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WHY WE WANT PEACE

**by the Soviet
man-in-the-street**

Foreword by HENRY LEVITT

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Foreword

MANY READERS of this pamphlet will know that I visited the Soviet Union during the summer in company with Mr. Harry Weaver as representatives of the London Trades Council at the invitation of the Soviet trade union movement in Moscow. We made it our business, during our all too short stay, to speak to as many ordinary Soviet citizens as we could. We found no difficulty at all in doing this, or any reluctance on the part of any person to talk to us freely. Our hosts were only too willing to let us go where we liked, and willingly placed every facility at our disposal.

Wherever we went, and no matter to whom we spoke, we found a universal desire for peace and the most emphatic denunciation of war. There was always the most cordial greeting whenever we explained that we were British, and an obvious desire to make us feel that the Soviet people had no quarrel with us and wanted our friendship.

Reading through the interviews in this pamphlet reminds me so much of the type of conversation we had with so many citizens of Moscow. I have no hesitation in recommending this pamphlet to you as the voice of the Soviet Man-in-the-Street. After reading it I know you will help him to make his desire for peace heard above the hubbub of those who are slandering him while preparing for a third world war.

Henry Levitt.

Note: Mr. Levitt is Hon. Treasurer of the London Trades Council, and is an Executive Committee member of the British-Soviet Society.



*CONSTANTINE
PERFILYEV is a senior
locomotive engineer on the
October Railway. Here
you see him as he was in-
terviewed in the cab of his
engine in Moscow.*

NOT long ago I read a statement by Representative Cannon of the American Congress. He said that "only land-based bombers could reach Moscow with a lethal charge. With the signing of the North Atlantic Pact, we would have ample land bases, and within a week we could blast every nerve centre. . . ."

Hitler would turn over in his grave with delight if he could read that!

I read this declaration over and over again, and was amazed. If any one in the Soviet Union said anything like that he would immediately be taken to a lunatic asylum. But in America they get away with it.

The rulers of America, the bankers and multi-millionaires, are preparing a war against the Soviet Union in order to strengthen their shaky position. It wasn't without reason that Cannon declared that it will not be necessary in the future war to send American land forces to Europe, as was the case in the last, but that they must send the soldiers of other countries instead; let those countries send their youths to death instead of America sending hers.

Europeans as cannon fodder for the American aggressors—that is the scheme of this "civilised" cannibal in a frock coat. I felt anger and loathing when I read his plan to destroy our peace-loving Soviet people.

I know what war is. I also know how to value happiness and

peace and quiet at home. I'm earning good money, and I shall never be unemployed. Then why should I, and all other Soviet people, want war?

The Soviet Union, which has suffered so much from war, needs lasting peace. That is why Soviet people support the peace policy of the Soviet Government, and are fully determined to fight for peace throughout the world.



ZENIA PANTYKHINA is a Moscow war widow. She is conductor on a tram in the Peter Shchepetilnikov Tram Depot. She tells why she will do everything possible to prevent another war.

THE last war brought me nothing but grief. My husband was killed in the defence of Leningrad. The Germans burnt down the village of Azinok, in the Orel Region, where my relatives lived, drove off the livestock, and looted property acquired through years of labour.

And when I was being evacuated I lost my boy Michael. I mourned him for a long time, thinking he was dead. Only six years later, by pure luck, I found my son again.

My dearest wish is peace—stable and lasting peace! The

whole world knows how much sorrow and misfortune the war brought us Soviet people. In every home throughout our vast Soviet Union there are partisans of peace. Not a single Soviet man intends to, or wants to, go to war.

My son Michael has grown up now. I have two other children besides him—a daughter Lida, who is thirteen, and another son Ivan, who is ten. They both go to school.

When I look at them in the evening as they bend over their schoolbooks, I often ask myself: "Is it possible that their lives, our peace and happiness, are threatened by war?" Then ever such a strong desire flares up in me to do everything I possibly can to prevent war.

We shall do everything to work hand in hand with the friends of peace in all countries, to avert war and bridle those who want to see blood and tears shed again.

"Peace is a business for woodcutters," a lumberjack delegate to the Moscow Peace Conference said. ALEXEI BODUNOV, a railway porter at the Byelorussian Station in Moscow, also thinks it is a business for the working people of the world.



THE newspapers tell us that certain capitalist countries, and the U.S.A. in particular, are preparing for a new world war. I read these reports with great anxiety and alarm.

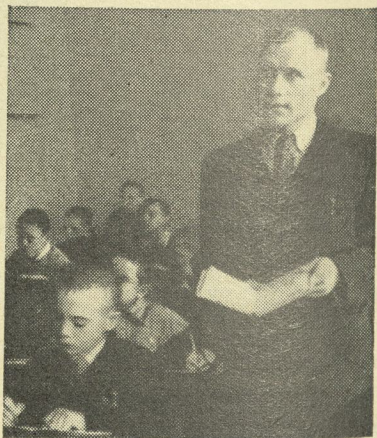
What did the last war against Hitler Germany bring me? All my three sons were killed in action against the German fascists. The bitterness of this loss will remain with me for the rest of my life.

I served at the front, too, as a private, and was wounded. My native village of Domnino, in the Smolensk Region, was destroyed by the Germans. Just because freedom-loving Soviet people did not want to live under the yoke of the Hitlerite invaders, the fascists shot all the men in my village. Only one, Alexei Barbosov, remained alive—through luck. He is now chairman of the village Soviet.

I get letters from Alexei. He writes that the village has already been rebuilt. The State helped the collective farmers, providing credits and timber. The peasants built themselves new houses. Alexei says that Domnino looks more beautiful than it was before the war.

Who, among the common people throughout the world, wants to experience the horrors of war again? I'm firmly convinced that the working people in every country only think of peace. And they are not only thinking—but taking action as well. They will stop the warmakers. I say: All working people, irrespective of sex, age, nation or colour, must unite for the struggle for peace.

After the war NICHOLAS NEFEDOV came back to School No. 130 in the Soviet District of Moscow to teach the boys mathematics. He tells what answer he gives them when they ask him if there'll be another war.



W E Soviet teachers want to see our pupils on the scaffolding of new construction jobs, or gathering bumper harvests in the collective farm fields; to see them in the workshops of factories and mills, in the offices and laboratories of research institutes.

There isn't a single Soviet citizen who wants to see his children carrying arms amid the ruins of cities in a foreign country. The Soviet people have always stood, and continue to stand, for peace.

During the war, I often heard Soviet soldiers yearning for peaceful work, enthusiastically discussing their post-war plans. The enemy's insolent attack on our country forced all of us—workers, peasants, intellectuals—to take up arms, to leave our homes, to part with our families. At the front we lived with only one thought—to finish the war victoriously and return to our work. I survived to see the day when my morning begins, not with the rattle of machine-guns, but with our school porter's bell.

My pupils are inquisitive. They follow the life of our country with the keenest interest. They are interested in the reconstruction of Moscow, in the huge programme of afforestation in the steppe regions, in the new construction jobs of the post-war Five-Year Plan, and in the new plays in Soviet theatres. They are already thinking of the time when they will have finished their education and be able to take part in the vigorous, creative life of the country.

But my pupils often ask me the alarming question whether there will be a war. I tell them that the forces of peace are innumerable.

The criminals who dream of war are few in number, whereas there are hundreds of millions of people wanting to work in peace. The majority of mankind—all working people, regardless of nation, sex, race, colour or creed—are speaking out and actively fighting for peace. And in the front rank are the citizens of the Soviet Union.

Prevention of a new slaughter depends on the efforts of the partisans of peace. War is not inevitable. It can and must be averted by the common people of all countries. And they will succeed!

THE FORCED LABOUR SWINDLE

by William Wainwright

3d.

A British-Soviet Society Publication

3d.



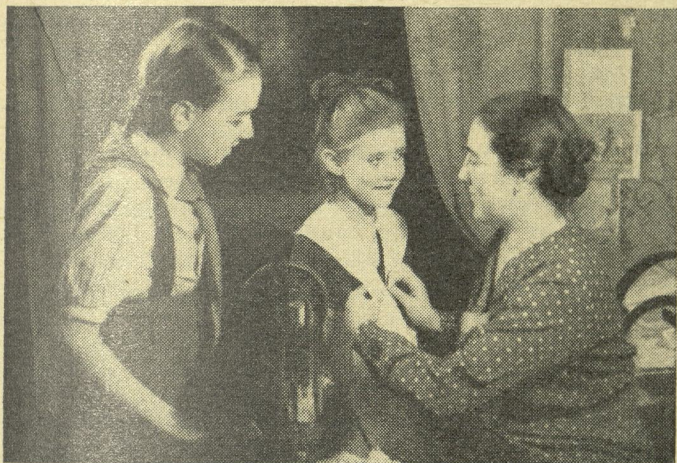
The Dean of the Cathedral of All-Mourners' Consolation, in Moscow, Archpresbyter MICHAEL ZERNOV, says: "We are heart and soul with those who are fighting for peace."

WAR means destruction. War means the loss of the greatest creations of the genius of man. War means torrents of blood and tears.

At the end of each mass, when I leave the altar and come up to the worshippers and pray for peace throughout the whole world, I feel that the whole congregation joins me in the prayer. I am certain that all honest Christians throughout the world also join in this prayer.

One cannot be a Christian if he seeks war. One cannot follow the covenant of the Gospel if he tries to settle arguments with the sword, or threaten to use the sword. One cannot love Christ the Saviour if he is a misanthrope. Regardless of his religious confession, a Christian—because he is a Christian—will wholeheartedly support those who are fighting for peace!

If, however, he who calls himself a Christian is with those who in the name of the golden calf, are prepared to shed the blood of their neighbours, then he bears false witness against himself. And whatever eloquent and hypocritical speeches he may make, he will deceive neither God nor the people!



ANNA SAIKINA, seen here in her home with two of her daughters, is a Moscow housewife. She says: "My children need peace."

I AM an ordinary Soviet woman, mother of four children. To me the lives of my children, and their futures, are the dearest things on earth. My oldest daughter Nadya is fourteen. She is in the seventh form at school. My younger daughters, Ludmila and Marina, also go to school, and my youngest, Lena, goes to kindergarten. My husband and I are certain that we'll bring our children up to be useful members of Soviet society, to become honest, industrious people.

Life in our country is improving every day, and we look to the future with great confidence. I know that my husband will never be unemployed, and that my children will receive a free education at the expense of the State. Our peaceful life is darkened only by the talk of war.

The mere mention of war fills me with the horrors I experienced not so long ago. I was evacuated in the summer of 1941 with my children, to save them from the German air raids. On the way our train was bombed, and many mothers and their little children were killed. I shall never forget that nightmare.

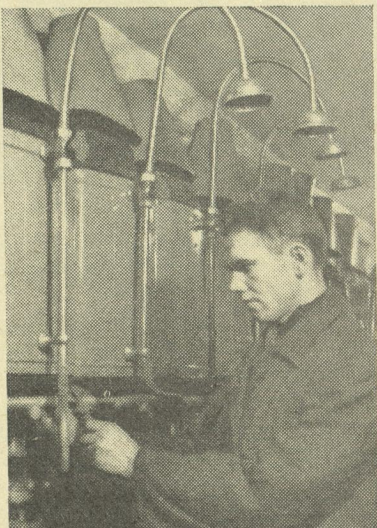
To help the men at the front I went to work making warm boots for the Soviet soldiers. When I was free from work I

nursed the wounded in a war hospital. I tried to help the men at the front with all my strength, in order to hasten the end of that war, so that we could live in peace again.

And now, after all that millions of mothers have suffered, the Anglo-American imperialists want to repeat those nightmares.

Women constitute a tremendous force in our times. And we mothers will not sacrifice our children in a new slaughter. I greet those women in the world who are actively fighting against war, who are guarding the happiness of their homes. The women of the Soviet Union will always be in the front ranks of this great cause.

Foreman V. V. BIKUNOV works in the Moscow Gas Appliances Factory making geysers. The plans of the Soviet people to improve their living conditions he says, "are far removed from all those pacts and blocs which the enemies of peace are organising against my country, and that means against me personally".



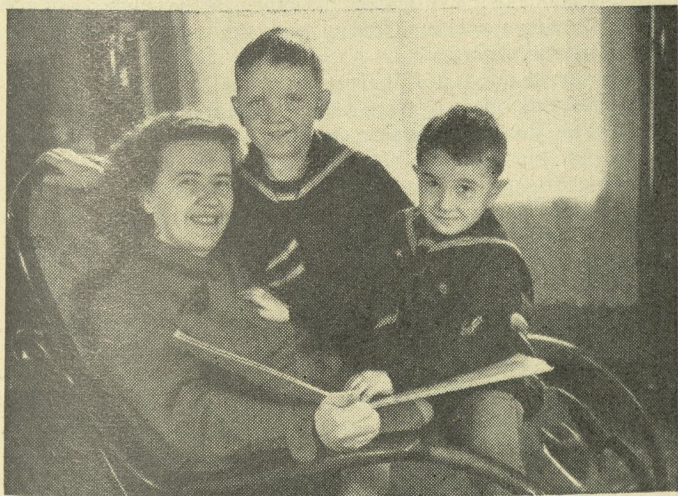
I AM a demobilised soldier. At present I'm employed on the Moscow gas grid. It is a great pleasure to know that my work is helping to improve the living conditions of the Soviet people, and to develop a new branch of industry in the U.S.S.R.—the natural gas industry.

What are my personal plans for the future? I want to know my job still better, to become an expert in my profession. I want to pass on my knowledge and experience to the people under my supervision. I want to bring my son, Alexander, up to be a good worker, to become a useful member of Soviet society.

I don't want war, just as no American or British worker wants war. No sober-minded person can agree with the barbarity that war brings. Could any man who loves engineering remain indifferent to the destruction of the Stalingrad Tractor Works, the pioneer of Soviet industry? And I saw it being mercilessly bombed and shelled by the Germans. My heart bleeds even now when I think of it.

Soviet people aren't building factories and mills to see them smashed by enemy airplanes. They aren't bringing their children up in order to mourn their death on the battlefield. That is my reply to the question whether we want war.

And those who want to plunge the world into war should heed the voice of the millions of people throughout the globe, the voices of their own people, who also want to live in peace and security.



VERA KATLINSKAYA lives with her family in Leningrad, where she writes books.

IT is strange to answer such a question as why do I want peace. How can I not want peace?

I have been brought up in a Socialist country. Since childhood I have been used to the idea that the content, meaning,

and happiness of life lies in creative work for the prosperity of our people, for the well-being of mankind.

During my lifetime, my country and our people have twice beaten off savage attacks by the imperialists. In 1918-1920 there were three campaigns by the *Entente* (the Anglo-French-American imperialists) who tried to throttle our young Soviet Republic with the forces of fourteen nations. In 1941-1945 it was the countries of the Hitlerite axis, the dark and brutal invasion of the fascist hordes.

I took part in this struggle against the fascist invaders as a rank-and-file defender of Leningrad, a worker-soldier of its civilian garrison. For 900 days we lived and worked under bombs and shells. We experienced hunger and cold, and unheard-of privations. We knew that we would win, and that our victory would be the victory of light over darkness, of truth over falsehood; that it would be a victory in the interests of the whole of progressive mankind. And the whole of mankind applauded our victory.

We resumed our peaceful work with the greatest joy. What grand prospects opened before us after victory! How much we have already done, and how much more we hope to accomplish! We look at our children with the greatest hopes—our children for whom we set up a just, human, happy society.

How can we want war? Creative labour, friendship and the collaboration of the people in the struggle for a bright future—that is what we want.



ANDREW DORONIN is a senior locomotive engineer on the Moscow-Yaroslavl Railway. During the war he was awarded the Order of Lenin for bravery. When the locomotive of an armoured train was put out of action by shellfire, he coupled his passenger engine on to the train and drove it back into action.

I DRIVE passenger trains. From my cab window I see waving grain fields, flowering orchards, prosperous collective farms, new factories and mills, gay crowds of youngsters hurrying off to school. When I see these peaceful scenes I feel happy.

And yet only a short time ago I saw quite a different picture. Then I drove trains in the zone of military operations. I used to see evacuated women and children fleeing from the flames of war. Hospital trains filled with people moaning and tossing about in their bunks from pain. Burning towns. Villages in ruins and the wreckage of railway stations.

Soviet patriots bore the hardship that war brought them staunchly and courageously. In the most trying times I never saw panic or despondency. The Soviet people knew that their cause was just. They were confident in victory over the enemy, and every one exerted every effort, at the front and in the rear, to bring that joyous day nearer.

We won. And once more peaceful life began in the Soviet Union. My family is well off. My wife and I earn 3,000 roubles a month. Our son, Eugene, is in the fourth form at school. The State takes good care of us. Life is getting better every year. The prices of food and consumer goods are steadily falling.

But the ominous shadow of war is hovering over the world again. American multi-millionaires, wallowing in luxury and insatiable in their greed, have proclaimed the delirious idea of "world domination".

Aggressive aims are foreign to the Soviet people. We want peace in order to build the grand edifice of Communism. And the people of America, Britain and other countries don't want war. Soviet people are certain that the forces standing for peace are far stronger than the forces of the advocates of war.

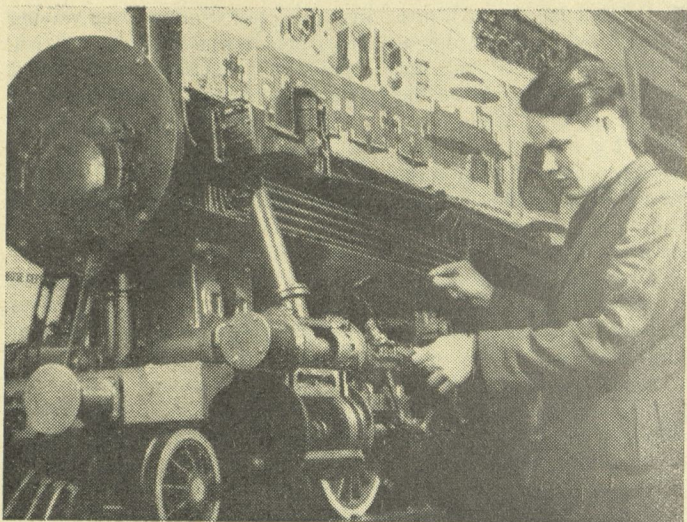
Soviet people are fully resolved to fight for peace, and to expose the warmakers to the very end. We Soviet railwaymen warmly greet the champions of peace, all those who are strengthening international solidarity, who are speaking out for peace and friendship among the nations.

For peace, friendship, trade—

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B.S.S. c/o WMA, 17 Bishops Bridge Road, London, W.2.



Ex-serviceman V. M. AKULINICHEV is a student in his fourth year at the Stalin Institute of Railway Transport Engineering in Moscow. Here you see him working on a model of a locomotive.

I GAVE four years of my life for the defence of my country. I left the Institute in my first year, and only resumed my studies in the second year after I was demobilised in 1946.

Three members of my family were killed during the war. My brother was killed at the front, and my mother and sister when a German shell hit our house.

Do I need yet another war?

No! Like every other Soviet citizen I don't need war.

My ambition is to become a railway engineer, and keep up the tradition of our family of railwaymen. My grandfather was a trackwalker, and my father is a train despatcher in Tula.

I followed the proceedings of the World Peace Congress with great interest. Soviet people aren't alone in their struggle for peace and friendship among the nations. Many millions of ordinary people have joined the fight against war hysteria. They are an indestructible barrier in the path of the gamblers who dream of world domination.

Moscow lawyer I. M. SKACHKOV feels that the Soviet people are not alone in the struggle for peace.



I AM one of those who lived through the Leningrad blockade, and fought in the defence of that great city.

I saw death, hunger, and the destruction of priceless cultural treasures. I was a witness of how German heavy shells dropped in the streets of the city and spread death and destruction. I heard German prisoners of war say that drunken German officers called this savage bombardment "a stroll along the Nevsky Prospect". I remember people dying in the streets from starvation. But their will to gain victory over the hated enemy remained inflexible to the end.

In the exploits of the people of Leningrad we can see the feat of the whole Soviet people. After standing up staunchly under all the burdens of the war, the Soviet people have returned to creative labour and are building up their country.

We have always fought, and will always fight, for peace. We have deep respect for all the peoples of the world. We Soviet people know that neither the American nor the British workers, nor the workers of any country, need war. Therefore we do not feel that we are alone in the struggle for peace.

We extend our hand of friendship to the common people in all countries, and urge them to establish complete mutual understanding and co-operation. The forces of democracy and peace, united in their efforts to prevent the threat of war now hovering over the world, will force all warmakers to retreat.



NICHOLAS KOROTAYEV is chairman of the trade union committee in Garage No. 1 of the Union Transport Trust, where he works in Moscow. In the picture you see him (centre) talking with a group of his fellow workers, discussing the reports in the Soviet press of the World Peace Congress that was held in Paris.

PEOPLE engaged in honest work want to bring their children up and give them an education. War, and everything connected with it, brings them nothing but misery.

I was demobilised from the Soviet Army after war. A year ago the workers in our garage elected me chairman of the trade union committee.

As the leader of our trade union organisation I often talk with the workers in our garage. They all unanimously express their desire for peace. They are all indignant at the intrigues of the imperialists of Wall Street, who are preparing to plunge mankind into a third world war.

The workers in our garage, the members of our trade union, enthusiastically welcomed the declaration of the trade unionists of Lancashire and Cheshire for universal peace and the prevention of a new war. Our workers extend greetings and friendship to the British workers supporting the struggle against the promoters of war. They add their voices to the powerful call resounding in all parts of the globe: "Down with the war-mongers!"

"Long live peace and friendship among the nations!"

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