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## The Battalion Something To Read

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## An Open Letter

Youth Committee Against War 22 17th Street New York, New York

Dear Sirs: We have been the unhappy recipient of some of your communist propaganda—too much.

Can't you misguided intellectuals realize what will happen to our country in the event of an Axis victory? Can't you realize what benefits would come from a British victory? Can't you realize that the President is doing all in his power to bring about such a victory without involving this country? Can't you realize that all your dissension is a wrench in the works of the country's progress?

Certainly no one wants to go to war-no Gallup poll was needed to decide that fact. But in the case this is necessary, he would be a poor citizen indeed who would deny the country his services in its time of need. Is your group merely ignorant or is it a group of non-patriots working toward the country's

Do you not realize that you are the most valuable men in the country-for Hitler?

Henceforth all propaganda from your source, unless a personal answer to this letter, will be promptly filed—in the trash basket. The Battalion

## Nothing Like a War

INDUSTRIAL CHANGES as well as economic and political changes are brought about by wars-particularly in modern warfare. Such a tendency is naturally hastened when a manufacturing nation is suddenly plunged into so vast a program of war production as we are in now.

We are immediately driven to find new materials for purposes of both war and peace to take the place of those most needed for military usessuch as aluminum, rubber, tin and copper. So we are getting into an Age of Plastics which may supplant to a large extent the Age of Metals. For many purposes even iron and steel will give way to substances produced from milk, soy beans, cellulose, resin and several other substances. These materials can be made as tough and strong as iron, in spite of their lightness, and applied to an apparently unlimited range of products and purposes. In many ways this change of Age will not be a hardship but a blessing as far as progress is concerned.

Thus we may have, before the war is over, automobiles with plastic bodies and fenders, lighter and perhaps safer than present cars. Not the least of these benefits will be a considerable lessening of crumpled bodies and fenders. Also less vibration, less rust, more visibility, more safety in accidents and better radio reception.

Many other good things will be an outgrowth of this war of destruction!

## 1961, A. D.

IT IS QUITE QUIET now, this early in the morning. A few brazen little birds are piping thinly. Those old bricks? Yes, they were probably a

building once. University buildings? Most probably. There's no one now who quite remembers .

The quiet grey moss includes its way through the mortar and plans gradually to engulf the area. have hardly any binding force. The significance of Nearby stands the shattered stump of an old fir tree. The atmosphere is eating away its fibers. Were there lots of buildings then? Were there interpretation of a treaty. lawns and walks and roses in the sunshine? See, here is a bit of an old cement pathway. It crumbles than coercion. Some hundred strikes have occured if you step on it.

There is a certain softness about the day yet. The mists are lifting, the air is cooling to the cheek. But everywhere it is so quiet.

Were there many people here then? Didn't they laugh and talk to one another? Didn't they care about the lovely old buildings?

The water in the mill stream chortles as you slap it with a little stone. It is muddy green and flows passively on its way. It is used to being left alone. There are not boats floating on its back.

Why aren't there any boats? What happened to all the people and buildings? Why did they simply leave? Didn't they have any air raid shelters at all? The sun is coming out now. Listen, the little

birds are singing louder.

The Modern Note in the Modern Novel IF ONE HAD TO SPECIFY one quality as most characteristic of the American novel of today, it would have to be, I think, social consciousness. It would be hard to find a good new novel nowadays that does not show: (1) a realization that people's characters are largely moulded by the sort of economic system under which they live; (2) a deep concern for the hardships and injustices and frustrations that our own economic system is represented as imposing upon people.

We expect this emphasis upon social forces in the "Proletarian" novelists. Albert Halper (in The Foundry and The Chute) and John Steinbeck (in In Dubious Battle, Of Mice and Men, and The Grapes of Wrath), are, for example, quite frank with their morals and their preachments. They are both radicals or left-wing liberals; that is, they believe that a great mass of preventable evils are imposed upon modern Americans by the fact that the means of production (machinery, mines, and land) are privately owned and run for profit. By implication, they also believe that some sort of collectivistic economic system would remove these evils.

But this element of social consciousness is not confined nowadays to the "Proletarians". Thomas Wolfe in his last three novels (Look Homeward, Angel, Of Time and the River, and The Web and the Rock) seemed interested in people wholly as people and not as social products. But in You Can't Go Home Again, published after his death, he turns definitely in the concluding section toward an emphasis on social forces. Ernest Hemingway certainly used to be individualistic enough (in The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms, and most of his short stories). Yet, since his Spanish adventure he too has become more and more concerned about social justice. The Fifth Column, his one dramatic venture, and Of Whom the Bell Tolls, his latest and biggest book, both glorify the defense of Democracy, especially economic and social Democracy, against Fasc-

A new Texas novelist, George Sessions Perry (from Rockdale) has just published, in Hold Autumn in Your Hand, a fine story about tenant farmers. It is a sort of Grapes of Wrath with the wrath missing. Yet he also shows that he has thought and felt deeply about the paradox of the land's being worked lovingly by one man and owned by another. In fact, Hold Autumn in Your Hand constitutes in one sense a subtler criticism of the social system than the more violent books. This author is fair enough to represent his individual land owner and merchant as good fellows. His "meanest" character, moreover, is a tenant farmer like his hero. Thus all the blame in his book falls upon the social system itself instead of upon individual villiany.

# As the World Turns ... R. C. A. F. Again

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

THE BATTLE OF GREECE is nearing a crisis. The press reports convey the impression that the Greek defense line is fast shrinking behind "more favorable defense terrain." It appears now that the Germans and the Italians have united their forces at the northwestern corner of the Greek defense line. The Germans have penetrated into Greece through the Phlorina sector and they have also advanced far into Greek territory south of Salonika.



There has been no fighting on the southwestern front of Albania and the central Macedonian front. If the Germans and the Italians keep advancing from their a military objective for the allies. ed. Bentley writes: The Greek battle line as it now wishbone. The narrower it be-

tively it can be defended. With the improved defenses, and the aid from the seasoned English African troops, the Germans might not be able to advance as rapidly as they have planned. The German commanders admit that the Greek soldiers are the toughest they have faced so far.

German propaganda informed the world that ceive this letter Jack will probably by Easter Sunday, Yugoslavia would not exist as a nation. So far only Croatia has been severed from raising hell with Benie and Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavs have not surrendered Adolph." to the Germans. Even if the Yugoslav army is forced to capitulate, a spasmodic fighting might continue in Yugoslavia throughout the summer.

The Russo-Japanese neutrality treaty, which was signed last Sunday, has stirred up a good deal of speculation. The treaty, barring any secret clauses to it, merely confirms a status which both powers have maintained in the present conflict. China is still able to get supplies from Russia. Japan promises to remain neutral if Russia is involved in a war with a third power and Russia would maintain a similar attitude toward Japan in such an event. Treaties of any sort, now-a-days, this treaty is to be revealed in the light of future events. National interests often dictate the

Moderation in regard to labor strikes is better from January 1 to April 4, 1941, affecting seriously our defense program. The press and the radio have played important parts in arousing public opinion against strikes. This demand, sincere and patriotic, is based mainly on emotional impulses rather than on reason. Emotions are not a reliable yardstick by which arguments can be settled. Congress can pass an anti-strike measure. Can such a law be enforced? The danger of giving the President such powers is realized by the members of the House Military Affairs Committee and OPM. It is true that our boys in the army get only \$21 per month. An ordinary laborer thinks that by the time he has paid his rent, his taxes, has bought food and clothing for his family, he does not have \$21.00 spending money. A bit of sober thinking on the part of the public will go a long way in solving our abor troubles. Cooperation is better than coercion -P. E. in the Oregon Daily Emerald-ACP at a time of national emergency in a democracy.

George Fuermann

sponsored-believe it or not-by they travel around the land.

when a tall, distinguished looking pen to me again." civilian walked out of the Inn, is a wonderful college here . . . A Aggie was too surprised to reply chestra poll is concerned. sor at Notre Dame. Edward H. his report. Gavin by name, his home is in The win, place and show spots all Ray Milland and Claudette Col- along this line. mester . . . One of the comic side- week. lights of the recent junior class debate concerning the wearing of Levant & Co. military boots next year went almost unnoticed. Meaning the cadet me; now they've got my pants!"

physical requirements, the spirit zation.

Of Bob Groulx Backwash has already written considerable. Three others who started out at the same time are Bentley Clements, Jack Garner and Bill Tyler.

Although the four stuck pretty vantage points into Greek terri- close during the first three months of their Canadian sojourn, they donian fronts would be nullified as have lately become widely separat-

"Jack has already become a flystands now is in the shape of a ing instructor if things went as they should have. Bill was sent out comes at the top, the more effec- as a pilot but ran out of gas over a restricted area and, because of the resulting crash-landing, has been 'washed-out.' However, he was later sent out as an air gunner and he should have his sergeant's stripes and wings. By the time you rebe in either England or Africa

## B. Clements

Bentley is a sort of jack-of-alltrades where the R.C.A.F. is concerned. As he put it, "a general flunkey who helps pilot bombers.'

Officially, he's an observer, navigator, pilot, bombadier and gunner-which is nice work if you can't avoid it!

Bentley expects to receive his wings and stripes by June 1 and hopes to join Bill overseas soon thereafter. Bob and Jack will remain on this side of the Atlantic as instructors.

"Nearly 100 per cent of the men here from the States," Ben writes, are anxious to be sent to England or Africa. You can't possibly imagine how anxious these men are to get into action without witnessing the thing yourself. None of them think that they will die, either, and their principal goal is to bring down their first German or Italian

### . . . The R. V. Dances

Blessed with a lovely queen, an excellent orchestra and perfect weather, the Ross Volunteers and their escortees probably hit a new high this year where their annual spring dances are concerned.

Saturday afternoon the orchestra members and nine R.V.'s mixed

The Way of Things . . . Watch for it up in a many-inning game which an announcement in an early edi- Phil Levant's men won 10 to 6. tion of The Battalion concerning Phil's men even carry their own a unique musical comedy to be baseball equipment with them as

the production will Colonel Watson) in the place."

gineering Day Ac- lives in Galveston and, as she left . .

finest institutions it has ever been was at a loss to know how to cover against a background of the pres- submarine and airplanes and such. my pleasure to visit." The amazed the dances where the Backwash or-

comment; was even more surpris- Artilleryman and The Battalion's prison camp, the declaration of it looks like some of our American ed when he later learned that the circulation manager, took over war, sinking the Athenia, the Navy may soon be on convoy duty, gentleman was a language profes- where the writer left off and here's French armistice and some small this picture will contain a good

Chicago and while on the campus on the Aggie Hit Parade went to bert keep up a running romance he visited G. A. Carlsen, Cavalry- "Cecilia," "There'll Be Some and newspaper story with some man from Lima, Peru . . . Ele Bag- Changes Made" and "It All Comes gag lines thrown in. gett, former Longhorn editor who Back to Me Now," Tommy said. Everyone remembers the kind

who got up out of the audience, feminine vocalist, Phil's band prob- ant and different type of diver-Corps dance, for example, 16 coupl- here. es and five stags were in attend- Another show that is good but

A. & M. cadets are rapidly swell- Every member of Phil's band within the last 30 days is "SANTA ing the ranks of the Canadian Roy- a Chicagoan with the exception of FE TRAIL" at the Campus. For al Air Force. Back of this is the the vocalist, Lorraine Dailey from it Errol Flynn, Olivia deHavilland fact that admission to the R.C.A.F. San Antonio, the outfit made a is easier than to the U.S. Air tremendous hit with the R.V.'s just Corps-mainly because of lenient as did last year's Kavelin organi-

of adventure and the reasonably Phil and Boyd Raeburn-now substantial pay offered by the Ca- tied with Bernie Cummins for the (Continued on Page 6)





Towncraft\* Leads the Shoe Parade with Men's Two-Tone Brown

## **SPORTS OXFORDS**

3.98

Men with a desire for style but a determination to be comfortable—ATTENTION!

These moccasin type sports oxfords are built for complete foot freedom—flexible leather soles, soft leather uppers, and roomy, comfortgiving toes!

Yet they're designed for the smartest sportswear — two lustrous tones of antiqued tan, graceful lines and interesting perforations see to \*Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



Aggie Economy Center Bryan, Texas



An old show but a good one is and Raymond Massey go through the Student Engineering Council. Colonel Watson's speech at the going to be at the Campus Friday the events leading up to the Civil Prexy Ben Elliott, one of the lead- banquet wowed the audience. Quoth and Saturday. "GUNGA DIN" has War. It is moving and Massey's show, is still noncommittal, but inSaid Queen Father M. G. I save of our home towns, but it has been ing John Brown is the best of all.

cause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. The old and its conditions the policy of the old savery-fightcause it is pretty good. ers in the unpre- the commandant, "This is the first played here twice before and in all portrayal of the old slavery-fight-Said Queen Esther Mae Colombo, Indian native who plays the part being part of a double feature with dications are that "He's the best dancer (meaning of Gunga Din himself goes un- "Ride Kelly Ride" that it may not honored as far as having his name be worth your time. be tops in an en- Esther Mae, who was all-the- on the cast, etc., goes but his An unusual accompanyment for tertainment way way okeh as Jimmy Gallagher's diaper-clothed figure is one that a benefit show will be at the As-

and will be staged escortee and queen of the three-day won't slip your mind too easily. sembly Hall Friday in the Uniin Guion Hall dur- event, is 18 years old, studied danc- And the way his face literally versity of Texas Glee Club. They ing the annual En- ing in New York City two years, beams when he is given some mil- will present a program before the itary importance shows good act- show, which is for the benefit of tivities in May . . . An Aggie se- the campus Saturday noon, said, ing. Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen, the Saddle and Sirloin Club. The nior was standing outside of the "I'm ready to die now because Aggieland Inn Tuesday morning nothing this grand will ever hapup a daredevil trio until Joan Fondocumentary film of the work of taine almost hooks Doug.

was seriously injured in a hunting Significant is the fact that "Star of light comedy that won Claudette accident during the Christmas hol- Dust" did not show for the first the Academy Award in "It Hapidays, has returned to the campus time this social season. "Cecilia" pened One Night," and this is and expects to be here throughout is a newcomer and "It All Comes more of the same. Milland isn't so the remainder of the current se- Back to Me Now" was No. 1 last bad himself. They keep up a whirlwind romance through all the disturbance and end returning to the United States to make another familiar plea for preparedness.

An 11-piece orchestra plus a Not on the campus but a pleaswalked up to the stage and final- ably will share the same fate as sion may be found at the carnival ly made his way to the micro. last year's R. V. band-Al Kavelin. in Bryan the rest of this week. It phone-without his pants. Thusly It's almost impossible for the R. is off to the left of the old highattired in a shirt and shorts, he V. band to place high on the poll way as you approach Bryan and commented, "Well, Army, they've ratings because not enough of the its sideshows and other attractions taken everything else away from corps had an opportunity to hear are something different from the the band. At last Saturday night's ordinary entertainment around

has actually played here before

the British Navy during this war. "ARISE MY LOVE" at the As- It has lots of action shots of the turned to the cadet and said, "This T. Henderson Reports sembly Hall today is just a pleas- navy in the stormy North Atlantic wonderful place . . . One of the Not being an R. V., Backwash ant little comedy which plays on convoy duty being attacked by ground reads like last year's similar to a newsreel but there is to the stranger's deeply sincere Tommy Henderson, genial Field newspapers through a Spanish enough plot to keep it going. Since incidents in between. Through it deal of interesting information

> Dial 4-1182 QUICK DELIVERY BLACK'S **PHARMACY** East Gate





Each operator in San Francisco's Chinatown telephone exchange must speak English plus at least three of the five Chinese dialects - Som Yup, Soy Yup, Heong Sow, Gow Gong and Aw Duck-in order to handle calls. For the average Chinese understands no dialect but his own!

Since there is no Chinese alphabet, the 36 page directory, listing 2200 subscribers, can't be printed in the usual way. It is handwritten-then reproduced by engraving and printing processes. Subscribers are listed by streets, instead of alphabetically. And operators must almost know the book by heart, for the Chinese seldom call by number-but by name and address.

Here is a Bell System exchange that in many ways is unique. But it is just like thousands of others in giving good service to telephone users.

