

The New Anti-2nd Front Line --Talk Up 'Big Casualty' Scare

By William Z. Foster

The enemies of the second front never give up. Although it was definitely agreed upon in Tehran that a great Anglo-American front would be opened up promptly in the west, and



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and although General Eisenhower and other military leaders assure us that this plan is the road to victory in 1944, nevertheless the defeatists go right ahead, finding one pretext after another to try to stall the launching of the coming second front. Their purpose is to let the Russians fight the war for us, and any excuse is good enough so long as it prevents our pulling our full weight in the war. Indeed, even after the second front is launched they will be sure to continue sabotaging it.

Their line now is to try to scare the American people out of starting the offensive by picturing the horrible casualty lists awaiting us. How they shouted when "a high anonymous source" in Washington recently threatened us with 500,000 casualties in the next three months and also when a defeatist Congressman asserted that Americans would make up 73 per cent of the European invasion force, as against 27 per cent of British. The implication, plain as a pikestaff, was that we should not go ahead with the second front in the face of such conditions.

The most skillful of these casualty-monger opponents of the second front are the phony aviation experts of the defeatist press. Arguing for what they call "air su-

premacy" as indispensable for a successful invasion, they picture such supremacy as a condition virtually where Nazi Germany could not put any planes whatever into the air in the face of our omnipresent airfleets. If we do not have this air supremacy, these "experts" warn us, then we may expect it to be slaughtered by the Luftwaffe when we begin the invasion from the west.

Typical of the writers using this method of throwing cold water on the second front is Major Al Williams, Scripps-Howard Aviation Writer. In the *World-Telegram*, Jan. 8, Major Williams slyly argues that we go slow because "apparently we do not hold complete (air) control over Europe." He is hopeful, however, that "eventually" we shall attain this "complete control" of the Continental airways. "At that moment," he tells us, "we can move our land and sea forces and begin the real invasion, with every angle for success and for minimum manpower losses."

This whole proposition is ridiculous. It is absurd to assert that the Allies must have "complete control" over Europe's skies before the invasion of western Europe can begin. This means that they would have us put off the second front indefinitely. This is precisely the big idea that Major Williams and other defeatist military "experts" who argue like him have in mind. Is not the whole implication of his argument that the people with boys in the service should demand that the second front be held up until we get this super-duper "air supremacy," to avoid useless slaughter? In reality, however, what is necessary is air supremacy on the invasion coast. And this, the Allies now have, if not completely, cer-

tainly enough for all practical purposes.

For many months past the United States, Great Britain and the USSR have been turning out at least four times as many planes as Nazi Germany. They already have a vast superiority in air strength, especially radiating out from the British Isles. This superior strength is attested to by the ever-increasing size of the British and American air raids. It is also shown by the decreasing ability of the Luftwaffe to cope with these raids or to strike back with big raids of its own. In the *New York Times* of Jan. 6, an RAF commentator says that "the RAF's bombing effort has become 58 times as great as that of Germany."

Obviously, there has to be a fight in the air, on the sea and on the land before the second front can be victorious. However much softening up there is done in advance, it is absurd to think that Hitler's fortifications can be completely obliterated, his army altogether destroyed, and his air force entirely knocked out of the sky beforehand. The best the Anglo-American forces can hope for is to have a great superiority of strength in the various military fields of combat, and this superiority they now have in men, guns, ships and planes.

With these vast advantages on our side, now is the time to launch the second front. It is on this sound conception evidently that the American and British political and military leaders are proceeding in their preparations to attack. To hearken to such counsel of delay as those of Major Williams could only result in prolonging the war, with larger casualty lists and greater property damage as the inevitable consequences.