

NEW IDEA HITS VIET-BOUND US SOLDIERS

THE BATTLE CRY, 'Airborne', resounded with a great roar in the Marshall Auditorium, Fort Benning, Georgia, as over a thousand airborne trainees expressed appreciation of *Sing-Out '66*, the MRA musical.

General Robert H York, the Commandant, saw the show with the Deputy Commandant, senior officers and their wives, officer candidates and enlisted men.

General York said: 'We in the military know what our duties are. Sometimes we wonder if others in the nation do. You are helping the American people understand what we are fighting for.'

Colonel Jake Riley, speaking on behalf of the Commandant, said, 'Words are unnecessary because the response of the audience spoke eloquently enough. This has been a tremendous evening, one we will long remember.'

Worth fighting for

Two soldiers who leave for Vietnam in mid-February saw *Sing-Out '66* three times. 'Before we saw this show,' they said, 'we didn't know why we were going to Vietnam. What you are doing shows us America is worth fighting for. Now we know there are people in the United States who are backing us up.'

J Blanton Belk, US director of MRA, said at the start of the musical's Southern tour that the young Americans in it were demonstrating a new and vigorous form of leadership. They wanted America to live out a 'revolutionary form of unselfishness' and demonstrate 'an entirely fresh way of living for the Chinese, the Vietcong,



US Army sky-diver starts his 125 mph 'free-fall' plunge. At a demonstration 'Sing-Out '66' cast members saw three men fall nearly two miles before opening their parachutes.

the Russians and all mankind'.

The cast of *Sing-Out '66*, from seventy-two colleges and high schools, had been invited to give several performances of their show at Fort Benning, largest army training centre in the world. Its training area covers eighty-five square miles of pine and scrubland as well as semi-tropical swamps and woods for jungle war training. It is the home of the Rangers, US equivalent of the Commandos, and of the Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the only such unit in the world, now in action in Vietnam. 35,000 troops are at this base.

Educators from all over the world come to study the visual aid and other training methods of its Officer Candidate School. This school, whose courses have been polished to perfection since 1922, believes in moral armament. In addition to judging their

military efficiency, it marks its officer candidates on twenty-two character qualities such as bold and pace-setting example, integrity, decisiveness, good judgement of men.

The Infantry School at Fort Benning gave a reception for 250 trainees to meet the cast. Men from one platoon of the Second Brigade, came forward together. They handed the cast a cash donation for the work *Sing-Out '66* was doing in America.

The Bayonet, the Infantry School paper, carried a front page picture and article headed 'Sing-Out '66—America's Youth has a Message'.

Before coming to Georgia, the cast gave two performances at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division which won fame during the Normandy invasion as the 'Screaming Eagles'. Its units are now in Vietnam.

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Parachutist Major-General Beverly Powell told the cast after one show, 'I feel as if I had just had a free fall with a standup landing.' He invited all his men to meet them.

In Columbus, Georgia, a town of 117,000 near Fort Benning, the *Ledger* and the *Enquirer* and WRBL-TV station sponsored and paid for two performances. In this they followed the example of the *Nashville Banner* which invited the show to the Tennessee capital. (*MRA Information Service* 29 January).

Tom Sellers wrote in a front page column in the Columbus *Ledger* under the heading, 'Sing-Out for New Tomorrow': 'If one is not too sick and cynical, not too weary to worry about

beatniks and bigots, if one believes there's still hope in this good land beyond cross-burners and card-burners, let him take heart.' (Reference to Ku Klux Klan racists who burn crosses to threaten Negroes. 'Cards' are call-up cards for military service.)

'A bomb burst of talented kids is in town,' wrote Sellers, 'and they're there to tell us to rise out of our rocking-chairs and ride with them whole-hog into a new tomorrow.'

Staff writer Mason Eagan wrote: 'With a huge chorus of bright young faces and a stunning array of talented youngsters, they sing from the heart of a tough young America to fill the yearnings of a new generation—a generation that won't sit still and can't stand by.'

'They stage as riproaring a popular

musical show as anyone could want to see. Kids will love it. Eager teenagers will want to join it. Parents will applaud it. Old folks will again lament they were born too soon.

'They make the kind of music the youth of the world understand. What's more, they sing words that make sense.'

Hunte in USA

Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies cricket team, arrived in Georgia from conferences for Moral Re-Armament in Europe, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean. He told an audience at the musical that 'the world expects great things from America'. He said he hoped that America would back military and economic aid with the ideology of MRA.

A CHINESE Communist newspaperman recently gave me his views on Britain's handling of her economic affairs.

'Superficially you appear to have done something,' he said. 'But in reality you are still living off borrowed money. You are like a man who has borrowed money and can't pay it back. Until you increase productivity you will never be able to compete financially with Western Europe.'

Another Communist pressman said the gas failures in England made him feel at home. They have similar inefficiencies in the lands of the People's Democracies.

Is our message to the Communist world one of debt, and our common link mutual inefficiency? The answer to this question lies with the people of Britain.

Different voice

Let the British Government and the governments of the world know, because they need to know, there is an army of ordinary men and women who intend that this land shall speak with a different voice.

From Scotland the effect of MRA in bringing a new spirit in the Aberdeen shipyard of Hall Russell, and the ending of demarcation in the Clydeside shipyard of John Brown, was reported last month in the *Voice of Scottish Industry*. The editor wrote at the end of the article, 'MRA has a philosophy of fighting the steady drift to materialism in all its forms. Clear-

PEOPLE OF BRITAIN SPEAK

ly, what has happened in the case of these workers from Clydeside and elsewhere was more than just going to see a few (MRA) plays. It was the encouragement of a new spirit—and following on that the application of new standards to every deed and action.'

The *Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer*, a monthly paper published by a group of trade unionists, urged its readers this month to look at the 'effective revolution' now under way at Lithgow's on the Clyde. For three years restrictive practices have been ended by agreement.

A Lithgow's shipyard worker and Boilermakers' branch secretary, John Mackenzie, said at a recent Clydeside shipbuilding conference that MRA 'has helped bring about these changes on the lower reaches of the Clyde'.

John S Craig, Secretary of Colvilles Ltd, the Glasgow steel manufacturers, described in an editorial page feature article in the *Glasgow Herald* on

8 November the essentials of the new type of industrial man. Two of Craig's points were: 'He will decide (whether he is a director, manager, or worker) to work at the pace needed to produce the goods necessary to feed, clothe and house all humanity, and not only at the pace which gives him what he wants for himself and his family. In making his decisions he will refuse to be guided by ambition, fear, hatred, mistrust, or self-interest and will decide on the basis of what is right, and what needs to be done, not what he thinks he can do.' Craig is among many industrial managers who are putting such ideas into practice.

Militant shop stewards trained in MRA called a regional conference in the Midlands last month. Forty men participated from firms such as Rover, Jaguar, the British Motor Corporation, General Electric and Reynolds Tubes. Referring to the motor industry's poor public image through unofficial stoppages, a shop steward of the Amalgamated Engineering Union said, 'I don't believe a man goes on strike over a tea-break. He gets frustrated by what he feels is lack of heart and purpose on the assembly line, and he lashes out.'

A man needs to know why he is working. It must be a more compelling reason than his own or the firm's interest alone. A machinist at the Midlands conference said he was working on tractors for export. When he thought about India's perilous food shortage, he wanted to get tractors finished so they could play their

GERMAN PRIEST DEMANDS REVOLUTION

"Christians should build cells everywhere"

'I DON'T BELIEVE YOUNG people stay away from the Church because they fear its message. Rather, they stay away because we in the Church are afraid to give a clear message. Christians who no longer live in a revolutionary way like their Master in fact belong to the reactionary forces of their time.'

With this challenging statement, Engelbert Heller, a Catholic army chaplain from West Germany, began his speech to a Moral Re-Armament conference at Caux, Switzerland, over the New Year.

Heller, who has lived in the Soviet Union and East Germany, said he admired the Communists' passionate commitment to creating a new social order, but added: 'the aims of these revolutions are not big enough, their methods are objectionable. All they want is a change of leadership, an alteration in the system. They are simply not radical enough.'

'The roots of all evil . . . lie in

man who creates the systems, not in the systems themselves. Therefore man must be revolutionised. Revolution means "overthrowing". Overthrowing the political order brings other men to power—but in doing so it does not do away with evil. An overthrowing of human character is necessary. Only changed men, who put themselves under God's power, will order society anew, effectively change systems, do away with evil. That is the greater revolution.'

Heller said that a man who was comfortable in his little nest could not be revolutionary. The revolutionary used every contact and was constantly creating new ones, in order to infect them with a revolutionary spirit. Wherever he came into contact with others, he formed cells for the revolution: in his home, youth club, place of work, schools, university, sports club, on holiday or military service.

The revolutionary is free from himself and therefore free for the prob-

lems of others. He gives others what they need, not what they want. Christian love of others is revolutionary, hard, unpopular, uncomfortable, and demands the surrender of one's whole self.

The revolutionary idea must lead to unity and include all classes, races, nations and religions. Unity does not exclude variety, but brings a variety which is co-operative and not antagonistic. Heller said he had known Nazis and Communists who were filled with passion inspired by hate. They loved their people or class so much that they hated those who, in their opinion, had made these people suffer. Such passion destroys, instead of building up. We need a passion which is fired by love.

Love which sparks a revolutionary's passion excludes nobody. It doesn't separate him from other people, but drives him constantly amongst them. It leaves him no peace of mind as long as there is disorder in the world.

PEOPLE SPEAK cont.

part in lifting food production overseas. Another man said good relations in industry are vital but 'they are not likely to be achieved if that is the limit of our aim. A healthy partnership in industry will be the by-product of Britain having a global purpose.'

The people of Britain—Labour, Tory or Liberal, white, black or brown—can find a united world aim. A Norwegian author visiting London this week said about 1940, 'When you were at your lowest you gave most. You had a concern for the freedom of Europe and the world'.

With a world aim Britain's economy could be mobilised and her finances straightened. The energy of the people would be released. She could speak to the Russians and the Chinese, the Americans and the Europeans, the Asians and the Africans. The world would listen.

Brian Lightowler

Beethoven Halle, Bonn, where 'Mr Brown' was performed, seen across the Rhine.

HEIDELBERG ACTION

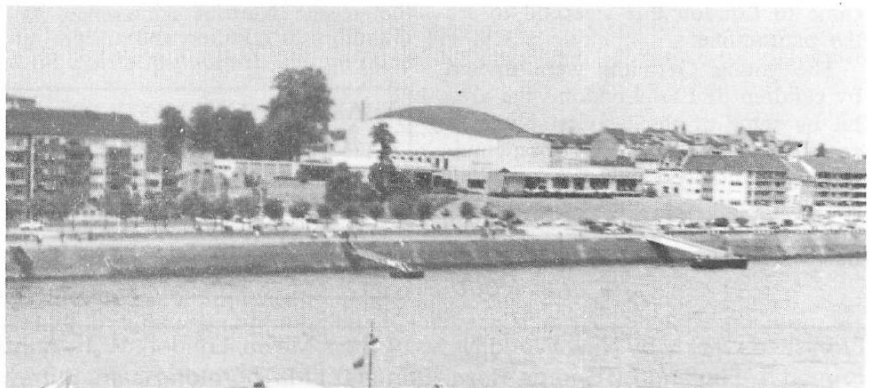
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, who are set no standard or aims for life, finally cannot master the material for their degrees. Their lives lack a centre so they cannot concentrate.

Dr Klaus Bockmühl, a university chaplain at Heidelberg University,

Germany, said he had observed this during six months at the university. Heidelberg has 12,000 students.

Puffed-up intellectualism and the inevitable other side of that penny—'sick' students—were two characteristics of student life he had come to know. In some faculties, it was estimated, up to 68% of students did not finish their studies. There had been a number of suicides. Dr. Bockmühl, was speaking at Caux, Switzerland on 'How must a Christian live in a university?'

continued overleaf



FROM ACROSS THE FOOTLIGHTS

WHAT A JOY IT IS for children of all ages to take part in a pantomime. I say take part advisedly, as this traditional English entertainment offers a high degree of what is known as 'audience participation'. Being able to answer the actors back and to sing yourself—that's half the fun.

At the Westminster Theatre this rapport with the audience can become a wonderfully delicate thing. Recently there were twenty blind children from Kent at Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone*. These children filled the first two rows of the stalls. The cast knew they were there and played to them most sensitively. Little lines would be heard—lines which never formed part of the original script. 'Here come the little rats,' someone said, indicating who was coming on stage. That night the Horse clumped around as heavily as any war-horse.

The children were delighted to be invited on stage after the show, to meet the cast in their costumes. They felt animal heads, tapped Mr. Space's golden boots, patted Ringo's furry coat. The manager of the theatre gave the blind children a record of the show as a parting gift. He has received a sheaf of Braille letters from them, thanking him for that evening and for the record which has been played through to the whole school twice.

Of that evening one of the principal actors has said, 'Those fifteen minutes with the blind children were some of the most rewarding minutes of my life.' I hope that he can hear too about the five German children who came to London this weekend to see the pantomime.

The young Germans were invited by children of East London—the area hit by some of the heaviest blitzes a generation ago. And the German children are building a new type of Wall in Germany—they are selling 'bricks' at 2/6 each to raise money for the new Westminster Arts Centre.

Joanna Rodd

HEIDELBERG cont.

For the Christian, the test of an educational programme was whether it gave the student a sense of purpose, so that he put the interests of human society before his own. 'The Christian at university,' said Dr Bockmühl, 'lives to see men going out from university to work intelligently, independently and unceasingly under God's guidance in every situation for the renewal of mankind and the world.'

Heidelberg students last week had a chance to see how to do this. They crowded out Peter Howard's play *Mr Brown steigt herab* (Mr Brown comes down the hill). Fifty stood throughout the two-hour show. Bursts of laughter greeted the witty dialogue. They applauded the play's stark modern drama and settings.

After the performance a discussion was arranged in the hall of the Catholic Students' Union by Dr Bockmühl, the university Protestant chaplain. It went on past midnight. Hot point of debate was the relevance of faith and moral standards in shaping the modern world.

MRA has been much discussed in Heidelberg University since Peter Howard's book *Morgen ist es zu spät* (Tomorrow will be too late) was sent to each of the 12,000 students. An open meeting is to be held on 6 February at the university.

In Bonn, university students and diplomats streamed into the modern Beethoven Halle. Five hundred officers and men from units of the German armed forces also came to the performance of *Mr Brown*, which was sponsored by the Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia, Dr Franz Meyers.

Katholische Kirchenzeitung, organ of the Archdiocese of Cologne, wrote:

NEW AFRICAN PUBLICATION

AIM FOR AFRICA—a twelve-page newspaper just published gives some of the most hopeful news coming out of Africa. It has twenty-two photographs of the recent Nairobi conference. It features President Kenyatta, Rajmohan Gandhi in a question and answer interview and the first pictures of the continental musical *Harambee Africa*. For copies, see order form below.

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Around Britain

OXFORD—Three hundred and twenty-five people, mostly undergraduates, saw a preview of *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill* this week in the Assembly Rooms of the Oxford Town Hall. They included six US Rhodes Scholars, and Lady Wylie, widow of the first Warden of Rhodes House.

Introducing the performance Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, spoke of the creation of the Arts Centre as a memorial to Peter Howard. One of its aims, he told Commonwealth students present, would be to express the values and faith on which their countries must be built.

MERSEYSIDE—The Mayor of Bootle, Alderman Griffith Williams JP, initiated a showing of *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill* in Bootle Town Hall. A hundred and eighty guests including civic leaders, Catholic and Protestant clergy, management and labour from Liverpool docks saw the film.

LONDON—The BBC Home Service had an hour's programme on MRA last week.

ARTICLES from readers for this column will be welcomed by the Editor. They should not be more than 100 words in length and should reach the Editor not later than Monday morning each week.

'We must thank the cast of Moral Re-Armament for this performance. They have created a meeting place at which all men of goodwill can find a field of action to serve humanity.'