



OUR FIGHT

ORGAN OF THE FRONT OF THE XV BRIGADE.

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1937.

OUR VISITORS FROM ENGLAND.

All comrades in the British Battalion were pleased to see Comrades Will Paynter, E.C. member of South Wales Miners Federation, and Ted Branley representative of the London District of the C.P., who arrived a few days ago.

Comrade Paynter has come to stay and will be Political Commissar at Albecete, a post in which we are sure he will do good work on behalf of the English Speaking comrades. He relieves Comrade Tapsell who is going temporarily to work in Barcelona.

Comrades Paynter, Tapsell and Branley have made a close study of our life here during their stay and have had conferences with the leading comrades in the Battalion. They have made suggestions and proposals which are certain to lead to considerable improvements.

Comrade Branley will be returning to London in a few days time. He will have a great story to tell of all he has seen here. His visit to us is sure to result in still greater support for the Battalion by the movement at home.

News from the Fronts.

SANTANDER. Loyalists forces on the road to Burgos have taken the town of Espinosa de Bricias. The fascists abandoned 88 rifles, automatic rifles, 2 machine guns, 1 anti-aircraft gun and large quantities of munitions. 30 prisoners were taken and there was an undetermined number of dead. A rebel counter attack was late, and easily beaten back, costing the rebels further losses.

CENTRE. At the Puente de los Franceses, across the Manzanares, the rebels attacked hard yesterday morning. After an hour and a half they were forced to retreat to their original positions abandoning their dead. This attack is one of many desperate manoeuvres by the rebels to improve their communications with the fascists in University City.

OTHER FRONTS. No other important actions today.

DAILY AVIATION COMMUNIQUE.

May 5th. We bombarded the enemy positions at Espinosa de Henares on the Guadalajara Front several times today, scoring some direct hits. Anti-aircraft fire was directed at the bombing planes but they returned to their base with no excitement to report.

International News.

LONDON. Russian delegate Maisky and Hitler's stooge von Ribbentrop clashed sharply at the last meeting of the so-called Non-Intervention Committee. When some one proposed that both the Burgos bandits and the Valencia Government be urged to refrain from bombing open cities, the Nazi delegate jumped excitedly to his feet. "From my own experience in the World War" he said, "I know that in certain operations it is sometimes necessary to bombard open cities". The Italian and Portuguese delegates agreed that the proposal was "Inpracticable". Maisky then exposed the significance of the fascist refusal of this humanitarian proposal. He pointed out that the legitimate Spanish Government had never bombarded open cities and non-military objectives, and that the fascists were obviously preparing another vicious bombardment such as that of Guernica, if not some worse barbarism.

WASHINGTON. By 5 to 4 decision the U.S. Supreme Court has freed Angelo Herndon, Georgian Negro, sentenced to 20 years imprisonment under an ancient Insurrection Act. Had the Supreme Court upheld the Georgian decision the mere act of belonging to the Communist Party would have constituted a crime in Georgia. The decision holds however that the such application of the Insurrection Act would amount to a denial of the constitutional right of free speech and free assembly.

MRS. SIMPSON. Our readers will be relieved to learn that Mrs. Simpson's divorce (decree nisi) has been made absolute. Time: less than 1 min. Mrs. Simpson later met the Duke of Windsor. The latest news states that the Duke is somewhat tired.

BILBAO. Two ships bound for England under escort of British and French war vessels left this port with the first 4000 Basque Country refugees. The British and French Governments have thus definitely committed themselves to relieving these people subjected to pitiless bombardment and machine gunning by German planes, proved to be operating under specific orders of the German General Staff at Deva. The Franco-British decision was reached despite Franco's objections, but only after some shady manoeuvres of the British Government.

LONDON BUS STRIKE. The strike commenced on May 1st. 100% out. The Minister of Labour who had an interview with the King, stated that he regretted that there was no postponement. The interim report of the Industrial Enquiry was published last night, after hearing the men's evidence. It gives a considerable amount of support to the men's claims, especially on the point of damage to health. The strike is still solid and appears to be well on the way to victory. The London Tram and Trolley Bus workers have sent a deputation to the T.G.W.U. on the question of their conditions and the question of strike.

H.N. Brailsford.

H.N. Brailsford the famous English writer and journalist who visited the English and American Battalions yesterday, has done magnificent work in England for the Spanish people and for the International Brigade. His weekly articles in Reynolds Newspaper have had a great effect on public opinion in Britain and are eagerly read by all of us in the line.

He will be writing up his impressions of his visit both in Reynolds and in the American Press.

Jock Cunningham Returns.

Everybody in the Brigade, and more particularly in the British Battalion is pleased to see Jock Cunningham back from hospital.

Jock has not yet completely recovered from the serious wounds he received on 15th. March. But he insists on coming back to work.

He is to take up an important post in the Brigade where he will be responsible for operations in the line and will be in close connection with the American and English Batts.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES CONTROL OF MILITARY FORCES AND PUBLIC ORDER IN CATALONIA

In agreement with the Government of Catalonia, the legitimate government of Spain has taken full control of public order in the Catalan region and incorporated Catalan military forces in the Regular People's Army. The "Army of the East" now becomes the 4th organic Division of the Army, under the command of General Sebastian Pozas.

The transfer of control of public order in Catalonia from the Catalan Council to the Central Government was effected only after actual violence in the villages in the city of Barcelona. ALL FORCES OF THE PEOPLES FRONT HAD APPROVED THE TRANSFER. REPUBLICAN NATIONALISTS, THE UNIFIED SOCIAL PARTY AND THE OFFICIAL LEADING ANARCHIST BODIES DENOUNCED THE PRETENDED "DEFENCE" OF REGIONAL CONTROL AS A FASCIST PROVOCATION. The C.N.T. and F.A.I. issued, in this connection, a note saying:

"We note with surprise that a leaflet is being passed out in the city under the signature of 'The friends of Durruti'. Its content is absolutely intolerable and in conflict with the official position of the libertarian movement. We are bound to fully denounce the note....and to disauthorize...doubtful positions...perhaps the work of actual enemy agents. We state that the Council of the Generalitat (Catalan Government) has been deceived and everyone must accept its decision since we are all represented in the ARMS OFF THE STREETS!"

An official Government note announces the action of the Government following "difficult hours" in Barcelona "provoked by enemies of the regime and perhaps seconded by those who committed the error of allowing themselves to be provoked; but the situation at no time represented the superation of the legitimate authority and the Government of the Republic cannot announce that public order is completely reestablished in Barcelona being restored as rapidly as it was disturbed."

(This article by Comrade G. Marion will be concluded tomorrow)