

Actions Large and Small

Over its 19 years, tens of thousands of women came to Greenham Common. Some stayed for a weekend, weeks or months whilst others came for the day to join some of the larger actions.

On a day-to-day basis, women often cut through the fence to cause inconvenience for the base.



Embrace the Base:

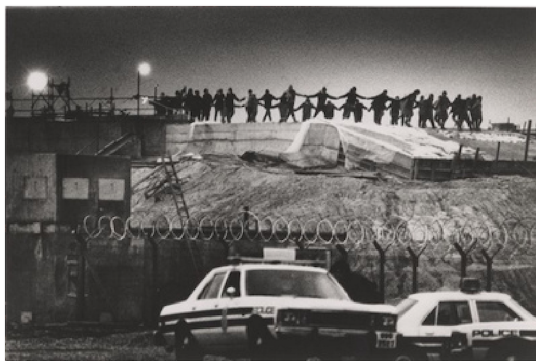
During 'Embrace the Base' in 1982, 30,000 women held hands around the nine-mile perimeter fence. They then turned their backs on the base and sang songs.



Photograph by Jenny Engledow

The Silo Action;

On New Years Eve 1982, 44 women broke into the base and climbed on top of the silos where the missiles were stored. They held hands, danced and sang for hours.



Photograph by Raissa Page. Copyright: Adrienne Jones – courtesy of The Richard Burton Archives, Swansea University. Not to be used without permission

Teddy Bears Picnic:

Teddy bears represented the children whose safety and future the Greenham Women were fighting for.

On the 1st of April 1983, 200 women dressed as Teddy Bears and broke into the base to hold a teddy bears picnic. Later, the police would chase the teddy bears up and down the runway trying to arrest them.

Reflect the Base:

On 11 December 1983 50,000 women circled the base and held up mirrors to allow the base to look back at itself and reflect on its actions. Later, the women pulled down large sections of the fencing leading to hundreds of arrests.

Non-Violent Direct Action:

The women frequently cut through the fence and used non-violent direct action (NVDA) to cause disruption. Listen to Vicki Smith talk about how she cut a huge hole in the fence so she could drive her car onto the runway. She ended up with a criminal damage conviction.

You can hear Vicki talk about her experiences here. Tune in at 28minutes to hear her talk about non-violent direct action:

<https://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk/vicki-smith/>

Image by Jenny Engledow

Hear All About It

You can use key terms such as 'Embrace the Base' or 'cutting the fence' to search the archive for stories about actions large and small. If an interview has a transcript, use 'Ctrl F' to search for your key term in the interview. What else can you find online?

Can you write your own newspaper article reporting on an event at Greenham Common?

Don't forget to submit your article to our archive!



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