



## A DIVISION WITHOUT A NUMBER.

(Reportage by Elya Ehrenburg.)

On the 14th. March the partisans made an attack on a military train 100 kilometres from Cordoba. 300 fascist perished. During the last few months five trains have been wrecked. Recently the partisans did away with 35 Civil Guards who were patrolling a bridge two kilometres from Cordoba, and then blew the bridge up. They captured five canions loaded with munitions and food on the Cordoba - Penarroya road. Near Espiel they captured the post of the Commander of the Phalangists, and took away with them a quantity of mortars and machine guns they found there. Forty kilometres from Granada, the railway line to Malaga was destroyed and resulted in a serious railway accident.

During March Quiipo de Llano shouted over the wireless :-

"Very soon we will show these red bandits the real worth of our heroes. We will send a dozen good Nationalists to clean up the Marxists roads, on which stolen cars are being driven."

I have done a lot of travelling, during the last month, on the roads of Andalusia, Castilla, La Mancha, Aragon and Catalonia. Often I journeyed at night, but I never saw or even heard these white partisans. The peasants met us with comradely greetings. It is most probable that these white partisans are still drinking away in the pubs of Seville. On the other hand I spoke with the representatives of the partisan units who are fighting against Quiipo de Llano in the provinces of Granada and Cordoba. The mountains of Andalusia seem deserted, but they are peopled with men, by men who refuse any longer to live with the fascists. A man escapes to the Sierra, he wanders aimlessly around for a day, two days, a week, then he encounters other men, they attack a fascist guard sleeping at his post. They arm themselves. They become partisans.

They know all the tracks. The peasants give them bread and wine. The other day, a peasant driving a car with wine for the fascist troops, noticing that the road was not patrolled, left the road and disappeared into the mountains. That night the partisans had "vino", and the peasant armed with a rifle stays with them.

Old Sancho brings seven sheep to the advance post of the Republicans, and says, "Give me a receipt, I am lending these sheep to the Republic, when the war is over you will give me them back." "I have no time just now to think about sheep, they have murdered my son." He leaves. Six days later he returns to the same spot, this time bringing an automatic rifle, and the documents of a fascist officer in a pack.

How many men are there in the mountains? Thousands? Tens of thousands? No one knows. They are invisible. They disappear and reappear. They cross the frontier with extreme difficulty. Occasionally they attack a canon with fascist recruits. They depart with four of these recruits and all the arms and munitions. They give the munitions to their comrade Pedro, and ask for a written confirmation of their receipt. Pedro is Commander of the Division, but one of the comrades exclaims, "There is a Division, it must have a number." Pedro smiles and signs the signature to Commander of the Division without a number.

-----Ayuntamiento de Madrid



NEWS FROM THE FRONTS.

**CENTRAL FRONT:** North Guadalajara Sector. Our troops today made a great onslaught on the fascists and completely destroyed the fascist Salamanca Battalion of Victory. A great number of prisoners were made and a considerable quantity of war material seized. On searching the prisoners very interesting documents were brought to light, especially Salvoconductos marked with a Madrid stamp. By this forgery the fascist wish to dupe the population and the army into believing that they have taken Madrid. The prisoners gave interesting information as regards the morale in the rebel camp, where, they say, the rear is completely demoralised. This news came over the radio last thing, and at the time of writing the fascist continue to retreat in complete rout. Up to the moment 150 prisoners have been taken.

**TOLEDO.** Our artillery violently military objectives in Toledo for three hours.

**SEGOVIA:** The advance of our troops in this sector towards the town of Segovia is so successful that the enemy has been obliged to take measures in case the town is directly attacked. They have been evacuating the town for some days.

THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL  
REPLIES TO THE SPANISH APPEAL.

**VALENCIA, 9th.** The secretaries of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and the U.G.T. have received the following telegram :-

"We have received the following reply from the President of the Labour and Socialist International to your proposal for the establishment of international unity of action for the defence of the Spanish people :- "We have received the appeal from Valencia and we are absolutely convinced of the necessity of complete unity, and we are more ready than ever to realise this unity as we were even before receiving your message.

"Our International will fulfill its duty under its own responsibility, and, as you know, its president and secretary have not the necessary powers to enter this committee in the name of the International, as you propose.

(signed. De Brouckere )

**PARIS, 9th.** "L'HUMANITE" writes that the secretary of the Communist International has sent a telegram to the Socialist and Communist Parties and the U.G.T. of Spain, in which he touches upon the response of the Labour and Socialist International. Amongst other points he states :-

"In quoting the categorical refusal of the lack of necessary powers, the President of the Socialist International avoids directly to answer our proposal for the formation of a committee of liaison to work out plans for the action of the three internationalists in the defence of the Spanish people. We shall continue to insist that the organs of the Labour and Socialist International make concrete proposals for the realisation of international unity. On this question we propose that representatives of the Socialist International and the Communist International be so that they can meet."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

**LONDON, 9th.** Mr. Eden in the House of Commons tonight declared that the proposal for the security of the control plan will necessitate modifications in the non-intervention plan. The British Government think that these modifications should be submitted to the Committee. He added that Britain had always defended the right of legitimate defence but never the right of reprisals.

**LONDON, 9th.** The Spanish ambassador paid a visit to the permanent secretary of the Foreign Office and explained the views of the Spanish Government on the modifications of the control plan. He made special point that the great difficulties were due to the attitude of the German and Italian squadrons against the Spanish Government. The Ambassador stated that the Government of the Republic viewed with favour the measures taken to internationalise the control and approved of the proposal of observes on board the ships patrolling the Spanish coast.

**ROME, 9th.** "JOURNAL D'ITALIA" states in one of its latest editions that Italy and Germany have agreed to participate in a meeting of the four great powers controlling the coast and frontiers of Spain, in order to draw up a final agreement.

**LONDON, 9th.** It is learnt in London from Lisbon that 650 Irishmen of the Brigade who have been fighting with Franco, were entrained on a Portuguese ship which will carry them back to Ireland.