

"Workers of All Lands Unite"

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.



# ALLIED TROOPS END "NON-FRAT" ORDER

BY TED GRANT

NON-FRATERNISATION WITH THE GERMAN PEOPLE HAS COLLAPSED. THIS IS THE FIRST BLOW AT THE PLANS OF THE ALLIED IMPERIALISTS IN RELATION TO GERMANY. IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN OF RACIAL HATRED AND CHAUVINISM DISSEMINATED BY THE CAPITALIST CLASS AND THEIR LACKEYS IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

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TWOPENCE

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ALDERSHOT

BY A CANADIAN SOLDIER — PTE. GEORGE MACDONALD

### Canadians Demand Fair Treatment

THE BITTER RESENTMENT AGAINST THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE CANADIAN SOLDIERS WAS GIVEN EXPRESSION IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT ALDERSHOT, WHEREBY ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE GRIEVANCES OF THE RETURNING SOLDIERS AWAITING REPATRIATION... WE PRINT HERE AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ONE OF THESE CANADIAN SOLDIERS, PTE. GEORGE MACDONALD, WHO PRESENTS THE CASE OF THE SOLDIERS AS AGAINST THE VICIOUS PROPAGANDA WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CAPITALIST PRESS.

Now that the dirty work is over and the job in Europe finished, the Canadians are being treated in this repatriation depot not like "heroes" but like criminals. Ten are getting 21 days in the glass-house for being an hour A.W.L. Four or five lads are being held in Redditch from the night of the second demonstration in Aldershot on July 5th, and have not been given a sentence or even a trial! They are obviously holding them while watching developments.

English workers from nearby towns seeing our lads on the way to goal under custody of guards cheered them. They had heard about Aldershot and cried out: "WELL DONE, GIVE IT TO 'EM, BOYS! WE'RE WITH YOU!"

Thousands of Canadian troops have been held in repatriation depots at Aldershot and been penned up there for weeks while American soldiers, most of whom came to England two or three years later than the Canadian infantry in Hampshire, were given priority on shipping and without delay speedily and efficiently embarked for the voyage across the Atlantic to be returned to their homes.

Dissatisfaction with this arrangement and discontent over the way things are being handled in general, the unnecessary monotony, inadequate pay, virtual confinement to the camp area, and the ever-present menace of savage disciplinary action (threats of a sentence involving the loss of up to two years gratuity pay were made on parade and this as a punishment for being A.W.L.—even if one came in not more than two hours late)—all these combined to make the men feel ill at ease, restless, uncertain and to produce a sharply critical mood.

On the evening of Wednesday, 4th July, some three thousand men were strolling idly about the sunlit streets of this little town, talking to their pals, some, if they had the money, were having a pint in the pubs, those lucky enough to have found a girl were doing their best to see her attention was not distracted while the others stood about listlessly in small groups

or wandered aimlessly up and down the short sloping streets.

A trivial incident occurred. It wasn't anything much, a few lads on the corner were laughing, and no one was being interfered with, but some M.P.'s decided an investigation was needed. Canadian military police are perhaps not the most tactful people in the world and one thing led to another. Soldiers who paused to see what was happening suddenly became angry and when the M.P.'s tried to exercise their authority in this petty matter they were told to leave the lads alone. More police came along and the soldiers increased in numbers as scores passing stopped to find out what was wrong.

The M.P.'s meantime attempted to use a little Nazi technique and suddenly found themselves being hoisted about a bit, at the conclusion of which they were somewhat sadder if no wiser.

Following shortly afterwards a lorry load of M.P.'s arrived on the scene. The men made a rush for the vehicle, grabbed it and tossed it about like a child's toy. Still having learned nothing, the M.P.'s then hit upon the brilliant plan of turning high pressure water hose on the veterans of Italy and Normandy and brought out the fire-fighting apparatus.

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## MIDLAND TRANSPORT WORKERS FIGHT BACK

BY GLADYS WIMBUSH

OVER 4,000 TRANSPORT WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE MIDLAND RED BUS COMPANY STOPPED WORK IN PROTEST AGAINST THE OPERATION OF A NEW SCHEDULE AT DUDLEY GARAGE. TWELVE DAYS AFTER THE DUDLEY WORKERS CAME OUT, THE WHOLE OF THE MIDLAND RED NETWORK IN 12 COUNTIES CONSISTING OF 25 GARAGES HAD COME OUT IN SYMPATHY.

A member of the Strike Committee informed the "Socialist Appeal" that the men did not object to the running of later buses but they were fighting for fair compensation in the form of increased earlier straight through runs.

For instance a week of split duties and a week of early runs. The proportion of early duties is not a fair ratio of the split runs. Out of the 61 duties under the Schedule originally presented there are only 9 straight through early duties. They are faced with 18 long split duties over a minimum period lasting 12 hours and in some cases a maximum of 16 hours. Examples given of the bad conditions these men and women are expected to tolerate were:

Work commences at 5.55 a.m. until 9 a.m. then from 10.50 a.m. to 4.12 p.m.; then an "extra" from 5.30 to 10 p.m.

Work commences at 5.50 a.m. finishing at 8.40 p.m. with off duty periods between. A total of 16 hours and 15 hours respectively. In the case of 15 hours they are paid for 8 hrs. 40 mins. actual working time. The off duty periods in between runs leave the men stranded as there is nothing they can do in these few hours and

many of them live a good distance from the garage. There are no facilities provided by the Company where the men can spend their off duty periods.

As usual the bosses and the capitalist newspapers are putting the blame for inconvenience to passengers on to the workers. But this time it is not being swallowed. The General feeling among the workers in the Midlands is that the transport workers, who have borne intolerable conditions for years, are justified and it is the bosses of the Midland Red who are the people responsible.

The Company's statement that they were not notified immediately of the men's decision is completely false. Immediately the resolution was adopted by the meeting the Committee notified the Resident Inspector and the Area Superintendent. The week prior to the strike the workers negotiated and warned the Company of the trouble that would arise if they refused to make concessions while pressing additional services. Mr. D. M. Sinclair, General Manager of the Midland Red, refused to take notice of these warnings and did nothing.

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It is little over two months since the complete defeat of Germany. The Allies had announced a savage and vengeful programme of enslavement of Germany and the German people.

Taking advantage of the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps, the ruling class endeavoured to inflame the workers against the German people. Fearful of the consequences of a free interchange of ideas between the Allies troops and the German workers, they threatened severe punishment for any fraternisation with the German people. To bolster this up they conducted a concerted propaganda campaign to saddle the German people with the crimes of the Nazi regime.

But as we predicted in the columns of the "Socialist Appeal", the campaign has failed in its purpose. In less time than could have been expected the Allied capitalist class have been compelled to withdraw the non-fraternisation ban. During the short time of its operation, the mass violations of the order were so great, that it became a complete farce. Punishments and threats were of no avail. Thus, in order to retain their grip on the Army of Occupation, the Anglo-American imperialists were reluctantly compelled to change their policy.

Not only on this question are they preparing to make concessions, but also in relation to the freedom of

political parties and the right of the workers to organise in Trade Unions, the Allies are apparently preparing to make certain concessions.

The Stalinist bureaucracy in Russian occupied Germany have cleverly manoeuvred by allowing their Stalinist puppets, the Catholic Centre Party and the Social Democrats to conduct legal political activity, publication of press, organisation of unions, etc. Of course, all on the basis of a capitalist and not a communist regime in Germany.

The attempt at a military dictatorship over the German people solely based on the bayonets of Anglo-American imperialism and the Red Army, has been revealed as a reactionary utopia. Within Germany, the imperialists are compelled to seek some base among the people.

But meanwhile, the plans for the dismemberment of Germany, for the national humiliation of the German people, and for the conversion of Germany into a semi-colony of the Big Three are to be continued.

The responsibility for the crimes of the Nazis is not to be laid on their real backers, the German capitalists and bankers and the British and French capitalists. The burdens of dismemberment and defeat are to be thrown onto the backs of the thrice oppressed and enslaved German work-

ers and peasants, the first victims of Hitlerism.

The "Times" correspondent in describing the conditions in Germany in its issue of July 6th, remarks:

"... rarely in history can people have paid a more fearful price for the crimes of their leaders..."

While the German masses starve and suffer the capitalists and their supporters are still living well. Selkirk Panton, in the "Daily Express" of 6th July reports from Berlin in an article entitled: "BERLIN STILL HAS WAITERS IN TAILS":

"I can get you anything you want," said George, "but you will have to pay for it. English cigarettes, even, but they will cost you £1 apiece."

George told me this as we sat having lunch today in one of Berlin's luxury black market restaurants. It might have been a cosy, intimate little restaurant in London or Paris.

There were soft-shaded lights. Waiters wearing tails and black ties, moved noiselessly on thick carpets.

There was glass in the windows and flowers on each table.

The curtains over the windows hid from us the ghastly sight of blitzed houses on the other side of Kurkur-

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GERMAN CHILDREN IN THE RUINS OF BERLIN.

## BIG THREE PLOT IN SECRET

THE BIG THREE ARE MEETING AT POTSDAM TO DECIDE THE FATE OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD. THEY MEET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. THE PROCEEDINGS AT THESE MEETINGS ARE KEPT SECRET FROM THE PEOPLES WHOSE DESTINIES ARE BEING DECIDED.

In a Europe starving and devastated as a result of the war brought about by the contradictions of the capitalist system, the Big Three have prepared feasts for themselves, their retainers and their lackeys which has brought anger from the working classes. The "News Chronicle" of 17th July gives the picture:

"WHAT WILL THEY EAT—Fresh fruit, melons and choice steaks kept fresh in ten-ton mobile refrigerators will be on the menus.

Mess officers are already picking up telephones and ordering: "Eggs, strictly fresh"; "strawberries, big and juicy"; and "tomatoes and hearts of celery."

CALORIES AND STARCHES

Two dieticians are supervising the balance of calories and starches.

WHAT THEY WILL DRINK.—Whisky, Gin, Bourbon, Vodka, Moselle and Rhine wines. Liqueurs will range from Curacao to Creme de Menthe.

THE FURNISHINGS.—Here are some of the things flown in for the Conference:

20 lawn mowers, 20 hand sythes and 20 sets of lawn furniture; 4,000 blankets, 10,000 sheets and 100 bedside lamps; 100 cases of soap, 250 bottle openers and 150 alarm clocks; 50 vacuum cleaners, 100 ice tongs and 20 electric refrigerators.

Such Byzantine feasting has, of course, taken place at all of the meetings of the Big Three. It is symbolic of their remoteness from the real problems and sufferings of all the peoples of the world, including their own peoples.

From the imperialist representatives nothing else could be expected. But in this can be seen how far the Stalinist regime has travelled from the ideals of Lenin and Trotsky.

But even more important is the secrecy under which the conversations are being conducted. Extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the slightest information of the nature of the discussions from leaking out, or even of what is being discussed.

And of course, there is very good reason why the Big Three should take this course. The horse-deals, the intrigues, the dividing up of the world into spheres of influence, the conspiracy being hatched against the European revolution—would represent an unedifying spectacle to the masses of the world if conducted openly before their eyes.

Here again we see a fundamental departure from the method of Lenin and Trotsky. Like Churchill and Truman, Stalin needs a veil of darkness and of silence to cover his methods and aims. The Bolsheviks in the days of Lenin and Trotsky conducted their diplomacy openly before the eyes of the masses and endeavoured always to arouse their interest and intervention on the discussion of issues which affected their fate. Stalin uses the opposite method.

The workers must protest against the method of secret diplomacy. They must demand that the negotiations be held in the open so that the masses can intervene against the counter-revolutionary plots now being hatched behind the scenes.

## 150,000 Nigerians Strike for 2/6 a Day

BY J. DEANE

The largest and most important strike in the history of Nigeria is now taking place. 150,000 Nigerian administrative service workers, members of the 17 Government Unions, have been on strike for more than three weeks. All transport, power and communication systems throughout Nigeria have been paralysed. The Government has imposed a strict news censorship, and so far only one London paper has reported this important strike.

The strike is being led by the Nigerian Trades Union Congress and is in support of the demand for 2/6d. a day minimum wage.

Despite the tremendous difficulties—the lack of funds, all sided offensive by the Nigerian Government, arrests of leaders, and suppression of press—in its fourth week the strike is still solid and the strikers determined. Only 200 have scabbed, these have been given large military escort protection. The rest of the 500,000 workers in Nigeria are in sympathy with the strikers and only waiting for a lead from the Union leaders to demonstrate their sympathy and solidarity in action.

On the 21st May the Nigerian Trade Union Congress sent a letter to the Government stating:—

1. The cost of living was officially admitted to have increased by over 200 per cent.

2. (a) Recognising this the Government had given corresponding increases to European employees—the salary of a European employee is £400 a year. (b) Corresponding increases had been made in the supplementary allowance for the families of European employees;

3. In view of these facts the N.T.U.C. asked for a minimum wage of 2/6d. a day;

4. One month's general strike notice was given in support of their demands.

The Governor of Nigeria—Sir Arthur Richards who earned the reputation of being a "firm man" for quelling the Jamaican riots—replied that he would not meet a deputation of the workers as no purpose could be served by discussion, that increased wages would not offset increased cost of living (!) but would only cause inflation (!); and called upon Africans to help in the equitable distribution of foodstuffs.

A second appeal to the Government to receive a deputation was made on June 11th, again this was turned down. Meanwhile the Government re-enacted its Defence Regulations which were repealed only a month previous, following which a number of Trade Union leaders were released after having served four year sentences. The Defence Regulation on Press Censorship empowers the Governor to close down any newspaper which publishes news without it first being censored by the Government, or which criticises any action of the Governor or his officials. The penalty for contravention of this Regulation is a fine of £500 or two years imprisonment.

When on June 21st, 150,000 administrative workers came out on strike, immediately the Government suppressed two newspapers, the "African Pilot" and the "Daily Comet". The European community threatened the editor

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## Indo-China C.P. Majority Joins 4th International

FROM "THE MILITANT"—U.S.A.

Numerous signs of discontent with Stalinist policy are beginning to manifest themselves among the membership of the Communist Parties in several countries. In certain cases the dissidents have already broken with Stalinism and fused with the Trotskyist parties of the Fourth International.

The most advanced expressions of these tendencies to date have occurred in the French colonies. "La Verite", organ of the French Trotskyists, reports that the majority of the Communist Party of Indo-China has broken with Stalinism and joined the Fourth International. Although no further details are given, from a knowledge of the general political background in the workers movement there it can be surmised why this significant development took place.

Before the war a strong Trotskyist movement existed in and around Saigon, capital of Cochinchina province and principal port linking France with the Far East. In the elections to the Saigon Colonial Council held on April 30, 1939, the Indo-Chinese Trotskyist candidates gained a brilliant victory over a

coalition between the Stalinists and various bourgeois elements. When the war broke out the French imperialists illegalized the Trotskyist movement and jailed its principal leaders. Among them was Ta-Tu-Thau, Trotskyist leader who was elected to the Colonial Council.

While the Trotskyist leaders have shown themselves to be the best fighters against the imperialists, the Stalinists have become outright supporters of the French imperialism. Thorez, the head of the French Communist Party, openly declared this spring that his party opposed freedom for the colonial slaves of France. These two factors undoubtedly played a decisive role in producing the split within the Indo-Chinese Communist Party and fusion of the majority with the Fourth International.

# AN END TO SECRET DIPLOMACY!





