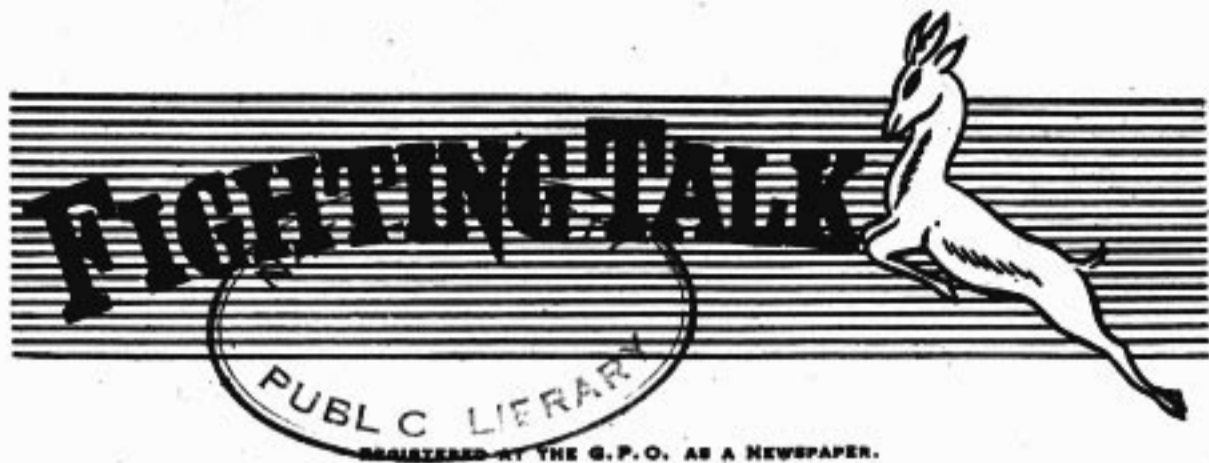


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ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

Peace On Earth

THE world grows older and slowly wiser. Appearances sometimes shake our faith but realities console us. At this moment of time it is good for us to view ourselves in perspective. Looking backward through the ages we see ourselves in the world today as the wearied people of the earth who for aeons have suffered and struggled against each other and against an inclement nature. But we see the ancient darkness of ignorance being dispelled by the light of knowledge and self-awareness like morning mists in the sun.

.....The world's vast bulk shrinks until the strangers of yesterday are our neighbours of today. Destruction, hatred, exploitation we see as evils engendered by unjust systems of society, systems that in decay release new social organisms engendering co-operation, tolerance, trust.

And our dim eyes grow brighter and our aged hearts beat faster in anticipation of a quiet ending to our days in a harmonious world.

Looking forward along the lengthening centuries of the future we see ourselves as people standing at the dawn of time and we marvel that the world is already so fair and promising. We see our children and their children growing through the ages in happiness, in peace, in conscious self-fulfilment, occasionally blessing us, their ancestors, for having swept the world clean and left it, at passing, brighter and sweeter than we had found it.

By whatever universal accident, by whatever inexplicable design, you and I stand on this little planet for a little time. We carve out of eternity a seventy year span. We crave happiness and security. Born in loneliness we learn that happiness and security are found, not in

the timidity or bravado of isolation but in the jostle and tumble of humanity, in society's work and play, in society's constructive struggle. In that struggle alone we can lose ourselves and find ourselves.

We pause on the threshold of a new year, beyond which we see the spectre

and little stature turning white men and women against black men and women: Afrikaans-speaking against English-speaking: Christian against Jew: bourgeois against proletariat.

The unscrupulous, the unprincipled among us turn their backs on the piecemeal destruction of what our ancestors have built up for us; they see our democratic heritage filched from us and they come to terms with the robbers. Seeking to save their own miserable skins, they sell out their ideals . . . the Judas Iscariots of our time, filthy, contemptible. Skulking in the shadows are the fearful and feeble-minded, the eunuchs of our time, without vigour, without voice. They deny mankind and their own manhood by their silence and acquiescence. They are not worthy to enter into the society that is being built in the wide world today.

But in every town and in every street there are men and women, faithful to their own ideals, faithful to the fighters of the decades that have passed. They raise their voices against oppression, against cruelty, against tyranny. They are not seduced by selfish interests . . . they believe that a world at peace is a world where happiness can be built. They know that tyranny leads right on to war. These leaders inspire us to demand justice, to oppose inhumanity.

For you and me, ex-servicemen from a desperate war against the ignorance and savagery of nazism, fascism, herrenvolkism, the New Year brings the opportunity to fulfil ourselves, to break through apathy, to justify our manhood, to build something strong and good.

The Legion can help you to fight a good fight. The Legion needs your help in its organised resistance to fascism, in its organised fight for the goal of democracy.

GREETINGS

First of all let us greet ourselves on the occasion of the tenth birthday of the Springbok Legion. In November of 1941 the Legion's founders came together and started a progressive ex-servicemen's organisation, pledged to fight for the abolition of charity and for the government's acknowledgement of responsibility for servicemen and their dependents: pledged also to continue the fight for democracy and against all forms of fascism.

Both fights continue and as the Legion grows older and wiser, let us wish the Organisation long life and successful fighting.

And now let the National Executive Committee wish all Legion members and supporters a most enjoyable Christmas. For the new year we wish you all personal happiness, good health and success. We look forward to having you through 1952 as our comrades in the Legion's fight for peace and democracy.

of war, the atom-bomb primed for destruction: we see tyrants threatening our hopes of happiness and security. In our own land we see hatred and self-seeking in power, men of petty minds

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Defend the Free Press

The Freedom of the Press Committee has been formed to defend the 'Guardian' in the face of the Government's threat of suppression. The Committee has taken its stand on the broad principles of the freedom of the Press and of democracy.

In their appeal the signatories to the appeal say,

"If the Guardian had broken any law, the course of the authorities would be clear. But to silence a paper in order to stop its criticism or stifle opposition is intolerable. It is well known that the Government most strongly objects to the policy of racial equality, democratic rights regardless of col-

our, and freedom of all people in South Africa without discrimination. Whether one likes it or not, this has long been the editorial policy of the Guardian.

The Guardian must be allowed to state its policy and present its criticisms in a lawful and democratic manner. In supporting this right we see the present struggle as a fight for the FREEDOM OF THE PRESS."

The Legion's National Executive Committee endorses this appeal and passes it on to its members.

Donations to: Freedom of the Press Committee, P.O. Box 252, Cape Town.

(Letters to the Editor will be found on pages 8 and 9.)

THE TORCH COMMANDO AND WAR

WHAT a sad commentary that these lines must bear the above title and not the title of, 'The Torch Commando and Peace.'

On Friday, November 15, the Torch Commando Headquarters issued a press statement, in which they announced that its members would, in the event of a third world war, take up arms again for South Africa.

Underneath the startling statement one can dig up some indirectly expressed motives, such as the expression of dissatisfaction with the present Minister of Defence: such a backward criticism of the anti-war section of the population who refused to join up to fight nazism. What comes out so baldly, however, is the readiness of the Torch Commando Headquarters to commit themselves to a Third World War unconditionally, with no regard to the nature of the war, the precipitating factors or the objectives of the war. One cannot too strongly condemn this irresponsible attitude to the mighty question of war and peace, this blind committal of an organisation to the holocaust of war.

In the world today the great mass, by far the great majority of the 2,200,000,000 people on the earth want peace, not war. And that is true of the majority of South Africans, and, therefore, of the majority of the members of the Torch Commando. If it is to concern itself at all with the paramount issue in the world today, the Torch Commando should give a lead in the direction of peace: should propagate the concept of "Negotiation, not War". Do the Executive members of the Commando subscribe to the belief that war is inevitable?

The world is growing up. Appeals to a blind patriotism are not enough. A volunteer for war must believe in the rightness of his cause. Virtue today lies in struggling for peace.

Perhaps the Torch Commando will think again.

For Services Rendered

JOHN ROBERTS is a Non-European who served through the war as a private in the Native Military Corps. He was a P.O.W. He suffered injuries for which he received a small pension, but which all the same incapacitated him from steady and remunerative work. He changed his address in 1949 and failed to inform the Commissioner of Pensions. When, therefore, he was due for re-boarding, he could not be traced.

In May of this year he wrote to the Legion's Welfare Department, complaining of his ill-health, his inability to provide for himself or to pay house-rent.

The Legion took up the case by writing to the Department of Pensions. As a result Roberts was re-boarded and awarded an annual pension of £15 per annum, based on 30 per cent. disablement. How well one can live on twenty-five shillings a month! After all, that is six shillings and threepence a week. v

Living in a municipal location in a town in the fair Cape Province, Roberts eked out something less than a miserable existence. But then he fell foul of a location official.

"The trouble was between me and this official. If you don't please him, out you go. If you pay him, you'll get a job but not soldiers. Now I'm on the veld but yet I've been serving so hard in the war. I want you to shake these people."

Easier asked than done! The Legion wrote to the Location Superintendent. No reply. The Legion wrote again. No reply. Letter to the Town Clerk. Letter acknowledged: 'the matter is being investigated.'

Roberts writes that in a further interview with the Location Superintendent, the latter asked, "Are you a member of the Springbok Legion? Did you write to the Legion? No outsiders can say anything about what goes on in the location."

The case is proceeding. The Legion is getting a full account of Robert's condition and situation, and will try to get supplementation to his income through the P.O.W. Trust Fund and/or the G.G. Fund.

It is hard enough sometimes for white ex-servicemen to get fair treatment, adequate reward for services rendered. How much more difficult it is for non-whites, no matter how long and valuable the services they rendered the country in time of war.

"CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY"

AN ANALYSIS

THE reaction of South African audiences to "Cry the Beloved Country" will, I fear, vary sharply as between European and non-European cinema-goers. I say "fear" because one's reaction to a film of this character is controlled by one's background and experiences in this race-crazy country of ours.

ON EUROPEANS

As far as Europeans are concerned, I would regard "Cry the Beloved Country" as a definite contribution towards the promotion of racial harmony. The people I saw leaving the cinema after the show wore serious, thoughtful faces, as though the story of Stephen Kumalo and his search among the Reef slums for his erring son had been a startling revelation to them — which indeed it must have been in most cases. How many Johannesburg Europeans are aware of the squalor that distorts the countryside a few miles from Parktown and Houghton? But more important, I think, was the soul-searching lesson that this film taught to ordinary European South Africans — that Natives are also possessed of feelings, principles and high standards of human behaviour; that the Native, in fact, is a human being who laughs and weeps at about the same emotional breaking-points as his white contemporary. The fact that a Native father can be so deeply attached to his offspring came, I am sure, as a complete surprise to many Europeans!

ON AFRICANS

On African audiences, this film will have a somewhat different impact. The weaknesses of the novel, as accentuated by its filming, will be more readily noticeable to them than to Europeans. The fact that all the white people appearing in the film were rather decent and liberal characters, will be greeted by Native audiences with amused disbelief. Even the one possible exception (the elder Jarvis' friend), was rather wishy-washy in his demand for the death penalty for Absalom and his friends. The experiences of the African audiences have surely been somewhat different! They have, in fact, met more bad than good, and I am not now talking of purified Nationalists only, but of the ordinary employer and fellow-worker, and the white man in the street.

As to the film itself, it is, as I have

said, a definite contribution in the field of race relations, being as it is the first picture of its kind that we have seen. The Producer has, I feel, attempted sincerely to transform the original novel onto the screen, with the result that although some of the poignancy of the novel was faithfully recreated, at other times scenes tended to be long drawn out, and the suffering registered on Mfundisi's face did not relax throughout. The photography in some cases could have been improved, as could the cutting and editing. A two or three-minute close-up was often followed by a bewildering change of scene which took the audience some time to adjust, and it seemed to me that the Director was rather unsympathetic to those people

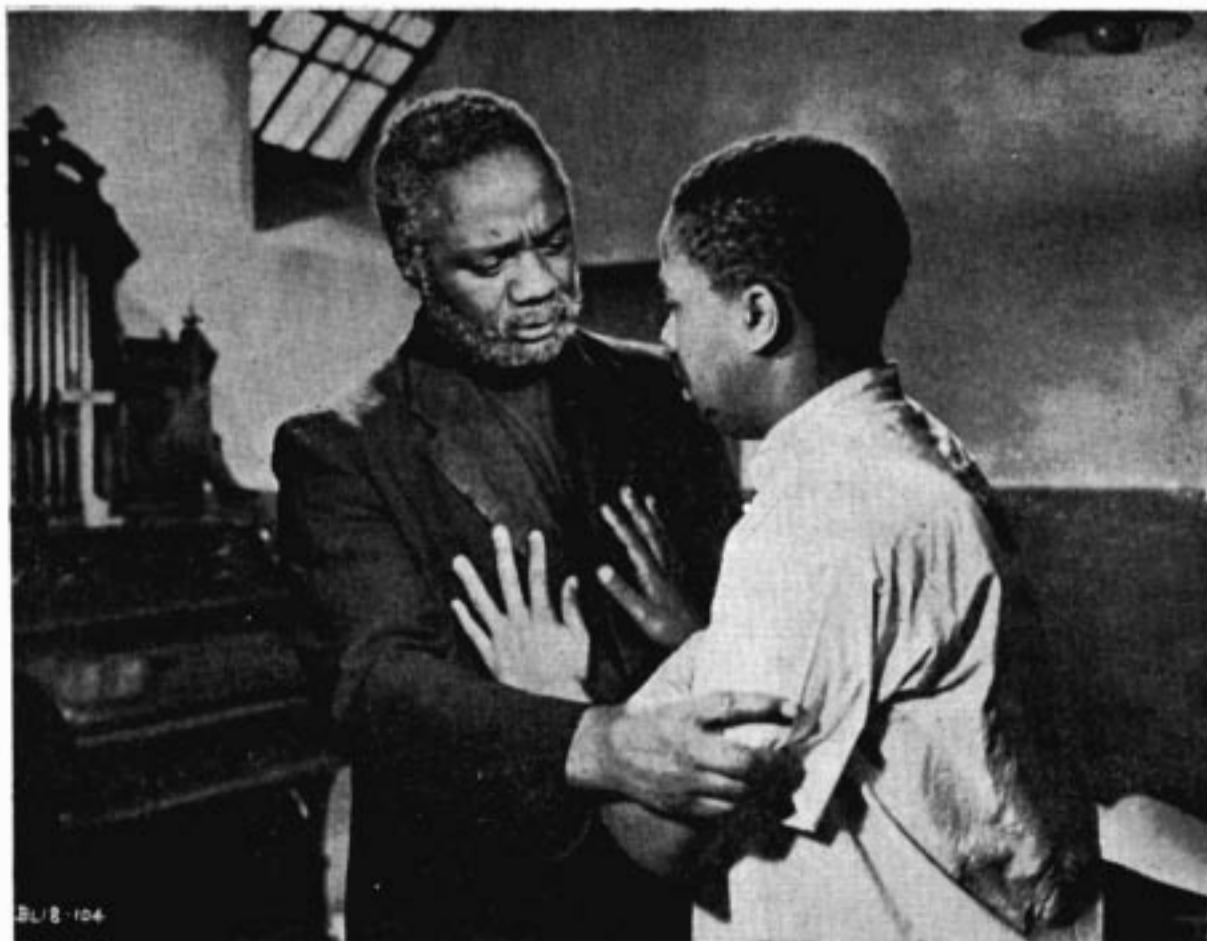
who might not have read the book, since some of the scenes (such as Kumalo's climb up the mountain to watch the dawn of his son's execution), were quite inexplicable unless one remembered Paton's descriptions.

THE ACTING

The choice of actors, however, was a completely happy one. Canada Lee, that veteran American Negro actor, gave a superb performance as the Rev. Kumalo. His portrayal of the old African and his capture of the simple Zulu spirit were achievements at which I, at any rate, marvelled. Sidney Poitier, as his fellow-priest, was excellent. Indeed, he made as big an impression as Lee. The other actors, including South Africans both white and non-white, were completely convincing.

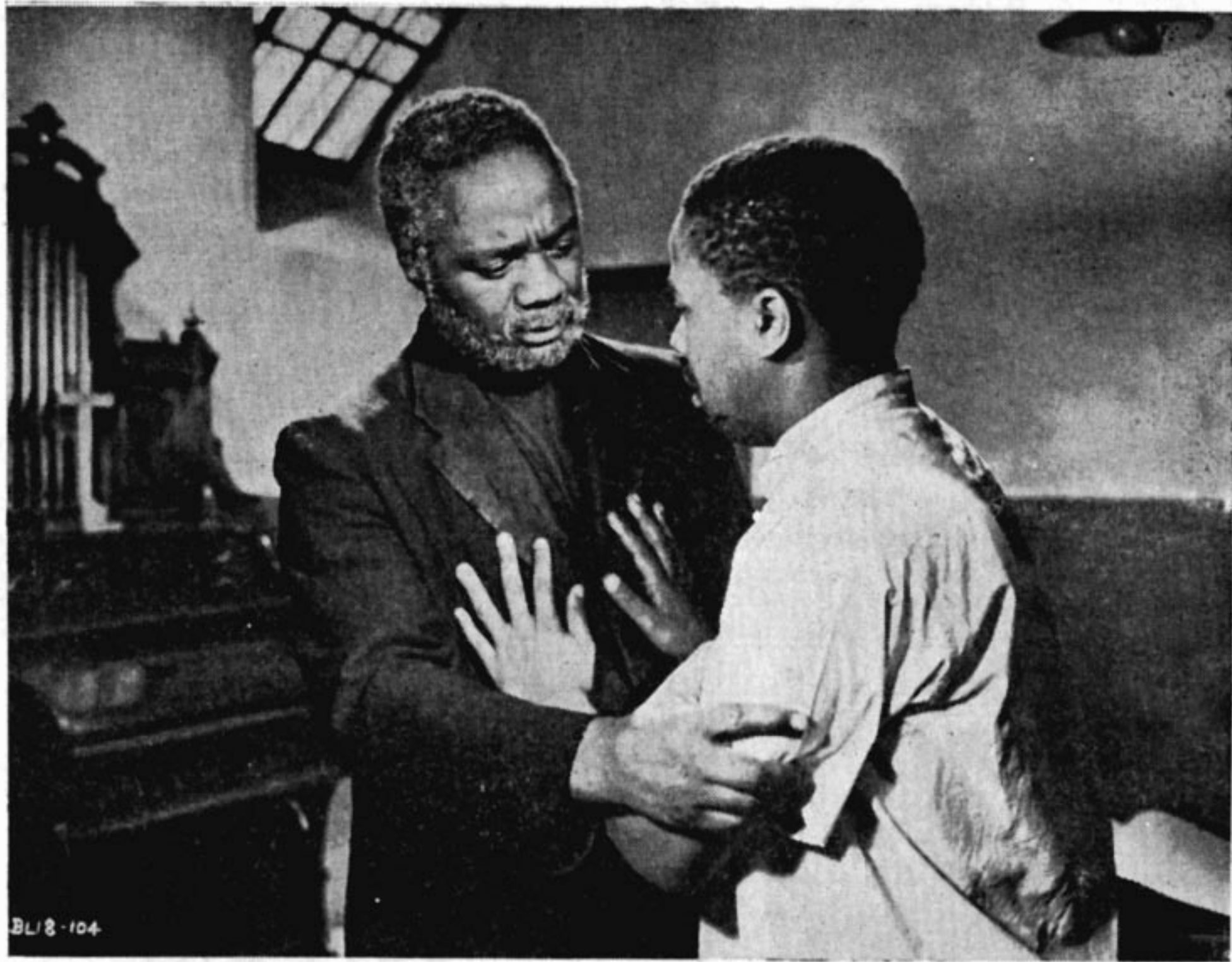
A SMALL CONTRIBUTION

To sum up then, the film, like the book, is no epoch-making creation. At best it is a contribution, though a pitifully small one; a contribution which correctly reflects the attitude of individuals who work in and around the Institute of Race Relations. I do not say this in a mocking sense, but in the sober reflection that more, much more, will be needed and could have been said, to expose the unhappy state of our beloved country. J.P.



"BE OF COURAGE MY SON."

Kumalo (Canada Lee) comforts his son Absalom (Lionel Ngakane) condemned to death for the murder of a white man. A scene from "Cry the Beloved Country."



BL 8-104

"BE OF COURAGE MY SON."

Kumalo (Canada Lee) comforts his son Absalom (Lionel Ngakane) condemned to death for the murder of a white man. A scene from "Cry the Beloved Country."

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The Mixture As Before

IMMEDIATELY after the Armistice of 1918, as is well known, the German General Staff began preparations for the rebirth of the German Army.

At first the work was carried on "underground", but as soon as Hitler came on the scene all that had to be done was to legalize and perfect the force which the Generals had been building up.

That pattern is being followed in Western Germany today, and all the evidence points to the fact that from the very beginning it has been watched over with kindly interest by the Western Powers.

In 1946-47, "World War II study groups," were formed from selected P.O.W. officers.

In 1948, the organisation of an industrial police was undertaken by General Halder, who was for a long time Hitler's Chief of Staff and (in his own words) a "fanatical supporter of the invasion of Britain" in 1940.

"MEMOIRS"

From then on, former Nazi Generals and officers began to come out into the

open and many of them published their "memoirs".

These in the main sought to "white-wash" the militarists' part in the horrible crimes committed in Europe—after all, professional soldiers must obey orders—and, they didn't really know what was going on.

Perhaps they didn't know that 500 American P.O.W.'s were massacred by the Waffen-S.S. at Malmedy during the Battle of the Bulge or that 50 R.A.F. fliers were murdered, because they escaped from a P.O.W. camp!

Generals von Manteuffel and von Schwerin were employed by Dr. Adenauer as military advisers, and Generals Speidel and von Heusinger, former chief

of operations of Hitler's General Staff, negotiated with the Western Powers on the details of W. German rearmament.

In September, 1950, the signal was given for the creation of a powerful mobile police force and the frontier police.

The Stuttgarter Nachrichten of August 10th, 1951, stated on the authority of the Bonn Ministry of Interior that 55 per cent. of the platoon commanders were former officers of the Nazi Army.

In all three zones, British, American and French, there are the so-called Labour Organisations. The one in the British zone, active since 1945, is known as the German Service Corps.

The "Daily Express" of June 4th, 1951, reported a parade of 40,000 of its members. In June, 1951, G.S.C. personnel signed new "contracts" which included such clauses as "may be used outside the British zone" and "must perform any service required of them."

(Continued on page 14)



COMRADES, COMRADES, EVER SINCE . . . ?

COMMENT

Extract from an editorial in 'The Star.'

"WHAT is most important in a country with conflicting theories and much argument in a vacuum is that 'Cry, the Beloved Country' is a statement in human terms of what is essentially a human tragedy.

In Johannesburg we are in the midst of it and this is our story. It is not enough to know that the industrial revolution has drawn many thousands to the city. It is necessary to know what this has done to them as human beings. These consequences of industrialism are not peculiar to South Africa, but they are complicated here by the fact that this migration has been not merely from the country to the town but from tribalism to a strange and different social organisation. The break-up of tribal sanctions and tribal values has combined to cause the demoralisation with which Mr. Paton's story deals."

Discussion...

Mr. C. J. Beaumont,

12th November, 1951.
c/o Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.,
Private Bag, KHALE,
P.O. Gaberones, Bechuanaland.
Dear Beaumont,

Although I'm not the editor of 'Fighting Talk', I would like to answer your letter, though heaven knows why, because we are on such a vital topic, the one that occupies our minds more than any other today — the preservation of peace between 'East' and 'West', with all the corollaries of the differences that exist between the Communist system and the Capitalist system. Your letter is a model of clarity — I wish I could do likewise! I wrote the article, by the way.

Let me take up some statements in your letter, which I feel I can honestly find fault with. Later, if broader principles come clearly to my mind, I will set them down.

Your last paragraph reads:

"The Legion is bound to oppose the Nationalists, with their leaning towards a police state. But it should be consistent and not publish propaganda for countries whose systems of government are precisely what the Legion professes to be fighting against in South Africa."

Now I categorically deny that the columns of 'Fighting Talk' have been used for publishing propaganda in favour of Communism, as a system of government, nor in favour of Russia as an example of a Communist system of government. You do not read in 'Fighting Talk' anything about socialisation of the means of production; nothing of revolution, nor of the dictatorship of the masses. I am not juggling with words here, but stating a fact: there is no pro-Communist, pro-Russian form of government propaganda. Without checking past issues of the magazine I would hazard the statement that with regard to forms of government — based on different economic systems — the most we have advocated is an extension of the 'Welfare State', the beginnings of which we already have in South Africa, we already have in South Africa, a more developed form of which you have in Britain.

Now, you may come back that you were not referring to propaganda relat-

ing to different economic systems, but to pro-Russian or pro-Communist sentiments over the question of War-and-Peace. But that is not borne out by the facts either. There is nothing in our writings which can be construed as 'taking sides'. We have not condoned the war in Korea — either on behalf of China or America. Starting from the viewpoint that war is not inevitable, we maintain that negotiations between any two opposing countries, and particularly between the Five Big Powers, can maintain peace and avoid war. With this as our starting point, there is no need to take sides.

BUT, we refer to 'war-mongers' and in the context they must be 'Western' war-mongers. Quite right, too. There ARE war-mongers in the West, particularly in America, and we have every right and duty to criticise them, to blast them. They are the people who talk war, who foment war, but who never go to war themselves. Let me be more particular to convince you that I'm not seeking the 'warmongering' business out of my thumb.

Gen. Marshall (quoted in the London Daily Herald July 28) says, 'I am more shocked than I have ever been at the rising of American public opinion to hopes of peace through the cease-fire negotiations in Korea... I would like to see the American people get a little hard-boiled.'

(Daily Telegraph, August 3) (After the New York Stock Exchange had slumped on the news of the Korean cease-fire): 'Prices rose to the highest levels for three months on New York Stock Exchange today... Market observers believed that the rally was stimulated merely by the feeling that an early peace in Korea was now unlikely.'

(Wall Street Journal, referring to the cease-fire talks): 'This is fatal.'

(Wall Street Journal, July 3): 'Talk of truce in Korea is making a lot of businessmen nervous. Plans to cut production are mentioned by many firms.'

(Wall Street Journal, July 10): 'Business expansion steps all over U.S.A. because of the Korean truce talks.'

Gen. Eisenhower (to U.S. Senators in Paris: August 21) 'It takes a man and a gun to fight. The United States is providing the gun, Europe the man.'

THE following letter and reply deal with what is rightly regarded as the most pressing and urgent problem of our time — war and peace. It is a shock for so many exponents of peace when they find themselves in the unenviable position of being called radicals and so on when they come out strongly against war. We hope that the reply to this letter may clear up a number of points in this connection and bring home to our members and readers the tremendous urgency of the situation.

C/o Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.,
Private Bag, KHALE,
P.O. Gaberones, Bechuanaland,
6th November, 1951.

The Editor,
'Fighting Talk'.

Dear Sir,

I have been a member of the Springbok Legion since the first unit branches were formed in Italy and, though stationed outside the Union, have followed closely the Legion's grand work for ex-Servicemen. I have always made a point of challenging the often-made statement that the Legion is a Communist organisation, but recently I have been disquieted at the tone that has almost imperceptibly been creeping into 'Fighting Talk', until it can now definitely be said to have a Communist flavour.

For example, the article 'The World Wants Peace' in the October issue makes a matter-of-fact reference to 'the warmongers' (without quotation marks) in the approved Cominform manner, and the whole article is essentially Communist propaganda. As it is unsigned, it presumably represents editorial opinion and that of the National Executive. This article even supports the admission of Communist China to the councils of free nations, ignoring the fact that such a measure would mean condoning the naked Communist aggression in Korea and recognising a dictatorship as harsh and oppressive as that of Hitler.

The significance of this article is that it ignores the most important aspect of the international situation from the ex-Servicemen's point of view. This is that we fought to suppress a tyrannous dictatorship with ambitions for world conquest. The economic system in force in Germany had nothing to do with the matter. All the evil of the Nazi regime sprang from the one fact that it was an absolute dictatorship. Now we are faced with two great nations governed by similar dictatorships, but we are asked by the Legion not to regard them in a similar light, and this is rather too much for an intelligent person to swallow.

In both Russia and China we see all the miserable happenings of dictatorship and tyranny (whether this tyranny is Fascist, National Socialist or Communist is immaterial) — secret police suppression, torture or elimination of political opponents, concentration camps, forced labour — of all of which there is ample evidence. Above all, we know that Russia never disarmed after the war, whereas the Western democracies undeniably did disarm, and are now paying the penalty of good faith — weakness in the face of Communist strength. As long as there is an iron curtain of secrecy on Communist frontiers, people who value the personal freedoms of democratic practice must inevitably be prepared to defend their countries and their way of life against what they are justified in considering to be the Communist policy of expansion and conquest. After all, Karl Marx's theories are in print for anyone to read, and it is idle to pretend that the Communists have abandoned these theories.

The Legion is bound to oppose the Nationalists, with their leanings towards a police state. But it should be consistent, and not publish propaganda for countries whose systems of government are precisely what the Legion professes to be fighting against in South Africa. The present trend is only too obvious, and is killing the Legion as an effective ex-Servicemen's organisation.

Yours, etc.,

C. J. BEAUMONT.

... On Peace

To me these quotations suggest that there are certainly war-mongers in the U.S.A. They are businessmen and their mouthpieces, whose present prosperity depends on re-armament, not merely re-armament of America, but of the entire world — outside Russia and Co. If peace were really and truly to 'break out', the armaments industry would go for a loop. Naturally, the people concerned take steps to prevent that happening.

Look, Beaumont, surely we haven't forgotten the exposure of the big international armament rings made before 1939 by people like Sir Philip Gibbs, Beverly Nichols, by one of the Cabinet Ministers in the Labour Government, (have you forgotten which one), the tremendous amount of dirt that came out in the British Commission on the Manufacture of Arms... have we forgotten? What we have forgotten is that the same 'business' methods of keeping up the prosperity of the industry are in full force today. In fact, according to the American 'Survey of Current Business' for the month of July — a non-political booklet, of course — the suggestion is made that American capitalism is now fully dependent upon war production for whatever stability and prosperity it manages to achieve.

These are the people I call the 'warmongers'. They thrive on war, they call for a continuation of the 'cold-war' and even ask for its conversion into a 'hot' or 'shootin'' war.

Now, when you say that I'm putting across pro-Communist propaganda by such talk, I say, 'No. Because I say 'A' is in the wrong, that does not necessarily mean that 'B' is in the right.' On the other hand — and I concede the point that I talk at second-hand — it's only the stuff one can read in the papers and the magazines. I haven't been to the States or to Russia — likewise you haven't and must depend on papers etc. for your news and consequently for your views — on the other hand, however, Stalin, Gromyko, Vishinsky and Malik have ever since the war's end talked 'Peace.' They have invariably said that Russia's people and the people of the world want peace. It was not until recently that Stalin stiffened a bit, when he announced the fact that Russia has the Atom-bomb. Previously, any refer-

ence to atomic energy had been in terms of the benefits to social advancement that could come from harnessing atomic energy.

(I knew it! This is going to be far too long.)

I anticipate a remark from you, 'Ah yes! Russia talks peace but what about Korea?' Well, there's even some doubt about that — did Russia precipitate that war or did America? There's much written on both sides of the matter.

Now let's have another look at your letter. You say, 'We know that Russia never disarmed after the war, whereas the Western democracies undeniably did disarm...' Do we know... for certain? Admiral Kirk, U.S.A. Ambassador to Moscow in an interview with 'U.S. News and World Report': 'Admiral Kirk denounces none of the tell-tale signs of war that experts watch for: For example: Soviet Army units are remaining at peacetime strength. No coverage classes are being called up. No extraordinary movements of troops or supplies have been detected. There is no drive in Russia to build bomb-shelters or restrict civilian consumption of critical materials. There is no shifting of labour away from peacetime to wartime industries...' December 15, 1950.

In February Stalin replying to Attlee said, 'At present the numerical strength of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, counting the ground force, air force and navy, is equal to the numerical strength of the armed forces of the U.S.S.R. before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.' How many was that? The League of Nations 'Armaments Year Book for 1939' says that the Soviet armed forces in March 1939 numbered 1,900,000. At the beginning of September 1950 some 3,000,000 recruits were called up. Allowing for sickness and wastage due to losses in Mongolia against the Japs, the number was, therefore, 2,300,000 — and this figure was confirmed in February of this year by an American spokesman who said, 'The total of forces under arms in the U.S.S.R. was about the level of 1939 and I put that figure at 2,300,000.'

Another thing one should look at are the U.N. figures relating to proportion or percentage of gross national income

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 9)

spent on Armaments in the U.S., Britain, France and U.S.S.R. Another pointer would be the proportion of man-power devoted to war-industries and the proportion devoted to peace-goods. According to the official British 'Monthly Digest of Statistics' for May 1951, Britain's Armed Man-power — excluding the large numbers abroad — was about 700,000. Compare those figures with Russia's in relation to total population. America, with a smaller population than Russia's has armed forces getting on for 3 millions. If you lump together the armed forces of America, France and Britain — total population roughly equivalent to that of Russia, — you will find those countries much more heavily armed than Russia. One other factor: UNO statisticians worked out in May 1951 'the number of man-years of industrial labour in each country that the defence expenditure of that country would buy.' The results: Britain equals 82 man-years per thousand inhabitants; U.S. equals 74 man-years; France equals 51 and Soviet 49.

Another point from your letter — reference to admission of Red China to the councils of the Big Five — and obviously admission to UNO. You say such recognition would condone naked aggression in Korea. China started fighting in Korea months after the war had started, and only then after American planes had bombed Chinese territory. In any case, China represents one-fifth of the world's population, nearly one-quarter. Can we have peace without their participation in a pact of peace between the great powers? And don't forget the Pact of Peace does not seek to whitewash aggressors or international criminals

breakers of the peace. It seeks to get an agreement between the nations of the world on the principle of 'Negotiation' and not 'War.'

Now, I have written a lot and, I'm afraid, not very coherently. And don't get me wrong. I do not think what I have read and absorbed, what I have quoted here gives us all the answers. I am always aware of the dangers in the printed word, something which cannot be verified on the spot. I hope, however, that I have written enough to suggest to you that you haven't all the unassailable answers either, that there is another side than the one we have presented to us in our daily papers.

And, finally, I have written this letter — as I did the article — not in the interests of Communism against Capitalism; not in the interests of Russia against America. I have written this in the interests of peace — genuinely so. I, too, believe, that if the people of the world — and not the politicians and businessmen — could have their say, they would agree that it is possible for both Capitalism and Communism to exist side by side in a peaceful world to the benefit of all the people.

Lord, I've written so much out of my own head and from my own initiative, that I wouldn't swear that this is Legion policy.

By the way, you are my friend from the old School at Florence, aren't you? I have seen you once or twice in Johannesburg. Next time — if you are you — you are in town, won't you come up and see us, possibly have lunch with me?

All the best,

Yours fraternally,
CECIL WILLIAMS,
 General Secretary.

Patriotism

I.
 Some folks honestly think
 That Patriotism
 Is lynching Reds
 To show your proper horror,
 Loving your country
 Too violently
 To respect her laws of tolerance
 For folks whose talk you hate.
 But I think patriotism
 Means giving justice
 Even to those to whom
 You do not wish to be just.

II.
 Some folks honestly think
 That patriotism
 Means shutting your eyes
 To mistakes of officials
 And hitting over the head
 People who notice them:
 Respecting
 All little tagends
 Of government.
 But I think patriotism
 Means seeing mistakes quickly,
 And speaking your mind on them,
 In the high faith
 That the People
 Are competent to hear
 All facts and opinions,
 That our country is greater
 Than any temporary rulers,
 And can survive the loss
 Of many stupid servants
 Who call themselves
 Governments.

III.
 Some folks think
 That Patriotism
 Is a grand emotional jag,
 A shouting: "Thank God WE
 Are not as others",
 A braggart thrill
 At colours in a piece of cloth
 And a license to call names
 At all neighbours.
 But I think Patriotism
 Is a sober, lifelong job,
 A hard, high calling:—
 To build in our great land
 From sea to sea
 A great FREE PEOPLE,
 Free from Prejudice,
 Free from Fear,
 A nation of BROTHERS,
 Brothers to themselves
 And to the whole wide world.

From: 'Ragged Verses of Ainese,
 by Anna Louise Strong.

SOME time ago the Springbok Legion with the French Union of Ex-Service Associations was largely responsible for preparing the way for what is today known as the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WAR VETERANS' ORGANISATIONS, which has its headquarters and secretariat in Paris.

The Second Annual Assembly of member nations was opened in Belgrade on November 27th, for which reason the Executive decided earlier to nominate that day: World Veterans' Day.

Ceremonies held on that day throughout the world served as a symbol of ex-servicemen's determination to avoid another war through co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

Receiving short notice of the World Veterans' Day, the Legion in Johannesburg arranged a simple ceremony. A wreath was laid at the base of the Johannesburg Cenotaph on behalf of the Legion by Dr. Guy Routh of the National Executive Committee. The Rev. Tom Harvey, ex-Chaplain to the Forces, offered prayer, paying tribute to the fallen of past wars who had given their lives to the cause of democracy and asking divine guidance for the nations of the world in their quest for peace.

POLICY VINDICATED !

In September, 1947, a Special National Conference of the Springbok Legion discussed and adopted a policy in respect of the pending General Election. At the time there were a lot of doubts and misgivings. It is of interest to-day in the light of the Nationalist Government's record. We reprint the Statement issued at the time as printed in the October, 1947 issue of Fighting Talk.

"THE LEGION'S POLICY.

Statement of policy with regard to the forthcoming General Election. The policy of the Springbok includes among its main principles:—

- (a) The effective safeguarding of the economic interests of ex-servicemen and women and their dependents.
- (b) The preservation and extension of democracy coupled with an unremitting hostility to Fascism from whatever source it might come.
- (c) Racial co-operation and national harmony.

- (d) Support for the United Nations as the most effective instrument for the preservation of world peace.

This National Conference of the Springbok Legion reaffirms its stand on these principles, in the conviction that they are inseparable from the cause for which we fought the war, and from which ten thousand of our comrades laid down their lives.

We are convinced that a victory for the H.N.P. and its associated groups in the forthcoming General Election would be against the national interest, and would be a set back to the principles for which the Legion stands. We are not

prepared to forget or forgive the attitude which the H.N.P. followed during the war, and we have no confidence in its desire or ability to do justice to the ex-soldiers. We regard its policy of national isolation and racial antagonism and its undemocratic tendencies to be disastrous for the future of our country.

The Springbok Legion is irrevocably opposed to the H.N.P., Afrikaner Party, the O.B., the New Order Group and the Greyshirts and the policies for which they stand. We do not believe that the Springbok Legion can be true to the ex-soldiers' interests and to its principles unless we are prepared to play an active and effective part in opposition to these groups at the general election.

These reactionary parties can be most effectively defeated if the democratic parties opposed to them will co-ordinate their efforts in this direction. We therefore call on the United Party, the Labour Party and all progressive bodies and individuals to arrange a common front in the face of this reactionary challenge, and to fight the general election on an organised, united basis.

The Springbok Legion pledges itself to exert itself fully in support of this common democratic front to ensure the defeat of the H.N.P. We shall direct our efforts particularly to ensure that ex-soldiers are made aware of the issues involved in this election. We shall constantly and persistently remind them of the role of these reactionary parties during the war, and shall emphasise how their present policies are the denial of the principles for which we ex-soldiers fought.

Additional to the steps outlined above, the Springbok Legion will continue to play its role as an independent ex-soldiers' organisation. We shall continue to press vigorously for the acceptance and implementation of the full programme of principles of the Springbok Legion. We are committed to the aim of a democratic and prosperous South Africa and a stable world, and our policy will at all times be directed towards the achievement of that ideal."

THE LEGION NEEDS JUMBLE !!

Please let us have your discarded clothes. Phone 33-0975 or bring your goods to the office.

WORLD VETERAN'S DAY



Dr. Guy Routh, acting National Chairman of the Springbok Legion lays a wreath at the Johannesburg Cenotaph on World Veterans' Day.

WORLD VETERAN'S DAY



Dr. Guy Routh, acting National Chairman of the Springbok Legion lays a wreath at the Johannesburg Cenotaph on World Veterans' Day.

ODDS AND ENDS

VIC EDDY

DONGES IS TO BLAME

THE most significant fact, as far as I am concerned, that emerges from the decision of the Trusteeship Committee of U.N.O. to hear the Herero Chiefs on their dispute with the South African Government, is not merely the legal aspect of the matter or whether or not the Constitution has been observed. The important thing is the realisation of the regard in which South Africa is held among the nations of the world. I lay the blame for this fairly and squarely on the shoulders of Dr. Donges and his Cabinet colleagues. Certainly the action of U.N.O. constitutes interference in the domestic affairs of a member nation. But what does Dr. Donges expect? That the rest of the world should sit idly by and watch him and his friends depriving the majority of South African subjects of their democratic rights, as they have been doing? If South Africa's name is black overseas, the Nationalists must take the lion's share of the blame.

* * * *

THE DESERT FOX STINKS

THE film arriving shortly in the Union, "The Desert Fox", stinks in my nostrils even before I have seen it. Accord-

ing to the write-ups, this is the story of Rommel in which he is painted as something of hero; as a man who did not really like Hitler and behaved always as a gallant German officer and gentleman. How any Nazi general can be considered as anything approaching a hero is something which only Hollywood script writers could tell me. My experiences at the hands of Rommel and his Afrika Korps were not designed to endear that "gentleman" to me, and as for his not liking Hitler, that may be true in a sense, but I think a Walt Disney cartoon, depicting two pigs fighting over the trough, would more exactly represent this historic disagreement.

News From American Veterans

THE American Veterans' Committee last week held its fifth national convention. More than five hundred delegates from all parts of the country met in New York City for a week-end of hard work, minus water pistols and horseplay. Remembering their history of hothouse growth and swift retreat, they concentrated on plans for A.V.C.'s future growth but also gave earnest attention to foreign and domestic problems.

The delegates stated their opposition to Treasury raids and grab-bag legislation for veterans and reaffirmed their belief in a veterans' programme looking toward "rehabilitation and reintegration (of the ex-soldier) into the community." They endorsed a strong civil-rights programme, urged the implementation of the Public Housing Act of 1949, and advocated the draft during the immediate crisis and price and rent control.

The A.V.C. also came out for complete world disarmament, with effective international inspections. It agreed that the non-Communist world must strengthen itself militarily to meet the threat of aggression but insisted that the long-range goal of "international co-operative efforts to stamp out hunger, disease, illiteracy, and misunderstanding" required economic, political, and spiritual strengthening.

A CRISP COMMENT.

I THINK Father Trevor Huddleston was responsible for one of the most constructive comments made regarding "Cry the Beloved Country", when he stated that the film showed up the desperate need for Native housing. Not a very erudite comment on the much-discussed film, but certainly a very practical one. Father Huddleston is faced with this problem every day of his life, and has not, as have so many Europeans, only become aware of it as a result of Alan Paton's work.

On the same subject, Mr. G. B. Gordon, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the City Council, has a less praiseworthy and far less practical attitude. His contention, that the whole of eternity would not be sufficient time to build all the houses required, will impress only a mind playing with paradoxes. Of course it will take a long time — all the more reason then that we should make an early start!

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Pointing out that "the Spanish people (in recent strikes) have proved that they are ready to rid themselves of their oppressive ruler," the delegates opposed further aid to Franco and asked that "all possible aid . . . be given to the people of Spain in their efforts toward freedom." Finally, they condemned MacArthur's policy and acclaimed his dismissal as reaffirming the principle of civilian supremacy. The convention, in fact, gave confirmation to the A.V.C.'s continuing devotion to its slogan: Citizens First, Veterans Second.



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THE MIXTURE AS BEFORE

(Continued from page 7)

Throughout the three zones the immediate command of these organisations is in the hands of former Nazi militarists.

As in the years following 1918 the ex-Service organisations had to be started and the Generals set to work with great zest. For after all an army cannot consist of Generals alone — there must be the "other ranks" to do the fighting!

Such organisations as the German Ex-Soldiers' Protective League and the Union of Pensioners Ex-Servicemen and Dependents began to appear. The former called for the exoneration of the S.S.!

HUMAN S.S.

"The Star" of July 30th last described a gathering of 4,000 former paratroops in a Brunswick beer cellar. General Ramcke, who had just been released after serving five years for war crimes, addressed the gathering.

In his speech he said that "the law of the soldier must again rule in Germany. The German soldiers' name has been besmirched for long enough . . . All German troops, including S.S. and Gestapo, are all human beings like you and me."

We have already reported the rebirth of the notorious Stahlhelm organisation in our columns (June, 1951), and there are many other such organisations operating in W. Germany, including associations of ex-mountain troops and one connected with the former Waffen-S.S. founded by none other than Otto Skor-

zeny, recently returned to Germany from his hiding place in Spain.

As the result of a huge rally on September 8th last the majority of these ex-Service organisations have now been welded together in a new German Soldiers' Union.

FUEHRER'S DISCIPLE

Included on the provisional board of "directors" are Generals Manteuffel, Ramcke, Stumpf and Student, and Hauser and Gille of the S.S. Also Guderian, Hitler's tank expert, of whom Goebbels said in his diary "he is certainly an ardent and unquestioning disciple of the Fuehrer."

Here we have the sinister build-up for the new German Army. The blue print of further bloodshed.

It is a direct violation of the Potsdam Agreement which set down the purpose of the Allies as being to prevent the revival or reorganisation of German militarism and Nazism.

All this is being carried on quite openly, and the Western Powers know what is going on.

If we are to halt this rise of German militarism we must act now.

Ceaselessly make known the facts and bring into action all ex-Service men, individually and through their organisations, to make the Government honour its pledges.

German remilitarisation must be stopped.

The Peace Appeal

Have You Signed It?

ONE-FOURTH of the human race has signed the appeal for a PACT OF PEACE.

The campaign now underway in all the countries of the world for a Five-Power Peace Pact has gained to date 562,003,383 signatures.

The Quaker Delegation which visited the U.S.S.R. at the invitation of the Soviet Peace Committee has published a report, in which they say: "We can testify from our experience to the more conciliatory temper towards the West which prevails in the Soviet Union today and to the persistence with which the necessity of peace and of peaceful understanding between the major powers is being commended to the Soviet."

The report calls on Christians "to keep open hearts and open minds towards the peace declarations and approaches of the Soviet Union" and "to avoid self-righteousness in judging the actions of the Soviet Government."

The delegation included particularly: Catherine Lonsdale, Professor of Chemistry at London University; Mr. Paul Cadbury, director of the chocolate factory; Miss Margaret Backhouse, former Chairman of the Friends Service Council and Mr. Frank Edmead, of the 'Manchester Guardian.'

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BRANCH ITEMS

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THE Advisory Conference which was held on the 25th November has already born fruit. Quite apart from its value in giving guidance and direction to The Committees, it has stimulated the Branch to increased activity. The current drive for funds is going very well indeed.

The jumble sale on the 8th December was the most successful we have held for years, and realised a profit of just on one hundred pounds. The members who collected jumble and worked at the sale are to be congratulated. At the time of writing there is intense activity to make a success of the Branch party which will be held on 16th December. At least twenty of our women members are busy preparing salads whose names seem to span the globe, — "French Salad", "Russian Salad", "American Salad," "Italian Salad" etc. The party (or to give it its proper title, "Fiesta Italiana") promises to be most enjoyable.

The December Three-in-One is to be a play-reading presented jointly with the

Mercury Players. The play, "Detective Story", by Sydney Kingsley, is a drama which is currently creating a sensation on Broadway. Isadore Karr, who was responsible for "Born Yesterday", "Desire Under the Elms" and many other fine productions, is producing and several members of the "Deep are the Roots" cast are playing leading roles, including Derrick Foreman, Joyce Fowler, Ronald Arden and Raymond Matuson. Other well-known performers in the cast are Sidney Cherfis, Moss Berman and Ernest Ginsberg.

The January Three-in-One should be exceptionally interesting. It will take the form of a symposium on "Race" and well-known speakers will present different aspects of the subject. Dr. Jeffreys will speak on the scientific basis of race theories and John O'Meara will deal with "Children and Race Prejudice." A well-known liberal will present a picture of race prejudice in South Africa to-day.

COMMENT

I went into the British Army believing that if you want peace you must prepare for war. I believe now that if you prepare thoroughly and efficiently for war you get war.

(Major F. B. Maurice, British General Staff.)

★

It is . . . amazing that the leaders of opinion should be more concerned with the perfecting and the rendering more deadly, of machinery of human slaughter than with setting up some tribunal for the possible adjustment of disputes between nations.

(David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1908).

How can you expect the young men of this country to respond to an appeal to which their fathers responded in 1914, twenty years ago? How can you expect them to take up arms in order to do something which after four years of fighting you told their fathers they had done? They were told that German militarism was conquered . . . and that for the future we were to have a reign of peace . . . We should call on the nations to come together in order that they might first of all call a halt to war and then sit down and pay some attention to the causes . . .

(George Lansbury, June 23, 1936).

A Laugh For Christmas

★

If you want a subject for a long winter evening's talk, try to explain why a woman wants so much wardrobe space when she hasn't a thing to wear.

* * * *

When he took his son into the business he had a pretty difficult job. He had to keep his dignity as a father and yet set his son in the path of astuteness.

"Son," he said, "in business you have to be honest."

"Yes, dad."

"Honesty is always the best policy."

"Yes, dad."

"I've run this business honestly for thirty years."

"Well honesty has certainly paid you, dad."

"And—er—son. I advise you to study company law. You'd be surprised what you can do in business and still be honest!"

* * * *

Please don't ask me to marry tonight, Dear.

My parents would just have a fit.

Why, it was only this morning we met, Dear.

Can't you be patient a bit?

You know how people would talk, Dear, They'd say it was not in good taste.

Besides I don't think a girl, if she's nice Would marry a man in such haste.

But I'll marry you tomorrow, Dear, And we'll share the same toothbrush and comb.

But if you don't quit pestering me about it tonight, Dear,

I'll get up, and get dressed, and go home!

* * * *

ANY OLD TIME . . .

There was this insurance salesman who met his friend and said, "Your wife needs a policy to cover that new mink coat of hers against theft."

"She has a better idea now," answered the friend. "When I got home last night, she had a man in the wardrobe standing guard over it."



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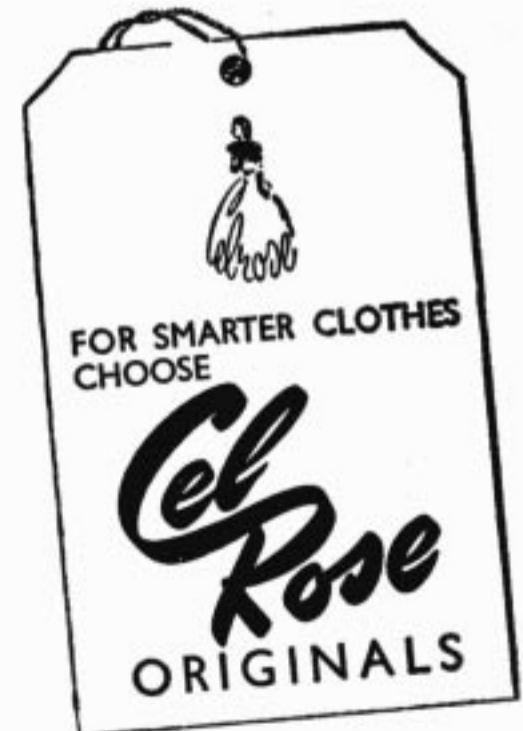
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