

# ABOLISH WAR

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£1



## PULLING OUT

### But Was It Worth Going In?

On 15 May this year Hubert Van Es died. You may not know his name, but it's likely you will know his work. A war photographer, he took the photo above of the helicopter evacuation from the US Embassy roof in Saigon in 1975 which, among other images (for example Kim Phuc running naked down the road) epitomised the Vietnam War. Hubert captured that moment when the US had to admit defeat and pull out of its disastrous war. Vietnam's environment was devastated by bombing, defoliants and napalm, and the land is still seeded with unexploded cluster munitions.

This poses the question – how many times have military actions in other peoples' countries ended in, at the very least, a lack of the desired result and more importantly, how much damage is left behind for the inhabitants to deal with, cope with or simply try to live with?

Britain pulled out of Afghanistan in 1880, having gone in to stop the Russians from getting a foothold there. A century later Russia went in and after 9 terrible and damaging years, pulled out.

Kabul was left in ruins (again), and the country was taken over by a regime that the West had helped to create and arm, in order to throw the Russians out – a regime that the West then found so distasteful that it is now in Afghanistan battling that very creation.

And now British troops have 'pulled out' of Iraq, or rather that bit of Iraq that remained under its control: Basra Airport. By the end of May all but a few troops will have returned home. Well, thank goodness, but this raises two more questions. What have

we brought home from Iraq? 179 flag-draped coffins, which means 179 grieving families. An army in which 6 out of every 10 soldiers could be classified as alcoholics.\* An unknown quantity of armed forces personnel returning with mental health problems\*\* (although, going by American figures, at least 20% could be affected), with the drugs, drink, homelessness and violent crime that follows. And Britain's reputation even more tarnished in the Arab world, and all of us more at risk from terror reprisals. Is that the result this country sought when it went into Iraq?

And what have we left behind? Basra's infrastructure and public services still leave a lot to be desired. Much of the land is contaminated with depleted uranium (something else the troops will have brought back home with them, buried in their bodies). And this: as part of Operation Telic (see page 10) British forces ran 'Mine Awareness'



Coming Home

classes, particularly in schools, as children are so at risk from unexploded ordnance. The photo from the Operation Telic website shows 'A display of some of the abandoned Iraqi ordnance that can pose a threat to the children.' Given that during the invasion of Iraq in 2003 the British dropped 110,000 cluster submunitions on south east Iraq, and that the average failure rate (in 2003) for these 'bomblets'



Ours, Theirs or Mines Awareness

was 10%, that means a possible 11,000 unexploded submunitions waiting to kill. The military have done clearance work, but no one knows how many unexploded submunitions still litter the area. One can only hope they spent some time educating the Iraqi children how they could avoid this latest threat.

And we're still in Afghanistan. The Russians used cluster munitions there in the 1980s. And the US used them from 2001. How

soon will it be before we repeat what happened in 1880 and are forced to pull out of Afghanistan, again, leaving more damage behind us and bringing more damage home? If we do nothing else, we must stop walking away from the damage we cause.

**Editor**

\* MoD report says six in 10 soldiers may be alcoholics, Scotland on Sunday, 21 December 2008

\*\* MoD Doctor: we've no idea how many troops suffer from trauma, Independent 17 March 2009

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Movement for the Abolition of War

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# Editorial

## Torture has been in the news lately.

It came to the fore when President Obama released secret documents from the Bush era,<sup>1</sup> in which the US Department of Justice wrote legal memos to CIA officers in answer to a request for advice on whether some of the interrogation techniques were legal.

To read these documents is to step into a dirty evil world. The cold way the authors discuss techniques and levels of pain, deeming it not 'bad enough' to be torture appals. Surely, if they were seeking confessions through pain, there would be no point in using a technique that did not cause more than 'discomfort'? In one memo water boarding is justified as an acceptable practice as it is used by the US Navy on trainees; this is 'almost 100 per cent effective in producing cooperation among the trainees'. But if you train your military like this, is it any wonder that some go into action half mad and hating the world?

So it was seen as a positive move that these documents were released. It meant the evidence was available to prosecute the people who had tortured prisoners in Guantanamo, Bagram and all the secret prisons around the world. Except that, in



Barack Obama, during his campaign to be the Democrat Presidential candidate, at Bagram Air Base, 18 July 2008

releasing these memos, Obama made it perfectly clear that none of those who committed these acts of torture would be prosecuted nor would those who had authorised it. His Attorney General Eric Holder said that "it would be unfair to prosecute dedicated men and women working to protect America for conduct that was sanctioned in advance by the Justice Department." Where the Justice Department was concerned, Obama said, "Nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past."

It seems America and Obama have forgotten Nuremberg.

Justice Robert Jackson, chief United States prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials stated "Crimes always are committed only by persons. The Charter (of the tribunal) recognizes that one who has committed criminal acts may not take refuge in superior orders nor in the doctrine that his crimes were acts of states." "International Law," he went on, "is more than a scholarly collection of abstract and immutable principles. It is an outgrowth of treaties and agreements between nations and of accepted customs. The law, so far as International Law can be decreed, had been clearly pronounced when these acts took place."<sup>2</sup>

Let's be clear about this. Obama does not, in the short time he has been in office, have a good record where Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo are concerned. He has promised to close Guantanamo (but will not be allowed to do so until it is

**'We conclude that these techniques involve discomfort that falls far below the threshold of severe physical pain.'**

*Bybee to Rizzo Memo*

decided where these 'bad men' should go), but at the same time he is greatly expanding the notorious prison at Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan. He has promised to pull out of Iraq (sometime), but only so more troops can go into Afghanistan where it is clear that no military solution will ever work. And, 'Less than a month after signing an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, President Barack Obama has quietly agreed to keep denying the right to trial to hundreds more terror suspects held at a makeshift camp in Afghanistan that human rights lawyers have dubbed *Obama's Guantanamo*.'<sup>3</sup> So, the illegal imprisonment (and torture) will go on.

Read these memos and you will see how desperately we need to enforce International Law and to prosecute those who break the laws that govern how we treat people, all people, wherever in the world they or we may be. We must not allow anyone to excuse their acts by saying "I was only following orders", or "I was only acting in the interests of the state".

The bottom line is this. In 2003 our Chiefs of Staff asked Number 10 for an assurance that the invasion of Iraq would be legal. They were, it seemed, genuinely concerned that they might find themselves in the dock at the International Criminal Court charged with war crimes. Gentlemen, here's a hint that should guide your future behaviour: if you have to ask for a legal justification for any past, present or future action, it is because you know in your hearts that the action in question is illegal. And if, despite what your conscience tells you, you go ahead with that illegal action, *never* say "I was only following orders" or the current equivalent "I was only following legal advice".

1. To read the memos, see *Obama releases Bush torture memos*, Ewen MacAskill, The Guardian 16 April 2009 or find them on our website under Law
2. *Obama stands Nuremberg on its head*, Mike Farrell, Truthdig, April 20, 2009
3. *Obama denies terror suspects right to trial*, Independent 22 February, 2009

Lesley Docksey

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## Our Aims and Goals

To spread the belief that the abolition of war is both desirable and possible

To raise awareness of the alternatives to war for resolving national and international disputes

To develop materials and strategies to educate us all from school children to those in government

# PEACE HISTORY CONFERENCE

MAW's third Peace History Conference entitled 'Lessons from the past, hope for the future' was held at the Imperial War Museum on 24th and 25th April. Organised jointly with the International Peace Bureau (Geneva), it was attended by some 100 people over the two days. They proved to be a lively and responsive audience. Displays were provided by the Peace Museum (Bradford).



Questions from the floor

The first day was opened by MAW president, Professor Robert Hinde and the second by actress Susannah York, a MAW vice-president. Susannah gave a personal view of the horror of war and how its nature has changed over the years. She read a piece from Shakespeare's 'Henry V' and a poem by Wilfred Owen.

The lectures covered a wide range of topics, some very positive such as the history of 'Henry Dunant, Solferino (1859) and the origins of the Red Cross' given by Peter van den Dungen from the University of Bradford; and some not so, like the history of the ill-fated 'Henry Ford's Peace Ship' related in graphic detail by Terry Chapman of the Imperial War Museum.

Gabriele Matzner-Holzer, Austrian Ambassador told of the intriguing and little-known story of the 'Dawn of a European Middle East policy: Bruno Kreisky and the Socialist International'. Paula Pearce discussed 'The influence of Francis of Assisi' and Sandra Butcher the 'International Pugwash History Project'.

Lyn Smith of the Imperial War Museum, who is writing a book on the anti-war movement, took the subject 'Conscientious objectors in action: working with the fighting forces in the



Susannah York opening day 2

Second World War'. Her work is based on interviews she recorded with men of the Friends Ambulance Unit and the CO medics who worked alongside the military, and the former CO's who worked with the Special Operations Executive. The interviews form part of the Museum's Sound Archives. The story of the men who faced the challenge of balancing the call of conscience with their desire to aid victims of war alongside the army on the battlefield and other dangerous areas, often facing bitter criticism for their action,

was compelling. There are many aspects of their story which add to the theory and practice of conscientious objection, not least the doubts and dilemmas these 'conchies in action' faced by being embedded with the war machine

**'Obama was criticised for shaking the hand of Hugo Chavez. My God, what's wrong with our country that shaking someone's hand is unpatriotic, but invading someone's country is?'**

Joseph Fahey

The final speaker was theologian Joseph J. Fahey of Manhattan College, New York who gave a *tour de force* on 'Civilian resistance in the US to the war in Vietnam. He began with a tribute to a military man, Hugh Thompson, who called a halt to the My Lai massacre when

he saw that civilians were being murdered, by telling his own troops to fire on the soldiers responsible unless they stopped. Using this as an example he outlined the different attitudes that Americans have held historically towards people of other races.

He went on to discuss the different opinions held about the Vietnam War: radicals saw it as fuelled by imperialism; liberals as an unfortunate mistake. He suggested there were three ways to oppose the war, all of them necessary. They can be characterised



Will Pritchard (MAW) with Joseph Fahey

by three archetypes describing the approach taken by different types of people or organisations: priests (the educators, mediators and bridge builders), monks (the contemplatives who see and make us aware of the bigger picture) and prophets (who see the future and call us to action, asking us to transform as well as reform). Martin Luther King is a good example of the prophet. A number of lessons, he said, were learnt from the Vietnam campaigning experience:

- Nobody in the front line of peace campaigning should hate – nonviolence would have helped the anti-war campaign.
- It is important to be politically engaged, even if it's grubby.
- Peace education is needed to examine the culture from the viewpoint of peacemaking.

We have to move towards world community to increase the chance of peace. Nation states and the profit culture are causes of wars.

Besides the lectures there was much more to interest delegates. Four short historic peace films were shown: *Attention, The Red Stain, The Big If* and *Histoire du Soldat Inconnu*. A short playlet written by Peter Nias was performed (see page 10) and songs from the MAW CD *Call back the fire* were sung during the social evening.

MAW is very grateful to the Imperial War Museum for their assistance with the conference and providing the facilities, and for the excellent lectures given by Terry Chapman and Lyn Smith.

Tony Kempster

# You Cannot Be Serious!

Defence Secretary John Hutton had a busy week at the end of April. On the 30th he was in Basra, helping our troops to (almost finally) wave goodbye to Basra, or rather, Basra International Airport, the only part of Iraq they had retained any form of control over since they handed Basra back to the Iraqis in 2007. You'd think he would have heeded the Prime Minister's disastrous airing on YouTube and stayed away from the cameras. But no. Here he is, shooting from the hip with a high-pressure hose, washing a Lynx helicopter (removing depleted uranium dust perhaps?) before it returns home. Did he notice the 'Danger' sign on the helicopter and the arrow pointing at him?

Two days earlier he was giving evidence to the Defence Committee 'on HM Forces ability to recuperate manpower, training and equipment post-operations to either re-deploy to Afghanistan or, indeed, to deploy to a new theatre of operations.' He was busy hosing down the MoD's ability to successfully and economically procure supplies, vehicles and weapons for the Forces, saying how happy he was to buy from abroad if we couldn't supply our own forces with what they need. A few days later a report emerged citing the poor state of supplies to the Armed Forces, in which was revealed a shortage of machine guns, night-vision equipment, protected vehicles and optical sights for the standard-issue rifle.<sup>1</sup> On the same day the SNP Defence spokesman Angus Robertson was gleefully highlighting the fact that the cost of replacing the Trident nuclear weapons system is to soar by an extra £100 million this year because the missile being designed in the US may be the wrong size. A US company is to design a new missile compartment in an attempt to ensure that it will fit submarines designed in the UK.<sup>2</sup>

On 1 April at Basra International Airport, Major General Andrew Salmon of the British Forces handed over command to Major General Michael Oates of the U.S, the Union flag being replaced by the Stars and Stripes. There may have been an Iraqi flag somewhere in the neighbourhood, but I failed to see it in any of the official photos.



*Soldiers attacking base of suspected Norfolk insurgents (photo Andy Cargill, MoD)*

Major General Oates commands the 10th Mountain Division (originally formed specifically for 'winter and mountain warfare'), which is now on active duty in Basra, where mountains are 3 feet high and snow is considered more of an impossibility than a rarity. And if you think that's fitting square pegs into round holes...

The MoD has just announced the building of a replica 'Middle Eastern' village, complete with market, mosque, houses, courtyards and narrow streets, where troops will train before being sent out to Afghanistan.

'Now and then, the bustle of the village is plunged into turmoil with the appearance of a suicide bomber or the screaming victims of a blast. In another part of the settlement, British soldiers take cover as they blow the door off a suspected insurgent base.

Battling militants, suicide bombers and injured Taliban soldiers, these troops bravely fight their way across the Afghan village. In the market place, the bric-a-brac of a bazaar - from cans to cloth and wheelbarrows - are on display. Fresh produce is replicated with plastic meat and fruit, while synthetic aromas, including rotten meat, are pumped out to mingle with the smell of village cooking. A key part of the authentic feel are the former Gurkhas and Afghan nationals who volunteer to take on the roles of villagers (Ghurkas)

and insurgents (Afghans).'<sup>3</sup> Synthetic rotten meat - how 'real' can you get?

Afghanistan is known for its mountainous terrain, and its dry searing heat. True, the UK forces aren't fighting in the most mountainous areas but every British soldier sent to Afghanistan -



*Plastic market day (photo Andy Cargill, MoD)*

an estimated 11,000 troops a year - will train here. It cost £14 million of our money to build this ersatz village; given some mud bricks and several thousand years of honourable culture, the Afghans could have done it for much less. And where is this expensive white elephant? Norfolk. You couldn't get much flatter and wetter than that.

What kind of cloud cuckoo land do John Hutton and the MoD live in?

1. *Army failings revealed in damning report*, Independent, 10 May 2009
2. *'Wrong-sized' missile sends new Trident cost soaring by £100m*, Sunday Herald, 10 May 2009
3. *Good Morning Afghanistan... in Norfolk: Army transforms base into downtown Kabul*, Daily Mail 1 May 2009

**Lesley Docksey**

**PS: "People are defending their country with their lives, they deserve the best equipment money can buy." Quentin Davies MP  
Our country is not Afghanistan. You cannot be serious!**

# Chair's Report

## All for nothing at all!

This is a time of endings and lessons that are all too familiar. U.S. and British forces leave Iraq having achieved nothing of real value despite the massive cost in human lives and waste of resources - resources which could have done much to address the real problems of world poverty and global warming. A military conflict in Sri Lanka ends with a bloody last stand after 25 years of suffering to the people of that country.

From Vietnam and Iraq to the recent invasion of Gaza, history testifies that aerial bombing is an ineffective, intolerable tactic. In the complex politics of war, these weapons are like torture: they numb moral sensibility and do harm beyond all justification of victory. They should be abolished as a prelude to the abolition of war itself.



These lessons should also lead us to reflect on the role of the peace movement during these years of military failure and waste. Governments have usually been deaf to our voices and have continued to make new enemies by disregarding the laws of war. This is why MAW has been so keen to be involved with the conference on 'Citizenship and the law of armed conflict' (see below). The peace movement needs to communicate more effectively with MPs, MEPs and government generally.

We should be asking serious questions about why good foreign policy - which seems to be mostly commonsense - should be overwhelmed by ideology, nasty politics and the arrogance of power. And how governments so easily reach a point when the pressure to win a war at all costs seems to rob them of choice, which is the core

of any commonsense policy.

Lessons from history are also important; hence our series of peace history conferences. Joe Fahey, for example, set out some valuable lessons from the U.S. peace movement's experience of campaigning against the Vietnam War in his lecture at this year's conference. He said it is important to be politically engaged and not to hate or use violence (see page 3).

Such advice is all the more important today when our police forces are obviously tending to use more violence against protestors. The police attacks on the G20 protests are just the latest expression of



this. In his recent report on Britain's secretive police forces, Paul Mobbs of the Free Range Network, argues that the police are in effect being encouraged to show hostility to all views which do not reflect the official consensus. Any politics that do not endorse the liberal economic consensus, which expect the Government to act more effectively on global warming, or which don't accept that growth and consumerism can be sustained indefinitely, are treated as extremist. In the eyes of the general public this makes protestors with a genuine commonsense message seem more extreme.

We must also be sensitive to the soldiers and their families who suffer because of Government foreign policy. This is why MAW is organising a meeting on the limits of military obedience on the day preceding the new Armed Forces Day in June (see page 7) rather than taking part in more direct protest.

But above all, we must speak to a wider audience of concerned people, beyond the already converted. Our work in schools is important here, as are our music and film projects. This is also why we are organising an exhibition of quilts and arpilleras in different London venues in November (see page 8).

Aware of the need to reach a wider public, MAW is working closely with the International Peace Bureau (Geneva) on a major media campaign. This campaign will involve commercial sponsorship and poster advertising linked to digital media and press coverage. It will relate to IPB's Disarmament for Development Campaign and be launched in 2010 which is the centenary of IPB receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. A consultant, Ashley Woods, is the media campaigns manager for the project. Ashley is also working with IPB and MAW to develop plans for a media campaign to coincide with the 2012 Olympics which will link peacemaking with sport.

And then there is the importance of forging alliances with other campaigning interests, particularly the environmental lobby which is challenging Government on its inadequate response to global warming. We are planning to make an educational DVD on the relationship between global warming and conflict emphasising that the resulting competition for resources, particularly land and water, will lead to war unless world poverty is reduced. In this process we shall be working with young people and talking to some of the key figures in the environmental debate and you will see on our website that Dr Mark Levene of Southampton University, a founder of the Crisis Forum and director of the Climate Change and Violence Project is giving our Remembrance Sunday lecture this year.

Tony Kempster

### THE CITIZEN AND THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

1 - 2 September Friends House, London

This two-day conference is being organised by The Institute for Law Accountability and Peace (INLAP) and World Court Project UK with support from a number of peace organisations including MAW.

The conference is a response to the difficulties experienced in communicating with Government on issues of international law - it seems that taking the law seriously is often not a main concern. It will centre on the needs of activists, NGO workers and individuals anxious to be better informed so that their activism can be more effective.

The first day of the conference will consider the background to the problems experienced, with speakers reviewing relevant aspects of international law and the way MPs, MEPs and government generally respond to questions. Speakers include John McDonnell MP, Nick Grief, Paul Dorfman and Dr Nick Ritchie.

The second day will be a workshop day with discussions on ways in which communication can be improved.

For further details: 01323 844269 or geowcpuk@gn.apc.org.

# Regional Diary

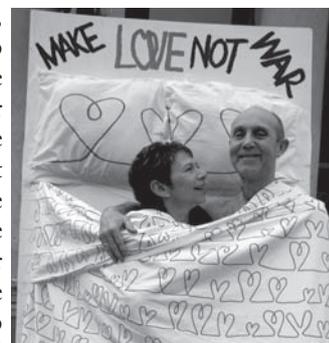
## Make Love Not War

On the morning of Saturday 14th February members of Bridgwater Peace Group provided a bed for shoppers in the centre of Bridgwater to Make Love Not War!

The event was a light hearted way to get people thinking about Peace on a day renowned for Love. Members of the Peace Group gave out Make Love Not War lapel stickers along with copies of our latest Newsletter. The idea came from the 30th anniversary of the John Lennon and Yoko bed-ins though only a few old hippies seemed to remember this!

Almost everyone seemed to enjoy the idea of Make Love Not War on Valentine's Day but not all were brave enough to get into bed on the Cornhill to show it! We think the idea works well - and better with younger generations, and it had good interest from local newspaper and radio media in advance.

**Phil Parratt, Bridgwater Peace Group**



**Editor's note** - MAW members, take note: this is a simple action to copy, so try a version of it for the UN Day of Peace on September 21st. Let's ask people all across the country to give up war and start living in loving peace. Here are some tips from Bridgwater - Peace campaigners are often old rather than young; this action got more response from young people, so don't start too early in the morning!

It needs several people to be out there explaining and encouraging people to take part - it is a bit public for a lot of people but really benefits from a buzz around the action.

But - the bed was easy to make from hardboard, stapling sheets to it, and propping it up on a poster stand.

And finally, make sure people leave their contact details so they can get a copy of their photo - they may just join your peace group!



*Sue Gilmurray and Raised Voices lead the singing in Tavistock Square*

## International Conscientious' Objectors Day

### Marking The Right To Refuse To Kill

#### In London:

The annual ceremony was held at noon at the CO Commemorative Stone in Tavistock Square on 15th May. Attended by 50 to 60 people, the event was opened by Denis Cobell of the National Secular Society. Then Sue Gilmurray's song 'The ones who said no' which has now become an anthem for the event was sung.

The keynote speech, an excellent review of the history of COs was given by Bill Hetherington of the Peace Pledge Union who maintains a database of British COs. Dan Jones of Amnesty International gave an overview of the current status of COs around the world. He referred particularly to South Korea which does not recognise COs. They are often sentenced to 18 months in prison which is in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (War Resisters International and Korea Solidarity for Conscientious Objection marked 15th May with a non-violent demonstration and street theatre in Seoul.)

Following the reading of a poem on war resistance by Muriel Setzman, those present laid white carnations on the commemorative stone dedicated to individual COs around the world and a minute's silence was held.

**Tony Kempster**

#### In Cardiff:

A commemorative stone to COs was unveiled in Cardiff's National Garden of Peace in 2005. So it was fitting that 50 people congregated there on 15 May this year to celebrate International Conscientious Objectors' Day once more. Songs played their part in the event, when Côr Cochion Caerdydd, (Cardiff Reds Choir) and Frankie Armstrong sang to help mark the placing of a wreath of white and red poppies at the stone.

Back within the Temple building, Bruce Kent provided inspiring stories of conscientious objection from last century's two World Wars; George Crabb read a powerful 2008 testimony from an Israeli *refusenik*; and Robin Brookes spoke of the Peace Tax Seven's continuing commitment to winning the right to ensure that a greater proportion of our money can be spent on peaceful alternatives to war.



*Bruce Kent, Bethan Jenkins, Ray Davies, Robin Brookes and George Crabb by the Cardiff COs' stone (photo Jill Gough)*

Proceedings were chaired by Bethan Jenkins, Member of the National Assembly for Wales. With her support we have been able to submit a Statement of Opinion to the Assembly, seeking annual recognition of CO Day, and to create an Assembly e-petition, open to members of the public to sign, of a similar tenor. Bethan has also used her personal blog and Facebook presence to engage with others on the issue of marking people's right to refuse to kill - with interesting feedback from certain of her constituents.

**Stephen Thomas**

# The Forgotten Victims Of War

Quaker Concern for Animals (QCA) believes that the concept and practise of non-violence towards human animals should be extended to all animals. As well as a spiritual approach to animal welfare and animal rights, QCA takes a practical approach through writing letters to organisations and governments, helping generate awareness of abuse, and providing support for many small organisations in the UK and abroad. We hope our link with MAW will further highlight animals, the forgotten victims of warfare. Some history: in 1914 the head of the Belgian Pigeon Service burned alive 2,500 carrier pigeons rather than risk their capture by the 'enemy'. During WWI, working mules had their vocal cords



*An innocent victim of the conflict in Gaza January 2009*

severed to silence their cries on the battlefield. After WWI cavalry horses overseas were abandoned or sold to be worked to death as 'beasts of burden'. In 1930 in Cairo, many were discovered near death by Dorothea Brooke who founded The Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Of 5000 working dogs used by American troops in Vietnam, just 150 returned home. Of the rest, those who weren't killed were abandoned when troops pulled out. Today, dolphins are 'trained' by the US navy to perform tasks such as mine detection. These intelligent animals are transported around the world in cramped conditions where they are unable follow any of their natural behaviour.

Like human civilians, animals are 'collateral' casualties of warfare. Zoo animals usually suffer. In 2003, Kuwait zoo animals were shot, turned loose or incinerated in their cages. In Baghdad, abandoned zoo animals died of hunger and thirst. In Kabul zoo, animals were used for target practice.

Beyond the battlefields, animals are used in warfare experimentation. In it's excellent booklet *'Animals: the hidden victims of war'*, Animal Aid describes how, in 2005, over 21,000 animals were subjected to experiments at the biological and chemical research centre Porton Down. Millions of animals including monkeys, ferrets, pigs, guineas pigs, goats, mice, rats, dogs and cats have been used at the facility since it opened in 1916.

In 2006, BUAV exposed the factory farming in Asia of monkeys for research labs in the UK. In 2007 QCA wrote to Porton Down saying we had been informed that primates were being imported from China to Porton Down to undergo experiments. We received no useful response.

The UK Government's disregard for non-human animals was demonstrated during the 2006 war in Lebanon. Evacuating UK

nationals were forbidden to take their companion animals home with them. Many were abandoned, injured and killed. Some were saved by Lebanese nationals working for Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (BETA) who subsequently arranged for 300 cats and dogs to be flown to the US sanctuary Best Friends.

Animals continue to provide companionship for soldiers serving in war zones. Strays are adopted and their injuries tended. These acts of compassion not only save animals, they help nourish and keep alive the vital human qualities of nurture, empathy and kindness. In late 2006, a group of Royal Marines stationed in the rural market town of Now Zad began caring for stray dogs and arranging for them to be transported to a safer area. Today, Nowzad Dogs, is a registered charity. On the website is the following quote: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" - Mahatma Gandhi. In November 2009 a Remembrance Day service to commemorate animal victims of war will take place at the Animals War Memorial, Brooke Gate, Park Lane, London. Purple poppies and wreaths will be available from Animal Aid.

**Ann Johnson** Quaker Concern for Animals  
QCA has recently affiliated to MAW

## News from the Peace Tax 7

We have received the disappointing news that the European Court of Human Rights has rejected our case out of hand. We must emphasize, however, this does not mean we have lost and as far as we are concerned we have not been defeated. Rejection at this early stage means the Strasbourg lawyers are shying away from even hearing our case. They have completely ignored the British Appeal Court judges' suggestion that they need to look at this case again and more thoroughly. There are hints that the huge number of cases flooding into the ECHR mean that our case was pushed aside as being marginal, but we say that our complaint is at the heart of the matter. By paying for war we create human rights violations. Our case and other cases around the world are still denied a proper hearing in any court. This is the end, for now, of our attempt to get this important case properly debated in the European court. We will continue to campaign and to withhold taxes until there is a complete change in attitude in the way our government deals with conflict and they acknowledge our conscientious objection to paying military taxes.

To this end PT7 are completely behind Conscience, our national organisation, which is about to embark on a new public campaigning strategy titled *Taxes For Peace Not War* to bring wider understanding and support for our cause.

**Robin Brookes**

MAW events which, as usual, are free and open to all:

### THE LIMITS OF MILITARY OBEDIENCE International Law and Case Histories

Speakers - General Hugh Beach,  
George Farebrother and Bruce Kent

The Imperial War Museum London SE1

Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

### TEXTBOOK DIPLOMACY History, Myth and International Relations

Speaker - Professor Stefan Berger  
with Jeremy Corbyn MP

Grimond Room, Portcullis House, Westminster

Wednesday Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

# Getting Peace into Education

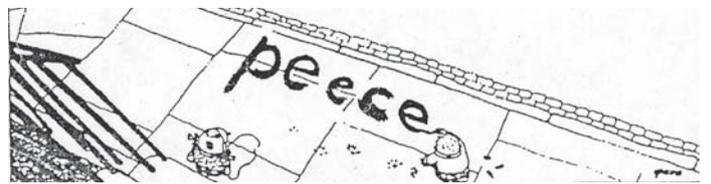
Over 30 years ago the British Government signed up to the Final Report of the 1978 first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. Paragraph 106 was quite clear. 'Governments are .... urged to take steps to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels'. In practice it has been left to non-government peace groups to turn this hope into reality. Many NGOs have tried to get peace and disarmament into schools and colleges.

Thanks to the citizenship provisions of the curriculum today, getting in is easier than it was. Some schools are very imaginative. Comberton College near Cambridge, for instance, runs a Citizenship Day and invites all the relevant NGOs to come and take workshops. The day ends with peace songs and a question and answer session for the 150 or so who take part.



*Sue Gilmurray and the music group at the Comberton Citizenship Day*

Other schools prefer to put aside individual classes for periods of perhaps an hour during the term. I usually start with the MAW DVD 'War No More' which in 15 minutes covers all the swords into ploughshares issues. Or I start with the useful MAW ten question quiz, which always sets off a lively discussion. Never assume too



*"Mum, Cyril's wrote a wicked word!"*

much. Most pupils will never have seen, let alone discussed, the UN Charter or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Getting questions going, any questions, is key to a good discussion. Sometimes one has to tell teachers politely that the more teachers present the fewer questions. I remember a school where all the teachers withdrew. The result was wonderful - a really lively session of frank comment. In one way public (ie private) schools can be the most entertaining. Pupils there have such a sense of self-confidence, especially the boys, that they get remarkably deflated when they start to understand that there are rational answers to 'What about Hitler?' or 'The atom bombs were the only way to stop the second world war weren't they?'

Self-confidence can be found elsewhere. I went to a school recently in east London and faced nearly 200 young Muslim girls. They were bouncing with energy and ideas. 'What can we do about peace and war' was their key question. Imaginative and practical answers are needed to that question in every school.

How to get into a school in the first place?

Find out who is responsible for citizenship in your local secondary school and make suggestions about a specific subject - the history of nuclear weapons, the work of the UN or the extent of the arms trade perhaps. If you are old enough, what WW2 was like for you, with rationing, gas masks, air raids etc.

I have visited primary schools and the spontaneity there is a joy. I don't forget the wonderful seven year-old who had the answers to all the worlds problems. "Please Sir, why don't you just put all the bad people on an island by themselves and we could have a peaceful world?" If only it was so easy.

**Bruce Kent**

## Campaigning & the Arts

### Bubbly and Quilts

Readers may remember that last year we had a competition based on a poem by Edna St Vincent Millay. The prize was a copy of *Conscientious Objector*, an award-winning short film directed by Colin Steven. Colin now has another film project, *Bubbly*, about the arms trade. It promises to be just as good but - Colin needs funding! And he had rather get small amounts of funding from organisations like MAW than be funded by business, so that he can maintain complete directorial control over his work. MAW will be backing him. We need to change the culture of war that exists in our world. Are you members of other organisations that might help Colin, and be part of this valuable work? The short film drama would be available for use in campaigns and education work. See more about the project at [www.deep-endfilms.co.uk](http://www.deep-endfilms.co.uk) or contact Colin: [colin@deep-endfilms.co.uk](mailto:colin@deep-endfilms.co.uk)

Films like this highlight the importance of the arts in our campaigning. People that might ignore campaigning literature can have their minds and hearts touched by a poem, a picture, a song. Using the arts, we can reach out to a much wider audience. Our two CDs have done this. And in the autumn we are organising, with Roberta Bacic, an exhibition of quilts and arpilleras made by women affected by conflict. In Chile the only way the women could voice their protest was to sew an arpillera. In Northern Ireland during the troubles, women sewed their quilts. They are currently on show in Northern Ireland (see Events, page 11) and will be on show at MAW's AGM at the Imperial War Museum and afterwards at locations in London. More details in the next issue of Abolish War.

And for those who like exhibitions:

**The Combat Paper Project (CPP)** - This intriguing project was founded in 2007 by a group of US veterans, many suffering PTSD, who pulp their uniforms to make paper as the basis of artworks dealing with their experiences. It has been successful in helping veterans rebuild their lives, as well as raising public awareness of the realities of war and the difficulties those involved face in the aftermath. An exhibition of CPP art is currently at the Courtauld Institute in London (finishing at the end of June) and will be at the Phoenix Gallery, Brighton in July and August and at the Birnam Institute in Scotland in November.

Two of the veterans will be touring the UK in the summer with a paper-making machine, enabling them to stage demonstrations. They will be holding seminars and workshops, and hope to make contact with veterans and other people affected by conflict who might be interested in participating in the project. For info: contact Nick Dubois, [Nicolas.dubois@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Nicolas.dubois@courtauld.ac.uk).



*Breaking Rank, a work from the CPP exhibition*

# Images of War

Iraq 2003-09



1



2



8



3



7



6



4



5

1. Tanks on the desert highway
2. British soldiers arrest a suspect during a night operation in Basra
3. Sergeant Long jumping from his Warrior tank after it was attacked by petrol bombs
4. The Black Watch patrol moves out of Basra
5. UK soldiers with children at a school in Umm Qasr
6. Major General Andrew Salmon, left, of the British Forces, shakes hands with Major general Michael Oates of the U.S. as he hands over his command at Basra international airport. (Photo: Stringer/Reuters)
7. As of February 2009, there are over one million displaced people in Baghdad alone (From Dahr Jamail's Mideast Dispatches)
8. Lest we forget: a composite image of some of the 179 troops who have died during Operation Telic

All photos, unless otherwise stated, from MoD sources

## Sometimes, Campaigning Works

**H**ALLELUJAH! The Church of England has finally dumped H shares which made it complicit in war crimes. But campaigners have been left wondering why news of the disinvestment from bulldozer manufacturer Caterpillar leaked out only months after it occurred.

Israel's defence forces use the bulldozers to flatten Palestinian homes – sometimes with people still in them. American peace activist Rachel Corrie famously died under a D9 in 2003 as she tried to stop a demolition in Gaza.

The more ordinary dozers have also demolished homes – at least 24,000 have been destroyed since 1967<sup>1</sup> – and ripped up hundreds of thousands of olive trees. These flagrant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention are, by definition, war crimes.

The targeting of Western companies profiting from Israel's four decade-long occupation of Palestine began in 2005 when the Revd Dr Stephen

Sizer from Virginia Water helped form the Interfaith Group for Morally Responsible Investment (IMRI). He said: "We were struggling to find a nonviolent, constructive initiative to challenge the Israeli occupation of Palestine." Disinvestment and boycott had worked in South Africa, he added.

And a grassroots movement from the back pews began, following a conversation between a retired priest from Somerset and an IMRI member. "I consulted the documents and there was this business of Caterpillar," said the Revd Roger Pollard. "It's utterly at loggerheads with all the church stands for and it behoves all of us who are aware of it to start pressuring and doing something about it."

Mr Pollard told the South Somerset Peace Group about the £2 million-strong investment and was forced to his feet in Dorchester at a meeting of the Dorset Palestinian Israeli Peace Group to tell



*Bulldozer military style*

what he had discovered. Activists from the area bombarded the Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) – the group which decides where the church invests – with letters.

Meanwhile IMRI had managed to get a question raised at General Synod in 2006. The then Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem the Rt Revd Riah Abu El-Assal had written to urge for disinvestment. "When Riah's statement was read out you could have heard a pin drop," said Dr Sizer. Synod voted to get rid of the shares, following which Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said there was evidence of 'a

tsunami of anti-Semitism' in Europe. Dr Sizer said: "It's a common slur to accuse anyone who's critical [of Israel] of anti-Semitism and it demeans legitimate concerns about anti-Semitism."

But the EIAG refused to disinvest and in early 2006 the South Somerset group invited Dr Sizer and Neville White, then secretary of the EIAG, to debate in Ilminster. To those present it was clear that Mr White had no answers to Dr Sizer's questions.

However Mr White promised the situation would be monitored and talks would be held with Caterpillar.

Amazingly, the EIAG's next two annual reports ignored the issue and campaigners started a new round of letter writing, not knowing the shares had already been disposed of. When the news leaked out, an EIAG spokesperson claimed it was for financial and not ethical reasons.<sup>2</sup>

Dr Sizer said: "I'm very, very pleased. It was a major triumph for IMRI and I really don't mind what the reasons were. I just think it was a very positive move on the part of the Church of England and I'm sure we contributed to that."

**Sharen Green**

*(Sharen is an Ecumenical Accompanier for Quaker Peace & Social Witness)*

1. See Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, 17 March 2009
2. See Ekklesia website 10 Feb 2009

## The Peace Museum, Bradford, UK

The Peace Museum, the only museum devoted to peace in the UK, interprets peace on three levels: peace as in 'peace and war', peace as in 'community', and peace as in 'personal peace'. As well as the visitor gallery it has a free Bradford Peace Trail booklet (jointly with a local peace group) and created its own exhibition 'Farewell to Arms?' in the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

The Museum is a resource for peacemakers and peacemaking, inspiring those from near and far to work for peace and justice. It also offers five travelling exhibitions on loan for a few days or a few months (free + mailing cost): 'Women Peacemakers', 'Champions of Peace: Nobel's Peace Prize', 'A Vision Shared: Art from the History of the Peace Movement', 'Such a Journey: on Bradford's People' and 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki' (donated from Japan).

The Museum's Development Officer, Peter Nias, now provides another resource, a playlet that was performed at MAW's Peace History Conference in April. Based (loosely) on a scene in the film *The Life of Brian*, it is called *What Has War Done For Us?* It takes just 5 minutes and 3 people (who can read out the words instead of memorising them), no props and no scenery. It can be performed anywhere, from street corner to village hall, and prompts some good questions for debate. If you would like a copy of the script, please contact Peter at the Peace Museum office,

Jacob's Well, Manchester Road, Bradford, BD1 5RW, UK, tel: 01274 434009 or [peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk)  
The Visitor Gallery is at 10 Piece Hall Yard, City Centre, Bradford BD1 1PJ

### Operation Telic – a MAW competition for you

Operation Telic was the codename under which the British Forces have been operating in Iraq since 2003. It officially came to an end on 30th April, when the British handed over control to the US military. Unlike the Americans, with their operational codenames such as Shock and Awe and Enduring Freedom, the British codenames are 'computer generated', so that they carry no overtly political connotations. They are just as hubristic though. Telic means a purposeful or defined action. As initial planning took place over the Christmas 2002 period (please note the date), personnel jokingly referred to TELIC as standing for Tell Everyone Leave Is Cancelled. Given that the invasion of Iraq was built on so many lies, perhaps Tell Everyone Lying Is Compulsory would have been more accurate. What are your suggestions for what TELIC stands for? MAW is offering a copy of our latest CD *Call Back the Fire* to the most imaginative (and printable!) suggestion.

Answers to the editor please.

# Events Diary

**13 June FYLINGDALES** CND demonstration at Fylingdales in Yorkshire as part of a week's protest against USA's 'missile defence' policy. 12 noon at Ellerbeck Bridge. Info: Ben Folley, CND office 020 7700 2393 or campaigns@cnduk.org or Hannah Tweddell, Yorkshire CND office 01274 730 795

**13-14 June LEAMINGTON** Leamington Peace Festival. Details: info@peacefestival.org.uk or 0845 388 4207

**14 -21 June COUNTRYWIDE** Stop UKTI's Arms Fairs: For details of events: 0207 281 0297 www.caat.org.uk

**19 June SHEFFIELD** Training Day in Conflict Resolution Education by CRESST 0114 241 2745

**20 June LONDON** 24th Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda, 2pm. 020 7228 9620

**22 June – 10 July Northern Ireland** Arpilleras That Cry Out: Exhibition of Chilean and Peruvian quilts, made by women in response to conflict. Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart.. Contact: info@flowerfield.org

**21 June MILTON KEYNES** Celebration of the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda. 01908 663652

**25 June LONDON** Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) Concert for Peace, with the Fitzwilliam String Quartet.

St Cyprian's Church, Clarence Gate NW1 6AX. Info: MANA 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.

**26 June LONDON MAW event:** The Limits of Military Obedience, Imperial War Museum See page 7.

**27 June LLANWRTYD/LLYWEL** Cymdeithas y Cymod annual pilgrimage to the army's exercise range on Epynt Mountain. Details: cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com

**4 July**

**FARINGDON** 28th Grand Peace Fete Tel: 01367 710308, 01367 241707 www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

**MENWITH HILL** Annual 'Independence FROM America' day 01423 884076 www.caab.org.uk

**11 July BIRMINGHAM** Palestine Solidarity Campaign Day Conference. 020 7700 6192 info@palestinecampaign.org

**17-19 July SWANWICK** On the Road Together: A-mazed by Migration. Info: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

**23 -27 July OXFORDSHIRE** Peace News Summer Camp. 020 7278 3344. www.peacencamp.info

**25 July**

**BELFAST** Meeting: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Britain and Ireland iipsgp@educationaid.net

**LIVERPOOL.** Merseyside CND Peace and Ecology Festival St Luke's Church, Leece St. Info: 0151 702 6974

**3-8 August HEREFORD** 'The A-bomb and Humanity' - exhibition loaned by Bradford Peace Museum. Testimonies from Hiroshima survivors with by photographs/drawings/paintings. All Saints Church, High Street ,Hereford. 10am - 4pm.

**6 August WORLDWIDE** Hiroshima Day

**9 August**

**WORLDWIDE** Nagasaki Day

**LONDON.** Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral (7.30pm) to the London Peace Pagoda followed by the Floating Lantern Ceremony at sunset. 020 7228 9620

**1-2 September LONDON** The Citizen & the Law of Armed Conflict conference at Friends House. See page 5.

**21 September WORLDWIDE** International Day of Peace

**14 October LONDON MAW Event:** Textbook Diplomacy with Stephan Berger (see page 7)

**8 November LONDON MAW AGM** with quilt exhibition and talk by Roberta Bacic and Remembrance Day Lecture with Dr Mark Levene. www.abolishwar.org.uk

## A Plea from the Heart

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.  
Little we see in Nature that is ours.  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon.*

Two centuries after Wordsworth's lament, our 'getting and spending' has taken us to the edge of disaster. And nature, for so long man's joy and inspiration, is now itself under deadly siege.

Meanwhile, our leaders still hold fast to their old ways – economic 'growth' at home and wars overseas. For them politics means endless conflicts. Yesterday it was the shame and horror of Iraq. Today it is Afghanistan. Tomorrow it may be the turn of Trident, their doomsday device for nuclear slaughter.

This is not how we should spend our brief lives. There is a saner, more humane way. In one form or another it has been the moving spirit behind every great religion and philosophy. Let us call it the path of the heart.

It does not speak to us of material success or of power over others. And it firmly rejects the archaic tribal values of 'us' against 'them'. Most of us, at our best, have known its moral beauty and practical good sense. We may hear something of its warmth and wisdom in an early prayer:

"May I always be gentle. May I wish for all men's happiness, and envy none. May I keep tame that which rages within me. May I win no victory that harms me or my opponent. May I respect myself."\*

The path with heart is still there for us. It is the only true human way.

**Harry Holmes**

\*Attributed to Eusebius



**Arthur Hewlett**

Arthur Hewlett, who died in 2005, became a committed Quaker as a young man when he was befriended by a Quaker family. At the start of WW2 he became part of the Friends Relief Service. His work for the peace movement was life long both through his writings and his service. He was the first Chairman of the Friends Peace and International Relations Committee, a Chairman of the National Peace Council and a member of the International Peace Bureau. He also joined MAW and was generous enough to remember us in his will. His generosity has enabled MAW to be more active on several fronts and do things better than it would otherwise have done. The new-look newsletter and website are examples. We are now looking at the possibility of an annual Peace Award in his name.

# Reviews

## *WHITE LIGHT – BLACK RAIN: the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

Directed and written by **Steven Okazaki** 2007  
This is a moving and challenging documentary which shows the utter horror that can occur when humanity is relentless in its drive to develop new and more powerful weapons. It is an appropriate film to put alongside the review of P. W. Singer's book below which describes what next is in store if we continue with our obsession with war.

The horrors shown here are comparable with the most horrific films on the market today, but they are real and so much harder to stomach. And, of course, horror films are made for adults whereas these horrors were experienced by children as young as six. To see your mother crumble to dust in front of you is an incomprehensible pain. It is awful to think that some of the children documented could not take the horror and ended their lives. To see children with burns all over their bodies, in excruciating pain for many months, with no relief and wanting to die will touch the hardest hearts.

It is often argued that the number of deaths caused by the Second World War would have been much higher if the 200,000 Japanese had not died on the 6th and 9th of August but, as the film makes clear, this misses the point because the development and use of these two atomic bombs was the prelude to a world which now contains 400,000 times the power that was unleashed 64 years ago.

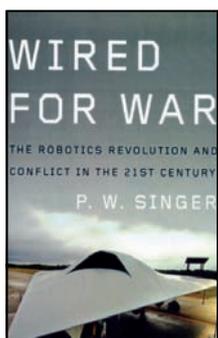
## *WIRED FOR WAR: the robotics revolution and conflict in the twenty-first century*

**P. W. Singer** Penguin 2009

Science fiction warfare is already with us for better or more probably for worse. Where does it go from here?

We are in the cusp of a massive shift in military technology that threatens to make real the stuff of *I Robot* and the *Terminator*. More than twelve thousand robotic systems are now deployed in Iraq. Pilots sitting in Nevada are remotely killing terrorists in Afghanistan. Scientists are debating just how smart – and how lethal – to make their robotic creations. Military expert P. W. Singer describes how technology is changing not just how wars are fought, but also the politics, economics, laws and ethics that surround war itself. He sees clearly that technology has to be kept in context.

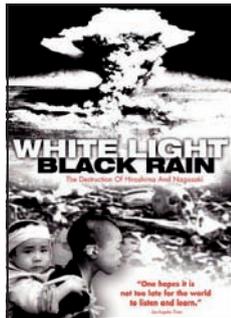
The book has a strong focus on military robotics. Dull, dirty and dangerous battlefield tasks once done by people could soon be done by machines. If this means that humans may be able to stay clear of harm's



way, it may have a significant impact on governments' readiness to fight, as well as on the form of combat that results.

As these technologies develop and multiply, they will have profound effects on the front lines, as well as the politics back home. Moving humans off the battlefield makes wars easier to start but more complicated to fight. Paradoxically, these new technologies will also bring war to our doorstep. As other nations and even terrorists start to build or buy their own robotic weapons, this revolution could even undermine America's military pre-eminence.

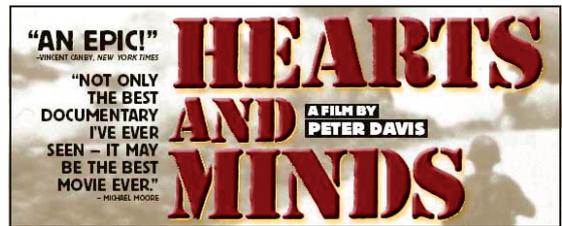
The book is in some ways a strange read. As Singer explores the issues raised by military robotics – meeting with entrepreneurs, engineers and operators, ethicists, and pundits – his enthusiasm becomes infectious and child-like and one forgets that the subject is not about video games and children's toys but machines that kill and can do so with the controller a continent away. With its informal style and cultural references, and because of its topic, *Wired for war* is a book of its time; let us hope the Facebook generation has the sense to see the underlying reality on the killing grounds!



# ABOLISH WAR

Newsletter No. 14

Summer 2009



## *HEARTS AND MINDS*

Directed by **Peter Davis** 1974

This film was made some years ago but it is appropriate to include it here because it reinforces so much of what Joe Fahey said in his lecture at our Peace History Conference. (Most good public libraries will have a copy). It was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 1974 and chosen as Best Feature Documentary at the Academy Awards a year later.

'Hearts and minds' was a euphemism for a U.S. military campaign during the Vietnam War, intended to win the popular support of the Vietnamese people.

The tension between the American attempt to do this by 'bringing them hope and electricity' and the killing of so many civilians by saturation bombing is the theme of the film. A scene, described as one of the film's 'most shocking and controversial sequences' by critics shows the funeral of an ARVN soldier and his grieving family, as a sobbing woman is restrained from climbing into the grave after the coffin. The funeral scene is juxtaposed with an interview with General Westmoreland (commander of American military operations in the Vietnam War) telling the stunned film director that "The Oriental doesn't put the same price on life as does a Westerner. Life is plentiful. Life is cheap in the Orient".

One of the film's earliest scenes details a homecoming parade in honour of George Coker, a U.S. navy aviator held by the North Vietnamese as a prisoner of war for six years. Talking to the assembled crowd he said if the need arose he would gladly go back again. Answering a student's question about Vietnam at a school assembly, Coker responds that "If it wasn't for the people, it was a very pretty place. The people there are very backwards and primitive and make a mess of everything."

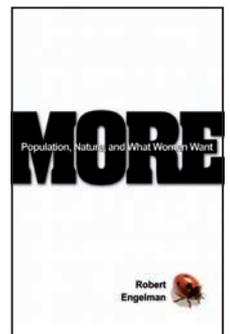
## *MORE: Population, Nature and What Women Want*

**Robert Engleman** Island Press 2008

For those of us concerned about climate change and diminishing resources, the questions posed by the sheer number of humans is a vexed problem, and very much the 'elephant in the room' in discussions about the future of humanity. Engleman shows how vital it is that we get our population back to sustainable levels, and that the way to do it is to let women have the power to govern their reproductiveity. Contrary to the common belief that poverty-stricken people have more children in order to have those children look after their parents in old age, women do not want to reproduce in this way.

For those of us concerned about war, population is not always mentioned as being part of the equation. Mostly one hears that population pressure has driven people to war, or the callous 'well, at least war helps keep down the numbers'. Yet one of the things this book makes clear is that historical records show that kings and leaders have engineered a growth in population in order to supply the soldiers for their armies; in other words population growth is often a deliberate war policy.

And for those of you who have not considered the problem of human numbers before, this book, well written by an expert in his field and full of historical and cultural details, is a good place to start.



## MAW news please!

**You** want to read about events that are not all London-based. **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 your news to the editor (see page 2 for contact details)

