

Politics and Pacifism - Sources for Worksheet 3 – Alice Mahon



***Alice Mahon (right) on the anti war on Iraq demonstration
17th Feb 2003***

SOURCE A

Alice Mahon: That this House is aware of the deep unease among honourable Members on all sides of the House at the prospect that Her Majesty's Government might support United States military action against Iraq;and urges the Prime Minister to use Britain's influence with Iraq to gain agreement that United Nations weapons inspections will resume.

Alice Mahon's Parliamentary Motion on Military Action Against Iraq, 12th March 2002

SOURCE B

Memories of War

One of my earliest memories is that as a child I went to school when I was three years old – if your father was in the second world war in the forces then you went to school early. We lived at Shelf, full of women, because all the men were away. Happy days tinged with sadness because we didn't see my father very often – he was in the Royal Artillery. I remember seeing convoys of army wagons going along Bradford Road at Shelf. They went on for ever it seemed to me as a child.

I've always supported peace initiatives. I went on anti – Vietnam marches, whilst I wasn't a member of CND I supported their aims. I was very proud of Harold Wilson because he kept us out of Vietnam. He was subjected to the most incredible pressure by the Americans to take us in. I had an uncle who went to fight in North Korea and I got letters from him – that was a really hard war. He said he thought it was thanks to Atlee that the Americans didn't use the Atom bomb. There are parallels with today – these things keep cropping up in my life.

Interview with Alice Mahon - 2003

SOURCE C