

**The  
COMMUNIST PARTY  
Speaks to . . .**

# ***THE ARMY***

*including the*

**Communist Party  
Programme for  
Soldiers**

**Published by Communist Party of Victoria  
Soldiers' Welfare Committee**



# How to Help Win the War in YOUR Unit . . .

IF you're one of the half million Australians in uniform, this is addressed to YOU. You may say you're helping to win the war by being in the armed forces — you're right. But we'll win the war a hell of a lot quicker if we don't just let it go at that.

PERHAPS yours is a good unit, efficient, well trained, hard-working — a lot are — and you see no need to do any more. Perhaps you're in a rotten unit — there are some of these too — and you see no hope of doing anything about it. You're both wrong: there's plenty to be done to make every soldier a better soldier and every unit a better unit — a unit better fitted to its job in a People's War, in the struggle of the United Nations against fascism.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY says there's more to winning the war than learning how to fire a rifle. Communists know that it IS necessary to have the best possible military training. It looks as if Communists in the Soviet Union have learned to fire rifles and a few other things too — including Colonel Blimps, to judge by results. But they know, too, that it's just as important to know WHY we're fighting — what we're fighting FOR.

THE RED ARMY knows what it's fighting for. "Pravda," the leading Soviet newspaper, says — "The high level of political education and morale in the Red Army is one of the decisive conditions for victory over the enemy." So too, the Australian and American soldiers attacking the Axis from our country must understand that this war is against fascism — that the complete destruction of fascism is in the interest of all human beings, and that all people must be united in this one common aim.

YOU have a limited freedom of political discussion — in groups organised under Army Education, and in the weekly discussion of "Current Affairs Bulletin:" the pages of "Salt" are open to you. This is only a small beginning — these few channels are not enough to give you and your mates the opportunity to learn what fascism really is and the need for its defeat. Unit Education Officers should be properly trained for their job at schools established for the purpose.

**The Communist Party stands for greater democracy in the Army, for the right of free political discussion in every camp and battle station, for the right of every soldier to play his part as a citizen of a democratic country.**



# **10-Point Programme for Soldiers . . .**

This program is designed to make the Australians as tough and efficient fighting force as any in the world. Australia has a fine democratic tradition. Here is a way to extend it to the army——

## **1. All Army Organisation and Training to be Brought Into Line with the Needs of Modern Warfare.**

The Labour Government has done much to stiffen up training methods with young men back from Libya, but not enough. Out-of-date training manuals must be dumped; routine, parade-ground drill cut to a minimum. More tactical exercises on taking cover, advancing under fire, unarmed combat, methods of improvising equipment, are urgently necessary. Real action will not be so difficult if we have had realistic battle practice. Officers must make fuller practical use of "Training Memoranda," which are a good basis for training.

## **2. Greater Army-Air Co-Operation. and Between All Arms. Adequate Air Support in All Military Actions.**

The Coral Sea and Solomons battles show this lesson is being learned, Greece and Crete must never happen again. More battle practice is necessary, with infantry, armoured forces, R.A.A.F. and V.D.C. co-operating and learning to work with one another. V.D.C. should be developed so they can look after Home Defence, thus releasing all class 1 men for offensive action against Japan.

## **3. Two Days Rostered Home Leave per Month, Plus Travelling Time Local Leave Three Nights a Week, where Practical.**

With a just and regular division of leave, soldiers will have fewer grievances and will put everything they've got into their training. Rostering can be arranged so that at no one time are a large number away from the unit. Men would know when they were going to get leave ahead of time and "Plus travelling time" means that every-one gets equal leave.

## **4. Immediate Review of Catering Services to Eliminate Pilfering, Waste and Inefficiency in Preparation of Food.**

Army regulations allow for plenty of food of good quality. Bad food or shortages can only be due to pilfering, waste or inefficient handling and cooking. Mess Committees would help to solve this problem.



**5. Removal of Blimps and Pro-Fascists from the Army.**  
**Accelerated Promotion of Outstanding Men in Ranks**  
**to Commissions, Based Only on Ability.**

Boer-War - minded generals and incompetent public school boys cannot lead a People's War against fascism. This was proved by Greece, Crete, Singapore, Burma. In China and the Soviet Union young men promoted from the ranks hold leading positions and are showing how to defeat fascism—Timoshenko, a blacksmiths son, was a private. Fascists such as Major Cameron, Major de Groot and Colonel E. Campbell - open admirers of Hitler - have no place in a People's War.

**6. Increased Pay and Dependents' Allowances: a Man's Pay for a Man's Job.**

Communists support the Curtin Government's recent pay increases for soldiers to the full - Communists have been demanding it for months. Soldiers' pay should still be increased. By increased taxes, not on lower incomes, but on high incomes and company profits.

**7. Free Transport for all Troops**

Soldiers on six bob a day-some on two bob-can't afford civilian transport rates.

**8. Improved Medical Attention and Facilities.**

Sick parades are often a farce. "Light Duties" should mean light duties. If shortage of doctors is reason for bad medical attention in camps, foreign doctors (many are now doing menial tasks for a living in Australia) should be registered, thus releasing more of our own doctors for the Army.

**9. Soldiers' Welfare Committees to be set up- and Represented on all Courts Martial and Crime Parades.**

All soldiers would be better soldiers if they could raise their grievances through such committees without fear of victimisation, and have them fairly dealt with. Welfare committees could greatly improve relations between officers and men, could assist in planning efficient training, and, be a driving force to see that it is carried out.

**10. 100 p.c. Co-Operation between Workers - Soldiers.**

Armies are useless without production armies behind the lines. Whether strikes are justified or not, soldiers must never be used in breaking them - such actions lead to conflict and hostility when there is the direst need for national unity.

**That's the Communist program Dig, don't you think it would help win the war in YOUR unit?**