

Lift Every Voice—



By CLAUDIA JONES

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FOR VICTORY!



Corporal Joe Louis talks things over with his buddies at Camp Dix

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By **CLAUDIA JONES**

REMEMBER June 22, 1938? The eyes and ears of the world were turned on a fighting ring in Yankee Stadium. Joe Louis, world heavyweight champion, dealt an opponent a knockout blow that was heard 'round the world.

For the opponent Louis kayoed was the Nazi hope, Max Schmeling.

The Nazis had called Joe Louis "der sogennante weltmeister"—"the so-called champion."

In proud defiance of the Nazis' "Aryan" arrogance—the people everywhere, Negro and white, hoisted their own banners:—"Hail Joe Louis, the People's Champion!"

Joe wasn't alone in that fight. . . .

Detroit, home town of Joe, proud of its world champion, cheered. . . .

Harlem echoed the joy in the Stadium—indescribable joy that was marked in the flow of thousands to the streets. . . .

And banners were everywhere:

"Take the Nazi Bum Back to Hitler!"

"Down with Hitler and Mussolini!"

"Joe Louis Wins, Hitler Weeps!"

"Who said 'Aryan' Supremacy?"

"Alabama Produced Joe Louis, Free the Scottsboro Boys!"

Victory demonstrations in Pittsburgh . . . Cleveland . . . Philadelphia . . . Chicago . . . and elsewhere. Underlying the festivities was boundless anti-fascist solidarity of all the people. It symbolized the fight and the hatred of the peoples everywhere against fascism.

WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR, JOE?

"I'm fighting for my country," Joe Louis told reporters, who, on the occasion of the Louis-Baer bout for Navy Relief, asked him why he was fighting "for nothing."

Joe's an army man now. He fights in a larger ring, a ring that covers the entire globe. And millions of people the world over are fighting with Joe in this battle. On Joe's side is Dorie Miller who, on May 11, was awarded the Navy Cross by President Roosevelt for conspicuous bravery at Pearl Harbor. On Joe's side is Lieutenant Bulkeley, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, who sank a 5,000-ton Japanese ship on the west coast of Luzon Island.

The stakes in this fight overshadow by far the Louis-Schmeling bout of '38. For the stakes are the freedom, progress and advancement of *all* humanity. We fight an enemy who is out to conquer the entire world, to destroy the freedom and independence of all nations and peoples, to enslave and, as stated in *Mein Kampf*, to wipe out such peoples as the Negroes and Jews.

Joe Louis, native son of America, was born March 13, 1914, in a cabin on Buckalew Mountain in Alabama. At the age of 12, together with his parents, two brothers and three sisters, he came North. He had to leave school at the age of 14 to go to work. And many of the tasks known to young workers were Joe's tasks, delivering ice, selling papers and the like.

His fight for the championship was not easy. He had to fight against un-American sports writers who constantly sniped at him with tales that he was "slipping," that he "couldn't take it." Joe had a tough time of it, fighting both able challengers for his "crown" and also the barriers of discrimination that face any Negro youth.

Joe Louis is an American and proud of it. In spite of every handicap that still hinders him and other Negro Americans from giving their best efforts to the country's defense, Joe eagerly put on the uniform of the United States Army. Because it symbolizes, with the uniform of the British Tommy, the Red Army soldier, the Chinese guerrilla, the Indian sol-

diers, the Ingorots and the Filipinos, everything that we are fighting for.

Joe's fighting for America—for all people. So that his people can get on a broader scale what he's been battling to get: recognition, equality and fuller participation in the life of the nation as a whole.

Joe knows what he fights for. As he declared at the all-star show for Navy Relief: "I'm doing what any red-blooded American would."

HITLER WON'T FIX IT

Joe Louis is a man of few words. But he said a mouthful when he declared: "There's a lot of things wrong with America, but Hitler won't fix it." Joe is right. Even the thought of what Hitler fascism would mean to our beloved America proves that.

Our country's traditions of constitutional liberty and democratic rights would be lost. There would be no labor unions, no people's organizations. And all youth would be taught the Nazi brute worship of force and "Aryan" superiority to replace everything that youth holds dear. Books would be burned, culture and science destroyed and perverted to work for fascism.

In the opinion of Hitler, Negroes are "latent brutes." This pictures vividly what the fate of Negro youth would be in the event of a Hitler victory. The policies of the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Legion would be the official policies of the government in Washington. No longer would the great voices of such outstanding Americans as Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson be heard. No longer would such great literary works as *Native Son* appear. Joe Louis would not be able to give the lie to "Aryan" supremacy.

Yes, there are "things wrong with America." The existence of poll-tax laws, lynchings, discriminatory practices, are shameful blots on our democracy. But the opportunity to fight to abolish these things and to win victories by so doing is a part of our democracy today. The destruction of that democracy

under a Hitler would mean that our only law would be the "law" of the slave master; our only "rights" the rights of the slave.

Have Negro Americans reason to expect anything better as far as Hirohito is concerned? Of course not! Japan is no more a champion of the darker peoples than Hitler is a champion of the world! Look at the record of Japan in Korea, Manchukuo and China! Moreover, Japan is a partner of the worst enemy of the Negro people—Hitler, and of the bloody Italian fascist rapists of Ethiopia.

Hitler's pretense of being the champion of the "Aryans" has been drowned out in the blood of millions of Europeans of a dozen nations. And the Mikado's lie of being the "protector of darker races" is exposed by the barbarous war he wages against the darker peoples of the Far East. Both ends of the Axis use the same method—to conceal the fact that both are the enemies of all decent human beings, white and colored.

The only difference is like the difference between a snake's head and his tail. The Hitler end of the Axis is more poisonous and deadly. But if the serpent's head, Hitler, is crushed by the combined might of the great Red Army of the Soviet Union striking from the East and the armies of America and Great Britain striking from the West, then the tail-end—Japan, can be taken care of relatively easily.

How ridiculous to call this a "white man's war," and how dangerous! This is our war. Joe's war. Your war and mine. It is a people's war to preserve the integrity and independence of our nation; to preserve the opportunity and the chance we have to fight for a better life; a war for freedom of all mankind so that men can once again think and breathe freely the whole world over.

JOE LOUIS—SYMBOL OF PATRIOTISM OF ALL AMERICA

Joe's in there, doing his part, like so many thousands of Negro youth with their white buddies. Who will deny that Joe's contributions to Army and Navy relief helped to accom-

plish the gains made in beginning to break down discrimination in the Navy and in the Army? Like Dorie Miller, Joe is the answer to our enemies within and without who claim that Negro Americans do not have an all-out stake in this war, and aren't out to win it. They fight in the spirit of Crispus Attucks at Boston Commons; in the spirit of thousands of Negro soldiers who fought at Gettysburg; in the spirit of the great Abraham Lincoln, who at the demand of the people took the needed steps to unite the people and to win the war—the freeing of the slaves by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Yes, in the solid spirit of patriotism of Negro Americans. In the spirit of Frederick Douglass, who urged all-out support of the Negro people of that day to the war effort. Douglass urged all-out support by Negroes to the Civil War; urging colored men to join the Union army and to fight for freedom and liberty. He declared the "logic of events" should convince all Negroes that their basic interests demanded their participation as fighters in the ranks of the Union Army.

Of the slave-holders' rebellion against the Union, Douglass stated: "A war undertaken for the permanent enslavement of colored men and women, calls logically for colored men and women to help suppress it."

If in the Civil War this was true, how much more true is it of this democratic war, when both Negro and white men and women are threatened with enslavement by fascism! No wonder then that Negro youth, as the Southern Negro Youth Congress at its recent Fifth Annual Conference, have pledged "full and unswerving loyalty and service" to the cause of the nation in its war effort.

"WE MUST REMOVE THE WEIGHT THAT DOTHS BESET US"

In these words Paul Robeson, another great American and world famous people's artist, in the midst of his concert program in a Kansas City auditorium, spoke out against lynching, poll taxes and all forces of discrimination, as injurious to the war effort.

Yes, we must remove the "weights" which hinder our war

effort because they deprive the Negro people of full citizenship and participation in the war effort. Some of these hindrances are being removed as a result of the action by labor, government, progressive and people's organizations. To cite but a few examples: the hiring of Negro workers in aircraft and other war industries as a result of Executive Order 8802, and the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee.

The National Maritime Union, backed by the President, won the fight against the shipholders, establishing the practice of mixed ship crews. Local 475, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, C.I.O., only recently announced a policy, unanimously adopted by their executive board, that 10 per cent of all persons sent out for jobs from their hiring office will be Negroes.

The War Labor Board recently cited over twenty unions for their consistent work in securing jobs for Negro workers. These are the straws in the wind that show which way it is blowing. And it is a broad, sweet, democratic wind that is beginning to clear out of the way many of the barriers to fuller integration of the Negro people in our national life and in the war effort.

Joe Louis's home town of Detroit symbolizes the great changes taking place. Joe used to work on the Ford assembly line. Now Detroit has become a great city of organized labor. Along the assembly lines working side by side are organized Negro and white workers, who produce the planes, guns and shells to defeat Hitler.

The shiny new planes that slide off some of the nation's belt lines in Douglas, Glenn Martin, Wright and other places, to defeat Hitler are being built today with the hands of Negro and white youth.

For the first time in our history, Negro pilots fly those planes. At the great air base in Tuskegee, Alabama, the Negro pilots are the pride of their people—of all America. These pilots tell you proudly of their service and of the fine planes they fly. They are lauded by their instructors as being equally skilled and as capable as any pilots in the country.

In Detroit, Negro and white union workers together with the whole people are fighting to wipe out Klanism. Only recently, a Klan member, found to be holding a union card, was unanimously expelled from the union. It was this same union, the United Automobile Workers of America, that was instrumental in bringing about the victory at the Sojourner Truth Homes. Backed by the government, the Negro workers, supported by their white fellow Americans, defeated the Klan effort to exclude Negroes from this housing project built for them. Now they live in the Sojourner Truth Homes! Today, the Ku Klux Klan is being investigated by the government. This and the investigation undertaken by the government of peonage, lynchings and poll-tax laws are more than timely. This is the way to defeat the enemies of the nation, who prefer to see a victory for Hitler than see full democracy extended for all people.

These are signs of the times. And ever more vigorously the demand goes up from the Negro youth, from the ranks of labor, from among all patriotic people, that if America is to win this war, the doors must be opened even wider to Negro youth to enter into defense production, into the Army, Navy and Air Force on the basis of full equality. *This is something new.*

But more than that, the need to mobilize everything for the war, to produce, to fight, to win, requires that *new* gains be made.

Some among the Negro people say we need a "Double V"—a victory at home and abroad. The majority of Negro people who adopt this slogan do so because of the anti-Hitler and pro-democratic faith which they hold. But are there really two "V's" here? We have already shown that *everything* depends upon defeating Hitler! There will be no "home front" or permanent gains at all without a victory over Hitler. Thus it can be seen that all victories won on the "home front" against discrimination today are inseparable from the struggle to defeat Hitler. Clearly there is only one "V"—single and indivisible.

This is the way in which to tackle the problems that still

lie ahead. Uppermost is the need for far vaster opportunities to serve in the armed forces.

IN JOE'S SPIRIT—A MIXED REGIMENT

Two young Navy officers, who attended the Louis-Baer bout for Navy Relief, grasped Joe's hand after the bout and said: "Oh boy, we sure would like to have you with us. . . . I'd be proud to serve under a fighter like you. . . ."

Two white Army lieutenants who used their furlough to see the fight said to Joe: "Say, we'd like to have you in our regiment all right when you come into the army."

To both of these sincere responses, Joe smiled and said "Thanks."

Both incidents expressed something that is in the minds of many youth, Negro and white—the desire to end the shameful restrictions upon the opportunity of Negro youth to serve in the armed forces.

This is the American spirit.

Why shouldn't Negro and white Americans fight together? Do they not work together? Are we not fighting for a common cause together? Besides, our nation's history shows we have done so in the past. Crispus Attucks, the first man to fall in our American Revolutionary war, was a Negro. His mates were white. Fifty years ago there were mixed naval units. Negroes served as coxswains, first and second gunner's mates, as well as quartermasters and messmen. What American does not glory in the knowledge that Negro Americans have in each crisis given their last drop of blood for the nation's cause?

Despite the positive steps allowing Negroes to enlist in all branches of the Naval service, Negro youth can only give partial service because Jim-Crow still permeates the Navy. But Negro young men and women, fired in the spirit of Dorie Miller and Joe Louis, want to give *full* service.

If Dorie Miller was able to perform the heroic deed he did, without training, how much better could he accomplish his task—with training? There are millions of Dorie Millers today who want such training to defeat the Axis.

There is need for greater promotions of Negro officers, equal facilities and training of Negro youth in the Army, cracking down on the vicious indignities such as the Fort Dix incident which result from discrimination in the armed forces.

There is no better way to begin the sweeping removal of the indignities from which Negro youth and the entire nation suffer than to put into effect the growing demand for a mixed regiment.

A mixed regiment of Negro and white soldiers will help our armed forces and our entire war effort. It would help to stimulate Negro-white solidarity, boost national unity and strengthen morale both in and outside of the armed forces. It would be greeted by our allies everywhere. It would carry into actual life the constitutional rights of the Negro people for full equality in the armed forces. A mixed regiment would be a slap in the face to the Ku Kluxers and the rest of the Axis fifth column who count on false race hatred and myths of "inferior" and "superior" peoples to divide and conquer us. Many Americans have already demanded that such a step be taken and we are waiting for such action by the War Department. That is the way to put into effect the full meaning of the statements expressed by Army officers, such as Col. Howard Gilbert of Fort Dix, who declared that Joe "is the greatest morale-building influence" that an Army camp ever had.

JOE UNITES US—THE DEFEATISTS TRY TO DIVIDE US

Yes, the nation is proud of Joe. For Joe is a symbol of everything fine and upstanding in American youth. He is a symbol of the character of the American people. Despite the fact that he is a world champion, having defended his title twenty-one times, scoring nineteen knockouts, his simple dignity, modesty and pride are an inspiration to all young Americans. No wonder then that, before the delegates to the Fifth All-Southern Negro Youth Congress, Joe was presented by Brigadier General B. O. Davis with the C. C. Spaulding award for "outstanding service to the nation and the Negro people." Also

the Boxing Writers Association voted him as "the man who had done the most for the boxing game in 1940."

His example put to shame the "noisy traitors and bogus patriots" of whom President Roosevelt has spoken. Where Louis unites and strengthens our unity—these advocates of racial disunity and hatred divide and weaken the nation. They are doing the work of Hitler and Hirohito—the Quisling work of the fifth column.

With insulting, scurrilous attacks upon the Negro people, their newspapers and institutions, the poison-pen artist Westbrook Pegler spreads the "race superiority" ideas of Hitlerism. Such filthy slanders have no place in American public life. Other defeatists work by other methods. Norman Thomas urges a "negotiated" Hitler "peace," distorts the aims of this war for freedom, and sows disunity among the United Nations, by slandering our British and Soviet allies. George Schuyler, columnist of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, labels this a "white man's war," ignoring the fact that millions of the colored peoples are fighting for their very existence against the Axis.

Neither the Thomases nor the Schuylers have called for the all-out mobilization of the Negro people behind the war against Hitler. Nor have they urged a single one of the measures necessary to take the offensive against Hitler—the opening of a Western Front in Europe, now! Under the pretext that the main fight is at home they try to prevent the full mobilization of the Negro people to win the war. John L. Lewis, the *Daily News*, the *Chicago Tribune*, Martin Dies, Representative Howard Smith, Hoover, Gerald K. Smith, Lindbergh, as well as the Hearst press and all their kind, fight against an all-out effort to win the war. When they hold back all-out support to the war, they weaken the entire fight for democracy. By such policies, as well as by the effort to conceal the just and democratic character of this war, they directly aid Hitler in his war against our country. Such people—who by their actions are helping Hitler, though they may pretend to champion the Negro people—are in reality betraying them and their rights to their worst enemies.

Negro youth must reject these defeatists and false friends.

THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR VICTORY

The best and truest friends of the Negro people are the labor movement, and all patriotic citizens who want to win the war. *All patriotic Americans must now more than ever, while rallying to their country's defense, take up the cudgels against the sowers of race prejudice, strengthen the unity of Negro and white, champion every just and necessary demand of the Negro people. Thus the anti-Hitler forces of America will advance the fight for full democracy to Negro citizens as part of the fight for victory.*

Among those in the forefront of the fight are the Communists. The Party of Earl Browder and James W. Ford, and the Young Communist League are fulfilling their pledge to give their "full energy, devotion, their last drop of blood, their lives" for victory in this war. By fighting today for full participation of the Negro people in the war effort, the Communists are continuing the historic struggle for full equality of the Negro people, exemplified in the Scottsboro and Herndon cases. We Young Communists believe in and practice full equality for the Negro youth. Our organization fights for and serves the nation in every phase of the war effort. As part of the fight for victory this pamphlet is addressed to all youth, Negro and white. Every young man and woman must heighten participation in the war effort so that we can win victory, which is possible this year, 1942. By buying war stamps and bonds, by participation in the salvage campaigns, in the blood-donor drive of the Red Cross, the U.S.O., by raising food for victory—in short, by doing all the things that help strengthen morale and speed victory.

JOE WANTS TO MEET SCHMELING IN NO-MAN'S LAND

"I hope my next fight will be in no-man's land with Max Schmeling," said Joe. All Americans join Joe in this hope. For that's where the real kayo will come against Hitler. Joe is not only a knockout artist. He is an able boxer and recognized

universally for his "ring generalship." "Ring generalship" has to do with knowing your opponent's strength and weaknesses, being constantly aware of the changing tides of battle, always on the alert to deal your opponent the knockout blow.

Today "ring generalship" in the military sense is the concern of all the people. Today, the heroic Red Army holds Hitler in a "corner" on the Eastern front. The Eastern front is the most decisive front of the war. For it is there that the greatest battles are being fought against the main spearhead of Hitler's armies. It is there that our powerful ally, the Soviet Union, is dealing the death blows to the hitherto "invincible" armies of Hitler. The Soviet Union, where over 150 nationalities live and enjoy the fruits of their labor in complete harmony and equality, has shown to the world its ability to wage total all-out war at the front and in the rear. The Soviet Union has the offensive and initiative today, in its drive on Kharkov. The Red Army's role for all mankind was expressed by General MacArthur on the occasion of its twenty-fourth anniversary:

"... the world situation at the present time indicates that the hopes of civilization rest upon the worthy banners of the courageous Russian Army. ..."

But Hitler is not defeated yet. Even now he is planning an offensive to secure the rich oil fields of the Caucasus. We can decide his fate though, if we take the initiative in the West of Europe as the Red Army has done in the East. We have to set up a "corner" on the Western front—*now!* So that we can all meet Schmeling's pals—the Nazis, and to help to give them the "haymaker" that is their due.

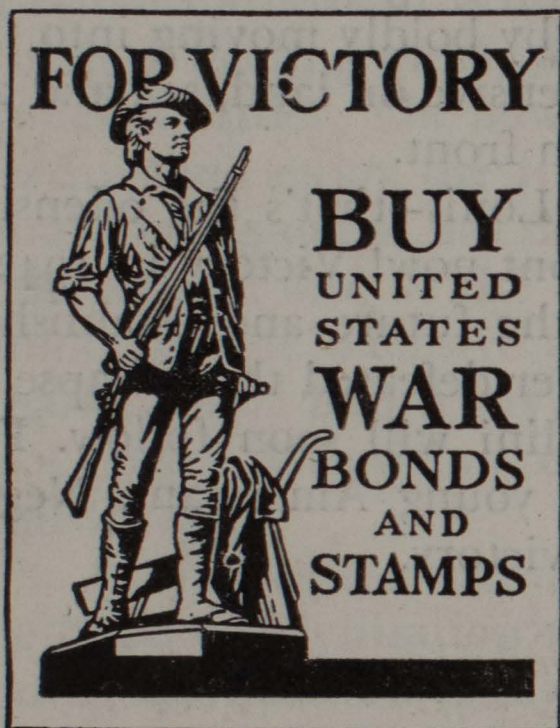
Hitler doesn't want to fight a two-front war. By his own admission, he is getting a terrific beating by the great Red Army. On the continent of Europe guerrilla fighting has reached the stage of open revolt in many places. Yes, Hitler is open for a "right" right now. The defeatists and the Axis fifth column want us to get punchdrunk with wild swings. They want us to play into the hands of Hitler by fighting on many fronts instead of concentrating our blows against the main armies of the Axis. But the time is *Now, this year, 1942!* Presi-

dent Roosevelt has said that we must carry the war to the enemy. Winston Churchill said recently that it is better to have an offensive spirit to tackle the enemy, and encouraged the growing demand in England and America for a Western front. Joseph Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union and military genius of the Red Army, has declared that the time is now, this year, 1942. General Marshall, Chief of Staff, has said that our boys must land in France for victory. We want to make every blow count, this year, 1942. Let's get out of the clinches of defeat of Singapore, let's avenge Bataan and Corrigidor. Let's make way for victory by boldly moving into the opponent's corner, by taking the offensive on land, sea and air in a mighty invasion on the Western front.

That's the fighting spirit of Joe Louis—that's the offensive spirit of all America! A Western front now! Victory in 1942!

Together, all youth shall build the future and establish a just democratic peace, for with Hitler defeated the collapse of the armies of Hirohito and Mussolini will soon follow. For this purpose and in this spirit all young Americans, Negro and white, must and will fight for victory.

Claudia Jones, the author of this pamphlet, is a young Negro woman leader of the Young Communist League, Editor of the popular anti-fascist youth magazine, the WEEKLY REVIEW.



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utmost ability. Everything
for Victory in 1942.*

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