

OBITUARY.

Michael (better known as Mick) Harmel was born in Johannesburg. His father was a former secretary of the Dublin Socialist Party. Michael took his M.A. degree at Rhodes University in 1937. In 1938 he became a reporter on the staff of the Daily Worker in London - the then Communist Party paper. He joined the British Communist Party.

Michael returned to South Africa in 1940, and immediately entered into the struggle of the oppressed working people. He became the Secretary of the Johannesburg District Committee of the Communist Party of South Africa.

During the Great African Miners' Strike in 1946, he wrote for the Guardian, the progressive weekly paper which has courageously supported the African miners' struggle for higher wages, trade union recognition, and dignity of their labour.

His articles are a living monument to his devotion to the cause of the African miners and all oppressed and exploited people.

When the Suppression of Communism Act was introduced in 1950, he was banned together with Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, Yusuf Dadoo and others. He defied the banning order and stood trial alongside Moses Kotane, Yusuf Dadoo, J.B. Marks and others.

Michael Harmel and others like him responded to the ANC's appeal to white democrats to organise in support of the ANC, and established the Congress of Democrats. Thus the Congress Alliance was established, headed by the ANC.

Michael left South Africa in 1963, to continue the struggle in exile.

He edited the African Communist. The African Communist grew from strength to strength under his guidance, and became a major organ of revolution struggle in Africa and a torchbearer for our very own struggle to liberate our country from white racist oppression.

He died in Prague -- in the Peoples' Republic of Czechoslovakia. - whilst working on Peace, Freedom and Socialism, the world Marxist review.

In his sudden and untimely death, the ANC (SA) has lost a passionate fighter against the white racist regime, and a staunch member of the liberation forces.

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Our sincere condolences to his wife Ray, daughter Barbara, and her family.

Hamba Kahle, Mick Harmel.