



# The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

*Organ of the international brigades*

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## AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN PLEDGE TO CARRY ON WORK FOR LOYAL SPAIN

Two distinguished United States Congressmen, visiting in Spain, Jerry O'Connell, Montana Democrat, and John T. Bernard of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party in speaking over Station EAR in Madrid Oct. 22nd, pledged to carry on even a more vigorous campaign for the cause of the loyal Spanish people when they get back home.

"Wherever we have gone", O'Connell said, "the story has been the same. The Spanish people have shown a spirit and determination that is absolutely unbeatable. In visiting the front on the University City sector, we saw the famous street barricades that were erected in the early days of the war. They are an example of the superhuman effort of which the Spanish people are capable. The barricades are sturdy walls of cement and brick. On seeing them, I thought they had been built over a period of months, not only because there are so many of them but because they are all splendid jobs of heavy masonry. The fact is, however, that they were all built within a period of twenty-four hours. I still do not see how that was humanly possible."

O'Connell continued, "It is precisely this superhuman zeal of the Spanish people that explains why the Rebels and Fascist invaders have never taken Madrid and, in my opinion, never will. They have had an admitted superiority in arms and aviation, which the Span-

**Bernard and O'Connell Speak on Madrid  
Radio to America; Impressed by Spanish  
People's Fight Against Big Odds.**



JOHN T. BERNARD  
Minnesota Farmer-Laborite

ish Republic has been unable to purchase because of the so-called non-intervention agreement. They have even had an army of nearly 200,000 Italians to help them. But this superiority in material strength could never equal the great courage of the Spanish people. I fully realize that these observations have been made before by many others. However, seeing and experiencing Madrid is so impressive that it is difficult to talk of anything else. It brings home, as nothing else does, how cruelly betrayed Spanish Democracy has been by the other democratic countries. It brings home, too, the urgent need for changing the cause of that betrayal—the so-called non-intervention policy of the democratic countries.

"It is now obvious that this



JERRY O'CONNELL  
Democrat from the State of Montana

policy has done but one thing. It has permitted Fascist Germany and Italy to send unlimited quantities of arms, ammunitions, aviation and even whole brigades to crush liberty and democracy in Spain. After seeing the situation at first hand I, for one, do not believe that this one-sided kind of non-intervention can be permitted to continue. It is an open invitation to the Fascist aggressors to provoke so-called civil wars and then move in with their armed battalions to carry Fascism throughout the world."

O'Connell concluded by saying, "It is time for the democracies, if they are to safeguard the liberty and independence of their people, to exert every legal and economic effort to stop the Fascist aggres-

sors. That is the only way that liberty and democracy, not only here in Spain, but throughout the world can be protected."

### FEARS WORLD WAR

Congressman Bernard told his radio listeners how impressed he was in seeing soldiers spending their spare time learning to read and write. "There are actually schools in the front line trenches", he said.

"We have also seen children happy at work and play in new schools, of which there is still a great shortage. The new schools are admirable and compare most favorably with anything I have seen in the United States."

Speaking of the rights denied to the Republic by world powers, he added, "...we sincerely hope that those democratic nations that have thus far refused to accord the legally and democratically elected Government the right to purchase arms and ammunition will soon realize that such a policy directly aids the aggressor forces."

"Continued failure to grant the Spanish Republic its proper rights will, we fear, hasten the coming of a new world war—with all its consequent dangers to liberty and democracy, as President Roosevelt so well pointed out in his Chicago speech."

(Continued on page 8.)

# BILL LAWRENCE, IN FAREWELL TO AMERICANS IN SPAIN, INTRODUCES COMMISSAR JOHN GATES

Bill Lawrence, popular and hardworking American Political Commissar of the International Brigades Base, has left Spain after a long period of unstinting and fruitful activity to take up important work elsewhere.

His place will be taken by John Gates, who has spent more than a half year on the Cordoba front, as Adjutant Political Commissar of the 86th Brigade. Comrade Gates, who arrived in Spain early in February, reached the Cordoba front on April 1. There he was successively a company commissar, then Political Commissar of the 26th Battalion, and finally the acting Commissar of the entire Brigade. A statement on his activities by Lieutenant-Colonel Morandi, Commander of the 86th Brigade, is printed elsewhere in this issue.

## MESSAGE TO MEN

In making his departure known, Comrade Lawrence left the following message to the American comrades in every I. B. unit in Spain:

"I am sorry that I could not say goodbye in person to all of the men with whom I have had occasion to speak during the many months we have been here together. To do this would have meant my remaining here

for at least another month, going from one unit to another. Unfortunately this was impossible, as you will easily understand.

"In leaving I have many things to say — but you already know what they are. All of us — all of us who have done what we came here to do, all of us who have held down our various jobs and held them down well — will know that few words are needed. So I will skip the speeches and make this farewell short and to the point.

## OUR RECORD HERE

"The Americans have been here for almost a year. In that time we have earned the praise and the respect not only of the Spanish people, but of the People's Army of Spain and its tireless leaders. We have worked with all of the nationalities which compose the International Brigades, and the best testimony to our value here is that which reflects well not only on us, but on the job which all of us have done here — the fact that after 16 months of war Republican Spain and its organized army are pushing the fight against the enemy in a manner that would have been impossible a half year ago. We, as one small part of the People's Army, should be proud of this fact; we should be more than ever determined to continue the fight to its only logical conclusion — victory for democratic Spain.

## CARRY ON!

"If we carry on as we have done in the past, improving slowly but surely in all of our work, I will be more than sa-

## THE RECORD OF JOHN GATES AT THE FRONT, AS DESCRIBED BY HIS BRIGADE COMMANDER

### 86 BRIGADA MIXTA — MANDO

The adjutant Political Commissar of the 86th Brigade, Comrade JOHN GATES, was one of the organizers of the 20th International Battalion that left the Base at Madrigueras on March 20, 1937.

Named Political Commissar of the 2nd Company (Anglo-American Company), he was the political and organizational spirit of the Company which in all of the battles engaged in at the Pozoblanco front demonstrated great fighting courage and a truly antifascist spirit. The good work of Comrade GATES inculcated a high morale in the men.

In the Company's difficult moments, he was given a special mission by the Military Command that he accomplished with brilliant capacity and a genuine spirit of sacrifice.

Subsequently, he exerted all of his energies in maintaining the antifascist and fighting spirit of the 20th International Battalion which found itself in difficult situations.

He took a leading part in the reconstruction and reorganization of the Battalion after suffering heavy losses in the many battles it engaged in. As a special honor he was proposed as Brigade Political Commissar. While waiting for the official appointment, he was designated Adjutant Political Commissar.

All of the missions that were imposed upon him were satisfactorily carried out. He has gained a high reputation of not only among all of the constituents of the 20th Battalion, but also in Brigade Headquarters and in the Brigade itself.

His transfer to more important work is felt very keenly by the Brigade because we lose in JOHN GATES, a true comrade and an excellent Political Commissar in every aspect.

Brigade Headquarters, Valsequillo, October 19, 1937.

Commander of the Brigade, Acting  
Commander of the Sector (Signed),  
Lt. Colonel MORANDI, 86 Brigade.



tisfied. And so, I am sure, will we all be. My leaving at this moment was a necessary thing, and it will cause no break in the work here — my successor could not have been better chosen than Comrade John Gates, fresh from almost seven months in the lines.

"If you give him the cooperation which you have given me, I shall be more than satisfied; and so, I believe, will

Comrade Gates. But he will soon see you and speak to you for himself.

"Carry on just as you have carried on, improving always, together with our British and Canadian comrades, as well as with all our other nationalities in the I. B., and with our Spanish fellow-fighters.

"Salud, comrades!"

BILL LAWRENCE

# TO THE BRITISH BATTALION

Dear Comrades,

A few days ago I travelled to the front at Quinto in order to explain to the Battalion the reasons for my recall to England. Although we succeeded in getting to the trenches it was not possible in the circumstances to talk with all the comrades either collectively or individually. However we were able to discuss the position with leading comrades and explain to them.

The fact is that in a few weeks time there is to be the bi-annual election of the South



Wales Miners' Executive, and it is considered necessary that I return in time for the election. My stay and work here in Spain has been made possible by the consent and approval given by the Executive of which I am a member.

It is understood that the South Wales Miners' Federation is now undoubtedly one of the most powerful forces within the Labour Movement in Britain in the fight for Unity and Aid for Spain. This being so it is very necessary that those who fight for such a policy be again returned to its Executive Council. I therefore trust that my departure to England for this purpose will meet with your whole hearted approval.

I came to work in Spain last April and since that time there have been very big changes particularly within our Battalion. There is no doubt but that the Battalion went through some of its most difficult times during these months. The problems we have had to overcome have for us very important lessons and too much cannot be said of them.

I would therefore like to draw attention to some matters that have been of considerable

importance in these months.

There have been difficulties which are natural in the formation of an army such as ours. Obviously in an army that is being forged in the actual process of struggle, unavoidable organisational weaknesses arise. They arise because not only are we building a new army but we are also building an army of an entirely new character, one which is an expression of the will of the people themselves.

The goal is a conscious goal and the army is the weapon with which it will be attained. There must be no false conceptions about the role of the army, there must be no false conceptions about the duty and the responsibilities of every soldier in its ranks.

In the political commissariat the comrades have an organisation through which criticism and suggestions may be made and in this way there exists the means whereby the comrades can give expression to their problems.

## PEOPLE'S ARMY DIFFERENT

These are the two main points in which the Spanish People's Army differs from an imperialist army. First, the aim is one which expresses the will of the people; second, the soldiers within its rank have the possibility of organised discussion on the problems which concern them.

In little else does it differ from an imperialist army. The People's Army must be disciplined and efficient. Commands, no matter how difficult at times it may be to carry them out, must be promptly obeyed and without question. Discipline must be strengthened and there must be a political understanding of the reasons why absolute obedience to the Commanders is a vital necessity for victory.

During this period we have lost several of our most devoted

and heroic comrades. Men like Bill Meredith, Charlie Goodfellow, Bob Elliot and others whose tireless energies have given our British Battalion the proud record it now holds. Their names are synonymous with heroism and self-sacrifice as undying as the prestige and record of British Volunteers in Spain.

With their example as the guide our Battalion cannot go far wrong. It will be disciplined with that self discipline that was theirs; it will be loyal with a devotion that even death cannot destroy; it will be courageous but not foolhardy, and cautious but not cowardly; in a word it will be a Battalion

worthy of the principles and aims of the Popular Army.

The Government forces are now on the offensive and this in itself bears witness to the tremendous growth and development of the Popular Army. We cannot pay too high a tribute to the people of Spain and the Popular Front Government, when we remember that this powerful army has been forged even while, with immense handicaps, the Fascists were being kept at bay. Only the profound faith and determination of a democratic people in the cause they were fighting could have accomplished this. Such an example should sharpen our intelligence and better equip us to participate in the progressive movements of our own countries.

This experience should give

(Continued on page 3.)



## AN OLD, OLD STORY

The Anglo-French lion, which at the Nyon Conference and in some subsequent roarings showed signs of an unaccustomed vigour, has since had a sad relapse. The beast was metamorphosed into a crab and scuttled back into the crevices of the Non-Intervention Committee. The old trouble began as soon as France and Britain began to make concessions to Mussolini after Nyon. We already know too well the sort of fruit that grows on this tree of "conciliation" — increased Italian intervention in Spain. This was accompanied by an ominous rattling of the Roman sword in the international scabbard: the sending of more Italian troops to Libya as a friendly reminder to Britain that she has interests in Egypt; Mussolini's blatant solidarity with Japan; the announcement that Italy will not participate in conversations, meetings or conferences without the presence of, or a formal invitation to the third member of the triumvirate against humanity; the Berlin prophecy that "The Europe of tomorrow will be fascist" — the prophet has doubtless inherited his gifts from a gentleman who was going to enter Madrid on a white horse many months ago — and the Berlin threat: "When words do not suffice it is necessary to resort to arms."

The result of it all is that the Non-Intervention Commit-

tee is meeting once again. Apparently it has not been considered necessary to re-christen 40,000 troops in Spain—having in actual fact considerably more than twice that number—and although the problem of a re-christening would provide a magnificent field of action for a new sub-sub-committee.

It is early to forecast the results of this meeting. Italy and Germany are still bargaining with the withdrawal of foreign troops as a weapon to secure belligerent rights for the "Generalissimo". As usual one voice has spoken and will speak firmly and clearly against the manoeuvres and threats of the fascists and the waverings and concessions of the democracies — the voice of the representative of the U. S. S. R. One thing is clear—so long as Britain and France fail to take a firm stand against the aggressors, so long as they allow international law and the rights of the Spanish Republic and the Chinese people to be trampled underfoot in the name of a "peace" which is no peace and only a delay while the fascist pack is gathering for the kill, so long will the shadow of war hang over Europe and the world.

But the waverings cannot last forever. The Governments of France and Britain have to reckon with the people, and the people of France and Britain want to live in a world of pea-

ce and progress, not in a vast powder magazine. Horror and anger at the criminal barbarism of the fascist attack on Spain and China is sinking deep into their hearts, and the Edens and Co. will not always be able to hide in sub-committees.

In his speech on October 5th the President of the United

States said: "The peace, the freedom and the security of 90 % of the population of the world is being jeopardised by the remaining 10 % who are threatening a breakdown of all international order and law, surely the 90 %... can and must find some way to make their will prevail."

A. E.

## THE DEATHS OF COMRADES FRY AND WHALLEY

The British Battalion has again suffered the loss of some of its finest comrades in the death of Harold Fry, Battalion Commander and Eric Whalley, Battalion Political Commissar.

Both comrades were killed on October 13th, leading the Battalion in action at Fuentes de Ebro. In the same action we also lost another very good comrade, Sergeant Robinson.

Harold Fry had a consistent and interesting revolutionary record. He was a member of the Communist Party since 1933 and also a member of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Boot and Shoe Operatives. He first came to Spain in December 1936 and was appointed Lieutenant in command of the Machine Gun Company. He was captured by the fascists together with 28 of his men at Jarama on February 13th. The trench they occupied was cut off by the Moors who used the subterfuge of singing the "International" and advancing to our lines with the red front salute giving the impression that they were coming over to our side.

The captured comrades were retained in rebel territory until the end of May, their lives being saved by a German officer who recognised the value of British prisoners as hostages. Despite that all the comrades were tried and Fry was sentenced to death, the trial being conducted at Talavera in Spanish without an interpreter. The local officials refused to accept the responsibility for signing the death warrant and it was sent to Franco for ratification. The sentences were never carried out and comrade Fry and twenty three others were eventually exchanged for fascist prisoners in the Government territory and they returned to Britain on May 28th.

After a brief propaganda tour comrade Fry returned to Spain in August. He became the commander of the British Battalion after the Belchite offensive. His death has robbed the Battalion of an excellent military commander and of a comrade whose whole life had been devoted to the anti-fascist struggle.

Eric Whalley, was a comrade who in the short time he was here had shown excellent possibilities as a political worker. He became Battalion Commissar at the same time as Fry became the Battalion Commander and they were an excellent combination for the military-political leadership of the Battalion.

Whalley's previous history in Britain was of the same active political character. Prior to becoming the Mansfield organiser of the Communist Party he had been a very active member of the I. L. P. and had been the National Chairman of the Affiliation Committee which was formed in the I. L. P. in order to bring about the affiliation of the I. L. P. to the Communist Party. In addition to this he was an active propagandist and had also been prominent in the Unemployed Movement. For two years he had been the Chairman of the Notts and Derby District of the National Unemployed Workers Movement.

He will be mourned, not only by the comrades in the British Battalion but also by the Notts and Derby workers who knew him as an active and intelligent revolutionary worker.

A. D.



## TOWARDS THE UNITED FRONT IN BRITAIN

The temper of the British people has been shown, if any showing were needed, by the reply it gave to Mosley, the vicious little imitator of the Rome and Berlin assassins.

Half a million strong, on Sunday, October 4th, it stopped his gang of hirelings, gathered from over Britain, from completing the provocative march through Bermondsey, despite the fierce bludgeonings of the police.

Two nights later, ten thousand people, drawn from every stratum of society, and including even the Archbishop of Canterbury, met at the Albert Hall and strongly condemned the present savagery of Japanese fascism, calling upon the Government to take the lead in taking measures to stop it. Yet in between these two events, signs of the overwhelming hatred of the people for fascism, the Labour Party Conference was held at Bournemouth and decided by 1,730,000 votes to 373,000 against the formation of a United Anti-fascist Front.

## NO DEFEAT

Does this signify a defeat for the progressive forces in the Labour Movement? At first sight it does, yet without minimising the seriousness of the position, an examination of the results of the Conference as a whole show very definite advances towards Unity, and what is more important, laid the basis for further advances in the future.

On the first day of the Conference, an expected triumph was won when the policy of certain reactionary elements in the Trade Union Movement, led by Ernest Bevin, was decisively defeated. Bevin had prepared proposals, which if passed would have meant the domination of the Labour Party Executive by the block vote of the Trade Unions for another year at least. Bevin was anxious to operate this policy, because of the evident desire of the constituency Labour Parties to elect to the Executive certain leaders of the "Left". This desire is shown by

the results of the Executive elections immediately after the defeat of Bevin's proposals, when a larger number of the "Left" were chosen than ever before. Stafford Cripps and Harold Laski, threatened by the Executive with expulsion for their Unity efforts, were chosen as representatives of the rank and file, while George Strauss came very near to election. Others who have fought in the past and still are fighting for Unity, both in the Constituency Section and in



STAFFORD CRIPPS  
popular leader of the United Front movement in Britain

the Women's Section, were also elected.

This advance was the first fruit of the democratisation of the Labour Party.

## CAUSES NO DEJECTION

The defeat of the United Front motion, by a greater majority than the rejection of Communist Party affiliation last year, has caused no dejection amongst the fighters for Unity because it is borne in mind that the Miners' Federation, which last year threw its weight on the side of Unity, this year voted against. This was due to some doubtful measures adopted by the Federation leadership at the annual conference held in July, when 259,000 votes were cast for Unity and 280,000 against, to swing over the small vote of the Derbyshire miners against Unity. If this had not been done, a small majority

would have been registered for Unity, and the 500,000 miners' votes would have brought the vote at the Labour Party Conference up to 800,000. It is generally acknowledged that the vote registered did not tally with the real feeling of the Conference.

In reporting on the Conference, William Mellor makes the following comments.

## HALL PACKED

"To say that there is no despondency or sense of defeat in the minds of the "Left" is merely to underline a fact. No one who was present at the Unity meeting in the Bournemouth Town Hall on Tuesday night could for one moment think that the Bournemouth Conference was the eclipse of the "Left". The Hall was packed to capacity. The audience was not merely enthusiastic, but quietly convinced of the rightness of the case. And it listened to speeches that were worthy of the occasion. Above all, to a speech from Aneurin Bevin, that not even the enemies of the Unity Campaign could forbear to cheer."

The Bournemouth Conference has opened to those who support the Unity Campaign opportunities which will not be thrown away. Within the Labour Party the fight which the Unity Campaign has urged upon the rank and file and leadership will be strengthened and sustained.

O. C. G.



HAROLD LASKI  
professor and champion of united action among workers' organizations

W.P.A. TEACHERS  
FIRMLY SUPPORT  
LOYALIST SPAIN

Dear Brother Editor:

I wish it were possible for you to be in our Union hall when the announcement is made that the bundle of "Volunteers" has arrived. There is a rush for them that speaks more than a million words can of the solidarity felt by our members for the cause of the Spanish people. The article "Trotskyist Traitors" in the Sept. 13th issue aroused great interest. For in our Union these disciples of Trotzky have carried on their disruptive tactics to the point where membership meetings instead of being occasions for discussion of plans for safeguarding and retaining our jobs were turned into demagogic harangues and petty wranglings on their part. But the members finally got wise to them and now they tread softly.

Eagerness to read the "Volunteer" is not our only display of solidarity. We have given the following concrete aid:

1. Fifty-three members went over to fight. Some have already given their lives. Others like L. L. who has just been made a commander in the I. E. still fight on.
2. Two Thousand Dollars has been raised. Part of it is being used to purchase an ambulance in honor of Joe Streisand and we hope to send it in the early fall. The rest of the money has gone into the cigarette and comfort fund.
3. On September 9th, a special Spain issue of our Union publication was printed.
4. On Sept. 24th, a Spain rally was held at which time our membership turned out in full force. And what a success it was. For as one member expressed himself, "I felt like packing up and going right over there".

We won't stop at the above. For we have learned that your fight is our fight too. And until Fascism is driven out of Spain our activities will not cease.

A. S.

# THE ART TREASURES OF MADRID

The front line trenches can be seen from any tall building in Madrid. It takes 15 minutes to walk from the Hotel Victoria in the middle of the city to the Casa del Campo, and another ten minutes to reach the trench that looks across 60 feet of sloping, scrub-



MILITIAMEN carrying art works to a safe place before fascist shells or bombs find their mark

oak field at the earthworks of the Moors. Each day the fascists shell Madrid, and each day a few die as a result of the shelling. But life in the city continues, a little more tense, a little more difficult, yet buoyantly, hopefully.

Madrileños are proud of their city, proud of its history, proud of its art treasures. When airplanes first began methodically to smash sections of Madrid, when shells first began to slaughter people in the streets, Madrileños thought of two things — barricades, so that the fascists could never enter Madrid, and protection for the art treasures of Spain.

## PAINTINGS SALVAGED

The Junta Central del Tesoro Artístico Nacional was formed to save paintings, sculpture, fine furniture, pottery and church ornaments that are the pride of Madrid and Spain. Even as the untrained troops fell back from Toledo in the bloody first days of the war, desperate men found time to remove valuable paint-

ings before they evacuated towns and to send them to Madrid for safe keeping. Peasants and workers knew that all art work must be preserved for future enjoyment and instruction when Spain again won peace.

The commission in charge of salvaging artistic works had an immense task. Not only must paintings and other art pieces be stored in safe places, but they must first be catalogued, often cleaned, and then carefully packed.

The work began and has been carried on with Madrid under siege. The director and his staff are all experts, former professors of art and often artists themselves. The director said to us, "Sometimes I hunger to return to my own painting. But this work is so important that now I must sacrifice my own work to the far larger problem of preserving Spanish art." In the Museo Arqueológico Nacional, the vast exhibition rooms have been reinforced with beams to prevent the ceiling falling if the building is hit by a shell. On sturdy shelves, almost as wide and long as the rooms, are ranged thousands of valuable treasures — furniture and china, gilt clocks and row upon row of saints, censures, vestments, crosses, images, all of which formerly adorned Catholic churches. The most valuable are packed in sand to prevent shattering. Each object is carefully inventoried and labelled, even the tiny statuettes that formerly decorated a mantle in some manufacturer's home. And still the treasures pour in, new books are found that must be wrapped and crated, peasants ride fifty and one hundred kilometers in their donkey carts to deliver a small article, because "it is from the house of a big landowner who left at the beginning of the invasion and it looks to us in our village to have value and beauty, though of course we know nothing of these things."

Madrid is admittedly not a safe place for such treasures. But it was impossible to eva-

cuate all objects simultaneously. The immediate problem was to move the most famous paintings, particularly from the Prado and other important



YOUNG MILITIAMAN dusting art pieces

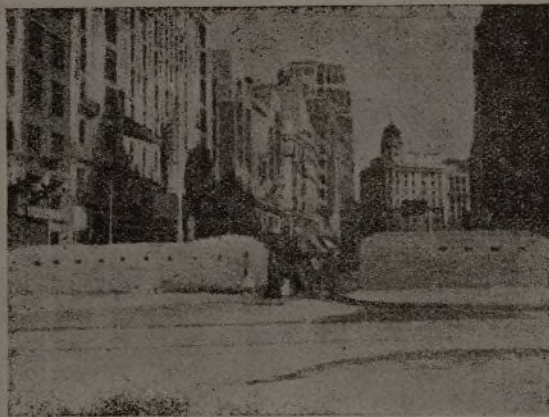
collections. Paintings by El Greco, Titian, Velazquez, Goya, Tintoretto and many others were carefully boxed in fire-proofed material, slowly and laboriously moved to Valencia. Here they were placed in strong buildings in which the temperature could be carefully regulated. For a brief time, some paintings were stored in the vaults of the Bank of Spain in Madrid to keep them from harm during the bombardments and until they could be taken from the city. The damp vaults quickly caused mold to attack the paintings. The El Greco and other canvases had to be cleaned—and

in the cleaning the dirt and superimposed varnish disappeared with the mold. Paintings took on their original life and color, as though they had been created yesterday. The rescue work by experts had taught the commission and art connoisseurs everywhere new values in the paintings they had so long admired and studied. As a result, all present before paintings are stored, they are carefully cleaned. A legacy of the war will be the complete cataloguing of Spanish art, the cleaning and revivifying of valuable paintings, and the rescuing of them from what was often the ignorant abuse of private owners or the clergy.

In addition, new art treasures have been discovered. A wealthy dilettante had hidden a fine painting of the Flemish artist, Quentin Massys, in his house, for his sole enjoyment (and the possible increase in market value). Another collector had falsely labelled a painting by the German, Lucas Cranach, as an Albrecht Dürer, and had kept the picture in his house where no one could see it except his few guests. But of even greater significance



LOYAL MILITIAMEN helping to list and catalogue Spain's famous paintings



BARRICADES near the end of one of Madrid's main streets

## Formation of Anti-Fascist People's Front

A very significant event in the course of politics and the war is the formation of a general all-embracing Antifascist People's Front in Valencia. This has been preceded by similar set-ups in Aragon, Lerida, and Alicante and it is to be hoped that it will be followed by more all over loyal Spain. It will be remembered that not long ago an antifascist youth alliance was formed to which all the youth organizations subscribed. This is paving the way for that complete unity of all antifascist forces so necessary for winning the war.

The Antifascist People's Front in Valencia was formed at a meeting on October 7th and absolutely all parties and organizations subscribed to its resolutions to support and cooperate with the Government without reserve and avoid all divisions in its ranks.

The representatives of the syndical organizations and political parties—U. G. T.-C.N.T. (the two big trade unions), Syndicalist Party, Communist Party, Union Republicans, Valencian de Esquerra and Valencianista de Esquerra (both regionalist republican parties), Socialist Party, F. A. I. (Anarchists), and Left Republican Party—with the object of co-ordinating their activities for the war and social advancement, met and agreed upon the following:

1st.—To end campaigns on the part of speakers or the press which might prejudice antifascist unity or attacks on syndical organizations or political parties which compose the Popular Antifascist Front.

2nd.—To respect and help the work of economic-industrial transformation effected by the workers and their syndicates or collectives, within the rules which are fixed for this purpose by the Government.

3rd.—To begin a campaign on the part of speakers and the press to keep up the morale in the rear and make sure that the sufferings of the antifascist people in consequence of the war shall not be a field

to be profited by the agents of Fascism.

4th.—To cooperate for the greater efficacy of the policy of prices and food supplies begun by the Government.

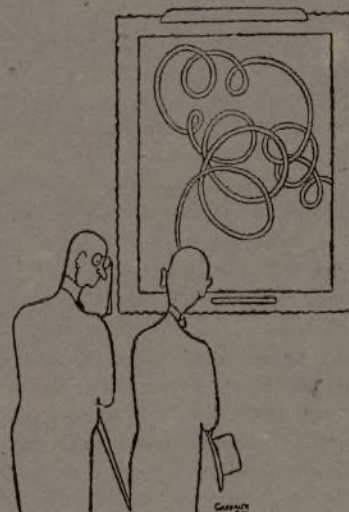
5th.—To purify the syndical and political organizations, expelling or refusing admission to any individual who has not thoroughly proved his fidelity to the antifascist cause, which we are all defending.

6th.—To encourage the enlargement of the People's Army, for the exclusive service of the antifascist cause.

7th.—To study the numerical proportions of such local organizations as might be formed, by a combination of syndical organizations and political parties, composing the Popular Antifascist Front, suggesting this proposal to the necessary organizations.

8th.—To cooperate for the greater efficacy of the governments of the Popular Antifascist Front.

In the constitution of the Popular Antifascist Front, we reaffirm our unshakeable adherence to the legitimate Government of the Republic, giving a fraternal greeting to all the comrades who are fighting on the battlefield for the liberty and independence of Spain, as also a tender remembrance for all those fallen for the antifascist cause.



"To me, it looks like the British Foreign Policy."

was the discovery of a lost and extremely valuable El Greco that had hung on the walls of a local court house. This small canvas, representing the shepherds Worshipping the Christ Child, had been considered irreparably lost. It is an example of the greatest Spanish painter's work during El Greco's finest period.

### FASCIST SLANDERS CHECKED

The fascists of course have realized that the government's defense campaign to preserve the art of Spain is apt to win sympathy from the outside world. To offset this sympathy, the fascists have spread stories that the government sought to attract aerial bombardment by placing artillery on the roof of the Prado; that the government sacked churches and destroyed religious art; that the government looted the houses of the wealthy who had deserted to the fascist lines and destroyed the treasures. But such propaganda is deliberately and demonstrably false. It was the fascists who destroyed the valuable collection of the Duke of Alba by bombing the palace. No artillery ever was placed on the Prado roof or even near it—by testimony of every art lover in

Madrid and by written deposition of the Prado's director. Religious art has been collected and stored with special care.

While the struggle for existence goes on, the art of Spain is lovingly and meticulously guarded. While fascist shells daily explode and kill in the city streets, the careful, speedy, intelligent care of Spanish culture has become the primary concern of the people who are suffering and dying in or-



THIS is the way Madrileños "destroy" art. The famous statue of Gibeles in one of Madrid's main squares protected with a thick wall of brick and concrete to resist fascist bombardments.

der to preserve their liberty and their cultural heritage. The struggle behind the lines is no less intense, no less efficient, no less important to the Republican government than the struggle to press toward military victory.

B. M.

## ITALIAN CASUALTIES

Although the Italian fascists have tried to keep it a secret, it is calculated that of those repatriated to their native land from rebel Spain recently, 7,000 had been wounded; another 7,000 went home on account of illness.

The official figures from Rome indicate that until September, there have been 1,226 Italian fascists killed here. The real figures, it is known, are considerably higher.

The Italian people are learning the cost of Mussolini's aims.

## Congressmen Pledge Support to Spain

(Continued from page 1.)

"On our return to the United States we shall do everything within our powers to inform our congressional colleagues and the American people of the urgent necessity for granting to the Spanish people the aid they are justly entitled to by international law. This can be done simply by distinguishing between the aggressor and the victim. To do less is not neutrality."

### LAUDS REPUBLIC

"The Spanish Government", he pointed out, is also doing marvellous work in the matter of preserving art treasures. Before coming here, I had read many stories about the destruction of art works. That some art works have been destroyed cannot be denied. But certainly the Spanish Republic was not responsible. It was the bombs and shells of the Rebels. There is the best proof, on the contrary, that the Government and the Spanish people are doing everything possible to protect and preserve all those art treasures that have not already been destroyed by Rebel bombing. Only this afternoon I spent considerable time going through one of the storerooms where the Government is carefully storing and indexing works of art. Here in the city of Madrid sandbags and other protections have been placed around the statues in the public parks to prevent their destruction by bombing or shelling.

"I must say that I have been deeply impressed by all this. It is an inspiring sight to see an heroic people building schools and homes and taking care of its art treasures while fighting against a brutal fascist invasion. I have seen with my own eyes that the Spanish Republic determined to prevent the destruction of the independence and democracy of the Spanish people by Franco, Hitler and Mussolini. And it is so confident of winning that it is going ahead building a better Spain for the day when peace and democracy here will be once again secure."

## DISTINGUISHING UNIFORM SIGNS FOR COMMISSARS

For some time there have been Commissars who have been wearing insignia as Commissars of War which do not correspond to those fixed by the Government.

In all circumstances and at all times our Commissars should be an example of discipline. They should neither wear nor allow others to wear



insignia distinct from those recognized by the Government.

These insignia are the following:

A five-pointed star in a circle, as the distinguishing mark of a Commissar. Under this should be worn:

A red stripe for a Company Commissar.

Two red stripes for a Battalion Commissar.

Three red stripes for a Brigade Commissar.

One gold stripe for a Division Commissar.

### GALLO

Commissar-Inspector of the International Brigades.

## TO THE BRITISH BATTALION

(Continued from page 3.)

us confidence for the future. Even closer relationships must be developed between the British in the Battalion and the Spanish comrades. In training, in reserve, on rest, in battle, there must be no separation by nationalities. We must see the fight as one of a people for whom national barriers do not exist.

Without this close cohesion of all sections, companies, the Battalion cannot be an effective fighting unit. We have therefore to remove bad habits of the past and attain a more intimate knowledge and relationship with our Spanish comrades. With such unity in the command and throughout the Battalion every order and command will be responded to by a united and powerful Battalion.

Our Battalion has earned a name on the battlefronts of Spain of which we can be justly proud. We have taken part in the most decisive battles in the war, and contributed much toward producing the present favorable position for the Government forces. The most decisive battles are just ahead. It is our duty here and at home to continue to assist our Spanish comrades in every possible way until final victory has been won.

sible way until final victory has been won.

With this as our aim we shall be able to continue and accomplish our historic task here in Spain, and at the same time inspire the people of Britain into decisive action alongside the peoples of the world to crush Fascism and reaction wherever it raises its head.

Comrades, I am proud to have associated with the men of

## IN MEMORIAM



### JOE DALLET

Political Commissar of the MACKENZIE - PAPINEAU BATTALION

Killed in action at Fuentes de Ebro.

OCTOBER - 13 - 1937



THE SOVIET UNION does not want war, but these sailors are ready to defend their land of Socialism against any imperialist threat.



our Battalion. Their example will long be my inspiration in my revolutionary work wherever it leads me. I am proud to have contributed a little to the achievements and pledge to do my utmost in the same cause at all times and wherever necessary.

Salud.

BILL PAYNTER

DIANA, (U. G. T.) - Larra, 6. - MADRID