

# FIGHTING WORKER SUPPLEMENT

VOL.1 NO.2

FEB 10, 1946

---

## CONTENTS

1. General Patton is dead but his fascist ideas live on
2. Left Wing Fights At Shipbuilders Convention

---

PRICE 5 CTS.

Published by:

DEMOS PRESS  
708 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, Illinois

FOR

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.

(Affiliated To the Provisional International Contact Commission  
for a New Communist (4th) International)

# GENERAL PATTON IS DEAD BUT HIS FASCIST IDEAS LIVE ON

The most hated man in the American Armies in Europe, General "Old Blood and Guts" Patton, better known to the men who suffered under his command, as "Our Blood, His Guts," died as ingloriously as he had lived, from injuries received in an automobile accident in occupied Germany. Before his death, the paralysis which had affected him from the neck up for so many years, extended from the neck down.

Commander of the Third U.S. Army which had more casualties than any other American Army in Europe, in Asia, or at any other time or place in American history, Patton was a roaring, swearing, fiery, vicious brute, ever armed with two pearl-handled revolvers which he declared gave him the glamor his position demanded.

Possibly the wealthiest officer in the Army, "The Green Hornet" (from a uniform he designed for tankers), was ever an instrument of the wealthy classes and a vicious enemy of the workers, oppressed minorities and fighters against Fascism. Like many other extremely rich men "Gorgeous Georgie" was a vain and conspicuously fancy-dressed man, wearing riding breeches with puttees and sometimes a needle-pointed French sword. His shiny lacquered helmet was one of the outstanding jokes of the European war. To achieve a high luster, Patton had sent dozens of picked officers and men to search throughout the American-held areas in Europe for the extremely scarce lacquer with which he wanted his helmet covered. At last report the helmet (really a helmet-liner) had eighteen (18) coats of lacquer on it. Soldiers declared it could be seen for miles.

Noted as an authority on tanks and map-reading, Bloody Patton was also an expert on swearing, swanky dress, polo-playing, blabbing his mouth off about his fascist beliefs, retaining in office the very fascists he was supposed to be fighting against, and slapping, slugging, and mentally browbeating soldiers. Already propaganda has gone a long way to make it appear Patton was a great hero comparable to Pershing. It is a fitting comparison. Pershing is the same general who in World War I demanded of Pres. Wilson that he be permitted to sentence soldiers in France to execution before a firing squad for its disciplinary effect on other soldiers.

According to his wife, Patton had a soft nature. He is said to have been an intensely religious man, writer of several hymns and poems which soldiers in Europe were forced to listen to occasionally. What relation this so-called soft nature and religion had to his brutality towards soldiers has not been established. Patton's brutality was not confined to slugging soldiers he thought were shirking their duty. More important, throughout his military career, he was known as a military taskmaster, a martinet of the worst sort. His mental browbeating of soldiers for the more than 35 years of his military life was probably quite a lot worse than any physical beating he ever administered.

## SLUGGING INCIDENT

Behind the slapping and slugging incidents in Sicily there is more than has been explained yet. In a Saturday Evening Post article of July 1945 (overseas

edition), Vincent Sheean declared that Patton "does not believe in battle fatigue or in neurosis. This is his conviction, and no doctor will ever shake it." How tragically wrong Patton was could be measured if we could get a statistical summary of the thousands upon thousands of psychological casualties in Patton's Third Army. When Patton visited hospitals he said to the commander: "I want to see wounded men only, real patients only. No battle fatigue and no neurosis, please." Patton was blind to the destructive effect of prolonged battle participation on the human mind. Where capitalism drives people mad, capitalist war accelerates the process.

#### AIM OF WORLD DOMINATION

Few generals have declared America's aim to dominate the entire world quite as openly and coolly as Patton in a speech in spring of 1944 in London: "It is our destiny to rule the world - we Americans and British." Since Patton's contempt for the British and British arms was a commonplace, he had come out openly for American supremacy. When a storm of objections arose, the War Department declared this was Patton's personal view only (though it is the real view of the American imperialist government). Later Patton instead of retracting the statement said that he had been misquoted and that he should have mentioned the Russians too. This was his clearest statement of positive political belief in subordinating Britain, the Soviet Union and the rest of the world to American domination.

The statement Patton made about Americans showing the Germans by example what "swell guys" the Americans are is so foolish it does not deserve comment. American imperialism's example to the starving peoples of Europe and Asia is to deal with fascists and to kick workers groups out of control of cities and areas. America in the eyes of the oppressed of the entire world appears as a prosperous giant which is the only country that has not suffered serious loss in the war, is living off the rest of the world, and using food as a political weapon to intervene in these starving countries on the side of right-wing groups.

#### PATTON WAS PRO-FASCIST

Tears glistened in General Patton's eyes as he bade farewell to the Third Army. "Patton weeps" in Sunday school, says the headline. What a performance. He cried in church, he cried to his men, he did everything but cry out against Fascism.

Under Patton who ruled half of the American occupation zone in Germany, the American Military Government became known as the "government of interpreters and mistresses." Fraternization with Fascists continued on the highest levels; rank-and-file fascists were employed in the American Military Government and the German civil organs. In any sense of the word Patton went out of his way to fraternize with the ideas of these people. Though he defended Fascists in his occupation district, Patton was not punished by a fine of \$65., an offense for which many soldiers had been punished back in the days fraternization with any Germans, Fascist or non-Fascist, was punishable.

In his former district, "it is apparent that before Eisenhower's visit (to check on denazification) Patton had taken little interest in Jewish welfare," said UP

writer John McDermott on October 2, 1945. This was true throughout the entire American occupation zone, where Jews were held in concentration camps.

Removal of General Patton from his occupation post in one of the two Districts in the U.S. occupation zone signified several important things. Firstly, when confronted with evidence of an openly pro-fascist orientation on the part of a ranking general in the Army, higher authorities did nothing more drastic to him than shift him to another command. Were it an enlisted man he would have been incarcerated for a long number of years for working with the "enemy". The difference in treatment of this fraternizer with Fascism and the \$65.- fine formerly meted out to his own men by him is revealing of the double standard of "justice" in the army. Secondly, the stink over the pro-Fascist policy of the American Army was so great as to bring pressure from the President himself that it had to be cleaned up to satisfy public opinion. Patton had to be sacrificed to that pressure as a face-saving device of the Army and of Eisenhower. A convenient goat, he had volunteered for the role by open protection of Fascists. Thus Eisenhower though forced to admit the de-nazification directives (designed to remove Fascists from office) were not being carried out, was enabled to shift a good measure of public objection onto Patton, who was not so much a cause as a creature of American policy.

Reaction of many soldiers to Patton's pro-Fascist statements and actions was to think him insane. But Patton was not clinically insane, or at least his statements and actions are entirely explicable by other causes than insanity.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS FASCISM

Policy of the United States government in Germany was to permit Fascists to run whole sections of the occupied areas. Patton agreed with this. Policy was to prevent the German masses from running the country and to dissolve workers' organizations which had risen in many cities, thereby crushing the German workers revolution. Patton agreed with this. If insanity is present, then the entire U.S. State Department which laid down the pro-fascist policy is insane. But this is a manifest absurdity.

When Patton took over his new job of writing the tactical history of the war in Europe, it was said that if he applied himself diligently to his new studies he might find out what he had been fighting against. The comment is erroneous for the anti-worker and pro-fascist actions of the generals and the State Department acting for the entire U.S. Government are evidenced by their deals with Fascists. Patton was in no wise involved in the deals with Vichy-Fascism, with Darlan in North Africa, with Badoglio in Italy and in hiring of Fascists in Germany. Whereas the State Department strove to conceal its pro-Fascist and anti-worker approach, Patton stated openly that Fascism and its stooges were acceptable under his supervision. Military expediency, offered as the reason for supporting Darlan, Badoglio and the German fascists, continued support of the former fascist "enemy" against the workers of Germany turns out to be not expediency at all but a basic right-wing orientation of the U.S. Government.

#### PATTON NO ISOLATED CASE

What Patton was driving at in his various statements was that you either deal with established right wing elements or you will have communism on your hands.

And Patton as a spokesman for capitalism prefers fascists to communists. He was charged with having this view in North Africa where he is said to have entertained many Vichy Fascist elements in a villa he ran for a while. Patton by and large gave expression to an attitude and an approach which is fundamentally the same for all high ranking American Army officers who prefer Fascists to workers.

Thus the propaganda of the Army during the war is receiving a ruthless kick in the pants - by the Army itself. When the Army gave "a clean bill of health" to Haushofor, the German geopolitician whom they had formerly held responsible for many of the Nazi theories, they sliced off another part of the mask of propaganda they had used during the war. In Japan General Eichelberger said the infamous Japanese General Doihara ("the Lawrence of Manchuria") was "courteous and cooperative." Patton is in good company. Many generals have stumbled over "courteous and cooperative" Fascists and have given them a "clean bill of health!"

The pro-fascism of the generals was further evidence that the American Army overseas is an open enemy of the German workers and an open supporter of right wing and fascist groups and individuals and ideas. Destruction of fascism was not an aim of the American Armies which supposedly had been fighting for the four freedoms. Destruction of workers groups in Germany was the real meaning of unconditional surrender policy that refused to permit workers to rule.

Patton and the other generals illustrated the fundamental social fact that military dictatorial practices applied to civil life are virtually Fascism. They cannot be other since by nature and structure, the American Army is a total dictatorship, run from the top, with the mass on the bottom completely excluded from any kind of control. Patton was an unofficial spokesman of the real fascist views of top generals.

Essentially Patton exposed the military mind at its worst, how irresponsible it is, how totally removed from any control by the mass of soldiers who are under the dictatorship of these brutes. In a government which proclaims itself a democracy, Patton could make repeated pro-fascist statements and get away with it, for the generals agreed and secretly backed him. When he was shifted from the Third Army to the paper 15th Army, the big brass thereby decided that he was still fit to command soldiers. To retain him in command after his fascist utterances and actions, and proofs of incompetency to command anything or anybody, not even his own tongue, after his driving of soldiers until their casualty rate rose far above that of any other American Army - this retention showed the Generals backed this man.

General Truscott who replaced Patton ordered soldiers to remove the uncomfortable helmet liners which Patton had brutally forced them to wear at all times for disciplinary effect (except in bed or under roofs). When General Truscott said "There is no finer soldier alive or dead - he is undoubtedly the outstanding battle leader of this war," he showed that the entire point of Patton's removal had not been impressed on his mind. But how could a General disagree with Patton's pro-fascist orientation?

#### DID PATTON UNDERSTAND WAR?

The boast is made that Patton understood war. But on October 12, 1945, Patton declared that there will be more wars and that we have to be armed and ready

for them. He explained that after previous wars and this one too "we have been induced as a nation to subscribe to the doctrine that in weakness there is strength, that you prevent wars by disarming - just as you prevent fires by abolishing the fire department."

Like other generals he hides the fact that you abolish wars not by abolishing the means or tools of war but by abolishing the cause of war - capitalism. Similarly fires are prevented not by abolishing the fire department, but by erecting fireproof structures. Disarmament of the capitalist rulers and arming of the workers will mean the abolition of capitalism and its wars.

To Patton wars are not a "set of logical circumstances" but invariably are produced "through the efforts of a few unbalanced people" who "play on the many by exploiting thwarted ambitions and emotions of avarice." Where he said war does not drive men insane, Patton now says insanity creates war!

Reduction of war to the moves of unbalanced individuals is ludicrous since wars are explained by science on social not individual causes. Where Patton does not understand medical science on neurosis, he misunderstands social science on causes of war. And this is the man selected to write a tactical history of the war in Europe!

To a Sunday school class, this general in tears (again) declared that "there always would be wars" and informed the children that they were the "nurses and soldiers" of the next war. The generals refuse to see that wars can be driven from the face of the planet by destroying capitalism.

#### WILL GENERALS BE UNEMPLOYED?

When the Japanese ~~surrender~~ came, instead of being glad or relieved that the shooting was over, Patton declared, "I guess I'm out of a job - unemployed. I am a fighting general and the nation won't have any need for me any more." For men of this fascist stripe, the masses of America have no need.

To the famed atomic scientist, Nils Bohr, Patton is said to have remarked that the atomic research had put him out of a job. Before the development of science Patton stands revealed as a blubbering fool and nincompoop. It is ironic to see the dilemma of the big generals who feel they are out of a job now that most of the mass killing of round two is over, now that the atomic bomb has reduced the ruthless leader of men into a rather brutal whipcracker compared to the more ruthless, more deadly and infinitely more scientific, precise and lethal weapon of the atomic bomb. The experienced thug feels lost. Yet as long as there is capitalism there will be more Pattons.

#### SUGGESTED EPITAPH

As an epitaph for Patton's grave in Luxembourg, it is suggested that we use these brief words of Patton's in a speech to soldiers of the 35th Division of the 3rd U.S. Army before Christmas 1944 when the onslaught against Metz, one of the citadels of western Germany, was about to begin:

"I am going to take Metz by Christmas if it costs two truckloads of dogtags."  
(NOTE: From each dead soldier only one of his two dogtags is removed and sent back for casualty records).

To vicious killers of the Patton brood, workers and soldiers roar back their defiance:

You plan the wars, you masters of men. Plan the wars and point the way. But we will point the gun.

READ AND SUBSCRIBE TO

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

Popular Organ of the REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U.S.A.

Affiliated to the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION

The Fighting Worker contains popular analysis of national and international events; featured articles on economics; and interesting columns of comment.

Subscription rates are \$1.00 a year. Single copies 5¢

Bundle orders of 10 or more sent to you postage paid at the rate of 1¢ a copy. SPREAD THE FIGHTING WORKER!

Order from DEMOS PRESS, 708 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

# LEFT WING FIGHTS AT SHIPEBUILDERS CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. Jan 12, 1946 - The stormiest convention in the Shipyard workers history ended today with the reactionary Green machine completely in control of the National union. The Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers - CIO is still saddled with Industry-Government-Labor-Shipbuilding Stabilization and the no-strike pledge. Union democracy was smashed by goon squads, steam roller tactics and the seating of illegal, handpicked delegations.

At this convention the rank and file was sold out by the top leadership on every question. There was no stand taken on wages. Discussion from the floor on the wage question was limited to two hours in a 6 day convention involving a thousand delegates. The report of the wage policy committee which had no wage offer from the war profits swollen companies was tabled to the incoming General Executive Board. After lengthy conferences with the bosses and government agents all that the delegates had was a "feeler" recommendation by the government to give 10%.

A resolution to repeal the no-strike pledge was ruled out of order by Vice-President Grogan on the grounds that the wage policy had been tabled to the General Executive Board. The resolution committee then reported out a resolution calling for a labor court, in other words, forced arbitration. This met the most violent protests from the floor. Forced arbitration was such an obvious betrayal of the real policy of this phoney convention leadership that Green took the rostrum asking its "referral" to committee.

Two constitution amendments to democratize the union were disposed of with typical Tammany tactics. The progressive and militant elements demanded an end to Article 3, Section 3, the so-called anti-red clause and were met by the most vicious red-baiting on any union floor. They further demanded a General Executive Board open trial before any Local could lose its autonomy. This is the one weapon against the rank and file that the bureaucracy could not part with, and they didn't.

As a result of the goon tactics and "fast" counts on voting a number of fights were precipitated on the convention floor. On one occasion as a result of a "fast" count the convention recessed without notice and Green had to be escorted by 20 of his heavy boys out of the convention hall.

Characteristic of the sentiments of the rank and file was the mild applause afforded Green's opening speech, followed by the wild ovation given Phil Van Gelder. Van Gelder questioned the victory over fascism in the war. He endorsed the militant fight of the servicemen for democratic rights. He attacked the anarchy of so-called free enterprise - and called for production for use and not for private profit. While he didn't endorse a Stalinist position as he did in the past on many occasions he didn't take a clear cut working class position on the attainment of these socialist objectives. The implications of his speech were more radical and in keeping with the times than any stand taken thus far by any other CIO leader. This is what appealed to really wide-awake rank and filers at the convention.

A progressive group spearheaded by delegations from large locals at Todds Brooklyn and Sun Ship, Chester, Pa., organized and conducted a fight for strike action, wages and union democracy. They were well organized and presented this program on the basis of specific conditions in the industry. The progressive group while it includes Stalinist and opportunist elements was by no means dominated by them. The Workers Party (Max Schachtman) took a "purist" position in their paper, Labor Action, refusing to have anything to do with a progressive group containing Stalinists. Their main emphasis on the Labor Party and their anti-Stalinist rather than anti-capitalist orientation cut them off from a real understanding and participation as a group in this fight. They posed the question of Stalinists versus Administration forces and advised their forces that they could gain most by supporting the administration.

There are many things that the progressive group is unclear on and there are many unhealthy forces contained in the progressive group that will be sloughed off in the course of the battle in the shipbuilding industry.

In spite of our political criticism, the Fighting Worker welcomes the creation of a broad united progressive group in the IUMSWA-CIO to clean house. To be effective the progressive group must reach in to every local even those controlled by A.C.T.U. and Christian Front elements and create a discussion on the vital issues in the union. The progressive group cannot confine its struggle within the "legal" framework of Green's machine. In every port where there are progressive locals rank and file delegations should establish port councils including all waterfront unions regardless of affiliation - N.M.U., S.U.P., S.I.U., I.L.A., District 50 and independents, for joint action against the Steamship Companies and Shipbuilding Companies. In this manner the program of the progressive group can begin in life and offset the manipulations of all top bureaucrats. The interest of all waterfront workers and seamen are the same and they must unite across jurisdictional lines.

The progressive group is enthusiastic about post-war planning discussion, more so than any other group in the industry. The only approach in this declining industry where "reconversion" talk is a joke is on the basis of a demand for nationalization of shipping and shipbuilding under workers control. The whole industry is government subsidized and it is silly to talk of "private" enterprise.

In the deep south along the seaboard a number of locals have already struck and received  $17\frac{1}{2}\%$  an hour with a provision that if there is a further industry pay raise they will give it too. Green deliberately concealed these facts from the membership. It is embarrassing to Green for the north to get \$1.20 tops while the deep southern mechanic receives  $\$1.37\frac{1}{2}\%$ .

The convention has the usual lip service against discrimination simultaneously with a lot of undercover Jew-baiting and Negro-baiting. Green received a CIO award for his "fight" against discrimination. Treatment of two negroes illustrates this very well. Carter, a typical "Uncle Tom" according to all Negro delegates, was kept on the General Executive Board while Watson, a capable and militant organizer, was fired because he attended the convention as an elected delegate of his local.