

Union Students Released; Won Major Victory

Freed in Secrecy
From Danbury
On 'Parole'

By Roy Finch

Eight former students at Union Theological Seminary who refused to register for the draft and were given prison sentences of a year and a day were released on 72-day parole from the Danbury (Conn.) Correctional Institution on Sept. 4.

The eight men, whose original statement shocked many at the seminary, but whose case proved to be a cause celebre of pacifists in the United States in the Second World War, arrived in New York with stories of a hectic nine and a half months in prison. They were sentenced Nov. 14, 1940.

The point on which the group was sentenced has been conceded by the government, it was pointed out. Registrants are no longer required to sign cards but only to put in an appearance at the registration point. On this basis none of those who refused to register in the first draft could have been sentenced. The change is attributed to the government's fear of publicizing the conscientious objectors' position.

Unusual Secrecy

The group's release was attended by unusual secrecy. A welcome meeting had been planned by the War Resisters' League, but the plans were abandoned after word was received that the time of release was uncertain. Friends and relatives who visited the prisoners on Labor Day reported that the inmates were uncertain as to how much their parole would permit them to say publicly.

Describing what went on in the long low building on a hill outside of Danbury, the students revealed that some of the objectors were committed to solitary confinement no less than three times. One of these confinements resulted from protests against racial dis-

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'Such Fine Gentlemen On Draft Board'



Jackson Wilcher, CO in Royalston, Mass., CPS camp, who is an interpreter of Negro spirituals and "boogie woogie," recently put the local farmers in the groove by his singing and piano playing at a grange meeting. When Jackson received his notice to appear before an Atlanta, Ga., draft board he was on missionary duty in Macon. He told the board that hurting and killing people was not Christian. Asked if he were a CO, Jackson confessed he didn't know what they were. Perplexed, the draft board showed him how to fill out form 47.

"They were such fine gentlemen on the draft board. They asked me if I preferred to go to a Southern camp or a Northern one, so I picked the North. They're too prejudiced down South," he explained. "My draft board chairman wants me to write and tell him how I'm doing here and I think I'm doing just fine."

Brethren CPS Head Resigns

Dr. Paul H. Bowman, who has been director of the Brethren Civilian Public Service, has resigned and will return to Bridgewater College as president. Dr. M. R. Zigler replaces him.

CO Cleared of Charges For 'Treason' Letters; Another Won't Register

Swarthmore Student Returns From Mexico to Protest Draft

Special to The C.O.

PHILADELPHIA—Asserting he did not believe that "the butchery of another 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 people would further Christianity," Frederick Richards, 21, a Swarthmore college sophomore, surrendered in the Federal Building here Sept. 26 for refusing to register for the draft and was held in \$1000 bail for the Federal Grand Jury.

A descendant of Benjamin Wood Richards, mayor of this city in 1790, Richards, who had just returned home from Mexico, walked into the office of Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward A. Kallick, accompanied by his father, Edward C. M. Richards, a World War objector.

"I've come here today to state briefly my beliefs and to refuse to surrender my democratic heritage by accepting conscription," he told Kallick. "Inasmuch as the first and necessary step in con-

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War Resister Cited For Jeopardizing Army Morale

Special to The C.O.

SAN FRANCISCO—Wesley C. Miller, a friend and a member of the War Resisters League, was arrested here, charged with attempting to influence the "loyalty, morale or discipline" of the United States Army and then was freed when the complaint was dismissed by the Department of Justice.

Had he been convicted, Miller would have faced a prison term of one to ten years and a fine of \$10,000 under a law against subversive activities passed by Congress last year.

He had written letters to the commanders of Camps McQuaide, Hunter Liggett and San Luis Obispo urging them to "get together and refuse to send draftees outside the Western Hemisphere."

Emphasizing a sentence in one of the letters—"This may be treason, but I am

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Gandhi Says India Contributes To Peace Through Non-Violence

By Mahatma Gandhi

Released by Nonfrontier News Service

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by the Indian leader in answer to criticism of his appeal to Britain to cease armed fighting against Germany and adopt non-violent means instead. His references to the question of launching a campaign of civil disobedience evidently do not apply to the campaign of limited disobedience that has been under way since 1940. Gandhi has not yet launched a general mass campaign of civil disobedience. The following article reveals why he has held back from such a move, although still standing by the decision of the Indian Congress against cooperation with the British in their prosecution of the war.]

In view of further ruthless aggression by Nazi Germany and the fact that Britain is hard pressed and traversing deep waters today, does not non-violence demand that we should say to her that, while we do not retire in the very least from our position nor withdraw an iota of our demands so far as

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AN EDITORIAL

A Challenge to Pacifists

Pacifism stands today on the eve of its greatest opportunity.

When this conflict comes to an end there will be such war weariness as the world has never known. Even if the United States stays out of actual warfare, the collapse of the arms boom, the return of the conscripts to no jobs, the new realization that they have again been sold down the same old river will cause millions of Americans to vow that it shall not happen again.

If pacifism can show the world how to prevent it from ever happening again, if we are ready to take advantage of the opportunity as we did not do last time, we can go a long way toward putting an end to war.

But the eve of this opportunity, the moment when we should be more active and more effective than ever before in preparing to take the fullest advantage of it, finds the American pacifist movement incredibly weak and ineffective. Our forces are weak and divided, our work pitifully inadequate, our funds woefully small.

We have an ideal and no concrete plan for attaining it. We want universal peace and have no organized strategy for bringing it about. How are we going to bring peace to the world? On a smaller scale, how are we going to make the United

States a pacifist nation?

The blunt fact is that we don't know.

The militarists have a plan as well as an idea and they are following it with considerable success. The Communists have a plan for attaining their Utopia and they never for a moment lose sight of it.

We have no plan.

It's true we have some action. We have work camps. We have small meetings, and wishy-washy affairs they are, too, most of them. We have a few teams in a few cities. We have literature and we have many people who believe in the pacifism of the deed as well as of the word and who work for causes that contribute to better human relations.

None of these activities is integrated. They are not knit together into a well-organized, smoothly-functioning whole pattern. They are supported by the activity of comparatively few pacifists while the bulk of us are content to make an occasional financial contribution or to do even less.

(Continued on page 4)

New England Found Friendly to CO Camps

Assignees Work On Water-Holes

Two Friends' Camps Join Neighbors in Fighting Forest Fire

By Arthur Massolo

The civilian work camps for conscientious objectors are building monuments to their ever growing importance as they apply sweat and muscle to the government projects in New England. The 86 men at the two Friends' camps in Petersham and Royalston, Mass., have built 15 water-holes in the hurricane scarred timberlands, ahead of the schedule set for them by supervisors of the Department of Agriculture. They have utilized these water supplies to extinguish a raging forest fire that threatened many homes near Athol. They are convincing their neighbors that they have a job to do; that pacifism can be made an agent of reconstruction.

Fifty miles directly north, in New Hampshire, the first Catholic sponsored CO camp is preparing the way for 58 objectors of all faiths. Only seven men have been assigned so far.

In 1939 the hurricane cut a wide swath as it roared across the peaceful New England country-side. The devastation uprooted thousands of acres of forest land, exposing the hills to erosion and the woods to fire hazards. The Department of Agriculture quickly stepped in and set up hurricane camps to clear the debris. The emergency work done, the camps were abandoned until they were offered to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors.

No Straw Bosses

Six buildings, which house 42 men, are unpainted and give the appearance of a weathered, primitive army outpost at the Petersham camp. Most impressive is the informality. The men are quite proud of the fact that there are no "straw bosses." Camp discussions are conducted along the lines of Quaker meetings based upon the "sense of the meeting." Camp controversies are decided by mutual understanding. There is no voting.

Many of the neighbors are very friendly to the boys. The ministers in Petersham have been particularly sympathetic and many of the campers have enjoyed invitations to tea on Sunday afternoons.

Workers of the World Unite! You've Only Shirts to Lose

By Henry Dyer

Special to The C.O.

CAMP LAGRO, Lagro, Ind.—Radical unionism has bared its ugly head here. A group of incipient Bellowers discarded their incipency one morning on the way to work and let out with some labor and anti-war songs giving off considerable volume if little mellifluency. When the majority turned out to be right-wing Non-Bellowers, the carolers banded together and, lo, there was born the Post Hole Diggers and Dirt Stompers Union, Local 6, United Conscientious Objectors of America.

The spirit spread and this worthy organization was soon followed by Local 1 of the United Weed Mowers. Neither union has as yet been chartered by either the CIO or the AFL.

First activity of the Post Hole Diggers was a militant campaign to protect the workers against the exploiting bosses by changing regulations forbidding the removal of shirts during hot weather work. Slow down strike technique did the trick.



C.O. Photos by Massolo

Tumbling out of the truck at Royalston after returning from a day's work, above. Right, in the mud hole.

The Worcester meeting of the Friends works closely with the camp and has furnished them with much of their recreational equipment.

Water-holes are dug wherever a water supply is needed for fire fighting. The holes are seven feet deep and about 50 feet square and can only be dug by pick and shovel. The mud gets so thick that the men wear thigh-high boots. One boy had to be pulled out by a rope when he sank to his hips in the quagmire. When the cold weather sets in and the ground hardens, the men will be assigned to fire inspection and the maintenance of government lumber yards.

Army Borrows Flour

All the camps have their stories and Petersham is no exception. There is one they tell that occurred during the army maneuvers. A young officer, apparently in charge of an anti-tank unit, drove into camp in a "jeep" and asked the man in charge of the kitchen for the loan of five pounds of flour. The KP measured five pounds, put it in a bucket, and gave it to him.

"What are you going to use it for?" asked the KP, curiously.

"To paste up targets," he replied. Camp Royalston is fifteen miles north and the only town nearby of any size is Athol, six miles away. This camp, though more compact, is operated along the same pattern.

Strikingly noticeable was the number of men on sick leave. Two of them had been confined to the camp by Dr. Bassoon, a local physician, for heart ailments. A farmer from Hamilton, N. Y., has a serious nervous disorder. One boy, who was minus three fingers on one hand, and another, who had one leg



shorter than the other, were released by the government after a long delay. Medical visits cost \$2 and in one month Royalston had a bill of almost \$150. This laxity on the part of draft boards in classifying CO's became somewhat ridiculous. A man assigned to Petersham said he wanted to be fattened up for the army. His classification is being appealed.

Boys Make Friends

Instead of waiting for public opinion to crystallize, Royalston is organizing to create it. One Saturday, they were given the rare opportunity of taking part in the annual Royalston Day homecoming activities. In the afternoon they submitted to a shellacking at softball for the locals, and, in the evening, presented three one act plays. Many of the boys have become the male voices in the church choir.

The Youth Hostellers are very friendly, and with the help of some of their girl members, the campers have attended Saturday night square dances. A local grange became interested in their work and invited five of the men to one of their meetings to talk about themselves.

Since their arrival, the men of both camps have been receiving instruction in fire fighting. While the boys were preparing for dinner one night, the Petersham tower reported a fire in Athol "coming up pretty good." Both camps, working side by side, joined their equipment with Athol's and by early morning had surrounded the fire. Sooted and mud-splattered, the novice fire-fighters

returned to their camps pleased with the first opportunity to serve their community.

Catholics at Stoddard

Eighteen miles north of Keene, New Hampshire, on the crest of a hill in the town of Stoddard (pop. 218), is the first civilian work camp ever established for Catholic conscientious objectors. Their source of support is the Catholic Association for Conscientious Objectors, an affiliate of the Catholic Worker.

The Catholic Worker, a pacifist organization that has been operating Houses of Hospitality from coast to coast for many years, decided that Catholics who object to conscription have a right to their own camp. They raised a total of about \$700. Until now, this has been the best the world's richest church can do for their CO's. Since June 26, when the camp was opened, \$600 has gone for expenses.

With a few promises from high churchmen, and only \$100 in the bank, the seven men so far assigned to Public Service Camp No. 15 face a hard winter.

Catholics Need Help

Of the three camps in New England, Stoddard is most in need of assistance. Comparatively, their table is the poorest. Butter, eggs and meats are luxuries which they cannot very often afford. Robert Knobloch of Allentown, Pa., who was temporarily in charge during the absence of Dwight Larrowe of the Catholic Worker, said that the Friends were operating on a budget of \$35 a month for each assignee while Stoddard has to be satisfied with as little as \$25. "We're stretching that \$100 as far as we can," he said.

This is not their only problem, however. Exposed as they are to the cold, the camp is faced by a fuel shortage. The prospect of getting enough money to buy wood and coal is slim and the temporary director admits he has not enough men to cut lumber.

Stoddard is not much different from the other hurricane camps. Inside, however, the camp is identified by signs of the cross and statues of the Madonna. Pacifist literature, most of which is by Catholic writers, is conspicuously placed in the office and reading room.

Peace Poems Wanted

Poets and collectors of verse interested in contributing anti-war poetry to a peace anthology are invited to communicate with the compiler, Irwin Stark of 42-39 Forley Street, Elmhurst, Long Island. Suggestions for sources for material, clippings, etc., will be appreciated.

Sauce for the Goose . . .

"The Government has decided that every effort must be made to keep up the wartime supply of beer. Brewers have been informed that the State wishes them to maintain their output. . . ."

This wrote *The People*, an English publication. But, according to *Peace News*, British pacifist publication, in the same issue *The People* said in an article on Germany, "Alcoholism has made tremendous progress in Germany in recent years. It is not discouraged by the Nazi leaders who know that people who get drunk are apt to forget their grievances and are incapable of serious opposition."

This is once when it isn't trite to add, 'nuff said!

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(If you doubt this assertion, name a paper that will print the truth about war, capitalism and religion.)

To The Editor

Minneapolis

To the Editor:

The American Legion Convention started Sunday but the town was full of them on Saturday. I stood in front of the main library as usual with CO papers in one hand and Catholic Workers in the other. Two Legionnaires came along and ordered me off the street. I told them I had a right to sell papers there and would continue to do so. They said they would get their gang and rub me off the street. One fellow took a paper and hurried off and the other paid for one. Later a crowd in an open car came by and yelled "boo" at me.

At the Auditorium where the Legion Convention opened Sunday, Fish and Senator Clark spoke at a huge America First meeting. I sold about 55 papers at that meeting. About 20 Legionnaires bought, some saying that they were not for this war. I had no trouble there. Fish was a good speaker but Clark was very tiresome, although what he said was not so bad.

I had a fine letter from Peter Maloff, the Dukhobor whose family I visited. He got out of jail but does not know for how long. I quote what he told me:

Spirit Unshakeable

"I came out fairly well, my spirit is unshakeable. Family are all well and vibrating with courage. . . We must face reality courageously and bear the torch. It may be a dim one and at times it flickers seriously, but we should not despair, for our main attention must be directed to saving the light, even if it is dim, because only light will brighten the darkness that has enveloped mankind."

Received a letter from Mrs. James K. Allen, Fruitland, Idaho, whose husband, a minister, refused to register and is doing time in a Federal Road Camp at Kooskia, Idaho, 200 miles from her home. She and her four children have not seen him since June. The warden there does not like pacifists so they put Allen on a Big Jack air hammer that ordinary men only stand for four or five days. He was on it for six weeks and did not murmur. Finally the other prisoners protested that this was not fair and he was changed to an easier job.

When Allen was sentenced and wanted to make his statement to the judge the judge stopped him saying:

"Man, I can't let you get by with this. If I did, we would have no draft law, no conscription—why, we wouldn't even have a war at all—we wouldn't have anything."

AMMON A. HENNACY.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the footsteps of the messengers of peace."

The Queens Peace Team
meets the first and third Friday of each month at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tarter, 42-15 81st St., Elmhurst, Queens, N. Y. Next meeting October 3, at 8 p.m.

Greetings to The Conscientious Objector
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To the Editor:

I always enjoy reading The Conscientious Objector. I read with interest the article "Five Objectors in Solitary" in the August-September issue. I feel that we should keep in touch with conscientious objectors in prisons and I am glad that this is being done through your paper.

I think we must guard against developing the attitude that CO's in prisons are being treated any more unjustly than other inmates. "The CO's at Danbury are not being treated more unjustly than the other three hundred and fifty inmates. There is a slight discrepancy in the censorship of reading material and correspondence. The prison officials are aware that the CO's have people outside who can and will attack the institution and therefore the officials are not overly anxious to punish the objectors any more unjustly than others."

The objectors are not completely without guilt. In their attempt to "change" the institution or the warden they have not always acted according to their principles of love. I say "they" but I too was guilty of failure to be consistent at all times, and it is no easy task to love the man who imposes an unjust law upon you.

The objectors are better prepared to take whatever comes than are the other inmates. They are there because they stood for something which they believed was worth their life to bring to a decaying world. They will be stronger for having been there. Their own spiritual resources will be strengthened. We need to spread our concern to include those who are in prisons because they attempted to earn a living illegally and who have not the spiritual resources to carry them through without their being seriously affected.

Wants Prison Reform

I know that your paper is to keep in touch with the news of the CO's throughout the country and not to touch upon many of the evils in the country. That is good for there are many other papers to crusade for various reforms and changes. But everytime I read something about how badly the objectors are being treated I cannot help but try to remind the writer that the other inmates are also being treated unjustly. And we as pacifists must be concerned about our penal system. We must not overlook this totalitarian system while we work for peace and democracy. I am concerned about little Johnnie who was sentenced to fifteen months because he worked one week in an illegal liquor plant to get money to pay his furniture bill. His wife and three children are suffering. He may lose his farm. Let us become alert to the injustices which are being done to thousands of people and not to the CO's alone.

To bring about a revolutionary change within the penal system is not your task but the whole system is so degrading to human personality. I was Senior Ass't., Bureau of Classification, Texas Prison System, and spent about six months in Danbury for not registering. I mention this merely to give a background for my concern.
Keep up the good work.

ARLE BROOKS.

Ain't We Got Fun

The following is from a ship news story in the New York Daily News, Sept. 5, 1941:

"A British Naval officer who served in the Crete evacuation told how a German troop convoy of commandeered Greek fishing boats met its doom. 'We must have killed about 5,000 Germans by ramming the boats—it was great sport,' he said."

Pacifists Firm, Survey Reveals

News Clips of Nation's Press Show Strong Resistance To Army Service

In every section of the United States pacifists are encountering the machinery of selective service as it is applied to the individual objector. To acquaint CO's with the experiences of others, the War Resisters League has been compiling miscellaneous news items as gleaned from the nation's press.

Raymond Brannon, a radio repairman of Washington, D. C., was first classified as a CO (IV-E) but later when he asked for reclassification as a minister, the local board referred the case to the district attorney.

Arnold Deiler, Onedia, Wis., was sentenced to one year for refusal to register for the draft. His sentence was suspended when the U. S. Attorney expressed the opinion that the registrant had not been properly advised on how to appeal.

Called a Slacker

Paul W. Dipolito, an electrical worker of Glenfield, Pa., was given a IV-E classification after an F. B. I. investigation. Signs branding him as a slacker appeared on Glenfield telegraph poles, but Dipolito said he expected this and didn't think much of it.

According to the police of Columbia, Mo., Edgar Thomas took his life because he didn't want to go to war and "shoot somebody I have nothing against."

The mother of Geydon Wellman reported her son to the draft authorities when he refused to register for the second draft. He registered but insisted his beliefs were unchanged. His mother, apologizing for her son's action, said she thought a book, Our Changing Social Order, influenced his behavior. The New York Daily News compared him to Sergeant York.

Refuses Questionnaire

The Rev. Lloyd Schear, a Methodist of Hughsville, Pa., returned his questionnaire unsigned saying that in conflict between God's law and man-made law, he must obey God's law.

Robert W. Barstow, whose father is the head of the Hartford seminary, made a statement to his draft board explaining why he refused to sign the registration card in the second draft. No violation of the law was involved because under a new ruling the card was signed for him.

Albert Scott, socialist, pacifist Quaker of Boston, was sentenced to a year for non-registration. In court the district attorney called him a member of the "liberal, fascist, communist wing of the Quaker faith." In sentencing him the judge expressed belief in his sincerity and rebuked the district attorney for his words. Scott was released after five weeks from the Danbury penitentiary and was sent to serve the remainder of his term at the CO camp at Petersham, Mass.

Methodist Youth Ask Complete CO Exemption

Special to The C.O.
BALDWIN, Kan.—The national conference of the Methodist Youth Fellowship adopted a program calling for the uniting of 2,000,000 Methodist youths to keep the nation out of war.

The Youth Projects Committee called for repeal of the Selective Service Act, protection of civil liberties for draftees, complete exemption for conscientious objectors and a campaign against anti-Semitism.

J. Kempton Jones, of Salisbury, N. C., was elected first president of the newly-formed youth fellowship.

Student Returns To Make Protest

(Continued from page 1)
scription is registration, I must naturally refuse it."

Would Not Register

Although Richards was away on registration day, he made it clear he would not have registered had he been in town. "I returned from Mexico to have this chance to cast my vote against the destruction forever of American democracy," he told Mr. Kallick.

In a three-page mimeographed statement, copies of which were passed around by his father, Richards declared:

"I was a student in Mexico, and as such was under no legal obligation whatever to register for the draft. Morally, though, I felt that in times of crisis it was every American's duty to do his share in defending the ideals and rights which were his heritage. For that reason, I determined to come home and do my utmost in opposing both the drift toward war, and its tyrannical instrument, conscription."

To this Kallick remarked, "The only reason I can see for this young man's return from Mexico is to show his deliberate intention to violate the law. He apparently does not believe in the rule of the majority."

Worked in Mexico

Richards, a biology student, had been doing volunteer work in line with his studies at an American Friends' Service camp, engaged in reconstruction operations in the earthquake devastated area around Colimo, Mexico. In February, he said, he first learned of the new registration set for July 1, and it was then he made his decision.

U. S. Commissioner Norman J. Griffin, to whose office he was taken, denied a plea that Richards be released in his own recognizance, declaring, "He has realistic views on conscription and he may possibly decide he does not come under the jurisdiction of this court."

When asked by the Commissioner whether he would bear arms to protect this country in the event of invasion, Richards' reply was an emphatic "no."

"I would go back to the methods of the early Quakers," he said.

Required Reading for C.O.'s
The Call
America's leading anti-war, anti-fascist weekly

Featuring
Norman Thomas' column
"Your World and Mine"

Lillian Symes lively
"Hold That Line"
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Book Reviews
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