



The Salesmen of Death



In towns and cities throughout Britain the Armed Forces have recruitment centres, all round the country the Armed Forces hold military displays and exhibitions. They're spending considerable sums to persuade young people to join up - and to convince people generally that the Army, R.A.F., and Royal Navy are great institutions that everyone should support. But just what would it mean if you decided to sign on the dotted line?

JOINING THE ARMED FORCES MEANS :
You sign your rights away. In all the Armed Forces it's strictly forbidden for people to get together to push for better conditions or more pay. Strikes are outlawed. You're expected to do everything your superiors in rank tell you - without question. The discipline and training can be harsh and brutal, several servicemen have been killed on training exercises in recent years.

And you can't even leave when you want to! You sign a contract for several years and can't leave till it ends, except in special circumstances. Even if you manage to save enough to buy your way out, you can be refused permission to leave. IT'S A SLAVES LIFE!

JOINING THE ARMED FORCES MEANS :
Risking being killed or maimed. Since the 2nd World War British servicemen have died in Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Cyprus, Aden, Northern Ireland, the South Atlantic and the Falklands..... And you won't be killing others and risking your own neck for "freedom and democracy". It's the rulers of Britain - the government, the top state bureaucrats, the executives and chief shareholders of big corporations - who decide when Britain's Armed Forces are to fight. And they so so in their own interests. Take the Falklands. The British state hasn't waged war in order to safeguard the interests of the Falklanders. If the British state was really concerned about human

rights - why have they been selling the Argentinian dictatorship military equipment? Why did they take away many Falklanders' right to come to Britain by passing the Nationality Act? Why do they allow the Falkland Islands Company to evict its workers from their homes when they retire?

Take Northern Ireland. The army are not there to "keep the peace". They are another force for anti-working class violence, in addition to the Provisional I.R.A. and the Protestant para-military groups. Since 1969 the army have shot dead over 120 innocent civilians (including children), none of whom were involved in the fighting between the Irish Republican paramilitary groups and the British Army.

JOINING THE ARMED FORCES MEANS :
You could be pointing a gun at your own family and friends. The Armed Forces are not only for fighting overseas. Governments - Tory and Labour - use them to break working people's strikes for better pay and conditions. At the Army college at Camberley in Surrey officers are trained to use troops against civilians in mainland Britain.

The Armed Forces try to present an image of glamour and excitement. But behind it all is the death and suffering of war. And with nuclear weapons another World War could destroy the entire human race.

Wars are fought because the world is divided into different states and power blocs whose rulers compete for control of strategic areas, raw materials and minerals, markets for goods. To end war people must overthrow all rulers, East and West. It's no good electing a new government - all governments, right or left-wing, will maintain and use the war machine. People need to take-over the workplaces and all society's resources. Then all of us can help create a co-operative world community where human needs - not profit and power - are what count.