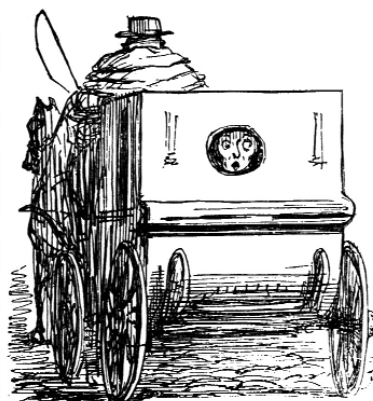


REGARDING THE STORY OF THE

Fairford & Coaches



HOW 120 PEACEFUL PROTESTORS

intended to assemble at RAF Fairford, in opposition to American bombing missions flying from Gloucestershire to Iraq.

HOW THE POLICE WAYLAID THEIR COACHES,
stopping and searching them, and seizing numerous innocent scarves, two pairs of scissors, some cardboard, a bag of toy soldiers, &c.

HOW THEY WERE COACH-NAPPED BY THE POLICE
and "escorted" on a three hour journey from Gloucestershire to London.

HOW THEY TOOK FORWARD THEIR CASE
to uphold their right to attend a lawful public assembly, and not to be detained against their will with no charge, no crime, and no lavatory.

HOW THEY WON THE RIGHT NOT TO BE DETAINED,
but the right to protest was still in question.

HOW THEY TOOK THEIR CASE TO THE HIGHEST COURT
for the good of all, that the right to protest be upheld.



THE DETAILS OF THIS STORY MAY BE FOUND ON THE INFORMATION WEB AT:

www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk

THE HOUSE OF LORDS JUDGEMENT IS EXPECTED
BETWEEN DECEMBER 2006 & JANUARY 2007.

REGARDING THE STORY OF THE FAIRFORD COACHES

“The law of this land says it is our public duty to try to prevent any breach of the peace. Planes were leaving Fairford that day to sow death and destruction. So it’s beyond surreal that it was those of us aiming to uphold peace - and not the bomber pilots, their political masters, or even the USA guards who (*according to UK police*) might have shot anyone entering the base unbid - who were detained for threatening an imminent breach of the peace.”
Citizen Arrest

“I had my groin felt for evidence of a pen knife but the coach itself had only one police woman walk down the aisle, she didn’t check the luggage compartments or under the seats which would have been far better places to hide weapons than my crotch. I believe that before we even set off someone had made the decision to turn back the coaches.”
Erik Klim

“I tried to exit the coach and managed to wedge the door open several inches while police tried to shut it from the outside. I called out that I believed the actions being taken were not legal, and that I wished to speak to a senior officer. More police came to press

on the door from the outside, and eventually they had the door closed.”
Legal observer

“Our escort would have done justice to a royal motorcade. Whenever we came to a roundabout or junction the other traffic was blocked off with police vans and we were given free passage. Our coach windows were soon decorated with messages, from “*No War on Iraq!*” to “*Help! We are being kidnapped!*”
Chris Gwyntopher

“My friend had to pee in a sandwich box at the front of the coach. She was fully visible to the police who were videotaping the coaches throughout the journey.”
Coach Passenger

“In the circumstances, you have to admire the protesters’ restraint.”
Mark Thomas

“Attending a demonstration is a basic freedom which everyone should enjoy if a society is to function as a democracy... Not only is this an attack on our freedom but the operation and the police’s decision to contest the action is a waste of public money.”
Jane Laporte

“I think it is deeply worrying that Gloucestershire police, confronted with the possibility of US troops shooting protestors who breached the base, chose to pursue a political agenda and defend the US use of lethal force over our right to protest.”
Helen Wickham

“For practical purposes none of the articles seized were to be regarded as offensive. Two pairs of scissors would not make much impression on the perimeter fencing of the air base.”
Lord Justice May, giving judgement on the case in February 2004

“It is particularly ironic that the police overstepped their powers in order to prevent us going to a lawful demonstration against an illegal war.”
Jesse Schust

“The freedom to take part in a peaceful assembly - *in this instance a demonstration that had not been prohibited* - is of such importance that it cannot be restricted in any way... so long as the person concerned does not himself commit any reprehensible act on such an occasion.”
Ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (Ezelin, para. 53)

