

OUR FIGHT

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FRONT-LINE ORGAN OF THE XVth BRIGADE

NOT IN VAIN

Today our Brigade returns to its reserve position and, lest there be wonder at the shifting about, a review of the circumstances and explanation of the situation may help to clarify matters.

The taking of Quinto, Codo, and Belchite were the work of our Division. Our Brigade playing the most prominent roles at Quinto and Belchite, two and a half days we pounded at Quinto and the nearby ridges. After the garrison there capitulated we moved on to Belchite and attacked with our forces. For days the comrades were under heavy fire from grenades, and machine-gun. We lost some fine comrades, brave antifascist fighters in this struggle to take the key-point to the entire Aragon front. Finally, after incredible experiences in street-fighting, bombing sorties, sniping duels, we overpowered this fascist stronghold.

Daily these battles were carried on in the face of an expected fascist counter-attack -- which never really materialized. True, they massed a considerable concentration around Mediana, but could not break through.

After Belchite fell our Division moved to Albalade. It was necessary to get a clear perspective of the entire situation along the front. We had to be taken to the rear for a rest; on the other hand we might be needed in a different sector or even a different front altogether.

This was the situation, then, at this point. Our Army holds Quinto and Belchite, two pivotal towns. Thus, and even beyond this accomplishment, the objective has been fulfilled. A not inconsequential part of the plan of the offensive was to draw fascist troops away from the harassed North where our truly heroic Basque and Asturian comrades have been fighting against great odds. And this too was done. Fairly creditable reports state that the crack Italian division the "Black Arrows", are now massed in Zaragoza. Signs indicate activity, though not necessarily a counter-attack. The towns we have taken are vital in the strategies of this front, hence there is some likelihood of the enemy making an effort to regain them.

Lest the fine accomplishments of the past three weeks -- the hardships, the brave actions, the gallant deaths -- shall not have been in vain, it has been thought best to place our Brigade in position to aid in the repelling of a possible counter-attack. It is by no means a certainty that we will be used. We are there to bolster morally those divisions now occupying our old posts. But should we be needed we will be handy to add our battle-inspiring with our battle-inspiring.

OUR BRIGADE IS "ADOPTED"

The students of the Lagasca Institute of Madrid have sent us an expression of their solidarity and their resolution to undertake the patronage of this Brigade. At a meeting in Madrid they presented to a Brigade representative a banner for the Brigade. From their letter to us we quote: "The fact that you are fighting by our side is a sufficient sign that the cause of our cause has reached the hearts of the peoples of all countries; your generous courage is a living example to those democracies who close their eyes with indifference to the titanic struggles of a people who once again are echoing their historic songs of their fight for freedom..."

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

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