



★  
**Women**  

---

**Against**  

---

**Hitler ..**  

---

**PRICE 4d.** . . . . .



## WOMEN AGAINST HITLER . . .

At the moment, all freedom-loving mankind is at death-grips with its deadly enemy, Fascism.

Either we win and preserve human decency and progress, or we lose and lapse into barbarism and bestiality.

The women of the Allied nations are determined not to surrender their right to be treated as human beings, and are fighting and working alongside their husbands, sons and brothers.

The women of New Zealand have not suffered as the women of Europe, where the Fascists have bombed, invaded and over-run their countries and enslaved them. It is to be hoped we never do. Nevertheless, let us all understand the monstrous thing Fascism is, and that the future of women rests in our hands no less than in the hands of our sisters overseas.

Women have a special score to settle with Hitler and Tojo, for there never was a more cruel enemy of womanhood than Fascism. There is no limit to its monstrous crimes.

In the occupied countries they brutally outrage the dignity and honour of women and girls, kill them off or force them into houses of prostitution. Scores of thousands of women have been infected with foul diseases.

In the Soviet Union, the German Fascists now drive women and children in front of their tanks, taking cover from the fire of the Red Army.

This depravity has finally convinced women the world over that the defeat of Fascism is of vital concern to them.

By their participation in the anti-Fascist cause, women will determine whether they go forward on a basis of equality with men to inherit a future of peace, security and happiness, or whether they are dragged back into barbaric slavery.

For if Fascism were to triumph, no man, and therefore no woman, could be free.

Through the ages, woman has trodden a thorny path in her fight for emancipation.

Two great Communist leaders, Marx and Engels, writing about the middle of the nineteenth century, were the first to explain that woman had no specific feminist problems to solve distinct from the general problems of the working class. They said that only when the working classes became the ruling class could woman hope for final emancipation.

That they were right has been proved in the Soviet Union to-day, which alone of all the countries of the world has a workers' government and has achieved complete equality between the sexes.

Marx said also that social progress could be measured by the social position of the female sex. No clearer proof of the truth of this exists than in the Socialist Soviet Union to-day.

The equality of the sexes in that country is not the result of a blind leap in the dark. It is a deliberately planned return to a natural state of affairs.

Since the exploitation of any human being by another is contrary to Socialist theory, the correction of the age-long injustice to woman comes naturally with Socialist practice.

The Dean of Canterbury in his book, "The Socialist Sixth of the World," says, "No world was more dark for woman than that which went with the Russian Empire, none more bright than that which came with the Soviet Union."

In Czarist days the civil code laid it down that "A wife is bound to obey her husband in all things and in no wise to be insubordinate to his authority." Husbands had the sanction of the law to beat their wives if they did not obey in all circumstances.

Nearly all peasant women and three-fourths of women workers in the cities were wholly illiterate.



Such was the lot of half the adult population of Russia when the working class came to power in October, 1917.

With the success of the revolution, woman entered a new world. Soviet woman, for the first time in the history of civilisation, shared with man equality in all spheres of life.

Lenin, great founder of the Socialist State, said: "A victory for Socialism is impossible until a whole half of toiling mankind, the working woman, enjoys equal rights with men and until she no longer is kept a slave by her household and family. The work begun by the Soviet Government can only lead to victory if it is shared not by hundreds but by millions upon millions in Russia."

True to the principles expressed by its great leader, the Soviet Government set about the task of emancipating woman by bringing in vital laws.

Article 122 of the Soviet Constitution declares:

"Women in the U.S.S.R. are accorded equal rights with men in all fields of economic, state, cultural, social and political life. The possibility of realising these rights of women is ensured by affording woman equally with man the right to work, payment for work, rest, social insurance and education, state protection of the interests of mother and child, granting pregnancy-leave with pay, and provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens."

Having given to every woman the right to work, the Government adopted the principle that women workers must receive equal pay with men for equal work.

Soviet leaders contend to attain complete equality with men, women must play an equal part in the productive life of the country.

There is thus no single occupation from which women are barred.

In capitalist countries women cannot participate fully in the industrial and administrative life of their country because of the time involved in child-bearing and time and care needed to rear young children. This in addition to the obvious fact that only very exceptional women can carve a career for themselves under Capitalism.

In the Soviet Union, however, a woman may have a career just as a man does and, if she likes, can be a good wife and mother, too. In fact, experience has shown that the economic independence of husband and wife makes for happy marriage.

The whole cost of child-bearing is treated as an expense of the public to enable woman to perform her national duty.

Soviet mothers receive leave of absence before and after child-birth; industrial workers receive eight weeks before and eight weeks after confinement, while clerical and similar types of workers receive six weeks before and after.

The pregnant woman may not lift heavy weights or work overtime, and nursing mothers working at factories are given a pause every three hours to suckle their babies.

Nurseries care for their babies while working mothers are at the factory or office. The work of the nurseries is arranged to accord with the working hours of the mother.

There are "shift" nurseries which look after children only during working hours; there are "permanent" nurseries which the children leave only on mother's free days; and there are "periodic" nurseries which look after children when their mothers work on night shift.

In this way, by making it easy for women to enter industry, it has been found possible to do under Socialism the justice to womanhood which Capitalism fails to do.

Soviet equality has produced a new type of woman.

Soviet women are greatly interested in politics and play an active part in the government of the country.

They comprise one-third of the productive workers, more than one-half of the teachers, one-third of the judges, and two-thirds of the doctors.

Women managers of collective farms number 19,000, whilst women engaged in all branches of agriculture number 18 million.

On a Soviet ship, which recently visited Australia, there were four women members of the crew. One at 21 years of age was fourth mate and will be captain when she is 26. Another was the baker, another assistant cook and the other a stewardess.

This new woman, proud product of the first Socialist State, has her direct contrast. It is to be found in the woman of Nazi Germany, where Marx's statement about the position of the female sex being an indication of any State's social progress is proved further.

Before the rise of Fascism in Germany, German women had acquitted themselves with honour in all phases of public life. There were women lawyers, professors, doctors, and industrial workers. Twenty-nine women members of Parliament had created notable social services for the nation.

The future of women under the Weimar republic seemed bright, indeed.

Then Hitler seized power in 1933. He at once set about driving women back into the kitchen and reducing her status to that of a slave whose sole function is to bear children and submit to the will of her lord and master.

Women were enslaved with complete ruthlessness. They were driven out of industry, needy girls were forcibly sent to the country, reducing them to the position of unpaid servants of rich farmers and landlords.

To-day, to relieve the drain of manpower, women have been drafted into Hitler's war factories and are working 12-hour and 15-hour shifts.

They work so hard in the factories and on the farms that the number of miscarriages has reached record levels, endangering the "More babies" campaign that is part of Hitler's war programme.

To counteract this, Hitler Germany is now setting up public stations for human procreation. This, an unparalleled outrage to the dignity of woman, is taking place in the middle of the twentieth century.

So do the Fascists of Germany undermine marriage, destroy the family, and use women as human incubators, to be thrown on the scrap heap once they have served the purpose of increasing the population.

German Fascism has not only reduced woman to the status of breeding cattle, it has robbed her of her children by training them to be murderers and criminals.

In the countries occupied by Nazism the sufferings of the women are immeasurably worse than anywhere else.

The women of France have never known darker days. Hitler has taken their husbands and brothers from them; the food from their children's mouths.

Mothers with their children wander homeless and hungry over the roads of Greece and Yugoslavia.

Words cannot describe the outrages perpetrated by the Fascist cut-throats upon the women and children in the Soviet regions they have temporarily occupied. There is no limit to their monstrous crimes.

The tears and lamentations of women resound wherever the Fascist bandits set foot.

It is not strange, then, that women should be filled with an implacable hatred and burning resolve to rid the world forever of this festering sore. We find that in the world struggle, woman has been a frontline fighter on the various anti-Fascist fronts.



## REPUBLICAN SPAIN . . .

Woman as an anti-Fascist fighter came to the fore, first in Republican Spain, one of the first victims of Fascist aggression.

One of the many heroes associated with the Spanish people's struggle for independence, perhaps the most outstanding, was a handsome, dark-eyed woman Communist, Dolores Ibaruri, better known to the world as Pasionaria.

Right up until 1936, this woman lived the normal life of a mother and miner's wife in the mining village of Asturia.



LA PASIONARIA

Then the Fascists invaded her country. She forgot about being a housewife: all she could think of was the Fascists, burning and looting the Spanish countryside, and bombing and shelling her countrymen and women, who had committed the crime of electing a democratic People's Front Government.

She became a great public agitator, urging the people to rise and join in the struggle for liberty.

When embattled Madrid was withstanding the Fascist assault, she gave the gallant workers the slogans "They shall not pass" and "Better to die on your feet than to live on bended knees."

An American journalist said of her, "At Madrid, Pasionaria spoke directly to the people, her people, her comrades, and the voice ringing out over the radio, the burning words, the majesty of her presence rallied a people to resist to the end."

Spain gave two million of her people in a bitter three-year struggle in which she was only finally strangled by the combined weight of Fascist men and metal, and the indifference of Chamberlain governed England and Blum-governed France.

In this struggle, thousands of Spanish women sacrificed their lives, fighting side by side with men against the invading hordes.

During the last bitter year of the struggle, the Spanish people exchanged many fraternal messages of solidarity with the Chinese people, who were the next victims of unprovoked Fascist attack.

## CHINA . . .

The Chinese have for five years now been fighting for the right of their 450 million people to live in peace and free from imperialist domination.

Events since July, 1937, have fully justified the opinion of former Red Army General Chu Teh, now leading the 8th Route Army, who said in 1941, "The greatest lesson we have learned is that a people can fight victoriously with what resources it happens to have."

China's fight for national independence has turned a searchlight on the role of women in the National Front.

Women in China are participating in the industrial co-operative movement in great numbers. This movement has enabled the Chinese people to set up small-scale industries in the free areas, to produce the goods that once came from the great seaboard cities now occupied by the Japanese.

To provide manpower for the co-operatives, women are being educated as never before, for modern machinery can only be handled by workers who can read and calculate.

"I may walk in the garden and gather  
Lilies of mother of pearl.  
I had a plan would have saved the State,  
But mine are the thoughts of a girl.  
The Elder Statesmen sit on the mats  
And wrangle through half the day,  
A hundred plans they have drafted and dropped  
And mine was the only way."

It is a far cry from the Chinese woman who wrote these lines in the year 670 B.C., to the Chinese woman of to-day.

In Yen-an, capital of Soviet China, there is a woman's University, housing 1,000 students.

Entrance requirements are: Sound health, a co-operative spirit and a readiness to fight in the struggle for the emancipation of women.

Many of the students have already fought in partisan units. Many of the students on entering the University can neither read nor write.

They are put through a special class where they study the Chinese language, social problems, political and military "common sense."

More advanced students study political economy and philosophy.

All this is being achieved under war-improvisation conditions, for Yen-an is right in the front line of the Japanese bombing raids.

The majority of the graduates go into rural education work. Others return to their homes in the guerilla districts to lead in mass



MADAME SUN YAT SEN

Widow of China's great liberator.



organisation work. A few enter the Anti-Japanese and Political University set up by the Communists in Yen-an for further military training.

Women in China are providing real leadership through many women's organisations in mobilising, educating and organising first aid and peasant help for the fighting forces.

Chinese women, like the women in the occupied countries of Europe, have seen with their own eyes what Fascist aggression means. They have seen their homes and fields devastated by Japanese tanks and planes.

They have seen their children butchered by Japanese bombs and machine guns. They have seen their husbands and fathers captured by the Fascists, used as targets for bayonet practice, or roped together with hundreds of other prisoners, covered with petrol and burned alive.

They and their sisters have been victims of Fascist lust. In the areas occupied by the enemy, no girl over ten, no woman under seventy, has escaped raping.

These women know that the fate of their children, of their husbands and themselves, is in their own hands. And they are determined with their own hands to rid their country of the Fascist scourge.

## BRITAIN . . .

When France and the small nations of Europe went down like ninepins to the Nazi conquerors, defeated as much by their cowardly fifth columnist Governments as by the advancing Panzer divisions, Britain alone defied the "blitz."

The bombed ruins of London, of Coventry, of Exeter, bear eloquent witness to the will of the British people to resist Hitler Fascism.

The women of England have right from the start played their great part in the country's war effort. Five and a-half million of them are now engaged in industry.

22,000 women now work on the land in England and Wales. They are engaged in sowing, driving tractors and combine harvesters, ploughing, threshing, planting cultivating trees and chopping timber for pit props.

Many thousands of women (figures are secret for security reasons) are with the civil defence services.

They work as full-time or part-time wardens and as first aid drivers, in catering for rest centres, or in the Auxiliary Fire Services, where women switchboard operators, telephonists and clerks share equal danger with the 10 per cent. of women who are actually fire fighting.



A British woman munition worker inspecting a camera-gun.

They are the "odd jobs" women of Britain. Their death-roll is higher than in any other service.

The work ranges from the distribution of more than nine-tenths of the nation's ration-books to feeding and clothing the homeless. The Women's Voluntary Service, as it is called, has proved the importance of the housewife, who has transferred her competence in the home to a wider sphere.

Women are working side by side with men and in some cases have replaced men in Britain's great munitions industry.

In one huge plant in the north of England, which Australian Foreign Minister Dr. Evatt visited on his recent English tour, thousands of workers were employed, and of these 84 per cent. were women.

Women have replaced men in transport and public utility undertakings. They are doing heavy jobs as stokers, bricklayers' mates, cement mixers, goods sorters and crane operators.

The present day women of Britain are worthy daughters of the great British people. They are working without stint and are particularly proud of the ever-growing Unity between themselves and the splendid women of Soviet Russia.

Recently a number of women prominent in public life and in the spheres of science, art and education, sent a cable to Moscow which read:

"To the Women of Russia:

"We, the women of Britain, welcome the Soviet women as our comrades in the struggle of all free peoples against the Nazi menace. Day and night in our homes, in the factories and in the armed forces we stand, like you, beside our men in the front line.

"We are stirred and encouraged by your heroism and steadfastness. We are welded to you in our hatred of Hitlerism and the evils of the Nazi regime. We shall look forward to the day when the women of the world will play their part in building a future of freedom, stability and justice for all mankind."

Back came the answer from the women of Moscow:

"Women of England: You, who are courageously defending your native land from the barbarous raids of the Fascist vultures, take revenge upon your sworn enemies for the orphaned children, for the bombings of London, Coventry, Birmingham! By drawing the main forces of Hitler's army to the East, the Soviet Union has rendered great aid to Britain. We are confident that, in return, you British women, and the whole British people, will help the Soviet people and its heroic army."

Members of the National Industrial Mobile Squads instructing girl operatives in a British factory. Members of these squads are skilled workers who travel round the arms factories imparting their knowledge to the semi-skilled.





## U.S.S.R. . . .

Imagine the anguished feeling of the women who sent this cable, knowing that their sisters in the areas occupied temporarily by the Nazis were suffering greater misery even than the women of the other occupied countries. For the Nazis have been trained to have a special hatred for the people of this Socialist country, who have chosen to live under a social system where racial and sexual discrimination is not tolerated.

Soviet women have sworn to avenge the sufferings of their sisters, their children, their fathers and husbands, tortured and killed by the Nazis.

In the rear they are one with those at the front: in the factories and in the mines, as well as in the fields, they have taken the place of the men to carry on with their work with the utmost devotion.

They have surpassed production records in order to provide the best possible supply of arms, food and clothing for the Red Army, of which they are so proud.

Unity and patriotism, a profound sense of the justice of their cause—these are the source of inspiration for the feats of heroism performed by Soviet women.

They, in common with their menfolk, have but one aim—the annihilation of the enemy.

## AUSTRALIA . . .

“Deeply stirred and proud of your heroic deeds. Australian anti-Fascist women salute your bravery and vow to emulate your courage in the anti-Fascist struggle. Victory will be ours!”

This is the text of the cable sent by a group of Australian women to 26-year-old Ludmila Pavilchenko, girl guerilla of the Soviet Union.

The splendid exploits of this girl, who has killed over 300 Nazis, have aroused in Australian women the desire to emulate her. Australia has herself produced tough heroines; their ancestors were the pioneer women who migrated to this country from the Old Country a hundred or so years ago, fearlessly facing the perils of a new land.

Many of them came here to escape the political persecution they and their husbands had suffered when they had attempted to set up Trade Union Organisations to combat the ruthless exploitation of the workers by the Capitalist class of England.

A century later, the wives and mothers of the Port Kembla Water-side Workers supported the action of their men who went on strike in an endeavour to stop the Menzies Government sending pig-iron to Japan.

Knowing the pig-iron would be used to make bombs to rain death and destruction on innocent Chinese people, they chose to stand loyally by their men's principles without counting the cost.

There were also the women who, inspired by the magnificent spirit of the Spanish people, enlisted as nurses in the International Brigade, which went to Spain to fight for the cause of democracy.

But it was not until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour that there came a quickened and wider anti-Fascist consciousness as the Australian people realised more clearly the threat of Fascist domination of the world.

Seven million people had to prepare to defend a territory the size of the United States, while continuing to participate in the democratic cause on other battle fronts.

Australia began to tackle her manpower problem in the same way as her allies had done—she began to draw upon reserves of womanpower not yet touched.



LIUDMILLA  
PAVLICHENKO  
Famous Russian  
woman sniper.

The Curtin Government has stated that 318,000 more men and women will be needed by the end of this year for the fighting forces, munition, shipbuilding and aircraft industries, and for the Allied Works programme. Of these, 50,000 will be women.

But with the development of an offensive strategy, the need for greater numbers of women to replace men called into the front line will grow.

### Women will be needed:

- To replace men diverted from essential industries which must be carried on.
- To build up the Women's Land Army.
- To take over skilled and unskilled tasks in the munition factories.
- To take over clerical and cooking duties in the fighting forces and so relieve men for the front line.
- To bring victory closer and to enable women to play their full part in the National Front, many aspects of the war effort need overhaul.

The peoples of the United Nations are fighting this war in order that we may go forward to a new world, a world in which women will be free and have equal rights with men in all spheres of life.

Australian women have readily answered their country's call for women to go into war factories. The country must show its appreciation of their response by improving their working conditions.

The women can themselves help matters by joining the Trade Unions covering their occupations. The Trade Union movement of Australia has a glorious tradition of militancy, which has won many gains for the working class. By becoming part of this great movement, women will tighten the bonds between themselves and working men, and will defeat the attempts of some employers to exploit them as a source of cheap labour.

Working conditions of women have in the past been bad, due partly to the fact that their employment in industry is looked upon by many girls as merely a temporary stage between girlhood and marriage. The majority of them have consequently not bothered with Trade Union organisations, and now the conditions in many industries in which women workers predominate lag far behind those in other industries.

On the other side of the picture, however, are the many thousands of women already organised in the Unions. Many of these have shown such marked initiative in taking up workers' problems on the job that their fellow workers have elected them shop delegates, and in some cases executive members of their Union also.

The Unions must have the support of all women workers because it is in collaboration with the Unions that the Labour Government will eventually introduce a general labour code enforcing a civilised standard of labour conditions.

At the present time, the Government and the Unions are working in the closest collaboration. Declared policy of both of them is "Equal pay for the sexes where they are doing the same job."

The function of the Women's Employment Board, established by the Labour Government, is to assess wage rates and determine conditions for women who are employed performing work usually done by men.

Decisions by this Board have been varied, in some cases women have received the same wages as the men they replace, in other cases the Board's decision has been that women receive 60 per cent. to 90 per cent. of the male rate.

In some cases a short probationary period has been provided during which a lower rate is paid. This period varies, but is mainly from 2 to 4 weeks.



Whilst the decisions given to date do not grant all that has been sought by way of equal pay for the same job, they have been very favourable, and a considerable advance over the rates previously paid to women for similar work.

The recent attack on the Women's Employment Board by big business and the opposition members of the Senate will convince the nation, and particularly the workers, that the employers are as anxious as ever to use women workers as a source of cheap labour. Their selfish attempt to do so was countered by the quick action of the Labour Government, which is applauded by all who put victory first.

The Women's Employment Board continues to function and its decisions have added prestige to the Labour Government and will assist in mobilising thousands more women workers for war industries.

What is necessary, if we are to rally for the anti-Fascist cause all the energy and enthusiasm women have proved they possess?

1. THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN TO ENABLE THEM TO TAKE OVER SOME OF THE MORE SKILLED OPERATIONS OF FACTORY WORK.

Lack of previous training is no bar because full tradesmen's knowledge is not necessary for a worker to perform some skilled specialised tasks.

England, America and Australia have found that in certain kinds of munition work women have produced better results than men; their finer sense of touch makes for greater accuracy, and they are more patient under monotonous conditions.

The Technical College and University Engineering Schools could set on foot such training centres.

2. THE PROVISION OF CANTEENS SUPPLYING HOT MEALS. These could do much towards cutting down sickness and accidents.

Many married women entering industry have been forced to give up factory work after a time because the strain of working for eight or ten hours a day, followed by household duties on their return home, proved too much for them.

3. THE PROVISION OF NURSERIES AND KINDERGARTENS WHERE FACTORY WORKERS MAY LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN.

The existing number of day nurseries and kindergartens is far too small for war-time needs. In order that absenteeism amongst women workers may be cut down to a minimum, they should be relieved of the responsibility of looking after children while they are working in war factories.

It should be the responsibility of State and Federal Governments to provide finance for the establishment of additional nurseries and kindergartens in order that children will be well cared for and trained whilst mother is working.

4. SPECIAL SHORT SHIFTS FOR MARRIED WOMEN.

These are easily possible. In England they have been introduced with marked success. There is a morning shift from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and an afternoon shift from 12.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Soldiers' wives, older women, and women with small families, who were not drawn into industry before the introduction of these shifts now contribute 25 hours' work per week to war production.

These women have been found to be exceptional workers because of the short hours, and absenteeism is unknown.

5. EXTENSION OF THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL, TO REPLACE CALLED-UP MALE LABOUR.

It is vital to soldier and civilian morale that production on the food front be maintained, with good working conditions and adequate wage rates to all rural workers, irrespective of sex.

6. FULL UNIONISATION OF ALL WOMEN IN INDUSTRY SO THAT THEY MAY SHARE WITH MEN IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNIONS AND SHOP COMMITTEES AND SO BE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THE ANTI-FASCIST FRONT ALL THE ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY THEY POSSESS.

Australia's men, sons of Anzac and Tobruk, are fighting on the various battle fronts with the magnificent courage for which they are famous. Her men and women on the factory front must be helped to supply them with all the tanks, planes and guns they need to defeat the Fascists.

The women in the Services, too, are performing valuable work as their contribution to this most just war in the history of mankind.

Every effort must be made to supply them with some of the many home comforts they so willingly sacrificed.

Thousands of women have entered the W.A.A.F.S., W.A.N.S., A.W.A.S., etc; many thousands more are required.

Australian women, inspired by a spirit of Unity with their valorous English, Chinese and Russian sisters, want to give of their best.

They intend to be able to say on the day of final victory, together with the women of Chungking and Yenan, of London, of Leningrad and Moscow:

"I helped by my actions to annihilate the Fascist enemies of humanity.

"I gave all my energy to liberate the oppressed people of Europe and Asia.

"I did my best as a woman and a mother in the fight against bloody Fascism, the degrader of women.

"I played my full part as a citizen in the defeat of Fascism and the fight for the brotherhood of man the world over!"

## NEW ZEALAND . . .

New Zealand has an honourable record with respect to the status of her womenfolk.

First among the Nations, with the partial exception of certain American States, to grant adult franchise to women, New Zealand early accorded an exceptionally liberal political and legal status to her womankind. Property rights, equality in marriage and divorce laws, protection against the worst forms of industrial exploitation—in such matters New Zealand legislation and practice led the world during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

It was fitting that this should be so, for the pioneering women of New Zealand played a part fully as heroic as their sisters in Western America and Australia. Oral tradition rather than written history does justice to the brave women who forded swollen mountain streams, carrying their stores on horseback and sometimes on their own shoulders, who helped to harvest and even to plough, who milked the cows, cooked the meals and made the clothes for pioneer New Zealand. In the towns, too, as early as the 'eighties and 'nineties, women toiled long hours in the sweat shops of the clothing industry, and played a part in the movement of social reform which for some years placed New Zealand well in the vanguard of social progress.

To-day we are inclined to look upon the New Zealand woman as being first and foremost a housewife. Yet most married women prior to their marriage pursued gainful occupations in shop, office, factory or farm. It may surprise some people to realise that even before the present war about 25 per cent. of factory workers in New Zealand were women.



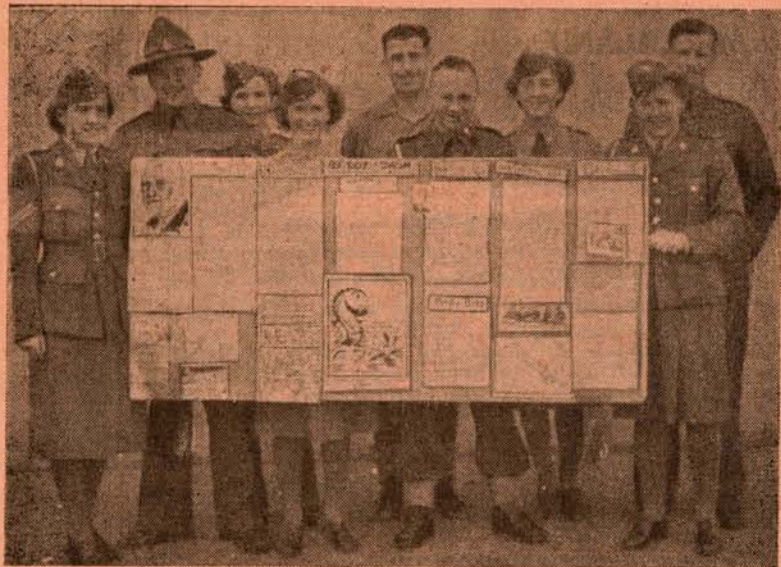
This was the position in normal times. Under the stress of war, women are entering new fields of industry and service, postal delivery, tram conducting, van and lorry driving, milk and bread delivery. In these and many other occupations women are replacing men. In the freezing works, the engineering and radio industries, in the clothing and boot industries, in the manufacturing and processing of many foodstuffs for the troops, women are employed in vastly greater numbers than hitherto. The W.A.A.C.'s in the Army and the W.A.A.F.'s in the Air Force perform yeoman service, and women are employed on anti-aircraft guns, in radio location and in various other ways.

Nevertheless, there are scores of thousands of married women who could be utilised in occupations that would release fit men and generally increase the war effort of the country. There are large numbers of single women who are still pursuing occupations of a relatively unimportant character; women who, under a proper organisation of industry could be made available for the war effort.

The greatest reserve of woman labour power, however, is amongst the physically fit married women who, because of family preoccupations or lack of opportunity, have not been utilised in war industries or services.

The means by which these women should be mobilised are suggested in the chapter on women in Australia. Conditions in this country are roughly similar to those across the Tasman.

Conditions in the industries and services must be made attractive. Rates of pay must be sufficient and equal to those of men performing the same work. Technical training must be provided by the Government and the Trade Unions, all prejudices against the use of women being broken down.



W.A.A.C.'s at a District Signallers' Camp in New Zealand cooperate on the Editorial Board with Signallers to produce the Army wall-newspaper "Dot-Dash."

Extremely important, too, in New Zealand is the provision of creches, the extension of kindergartens, etc.

Women cannot and will not leave their children unless there are adequate facilities for their welfare. A start has been made in the matter of providing creches and nursery schools, etc., but the fringe of the problem has only been touched.

A real Government scheme for the provision of such aid to mothers should be initiated. Appropriate buildings should be put up or where necessary taken over. Trained nurses, teachers, domestic science experts, etc., should be used to train further women to supervise these institutions.

Women, through their various organisations, should explain the need for this development and stimulate the demand for quick and effective action.

Communal feeding facilities should also be provided. A few factories have instituted restaurants, but here, too, only the fringe of the problem has been touched. The Government itself should undertake the establishment of restaurants for the feeding of certain categories of workers.



The illustration above shows First Aid Instructor Nina Kuranova tending a badly wounded man in the thick of the fighting on the Leningrad front. She has won the Soviet award "For Courage."

The photograph on the front page shows Driver Joan Morris, of the A.T.S., on duty with a South-Eastern Command in Britain. She has been cited for gallantry in driving fire-fighters and equipment up to a burning ammunition dump; she remained a considerable time in the danger-zone, in constant risk of being hit by flying metal.





## WOMEN IN WAR AND IN PEACE . . .

The immediate problem is to utilise the great reserves of labour power which exist amongst the women, and particularly the married women, of this country.

We must solve this problem, because we wish to win the war as quickly as possible. Everything is at stake. It has been shown earlier in this pamphlet that Fascism means a degradation of women to an even greater extent than of men. Women who drive a van or make munitions in an engineering factory, or manufacture biscuits and chocolate for the Armed Forces—or for the workers who feed and clothe the Armed Forces—these women are driving a nail into the coffin of Fascism just as surely as if they handled a gun in the front line.

An extra uniform or pair of boots, a ration of food, might make the difference on some occasion between victory and defeat in New Guinea or the Solomons, in Africa or Europe.

It is for victory over Fascism that we must mobilise this country. But there is another aspect also. From time immemorial, ever since the institution of private property in the means of production, ever since there was an exploiting and an exploited class, women have been used by the ruling classes to perpetuate their rule.

The servile status of women, their subjection to the menial tasks of the household or the more lowly paid and exploited jobs in industry have been part of a technique which has kept women politically backward and divided from men workers.

Nothing could help on the progressive movement of mankind more than if they were to play their full part in the industrial economy of the country and stand shoulder to shoulder with their men folk in the Labour Movement. The old maxim of divide and rule could no longer be applied with success. Women together with men could march forward in the struggle for social emancipation.

But the struggle for social emancipation can only go forward if the menace of Fascism is swept from the earth. The defeat of Hitler Germany and its allies is the main immediate task of men and women alike. The women of New Zealand, with their traditions of political freedom and equality, must stand side by side with their menfolk in the struggle against Fascism.

Given the leadership and the organisation, New Zealand women can and will emulate to the full the inspiring examples of anti-Fascist struggle which are presented to them by the heroic women of Britain, of China, and of the Soviet Union.

---

(Issued by the National Executive of the C.P.N.Z., with acknowledgments to the N.S.W. Legal Rights Committee.)

---

Times Printing Works (John G. Helleur, Proprietor), Newton, Auckland.