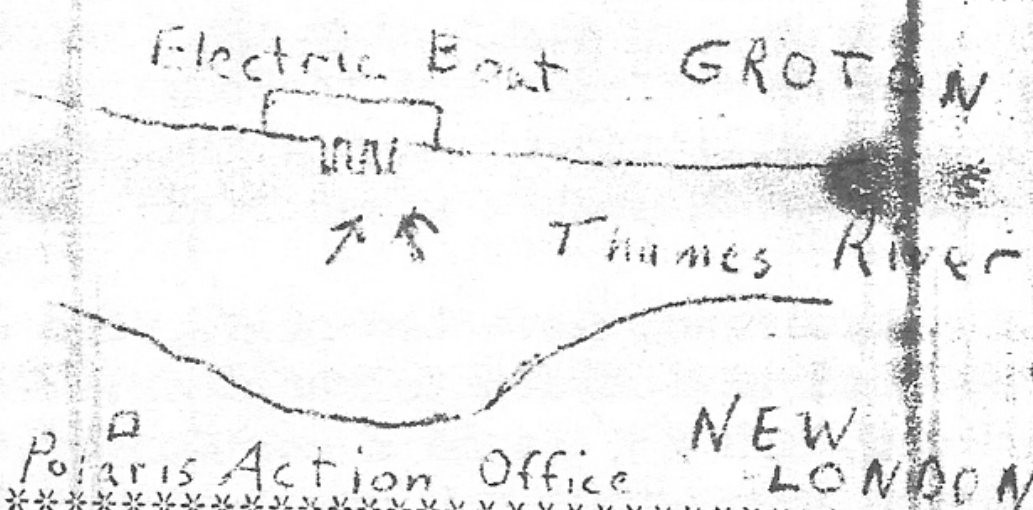


CRISIS AND THE INDIVIDUAL

This is an invitation to stop reading history and start making it. We who are signing this statement are asking you to join us in an act of civil disobedience, an act of nonviolent intervention, an act of revolution.

We are specifically asking you to join us as we do our utmost to nonviolently protest and impede the Thomas Edison, a Polaris missile submarine, when it is launched in Groton, Connecticut, on June 15, 1961. By paddling small boats or swimming into the restricted area, we will be doing our best to contrast the power of human life against the machine designed to destroy it. We will be trying to assert individual freedom, and responsibility, by creating a situation in which the arms race can proceed only if we are first killed or dealt with.



Arrows show where Polaris Actionists will try to block the Thomas Edison.

To do this, we must be willing to break a printed regulation if it is not in harmony with mankind's greater perceptions about the significance and importance of each individual. This is civil disobedience.

We must try to show that if there is concern for the lives of a few demonstrators, there should be equal concern for the lives of the multitudes, now held as hostages, in the event man or machine fail to prevent war. To do this, we must be willing to place our bodies between the submarine's mission of threat, and man's conscience for life. This is nonviolent intervention.

We have heard the individual cry his ineffectiveness and ours; we must try to show why such fears are unrealistic. At Holy Loch several weeks ago, six individuals, only six, became actionists; and pitted themselves against Polaris. This was their fleet:

2 canoes

1 dinghy

1 kayak

This was the armada sent to block them: (of interest to games theorists)

16 launches

20 patrol cars

32 frogmen

2 ocean-going tugs

8 patrol wagons

180 policemen

2 military fishing vessels

1 corvette

Both American and British Polaris Actionists have succeeded in boarding submarines in living protest. Bill Henry is now serving a year in Danbury because he succeeded. Others await trial. Yet we do not hold Freedom to be so frail as to be thwarted by such threats. The two of us are going to try to obstruct or board the Edison as it is launched, and even with two you may be sure we will be heard.

But if only thirty should join us, we might stop the launching, however briefly. Even now, a march across England to Holy Loch gains momentum, and on May 21, actionists will try to occupy the base there by nonviolent land and sea assault--with over a dozen small boats.

Here at Groton-New London, we already have two boats, and we need more. But most of all, we need actionists to man them. We are calling upon you to become one, and to assume a portion of the risks and sacrifices--prison among them--that you would in war itself. And we ask how great is the risk you sustain this very moment if you choose not act? In the last few months, students and other people have already been leaving college or their jobs to be free to cast their whole vote against the arms race.

If most of the human race is to be destroyed by the apathetic indifference of those people, who, like so many citizens of Hitler's Germany, refuse to act, we must make it clear we are not of them. A nonviolent resistance movement against terror is underway; Polaris Action is part of it. We ask every reader of this call to join us on the Edison.

When, if not now? Who, if not I?

Lena Hayes

E. Guérard

Ed Guerard, 23, was raised in South Carolina. He served two years in the Marine Corps, after which he attended Columbia University. He is now a full-time volunteer for peace, and has engaged in civil disobedience action twice this year.

Gene Keyes, 19, of Champaign, Illinois, was a second-year student of government at Harvard. Inspired by the original Polaris Actionists, he went on leave of absence last month to join them at their Norwich residence. This will be his first act of civil disobedience.

Please fill out either coupon and return to Polaris Action, 13 N. Bank St., New London, Connecticut. Telephone, Norwich, TU 9-1946.

* * * * *

* I WILL COMMIT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AGAINST THE THOMAS EDISON,
* AND WILL RISK AND BE READY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.
* Please send details.
*

Name.....

Address.....Phone.....

* * * * *

___ I would like to participate in the supporting demonstration.
___ Please send me more material on the rationale for civil disobedience.

___ Please send me information about Polaris Action and put me on the mailing list for bulletins and other material.

___ I CAN CONTRIBUTE A BOAT OR A CANOE (any kind of water craft).
Enclosed is a contribution of \$___ for the demonstration.

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: At recent meetings, the national Committee for Nonviolent Action and the New England CNVA agreed that participants would be encouraged to regard their action as a moral witness rather than a legal battle. CNVA does not engage in direct action with the purpose of winning subsequent court cases. Except in unusual circumstances, such as personal hardship, being charged falsely, or where a case would be of great use as an educational device, CNVA does not wish to engage in legal action or hire attorneys.

We take this position as a group; we ask that every participant in CNVA-sponsored direct action be informed of this before engaging in CNVA direct action; and we recommend that, in order to present a clear, united witness to the authorities and to the public, participants do not individually procure legal aid.

The refusal to accept bail is something we respect, accept, and recommend to all direct action participants. Nonetheless, where bail is requested, we accept the obligation to raise bail for those who request it.

P O L A R I S A C T I O N

Sponsored by the New England
Committee for Nonviolent
Action, 13 North Bank Street,
New London, Connecticut

