-red,

'Til they flutter white in the breeze,

Mourning the other dead.

Shall we mourn the dead?

Or mourn the fact

That wars are ever fought?

Shall we mourn the dead,

Or listen when they cry?

"We died for peace," they say,

"You live, and let war die."

Lesley Docksey, May 2005

A collection of readings/poems/reflections (suitable for all faiths or none) useful for Remembrance ceremonies, is available in Word Document format from Christine.Titmus@abolishwar.org.uk

**And don't forget to get your white peace poppies from: -
Peace Pledge Union, 1 Peace Passage, London, N7 0BT
0207 424 9444 www.ppu.org.uk
100 poppies for £40, 25 for £12.50, 10 for £6, 5 for £3.
£2 p&p.**

**MARTIN BELL OBE
WILL GIVE THE ANNUAL MAW REMEMBRANCE LECTURE
'A REQUIEM FOR PEACE'
AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON, SE1
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13th AT 2 PM
ALL WELCOME**

"If they question why we died, Tell them because our fathers lied."

Rudyard Kipling

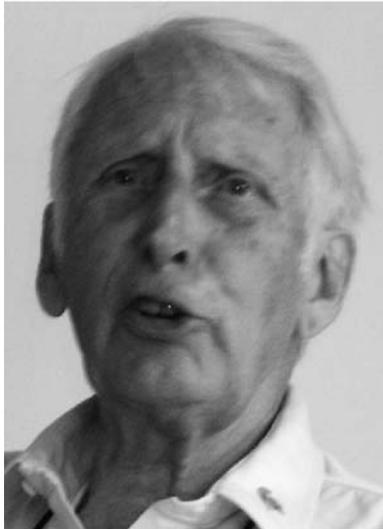
Henry Metelmann

In July the South East Hants Peace Council hosted a day at the Sustainability Centre, under the title Peace Through Reconciliation. There were two speakers, Henry Metelmann, and Marina Cantacuzino of the Forgiveness Project. I am hoping to feature Marina and her work in the next issue, but right now I'd like to introduce you to Henry.

Born in 1922 near the Danish border, Henry grew up in Hitler's Germany. His family was working class and poor, a fact that made being part of the Hitler Youth very attractive. The camps, the trips and manoeuvres, the uniform (instead of his shabby home-made clothes) - all very seductive for a young boy. Without realising it, Henry was being trained for a life in the army, and like his fellows, too blinded by hero worship of Hitler to understand what he was doing, and in particular, to take on board what his father was telling him.

His father had fought in WW1, and his experiences had really politicised him. He constantly told Henry about the connection between economics and war, of the power of money, and how the rich used the poor, but Henry was too young, then, to understand. One of his father's sayings, when talking about the rich and powerful, was "Royalty is the string that keeps the robbers together!" At 18 Henry joined the army, going into one of the Panzer regiments and becoming a tank driver. Like all the Hitler Youth and young recruits, Henry had to swear an oath of loyalty to the Fuehrer. His father asked him, "Do you *have* to swear this oath?" On being told yes, he said, "If you are forced to swear an oath it means nothing. For the sake of humanity break it whenever you can."

Henry served in both Russia and France. His descriptions of the advance into Russia, of the 'enemies' he had to kill, of Hitler's 'burnt earth' policy which meant having to torch huts that Russian peasants had taken shelter in, his tender feelings for a girl whose family's cottage he had been billeted in, the fear and the constant questions, the difficulty he had in trying to obey orders when they were so opposed to Henry's true feelings, the struggle just to get through each day, all paint a terrible picture of war. He was present at Stalingrad and was lucky to survive. His division was outside the ring of Russians that destroyed the German forces around Stalingrad, but his unit's position was still over-run. He was the only survivor and escaped by hiding out in a bunker. When he finally managed to rejoin the army, he was accused of



deserting, and 'why didn't you return to your unit?' He tried explaining that there was nothing left to return to. Things might have gone badly had not the German army then had to retreat. By the time Henry had got back to Germany he had been wounded (he was wounded 3 times in all). After recovery he was sent to the front line in France. He was captured by the Americans and was shipped to the US as a POW. By the time his ship got to New York the war was over, but he was still a prisoner and found himself out in California where he and his fellows were put to fruit picking. The American authorities then handed him over to the British (an action that was illegal under the Geneva Convention) and he was interned in this country for some time, working on a farm. In 1948 he finally returned to Germany, but by this time both his parents were dead, and there was nothing left in Germany for him to stay for. He came back to Britain as there was a shortage of farm labourers here, and from then on he lived in Britain.

When I asked about his father (who was clearly a memorable character), and at what point he had finally understood all that his father had been trying to teach him about the politics of power and economy, he said "When I had time to think." While he was a serving soldier all he could do was to try and survive the war. It was only when he was a prisoner that he could mentally sit back and begin the understanding that would come over the years. That understanding he improved by reading as much as he could, informing himself as much as he could. There was no one moment when his father's words suddenly made sense, just as there was no one moment when he decided to 'campaign' for peace. It happened, he said, bit by bit, over the years. The important thing is that it did happen, and the result is a unique voice that I was lucky enough to hear. It was very apparent that retelling his war experiences is still painful for him. Yet the willingness to go through that pain each time he tells his story is his way of teaching us how truly terrible war is.

One final quote from Henry - being very much his father's son, he said that the one thing all his experiences had taught him was that we need to Make Capitalism History.

Editor

Henry Metelmann has written 2 books -

A Hitler Youth - Growing up in Germany in the 1930s. Spellmount 2004

Though Hell for Hitler - A dramatic first-hand account of fighting on the Eastern Front with the Wehrmacht. Spellmount 2005

Logo Competition

**No entries - No winner- No prize
Tut tut!**

One person wrote in to suggest that we use what's on our No War badge - a No Entry Sign over the word WAR - and after discussion in committee, it was decided we would go for this.

MAW TO BUY

BOOKLETS	The Hague Appeal '99. 50 Steps on the Way to the Abolition of War	50p
	The Final Surrender -Time to Abolish war. Quotations from around the world.	50p
	A World Without War - Professor Rotblat's Imperial War Museum speech, 2002	30p
POSTCARDS	'I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask - 'Mother, what was war?'	15p
	Girl with flower facing soldiers with bayonets	15p
A4 CARD	The Preamble to the UN Charter	15p
VIDEO (14 mins)	War No More - with teacher's booklet	£8*
	(Still some available. Now issued as a DVD. See separate advert.)	
MAW CD	Sing the Music of Healing (new stock!)	£8*
BOOK	War No More (paperback) Rotblat/Hinde	£10*
MAW Flyers and Posters	Green information leaflet and matching poster	Free
BADGES Metal	Red with a 'No Entry' sign across war	15p
Postage: -	Items marked * postage included. Single sample copies of the others, send SAE. Multiple orders, please add 10% to the total price. Please send order to:	
	Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, LONDON N4 1EJ	

All wars, just or unjust, disastrous or victorious, are waged against the child.
Eglantyne Jebb, Founder of Save the Children



MAW Dialogue Needed!

Well, you wondered where the WMD were! The answer - not in Iraq but on display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, R.N.A.S., Yeovilton, in Somerset. What an insensitive piece of advertising to appear at roadsides around Yeovil at the end of July, just when everyone is preparing to honour the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And what a message to give the children who will be visiting the Fleet Air Arm Museum during the summer holidays. A nuclear bomb should in no way rate as an 'attraction'. After discussion with the Director of the Museum, it was agreed that as a first step, the exclamation mark would be blacked out. This will at least remove some of the sensationalism. My dialogue with the Museum will hopefully continue after the director has consulted their marketing manager, but in the meantime, the adverts will remain in place for August 6th and 9th and local peace campaigners are not happy!

Editor

STOP PRESS – NOTICES REMOVED

HIBAKUSHA SONGS

By Robert Steadman

A new musical composition to mark the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was premiered on 21st August 2005 at the Imperial War Museum North for further info: rob@robertsteadman.com

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) New York 19-21 July

Three years ago, Kofi Annan invited civil society organisations around the world to work with the UN in a global partnership to prevent and end wars. MAW was among more than 600 organisations (representing almost every country in the world), in the UN General Assembly Hall in July, to explore how to meet this challenge. Unfortunately Kofi Annan himself was recovering from an operation on his shoulder and so was unable to attend. Other high-ranking UN and government officials did address the conference, however, and many stayed to listen to what 'civil society' had to say. Among them was Xanana Gusmao, the President of East Timor, who did not just give a speech, but stayed to take part in small group discussions and debates throughout the three days!

The conference itself mostly consisted of hundreds of small meetings and workshops where people from different parts of the world were able to share ideas and experiences and in some cases meet for the first time in person after years of communicating by email. There was a man from Iraq who has formed a 'Muslim Peacemaker Team' modelled on the Christian Peacemaker Teams who have been working in Palestine, Iraq and elsewhere for many years. There was a woman from Kenya who has been using traditional conflict resolution techniques to stop inter-tribal conflicts escalating into violence in her part of the country.

There were people who had been active in the recent 'peaceful revolutions' in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. And there were the Japanese campaigners trying to save Article 9 of the Japanese constitution which forbids Japan from waging war - people from all over the world working in their own ways to bring world peace that bit closer to reality. Nobel Laureate and anti-landmines campaigner Jody Williams gave one of the most stirring speeches of the conference, calling on governments and non-governmental organisations to work together to 'abolish the barbaric practice of war once and for all!' But for the most part, people were focussing on the nitty gritty details of how to make that happen in their own countries and towns and villages. Of course it would be foolish to suggest that we are any closer to world peace as a direct result of a conference like this. But the fact is that we who want to abolish war are not alone! We have many colleagues around the world, including many in government positions and most who work for the UN. The more we can work together in partnerships like this one, the more effective we can be in achieving our ultimate goal of a world without war.

Tim Wallis

PREPARING FOR PEACE

A simple idea - to pose a set of questions to experts on whether war works in today's world. This book summarises the conclusions to these questions from 24 lectures and papers. £6.99 (inc. p & p) from PffP, 1 Barnacre View, High Street, Garstang Preston PR3 1EB Tel: 01995 606020 www.preparingforpeace.org

Yes, I'd like to join MAW

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TOWN.....

COUNTY.....POST CODE.....

TEL:.....

E MAIL.....

I enclose a cheque for £..... (Suggested amounts - please tick)

Ordinary £15 Unwaged £5 Household £20 Group £25

Please make your cheque payable to:

Movement for the Abolition of War and send to:

Movement for the Abolition of War

11 Venetia Road

LONDON N4 1EJ

Or join online: - www.abolishwar.org.uk

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN MAW!

Our aim: to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution, not more conflict. We have the tools, the skills and the laws that we need. We also need you. We work through education and dialogue, both nationally and in our own local communities; ordinary people taking action to realise our goal -

THE ABOLITION OF WAR.

Events Diary

- 27 August – 10 September COULPORT.** Coulport Disarmament Camp. Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR 0845 4588366 or info@tridentploughshares.org
- 31 August - 2 September SHEFFIELD.** Transforming Conflict into Collaboration? Sheffield Hallam University. This 3-day conference is intended as a forum for sharing the outputs of recently completed and ongoing research. For further details of the event, please contact the Conference Secretariat at: - conference21@shu.ac.uk telephone 0114 225 5338/5342
- 10 September EVERYWHERE.** Make Poverty History White Band Day 2
- Sunday 11 September LONDON.** MANA Concert for Peace with Tony Lamb (clarinet) and John Flinders (piano). Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6 7.30 pm. Info from MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.
- Tuesday 13 September LONDON.** Demonstrate against the UK's biggest arms fair, DSEi, due to take place at the ExCel Centre 13th-16th September 2005. 12 noon, London's Docklands. More info coming soon. Keep an eye on CAAT's website: www.caat.org.uk
- Saturday 17 September SHEFFIELD.** Talk: The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel with Matt Robson. Organised by Unitarian Peace Fellowship. 2pm at the Upper Chapel, Sheffield. Contact UPF Upper Chapel, Norfolk Street Sheffield S1 2JD.
- Wednesday 21 September WORLDWIDE.** International Day of Peace. See Peace One Day: <http://www.peaceday.org>
- Saturday 1 October LONDON** 'Europe Day' Vaughn House, Francis Street, 10.30 am. Info - www.abolishwar.org.uk
- Saturday 8 October FARINGDON.** Launch of 'Month for Peace' to celebrate 25 years of Faringdon Peace Group campaigning for peace. Meeting in afternoon with speakers: Bruce Kent, John McDonnell MP and Tony Benn. Details: 01367 710308 or chesterton1@tiscali.co.uk. Other events to be announced later.
- 15 – 16 October LONDON.** CND Annual Conference. Venue; Old Cinema, University of Westminster in Regent Street www.cnduk.org
- 20 - 21 October BRUSSELS.** European Network for Peace and Human Rights Conference, European Parliament, Brussels. Contact Tony Simpson, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation elfeuro@compuserve.com. For more information see www.russfound.org
- 23 - 30 October COUNTRYWIDE.** Week of Prayer for World Peace. For information and prayer leaflets contact the London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RG.
- 23 - 30 October COUNTRYWIDE.** One World Week. "Promises, promises – make poverty history". PO Box 2555, Reading RG1 4XW Tel 0118 9394933 Fax 0118 9394936 e-mail enquiries@oneworldweek.org
- 24 – 30 October WORLDWIDE.** Disarmament Week.
- 24 October EVERYWHERE.** UN Day – 60th Anniversary.
- 1 – 7 November COUNTRYWIDE.** Landmine Action Week. 020 7820 0222
- Saturday 5 November LONDON.** MANA Concert for Peace with the MANA Chamber Orchestra conducted by Paul Watkins. St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1 7.30 pm. Info from MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.
- Saturday 5 November LONDON.** Making Peace in the Post Christian Era - day conference on Merton's prophetic thoughts on war and peace. 10 -4 pm, Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter, 34 Chepstow Villas, W11 2QZ. Booking essential. Contact Pax Christi, S. Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY tel: 020 8203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk
- Friday 11 November COUNTRYWIDE.** Remembrance Day. White Poppies for Peace are available from Peace Pledge Union 1 Peace Passage London N70BT tel: 020 7424 9444
- 11-13 November PRAGUE.** Conference and other events in honour of Bertha von Suttner, who in 1905 was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Details from International Peace Bureau, Geneva or berthasuttnerova@seznam.cz
- Saturday 12 November LONDON.** Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT): National Gathering. Mary Ward House, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SN (near Russell Square tube). Please contact Anna Jones to register your place: 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ / 020 7281 0297 / anna@caat.org.uk
- Sunday 13 November EVERYWHERE.** Remembrance Sunday. Amongst the events will be Movement for the Abolition of War's annual peace lecture at the Imperial War Museum. Guest speaker will be Martin Bell. See advert for details.
- 18 – 19 November RUGBY.** Following the success of last year's Peace Direct Link Group Conference, the second in the series will again bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds, encouraging them to share their experiences of linking, what has brought success, and the challenges and rewards. More details to follow. Francesca@peacedirect.org Peace Direct, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4JX Tel: +44 (0)845 456 9714 Fax: +44(0)20 7549 0286.
- Saturday 19 November LONDON.** Movement for the Abolition of War AGM. See advert
- Friday 25 November WORLDWIDE.** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- Saturday 26 November MILTON KEYNES.** Annual Feast For Peace. 21st Anniversary Of Mk P&J Network Speaker Michael Taylor 7.00pm at the Guildhall, Christ the Cornerstone, Central Milton Keynes. email MKP&J Network office 01908246497
- Saturday 3 December LONDON.** World Disarmament Campaign Autumn Conference. Bloomsbury Baptist Church. For info. WDC, PO Box 28209, Edinburgh, EH9 1ZR.
- 12 December MENWITH HILL.** Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp Action For information contact: helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

MAW AGM

**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER
VAUGHN HOUSE, FRANCIS STREET
LONDON**

SPEAKERS:

**Louise Richard - Gen. Secretary, War on Want
Stuart Gendell - Director of Communications,
Royal British Legion
10.30 am to 3 pm**

MAW News, please! We want to hear from members around the country, and we want your actions to inspire others. So if you have organised events/actions, or are planning some, and would like to have them reported in the newsletter, then send the details to the editor Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT. E-mail: Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk