

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,  
Fourth International.

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# SECOND FRONT

## And the Tasks of the Working Class

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

The Second Front has been launched and the most decisive phase of the military struggle in the course of the war is about to commence. By sea and air, hundreds of thousands of men are being flung into Europe in preparation for what is undoubtedly the final phase of the battle of the armies.

# NEW CAPITALIST SLAUGHTER

## They Too gave their Lives for 'Democracy'

In this, the Second Imperialist War, the boss class of Britain has not published daily casualty lists as it did in the last. But the figures published below, of the casualties on the military field alone during the last war, will undoubtedly be far exceeded in this.

KNOWN DEAD	10,000,000
"MISSING"	4,000,000
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED	6,500,000
OTHERWISE WOUNDED	14,000,000

One out of every five men called or dragged to the colours was shot to death, blown to bits by high explosives, stabbed fatally with bayonet or trench knife, suffocated with poison gas or fell victim to gangrene or epidemic disease.

One out of every ten staggered home seriously injured, a large number maimed for life—blind, deaf, with face snit away, shattered by shell shock, often starkly insane, or with legs or arms or both gone.

Of the more fortunate, an approximate average of one in five suffered injuries serious enough to require hospital attention.

### NORMANDY: WHAT WILL BE THE COST?

Already the wounded stream back and the nameless graves fill up. The second "war for democracy" swindle piles up ever greater casualty lists. The sons will be buried in the same cemeteries as the fathers, both—sons and fathers—prematurely slaughtered in the battle of the capitalists for markets and profits.

Out of the 1914-1918 slaughter arose the glorious Russian Revolution, the overthrow of Czarism, and a series of social upheavals throughout the world. But world capitalism survived the storm. The workers were defeated, betrayed by their leaders, who led them not to socialism but back to capitalist servitude. Fascism, Nazism, and this new great slaughter are the result.

The war rises to a new high level of

ferocity and massacre with the invasion of Europe. The only way out for the workers and soldiers of Europe is to finish with capitalism, overthrow the war makers, and establish the Soviet United States of Europe and the world.

If, out of this bloodbath, capitalism succeeds in establishing its regime as it did after the last, then a new, a third, a much more terrible war will be inevitable. The workers of Europe have now the historic task of preventing that new war, of solving the problem of this one, by overthrowing capitalism, the system responsible. ...



### INTO BATTLE!

"Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die ..."

Simultaneously with the opening of the Second Front, the Anglo-American imperialists have opened up a tremendous press campaign to infuse the British workers with a determined "will to victory", and to prepare them for the mounting toll of casualties in what is likely to be the bloodiest period of struggle.

From a military point of view it appears that the "Allies" now have superiority of arms and men and that the war is undoubtedly at the "beginning of the end."

Hundreds of thousands, probably millions, of the cream of all the nations will die on the beaches and in the battles which are now opening up: rich manure out of which the imperialists of all nations, fascist and democratic alike, plan to reap untold profits. These men, who will give their lives, are told that their historic mission is the destruction of Fascism and the liberation of Europe.

But the capitalists lie when they say that these sacrifices will mean the destruction of Fascism! They lie when they proclaim that it will lead to the liberation of Europe! So also do their allies and lackeys lie who are in the leadership of the working class movement here in Britain. These blood sacrifices are being made not in the interests of democracy, but of Anglo-American imperialism.

The debacle in North Africa where a deal was done with Quisling Darlan, in Italy, where King Victor and Badoglio replaced Mussolini—and were only removed at the insistence of the masses, despite the protection afforded them by Churchill and Roosevelt; the recent speech of Churchill in which he applauded Fascist Franco who butchered the flower of the Spanish working class and peasants: these acts are

ample evidence that the programme of Anglo-American imperialism is not an anti-fascist programme, is not a programme of liberation. **Only a workers' army united by class bonds and with a class programme can perform these progressive and historic tasks.**

The new phase in the military field opens up wide perspectives and a new phase in the political field. The refusal to recognise even the anti-socialist De Gaulle as the new leader of France, is evidence that the Allies are leaving themselves free to do a deal with a more reactionary bloc: the Vichyites or another section of the French Quislings—that they are leaving themselves free to do another Darlan. This is to be expected if it suits their interests and is in line with their programme and past activities.

But the French workers cannot and will not support such a foul manoeuvre. Nor should they place their hopes and trust in the programme of the apparently more radical De Gaulle!

The difficulties of the Nazi armies, their defeats and retreats, will undoubtedly uplift and encourage the French masses to organise widespread partisan warfare. The workers and peasants of France will arm themselves and fight for their liberation. **Every independent step on the part of the masses in the struggle for national liberation will be greeted with joy on the part of the internationalists—the Trotskyists.**

In the period of transition the widespread liquidation of the French Quisling capitalists and administrators will be undertaken by the masses—before the leaders of the Allied armies contact the Quislings and seek to protect them and incorporate them into the "liberated administration"—as

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# Curtis - Bennett, K.C. Briefed by Defence Committee

The four comrades Jock Haston, Roy Tearse, Heaton Lee and Ann Keen charged under the provisions of the vicious Trade Disputes Act came

up for trial at Newcastle Assizes on June 13th. Permission was given for two new counts to be added to the indictment. In addition to the original charges of conspiring to act in furtherance of a strike declared by the Trade Disputes Act to be illegal and aiding others to act in furtherance of an illegal strike they are now charged with Conspiring to incite divers apprentices to declare an illegal strike and conspiring to incite certain persons to declare an illegal strike.

Mr. Paley Scott, K.C., assisted by Dr. Charlesworth is conducting the prosecution. Mr. Curtis Bennett instructed by Mr. Rutledge, and assisted by Mr. Burge, K.C., and Mr. Greenwood, K.C., is conducting the defence of our comrades.

A full report of the proceedings will be published in the next issue of the *Socialist Appeal*.

## NAMELESS GRAVES IN "WAR FOR DEMOCRACY" 1914-1918 — THEIR SONS DYING ON THE SAME PLAINS IN THE NEW SO-CALLED "WAR FOR DEMOCRACY"



READ  
**The Death Agony of Capitalism**  
AND THE TASKS OF THE WORKING CLASS  
By Leon Trotsky  
THE PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL  
AN URGENT MESSAGE

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2

Phone: CUN 2526.

EDITOR: E Grant.

## EDITORIAL

### Another Stop Gap in Italy

The Roman workers have thrown Badoglio and the House of Savoy on the scrap heap. We salute the Roman workers, who, in the teeth of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, have forced out Badoglio and set the House of Savoy packing.

The Allied Military commanders supported Badoglio and the House of Savoy. Sforza, Croce, the Liberals, the "Socialists"—all supported them. Then Stalin, betraying every principle of communism, recognised Badoglio. The Stalinists of Italy, slavishly following their master, entered Badoglio's Government. The "communist" renegades in Britain hailed Stalin's recognition of Badoglio as a brilliant move to make him and his fascist supporters more "democratic". But as soon as the Allies entered Rome, they found the Red Flags flying, armed workers patrolling the streets, and they also found a passionate hatred for the House of Savoy and for Badoglio. The arch fascist General and the arch fascist King found no collaboration from the workers of Rome.

#### OUR FAITH IS IN THE WORKERS

If the Stalinists continue to collaborate with the Allied military authorities and the Italian fascist gangsters, they will break their necks. We can expect nothing better from the "Liberal" Bonomi—he and his cabinet face the rising wave of the revolutionary Italian masses. They refuse to swear allegiance to the House of Savoy! Good! But the workers wish to put aside not merely the House of Savoy, but the whole capitalist class of Italy upon which it rested. This new Government will try to counsel "patience", "forbearance", and "co-operation" to the Italian masses.

"Patience" and "forbearance" while the children starve in the streets of Naples, and the Allied armies loot the food and goods of the entire country by exchange manipulations and deals with the industrialists and pro-fascist capitalists!

We do not forget the Soviets of Milan and Turin. This is the answer of the Italian workers to all who wish them to collaborate with the "democrats".

The Milanese workers have the proud honour of being the first workers to force the Nazis to negotiate with a strike committee for 11 years. The bitter resistance of the workers of Milan and Turin against the Nazi repressions is more than an auxiliary arm for the Allied armies. It is the warning of the fate of all those who stand in the way of the inexorable progress of the Italians to workers' power—soviets. General Mark Clark, arriving in Rome, was greeted with the (to him) bitter pill of the emblem of the October Revolution—the Red Flag. The Liberal Bonomi will arrive in Milan, if he lasts that long to face the same fate as Badoglio.

The workers of Italy are searching eagerly and tenaciously for a solution to the chaos and misery brought by fascism and the imperialist war. All parties on the Italian scene fly the Red Flag if they wish to have any hope of support from the workers. And in the confusion of conflicting voices, the Italian workers are going through their inevitable historical experiences. They are beginning the process of discarding false leaders and policies one by one.

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# WORKERS' MUST FIGHT FOR EQUAL PAY

ANN WALKER

The rate for the job has been a demand of the unions since women were first taken into industry on a large scale after the end of the "phoney war" period. The union leaders conducted lengthy negotiations with the employers, and finally announced that they had won the day: that women doing the same job as men without supervision were to get the men's rate.

But for the vast majority of women workers this turned out to be an empty victory, for only a very small percentage of women were allowed to become skilled enough to work without supervision. The employers pursue a deliberate policy of treating women as inferior to men, and not providing them with instruction in setting, tool repairs etc. which is given to every man as a matter of course. This was made easy for them by the fact that most women expect to go back to their homes after the war, and are therefore not sufficiently interested in acquiring skill to insist on their rights; and also by the fact that some men do not consider women should be doing men's jobs, and are afraid that imparting their own skill to women would under-

mine their privileged position as craftsmen.

#### BOSSSES PLAN FOR CHEAP LABOUR.

But with the end of the war approaching the mass of the workers are beginning to understand what this policy means. New production methods make it possible to run a factory with a mass of unskilled labour, supervised by a handful of skilled men. The bosses are intending to use women as cheap labour to take the place of men, so that the men will be drawing the dole, and the women will be keeping their families on starvation wages.

The boss class excuse their policy of paying women about half the rate of men, by pointing out that the men have to keep families, and that women's normal occupation is housework and raising children; therefore, they say, it would be unfair to men to pay women the same money, as they have not the same financial obligations. This excuse no longer

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## Lenin's Programme

AN END TO THE COALITION WITH THE BOSSES. LABOUR AND TRADE UNION LEADERS MUST BREAK WITH THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND WAGE A CAMPAIGN FOR POWER ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:—

#### Industrial and Economic Policy.

1. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers committees.
2. Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mismanagement.
3. Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives' committees, and small shopkeepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.
4. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the job; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

#### Democratic Demands

5. Repeal of the Essential Works Order, the Emergency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation.
6. Full electoral and democratic rights for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in uniform.
7. Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Britain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from these countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

#### Military Policy

8. Clear out the reactionary, pro-fascist, and anti-labour officer caste in the armed forces and Home Guard; election of officers by the ranks.
9. Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker-officers; arming of the workers under the control of workers' committees elected in the factories, unions and in the streets for the defence of the democratic rights of the workers from reactionary attacks by the enemies of the working class at home and abroad.

#### International Policy

10. Against race hatred and discrimination of all forms (Vansittartism, Anti-Semitism, and the Colour Bar); for the fraternisation and co-operation of workers and soldiers of all countries.
11. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; despatch of arms, food and essential materials to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany, Europe, Japan, and the rest of the world, on the basis of this programme in Britain, to join the socialist struggle against Nazism, Fascism and all forms of capitalist oppression and for a Socialist United States of Europe and a Federation of Asiatic Soviet Socialist Republics.

## ITALIAN QUISLINGS PROTECTED

ROSE CARSON

The events following the "fall of Rome" mark a major milestone in Italian political life. The wheel has turned full cycle. Ivoehoe Bonomi, the new Prime Minister, was the "Liberal" Prime Minister when Victor Emmanuel handed over the government of Italy to Mussolini after the March on Rome. Mussolini followed Bonomi in 1922 after the defeat of the Italian masses, who were crushed not by the enemy in battle, but by the cowardice and treachery of their own leaders. Today Bonomi follows Mussolini.

What is most significant is the fact that the representatives of the six Parties which comprise the new "government" unanimously refuse to form a government under Badoglio, or take the oath of allegiance to the monarchy. They refuse to do this despite the strong support of the Allied Imperialists for both Badoglio and Umberto, and Stalin's open recognition of the former. This opposition and independence clearly reflects the mood and pressure of the Italian masses. As Philip Jordan reports in the "News Chronicle" of June 12th:

"The name of Mussolini in the mouths of the orators was the signal for that collective expression of rage and horror, which clearly shows that for the moment an orderly crowd of citizens has gone over the borderline and become a mob".

We do not share Jordan's opinion that a gathering becomes a mob when it expresses its intense hatred for fascism. Moreover we believe this sentiment is the reply to all those disguised Vansittartists who have repeated the lies of the capitalist class that the masses ever supported fascism in Germany and Italy.

#### IMPERIALIST PLANS

The attitude of the Italian masses is an indication of the attitude of the whole of the peoples of Europe. The Anglo-American Imperialists, together with their ally Stalin, have made plans for the recognition, restoration and bolstering up of decayed reactionary monarchs and generals in order to stave off the coming revolutions in Europe. As the Italian masses have so forcibly demonstrated, it is one thing to make plans and quite another thing to make them operative. Philip Jordan, in the above-quoted article, further remarks:

"As is now evident, in every gathering—whether it be outside St. Peter's or in the clubrooms—a tide of red flags waved back and forth above the heads of the crowd. Not only the Communist Party sports

this colour: it seems to have been adopted by every party as a background for their slogans of liberation and deliverance."

The red flag has always been the symbol of popular revolt. That it has now been adopted by all Parties is significant of the trend of the Italian masses.

#### THE NEW GOVERNMENT

However, while it is a step forward to have a 100 per cent. anti-fascist government, the masses can place little trust in Bonomi and his cabinet. The "Sunday Observer" of June 11th remarks:

"Bonomi was War Minister in the last Giolitti Cabinet in 1921, and many historians have blamed him for allowing the fascists to use violence and illegal means which enabled them to send thirty-one Deputies to Parliament."

This statement shows how weak and ineffectual Bonomi was in the past. He is now seventy-one years old and can hardly be more able or willing to help the Italian masses out of their miserable plight of ruin and starvation. His cabinet, composed of bankrupt Liberals like Count Sforza and Benedetto Croce who tried to save the monarchy by advocating a regency, conscious traitors like the Stalinist Palmiera Togliatti (Ercolo Ercoli) who recently led the support for Badoglio, such reactionary cleric as Alcide de Gasperi of the Christian Democrats and the Turin Socialist ("Moral Marxist") Giuseppe Saragat, is nothing more than a facade permitted by Amgot to pacify the Italian masses.

Behind the scenes the old support for fascists goes on. Philip Jordan observes, in the same article:

"If you go to a hotel like the Excelsior, which is open to Allied officers and civilians only, you will find the scum of Rome. These Fascist aristocrats... come out only to eat... true, but sad... the Allied authorities here seem anxious not to tread on their corns. Even the head of the notorious Africa Police, more hated, more violent even than the Republican fascists is now working for us."

Seen against this background the Bonomi government can only obscure the real situation and serve to deflect the masses from the tasks before them, that is, the establishment of a workers' and peasants' government.

Even a Popular Front Government without the Allied Occupation forces to contend with could only lead the masses to further disaster. The role of Bonomi's caricature of a Government is thus made obvious.

# A.E.U. EXECUTIVE For Worker Officers VICTIMISE NATIONAL in the Forces By ORGANISER Infantryman

BY BOB ALLEN

The Executive Council of the A.E.U. has added another name to the growing number of A.E.U. members suffering under the dictatorial rule of the present A.E.U. leaders.

Bro. Armstrong, one of the three National Organisers of the A.E.U. has been suspended from holding any office in the union for 5 years and deposed from his position as National Organiser with effect from 11th May 1944. He had already been suspended for one month from 20th April, and this new sentence imposed by the Executive Committee is one of the most savage punishments E.C. could possibly mete out to an official of the union.

## BRO. ARMSTRONG'S CRIME

The Executive Council have taken these steps for the sole reason that Bro. Armstrong, while in Belfast, refused to be a party to the attempts of the A.E.U. leaders to stop the strike on the employers' terms, which had been decisively rejected by the strikers.

The shipyard workers of Belfast struck in February 1944 for a minimum rate of 3/- per hour. The local divisional Organiser being ill, Bro. Armstrong was instructed by Executive Council to handle the affair in Belfast. From his arrival at Belfast, Bro. Armstrong conducted the negotiations with the Port Admiral and the employers, and maintained the closest contact with all sections of the union locally. In particular, Bro. Armstrong attended the mass meetings called by the stewards to debate the course of the strike. At one such meeting held at the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, on Sunday 4th March, called by the Belfast stewards, Bro. Armstrong was present. A resolution was passed unanimously to the effect that "if the Government failed to give consideration to the application of the shipyard workers presently in dispute, every aid would be given by that meeting of stewards to spread the strike over the Belfast area." Bro. J. Morrow, the chairman of the meeting, asked anyone to leave the meeting who desired not to vote. Bro. Armstrong remained in the hall, and spoke briefly outlining the position of the negotiations. The crime of Bro. Armstrong in the eyes of the E.C. was that he did not tell the strikers to go back to work, because he considered that the strikers had a just grievance.

## E.C. MEMBERS SENT TO BELFAST BY PLANE TO BREAK THE STRIKE!

The mass stoppage that ensued over all factories and shipyards in Belfast over the rate demand, and the subsequent arrest of five stewards was reported in the "Socialist Appeal." Two members of the E.C., Bros. Mooney and Fitzpatrick arrived by plane on 13th March. Their efforts to achieve a settlement for one sixth of what the men were asking for, met with the complete failure that such a miserable action deserved.

Bro. Armstrong himself at a mass meeting, publicly refused to ask the men to accept the employers' offer, negotiated not by him but by the two strike breaking E.C. members.

The ballot vote taken on March 16th resulted in a vote of 1,983 to 409 to refuse the offer. The fine pair from the E.C. returned to Northampton with a flea in their ears, having achieved nothing.

## E.C. FEARS ELECTION

The actions of Bro. Armstrong in thus supporting the Belfast strikers, brought down all the anger of the E.C. In suspending him and afterwards debarring him from holding all office in the Union, Bro. Armstrong alleges that they violated the rules of the union dealing with cases of misconduct on the part of the officials. In view of the fact that it is his belief not only that he did not violate any rules, but on the contrary acted in the best interests of the Union, Bro. Armstrong

is appealing to the Final Appeal Court of the A.E.U. against this arbitrary action of the A.E.U. leaders. In this action he will have the complete support of all A.E.U. members fighting for a more democratic union.

By suspending him when they did, the E.C. avoided the awkward possibility which existed of Bro. Armstrong being elected Assistant General Secretary. In the first ballot for that office which has just been taken, Bro. Armstrong stood an excellent chance of election to the office. Perhaps E.C. were afraid of having a militant in the General Office?

## DEMAND REINSTATEMENT OF ARMSTRONG

For a long time the E.C. and the leaders of the A.E.U. have been trying to crush the militant membership wherever they can frame them. Whole branches, even district committees, have been suspended and "investigated" because of militant activities on behalf of the interests of the members. Anyone who puts a fighting line of struggle against the provocations of the bosses, is suspect.

These totalitarian methods have been given added weight by Regulation 1A(a). Only the branch or official union meetings can now be used legally to put a militant line. And it seems that the E.C. of the A.E.U. have decided to stop up even this legal avenue for debating the workers' problems by inflicting vicious sentences against the militants. We have many differences with Bro. Armstrong. (Continued in next Column.)

Despite the claim of the ruling class that this is a war for democracy, the Churchill Government is totally opposed to allowing the workers in the armed forces the right to express their political opinions.

Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force rank and file are denied the elementary rights of free speech and freedom to belong to a political organisation of their own choice.

The Kings Regulations sets out the military discipline for the forces. It is very much outdated and a Labour M.P. said that sections are 300 years old. These codes severely curtail the civil liberties of the masses who are affected, and it is true to say that it gags and binds them.

For instance, it is unlawful for a member of the forces to ask a question or take part in discussion at a political meeting. Imprisonment and loss of pay faces two or more persons if they

(Continued from previous Column.)

strong on a number of questions. But he has defended the interests of the workers in the Belfast strike, and his victimisation is a danger signal to all militants in the A.E.U.

Members of the A.E.U. must demand that this course be revised! The fight against the sentence on Bro. Armstrong is part of this struggle. A.E.U. branches should demand the reinstatement of Bro. Armstrong as a step towards the complete democratisation of the A.E.U. Demand an end to dictatorial methods in the A.E.U.!

## Workers Rallying to Defence of 4

Increasing support of the defence of our four arrested comrades is pouring in from all parts of the country. The Belfast Shop Stewards have passed a resolution of protest by 50 votes to 2. This is a fine gesture of solidarity from the Belfast stewards, who were recently themselves under fire.

The National Committee has been strengthened by the representation on it of Labour M.P.s (9), I.L.P. M.P.s (2), and Common Wealth M.P.s (3). Local Committees have been formed, representing the Trade Union Branches, Factory Committees, I.L.P., Labour Party, Common Wealth, Anarchists, Co-operative movement and Revolutionary Communist Party in all the main centres of the country.

Among the Resolutions of protest against the arrests and the new anti-working class Regulation 1A(a) the following have been received:

Edmonton A.E.U.  
Edmonton No. 2 A.E.U.  
Enfield Lock A.E.U.  
Enfield Town A.E.U.  
Ponders End A.E.U.  
Edmonton Trades Council  
Southall N.U.R.  
Southall Trades Council  
Southall G.M.W.U.  
Camberwell N.S.P.  
Mitcham A.E.U.  
Thornton Heath A.E.U.  
Paddington No. 1 N.U.R.  
Newcastle Branch A.E.U.  
Newcastle Trades Council  
Newark A.S.L.E.&F.

Slough Trades Council  
Slough E.T.U.  
Nottingham No. 11 A.E.U.  
Nottingham Central A.E.U.  
Edgware No. 2 A.E.U.  
Edgware No. 3 A.E.U.  
Merthyr Vale Lodge S.W.M.F.  
Merthyr Public Works Branch  
N.U.G.M.W.  
4/114 Branch T.G.W.U.  
South Wales District Council  
of C.I.S. (N.U.D.A.W.)  
Sutton Trades Council  
Coventry No. 47 A.E.U.  
Coventry No. 56 A.E.U.  
Glasgow District Committee  
A.E.U.  
Blackhall Lodge D.M.A.  
Dawdon Lodge D.M.A.  
Belfast Shop Stewards  
Committee  
Glasgow East A.E.S.D.  
Rugby No. 2 G.M.W.U.  
Amersham Branch of the  
N.U.A.W.

Financial Contributions have been received from organised workers throughout the country collected in workshops and factories, trade union branches and at political meetings. But the legal expenses of this case are estimated at £1,000 and this does not include the monies needed to sustain the comrades and their dependants. The Defence Committee urgently appeals to all comrades and sympathisers to redouble their efforts in the next few weeks to meet these expenses. It is the duty of every subscriber and reader of the "Socialist Appeal" to send a donation now to:

W. G. COVE, M.P.,  
Treasurer,  
318 Regents Park Road,  
London, N.W.3.

are discovered discussing a simple political question such as: "What are we fighting for." We all remember the ban placed by the Government on discussion within the forces of the Beveridge Report. The Military Police will move on a uniformed worker listening to a political meeting. In fact for 24 hours of each day the common ranker is hemmed in by a thousand and one rules; in return he is forbidden the right to organise independent barrack committees of his own to give him some form of protection.

The Tory representation in the forces enjoy full rights although in theory they are supposed to be tied down by the Kings Regulations. On every occasion possible the voice of organised capitalist reaction is pushed down the throats of the lower ranks. Who would seriously deny that the so-called educational unit in the Army, A.B.C.A. does not propagate the ideas of the Tories, of the ruling class in this country? Official lecturers and unofficial lecturers tour Air Force camps, Y.M.C.A.'s and various canteens expounding anti-working class policies. But the Conservatives and their stooges still have the audacity to declare in Parliament that no politics must be allowed in the Armed Forces.

Only 2 weeks ago, the Major of my unit, whilst speaking to an audience of over 300 troops on technical matters, subtly went off at a tangent and made an attack on the Soviet Union, in stating that Russia is becoming too strong, following with the remark that Britain must strengthen herself against this and not become a second rate power. Is this not the view of Churchill and his class?

But when the Cairo Parliament decided by overwhelming majority for Labour and against the Tories, the army chiefs smashed it under the pretext that it exceeded rights allowed to soldiers, and the elected leaders have been posted thousands of miles from Cairo.

Political expression is naturally one part of the fight for democratic methods. Take the well known saying in the army that a soldier's life is dependent to a great degree on the efficiency of his officer. But a soldier has no say in deciding whether his officer is the best man for the job or not. This is done from above.

The trade union movement should demand from the state, that as the workers supply the manpower for all sections of the forces, accordingly they must be granted the powers to elect their own officers and leaders. No one can deny that the workers are more than capable of becoming efficient officers. The history of the class struggle with its splendid leaders and organisers from the rank and file is a concrete illustration. The early Red Army officers were drawn, in the main, direct from the ranks. The Irish Citizens Army of 1916 was composed of dockers and other workers with a democratically elected leader, James Connolly, who had been in turn a navy, a dirt collector for the Edinburgh Corporation. The bravery and intelligent leadership of this Army in fighting against terrible odds is a beacon for the international toilers.

The capitalist class send their sons to Sandhurst Military Academy to be trained as officers. Why can't the workers have access to military education? The state spends millions of working class money to train officers at Sandhurst and such like. It is vital that the workers enjoy a similar right.

The trade union movement must make its voice heard by making binding decisions at National Conferences mandating their leaders to see that the Government finances military schools for the training of worker officers. Great vigilance would have to be expended in placing a ban on state interference. Such schools would necessarily have to be under the complete control of the trade unions.

It is along these lines that the organised worker will greatly help the struggle of his brother in the forces for democratic rights and a decent wage for himself and his dependants.

# Second Front

(Continued from page 1)

they did in Italy and North Africa. Local government forms will be set up and the centralisation of the partisan bands will commence. But the centralisation of the partisans under the leadership of agents of Anglo-American imperialism, their collaboration and subjugation to the armies of the "Allies", which follows from the policy of De Gaulle and his so-called socialist and communist allies, is a dangerous policy, fatal to the real interests of a Free France and fatal to the socialist aspirations of the French workers and peasants.

Only an independent class policy, a socialist policy, a Bolshevik policy; only centralisation under the leadership of the working class and a Trotskyist party, can lead to a free and united France as part of the Socialist United States of Europe. Such a leadership would issue a proclamation to the German soldiers calling upon them to desert their officers, lay down their arms or take them over to the French workers and peasants, and to participate in a policy of class fraternisation. Such a leadership would denounce the policy of national hatred and the subjugation of Germany to a new Versailles and call upon the German workers, together with the workers of all Europe to destroy capitalism and all its political forms, and to organise a Free and United Socialist States of Europe.

The revolutionists in France will strive for such a policy and will receive the full and unqualified support of the British Trotskyists in that task.

At home the introduction of 1A(a), and now the opening of the Second

In the "Daily Worker", the appeal of the French Communists has a cross-head: "DEATH TO THE BOCHE", demonstrating yet again the foul role that these renegades play in the ranks of the working class. Meanwhile the ruling class repays the Stalinists with a kick in the teeth—even refusing to allow (for reasons of "national security") these miserable renegades an accredited representative of the "Daily Worker" to enter France in common with all the other patriotic press. Treachery to the working class is thus paid with kicks and with thanks.

In the face of the Second Front, its death and destruction, it is easy to break faith with the socialist programme. It is easy to break faith with the British and international working class. But we Trotskyists refuse to break that faith by not telling the truth about the Second Front, explaining its aims and objects. We refuse to be silent whilst the fate of humanity is being determined for generations to come. The policy of the "Allies" if accepted by the masses will lead to a Europe parallel to the "New Order" of Hitler. It will lead to the rule of Quislings equally as vicious and brutal as Laval. Nazism will be destroyed, but reaction will reign.

The British ruling class are preparing to stabilise their position at home after the war. They are preparing for attacks against the rights and organisations of the working class. The arrest of our comrades under the vicious Trade Disputes Act is but the beginning. It will be followed by further attacks under 1A(a) against the more powerful organisations of the working class.

When the "liberators of Europe" have made their sacrifice, and the rest return home, their democratic liberties will only be returned and extended by yet another battle. This is already widely understood in the ranks of the working class.

In the coming days the false prophets will be tested. All parties and their policies will be seen in the light of big events and battles. We Trotskyists are not sceptics. We have supreme confidence in the working class, in their ability to throw up new revolutionary leaders and to fight for a revolutionary policy.

In Europe and at home the epoch of revolutionary socialism is about to unfold. Our policy of class struggle; of breaking the truce with the capitalists and fighting for Labour to Power on a socialist programme; of uniting Europe into a powerful United Socialist States together with Britain and the Soviet Union; of uniting the workers of the world in a socialist society—this policy, we are confident, will appeal to the workers as the only solution for the destruction of capitalism and its ulcers, fascism, political gangsterism, colonial suppressions, reaction and wars.

## EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 2)

In this arena, the necessity for the workers to establish their own revolutionary party becomes of decisive significance. Already the Italian Trotskyists have made important gains in the trade union and political fields; and in the inevitable testing time ahead, when all parties will be tried in the balance, our party alone will point the way to the only solution for the Italian workers. That solution is a class solution, the way of the Bolshevik party in 1917—Soviets and workers Power. We Fourth Internationalists welcome the unfolding of these events which can only bring disaster to the Allied "democrats", to the fascist supporters of the Allied armies and to every party of demagogues competing for the support of the Italian workers.

Disaster for the fascists and imperialists; Victory to the workers and peasants in the struggle for a Socialist Italy! These are the prospects opening up for the future in Italy. In the process of carrying out these twin aims the Italian revolutionary party must be built. Without it the Italian workers will be defeated.

# EQUAL PAY

(Continued from page 3)

holds water now that the development of capitalism is forcing large numbers of women into the position of breadwinner. But the bosses will fight to the last ditch to maintain the inferior status of women, because it weakens the fighting power of the working class by dividing it into layers of less privileged female workers and more privileged male workers; and because cheap labour is becoming a vital necessity to senile capitalism.

## THE CAPITALISTS ARE LOOKING AHEAD

Behind the camouflage of propaganda about "Work, Homes, and Food" can be seen more and more clearly the outline of post war Britain which the big business men and politicians discuss among themselves. Some time ago the Federation of British Industries published a pamphlet called "Reconstruction" in which they carefully weighed up the chances of recovery for British capitalism after the colossal drain on its resources caused by the war. Although profits are higher than ever, this is only a flash in the pan. Like all capitalist boom periods it will end in a correspondingly enormous slump. In past slump phases British capitalism has weathered the storm by living on its cushion of fat: large capital investments, built up when Britain was the foremost commercial power of the world. Now, according to the pamphlet, these capital investments abroad have nearly all been sold to pay for imports of war material. Britain used to draw a handsome profit from its shipping which carried the exports of all the world. Now American capitalism has claimed most of Britain's shipping trade, and also her foreign markets. On top of all this British colonies and semi-colonial countries like Persia, Egypt and Argentina have developed industries to supply the needs of the Allied armies, and these industries after the war will be competing with British goods on the dwindling world market.

The Federation of British Industries analyse the ever growing capitalist crisis of overproduction and lack of world purchasing power, (Starvation in the midst of plenty), and they conclude that the only solution will probably be a compromise between cutting down production of raw materials and foodstuffs in order to keep up prices, and lowering the living standard of the industrial workers to keep up the rate of profit.

The same train of thought was expressed by Sir John Anderson in his budget speech. He foretold the low economic position that Britain would hold after the war, and announced the Government's intentions of allowing prices to rise so that the workers would pay for the war by having their living standards forced down, while big business would be helped by tax reductions.

The capitalist system cannot survive in Britain unless the wages of the workers are cut to the bone. The

exploitation of women as cheap labour is a vital necessity for the bosses as a class, not just a policy of "bad" employers.

## EQUAL PAY IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SEXES

Not only will low pay for women cause unemployment for men, but the competition of women will force the men's wages down. Women themselves must understand that, however much they want to return to their homes after the war, the present tendency if continued will force them to remain in industry to support their families, and that the fight for equal pay is their only means of ensuring a tolerable life.

The A.E.U. made a progressive move by opening their ranks to women, thereby recognizing that men and women in engineering have the same interests but this will only have significance if they conduct a real struggle for these interests against the bosses.

Unless the unions take up the struggle now, not only will their members be reduced to subsistence level, but the unions themselves will be smashed by the attacks of the boss class. The bosses cannot cut wages down to rock bottom until they have broken the organizations of the workers; this is the reason for their policy of sacking convenors of factories, and the introduction of Regulation 1A(a).

The struggle for equal pay will have to be fought against the resistance of the entire boss class. The problem is one which requires an all out fight against the bosses and their government. Trade Union leaders who will not fight this struggle must be replaced by those who will, and the entire working class must take the road of struggle for this demand.

# SHIPS CARRY WHISKY TO INDIA

## No Space for Food

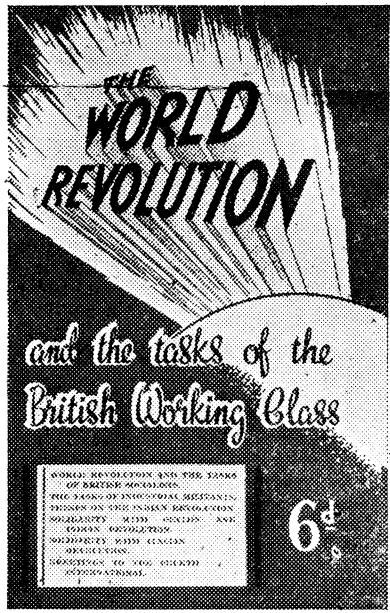
Stuart Gelder, Bombay Correspondent of the "News Chronicle" writes: "While newspapers here report the unloading of whisky, scores of thousands are dying in a wide-spread malaria epidemic every week through lack of quinine or substitute."

When Amery was challenged in January, he said that food and medicine could not reach India because of the shipping scarcity. The American paper "P.M." has published an indictment of the British Imperialists charging them with:

- (1) Using shipping space to send non-essential luxury goods for a few rich Indians and European and American commercial magnates.
- (2) Sending ships without a full quota of cargo even when food grains were offered for shipment by Australia and America.
- (3) By using round-about routes causing unnecessary delay in shipments.
- (4) Diverting the food ships intended for India to other parts of the World.

The callous indifference to the welfare of the peoples under their domination by the British Imperialists is revealed in this significant contrast. Let the Indian masses die of disease and starvation so long as the luxury and comforts of the "right people" of the pukka Sahibs are not disturbed. What does it matter, is their attitude? But the attitude of the British workers is different. Together with their Indian comrades the time is coming when they will present their bill for these crimes.

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Front has given rise to a period of industrial quiet, hesitation and apprehension. The wave of strikes which swept the basic industries has been temporarily calmed. The masses fear the slaughter of their loved ones and hesitate to act in a manner which they believe might endanger their efforts on the military front and prolong the end of the war.

Echoing the ruling class, the Labour, Trade Union and Stalinist leaders outdo each other in ecstasies of downright jingoism. The Labour and Stalinist leaders out-Vansittart Vansittart in their denunciation of the German people: forgetting that it was their German counterparts, who by their false policies, helped Hitler to come to power, and for whom they bear full responsibility.

For three years the Stalinists have been clamouring for the Second Front. Every vestige of class programme and class tactic was subordinated in the interests of bringing about this Second Front. In Parliament, Gallacher, a portrait in regency, weeps crocodile tears at the sacrifices the lads are about to make, but he urges them on. The Second Front has been opened, not to aid the Soviet Union or because of the protestations of Stalin or of his British puppets, but because it suits the military and political interests of the ruling class.