



# The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

*organ of the international brigades*

OCTOBER 14, 1936-1937 \* ONE YEAR of the INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES



Ayuntamiento de Madrid

# A YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

"We make only one request—that we be sent to the posts of greatest danger."

These were the words of the leaders of the first battalion of International Volunteers, a full year ago. For many months, from the very beginning of the Franco rebellion, men of all lands who happened to be in Spain at the time had volunteered their services in the government ranks. British and German and French and Austrian and Italian—men of all nations, living in peace or in exile—came of their own free will to serve in the People's Army of Freedom. At first they served among their Spanish brothers, storming the Montana Barracks in Madrid, the well fortified arsenals in Barcelona, the strongholds in Valencia—all the centers of fascist power and concentration in all of Spain. But later, as the war progressed, as the fascists were held back by this wall of vulnerable but unconquerable flesh and spirit, other men came from other lands.

## MODEL FOR FUTURE

Converging on Albacete, they formed, for the first time in history, the International Brigades—an army which may well, as one writer has put it, "form the model for the democratic armies of the future."

The concentration camps of Hitler were not strong enough to hold the German fighters who saw in the Spanish struggle a means of fighting back against the brown terror. No ocean was too wide, no frontier too difficult for these men—our comrades in battle.

## MAKERS OF HISTORY

The stories of the early days of the defense of Madrid have been told and re-told a hundred times, and will be told again, many more hundreds of times. As long as men treasure their liberties as men, as long as justice and truth and courage and self-abnegation are virtues in the eyes of humankind—so long will the story of the International Brigades live in the history of man's achievements. But the time for the writing of history has not yet arrived. Perhaps it would be better to say that the final history of our activities in Spain must await the day when we have won the leisure and the

freedom that will enable us to reap the fruits of victory towards which our battles of today are leading. We can recall at this point the words of one of the



FEBRUARY COMMANDER

Robert H. Merriman, Chief of Staff of the 15th Brigade, who commanded the Lincoln Battalion in its February actions on the Jarama front.

greatest figures of our own century, who put down the pen before he had completed one of his greatest works with the following simple explanation:

"It is more... useful to go through the experience of the revolution than to write about it."

## OUR OWN ANNIVERSARY

What of our own English-speaking comrades of the International Brigades? The British were here from the very start. A part of their story is told elsewhere in this issue. For us, of the United States, and our brothers from Canada, the journey was longer. One or two Americans came in the early weeks and months of the war, but our first large contingent of volunteers did not arrive until the first days of this year—two months after most of the European nations had begun to contribute their fighters to the cause of Spanish democracy and freedom.

As Americans, we will celebrate

our anniversary on January 3, 1938.

As members of the International Brigades, our anniversary is that of all our comrades—October 14, 1937.

## HONOR TO OUR DEAD

In celebrating the first anniversary of the formation of the International Brigades, let us do honor to those comrades of all nations who have given their lives in our fight. Let us remember the deaths of Ben Leider, American aviator, shot down by a fascist plane; Ralph Fox of England; General Lukacz of Hungary; Alfred Brugeret of France; Doctor Heilbrunn of Germany; Guido Picelli of Italy; Hans Beimler of Germany; John Cornford of England; D. E. Seacord of the United States; John Scott of England, who had come here from America; Bill Henry and James McCrotty and Liam Tumilson of Ireland; Blagoye Parovitch of Yugoslavia; Rodolfo de Armas and Pablo de la Torriente-Brau of Cuba; Jack Shirai of Japan, who fought with the Lincoln Battalion; Alonso Watson, the first American Negro killed fighting for Spain.

There are other names to be remembered, and other events. The February days on the Jarama, when the first American battalion, composed of new and rapidly-trained recruits, went over the top under the hellish fire of the fascists, forcing the battle and thus halting the enemy's advance in the Jarama River Valley. Let us remember the days of February 23rd and 27th, of April 5th, and

the long, seemingly-endless days afterward when our comrades held the lines, living in trenches for a longer period than any army of modern times.

By our actions of today can we do greatest honor to the memories of John Lenthier, Charles Edwards, Paul Niepold, Rudolph Tieger, Joe Streisand, Carl Carlson; Julius Rosenthal, the oldest, and William Pick, the youngest member of the Lincoln Battalion—all of whom were killed in the February fighting.

By our actions of today can we pay greatest homage to our dead of the July offensive outside of Madrid; Oliver Law, Negro commander of the Lincoln Battalion; Max Krauthamer; Paddy O'Neill and Joe Armitage of Canada; John Muso and Charles Siebert of the United States, Mike Kelly of Ireland—all of the Lincoln Battalion.

And in the same offensive, we can recall the names of our dead from the second American battalion, the Washington Battalion, which received its baptism of fire in July: Harry Hynes, Sam Stone, Morris Wickman, Rubin Schechter, Ernest Arion, Malcolm Chisholm and a number of other comrades.

## CREATING AN EPIC

And, in the early days of the Aragon offensive by the Peoples Army, the offensive which conquered Quinto and Belchite for us—Peter Daly, commander of the British Battalion; and Paul Block, Daniel Hutner, Sam Levenger, Sidney Shostek, all Americans...



I. B. ON PARADE: An early photo of the International Volunteers.

When the history of the liberation of Spain from fascism is finally written, these names and those of many others, from all countries, will be the pegs on which are hung the many actions, large and small, individual and collective, which combined in a great effort form the very heart of history. The deeds which they performed and which we continue to perform here, have already become the great epic of our times an epic which we ourselves will read and contemplate when the tough fight is over.

#### FASCISM WEAKENING

And that this fight is drawing closer and closer to victory is evident from everything that is happening, not only in Spain, but in the entire world today. Everywhere fascism is discovering that its cold-blooded murders and aggressions are being resisted. Japan expected an overnight victory in China—but the Chinese masses, united, have fought the Japanese legions to a standstill; and now Japan fears for the future, because it counted on a rapid victory, the only kind of victory possible. Now the Japanese warlords find their supplies dwindling, their rear guard wavering, their economy staggering under the cost of the extended war.

Italy and Germany too are finding that have bitten off more than they can chew. Not only do internal difficulties increase tenfold each week in these fascist countries, but popular sentiment, long smoldering, has begun at last to burst into the flame of open opposition. The new and harassing activities of Ethiopia's armies will make it double difficult for Italy to continue its past stream of aid to the traitor Franco. And Germany's tottering economy attacks its rear in the same manner as Italy's defeated but unconquered North Africans.

Most hopeful of all, the international scene seems finally to be operating in favor of the legally constituted government of Spain. France fears to face the possibility of another enemy frontier to the south; and both France and England have stretched their patience to the pirates who have sunk their merchant vessels on the Mediterranean. Popular mass opinion in both France and England grow stronger and stronger, and must soon force the hand of even the most wa-



THEIR LAST CUP of coffee before battle: Part of the very first group of international volunteers, just before they left for the front outside Madrid last autumn.

vering and double-dealing diplomat to come out openly for the only side which possesses justice—the legal Popular Front government of Spain.

When we view all of these developments, when we hear of President Roosevelt's attack on the "gangster, aggressor nations", when we hear of the support we are gaining at home, we can not but become realistically optimistic.

And when we couple all of these events with the growth and emergence of Spain's Popular Army, which soon will number one million well-trained and well-ar-

med men, we have further cause for rejoicing.

And when, in addition, we see the efforts toward unity within our own land—Spain—bearing always greater fruit—then we can be sure that the first year of the International Brigades in Spain has been well spent. For it was our example which prompted many of the lagging elements to speed, to efficiency, to courage and to victory.

The first anniversary occurs at a time when, for three months, we have taken over the offensive in the war against fascism. The main

fronts have been the scenes of victory after victory for us. Each day that we hold out—let alone advance, which we have been doing—makes victory more certain.

It is in this spirit that we welcome our anniversary—with pride in our role, with gratitude for our opportunity to take such a part in the history of our times, and with solidarity toward the Spanish people, whose fight is the fight of all who hold freedom precious, and whose final victory will be a victory not only for Spain, but for all mankind.

E. R.

## NO PASARAN!

TO «PASIONARIA»

What fascist has been so idiotic as to have sheltered the obscene hope of entering Madrid, tranquilly, blazing his egoism on the march?

The traitor Mola? Franco, the assassin? Cabanellas, the filthy fool? Or was it by chance the drunken impenitent in Seville who drowns his fears in wines?

Let the traitors lose their hopes of ever treading the Madrileños with their hoofs! Impossible fruit of their illusions. Let the workers be alert forming a thick forest of rifles, and a valley of tenacious hearts.

FELIX V. RAMOS

## Dr. Negrin Visits Wounded Men of the I. B.

VALENCIA, Oct. 6.—A visit by Dr. Juan Negrin to the wounded comrades in the International Brigade hospital yesterday was greeted with heartfelt enthusiasm. He first went through the wards where the most serious cases were confined, talking with men of all nationalities. After giving the wounded a short talk, he was interviewed by our English comrade, Wintringham, author of the book "The Next War", and by Comrade Gustave Regler, the German writer who was seriously wounded several months ago. Wintringham was wounded on the Aragon front.

# ENRIQUE LISTER - AN EMIGRANT COMES HOME



ENRIQUE LISTER

A División Commander of the 5th Army Corps of the Peoples Army.

When the Civil War in Spain broke out, only four regiments of the regular army remained loyal to the government. All the rest of the troops went over to the side of the Fascist rebels. The result was that the Spanish people had to create their own army, and develop their own military leaders. From squads of workers, many of them without guns, who went out from Madrid in taxicabs to stave off the enemy advance, from such non-military elements, in fourteen months the government has built up a well-organized and disciplined People's Army. And from the people themselves have come leaders to guide and direct this army. And few of them were military men a year and a half ago. Duran, for example, was a musician writing ballet-scores for the dancer, Argentina. Modesto was a carpenter. El Campesino worked among the peasants. And Enrique Lister, of whom I write, used to be a grocery boy and a stone-cutter in Cuba.

## THE POT OF GOLD

No, Lister is not a Cuban, but he is one of the thousands of Spaniards who emigrated to the Americas looking for a pot of gold at the foot of a foreign rainbow. Like thousands of these thousands, Lister did not find gold. In Cuba he found only hard work, low pay, and dreams that didn't come true. Like the Spanish immigrants in New York, or in the steel mills of Gary and Youngstown, Lister

discovered in Havana that the main use which America has for foreigners is to make of them a reserve of cheap labor to do the hardest and dirtiest work for the lowest pay. So, very early in life, Lister learned the difference between those who have nothing and must work for a living, and those who have money and property and can afford to hire others.

Lister went to Cuba as a child of twelve with his father and his brothers. He was put to work as grocery boy in Havana store. He worked fourteen hours a day, wrapping packages, cleaning up, delivering orders. He did not know how to read and write. When he was fifteen years old he decided to learn. He went to night classes at the Galician Center. For two hours every night, after his long day's work, he studied spelling and grammar, and struggled to form letters in a copy book.

## LEARNS FATHER'S TRADE

Being a strong boy, he decided to take up the trade of his father and become a stone-cutter. There was a great deal of building going on in Havana in the 1920's. Lister worked on various constructions then underway. But the stone-cutters had no union. They needed one, so Lister took part in the issuing of the first call to form a stone-cutter's union in Cuba, and he became one of its members. This was in 1925 when he was eighteen years old. The following year, already experienced in union organization, he went back to Spain, to his native Galicia. Here he was immediately arrested as a dangerous character with advanced ideas. For the next three or four years, he was continually in and out of prison — and always in great disfavor with the officers of the Spanish monarchy, who had no desire to see Spanish workers organized into effective unions.

## BACK TO SPAIN

When the Republic was declared in 1931, and Lister was released from a thirteen month's prison term, he was elected President of one of the most important unions of Coruna. Shortly after he took office, there was a strike in which fighting broke out and, in the struggle, a reactionary em-

ployer was killed. As President of the union, Lister was again arrested, and sentenced to thirty years in prison. He escaped and went abroad. But he could not keep out of the struggle and ferment for democracy that was then sweeping through all Spain, so he returned to live illegally from town to town in his own country. When the People's Front came to power in February, 1936, he was in Madrid. And when in July the generals and big industrialists rose up against this people's government and ordered their soldiers to fire from the Montana Barracks on the citizens of Madrid, Lister was in the crowd that stormed those barracks and took them over for the government. A few days later he was in the Guadarrama Mountains fighting against the Fascist foes. But not only fighting. Lister realized at once Spain's need for disciplined forces, and he began immediately to help organize what was to become the new army of the republic.

## ROSE IN THE RANKS

From untrained men to disciplined soldiers. From workers, many of whom never handled a gun before, to the army which now efficiently defends all loyalist Spain. That is an achievement in which Lister has played a great part. He himself rose rapidly in the ranks of this army. In the early days of the war, he was made lieutenant. And with the formation of the now famous Fifth Regiment (really the first regiment of the new loyalist army) Lister was raised to captain and given two companies of shock troops to direct. In his first skirmish with the enemy, he took seven prisoners and two machine guns. Shortly thereafter, he was made a Commander. And in the early autumn of last year, the Fifth Regiment chose him as Commander-in-Chief. Then the government ordered him to organize the first brigade of the People's Army, a job which meant making soldiers of men with no previous experience in warfare. The glorious history of this brigade and the way it took part in the defence of Madrid during the dark days of November, 1936, is now one of the flaming epics of the Spanish Republic. The Fascists did not pass! Madrid held its own.

Now its citizens feel that their city will never be taken.

## LISTER'S RECORD

During the last year, Lister and his men have passed over half the war-map of Spain: Jarama, Guadalajara, Garabitas, Toledo, Valdemoros, Brunete, Aragon. And Lister's name itself has become a symbol of bravery and leadership in Spain.

When I interviewed him, he was in Valencia on his way from one front to another. He is a young man, only thirty. Heavy set. Strong determined face. A quick mind. A great memory for dates and places. It was after ten o'clock at night when Lister and his aides came into the building where I had been waiting to interview him.

"Too late", I thought. "I'll merely make an appointment for another time."

But when I asked him when I might have an interview, Lister's reply was, "Now!"

## 4 BROTHERS KILLED

No hesitation, no postponement. And as he talked, there was no boasting, no pompousness. Quite simply, he told me the story of his life, and of the dramatic incidents of the war months. He spoke of four brothers killed by the Fascists in the North, and of the bewilderment of his father at a world in which sons grew up only to be killed.

"We must end this war quickly", Lister said. "I do not doubt that



LA «PASIONARIA»  
addressing the soldiers.

the victory is ours. We have a million men in reserve. The enemy lacks men. But what we must do now is organize all our forces, military and industrial, so as to end this war soon."

#### WHAT LISTER LEARNED

He spoke like a man who does not relish warfare and killing, but who is a lover of work and life. Someday, he says he would like to go back to Cuba. He remembers that it was there that he learned to read and write, having been denied schooling as a child in Spain. But he remembers, too, that in Cuba he worked fourteen hours a day — and his employers were Spaniards like himself, not Cubans. What he learned from that is that one's own people will exploit you just as much as foreigners will — that it's not racial differences that count, but class differences! So in Cuba, Lister joined his first union, and took his first steps toward the defense of the rights of the common working people. Today, in Spain, he is one of the great commanders of the People's Army. Enrique Lister — the immigrant boy who came home bringing not a pot of gold from the foot of a foreign rainbow, but instead a mind and a heart full of the strength which people pour into the channels of unionization and into organized action for the creation of a democracy where Fascism cannot exist. Lister is helping Spain maintain and strengthen such a democracy. L. H.



HAILE SELASSIE

Emperor of Ethiopia, who is directing his peoples' fight against Mussolini



## ETHIOPIA, STILL UNCONQUERED, CHALLENGES MUSSOLINI'S RULE

JIBUTI. — That uprisings and organized fighting, in addition to guerilla warfare are going on between the Abyssinians and the Italians, is now confirmed, in spite of the fascists special measures to prevent the news from leaking out. The last few weeks have witnessed a greater degree of unrest among the Ethiopian people, who are making it impossible for the Italians to remain there without fighting every inch of the way.

Fighting rages on the north, east, and south, around Addis Ababa. A regular fighting army is being organized by the Ethiopians, in which already there are thousands of volunteer soldiers under the command of Kanyazmash Abeba Arragai Bobana. This young army, formed under the one banner of unity, scored an important victory recently when it met the Italian troops and wiped them out, in the province of Morat. This was effected by a neatly executed strategy at a moment when the Italians advanced with an army of 5,000 men. Kanyazmash permitted the

Italians to advance rapidly, while he ordered his men to retire in such a way that a circle was formed around the advancing Italians. Then the poorly clothed and badly armed Ethiopians attacked and completely routed the Italians who lost practically all of their men.

#### ITALIANS JITTERY

In Addis Ababa, the capital, severe measures have been taken by the Italian-controlled government. Everybody is obliged to shut his doors at 6 p. m. No one is permitted to leave his house after that hour. High barricades have been constructed at the city limits to stop the Ethiopians who want to take back their capital.

In some places the natives are meeting the brutality of Italian fascism with passive resistance. Especially is this the case among the Mahometanas tribes that form 90 percent of an Ethiopian province. These tribes are forced to take their livestock, sheep, cows, goats, and their grains, vegeta-

bles, etc. to an Italian agency that pays them a low price. Then these very same people are compelled to buy back a portion of their products, but at a higher rate than they received for them. This, they say, they cannot understand.

#### NATIVE WOMEN RAPED

The Abyssinians have protested to the Italian Governor, that before the Italians invaded their land, their women were never dishonored by any man, even in the absence of their husbands. Now the women are being mistreated, they claim, and ferociously attacked by the Italian soldiers, regardless of whether their husbands are present or not. And husbands who have dared to protect their wives have been slaughtered like dogs.

While the Ethiopian people are fighting for their national independence, as are the Spaniards, European diplomats are planning to recognize Mussolini's right of sovereignty over these people.

# NEW TASKS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

The development of the People's Army and of the International Brigades confronts us with some new problems in our military and political work.

Since in their large majority our Brigades are now composed not of volunteers but of conscripts, there are some who doubt whether they can still be used as real shock Brigades.

This is a big mistake.

In these new drafts which are now joining the Army, we have the Spanish people, in all its aspects, taking up arms. We have the whole people rising to defend its liberty, its independence, its future.

Each day the facts show that this people is capable of heroism in every shape and form.

In the last offensive events proved that the new conscripts are capable of the highest deeds, like their comrades, the volunteers who preceded the People's Army.

## ARAGON VICTORIES

The new recruits, together with the experienced soldiers from the trenches of Madrid, carried out skilful manoeuvres and conquered Quinto and Belchite.

In Aragon, together with the International Volunteers, these absolutely new recruits stormed forts which were very strongly defended by blockhouses of reinforced concrete.

All these facts show that the new conscripts can be made into splendid soldiers.

With them we can not only maintain our shock Brigades, we can strengthen them still further. These new men can be given enthusiasm and fighting spirit of the volunteers of the early days.

This depends only on us, the experienced fighters, the military and political leaders, who have gained such valuable experience during this year of warfare.

The tasks which face us now are a little more complex. In some aspects they are a little more difficult. But we can and must solve them.

When we were dealing only with volunteers already selected for their long record as revolutionary fighters, the task of the military and political command was fairly simple. Moreover, the character of the war during the early months of our first Brigades was



LUIGI GALLO  
Inspector General of the International Brigades.

simple; it was a question of resisting, of staying at one's post, of not throwing down one's arms.

The revolutionary consciousness, the spirit of sacrifice of our volunteers, was more than sufficient to make them acquit themselves gloriously in the defence of Madrid, in the struggle in all sectors.

## NOW ON OFFENSIVE

But now we are counterattacking; we are taking the offensive; we are advancing; we are manoeuvring; we must carry into battle and on to victory great masses of men who are still insufficiently trained.

It is true that war, and, above all, this war in Spain, which is so fundamentally a war of the people, being a struggle against barbarism and foreign invasion, rapidly draws into political life millions and millions of new men whose political sense is forged in battle. It is the task of all the experienced fighters in our Brigades to make these men brave

and conscious soldiers of the Republic.

We are not only faced with a problem of political propaganda and enlightenment. We have also a problem of organisation and military training.

The more complicated tasks which confront our Brigades in the present stage of the war demand a high level of military training from our troops. The section, Company and Battalion should be able to manoeuvre during the day and at night, with or without cover; they should be able to take full advantage of the possibilities offered by the ground, of all the elements in the situation; they should know how to conquer positions, how to take fortresses regarded as impregnable. For the soldiers of the Republic no positions should be impregnable.

The time has gone by when we could be satisfied if our men had a thorough understanding of the rifles and machine guns entrusted to them. Now they must advance

and manoeuvre. Their military knowledge must be at a higher level. They must be able to take hundreds and thousands of men through difficult operations. They must be able to direct these men under the most difficult conditions.

To do all that we need a training and a discipline much higher than before.

There are those who believe that during rest periods it is aggravating and idiotic to carry out military exercises.

They too make a big mistake.

In the daring and complicated manoeuvres with which we are concerned now, success is impossible without the greatest discipline and the perfect execution of movements according to plan.

Discipline and training are not things invented to make the soldiers' lives miserable. They are the prime necessities of an army.

We ourselves, the soldiers, should demand these things, so that we can make our units into invincible units which will assure us of success and victory with the minimum sacrifices.

## ABILITY TO LEAD

Every individual soldier, too, should increase his military abilities on his own initiative. Each officer, each commissar, conscious of the new and greater demands made by the war, should profit by the experience of the war to increase by practice and study his ability to lead.

It is only WITH A CLOSE UNITY BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND LEADERS, between experienced soldiers and new recruits, between volunteers and conscripts that we shall be able to put our Brigades, our Army in a position to solve brilliantly and rapidly the great tasks which lie before them, to win a speedy victory over fascism.

As always, the Volunteers of the International Brigades, should be entirely at the disposal of the commanders of the Regular Spanish Army to carry out these tasks.

As always it should be our ambition to be able to rank among the best fighters in Spain in the fulfilment of the tasks assigned us.

LUIGI GALLO  
Inspector General  
of the International Brigades.

# BRITONS AND THE ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries are the milestones along the road of History, they are the points which bring sharply to our memories the distance that we have travelled, and, though we may not stop, we can and do reflect on all the experiences we have had, and we can mend our pace according to the distance we have yet to travel. The first anniversary of the first International Brigade will be a day of rejoicing but not of rest, we have not yet reached our goal, we must learn from this year-long experience to hasten to its attainment.

It is perhaps with a little justifiable pride that we British comrades can reflect upon the assistance which our countrymen gave towards the formation of the first Brigade. Who can ever forget the almost legendary figures who came from our isles, who fought and died beside their Spanish brothers in the first flush of the revolt? Who among us who had not yet seen the necessity for our assistance here itself, can forget the reports and dispatches of Frank Pitcairn, the first British journalist to make and keep us aware of the heroic struggles and the dire need of assistance of the Spanish people? Even yet, on reflection, one can almost feel the cold wind from the Gaudarramas when he described our comrades freezing there, one can sense their first bitterness at the monstrous character of the revolt, one can recall our own first feeling of pride at the description of their selflessness and heroism.



**RALPH FOX**  
British writer killed in Spain.

Fortunately for the honour of our country (when so much has been done by traitors and statesmen to dishonour it) the first days of the outbreak found British comrades actually in Spain. Their actions and their deaths do not wipe out the gross treachery of our Edens, the callousness—to use no harder word—of our Citrines and our Bevins, but they were the highest expression of the solidarity of the British democrats with their Spanish brothers. We shall remember them.

Then came the steady flow from all the corners of the world to form the first international column. Here too, the presence of British comrades showed that the British workers and intellectuals had quickly grasped the seriousness of the situation. That was the explanation for the groups of workers and students who made

their way to Spain from our shores, even before the time when there were sufficient internationals to form a brigade. In those days one talked of groups, centurias, and the Column.

## HONOR ROLL

Who were those comrades whose bodies were the first barricades to stem the fascist advance? Arnold Jeans, the mature working-class fighter who died as he had lived; Martin Messer, the young, sincere railway clerk who tried to prove to himself that he was worthy of the cause—and did so; James Kermode, communist organiser from Milngavie; and Jimmy Hyndman the Glasgow youth who would not be denied: these were among the first who died. There



**JOHN CORNFORD**  
English student leader, killed on his 21st birthday.

were others too. John Cornford, the brilliant student whose death in December shocked working class and university circles alike, had fought since the September days; and Tommy Flynn who died as late as April of this year had fought continuously since November with the German comrades who had pleaded with him to stay with them even after the formation of the British Battalion.

## OUR MACHINE GUNNERS

At that period the words British and Machine-gunner were synonymous. The British comrade who turned up among a group of Internationals was always handed the machine gun. The first British comrades in Spain had made such a reputation as machine

gunners that all who came after them from the same country were just naturally regarded as being of the same capabilities. Nor can it be said that this reputation was ever impaired.

It is a year and over since Mackenzie and Sommerfield, Gillan and Cunningham, Cohen and Lesser came as the vanguard of the British democrats to Spain. Afterward we increased our numbers and increased our efforts. The tens became hundreds, the hundreds became thousands. We made and maintained a Battalion; we have made and maintained a record to be proud of.

British comrades preceded and helped to form the first International Brigade. British comrades have fought continuously ever since. That is our record and that is the example we have to continue. We have been here from the first, we shall be here to the last. This should be our slogan: "From the bitter first to the glorious end!"

A. D.

## CORRECTION

A picture which appeared on page one of the September 20th issue of *The Volunteer for Liberty* (No. 15), showing a group of men with levelled rifles leading other, white-shirted figures down a road, was miscaptioned. The printed caption, it has been called to our attention, should have read as follows:

"Fascists leading non-combatant prisoners to their execution."



**ANDRE MALRAUX**  
who headed the famous Malraux Squadron.



MACHINE GUN COMPANY in one of the first international battalions.

# The World Situation — is it Peace or War?

Unevenly, with interruptions, but yet month by month, the tension of the world situation grows. The forces of peace, gathering their strength under the fascist threat of world war, race neck and neck with the forces of aggression.

To the members of the International Brigades, aiding the Spanish people in their struggle for independence, the outcome of the competition between the forces of peace and war is of supreme importance, for, as our presence in Spain indicates, the struggle here is closely bound up



MEDITERRANEAN PIRATE Mussolini, dressed in one of the hundreds of uniforms so much in demand by him and his psychopathic German relative, Goering.

with circumstances in the world outside. An examination of the position of various centres will enable us to draw some conclusions.

Here in Spain, the popular forces are continually improving their position. The army, if it has not already reached that number, is very near a million strong, and although there are still insufficient arms to meet all our needs, the arms industry is growing rapidly both in the number of factories being devoted to arms production and in the quantities produced by each factory. Already a number of successful offensives have taken place. At Brunete, Belchite, Upper Aragon, Don Benito, Pozoblanco, this growing strength of the armed forces of the People is reflected. In face of these successes, as already re-

corded in these columns, the fascist powers grow desperate and resort to piracy in the Mediterranean, a piracy directed not only against the ships of the Spanish Republic, but against those of other powers too.

The Nyon conference, thanks to the determined and courageous stand of the representative of the Soviet Union, took the first halting steps towards the revival of collective security in Europe, albeit against the wishes of some of those present at the conference. It is certain that the fascists will not take this blow without attempting to extend their aggressions in other directions. Already it is reported that Mussolini has "loaned" twelve submarines to Franco, complete with crews and officers, and has the intention of sending another army of 150,000 equipped Italian soldiers to Spain, the number named by Franco as being the very fewest with which he can hope to win the war. Great Britain and France, disturbed by the possibility of an Italy entrenched on this side of the Pyrenees, have again revived the question of the withdrawal of volunteers in Spain, this time demanding a reply from the fascists within fifteen days, failing which the French frontier is to be opened and the right to buy arms restored to the Spanish Government.

Another Popular Front Government is being pursued by the over-

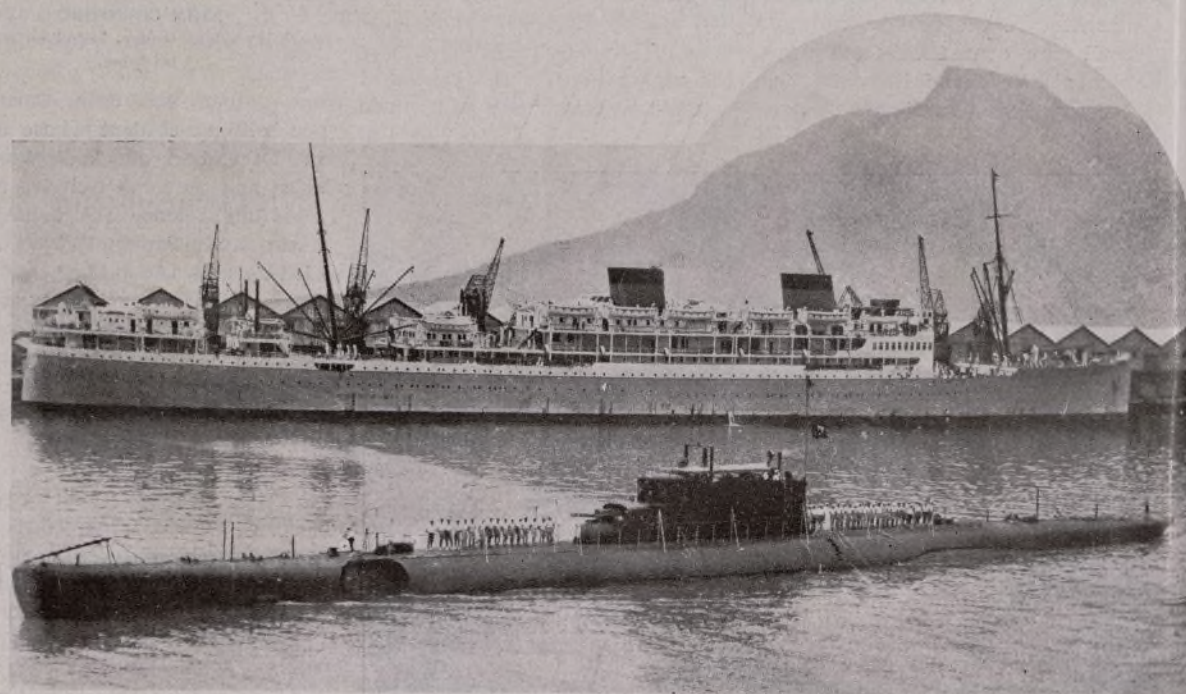


ONE OF JAPAN'S ships of war, now engaged in brutally shelling the crowded working sections of China's seaboard cities.

solicitous attentions of international fascism. Recently two bombs exploded in the headquarters of the Federation of Employers at the Metallurgical Industry in Paris. Two houses collapsed and two policemen were killed. Bombs exploded in the Bordeaux-Ventimille express; at the aerodromes of Villeneuve and Toussus; an Italian, Cancelli, was discovered attempting to blow up the Cerbere tunnel; scores of bombs having been discovered in various places; and all the bombs are of the same origin; they are loaded with tolite, a German explosive, and

with hexogene, an Italian explosive licensed for manufacture in Germany. Mysterious gangs are operating on the Franco-Spanish frontier, and have organised there a complete system of aid to the Spanish fascists, not hesitating to bring down passenger planes of the Franco-Spanish air lines by rebel German or Italian warplanes and pilots. Fascist agents attempt to capture the Spanish Government submarine in the harbour at Brest.

A gang of Italian sailors attempt a punitive expedition, en-



ONE OF THE «UNKNOWN» submarines, now taking its toll of lives and merchant ships in the Mediterranean. This one, however, is known to be Italian. When the others are exposed, they too will be traced to the blackshirt war navy.



PRIME MOVER for peace and justice for Spain and the entire world. An early photograph of Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Russia's representative at the League of Nations.

ing in murder at Tunis. And many other incidents of a like nature show the hand of fascism. This terrorism has very definite objects. Fascism wants to create unrest, a feeling of insecurity, a desire for "a strong government" in the fascist sense; to split the country and throw suspicion on the Left; to provoke reprisals which would create an atmosphere of civil war. It hopes to weaken the French people and force it to accept fascist domination,



FASHION-PLATE Anthony Eden, whose nation's policy is more than any other's responsible for the continuation of unpunished aggression by the pirate, fascist states.

either because its government yields through fear or, as a last resort, by means of foreign intervention as in Spain. These attacks differ only in degree from the attacks made on the franc by the City of London. Whatever the means, the end is the same. But the French people are aware that their standards of life, their liberty and peace will only be defended by a Peoples Government. They will not forget the introduction of the forty-hour week, paid holidays, and the support given them in their struggles for a higher standard of living a year ago. The lessons of the defeat of the German and Italian people will not be lost upon them.

## NUREMBURG RANTINGS

The annual tom-tom meeting at Nuremburg has come and gone. And the rantings of the "Führer" against Bolshevism and the parliamentary countries "on the verge of Bolshevism" still prove themselves inadequate substitutes for the food the German people lack. A detailed study of living conditions in Germany shows a steady decline in standards. The "Manchester Guardian" reports that "Owing to the shortage of grain, coffee substitutes are no longer being made of malt. New coffee substitutes containing a substitute for malt are being recommended for use". So the fascist regime goes from triumph to triumph. From "butter from coal" it proceeds to substitute substitutes. No doubt the time will soon arrive when we will be faced with yet another accomplishment substitute substitute substitutes, and even this does not exhaust all the possibilities.

## RATIONING OF FAT

Another report from the same paper of March 12th says "The rationing of fat, introduced this winter is to be extended into the summer months. An official announcement issued today says that shopkeepers must continue, as at present, to keep lists of registered customers who have ration cards for the three months April to June. Hitherto the allowance had been half a pound a week".

The "Economist" says that prices have risen as follows: beef, 18 %, pork 11 %, veal 40 %, mutton 41 %, eggs 31 %, milk 7 %, butter 35 %, margarine 44 %, potatoes 22 %, peas 52 %, beans 32 %. The price of clothing rose 24 %, of footwear 17 %, of linen 8 %, and of furniture 6 %.

## SPANISH INTERVENTION

In order to prevent any worker from obtaining higher wages, in the only way left to him now that he has been robbed of his trade unions, he is forbidden to leave his place of employment to take a higher paid position, and indeed, may not change his position at all without the express permission of the Nazi authorities.

The hatred of the German people for the Nazi regime is intensified by fascist intervention in Spain. They fail to see any reason why German soldiers should sacrifice their lives, why many millions of marks should be thrown away, while they themselves are still hungry, to fasten on the Spanish people a regime similar to that they hate.

## ITALY ON THE SPOT

The situation in Italy, with its own particular differences is similar to that in Germany, with the added difficulties of the revival of resistance in Ethiopia. A native army operating under the command of Kanyazmash Aleba Gobana, attacked Italian outposts, and then retired to its mountain fastnesses. An Italian army of five thousand men was sent out aga-

inst them. The Abyssinian troops cleverly allowed this army to advance until it was isolated from its base, and then fell upon it. Only fifty men escaped. On Au-



ADOLF HITLER, whose anti-communism has a mineral and geological basis.

gust 16th a force of four thousand Abyssinians attacked the railway station at Mejo at night, causing big casualties among the Italian force in occupation there, and then retired back to the hills. Apart from these organised attacks, in the north, in the west,

(Continued on page 15.)



GERMAN WARSHIP: It was a ship like this which carried out the unprecedentedly brutal bombardment of Almeria.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

## LETTERS from HOME

### B. M. T. Workers Solid Behind Transport Union.

Dear S: Last night I witnessed one of the most exciting and stirring demonstrations of unity and faith in my whole... life. I've written you of the tough battle we've been having with the B. M. T. Corp., how only after threat of strike did they consent to a collective bargaining election, which we won. We have been negotiating for six weeks since the election, with continued stalling on the part of the company, and finally a flat No to our demands for increased wages, etc., they using the cry of poverty—that if they granted the increased wages they would be insolvent in a year.

It is well known, beyond any doubt, that the B. M. T. is the richest of the transit companies, that its net profits for 1936 and 1937 have been more than ten million dollars. They pay the lowest wages in the city, and are notoriously anti-union.

Well, last night a meeting of the day-shift employees was called in Arcadia Hall, Brooklyn. Over 6,000 men and women (the B. M. T. employs 11,000) jammed the place—people who for years have been members of the B. M. T. company union, and who at first were slow to join the Transport Workers Union. Now they are almost all solidly in the union. The cheering and ovations for the union leaders, Quill, Santo, Hogan, MacMahon (in charge of the B. M. T. organization), Counsel Sacher, were real and heartfelt. The workers were informed clearly and plainly that they would face the brutality and reaction of Wall Street in this action—that the fight would be hard—but when the resolution authorizing the executive board to call a strike if necessary was put to a vote, there was not one dissenting hand, not one. The men rose from their seats in a wave and the arms went up. They left the hall ready to walk out on five minutes' notice, and they left militantly, with the utmost faith in the union, certain of victory...

... We have been receiving occasional copies of "The Volunteer"

they are much in demand, but pretty scarce around here...

M. W.

### About Big Doings In the Middle West.

Dear I, M. W., S and R and all my Chicago comrades: Received

## THE SWORD AND THE PEN

Don Quixote, the famous,  
Utters his meaningful words:

The 15th International Brigade,  
Present!  
With fists high, Spain's  
Students salute you.  
Sword and pen unite  
In one fervent embrace;  
Embrace from those who  
Profoundly feel the mission,  
The noble destiny,  
The incomparable greatness,  
The stern, solemn honor  
Of having in our land  
The culture of the West.

Don Quixote, the famous,  
Utters his meaningful words:

Institute of Lagasca  
Of Madrid, toward the Northeast:  
Intensive course, vibrant  
Notes, practical, laws.  
The professor of Latin,  
Softly, suavely:  
Have to get up early, boys!  
At eight, which means seven.  
The Institute presents  
A brilliant flag  
To the brave men of  
The 15th International Brigade  
Who defend our cause.

Don Quixote, the famous,  
Speaks his meaningful words:

Flag, the splendor of your silk  
Will continue to live:  
What leafy movement in you,  
Rapid, noble, fierce!  
International hands  
Will hold bright your honor forever!  
What wealth can buy,  
What blood can beat you?  
Fifteenth Brigade, salud!  
Accept this gift  
Which to invincible arms  
Renders fervent pen.

Don Quixote, the famous,  
Ends his meaningful words.

A. MONTORO

Translated and Reprinted from  
"La Libertad".

## SPANISH CORTES CONVENES

After more than a year's adjournment, the Spanish Republican Cortes (parliament) reopened in Valencia on October 1, with expressions of magnificent enthusiasm from thousands of observers. Military parades of sea, land and air forces, plus many other demonstrations, greeted government officials on the reopening of the Cortes.

The President of the body, Comrade Diego Martinez Barrio, opened the session by paying homage republican forces of land, sea and to the to the air.

The head of our government, Comrade Juan Negrin, after continued outbursts of applause, declared that he accepted the governmental position replacing Largo Caballero as a war service. His first words were a general account of the formation of the new government. He outlined these steps as follows:

1. Representation of all the parties that figured in the previous government.
2. Indirect representation of those forces which took part in the previous government and who are not represented directly in the new one. (Here he was referring to the two largest trade unions of Spain, the U. G. T. and the C. N. T. When the new government was formed the U. G. T., then headed by Caballero, refused to enter it. Consequently the C. N. T. followed suit.)
3. Primary attention to the creation of a strong navy, and in general to all war problems.
4. Concentration of the offices of the Cabinet Minister.
5. The right of the different parties to designate their ministers. The liberty of the government to occupy the high offices to meet the exigencies of the war.

With these points as a basis, Negrin elaborated the discussion on how the Government immediately set about the tasks of cleaning up the rearguard, maintaining public morale against the invaders, setting up a ministry of sea and air, solving military problems, advancing the economic and cultural standards of the people, and dealing with international questions—all of these with the primary aim of winning the war and preparing for peace.

# "TO THE HEROIC INTERNATIONAL FIGHTERS"

The following messages and statements have been forwarded to the War Commissariat of the International Brigades on the anniversary of the arrival in Spain of the first international columns — a year ago, October 14th, 1936.

**From the Committee  
Of the Madrid United  
Federation of Trade Unions**

"What can we say of our admiration toward the men of other countries who have forsaken their homes to share the tragedy that encompasses our country, and who have understood the importance, in order that the human race shall go forward, which our triumph will represent?"

"They know from personal experience what fascism is: the final bulwark of a system of exploitation and tyranny that is imposed by the ferocity of capitalism. This system has no reason for continuing its existence; it wishes to grind under its military boot all that is most noble, most sacred, most proud in the human race; to crush our most precious possession, the very reason for the existence of the human race: PROGRESS.

"To these men from foreign frontiers who generously came to offer their lives for liberty we can pay no greater homage than our fervent recognition, from this sublime and heroic nation, which with its blood is fertilizing the furrows which shall give a new seed to humanity, with which there shall be spread good-will and well-being around the circumference of the earth.

"Honor to these heroic fighters of the International Brigade!"

"Long live the commissars of international antifascist solidarity!"

**From the General  
Secretary of the  
Madrid Popular Front.**

"At present, for their aid in the struggle we are engaged in against reaction; and because in the future they will be the base of the World Popular Front, capable of smashing fascism internationally, we extend to the International Brigades all our friendship and our profound admiration."

## SPANISH PEOPLE GREET US ON OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY



**From the General  
Secretary of the  
Syndicalist Youth.**

"The soldier who came from the far countries in order to help us in our struggle for independence is the true expression of the sentiment that animates the world.

"Today these men contribute with indomitable courage in the fight to destroy our enemies. Tomorrow, it shall be we who will

help to liberate the international proletariat from all its enemies. This is the warm, fraternal feeling we have for the heroic volunteers of the International Brigades."

**From the United  
Socialist Youth  
(J. S. U.) of Madrid.**

"The International Brigades have taught the youth precisely two things:

## U. S. PROTESTANT PREACHERS PROTEST FRANCO PROPAGANDA

NEW YORK, Oct. 6.—In answer to the propaganda being spread by Spanish bishops in defense of the fascist ring-leader, Franco, 150 Protestant preachers have published an open letter condemning these actions.

The letter declares that the attempt of the Spanish bishops to justify the military rebellion against the legitimate Spanish Government constitutes an alarming note of hostility against any popular government and against liberty, which "we Americans love so profoundly".

It adds that the bishops have made no mention of German and Italian intervention, nor of the enlistment of Moors to help Fran-

co. The letter points out that the conflict is a "struggle between the forces of democracy on one side, and the privileged classes allied with the fascists on the other side".

The signers of the letter express indignation that "they (the priests) have joined the camp of reaction and fascism". They conclude by saying: "It is difficult to believe that the attitude of the Catholic Church is in favor of the invasion of Republican Spain. These prelates will not get any sympathy in the United States, after their arbitrary declarations, and for condemning the very principles that constitute the most precious heritage of our people".

"One — the true sentiment of solidarity; and two — how unity makes it possible for us to overcome the most difficult obstacles.

"In saluting the valiant youth that compose these brigades, the Juventud Socialista Unificada (United Socialist Youth) assures them that our own young generation will not deviate from the path of unity in which it is marching. In this way, whenever our solidarity is needed, it will be given with the greatest efficiency.

"Honor to the youth of all countries who have fallen on our side!"

"Salud to those who are ready to continue the path to victory!"

**From the Executive  
Committee of "Federal  
Left" of Madrid.**

"Izquierda Federal (Federal Left) declares its homage to the International Brigades for their outstanding heroism on the battlefields, where there is being waged and forged a new moral; and also for their aid in the creation of a new spirit of justice which will illuminate like a powerful beaconlight the ancient and the modern democracies."

## Catalonian Youth Flay de Valera Stand on Spain

BARCELONA, Oct. 5.—The youth of the F. A. L. C. have sent a telegram to President De Valera of Ireland, reminding him that when Ireland was fighting for its independence, Catalonia was in the vanguard of its defence.

The telegram reads:

"Catalonia, which gave Ireland the title of 'Sister Nation', has been deeply deceived and cruelly betrayed, in this tragic hour when it is giving its blood in the defence of its liberties.

"The conduct of the President of the Irish Free State in the League of Nations has not been worthy of a people who have known oppression and slavery.

"De Valera has not been liberal, nor generous. Nor does he have a feeling of national independence for his people. The youth of the F. A. L. C. wish to see Ireland entirely free."

# PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DENOUNCES WAR - MAKERS

NOTE: All quotations which follow have been re-translated from the Spanish press.

★

An historic speech on the present international situation was made by President Roosevelt last week, at the opening of a new monumental bridge in Chicago, in which the President vigorously attacked the belligerent nations that were provoking war. He indicated that the casting away of pacts made between nations show that we are in an epoch of barbarism, terror and reaction. Never, he said, have true democratic nations attempted to impose their political creeds on other nations by the shedding of blood.

He continued by pointing out that international illegality reigns.

"There has been begun an interference on the part of some countries into the internal affairs of others, or with the invasion of foreign territories the scrapping of treaties. This situation has now become so grave as to seriously threaten the very foundations of civilization. Without declaring war, nor having justifiable reasons, these countries have assassinated civilians, women and children. In peace time, submarines have attacked and torpedoed merchant ships without reason and without previous warning. There are nations that are conspiring and participating in the civil war of a country that has never preformed any hostile act toward them".

## ATTACKS AGGRESSORS

He pointed out that nations that claim their liberties deny those very same principles to others. Their lack of justice and feeling for humanity have made them sacrifice peoples and nations to satisfy their desire for power and supremacy.

He expressed his hope for the future in the following manner:

"We desire to have a world in which we can breathe freely and live without fear. The nations that love peace must in unison strengthen themselves in order to reinforce the laws and principles that constitute the only basis that can guarantee peace."

The President explained that national morality was essential, like individual morality. He emphasized

## ATTACKS AGGRESSOR NATIONS WHICH MENACE WORLD PEACE



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, President of the United States

phased the principles of international morality. In treating the question of national isolation, he said that there existed in the world an interdependence that made it technically and morally impossible for one nation to isolate itself completely from the economic and political phenomenon of the rest of the world, especially when upheavals, instead of diminishing, appear to be extending themselves.

"It is a question of vital importance for the American people that the saneness of treaties and the establishment of international morality be returned to", he said.

## 90 PERCENT THREATENED

The President stated that the peace and liberty of 90 percent of the world population is being threatened by the other 10 per-

cent, who disregard international principals. "This 90 percent who want peace, can and must find the means of realizing their desires."

The President further added that it is unconceivable that in modern times a nation should be so deranged and bestial as to dare to throw itself at the world in war, invading territory of other weaker nations, violating solemn treaties, all without provocation. The peace of the whole world is actually threatened by this state of affairs.

## "LIKE AN EPIDEMIC"

He compared the international situation with that of an epidemic, saying that the community should avoid allowing the community to reach its dangerous stage.

He concluded his speech with the following words: "War is con-

tagious — declared or undeclared; it engulfs the peoples of all nations in a theater of hostilities. Although we are ready to separate ourselves from it, we cannot avoid its disastrous effects, nor the danger of being involved in the fight. We must adopt mediums to reduce the complicated possibilities, but we cannot escape completely from a world engulfed in disorder. The principles of peace must be restored for civilization to have life, and confidence among all nations restored. The desire for peace must be manifested in such a form that nations be deterred from violating agreements and taught to respect the rights of others. We must establish positive designs to safeguard peace. America detests war and hopes for peace. America, therefore, is committed to preserve peace."

The President said that 12 cents out of every dollar is being used for war preparation.

His speech was made to 50,000 people, and was also radioed to all of America.

## NEGRIN COMMENTS

Doctor Juan Negrin made public his opinion regarding President Roosevelt's speech. He said: "I agree entirely with the words of the illustrious President of the United States. They come as a reinforcement to the moral movement that is being produced in the world against international disloyalty and the methods of violence employed by the Totalitarian States. I believe they will contribute to clear away the tense and threatening atmosphere that encircle the activities of the pacific countries. It is a shame that these words were not sounded before, when they could have influenced the deliberations at Geneva in respect to Spain."

## FASCIST DISTORT WORDS

BERLIN. — Here the Berlin press published President Roosevelt's speech in the most mutilated form, suppressing many paragraphs.

It is said in Berlin that, because of the political experience with former President Wilson, Germany must distrust the initiative of Americans in the international field.

# LIFE IN REBEL BILBAO TODAY

The following message from a Republican who remained behind when the fascists occupied Bilbao gives a first-hand picture of life in that city at the present time.

On the day of the occupation of Bilbao, the first Italian forces, consisting of two columns of Black Arrows, arrived at the centre of the city singing "Giovinezza" and shouting "Viva Italia". During their passage through the streets they fired at the windows and balconies from which the Republican and Basque nationalist flags were flying. As a result of the firing eleven people were killed and twenty-three wounded.

A lieutenant colonel of Franco's Army, replying to an ironic remark of a German officer on the lack of enthusiasm shown by the citizens said:

"I must address the people in order to tell them that they are under our power that they must show their jubilation."

The idea was approved and ascending the balcony of one of the largest public buildings in the city, the lieutenant colonel cried: "People of Bilbao! The glorious nationalist Army has just freed you from the claws of Red separatism..."

Not one balcony opened and not a single person came to listen to him. Enraged by the ridicule he had put himself to, the lieutenant colonel ordered a military procession to take place in the early afternoon and guaranteed on his word of honour that "the people of Bilbao would show due enthusiasm."

In effect, during the march-past of the "nationalist" troops, the balconies on both sides of the street were lined with people who applauded the soldiers with more or less enthusiasm.

This was due to the fact that a large section of the rebel troops were ordered to enter all the private houses in groups of six, with fixed bayonets, and oblige the inhabitants to stand on the balconies and applaud the conquerors as they marched by. Six men and two women killed for refusing to applaud.

On the following day the military authorities, wishing to convey an impression of normality which will never exist in Bilbao as long as it is occupied by the fascists, published a decree ordering all shop-

keepers and factory owners to resume work as in normal conditions, threatening them with severe measures if they refused. In the same decree the priests were ordered to return their parishes in order to say mass as usual.

The decree was completely useless. Not one shop-keeper, nor factory-owner, nor priest showed any signs of life. This passive resistance of the middle classes against fascism had a most depressing effect on the military and civil authorities, who had to go to other towns in order to procure priests to officiate in the churches and by this means avoid the farcical spectacle of an army which to defend religion, having no priests willing to say mass for it.

Thus, during the first days of fascist occupation in Bilbao, three priests as well as ninety-two shop-keepers were shot without trial.

## CITY PILLAGED

One morning a few days later all the shops in the centre of the city had placard posted outside them bearing the Falangist symbol and the following words:

"Spanish soldier fighting for the Fatherland: If you need any article in this shop, enter and take it: it belongs to you. The owner is an enemy of our sacred cause, who is attacking you in a cowardly fashion."

There is little need to say that the Italian and German troops, obeying the order to the letter, dedicated themselves for several hours to the pillage of Bilbao.



When the matter came to the knowledge of the authorities, the shops had been despoiled of all their goods.

## BILBAO GERMAN COLONY

At the present time Bilbao is a German colony. In spite of the fact that the Italians played by far the greatest part in its conquest, all official organisms passed immediately into the hands of the Germans. All private companies are run by Germans. Germans are in charge of the reconstruction of the blast furnaces without which Bilbao's iron cannot be smel-

ted: they have control of the trams and of the railways, as well as the reconstruction of all the bridges. The best hotels are occupied by Germans and to enter them special passes have to be produced.

The following story is significant of the attitude of the people of Bilbao towards invaders:

One Sunday afternoon a number of upper class inhabitants were sitting in one of the most fashionable cafes of the town. Suddenly the public realised that some Italian soldiers had entered the establishment. Moved by a feeling of hatred, everyone rose and began leaving. The Italians, who instantly understood what was going on, began shouting insults at the people.

A torrent of spoons, cups and glasses fell on the invaders as a patriotic protest against their provocation. Overcome with rage, one of the soliders drew his pistol and began firing on the customers, who seized him and gave him a thorough hiding. When calm had been restored it was discovered that the shots fired by the Italian soldier had caused the following victims:

One little girl of five, wounded in the arm; a waiter, wounded in the shoulder; and a women, wounded in the stomach and head...

This is just one illustration of the insults the Basque people have to put up with at the hands of their foreign conquerors.



VIEW OF BILBAO before the foreign fascist invaders began their destructive offensive, killing and murdering its people.

# THE U. G. T. MOVES TOWARD GREATER UNITY

Much concern was manifested recently throughout Spain at the news of the expulsion of 14 national industrial unions by the Executive Committee of the U. G. T. At a time when the greatest possible unity was an absolute prerequisite for winning the war against Fascism, the news of further split and dissension was clearly cause for alarm. The Executive Committee of the U. G. T., dominated as it was by Caballero and his followers, not having been renewed during the last five years, followed a course which was bound to lead to disaster. Its actions, such as failure to support the present government upon its formation in May, was rebuked and over-ruled on several occasions by the National Committee. It was becoming quite clear that the Executive Committee ceased to reflect the actual sentiments of the

U. G. T. workers and was playing a game which could help only the enemies of the Spanish people.

In order to wrest control of the National Committee which was scheduled to meet shortly, the Executive Committee started a campaign of expulsions. Using the slim pretext that certain unions were behind in their dues payments, a campaign was started to expel precisely those unions which fought consistently for unity and for unconditional support of the Negrin government, which they considered a government of victory over the fascist enemy. The actual expulsions began and 14 national unions, including some of the largest and most important unions, such as the Asturian Miners, Madrid Bakers, found themselves excluded from the ranks of the U. G. T.

At a time when the entire nat-

ion was showing the greatest sympathy and solidarity with the Asturian miners, who are conducting such a heroic struggle against the advancing fascist hordes and who are shedding blood in defense of their land and liberties, news was received of their expulsion from the U. G. T. for alleged non-



payment of dues. The leaders of the Executive Committee of the U. G. T. busy with the work of dividing the ranks of the workers, steeped in their hatred of the present government, did nothing to help the struggle against the invading fascist forces in the North but found time and a means of notifying the Miners Union of Asturias of its expulsion from the U. G. T.

## NATION INDIGNANT

During the month of September the trade unionist of Spain showed how they felt about this matter. A wave of unheard-of indignation spread throughout the country. Union after union adopted resolutions calling for a stop to this disruption and splitting policy by the Executive Committee. In cities, towns and villages U. G. T. organizations were roused into action against misdeeds of the Executive Committee. Finally on September 27, in besieged Madrid, the local executive committee met and condemned unanimously the policy of the national Executive Committee in expelling the 14 national unions. A cry came forth everywhere for a full meeting of the National Committee to deal with the situation and to bring about unity in the ranks of the U. G. T.

## NEW COMMITTEE CHOSEN

On Oct. 1, the meeting of the National Committee was convened in Valencia. The meeting fully represented the 30 national unions affiliated with the U. G. T. The meeting considered that the Executive Committee heretofore did not represent the true will of the membership of the U. G. T. and had acted against their interests.

The meeting invalidated the expulsions of the 14 national unions and finally elected a new Executive Committee. It retained only one member of the former Executive Committee, one who had consistently opposed the splitting tactics of the old leadership. The meeting named Ramon Gonzalez Peña, of the miners' union, as President; Edmundo Dominguez, vice-president; Jose Rodriguez Vega, general secretary, and Amaro Rosal Diaz as assistant secretary. Immediate action was taken to notify the International Federation of Trade Unions of the change of leadership of the U. G. T.

## SOLID SUPPORT

The first step of the new Executive Committee was to visit Dr. Juan Negrin and affirm the unconditional support of the U. G. T. of his government and pledge to mobilize the broad membership of the U. G. T. in active work for the execution of the tasks set to them by the Peoples Front government. The new leadership immediately contacted the leadership of the C. N. T. and pledged to maintain the closest co-operation between the two great trade union organizations and to work untiringly for the organic unity of the U. G. T. and the C. N. T. so that in the very near future both bodies could merge into a powerful, single, united trade union movement of Spain.

The latest developments in the U. G. T. are indeed heartening.



With change in the leadership of the Executive Committee, with the great spirit of unity displayed at the first session of this body on Oct. 2nd, there is reason to believe that the greatest possible unity of the trade union movement will be welded. The trade union movement will be able now to march with the rest of the nation in the great anti-fascist People's Front towards victory over the foreign fascist invaders and towards a free, happy and prosperous Spain.

D. M.



AFTER THE AIR RAID, women and children leaving their underground refuge.

## THE WORLD SITUATION— IS IT PEACE OR WAR?

(Continued from page 9.)

and in the south, there is constant fighting. The situation has become such that Italian soldiers are afraid to move outside their garrisons. It is certain that as fascist Italy's difficulties increase, the Abyssinian resistance will grow.

### THE FAR EAST

In the Far East, the struggle for Chinese independence continues. Japanese fascism, well-armed, with its well laid plans for the conquest of the north of China, is met by an unexpected resistance. The growing unity of the Chinese people, which has its parallels here in Spain, faces Japan with serious problems. Its advance is much slower, and is costing far more than it had anticipated, and it is already evident that it is probably not Chinese independence which is in danger, but the continued existence of Japanese fascism. The eighth Army not long ago inflicted a terrific defeat on the Japanese, killing or wounding 30,000 men. Four days later, in the region of Tsang-Chen, a thousand Japanese troops were surprised and captured.

It would be foolish to expect an early victory of the Chinese people, for Japan has a terrific preponderance of arms, but Japan's internal situation, like that of Germany and Italy, is rapidly deteriorating. The Manchurian conquest has not provided the results expected, either in the way of profits or of minerals. The preparations for war have been a great strain on the not too strong Japanese economy; and war itself, if not quickly ended, may prove disastrous. During the past six months, there have been more strikes than during the whole history of the Japanese labour movement.

### PROGRESS IN U. S. S. R.

In striking contrast to the conditions obtaining in the fascist countries, is the constant progress of the people of the USSR. Whereas, despite the enormous armaments production, after eight years the total production of the capitalist countries stands more or less where it did, that of the Soviet Union has increased several times over. Translated into terms of human happiness, the effect of this increase in produc-

tion is enormous. Nor can any limits be set to this growing prosperity of the Russian people. In its relations with other states, the USSR is recognised as the strongest and most consistent fighter for collective peace, and it is against this great people that the most vindictive spleen of the warmakers is directed, as being the greatest obstacle to the realisation of their plans of conquest.

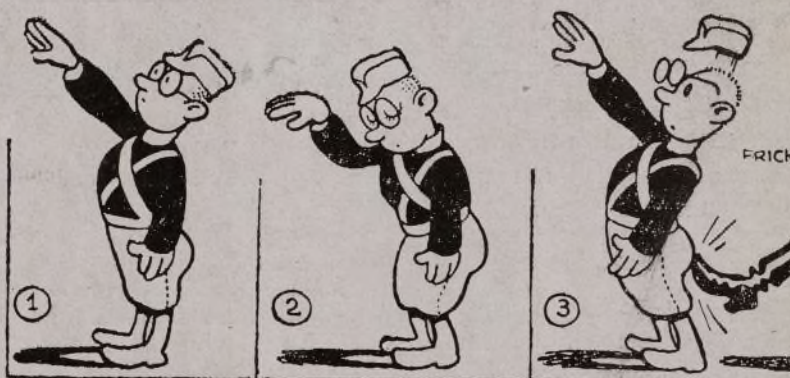
At Geneva, Litvinov's speech has revived hope among the peace forces in the League of Nations. Clearly and simply he showed that despite all that has happened to weaken it, the League is still capable of holding the aggressors in check and of stopping new aggressions. Great Britain, despite its strenuous denials of the past, has now been brought to the point where it can no longer deny the violation of the "non-intervention" agreement. No steps are being taken to end intervention in Spain, but the recognition of the fact of aggression is a step forward from the previous position.

### BRITAIN REMAINS KEY

It is evident that Britain remains the key to the world situation. A few words of the right kind from the British statesmen could change the alignment of the world forces in favor of peace. But these words will never be spoken by the "National" government of its own free will. Only the combined pressure of the progressive people can compel a change of its present line. It is tragic that leaders of the Labour movement, such as Bevin and Citrine, can prevent, even for a little time, the unity of the anti-fascist and anti-war opinion, which now, lacking leadership and cohesion, are ineffectual, could unitedly become such a force as would compel its wishes to be carried out. History will look back with curiosity upon these few men, who have, in effect, the destiny of the world in their hands for a short space of time, and it will wonder at their blindness and stupidity. But there are others in the Labour movement who see with clarity the danger which confronts the world.

But will Unity arrive in time? Events are moving quickly.

O. C. G.



THE FUEHRER TALKS

AND TALKS

AND TALKS

## 15<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE SALUTES MADRID STUDENTS, ACCEPTING THEIR BANNER

TO THE STUDENTS OF THE LAGASCA INSTITUTE

Dear Comrades,

Your action in undertaking the patronage of our Brigade adds another link in the already powerful bonds of international solidarity between the people of Spain and those of our several lands. Now in the fight for the cause of Spanish democracy, which is the cause of all humanity, we realize the significance of, and are proud to accept, your proffered banner for the symbol of our mutual struggle.

We have watched the fast-growing student and youth movement of Spain. Everywhere we see the signs of unity of the rearguard. We are very happy to note that among the leaders in this movement for unity are the students. In the forefront stands the youth of Spain who have undergone so much and who still fight on in the vanguard of the Spanish forces.

Among our ranks are many students from many lands; some of the best fighters in the Brigade sprang from the student movement, where they learned the simple elements of the struggle for civil and political liberties, political rights, and often even economic subsistence.

We regret that it was not possible for the Brigade to be present at the tendering of the banner to our unit. We were occupied carving further records, further cause for you to be proud of us—our roles in the captures of Quinto and Belchite may well fill you with pride. Soon we hope to return to the Center front where it will be possible for us to make a fact the desire now held by both of us: cement the bonds of comradeship and understanding between us. We hope to be able to send delegations to visit you and become acquainted with the individuals who comprise your group. In the same manner we hope that you will be able to send express our gratification in your interest and assure you of similar sentiments on our part.

For the men of the Fifteenth International Brigade we send to your group the warmest antifascist greetings.

V. COPIC

Commander of Brigade.

STEVE NELSON

Political Commissar.

ROBERT H. MERRIMAN

Chief of Staff.

## NEWS BRIEFS

MOSCOW.—For the next year the Soviet Government has put aside 4,200,000 rubles for the construction of a system of railways in the Ukrainian region.

★

BERLIN.—We get news that Hitler has accepted Mussolini's invitation to repay the latter's recent visit, by going to Rome.

★

MARSEILLE.—The attempt to ship 200 tons of sulphur to fascist Las Palmas (Mallorca Island seaport), last week, resulted in an effective refusal by the port stevedores to load the boat. The cargo ship "Medie" was forced to sail without the sulphur.

★

MOSCOW.—More than 1000 Asturian children between the ages of 15 and 16 have arrived here this week on board the two Soviet ships, "Cooperation" and "Dzerjinski". The voyage along the Spanish coast was perilously made under direct rebel fire.

In the Mancha Canal, the "Cooperation" encountered an Italian ship. When the young voyagers recognized the Italian flag they let loose prolonged cries of condemnation to the fascist ship.



LEAVING THE REFUGIO: A mother looks anxiously at the sky, to see whether all the planes have departed, before venturing out again, child in arm, into the streets.

## OCTOBER 16th

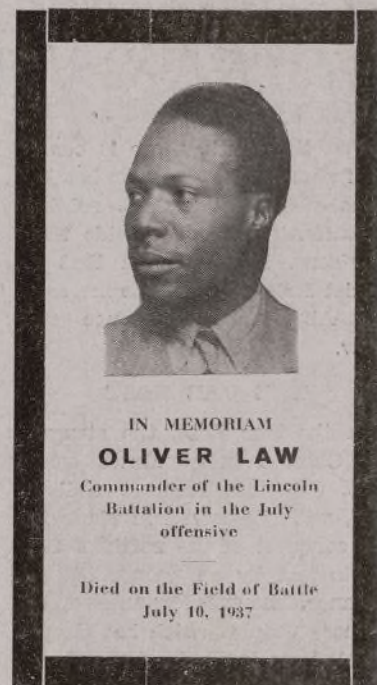
Perhaps today  
You will remember John Brown.

John Brown  
Who took his gun,  
Took twenty-one companions  
White and black,  
Went to shoot your way to freedom  
Where two rivers meet  
And the hills of the  
North  
And the hills of the  
South  
Look slow at one another —  
And died  
For your sake.

Now that you are  
Many years free,  
And the echo of the Civil War  
Has passed away,  
And Brown himself  
Has long been tried at law,  
Hung by the neck,  
And buried in the ground —  
Since Harpers Ferry  
Is alive with ghosts today,  
Immortal raiders  
Come again to town —

Perhaps  
You will recall  
John Brown.

LANGSTON HUGHES



IN MEMORIAM  
**OLIVER LAW**  
Commander of the Lincoln  
Battalion in the July  
offensive

Died on the Field of Battle  
July 10, 1937

## LETTERS from HOME

(Continued from page 10.)

keep on spreading them around...

The steel situation is now quiet, but the auto workers have held their convention. They have grown in little more than a year from 35,000 to 350,000; and we will see the day soon, I believe, when they will get old Henry Ford also lined up...

Your collective letters are fine. Keep'em up. Keep sending me mail and make your letters informative to the fullest extent, of course together with everything else you want to write. For we can surely use these letters to get additional and stronger support for Loyalist Spain and for the International Brigades...

B. M.

## RALPH FOX BATTALION

Another indication of the international solidarity among the different national volunteers in Spain, not only with the Spanish people, but with each other, exists in the form of a complete battalion of the 14th International (Franco-Belge) Brigade. This is the Ralph Fox (12th) Battalion, so named as far back as last April, in honor of the noted English novelist and writer whose death here shocked the world.

"The battalion was named 'Ralph Fox' at a time when there were still a number of British volunteers in each company", says Commander Dumont of the 14th Brigade. "These men were afterward transferred to the 15th Brigade, but we felt that it would be most fitting to retain the name

of this man who won our love and our admiration in the early days of the war."



VIGILANCE IN THE FIELDS: This peasant, one of the unsung heroes of the war against fascism, guardian of the nation's food supply.

DIANA.—Artes Gráficas.—Larra, 6, Madrid.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid