



"The present war is a war of motors"—Joseph Stalin,  
Soviet Premier, 6th. November, 1941.

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Health



Transport



Leave



Food



Democratic Rights



Removal of Fascists



Modern Methods



Air Support

Communist Party

# PROGRAM for the SOLDIERS

# Communist Party Program For The Soldiers

**The best soldier is the one who knows what he's fighting for, and has the best conditions possible, the best training and the best equipment. Bad food, floggings and brutal discipline were considered for centuries the best way to toughen up soldiers. Army leaders learnt better in recent years.**

In proposing the following improvements, a full study of all the conditions and possibilities were made. They are real demands. If the situation worsens, the soldiers will be the first to forgo comforts.

These are not demands for "privileges." They are simple needs which can be granted. They are needed to make the Aussies as tough a fighting force as any in the world.

1. **Two days rostered home leave per month, plus travelling time. Local leave to be at least three nights a weeks.**

Simplest way of relieving the men's grievances without causing unnecessarily large absentees during such critical times is for the men's leave to be rostered, so that they know some time in advance when they are to get leave. The addition of travelling time is an obvious need for men in country camps.

2. **Free transport for all troops.**

To men in receipt of only 6s. cash per day—some as little as 2s. per day—this needs no comment.

3. **Improved medical attention and facilities.**

In many instances the sick parades are a farce. "Light duties" often include the most unpleasant and unhealthy work. A shortage of doctors is sometimes used to explain away the sorry plight of medical attention. The answer to this should be the registration of foreign doctors, many of whom, world renowned specialists, are doing menial tasks for a living. This would release more of our own doctors for the army.

4. **Immediate review of catering services to eliminate pilfering, waste and inefficiency in preparation of food.**

Army regulations allow for ample food supplies of good quality. Cause of bad food or shortage is pilfering, waste and inefficiency. Any soldiers in camp will realise the justice of this point.

5. **Soldiers' Recreational and Welfare Committees to be set up. Such committees to have representation on all Courts Martial and Crime Parades.**

Not only would such committees be an avenue by which soldiers' grievances could be rectified without fear of victimisation—thereby lifting the morale of our troops—but also these committees could assist in the planning of, and be the driving force for, efficient training.

6. **Removal of Blimps and pro-fascist officers. Accelerated promotion of outstanding rankers to commissions to be based on ability only.**

The tragedies of Dunkirk, Greece and Crete and Singapore are too well known to require amplification. By comparison the defeat of the fascists in China and particularly in Russia, where young men promoted from the ranks hold leading positions (Timoshenko, a blacksmith's son is one) proves that Boer War minded generals cannot lead a People's War against Fascism. Such Fascist individuals as Major De Groot and Colonel Eric Campbell—open admirers of Hitler and bashers of workers in the New Guard Days—have no place in a People's War.

7. **Army organisation and training to be brought into line with the needs of modern warfare.**

Many of our training manuals are reprints of those compiled for English conditions of half a century ago. Training methods include many hours of routine drill which can be dispensed with in a few hours. The stiffening up of Home Defence Forces and our training methods with young, battle-experienced men from the Middle East is a development to be applauded.

8. **Adequate air support in all military actions.**

Again the tragedies of Dunkirk, Greece and Crete are so well known that this point needs no amplification.

9. **The armed forces not to be used to break strikes.**

Irrespective of the justice or otherwise of the action of strikers, the use of the armed forces in breaking strikes leads to conflict and hostility in the community, in a period when there is the direst need for national unity.