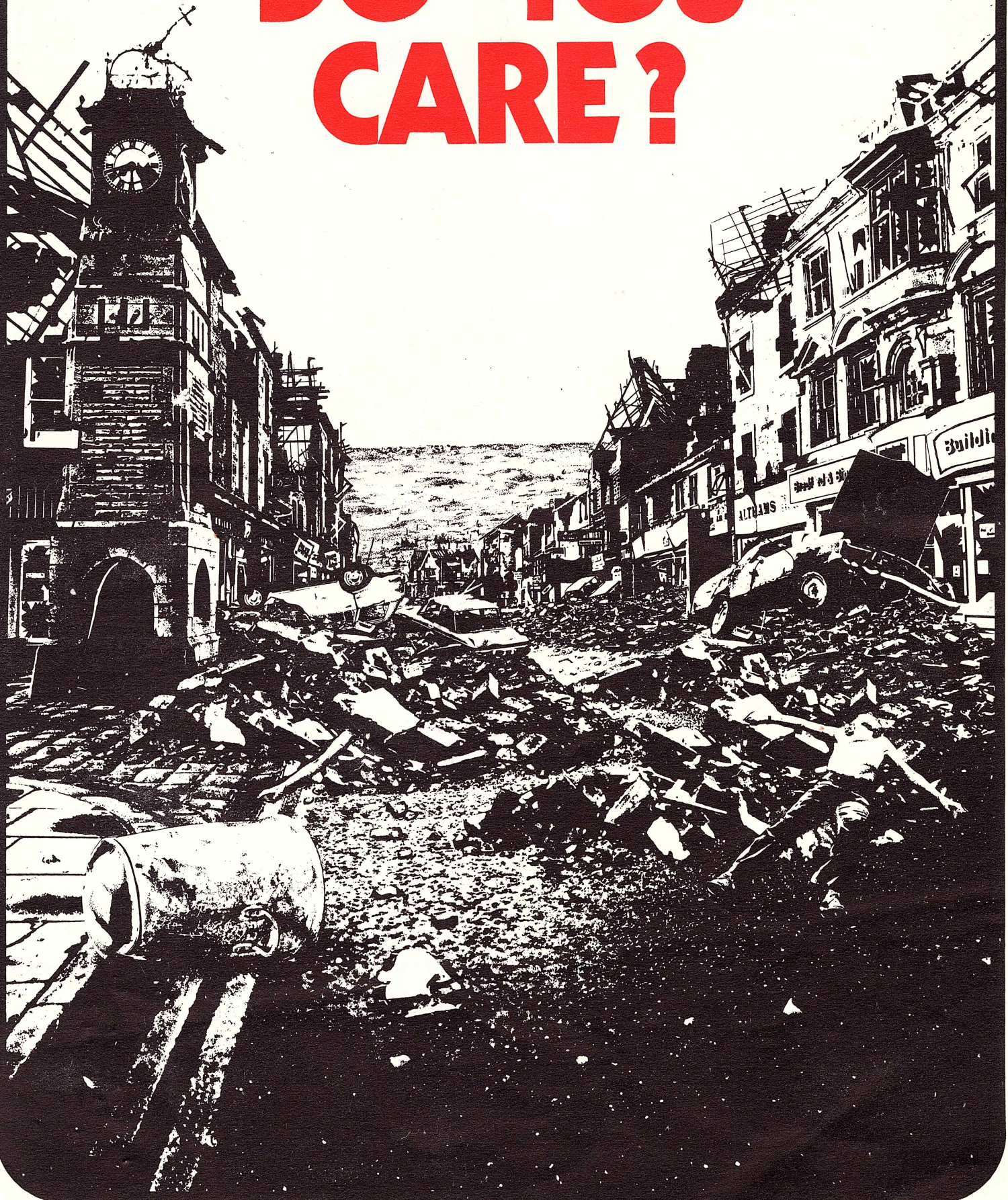


HOW MUCH DO YOU CARE?



COULD THE SCENE ON THE FRONT PAGE BE OTLEY IN THE FUTURE, RAVAGED BY NUCLEAR WAR ?

Hopefully not, but never before in history has human civilisation come so close to total extinction. With 60,000 nuclear warheads in the world, and worsening tensions between East and West, there is a fear that we could be rushing headlong towards a nuclear war, a war without winners. In response to this crisis, millions of ordinary men and women throughout the world are working for peace by joining together in Peace Groups.

After seeing 'The War Game' film, a group of individuals in Otley believed they could not feel horrified by the effects of nuclear war, and then sit back and do nothing. Out of a deep concern for the future of humanity, and a desire to alert others, they formed the OTLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP.

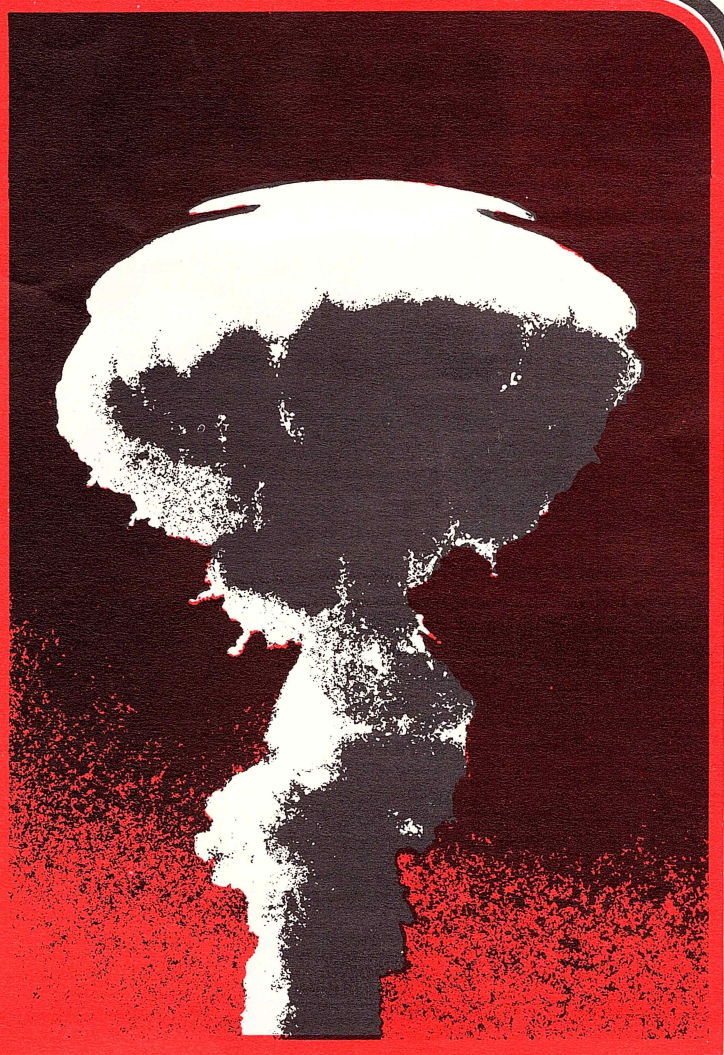
OBLITERATION

The horrors and implications of nuclear war are difficult for many people to comprehend, but Lord Mountbatten summed it up when he appealed to politicians and the military to put on the brake before it is too late, by saying:

"In the event of a nuclear war there will be no chances, there will be no survivors - all will be obliterated."

The Government in its pamphlet 'Protect and Survive', published in May 1980, informs us that:

"If Britain is attacked by nuclear bombs or by missiles we do not know what targets will be chosen or how severe the assault will be. If nuclear weapons are used on a large scale, those of us living in the country areas might be exposed to as great a risk as those in towns. The radioactive dust falling where the wind blows it will bring the most widespread dangers of all. No part of the United Kingdom can be considered safe from both the

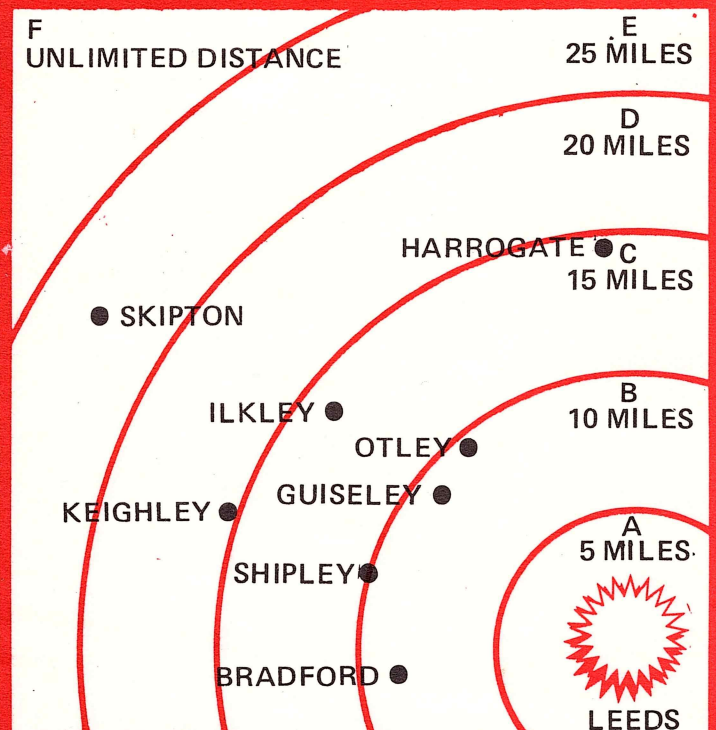


direct effects of the weapons and the resultant fall-out."

HOW OTLEY COULD BE AFFECTED.
Despite some local opinion, the Otley area is just as much in danger. Even if we discount the possibilities of stray bombs missing their intended targets, there are several strategic sites within a few miles of the town. The military 'Square Leg' exercise (September 1980) tested out the anticipated course of a major nuclear attack on Britain, and from this we can see that Leeds and Bradford are expected to be targets. Then there is the likelihood that Yeadon airport, Menwith Hill, Catterick, Fylingdales, and Shipton-by-Benningborough, near York (the Regional Headquarters in the event of a war), will also be hit. In fact the Ministry of Defence has pronounced that "all of Yorkshire is a target."

During World War II, all the explosives, all the bombs, shells, mines, used by all participating countries amounted to 5 million tons of TNT. All that devastation can now be concentrated into one 5 megaton bomb, but the nuclear super powers have a large number of 10 megaton bombs in their armouries, and bombs up to 65 megatons have been tested. The USA and the USSR can destroy each other many times over.

If a 5 megaton bomb exploded over Leeds or Bradford there would first be an intense flash of light. Those people in Otley looking towards it would probably be made blind by the heat-flash which would burn a hole in the sensitive lining of the eye. Many other people would suffer serious burns from the heat rays, which would be damaging up to 15 miles away from the explosion. Fires would break out up to 20 miles away, and, with the blast from the bomb, parts of Otley would be damaged or burned to the ground. Several fires would join together creating a fire-storm which would use up the oxygen and make the air very hot. No shelter can withstand the effects of fire-storms, so those inside would probably be suffo-



The predicted effects of a 5 megaton bomb exploded over the centre of Leeds.

- A Buildings completely destroyed
- B Major structural damage
- C Blast damage. Severe Burns to skin.
- D Heat sufficient to start fires.
- E Windows blown in.
- F Radiation will travel as far as weather conditions will carry it.

cated or cremated. Then there would be large numbers of Otley people killed or badly injured by falling debris. Obviously the effect on the town would be greater if the other likely targets in the area were hit, or if the bombs dropped on Leeds and Bradford were of 10 megatons. Otley's geographical position would, therefore, place it in the centre of the holocaust, and even if some people survived the explosion, it is unlikely that they could withstand the aftermath and the high levels of radiation.

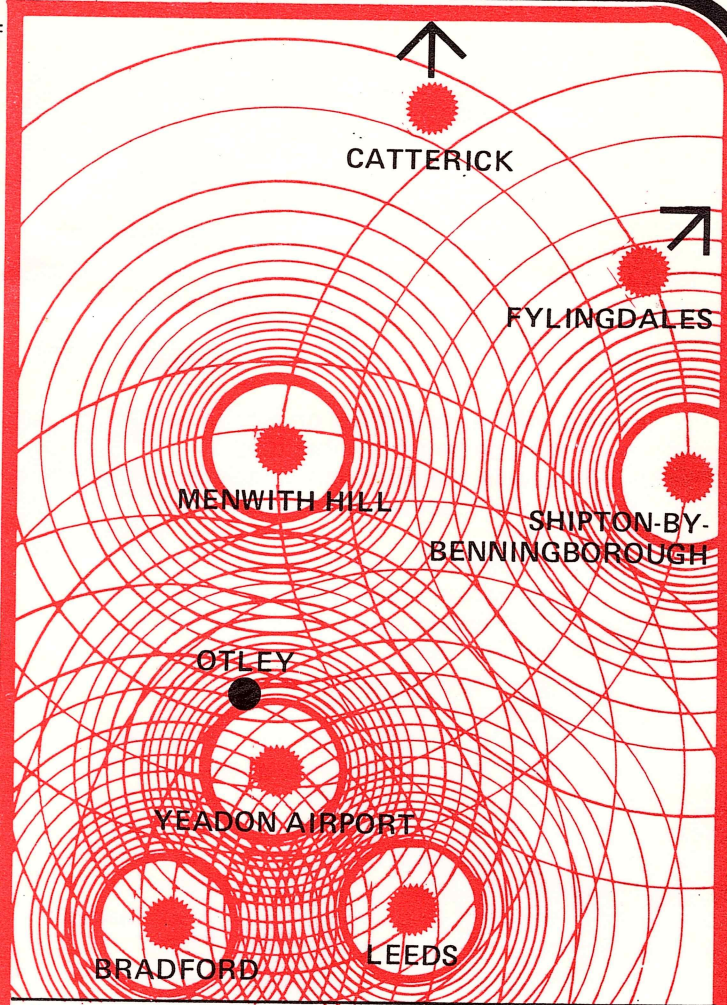
DEATH FROM RADIATION

The effects of a high level of radiation make the nuclear bomb so deadly. The immediate radiation would kill those within 3 miles of the explosion, but the majority would be exposed to radioactive particles left as fall-out after the explosion. The fall-out from this 5 megaton bomb could contaminate an area of 7000 square miles.

The first symptoms of radiation poisoning are headaches, nausea, dizziness, and frequent vomiting, then acute diarrhoea and fatigue. This lasts several days and is followed by apparent recovery, but two or three weeks later the symptoms return, together with internal haemorrhaging. Breathing becomes difficult, hair falls out, sores appear on the skin, there is fever, total fatigue, then death.

Otley hospital would not be able to cope with the casualties, even if it had the doctors and nurses. A Home Office circular, 'Preparation and Organisation of the Health Service for War' issued in 1977 to Regional and Area Health Authorities stated:

"A single attack could therefore destroy the greater part of a Health Authority's resources or render them temporarily inaccessible because of radioactivity or the blocking of roads".



Strategic targets around Otley.



It is stressed that hospitals should accept only those casualties who would "be likely to be alive after seven days with a fair chance of eventual recovery . . . People suffering from radiation sickness only should not be admitted. There is no specific treatment for radiation injury".

It must be realised that the 'small' atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima (equivalent to about 20,000 tons of conventional explosives) killed about 200,000 people, and the effects of radiation caused babies in their mothers' wombs at the time to be born damaged or deformed. Today there are still survivors in Japan suffering from leukaemia caused by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombs.

For the Otley survivors there would be several other problems. What mental state would they be in after 14 claustrophobic days in their shelter, worrying about the fate of their family and friends, many of whom could have been on their way home from work or school when the explosion occurred? Then there would be the contamination of water and soil, and food shortages. There would be no electricity and gas supplies. Refuse collections would cease, adding further to the problems of disease which would be almost totally unchecked. There would be a break down of law and order, and democratic government would give way to a type of military dictatorship. Then as if that is not enough, there is always the risk of further nuclear (or chemical) attacks. It has been said that the living would envy the dead.

TARGET NUMBER ONE

There is no defence against nuclear weapons, and there is no alternative to peace. In 1978 the United Nations condemned the nuclear arms race and warned:

"The accumulation of weapons, particularly nuclear

weapons, constitutes much more of a threat than a protection to the future of mankind."

In the meantime, thousands of highly educated and skilled people are employed for destructive purposes. Despite our economic problems and the needs of the health, education, housing and social services, Britain spends over £1 million an hour on armaments. Recently the Government agreed to buy Trident at the cost of at least £5 billion, and to install American owned and controlled Cruise Missiles, without first debating the issue in Parliament.

On February 4th, 1980, the Daily Telegraph reported:

"The presence of Cruise Missiles on British soil . . . indicates we shall be target number one".

In an interview in the Guardian on September 27th 1980, Paul Warnke, President Carter's first SALT negotiator, warned:

"If I were a European, the last thing I would want would be to have more theatre nuclear forces because I would think that would make me all the more certain to be the first target at the beginning of a war".

Britain's heavy commitment to the nuclear arms race puts us in a more vulnerable position, and increases the possibility of nuclear war, either by design or accident. Computer errors in the last 12 months have put US forces on full alert, and in the future new technology will enable computers and satellites alone to initiate a missile strike. Increased sophistication of weapons has prompted some strategists in the West to believe that a limited nuclear war is possible, and that the effects might be tolerable or acceptable. But other experts argue that no use of nuclear weapons can ever be limited.

There are those who are alarmed at the policy for building nuclear power stations as this could increase the dangers in the event of a nuclear attack. It has recently been calculated that a single strike on Windscale could render an area of 18,000 square miles uninhabitable one year later.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

In a speech made on May 11th 1979, Lord Mountbatten said:

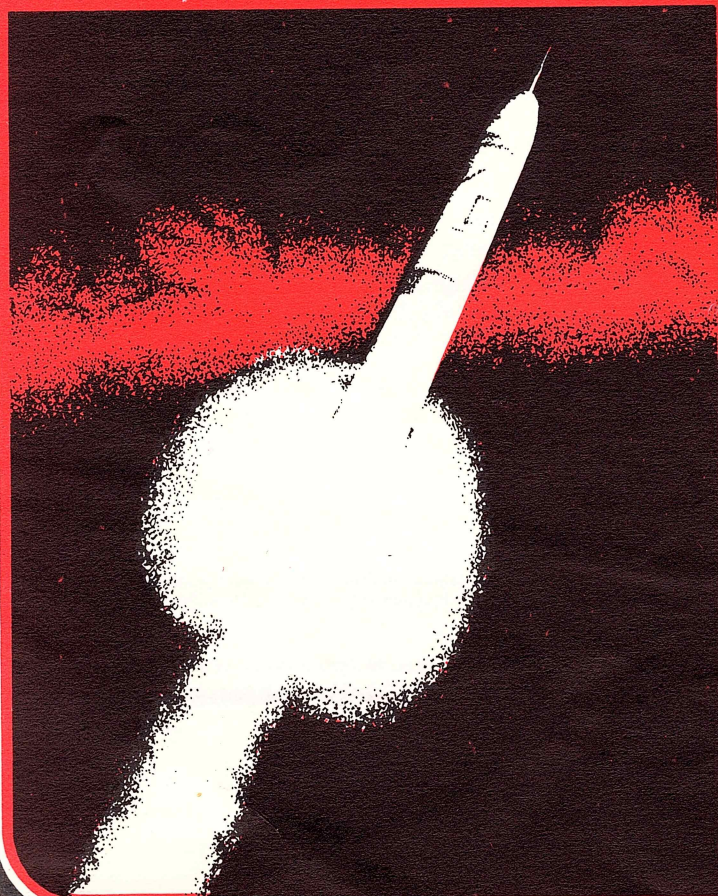
"The world now stands on the brink of the final abyss. Let us all resolve to take all possible steps to ensure that we do not, through our own folly, go over the edge".

The United Nations, in 1978, stressed that all people on this planet should be made aware of the danger, and that the most urgent task is to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The past few months have seen the proliferation of peace and anti-nuclear groups, which consist of very concerned people who wish to educate the public to these dangers through holding meetings, discussions, lectures, films, exhibitions, and producing literature. They lobby politicians and hold demonstrations for nuclear disarmament. On October 26th 1980 the biggest ever rally took place in London, and somewhere in the region of 100,000 people from all over the country attended. The campaign has attracted individuals from all backgrounds, religions, political parties, and those who are not affiliated to any religion or political party. There are supporters who are very well known to the general public (John Arlott, J.B. Priestley, Melvin Bragg, Susannah York, Glenda Jackson, John Williams, James Cameron, Peter Maxwell Davies, Juliet Mills, Willis Hall - to name just a few.) The ranks are being increasingly swelled by politicians, academics, church leaders, and trade unionists. Unprecedented numbers of people have contributed to the growing debate in newspapers and on television and radio.

The Peace movement is growing throughout Europe, and in other parts of the world. In this area there are groups in Otley, Ilkley, Skipton, Aireborough, Horsforth, Shipley, Bradford, Leeds and Harrogate, all working for peace.

For there to be life on earth in the future we must have peace on earth. All peoples and governments must make greater efforts towards building bridges for peace, and move away from belligerent policies.



WHY NOT JOIN IN THE ACTION FOR PEACE

If you are concerned why not join with others in the action for peace. You could start by supporting the activities of the OTLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP, or by attending Group meetings which are held every second and fourth Wednesday in the month in the upstairs room of the Three Horse Shoes, Bridge Street, Otley. The Group's constitution sets out its aims as:

1. We oppose the international build up of nuclear and all other weapons.
2. We support all groups who oppose this build up.
3. We aim to educate and organise the local public to agitate against the proliferation of weapons, the dangerous use of nuclear power, and the charade called 'civil defence'.
4. We aim to act as an information centre for all local organisations of like-mind, so that we may join together in various forms of action and protest.
5. We are a peaceful organisation and all our actions will be physically non-aggressive.

Published by the
OTLEY PEACE ACTION GROUP.

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