

# HOUSMANS PEACE DIARY 1991

"The first thing I did when I heard the news from the Gulf was to reach for my Housmans Diary ..."

The *Housmans Peace Diary*, completely re-designed this year, again includes the unique *World Peace Directory* - an essential reference tool, for routine use as well as in times of crisis.

The *World Peace Directory* has details of almost 2000 national and international peace, environment and human rights organisations, in over 100 countries. The Directory is fully revised and updated; its breadth and scope make it the only reference work of its kind. There is also a *British Local Directory* listing a selection of local groups, shops and centres, region by region.

"The Earth - our Common Home" is the theme for the introductory articles in the 1991 Diary. They look at grass-roots attempts in different countries to change the way we treat one another and our environment.

The *1991 Housmans Peace Diary* is attractively designed and produced on recycled green tinted paper. Illustrations are by Pat Gregory and Cliff Harper. It is

available in a bound version, and also in a loose-leaf, punched version for standard six-ring personal organisers.

The appointments section has a week to a view, and includes notable peace dates and anniversaries. There are also notes on forthcoming campaigning weeks, and relevant quotations. Year planners and calendars are included too.

Prices (\$A)	surface mail	air mail
bound	13.45	15.70
loose-leaf	16.00	18.25

from Mail Order Department, Housmans Bookshops, 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1.

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## Hammer of Justice: Molly Rush and the Plowshares Eight

Liane Ellison Norman, *PPI Books, Pittsburgh, 1989, US\$24.95 hardback, US\$12.95 paper. Order from PPI Books, 1139 Wightman St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, USA, adding US\$2.50 for shipping and handling.*

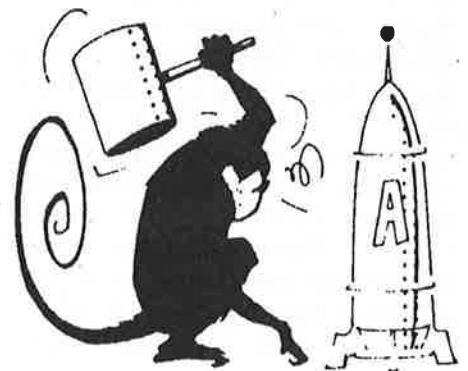
Early in the morning of 9 September 1980, eight peace activists walked into a building owned by the company General Electric in a town, in the US state of Pennsylvania, curiously named King of Prussia. They went past guards and entered a room where they used hammers to pound parts of nuclear warheads being manufactured by General Electric. The eight also poured their own blood, from little plastic bottles, all over the workshop.

This group became known as the Plowshares Eight: they took direct action to turn nuclear weapons into something less dangerous. This act of civil disobedience was, for the eight, an outgrowth of their religious beliefs and moral commitment.

It was a personal testament against the blind workings of the military machine.

Liane Norman's book about the Plowshares Eight tells several stories. One is of the action of the eight and the government's lengthy legal battle against them. The government, of course, could not tolerate direct action against nuclear weapons. The prosecution attempted to rule out of order any discussion of the motivations of the eight, namely the threat posed by nuclear weapons to the peoples of the world, and the urgent necessity to act against the impending crime of nuclear war.

A second story grows out of the location of the action in the state of Pennsylvania, a state founded by William Penn and the Quakers. Penn himself was a noted civil disobedient. In a famous court case in London in 1670, the jury was imprisoned because it repeatedly returned a verdict of not guilty in Penn's trial. A successful appeal against the imprisonment led to



the important legal precedent that juries could not be punished because of their verdict.

A third story woven through the book, the story most fascinating to me, is about Molly Rush, one of the Plowshares Eight. Several of the others in the eight were more well-known - especially Philip and Daniel Berrigan - and had institutional links to the church. Molly was much more the 'ordinary' person. In her mid-

40s at the time of the action, a wife and mother living in Pittsburgh, she was perceived as part of the community. In actuality, she was far from ordinary even before joining the Plowshares action, being a well-known local peace activist.

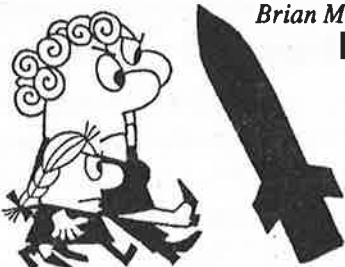
There is much in *Hammer of Justice* about Molly - her parents and her upbringing, her own family and her increasing participation to peace activism, and the development of her belief in the moral necessity of direct action.

Perhaps even more intriguing than Molly's own beliefs and actions is the reaction of her immediate family. When they found out in general terms about her plans for major civil disobedience, there was intense pressure on her to withdraw. Her husband became frantic in his attempts to stop Molly. But then, after the action on 9 September 1980 and the resulting publicity and courtroom drama, the attitudes of Molly's family began to change. There was much more understanding, acceptance and support. The story of this transformation is a highlight of the book.

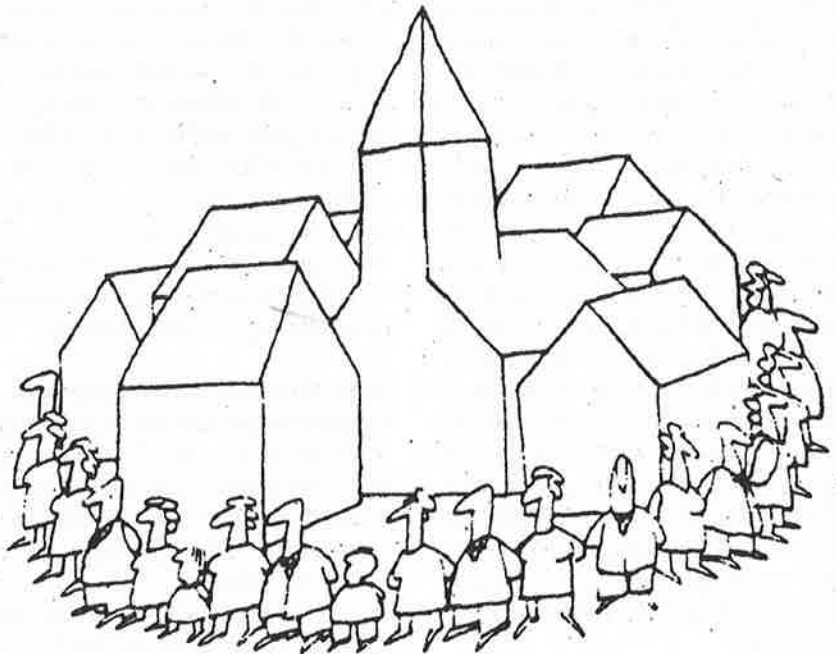
Not every peace activist wants to perform civil disobedience that could lead to years in prison. There are sensible, pragmatic considerations to be taken into account. (Molly was often told she could be more effective on the 'outside'.) The best course of action for one person is not necessarily best for another.

Liane Norman does not tell the story with any implication that others should do the same as Molly. That is for readers to decide for themselves. Rather, the book is more in the nature of an 'appreciation' of Molly and her action. Molly is a remarkable person, but at the same time she is like any of us. That is both humbling and uplifting.

Brian Martin  
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# Military Students and Civilian-Based Defense



The Colonel introduced me, and I stepped in front of these hundred or so Air Force ROTC (*Reserve Officers' Training Corps*) cadets and explained, "When I was in college, I used to protest the ROTC." Now I appear as an invited component of their military education program, introducing them to concepts of alternative security and nonviolent civilian-based defense. The visit is part of the Center for Common Security's new seminar program for military students, entitled "*National Security in the 90's: Changing Threats, New Proposals.*"

The Program's Advisory Committee includes Major General Edward Atkeson (ret.), Col. John Barr (ret, President, Veterans for Peace), Ambassador Jonathan Dean (former chief of the U.S. delegation to the conventional arms negotiations), Col. Roben Helvey and Dr. Gene Sharp.

I've learned that these young men and women training to become tomorrow's military leaders are as dedicated to a more peaceful world as I am, and that we have a lot to learn from each other. In fact, Dr. Sharp's kind influence on my undergraduate years demanded my recognition of these facts.

Further, if we're going to train our next generation of American leaders to forge effective solutions to changing national security threats, we desperately need this sort of dialogue in our universities. We need to cut across traditional ideological positions to foster good thinking and creativity.

Early in the seminar I explain that we need to design defense postures that send two very clear messages to potential adversaries. First, if you attack us, you have abso-