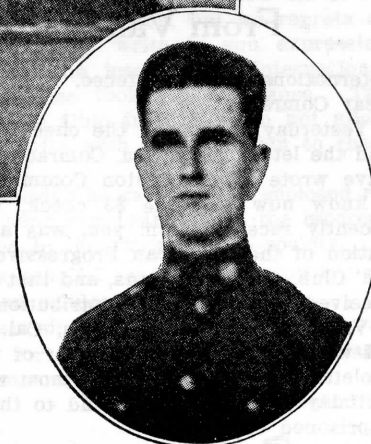


Alcatraz Disciplinary Barracks, San Francisco Bay. OVAL: Paul Crouch.



The Appeal of Paul Crouch

By Sam A. Darcy

PAUL CROUCH'S appeal has been denied!

That denial means that one of the pioneers in the struggle against militarism in this country continues to pay for his daring; that one of the



Walter M. Trumbull

most splendidly spirited fighters for the freedom of the colonies must serve the balance of a three year sentence imposed upon him by the general court martial. This last brings to light the hypocrisy of the whole procedure; namely, that one of the mainstays of the monster that he fought so heroically was set up as his judge.

But what is the social significance of this decision? Paul Crouch and Walter Trumbull were both arrested while serving in the army, for

carrying on an anti-militarist struggle. Their work directly conflicted with the plans of the government to increase military forces for the greater insuring of investments abroad. This process had been going on unchallenged for several years. Thus, though the standing army had been increased to only about 150,000 men yet the militarization of the civilian population is

so tremendous as to give one a slight conception of what is actually taking place. Citizens' Military Training Camps, for example, began as late as 1921. Since then they have increased about 350% as follows:

1921	10,681
1922	22,000
1923	25,000
1924	34,000
1925	35,000

In addition to these civilians' training for military purposes there has been instituted the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in the colleges. Though this institution first saw life in 1916 they have trained about 150,000 men in the comparatively short time since then. Behind the screen of disarmament conferences the government has also increased the air forces—a tool of growing importance for war purposes—to almost unbelievable proportions. The budget appropriations as shown by the government are as follows (note the huge increases from year to year):

1916	\$ 1,300,000
1917	26,033,000
1918	685,000,000
1919	1,172,343,877

In 1924-25 the approximate appropriation for military purposes totaled 59% of the total; in 1926 it was officially reported that 80% of the total budget would go to war preparations.

The United States government despite all its pious statements concerning "will to peace" is preparing for war. It is rapidly broadening its scope of power and the holding of colonies for purposes of exploitation is only a single scene in the entire drama. The plans for world domination by American capitalists are very carefully and elaborately planned and woe to those who oppose them.

But Paul Crouch and Walter

Trumbull did oppose them. They attacked the plan at its very heart by turning the soldiers against it. The great monster was aroused to savagery by this attack; and its general court martial sentenced these two men to forty and twenty-six years' imprisonment. Because of the popular protest against this sentence it was reduced to one and three years respectively. Trumbull has finished serving his sentence and is doing splendid work in the ranks of the workers' movement. Probably the courage of Trumbull leads the rulers to think that it might be dangerous to release Crouch.

Crouch wrote the writer several letters. There is no pessimism in his speech; no doubts about the future. Here are some excerpts:

"I was delighted to hear of the plans for a united front against militarism and of the wonderful opportunities for service enjoyed by my friend and Comrade Walter Trumbull. While I am unable to be with him in person and fight by his side for the workers, nevertheless, my hopes and best wishes are with him. . . I look forward to the future with optimism and absolute confidence in the ultimate victory of the great principles of our cause."

The severity of the attack on those who oppose the protagonists of the imperialist designs of our masters make it all the more important for greater numbers to rally to that struggle. With the courage and spirit of Crouch in our hearts we march forward to a better day.

But let us not forget that it is a most important part of our task to free those who have championed the cause in this struggle from the hell holes to which they have been incarcerated for it.