

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party BRITISH SECTION of the 4th INTERNATIONAL

# RVED TO COVER RELEASE THE PARATROOPERS By BILL HUNTER

# SALUTE THE DUTCH SOLDIERS

Protest at War Against Indonesians

AMSTERDAM — 21st Sept., 1946.

During the second week in September, the soldiers at Harderwijk camp near Amsterdam, Holland, were informed that they were to embark for Indonesia. According to the Constitution of Holland, only volunteers may be shipped overseas for military duty. The soldiers, protesting against the Government order, issued under a war-time emergency decree, bluntly refused to go. They formed a Committee representing at first 150 men and went to the Communist (Stalinist) Party headquarters to obtain aid in establishing their constitutional rights. The leaders of the latter refused all help. The Soldiers' Committee thereupon turned to other organisations for

Last week, the Committee issued two leaflets, one addressed to their fellow soldiers and the other to the workers of Amsterdam. The first called for action against shipment to Indonesia, but told soldiers to refrain from individual actions of resistance, explaining that it was the duty of class conscious worker-soldiers to persuade the majority to their views. The same leaflet also called upon the soldiers, if they are sent to Indonesia, to fraternise with the workers and peasants of that country fighting justly for their independence. gas have the leaflet issued to the Amsterdam workers who came out on strike in solidarity. (See Page 3.)

# "WORKERS OF AMSTERDAM

We thank you for the wonderful solidarity with which you supported us today in our struggle against being sent to Indonesia.
We do not want to fight for the
Capitalists, we do not want to
fight against the Indonesians, who
have been suppressed for long

Your strike has strengthened us mightily in our action. We know that we are not alone. Today we could count on you, you can have

# DOCKERS, SEAMEN AND RAILWAYMEN

We know that you made great ecrifices in the Dockers' and sacrifices in the Dockers' and Seamen's Strike. It's not so easy for you to go on strike again. But you must help us. For the great majority of us it's not possible to go into hiding, and if we can count on you, it is also better that we

we don't call you to a General TO Strike. With disappointment we read that the National Council of the E.V.C. (Dutch T.U.C.) has

taken a decision to withold strike pay for action in support of Indonesia. We cannot under-stand this. At Conferences they promised something different. you cannot strike without support.

Therefore, we don't ask you to strike. But you can help us by declaring as contaminated, every-thing intended for use against Indonesia. Then they won't be able to send us away.

We now understand why the Government took such measures against your Strike.
They were afraid for the War against Indonesia. You see, you can prevent it.

Thus, we count on your support. Just think that you yourselves will have to serve for two years to fight against the innocent. You can always count on us, the great majority of us don't want to go. Don't let us down.

LONG LIVE THE BROTHER-HOOD OF WORKERS AND SOLDIERS. WE DON'T WANT FIGHT

Soldiers' Committee."

THE NUREMBERG TRIAL, WHICH BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 20th, 1945, HAS ENDED. GOERING, RIBBENTROP, STREICHER AND OTHERS-LEADERS OF FASCIST GERMANY, SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY ALLIED STATES-MEN IN THEIR DAY-HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH OR TO LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

BUT SHACHT, VON PAPEN AND FRITSCHE HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THEIR GUILT, LIKE THAT OF THE BIG FINANCIERS OF GERMANY, IS NO LESS THAN THE GUILT OF THE OTHER NAZI GANGSTERS.

BUT LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE INDUSTRIALISTS AND BIG FINANCIERS WHO PROFITED FROM THE WAR, THEY ARE TO ESCAPE THEIR JUST DESERTS.

## Battle Against German Workers

of buman rubbish, reaches served to underline it. ghastly lengths of bestiality. The working class of the world, and least of all, of Germany, have no cause for tears over the fate of

Fascism systematises and every socialist worker, long accentuates all the repressive before the Nuremberg trial, brutalities and horrors of but the catalogue there of capitalism in decay. A har- Nazi atracities, of tortures, of rassed and desperate ruling the systematic working to class, utilising the sweepings death of slave labour, have

MOLOTOV DOFFS HIS HAT

to RIBBENTROP, 24th AUG. 1939

The capitalists of Britain, America of France all applauded the

Nazis when they smashed the German working class movement and massacred the finest workers. 'They are as guilty as the Nazis of many of the crimes committed by the latter. Stalin and the Russian

bureaucracy also aided the Nazis and covered up their crimes when it suited their purposes. The Communist Party of Great Britain led by Pollitt would like to forget this at the present time.

"Today so far as the European great powers are concerned,

Germany is in the position of a state which is striving for the earliest termination of the war and for peace, while Britain

and France, which but yesterday were declaiming against aggression are in favour of continuing the war and are opposed

to the conclusion of peace. Roles you see are changing."

In November, 1939, Molotov said:

the Nazi leaders. The statement of General Von. Fritsch, quoted in evidence at Nuremburg, made it elear that one of the major Nazi aims was "to win the battle against the working class". The German workers experienced to the full that aim, experienced it in terms of tortures and executions, police repression and concentration They experienced it at a camps. They experienced it at a time when members of the British and American ruling class, now parading a new found love for democracy and a profound disgust at the Nazi atrocities, were to be found at Hitler's banquets, hailing the bulwark against bolshevism.

# The Real Purpose Of The Trial

For over ten months the Nuremmixed array of international jurors, and the gradually waning interest of the working class. The stated purpose of this display of legal talent, this accumulation of evidence, of accusation and counter accusation, of film, radio and press publicity; was the bringing to book

last world slaughter. However, it is clear, the real reason for the trial lies not in its stated purpose. It is clear that the events in that Nuremburg court room, during the 300 days, were a performance staged by those equally war guilty with the Nazis but attempting to hide their guilt by hypocritical de-nunciations of their fellow bandits. The balance sheet of six years war shows a tremendous expenditure. Millions of lost and shat-tered lives, of broken bodies and minds; and now amidst the devastated economies, rage the followers of war, pestilence and

Nuremburg was an effort, on the part of the Allies, to convince the world working class that once the Nazi leaders pay their reckoning, the account is closed. attempt to shift the blame they share, completely on to the shoulders of the Nazis. It is this real reason for Nuremburg which justifies us in calling the whole trial a farce, a hundred times more farcical than Al Capone indicting and trying Dillinger for gangster-

# Hypocrisy Of Allies

During this ten months, while the prosecutors of Britain, France.

America and the Soviet Union, listed the sickening crimes of Nazism, world events showed the hypocrisy of the prosecuting Allies. Even while the aggressions of the Nazis were being recounted, British Imperialism was maintaining a regime of terror and oppression in Greece, suppressing the colonial peoples struggling for freedom, and strafing Indonesian

Kiesselbach, according to "Tribune" Sept. 6th, declared opponent of de-Nazification—was placed by British Imperialism, in charge of that they could join?

The German "Central Office of that they could join? the German "Central Office of Justice.

While the court-room resounded with castigations of Nazi oppression and racial discrimination. American Imperialist suppression was active in the Phillipines, and lynch law was rampant in the Southern States.

The prosecutors denounced the occupation methods of the Nazis. Yet, even while the French prosecutor mouthed phrases of indigna-tion, the agents of French Imperialism were torturing the natives of Indo-China and burning their villages.

The miseries of slave labour under the Nazis were related to the court at the same time as ten Germans were uprooted and wandered homeless as a result of the wholesale expulsion policy of the Soviet Bureaucracy.

In face of world events during the trial, who can deny that at Nuremburg the pot called the kettle black, blackening itself still further even while doing so?

Officers Should Have Been on Trial Not Men

BY G. NOSEDA

A storm of protest is sweeping through the organised Labour movement in Britain against the vicious sentences imposed upon the Paratroopers at Kluang, Jahore. Of the 255 Paratroopers sentenced at the courtmartials, 8 were originally given 5 years plus discharge with "ignominy". The remaining 247 men, received 3 years' imprisonment and similar discharge. sentences were later reduced to 2 years hard labour-to be served in the East-and ignominious discharge.

These monstrous sentences have charge was another grievance. effective course of action open to them, as a protest at the intolerable and degrading camp conditions under which they were conditions under which they were

expected to live.

The O.C. of the men concerned, claimed in his evidence, that he had warned the men against taking collective action on their plaints, that the only method recognised in the army of present-ing grievances, was by individual complaint. That this procedure is farcical is only too well-known to any worker who has had any contact at all with the armed forces, individual comp'aints on issues of bad conditions, receive scant attention and little redress.

It was this knowledge that was one of the factors in deciding the

paratroopers to stand together in their protest. There was no other effective way open to them. A letter sent by this same O.C. to the Area authorities concerned, asking for some action to be taken for over ten months the Nuremberg trial has run its course. It to improve the terrible and insanitary camp conditions, was not answered, or any radical improvement ment made

It is clear that not the 255 paratroopers should have been court-martialled but those officers martialled but those officers responsible for allowing the filthy camp conditions to continue.

The evidence at the court-martial revealed a complete disregard for the wesfare and elementar, and tary conditions of the men, on the part of the military authorities responsible. Yet this camp hal responsible. been used by troops for months previously. It was in a shocking previously.

For the whole company of men there, as the evidence showed, only four water taps were available and one of those reserved for the use of sergeants. The men complained of "lack of proper washing facilities, shower baths, poor feeding arrangements, and the absence of educational and recreational facilities." The overheaving and The overbearing and unsympathetic attitude of Regimental Sergeant-Major the

been imposed upon these worker-soldiers for during to take the only completely unable to refute these

lecting prosecuting evidence was carried on as happened in the case of the R.A.F. militants who were court-martialled earlier this year. The Investigation Bureau of army was soon on the spot. Gestapo-like methods were used in an attempt to play the men one against the other. To one of the an attempt to play the men one against the other. To one of the paratroopers charged, the investigation officer, Lieut. W. A. Savin, said, "I have got dozens of statements of the men. They are all coming clean. Why don't you?" Intimidation methods were tried on this same paratrooper, the officer threatening him "that he would got? years some of the men would get 3 years, some of the men would get 5 years, some 10, and others would be shot if necessary." These and similar bullying and fascist methods were used against the lads to frighten them into "confessions

These vicious sentences are an act of criminal injustice perpet-rated upon working class youth rated upon working class youth conscripted into the armed forces of British imperialism, by actionary and anti-labour military caste. The san tity of the bureaucratic and totalitarian capitalist eratic and totaline" is placed military "discipline" is placed above the weighte and interests of above the weighter-sonder. The "content of the content of the worker-sorder. The composition of thes 255 victimised paratroopers was that they stood up to and challenged the military autocracy who regard and treat the "other ranks" as cannon-fodder and raw

The organised working movement must solidarise with the victimised paratroopers and demand their immediate and unconditional release. Will Nally, Labour M.P., has vigorously protested at the 'stupid" and vicious sentences, and has stated his intention to raise the matter in Parliament demanding their immediate release, (Continued on Back Page.)

A.E.U. Break-Away Responsibility of A.E.U. Leaders RANK AND FILE MUST WIN BACK A.E.A. WORKERS

BY F. EMMETT

The strike of Air Line began to organise, the question of workers on September 12th shop stewards was raised, and in at least one district (Croydon) the Cannot be easily understood District Committee of the A.E.U. unless the background to the dispute is examined. Why should a comparatively unknown organisation — the shown to have no basis among the A.E.A. (Aeronautical En-workers. Nevertheless, the Cornal Corna

gineers Association) suddenly of the national agreement refused hit the headlines by striking to recognise the shop stewards. The British prosecutor prated for recognition? Why should down. The stage was set for a show-bont justice. Meanwhile, Dr. workers join and remain in about justice. Meanwhile, Dr. Workers join and remain in between leading an advance, which Kiesselbach, according to "Trithat they could join?

it led the retreat. Union officials talked the workers into accepting Put simply—perhaps over simply the answer is that these workers have lost confidence in the established Unions (A.E.U., E.T.U., T.G.W.U., etc.). These Unions were parties to the original B.O.A.C. agreement and it is from this agreement that the more re-cent happenings have developed.

The agreement allowed for a "Works Committee" to be set up in each of the Corporation's bases which would consist of delegates from the shops, elected irrespective of Union membership. Nons could vote and could be elected. This ruled out the traditional form of representation by Shop Stewards. The agreement also fixed wages comparatively low scale

(skilled rate is even now only 2/3½ per hour), and laid down that wage rates could only be altered by negotiation between the Union

Executives and the Corporation.

Fixing of the rates at even a
District level was ruled out, leave
alone negotiation on the job. When, after the agreement was already in force, the workers

Even with the agreement in operation the workers concerned still showed their readiness to struggle. Within the very narrow limits which the agreement set, they obtained by action on the job small improvements in conditions: but any move to make any basic of bureaucratic negotiations at the top far removed from the rank and

the agreement, and on the basis of this fait accompli the District

Committee was able to change its

position.

Consequently, offered an alternative organisation which promised them a "democratic" Union, catering specifically for Civil Aviation, with direct representation on the Executive body from the bases, many of the best elements among the B.O.A.C. workers decided that here was a way of solving their problems; they broke

(Continued on Back Page.)

# LESSONS OF THE SQUATTERS MOVEMENT Statement Issued by the London District Committee, R.C.P.

The squatters had to leave their new houses, forced out by the State acting on behalf of the rich propertyowners. But the fight for housing the homeless and overcrowded continues. To bring this fight to a victorious conclusion, we must learn the lessons of the Squatters' Movement.

# Effect of the Movement

This movement has had some great efforts. First of all, it has "great efforts. First of all, it has brought the reality of the housing problem sharply before the eyes of the people of this country. It has shown up the plight to which millions of people are condemned, as a result of capitalist rule. Building has been carried out for the profit of private builders, speculators and landlords, not for the needs of the people. Those who can now have the good homes. the needs of the people. Those who can pay have the good homes the mass of workers are condemned to slums or homelessness.

empty luxury houses of the rich. The owners of these properties, backed up by the Capitalist state, drive them out in the name of the "sacred rights of property". Only

the working class, in mortal in order to meet the most ele-struggle with the capitalist class, can show the way to solve the The Government follows in the housing crisis.

These are the positive achieve ments of the Movement. The Squatters deserve the gratitude of the whole working class for taking the struggle for homes a step

# Role of Labour Leaders

And the movement has done a great job of educating the working class itself. It has shown that when the Labour Government is faced by a revolutionary threat to It has shown that housing is a class question. The workers driven to desperation, attempt to satisfy their needs by invading the empty luxury houses of the rich. The owners of these properties, nothing more than a "Labour Lieutenant of the Capitalist Class."

footsteps of all capitalist politicians and the Yellow Press. Instead of attacking the cause of the problem, and taking vigorous measures to solve it, they immediately scream that "agitators" are responsible. It is the same method as they iploy when the workers go on strike.

# Protest Arrests

We denounce the Government's We denounce the Government's action in arresting Communist Party Leaders, and call for the immediate withdrawal of all charges against them. A Broad Defence Committee must be set up, representive of all sections of the Labour Movement and of those who defend givel liberties with the who defend civil liberties, with the task of campaigning for this

## For An Honest Accounting But if we are to make an honest

accounting, it must be admitted that the movement failed to achieve the desired result. The threat of eviction has succeeded, and the luxury houses will return to the rightful" owners.
The squatters found themselves

in a hopeless position. With the whole power of the State against them, only a great mass movement of the working class could have defended them. But it did not come in time. As a result, the squatters had no alternative but to

leave.

This was not an accident. Those who led the movement, namely the Commanist Party Leadership, bear the responsibility.

Lack of Political Preparation The movement should have been preceded by a wide political cam-(Continued on Back Page.)

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