

# CITIZEN SOLDIER

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## Australian Offensive Needed

### HIGH COMMAND MUST BE OVERHAULED

(REPRINTED FROM THE "TRIBUNE")

Along with the news of the Jap landing at Gona and raids on Townsville and Darwin, came further accounts of increased Jap concentrations in Manchuria. Several of their crack generals are said to have been shifted north.

## WE DO IT AGAIN

Last issue we broke into print. This time we've increased our size as well as included special columns for the Navy and Air Force.

We see this as a symbol of the growing unity of the three services and the people as a whole.

Our next issue, to be larger again, will, we hope, be brighter than ever.

If this progress is to be maintained it's up to you to supply us with news. This is your paper to express your views and interests. Help us to keep improving it.

the EDITOR.

## Citizen Soldier Gets Action

"Hospitals, Con. Depots and C.D.S.'s Need Urgent Attention" ran a headline in our last edition. The article drew the authorities' attention to the appalling conditions in a Con. Depot housing 1200 men.

Last week we were told (report unconfirmed) that the building has been condemned. We now look forward to further action—replacing, remodelling or whatever is necessary.

Point 3 of our Program for the Soldier... "Improved Medical Attention and Facilities."

One construction placed on these moves is that Tokio plans, by seizing Port Moresby, to eliminate possibilities of Allied action from the South and thus secure a free hand for the Siberian adventure. But it would be fatal to suppose that even with Japan committed to an attack on the Soviet—and events may yet induce Tokio to hold off indefinitely—that Australia is "free" from danger. Japan remains extremely powerful, and quite capable of full-scale war both north and south.

Gona and the air raids have helped shake the country out of complacency, but the full implications of the struggle in the Pacific have yet to be fully understood. Production needs not merely increasing, but literally doubling and trebling. Over-hauling of the High Command has become urgent, and this involves more than ridding the army of the Blamey-Bennett incompetents.

Japan has been allowed the initiative for far too long; it must be denied her whatever designs and hopes Tokio's militarists may harbour. Here in the Pacific, as in Europe, the only valid strategy is action, attack! Take the war to Tokio! The soldiers and workers will make every sacrifice and gladly, if they see their efforts put to the task of quickly and decisively smashing the enemy.

COMMUNIST PARTY'S PROGRAM FOR THE SOLDIERS—  
READ and DISCUSS

## LIFT COMMUNIST PARTY BAN

### Unleash Great Force For Victory

The Field Security Unit is, or should be, a most valuable unit in the army, in tracking down enemy spies and other individuals who work—consciously or otherwise—in the interests of the Axis.

However, in using such a unit to pimp on working class organisations within the army—organisations whose chief concern is to broaden army democracy, lift the morale of the troops and thus speed victory—the authorities concerned are actually misusing such a unit.

Recently CITIZEN SOLDIER warned you of an individual named Hans Erickson (real name Olaf Grebst) believed to be in the army. Latest one is Harry Johnson (real name Groning) who has been located spying on a soldiers' committee—ostensibly as one of its most ardent members.

It is not of our choice that we Communists have to meet illegally. It was the choice of the "Scrap for the Jap" Menzies government.

Legalise the Communist Party and unleash a great force to work for a speedy victory.



"I was wondering if you could manage a bit of a raise—things are so dear in the canteen."



## LEADER

## Second Front NOW

In camps and at battle stations the question most heard is "Why is there no Second Front?"

"Why is our Soviet Ally left to fight all Europe alone?"

Anger is mounting as the Nazis drive deeper into Russian territory.

"Diggers," old and new, are demanding that Churchill's pledge to Molotov be fulfilled without further delay.

It is recognised that difficulties bar the way to a Second Front, but these are infinitesimal compared with the obstacles our ally faced up to and overcame successfully.

Australians were given a difficult task in defending Tobruk, but with the support of the British Navy they carried it out.

It was a difficult task to extricate the British army from Dunkirk. But again, with the co-operation of the Navy and Air Force, it was accomplished.

The valuable time-gaining rear-guard defence of the Philippines shows that our American allies are also quite capable of gallant feats of endurance.

There should then be no obstacles to a Second Front so insurmountable that the courage and resourcefulness of the Allied Forces cannot overcome them.

Mr. Curtin, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Roosevelt, the men of Australia's fighting forces join with the people of the allied nations in demanding that the Second Front be opened NOW.

Why there must be a Second Front"—page 4

## WATCH THIS MAN

We were reminded of the crack that "...journalism is the oldest profession in the world" when we heard about Lt. Brown. You see, he worked on the "Daily Mirror."

In training at a guerilla school, he sports two ribbons to win the sympathy of radicals. One he says is that of an International Brigader from the Spanish "civil" war and the other a Communist International Medal.

Brown is a crony of Gregory Foster, heeler for R.W. Miller and Co. (coal bosses and inciters of industrial disputes).

Keep your nose away from Brown—he's a bad egg.



IN THE MASTER'S FOOTSTEPS

## A COMRADE WRITES

(A comrade at a large training camp in the west writes to us.)

"Dear C.S.—The tucker here is good in quality, quantity and variety. This is due to good training and selection of cooks. (However, incompetency of cooks is by no means the only cause of bad food; faulty supp'y due to ordnance bungling, or pilfering, is often the cause.—Ed.)

"This camp seems destined to have a few b—s amongst its officers. Last time it was Captain Waugh who absconded with men's money. Now it's Lt. Finch.

"Finch who has been two years in the A.I.F. without leaving Australia was giving the troops on parade a pep-talk the other day. He told them "to have a bit of guts when you go into action and not be like those fellows in Malaya who squibbed it and ran away." On that parade were several returned men, some from Malaya.

## MEN'S CORRECT ACTION

"The men did the right thing. Instead of stirring up discontent in the camp and trying to take any recriminatory measures, they took the matter up with the C.O. Although he hushed the affair to some extent and took no action against Finch, the latter was given a thorough dressing-down.

There is a tendency amongst a

few inexperienced young officers to offer such insults to the diggers and the wives and mothers of men who are still over there. They all base themselves on Gordon Bennett's report. (He should talk about running away!) This should be made public so that it then can be publicly discussed and if necessary the men given a chance to defend themselves.

## NEED FOR COMMITTEES

"This incident is further proof of the need for soldiers' Recreation and Welfare Committees, as suggested in the Party's Program for the Soldier, that could protect the men against such attacks.

"Months ago CITIZEN SOLDIER reported on the transport "facilities" from the town to this camp. Now they are worse. In addition, taxis have been taken on the road. With few and inadequate buses which, often as not, break down when loaded, thousands of troops have to walk to and from town when they get a night's leave. The position is intolerable.

"The Government should take over transport and give the troops decent travelling facilities."

Point (2) of Our Program for the Soldier reads:

FREE TRANSPORT FOR ALL TROOPS



# Why We Lost Malaya

GORDON BENNETT'S NOVEL EXPLANATION

By "SOLDIER"

(Reprinted from the "TRIBUNE" official organ of the C.P.)

At last the secret of Malaya's easy fall is out. The Japs gave us the jitters and we quit.

This is the novel explanation advanced in Notes compiled by Lieut.-General H.G. Bennett.

Presumably they are based on data in his personal diary—that mysterious little book whose disappearance and subsequent recovery caused so much speculative comment at the time of his sudden return to Australia.

It was not, as we thought, suicidal complacency in high quarters, not the criminal bungling of the generals, not the lack of adequate air support for our troops, which brought defeat. No, if Bennett's view is to be accepted, we were beaten by a jingle in the jungle.

"When the operations of the present war are examined closely, especially those in Malaya, it is realised that defects and retreats are brought about principally by the new weapon, NOISE. The more eerie the noise, the more effective—anything that can give the troops the jitters."

It appears that we are wrong also in thinking that more planes, tanks and guns are needed to bring victory. Bennett, the great authority on modern warfare, who escaped at great personal risk from Malaya to give us the benefit of his valuable experience, claims we must.

## Counter Attack With Noise

"The Japanese are very susceptible to howling noises. When the Australians charged them with the bayonet, they went into the attack with a terrifying yell. The Japanese could not stand it—they ran away screaming time after time (in the direction of Singapore?)

"The yell terrified them as much as the sight of cold steel.

"We must invent and use every ingenious device that can terrify frightened men. Siren whistles should be used, with discretion, of course. Even a soft tapping of wood or metal constantly all night long near their lines will worry them. Animal noises, even eerie lights, will have an effect."

Then we are treated to a glimpse of the author's reactionary social philosophy.

"Sudden unexpected noises will shock anyone even the bravest men. The modern youth seems to be more sensitive than the men of the older generation. Whether this is due to the effect of the last war on them or their mothers or the 'molly-coddling' of the present generation, is a matter for the scientists to say. Of late our young people have had life served up to them

on a silver platter, whereas their parents had to rough it.

We don't know where H.G.B. gets the silver platter stuff from. Ours was pawned during the depression years and hasn't yet been redeemed.

If this is the best contribution he is capable of making towards Australia's war effort, we can be pardoned for making a few additional suggestions.

Since the worthy Lieut.-General puts such a high premium on noise as a war winning factor, what's wrong with raising a new "B o o Guard" expeditionary force. We feel sure he retains the necessary contacts.

No Japanese, unless he be a real Mackayo, could withstand the shock of sighting Major de Groote mounted on his white charger. What a pity he wasn't with Bennett in Singapore. His prowess with the sword might have led to a better job being performed in cutting the Johore Causeway.

Then there's Colonel Eric Campbell. His talent could be put to good use in supplying the required animal noises. An able assistant would be forthcoming in the person of Mr. Thorby.

## Suggested Occupations

The soft tapping of wood or metal at first sight presents some difficulties. But perhaps Bob Menzies and Archie Cameron could be induced to help the Nation out.

The desired effect could no doubt be procured by the former gently massaging the skull of the latter with a selected piece of pig iron.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

Co-operation of authorities and men assist introduction of new scheme.

An Education Committee of the men in a certain M.T. unit has been established to introduce and popularise the weekly discussion scheme based on the Current Affairs Bulletin.

Military Board Instruction of 15. 3.42 lays it down that all Australian troops must be allowed at least half an hour per week to discuss International and Home Affairs, presented weekly in C.A.B. This scheme, says the M.B.I., must not stifle any rational discussion from the men, and in fact must be broad and interesting to show the men why they fight.

## BASIS for VICTORY

It recognises that only on this basis will the real aggressive determination for victory be established.

We hear that in some camps the scheme is not operating, despite its being military law. Some C.O.'s may think it would not be popular with the men,

It is the men's job to prove otherwise. Go now to your unit officer and ask about the introduction of this scheme.

We nominate Billy Hughes to provide the pyrotechnic display. His immunity from counter attack renders him doubly valuable as a shock trooper.

Since empty vessels are reputed to make the most sound, we don't think Mr. Fadden's claims should be overlooked when this force is being organised.

Last but not least, we think that General Blamey, who endorses Bennett's views, should go along to maintain discipline. Although if discipline, like charity begins at home, he may not be the wisest choice.

Seriously, the time has arrived when the Bennetts and the Blameys should be removed from their posts. Their narrow hidedound conservatism is hindering the war effort and delaying, if not putting in outright jeopardy, the prospects of allied victory. Instead of shielding these people from justified criticism, the Prime Minister should demand from them that they show worthwhile results or get out, to make way for younger, more capable men who have demonstrated under fire their capacity to absorb and apply the lessons of modern warfare.



# Why There MUST Be A Second Front

60,000 people in London's Trafalgar Square, big rallies in U.S.A., great Town Hall meeting in Sydney, and the common people in the democratic countries the world over all call for the opening of a Second Front NOW.

What are the chief reasons put forward for the delay and what is the real position?

## SHIPPING SHORTAGE

Does not the present shipping shortage prevent the opening of a Second Front, is often asked.

There is a shipping shortage but there is no guarantee that the position will improve. In fact, the activity of Nazi U Boats shows that it is more likely to become worse, so that if we are to wait for more ships we might wait for years. By that time the fate of the world may be decided.

Further, when Hitler threatened to invade Britain he was going to use barges. Surely if Britain was considering invading the Continent similar preparations would have been made. We don't need ships like the "Mary" or the "Lizzie" to hop across the 22 miles from England to France.

Again, if shipping is a problem it will be ten times more difficult to keep an army supplied in the Middle East which is 13,000 miles away, than to reinforce an army less than 100 miles from Britain, on the Con-

## DARWIN

Letters from Darwin reveal that the boys are standing up well to the Japanese bombing and are well prepared for any emergencies.

One question which bothers them however, is the slowness with which the Army Minister's promise of home leave is being fulfilled.

Some have been up there for 19 months and more, without a break.

A few weeks rostered leave down South would freshen them up, they feel, and increase their efficiency to deal with the would-be invaders.

continent; especially when we know the effect a second European front will have in weakening the Nazis not only in Russia but also in Egypt.

## AIR SUPREMACY

Are there sufficient planes for an invasion?

Yes. Britain has complete air supremacy over Western Europe and could prepare a pathway for an invasion force with her thousands of heavy bombers.

The force itself? Britain has up to 5 million trained men who are well equipped. Ralph Ingersoll, editor of New York paper "P.M." stated nine months ago that "Britain was more like an arsenal than a battle station."

## CORRECT STRATEGY?

Is the opening of a Second Front the best military strategy at the present time?

Germany could never cope with a two-front war at this stage. Hitler's forces are scattered over many fronts and he is using tens of thousands to keep Europe in subjection.

## LEADERS SUPPORT FRONT

Besides the Soviet leaders like Stalin, Timoshenko, Litvinov and Maisky—who would not make the call if they thought the Second Front was not necessary or possible—we can also point to Lord Beaverbrook, General de Gaulle, General Sikorsky, General McNaughton (Canadian C-in C. in Britain), General Anders and many others.

Hitler has made 1942 the decisive year. All the armaments to be produced next year will be useless if Hitler wins in Russia.

## OPEN THE SECOND FRONT NOW!

## ARMY EDUCATION

### COLONEL BLIMP TO MAJOR BOOFHEAD

Gad, sir! They can't learn politics,  
For if they do WE'RE in a fix.  
If they start to reason why  
They realise the M.B.I.  
Is made to breed the will to win—  
To crack the Japs, to smash Berlin,  
And build a new world order too—  
And then, by Gad, what will WE do? —S.F.



## WELCOME NEWS

From a large M.T. training centre near Sydney comes news we like to hear. Food is very good and plentiful. Complaints are not "wiped off" but promptly attended to.

When men complained of excess of salads for luncheon and drew attention to fact that this was not in accordance with Standard Menu laid down, salads were at once replaced by hot meals.

Consequently, troops are putting their backs into it with added vigor and morale and discipline are high accordingly.

## EVERY GALLON COUNTS

Scene: A near city camp.

Junior officer to senior N.C.O.:

"Order two trucks for 0800 hours to-morrow to take a working party of 12 to so-and-so."

Senior N.C.O.: "Pardon me, sir, but wouldn't one truck be sufficient?"

Officer: "Good heavens, no. That would mean one of us would have to ride in the back with the men."

N.C.O.: "Well sir, I don't mind riding with the men going out, and you could ride with them coming back."

Officer: "But my dear fellow, it isn't done. You know the army views on discipline and how it frowns on officers and N.C.O.'s mixing with the men, and all that."

N.C.O.: "Yes sir, but there's also a Routine Order which calls on us to conserve petrol. I think this is more important than any loss of prestige that might result from riding with the men."

After a little further argument the N.C.O. won his point and the Army was some gallons of petrol better off.

In contrast with the above is the action of a Colonel in a certain country camp who orders out the staff car each Sunday to take him to tennis.

Take a tumble, Colonel! There's a war on. Every gallon counts.



# AIR FORCE

**Wings** The ever expanding R.A.A.F. still needs trainees for ground and air staff. Prospect of rapid advancement is good for those with necessary qualifications. Some knowledge of maths, electricity and magnetism, Morse, and aircraft recognition, is a big asset for Army Personnel who may be contemplating a transfer. If good marks are obtained in the prelim. exams, providing one has the necessary determination to succeed, it is not difficult to rise to commissioned rank.

**Initial Training** During the first six weeks of the budding airman's life pressure is intense and discipline severe but generally not harsh.

75 per cent of each day is given to lessons on the subjects mentioned above plus training in Squad Drill, Gas, armaments, Law and Administration, and Hygiene.

This course is not easy for a person unfamiliar with these subjects. But a fine spirit of comradeship prevails, with the stronger students helping the weaker over difficulties.

**Pernicious Practice** A bad feature during this period is the threat of being made an Air Gunner, whose pay is less than any other member of the air crew, which is held over the heads of the boys, ostensibly to egg them on to a maximum effort. CITIZEN SOLDIER believes that the air-gunner's pay should not be less than that of any other member of air crew, as is the position now. We feel that the first to support this request are the other air crew members. This threat is not only unnecessary, it is harmful since it belittles the role of the A.G. and tends to undermine the all important requisite in good flying—TEAMWORK amongst the crew.

**Treatment** Generally the men are well treated in the initial training centre. Grievances, when ventilated in the proper manner, are usually attended to.

The instructors are experienced men who know their job and have the knack of imparting their knowledge to their students. A good co-operative and friendly spirit exists between most officers and men.

## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Troops in a certain training camp were being instructed in the art of combating aerial attack.

The instructor was an earnest young sergeant recently out of an Army school.

He had an excellent theoretical grip of his subject, but lacked practical experience.

Not so with one of his audience who had seen service at road.

On many points the theory put forward by the instructor was at such odds with practice that the returned man could not refrain from "putting his spoke in."

### CHANGED PLACES

This gave rise to an exchange of opinions which soon became heated and culminated in the instructor inviting his interjector to change places with him.

The challenge was taken up and the "amateur" instructor finished the lecture.

Unknown to the participants their superior officer was an interested spectator from a vantage point in the background.

### CHEERS FOR THE C.O.

Instead of the anticipated "dressing down" for such temerity, the usurper was promoted on the spot and placed in charge of future training.

Cheers for the C.O. with the courage to defy tradition. It's actions like this we want to raise morale and discipline.

Officers and men alike are imbued with a spirit of confidence in the R.A.A.F. and have an offensive outlook which bodes ill for the Japs when they go into action.

**Recreation Facilities** ...are quite good. Compulsory sport of one's own choice takes place on one afternoon each week. Pictures are shown four nights a week and, to vary the bill of fare, concert parties visit the camp weekly.

Position will be even better when the Library is opened. Donations of books like "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists," "Quite Flows the Don," etc., would be greatly appreciated.

## "KEEPING THEM INTERESTED"



By  
"Private's  
Batman"

(A recent A.T.M. suggests this for keeping troops interested: Have the men who are left in camp on Saturday night kidnap a damsel. Later on, the men returning from leave are to be told of this. They will pursue the snatchers, give battle and rescue the dame.)

The long hours I've devoted to the problem of keeping the men interested, and I never thought of this before!

This is a good scheme. No doubt about it. But let's get to work on it and make it a bobby-dazzler.

Why stop at one dame? Rather, let each man pick out a piece of soft goods for himself and make for the bush.

Then the men returning from leave at 2345 hours could go after the cads and rescue the poor girl.

However, this would probably result in a Second Front—or at least a major battle—being started right here in Australia.

Breakfast next morning would be a little later than usual. But for once the usual topic of whether the cook should be cremated like his porridge or just decently buried would not come up.

Perhaps we could ask Mr. Theodore to organise the woman-power for this scheme.

More and better kidnapping should be our slogan. The Government beat us to the "Australia First" traitors, but there's always Menzies. We could pick him up just as he was about to make another speech. No one would know, except the reporters, and the "Herald" would still print the speech he didn't give.

As it happens, the A.T.M. suggests that it might be advisable to use, not a real dame, but a dummy.

In that case, the Colonel can do his own kidnapping.

IF YOU MUST TALK, TALK ABOUT THE SECOND FRONT



# ★NAVY★

## PAY AND WELFARE COMMITTEES IN R.A.N.

We Communists have consistently maintained that one of the needs of the men of the Navy and all other forces is that their dependents be assured of a reasonable standard of living.

Prior to the outbreak of war, this vital question was one which had a great deal of open discussion through the Welfare Committees of the R.A.N., which were then in existence.

However, it did not take the U.A.P. Government long to abolish these in 1934, because the Lower Deck was making good use of them.

The revised method, instituted nearly two years later, the "Review of Service Conditions," was obviously intended to offset the demand for their restoration.

## PREVENTED REAL STATEMENT

This "Review" method, consisting of the selection of representatives by the Officers, was intended to prevent real statement of the men's cases by democratically appointed representatives.

We Communists in the Navy congratulate the Labor Government on its decision to increase the pay of the fighting forces and trust that it will keep in mind that the pay of naval ratings should be increased to conform with that of members of the other forces.

Also, we wish to draw the Government's attention to the need for the reinstitution of Democratic Welfare Committees to aid in strengthening still further the morale and fighting ability of the men who keep the sea lanes open.

## RACE PREJUDICE

Wendell Wilkie, speaking from Washington, declared that race prejudice was dying out rapidly in the U.S.A. under the stress of the present war.

President Roosevelt also intimated that "Jim Crowism" would no longer be tolerated in the U.S. Army.

Therefore Australian Army authorities responsible for the instruction that Australian troops must not associate with negroes are out of step.

Troops are incensed at this memo and demand its cancellation.

## COMRADES

MT 1 Branch can boast that it has always paid its dues regularly. Can you or your Branch?

7HQ Branch organised a branch meeting and applied for a Party leader to attend. A C.C. member was there, and although attendance was disappointing because of unexpected duties being given to some members at the last moment, discussion should prove very valuable to the branch.

East Sydney leader has been elected chairman of new Metropolitan Committee. Congratulations, Alf.

The Party has doubled its membership since outbreak of war. Will you join?

Cumberland has ceded part of one of its zones to West Sydney. However, Cumberland's leader, Stan, still needs a plane to inspect his District.

Who said women comrades couldn't lead? Have a look at North Sydney. Their D.C. is predominantly women.

West Sydney claim the only rival to their new education scheme is the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute in Moscow. Good work, Tom!

Get a copy of PARTY BUILDER when next on leave and learn how the Socialist competition is going.

PASS THIS PAPER ON

## Casual Comment

### NOT FAIR TO HITLER

The Communist Party has been legalised in India and Canada and soon will be in Australia. Maybe Major Cameron, M.P., of "I" Section will speak to Hitler about it.

### DEFEATIST

According to Lieut. Sir Douglas Brownrigg the threat of invasion compels Hitler to keep as many troops in Europe as the actual invasion would. Tell us, Sir Doug, if the threats were big enough would Hitler's entire army leave Russia, and if so could we win the war that way?

### UP THE FAMILY TREE

American genealogists have proved that Churchill, Roosevelt and General MacArthur are related. Keep it up boys and we'll soon have Stalin and Chang Kai Shek in the family.

### NERO NOT IN IT

Still the calmest people in Egypt, the British refuse to get rattled and are light-heartedly planning big parties in Cairo for three months ahead, writes Bertha Caster. Meanwhile Allied soldiers are shedding their blood in the most momentous struggle in history.

### NEXT PLEASE

The razor slipped. A deputy leader of the Gestapo had his throat cut while being shaved by a Yugo-Slav barber.

### LIFT THAT BAN!

"Communism under Stalin has produced the most valiant fighting army in Europe.

"Communism under Stalin has won the applause and admiration of all western nations.

"Communism under Stalin has produced the best generals in this war."

J.B. Miles? No, Lord Beaverbrook. And Australian troops agree. That is why many of them are joining the Communist Party, while many more are demanding that the ban on its legality be lifted.

### WE AGREE

Open up that Second Front,  
Give 'em all a gun—  
Let 'em start a dinkum stunt,  
And Hitler's day is done.—S.F.

### "SCRAP IRON"

"Pig Iron" Bob Menzies went to Albury recently to give a lecture. Going over in train he had a very hot time. All along the stations the people were singing out "Scrap Iron Menzies, Scrap Iron Menzies."

So he didn't give the lecture at Albury and said, "I feel like a piece of scrap iron. It is too hot."

### ASTORS AND "PIG IRON"

The infamous Lady Astor leader of the Cliveden Set is in the news again with a treacherous attack on our Soviet ally. Which calls to our minds a gentleman called Pig Iron. One time Prime Minister of Australia who boasted about being matey with "Nancy" in an air raid shelter. He said they talked about Politics.

Their Fuhrer was not present thanks to British guts and the R.A.F.

## LIFT BAN ON COMMUNIST PARTY

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