

Justpeace

PAX CHRISTI

International Catholic Movement for Peace

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Prepare for war and you get war

It seems that we can always find money for war and war preparations. Dave Knight's research into pre-First World War military spending, aggressive rearmament in Europe and the losses created by that war affirm his comment that if you prepare for war you are more likely to get war! And so it rolls on, as we read in Paul McGowan's account of the £90 million pension fund investments in the arms trade today. Pounds and dollars convey only part of the cost of war and militarisation. The human, environmental, and other opportunity costs are rarely factored in when governments talk about war and the need to maintain a healthy arms industry. Andrew Smith from CAAT introduces important new research showing that greater investment in wind and renewable energy could provide twice as many jobs as the arms industry. As well as informing you we hope that this issue of *Justpeace* will encourage you to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending on 14th April.

Pat Gaffney



From local to global... funding of the arms trade

The truth can be simply stated: everyone in the West Midlands who pays Council Tax is funding the activities of the military-industrial complex, led by the likes of Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Northrop Grumman.

As a long-term resident of Coventry, I was well used to hearing the place described as 'the city of Peace and Reconciliation'. But the contradiction between this reputation and the discovery that Coventry is one of the seven District Councils of the West Midlands who together founded, and now run, the West Midlands Pension Fund (WMPF), and invests £90 million in arms-dealers, has altered everything I thought I ever knew about the city. When the discovery was shared with the Deanery Justice and Peace Group, we knew we had to act. 2013 became the year of the WMPF campaign.

April 15th was the Global Day of Action on Arms Spending. Thanks to the interactive map produced by CAAT, we knew that we had two giants of the international arms business operating in our city. (No, we didn't know beforehand!) These were General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman. We picked on General Dynamics because it was bigger than Northrop Grumman, and closer to where most of us lived, made our placards and banners, informed the local media and set up a two-hour silent protest outside the factory. One of the free papers gave it a good write-up and a photo. General Dynamics refused to comment. A few weeks later, however, General Dynamics closed its Coventry factory. It just shows what can happen when do-gooders are allowed to get their hands on pieces of card and felt-tip pens!

In May, we sent a letter to all Councillors, explaining the background to the campaign and asking for their support. No one replied. Several members of the group wrote to their Councillors, asking for meetings. We took advantage of the installation of the new Lord Mayor to hold another demonstration as the Councillors processed ceremonially into the Cathedral. Even if they hadn't read their letters, at least they had seen us.

Over the next four weeks we collected signatures for a petition highlighting our aims - divestment from arms companies and an undertaking to work towards an arms-free city. 424 signatures were collected and presented to the Council (by a Conservative Councillor) on 25th June. The petition was handled in accordance with council procedures, but because of the summer holidays, it was 21st October before it reached the relevant sub-committee.

In the meantime, we demonstrated silently at the Council House before each monthly meeting of the full Council, and individual Councillors were pressed for their views on specific questions, such as whether an investment in Textron (cluster bombs) reflected well on the City's image. A further opportunity came on 6th August, Hiroshima Memorial Day. For a quarter of a century, this has featured a ceremony held in Coventry Cathedral attended by the Lord Mayor. This year, it contained a silent demonstration to draw attention to the financial support which the WMPF gives to companies directly involved in the nuclear weapons programmes of Britain, France and the USA.

There are other funds across the UK run by many of the local councils of the major towns and cities, again funded from Council Tax, e.g. West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. Many of us rely on pensions built up in this way, but we can begin to dismantle the existing arrangements and build new ones. With total assets of £90 billion, local government pension schemes can exert massive influence on big business and big politics, of which the arms trade is certainly part.

As we start 2014, we know that the petition has been through the bureaucratic process, and turned down. I have it in writing from our Pension Fund representative that he regards this as the end of the matter. Sadly, for him, this is not the case. The struggle continues.

Paul McGowan, Coventry Justice and Peace Group and Pax Christi Executive member

The First World War in numbers

It would be crass to not begin with headlines and examples of the horrific human suffering during and immediately after the conflict.

- 9.4 million military deaths (Allies 5.4 million, Central Powers 4 million), 21 million military wounded, and 6 million civilians died.
- The outbreak of Spanish influenza in 1918 and 1919 killed 100 million people.
- In 1918-19 half the new-babies born in Berlin died of malnutrition.
- The post war redrawing of borders resulted in 9 million displaced Germans.
- Pogroms, refugee crises, forced transfers of populations and genocide all occurred in the First World War.¹

But there were other losses such as property destruction and environmental damage.

Land and property damage and destruction in France 1914-18²

Forest laid waste (square miles)	1,857
Farm land laid waste (square miles)	8,000
Houses destroyed	300,000
Factories destroyed	6,000
Schools destroyed	1,600
Churches destroyed	1,200
Livestock lost	1,300,000

The numbers which follow are also headlines and examples, but concerned with financial costs particularly relating to military spending to highlight that the enormous build-up of military infrastructure and equipment meant that the war was more likely to begin and to be catastrophic.

The Depression is attributed to the cost of fighting the First World War, estimated as \$208.5 billion (Allies \$147 billion, Central Powers \$61.5 billion).

- Enough, it has been calculated, for every family in Russia, most of Europe, Canada, the USA, and Australia to have had \$3,500 for a home and furniture plus five acres of land.
- In addition, enough to grant a \$2 million library, a \$3 million hospital and a \$20 million college to every city of over 20,000.
- And the remainder would have purchased all the property in Germany and Belgium.³

The pre-war total military spending of the main powers (Austria-Hungary, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia) shows significant increase particularly between 1900 and 1914.

Pre-war total military spending of the main powers in £millions

1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1914
94	130	154	268	289	398

Percentage increase in military spending 1890-1913⁴

Austria-Hungary	160%
Britain	117%
France	92%
Germany	158%
Russia	19%

These increases enabled the states to expand their armies and exploit the modernisation of weaponry and equipment. For example, a naval arms race developed between Britain and Germany.

Tonnes of military shipping owned by Britain and Germany

	1880	1910
Britain	650,000	2,174,000
Germany	88,000	964,000

- In 1906 Britain launched the first Dreadnought, a large, fast and heavily armed battleship with 12-inch guns, setting a much higher standard for naval weaponry.
- Between 1909 and 1911 Britain built 18 Dreadnoughts while Germany completed nine.⁵

But there were those who stood against the conflict.

- On 2nd August 1914, 'the last Sunday of peace', there was a large anti-war rally in Trafalgar Square and 100,000 attended similar rallies in other parts of the country.
- In Britain more than 16,000 men registered as Conscientious Objectors after the Military Service Act became law in 1916.
- But over 80 COs died as a result of their treatment while imprisoned.
- 1,200 women from 12 countries overcame many obstacles and gathered in The Hague during the war in 1915. There they drew up 20 proposals to stop the conflict by negotiated peace and took them to world leaders, unfortunately without success.⁶

The Romans were wrong, since if you prepare for war you are more likely to get war than if you prepare for peace. A lesson we still seem not to have learnt.

**Dave Knight, committee member,
Movement for the Abolition of War**

References

- ¹ http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/aftermath/counting_cost.htm
- ² <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWproperty.htm?menu=FWWstatistics>
- ³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17011607> and <http://warisacrime.org/content/where-does-war-come>
- ⁴ <http://www.funfront.net/hist/wwi/military.htm> and <http://www.historyhome.co.uk/europe/causeww1.htm>
- ⁵ <http://www.historyhome.co.uk/europe/causeww1.htm> and <http://www.funfront.net/hist/wwi/military.htm>
- ⁶ 1914, BBC History Magazine, January 2014, p. 27 and *Opposing World War One: Courage and Conscience*, published 2013 by Pax Christi and others, p. 3 & p. 9.

From arms to renewable energy: the case for better jobs

In our new report* we have focused on alternative sectors to the arms trade and studied the number of jobs that could be created, how good a fit the skills are, the location of these jobs and whether a switch-over in manufacturing is feasible. Our research has found that with greater investment wind and renewable energy could provide twice as many jobs as the arms industry.

The first thing to say is that the number of people employed by the arms industry is substantial, but it is also greatly exaggerated. David Cameron has said, "Every country in the world has a right to self-defence, and I'm determined to put Britain's first-class defence industry at the forefront of this market, supporting 300,000 jobs." But the government's own figures show that it is closer to 150,000.

One thing that is certain about the arms industry is that it employs some very skilled and capable people. If these skills were to be used and harnessed for productive and sustainable industries then they could be a real asset to the country.

A point that is often forgotten is the extent to which the arms industry is already subsidised by taxpayers. Arms exports alone are underwritten by tax payers to the tune of £700 million per year, and that's before you consider the billions of pounds wasted on trident and big-ticket items like aircraft carriers. If the government changed its priorities and supported (both in terms of policy and money) other high-tech sectors rather than arms, then more jobs would be created.

A disappointing aspect of recent debates about BAE jobs in Govan and Portsmouth naval bases is that they have focused almost entirely on how the status-quo can be maintained. Very few voices have focused on the ways in which the government can encourage a more positive and constructive manufacturing sector with less focus on military industry and the arms trade.

There are a number of sectors that would be grateful recipients of the support and investment currently enjoyed by the arms industry. One sector in particular - renewable energy technologies - would be a prime candidate for the reallocation of resources.

The renewable energy sector is a substantial and growing one, and early investment in specific technologies would almost certainly put the UK manufacturing in a leading position. Demand for renewable technologies is rapidly increasing, and it's a sector with a major potential for exports and as well as a strong moral, political



and scientific imperative. However, the support from government simply isn't strong enough. For example, in 2011 the government spent 30 times more on Research & Development for the arms trade than it did for the renewable energy one.

The market alone will not be enough to create a strong and thriving UK renewable industry. Like the growth of the arms trade, a large degree the success will be dependent on the political will of the government. If they were to show the renewable sector the same level of support as they show the arms industry then we could see the start of a British-lead revolution in renewable technology. At present, political energy and public money is wasted on an industry that is stagnant as well as damaging, while a rapidly expanding sector is neglected.

If the UK is to play a positive role in the world, we must use our considerable global influence to promote environmental sustainability and peace rather than focusing on short-term deals and huge profits for arms companies.

There is a massive opportunity for the government to create more and better jobs. These jobs could be provided, for the most part, in areas where arms industry workers live. All that it would need would be for government to give the same level of support to renewable energy that they give to the arms trade.

Andrew Smith, Media Coordinator, Campaign Against Arms Trade

**The new report will be available from the end of February on the CAAT website www.caat.org.uk*

Banks and cluster munitions

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) came into force in 2008. It requires adherents to outlaw the production, transfer, sale and use of cluster bombs, and to destroy their own stockpiles of such weapons. By now, most countries in the world, including the UK, have signed up to it. In December, the UK announced that its stockpile of cluster bombs had been totally destroyed.

The reasons for the relatively quick acceptance of the Convention must have something to do with the visceral reaction to a weapon which cannot be targeted accurately, may not detonate on impact, and can outlast for years the duration of official hostilities. Thousands of innocent civilians have been maimed or killed by such residual munitions, and the carnage goes on.

IKV Pax Christi of the Netherlands has monitored the situation since the inauguration of the CCM, and continues to produce regular detailed updates on the progress being made with regard to the persistence of production by some companies, and the extent to which these companies

continue to receive financial support from banks and other lenders.

The latest report can be found here <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/report>. By comparing the data in the IKV-Pax Christi report with the latest statement from the West Midlands Pension Fund on its Equity Holdings, it has been possible to draw up a list of firms known for certain to be still producing cluster bombs, and receiving direct investments of Council Tax money. In addition, and this is entirely new for us, we now know which financial institutions in receipt of direct WMPF investments are themselves lending money and managing the assets of cluster bomb manufacturers such as Alliant Techsystems (USA), Hanwha Corporation (South Korea), Singapore Technologies Engineering and Textron (USA). IKV's analysis is intended to show companies how they can improve their performance. So, if you are a customer of Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds or RBS, why not check the report and urge your bank to do better?

Paul McGowan

Diary

21-23 Feb, Hilfield Friary, Dorset

Being There - Christian peacemaking through presence. The course will focus on the experience of the Christian International Peace Service (CHIPS). It will include a talk by the Revd Jonathan Herbert from the Hilfield Friary Community, Paul Rose and Elfrida Calvocorresi from CHIPS. The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7BE. Details and booking 01300 341741.

1 March, Coventry

Taking on the arms trade in the West Midlands CAAT campaign day, 10.30am-5.00pm, Coventry Central Hall Warwick Lane, Coventry CV1 2HA. Learn more about the issues including the 'arms fair for children' due in West Midlands in mid-March and hear about the impressive local campaign to end the council's arms trade investments.

5 March Ash Wednesday, London & Liverpool

Annual witness of Repentance and Resistance to nuclear war preparations at the Ministry of Defence in London. Meet in meet in Victoria Embankment Gardens Whitehall Section, west side of Northumberland Avenue at 3.00pm.

Nearest tubes Embankment and Charing Cross. There will also be an event in Liverpool. See website for details.

8 March, Lancaster

No more Fukushima's, No more nuclear waste, No more nuclear weapons. One hour vigil on 3rd anniversary of nuclear incident at Fukushima at Heysham Nuclear Power Station. Meet at 10.00am, Lancaster Quaker Meeting House. Information from Mo Kelly, 01524 389911.

8 March, Leicester

War and the commemoration of war with speakers Bruce Kent and Fr Richard Finn op. St Clement's Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester begins after 10.00am Mass and concludes at 3.30pm. Organised by Holy Cross Lay Dominicans. Information from janandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk

29 March, Birmingham

Joy in Enough, day conference at Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX, 11.00am-5.00pm. For those interested in learning about a sustainable economy. Organised by A Rocha, Christian Ecology Link and SPEAK. Information from www.greenchristian.org.uk/joy

15 May, International Conscientious Objector Day

There will be a national event in Tavistock Square, London at 12 noon, with a focus this year on COs from the First World War. Some families of these COs will attend and speak. Organised by the Right to Refuse to Kill, PPU, Pax Christi, QPSW, FOR, WILPF, Peace News.

23-25 May, Dorset

Peace for our Planet. Exploring the relationship between conflict, faith and conservation, The Friary, Hilfield. Led by Sir Ghillelan Prance, former Director of Kew, Jonathan Herbert of the Hilfield Community and Andy Lester of A Rocha. Contact details above.

24 May, Liverpool

Pax Christi Annual General Meeting will be held in Liverpool at the Catholic Chaplaincy 30 Catherine Street, Liverpool L8 7NL. Come along and hear about Pax Christi's work, meet others involved in work for peace and justice and celebrate all that we do. Speaker Symon Hill, writer and peace campaigner. Symon will talk about the use of social media and peace campaigning. RSVP to admin@paxchristi.org.uk

News from the office

Our new website is up and running - do take a look. We really want to promote Pax Christi events around the country so let us know what you are doing. Among other things we have a First World War peace plans page. We have also created a members news page (read how members celebrated Peace Sunday). Send your own reports, good peace-making ideas and resources you find useful to Peter Hickey at orders@paxchristi.org.uk and he will post them on the site.

Scrap Trident Tour

Pax Christi is supporting Bruce Kent on this speaking tour organised by CND. Pax Christi members are organising meetings around the country. So far we have: 31 March, evening, Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH hosted by the Religious of the Assumption; 28 April Preston, evening at St Wilfred's Parish Centre, Preston hosted by Lancaster Faith and Justice, 01524 383081. There will also be talks in Darlington, Southampton, Brentwood and other places. Check our website for more details.

Global Day of Action on Military Spending - 14 April

Pax Christi is part of this network and we urge members to make use of the opportunity of the day to make the link between military spending and unmet local, national and global needs. Let us know of any events/ stalls, exhibitions, leaflet you might produce. You can see images of events that took place last year here - they might inspire and encourage you <http://bit.ly/1lwrj27> and demilitarize.org.uk

Petition to stop recruitment of under-18s into the Armed Forces

You will have received this with the last mailing. To date we have around 3,000 signatures... and we hope to reach 10,000 by April for it to have any impact. If you have copies to return please do so asap. If you would like more paper copies please let us know: put them out on stalls, at the back of church, in your school. You can also sign online here <http://bit.ly/1fGJlns>

Out and about with the Pax Christi team

In recent months Matt has worked in St Michael's, Bermondsey; Trinity, Leamington Spa; Cardinal Newman, Coventry; St Thomas More, Nuneaton; St Thomas More, Southend-on-Sea; Coloma Convent School, Croydon; Comberton Village College near Cambridge; All Saints, Dagenham; and St Thomas More School, Crewe. We have also held a young adults retreat, organised a joint Pax Christi/Quaker school outreach training, and offered workshops at both the Volunteers' Conference and the Student Christian Movement Conference. Pat has spoken at St Leonard's School, Durham, Roehampton University, an Advent Service in High Barnet, at a concert in Tollington Park, London, at St John's parish in Wigan, at a J&P Diocesan gathering in Liverpool, and a J&P event in Hanwell, West London.



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Pax Christi – Our Values

Pax Christi members live by the biblically inspired values of **Peace, Reconciliation, Nonviolence.**

These values are supported by the witness of peacemakers down the ages and the experience of the Pax Christi community.

Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who are in sympathy with its values and work.

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