



Volunteer for Liberty

ISSUED BY THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

The November Elections

Factors favoring the re-election of President Roosevelt, are:

A. Excellent progress of the war. Millions of Americans regardless of formal party affiliation know that this has been to a large extent, made possible by Roosevelt policies. They want him as President again to clinch victory and destruction of Fascism.

B. Administration's work in extending and strengthening international cooperation for post-war period as well as on battlefields. International currency stabilization, international trade agreements, etc., majority of people are thinking more and more along these lines.

C. Organized labor is beginning to make its weight felt in this election campaign. Its support has been thrown to Roosevelt and Truman because these two candidates of the Democratic Party have advanced and do support a program which can satisfy the needs of the nation in war and peace. The most active and effective labor support comes from the CIO Political Action Committee. However the other two great sections of organized labor, the AFL and the RR Brotherhoods, are also overwhelmingly for FDR despite the fact that they have expressed varying degrees of difference with the PAC.

Furthermore, the CIO in particular realizes the incorrectness and the danger of confining its political activity to labor circles only. A broad and influential National Citizens Committee for Political Action has been formed which will function alongside of the CIO Political Action Committee. The work of this Citizens Committee brought down to every community will be a great aid in constructing the national unity this country needs.

D. The non-partisan approach of the President himself to this election. By his placing of the needs of the nation above the needs of his party, he is influencing many others to look upon this election in the same non-partisan way.

The Obstacles Faced By FDR

We would be making a catastrophic mistake however, if we thought the election was in the bag because of these factors. Indeed one of the biggest dangers to our nation arises from the fact that large numbers of the people supporting the pro-FDR coalition are allowing themselves to indulge in the enervating luxury of complacency. Let's take a look at the other side of the picture.

A. The Gallup polls, which despite all their own weaknesses, serve as a general indication, give Dewey the lead over FDR in New York, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan,

The Spanish People Are Ready to Overthrow Franco

In February, 1944, the Delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, on Spanish soil, made a vibrant call for national insurrection. In it, they stated that before the imminent defeat of Hitlerism in Europe at the hands of the armies of the United Nations, the liberation of the Spanish people depended upon the audacity, the courage and the decision with which they went into battle at that very moment.

This was affirmed with full responsibility by the men who lead the struggle of the Communists from inside Spain in February of this year.

In September, 1943, through the initiative of the Communist Party, representatives of all the parties and organizations that had defended the Republic against the invaders and Nazi-Falangists, met on Spanish soil. These democratic forces reached an agreement on the basis of a DEMOCRATIC and NATIONAL program, which responded to the immediate necessity of all true Spaniards by making the main and first goal, the independence and sovereignty of Spain.

Immediately after this agreement was reached, the democratic forces constituted the SUPREME COUNCIL OF NATIONAL UNITY (Junta Suprema de Union Nacional). They initiated steps to gain the adherence of those who in the past had supported the regime, but who were now profoundly anti-Franco and willing to cooperate in the struggle for the salvation of Spain. Among those occupying a place of primary importance, were the Catholic political groups which subsequently joined the ranks of the Supreme Council of National Unity.

Vets' Organization

By ROBERT THOMPSON

During the summer months a number of new veterans' organizations have announced their debut. There is little point at present in singling out any of these new groupings for special mention or for going into detail about their programs. The important fact about all of them is that only to a very limited extent will the intentions of their sponsors, or the programs they announce, determine the role they will actually play. In the main, this role will be determined by objective circumstances quite beyond their control.

With striking unanimity, all forces within the country have arrived at a common conclusion about the role which servicemen will play in national life if given the opportunity. There is no such unanimity on the question of whether or not they should have this opportunity. Powerful forces are already committed to a policy of preventing them from having an important voice in determining national affairs. This is the meaning of the almost fanatically stubborn fight which the Dewey, Hoover, Taft leadership of the Republican Party is carrying on to deprive the bulk of the servicemen of their right to make their will felt in the crucial fall elections.

This action represents the crystallization of a definite attitude toward the men fighting this war on the part of men and forces who are not in sympathy with the goals for which the war is being fought. It is an admission of the unbridgeable chasm of outlook and interests separating the military and political leadership from the rank and file.

Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Republicans have made gains during various elections in the past two years. 90% of the press is anti-FDR and 26 states have Republican governors. The regular Democratic organizations in some of the leading states are not as effectively organized as they were in previous presidential elections.

B. Artificial partisan considerations still divide many sincere win-the-war forces. For example, a man like Willkie, whose ideas were completely repudiated at the Republican convention, still has not thrown his weight behind FDR.

C. Class and group interests are sometimes placed above the national interest. A paper like the N. Y. Herald Tribune which on the whole, takes a sound position on the war, is becoming so blinded in this election campaign that it is attacking such important activities as President Roosevelt's Pacific conference with Nimitz and MacArthur as election propaganda.

What the GOP Counts On

In addition to the above, there are the other factors which weigh against FDR:

A. It is estimated that 90% of the Armed Forces will not be able to get their votes in. The majority of these would undoubtedly be for FDR and Truman.

B. The mass movement of war workers from state to state will make it very difficult to get this vote out fully.

C. Men like John L. Lewis, the Socialists, Trotzkyites, Old Guard Republicans, utilize every economic strain and difficulty to foment strikes and dissatisfaction and to set the middle class against both labor and the administration.

D. Advantage is being taken of the many justifiable grievances held by the Negro people, to win their support for Dewey.

E. Among important national groups such as the Italian, Germans and Poles, every confusion and prejudice is being encouraged in order to place these voters in the GOP column.

FDR's Reelection Must Be Fought For

Balancing all of these factors pro and con, we are convinced that FDR can win and a Congress which will work with him for the benefit of the people be elected. Success is guaranteed if the coalition supporting FDR pursues a course of national unity and non-partisanship, and organizes to get the maximum number of people voting on November 7th.

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preme Council of National Unity.

The Supreme Council today, is the leading national organ of the people. Its branches extend throughout the country. Regional and provincial committees are already in existence and local, shop, neighborhood and army units are in operation.

These Councils or Local Committees have the task of organizing solidarity with the prisoners, informing their families of prison transfers, new detentions and executions which the Franco lackeys try to hide in order to avoid popular protests.

They are in charge of aiding the guerrillas in their particular regions. They give them food, and furnish information about the Franco fortifications and departures of the trains laden with materials for Germany. They ask their help when the Commissions come around to take the harvests away from the farmers. Guerrillas and patriots cooperate through the Local Councils of National Unity in the publication of calls, stickers, newspapers and leaflets.

The Local Councils in the shops and factories are in charge of organizing the sabotage of production, directing the strikes of the workers for concrete demands and give these acts the proper political meaning and drive against the regime.

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ing these forces for the men in the uniform of their country.

The fight to insure the veterans of this war their rightful place in national life is already an important factor in American political life and is destined to become even more so.

Potentially, the veterans of this war are a much greater force than were the veterans of the First World War, influential as the latter have been and will continue to be. In the first place, their numbers will be several times larger. Of even greater importance, the nation has been more deeply affected by them and to a far greater degree they represent its unified will.

The conditions are most essential for the realization of this potential strength.

First: The veterans must be able to speak forth in postwar America with a unified, responsible and constructive voice.

Second: The grand alliance between men in the armed forces, organized labor and all other democratic sections of the people, which has taken shape in actions during this war and in the struggle to defend the electoral rights of the servicemen, must under President Roosevelt be deepened and consolidated as one of the great bulwarks of a continuing national unity.

How will a few additional veterans' organizations affect this situation? What

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New Guinea

For a long time, I wanted to thank you for the Volunteers, and such, which you have forwarded to me. I am especially pleased with the letter from Jim Ruskin.

Only the other day, I came back from a month patrol behind Jap lines.

George Kay is not far from here. Saw him some time ago. Milton Weiner visited me today. He's just back from patrol also. Frank Saindon is a member of my troop.

Waiting to get back to N. Y.!

Capt. Herman Bottcher

* * *

France

I landed in France on the 18th of July—a good omen! The first person I met was an Italian Garibaldini—a released prisoner.

About the French people—every day is like that parting parade in Barcelona—a bombardment of flowers and love, true appreciation for their liberators. As for the rest, the Nazis are getting it, and with compound interest. I never thought I would get to see the day, but it is here, and I like it!

Pvt. Tony De Maio

* * *

France

France

... From a personal point of view, my being a participant in the assault on Hitler's Europe was extremely satisfying. It was the best way possible of returning to the continent we had left at the close of '38. The Veterans of the IB, the boys of Dunkerque, the Fighting French, the Canadians of Dieppe, all felt (and still feel—when a thousand of our heavy bombers thunder overhead or when the earth trembles under the weight of our heavy tanks) a special sort of satisfaction. This time when we leave Europe, Fascism will have fought its last battle and suffered its final military defeat. Teheran assured us of that and now six months later, its decisions are being delivered, with a vengeance, to the Nazi in the East, West and South. He's reeling and stumbling and perhaps it really isn't premature for me to revive that old favorite—out of the trenches and into the wenchens—by Christmas!

I am constantly being surprised at similarities between the men and conditions here and those we knew in Spain. I hear the same beefs and rumors we heard and see the same characters we knew. The old "vino front" has come to life again. We even have a rumor factory—streamlined and run in mass production lines—that would put Mickenberg's Non-Intervention Committee establishment out of business and its members selling apples.

Lt. Jerry Cook

France

Today marks the second month of the invasion, and we can say with confidence that the gains have been unprecedented. We have been moving so rapidly that we have little time to do anything outside of pack up, move, and dig in. I have dug enough to start a New York subway! We must dig in well because occasionally their planes get up enough courage to come over and drop stuff. My outfit is a division of battle-wise veterans today, who know the Nazi tricks and how to combat them. The spirit is terrific in spite of the fact that they are weary. The hatred of the Nazis grows each day as they see the handiwork of Fascism.

Berkeley, Cal.

We have set up a post here in Alameda County. So far we have had only one meeting, at which Harold L. Smith was elected Commander, Don MacLeod, adjutant, and Barney Baley, Secretary. Al Lewis, labor-management consultant at the Richmond shipyards, who had just returned from Mexico, spoke on the activities of the Spanish refugees there, and on the importance of the whole Spanish question to the American people and to American labor in particular.

Barney Baley

* * *

Somewhere in the Pacific

... This submarine warfare is a little different from the fighting in Spain. You feel awfully helpless when the Nips start dropping ash cans on you and you have to lay there and take them without a struggle. It's worth it if you sink one or more ships before they pick you up. I wouldn't trade this duty with anyone else in the Navy. It's the best there is!

Frank Lukas Momm, 3/C

* * *

France

This time it's Southern France and everything is swinging along very well. It's possible, by the time you receive this V-Mail, I might be in Berlin! Let's hope so! Met some of our boys with the FFI. They have done and still are doing an excellent job. At times I long to be with them!

S/Sgt. John Perrone

* * *

Italy

... As far as the outfit I'm in is concerned, it's tops. We're one of the few outfits that has gotten a War Department citation. The citation is given to a unit which executes a mission which, if performed by an individual, would rate a DSC. In our case, our battalion destroyed in one afternoon (no artillery support either) a Nazi SS battalion; in the process captured about 200 of the bastards, destroyed four or five artillery pieces and a tank, captured about 12 of their jeeps, a number of trucks. Also a complete Regimental headquarters, with everything intact, including radios, maps, etc.



People and things seem to be moving fast these days... Stanley Heinricher was promoted to Master Sergeant and is now enroute overseas. Jimmy Demas, Saully Birnbaum, Ben Sills and Ed Lending are also on the way over.

Latest arrivals overseas are Ed Horan in N. Africa, Saully Wellman in England; Normie Berkowitz in Italy; Ben Gardiner, Eli Beal, Sam Waitzman, Max Silverman, Dave Gordon and Irving Mitchell are in France.

Bill Harris came back from Jamaica, W. I., Red Mouton from Cuba, Benito Rodriques from India, and Irving Frankel from Italy. Irv's ship was hit at the Anzio and while awaiting repairs, Irving stumbled over Irv Goff, Vince Lossowsky, Tommy Lloyd, Mike Pappas, Ken Shaker, Fanny Golub, Lester Gittleson, Harry Schoenberg, Irv Fajans, the Jiminez brothers, and missed by a few moments, Leo Markowitz. Irv reports that they're all fine and still rarin'!

Joe Howard is back from action in the Aleutians and Marshall Islands.

Walter Strauss was in town before reporting to the ski troopers. Steve Levine came into town just in time for the birth of his daughter! Also in town recently, and looking better than ever (and we mean it!) were Ben Iceland, Herman Holmlander, Jack Bjoze, and Lou Ornitz.

Len Levenson recently became the father of a girl, and Larry Cane is "expectin'!"

Kenny Graber is going for his 3rd Mate's ticket in the Merchant Marine.

Jerry Cook and Milt Wolff got their

France

... Though it's a mortal sin to tell you how long our outfit has been in France, it can be told that we've been in action for several days and I can say that I have seen with my own eyes, the tables turned on the Vaunted Supermen—that freak of cultural decline we call the NAZI. Now it is we who have air superiority; and we who can toss ten shells in any calibre to their one.

In a collective sense, I feel like the "Man who came back!"

Pvt. Samuel Waitzman

* * *

France

Celebrated Bastille day in the best way possible—on the soil of partly liberated France. The tempo of the moment, the energy and all efforts are bent to bring about a speedy victory. It more than compensated for the absence of military parades and speeches. One could sense everywhere, the feeling that this will be the last Bastille day of the existence of Nazidom everywhere!

There are quite a few Spaniards here who were taken out of the French concentration camps after the fall of France and sent to work on fortifications under the most abominable condition without food. They are today enlisting to help carry on the fight against their monsters of yesterday.

T/5 Ellis Beal

Pvt. Alvin Warren

France

As you know, I came with the assault engineers on D-Day, and after that in rapid succession—Carentan, the push across the Cotentin Peninsula, and Cherbourg.

To give the devil his due—they fight well, these Nazis. But, what I've seen convinces me they haven't got the stuff to hold out very much longer. I may be overconfident, but when you capture prisoners who are 14, 15, 16 years old, when our artillery can literally drown out the German batteries, when our planes roar through the skies, unmolested for the most part—and Jerry planes rarely make their appearance. What can you conclude but that these bastards are making their last desperate stand—like trapped rats?

Have just been recommended for Silver Star for "conspicuous bravery" in action. Unit is also receiving battle citation. Can't send you details right now—censorship regulations forbid it.

Lt. Larry Cane

Los Angeles Post

Had our first house party. The advertising was light but had 110 people. The liquor was good—the drinking steady. Leadbelly and Bart did the entertaining. Financially successful! All of the boys are working; was a pleasure to see them step up and buy drinks!

Norman Perlman

thing intact, including radios, maps, etc. Previously, we were the first outfit to successfully cross the Rapido River in the battle for Cassino (January). I could go on for the rest of the letter. What I want to bring out, though, is that these boys are all of Japanese descent. In fact the parents of some of them are still in concentration camps back home.

As for me, and my work, all I can say is that I'm an officer in a good Infantry outfit. Oh, yes—I'm a first Lieutenant, too. Right now we're sort of resting up by holding a quiet sector in Italy.

1st Lt. Harry Schoenberg

BACK UP

FDR!

REGISTER

and

VOTE!

Jerry Cook and Milt Wom got their commissions. Milt is now in Italy.

Best wishes to the new Merriman Post! Harold L. Smith, Don McLeod and Barney Baley are the Executives.

Here's news round the Brigades . . . Italian Brigadier Guiseppe di Vittorio (Nicoletti) Commissar of the first of the International Brigades in the defense of Madrid, has been appointed as one of the three general secretaries of the newly constituted Italian General Labor Confederation (T. U. C.). Pietro, Nenni, representative of the Italian Socialist Party in Spain, was safe in Rome when the Allies entered the city.

Brigade doctors are still in the news. Dr. Tudor Hart has been working with the Yugoslav Medical Mission to the British Army; he has met Dr. Mesterovic, Chief of the Yugoslav Medical Mission, who was also in Spain.

More Babies: Jim Ruskin and Arthur Lerner have been presented with sons!

That's all for now! As our EIGHTH ANNUAL DANCE will take place Sept. 30th, we hope to get some real worthwhile tidbits for you, then!

July 18, 1936 Commemorated

The Joint Antifascist Refugee Committee sponsored a splendidly-attended picnic held on July 18th in commemoration of the outbreak of the war in Spain eight years ago.

The Negro in the Elections

By DOXEY WILKERSON

The recent "race hate" strike on the transit lines of Philadelphia sounded a warning which all America had better heed, especially during the crucial elections campaign now under war. Few events have so strikingly dramatized the peril to our nation of the vicious anti-Negroism we have continued to nurture.

Here was a situation in which, at the most critical stage of the war, some 2,000,000 war workers in the nation's second largest center of war production went without public transportation for nearly a whole week. Frenzied bigots harangued crowds of idle workers with the poison of race hate. Mob violence and vandalism broke out here and there about the City, and only the discipline and alertness of Negro and other civic groups was able to ward off mass tragedy.

This outbreak followed a pattern we have seen used before—in Detroit, Los Angeles, and Berlin! It is an election-campaign preview of what is in store for America on a truly grand scale unless the explosive "Negro Question" is uprooted quickly from the economic and political life of our country.

The fact that eight Negro workers were upgraded to platform jobs on order of FEPC was not the cause, but only the occasion for the Philadelphia strike. The real cause lay in the selfish and treasonous purposes of the groups by which this uprising was engineered.

First, the Philadelphia Transit Company was eager to break the CIO Transport Workers Union which had but recently won collective bargaining rights in the PTA system. Second, the repudiated leaders of the former company union were likewise eager to undermine the CIO in order to regain their positions of influence. Third, the rotten Republican administration of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia (whose Governor and Mayor neither said nor did anything at all to stop the strike) were eager to have FEPC's order nullified, so as to embarrass President Roosevelt with Negro voters. Finally, enemy agents on the scene were

Roosevelt-Truman ticket or the Dewey-Bricker ticket may be decisive for the freedom and security of our nation and the world.

Third, the only way to assure that the decisive Negro vote will go for the Roosevelt-Truman ticket is for labor and the progressive movement generally to act with vigor to destroy the virus of anti-Negroism which made the Philadelphia Transit strike possible and which continues to deprive the Negro people of their full democratic rights.

President Roosevelt, from way out in the South Pacific, pointed the way to a correct handling of this question. He ordered the Army to seize the Philadelphia transit lines, to restore transportation, and to enforce FEPC's order for the upgrading of the eight Negro workers. In so doing, he wiped out much of the resentment of Negro voters have because of the manner in which the Democratic National Convention appeased southern poll-taxers on the question of the Democratic platform. He also did what was imperatively required to save the trade union movement from disruption and our nation from disaster.

It is essential now that the trade union movement and other progressives act with similar forthrightness and vigor to back up the President in attacks upon many of the flagrant areas of jimcrowism which still exist—especially discrimination in the Army, poll tax, and job discriminations. Thus can Negro voters best be won to the pro-Roosevelt camp of national unity in the coming elections.

Jimcrow can be destroyed NOW—and it must! The outcome of the fall elections, and hence the freedom and security of our nation and the world, are the important stakes involved.

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They are in charge of the distribution of propaganda and of war news. In other words, the Committees or Councils of the Supreme Council of National Unity are creating the noose which will hang the

unity. It is the best guarantee that new horizons are opening up for the Spanish people.

The situation inside Spain has changed radically because of the steps taken on the road of organized struggle and in agreement with the victorious course of the world war against Fascism.

There are no more provocative parades of the Falange, the insulting bragging of the Blue Shirts. The Falangists are panic stricken; some try to renew their friendships with people they know to be Republicans, others move from their home and even from the cities in order to escape the people's anger. And those with enough money form long lines in front of the Argentine Consulate hoping they will be prepared when "things change".

They no longer dare open their mouths before the protests of the people. They avoid working class districts and never walk the streets alone.

They fear for their lives. This should be natural because the anti-fascists either on the streets or in jails, no longer refrain from speaking what they think, announcing aloud to the Falangists their ultimate fate at the hands of the people. They not only say it but also do it. The number of Falangists found dead through the hands of the Spanish people is not small.

Spain today is in a state of open rebellion which extends throughout the nation and which the Falangist press itself admits with its desperate calls for the unity of all Spaniards with Franco and against "Bolshevism".

This spirit of struggle which is rapidly being converted into an organized movement prevented Franco from taking Spain into the war when Hitler desired it and prevents him today from sending aid to the Nazis.

The conviction that Spaniards—and especially those inside Spain—will be the ones to defeat Franco and the Falange has profoundly penetrated the conscience of every patriot, erasing every false illusion that the solution would come from without.

They have less arms and less means of

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type of role is it possible for them to play in this fight to insure the veteran his rightful place in our country's life?

In the struggle to insure the veterans their rightful place in national life, these new organizations cannot replace the role played by the large established veterans' organizations. They cannot aid that struggle. They can only introduce an element of confusion and disorganization, thereby jeopardizing its success.

Future relations between the veterans of the last war and those of the present war will largely determine the part which both will play within the country. Both bodies, as well as the entire country, have much to lose if conflict develops between them and much to gain if their relations are harmonious and unified.

It is only through the established veterans' organizations that the fullest measure of political and organizational unity of all veterans can be achieved.

It is sometimes said that new organizations are necessary because the servicemen of this war consider the established veterans' organizations reactionary and will not join them. This argument will not stand up under examination.

In the first place, discharged servicemen are joining these established organizations. Over 200,000 veterans of this war have already joined the American Legion. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and other established groups have also grown considerably.

The fact is that the bulk of the servicemen have no preconceived opinion of the various established veterans' organizations. Their judgments will be formed, not on the pre-war role, but on the war records and the current programs of these organizations.

The American Legion during this war has shown that there is enough sound patriotism in its ranks, and enough intelligent comprehension of national needs, to enable it to play a constructive war role. In the course of its becoming increasingly representative of the veterans of this, as well as of the last, war, the guarantees are being established that

Finally, enemy agents on the scene were quick to grasp this opportunity to help Hitler in his hour of greatest need.

Here is a situation where anti-unionism, narrow partisanship and downright treason merged to strike a mighty blow at America. And it was the anti-Negro prejudices rampant among backward elements of the white workers that provided a ready means of mobilizing workers against their own and the nation's interests.

The significance of this event for the fall elections and the freedom and security of our nation is apparent from a few basic propositions.

First, the fall elections will determine whether our nation is still to be guided by those progressive domestic and foreign policies of the Roosevelt Administration which have so strengthened the freedom and economic security for the masses of Americans, and which made possible the concord of Teheran with its bright new perspective for the entire world. The alternative leads to mass unemployment and growing reaction at home, and disruption of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition with recurring war in the world.

Second, some three million Negro voters, concentrated mostly in the crucial northern industrial states where the election contest is most closely drawn, hold a potential balance of power in the fall elections. Whether they support the

creating the noose which will hang the enemies of the people, and are enrolling all Spanish patriots in daily struggles which will make the whole country rise up in national insurrection the day when the zero hour arrives for Franco and the Falange.

The Spanish working class which played a vanguard role in the union of the democratic forces during the war continues to occupy this same role today in the national unity of all patriots. The rhythm of the anti-fascist struggle throughout the nation depends in great measure on its aggressiveness and unity. That is why the Spanish people under the most bloody conditions in Franco Spain, have already begun the work which they were determined to realize many years ago.

When an anti-Franco trade union is formed in a factory in order to carry out a strike action, it is not done in the old pattern of the workers of the CNT and of the UGT. On the contrary, it is carried out in a united manner, in one joint organization of all the workers that belong to either one or the other trade union, creating in this manner the firm base for a single united trade union movement. The same is true in the field of party politics. There are innumerable cases of unity between Communists and Socialists. This political and trade union unity strengthens enormously, the national

They have less arms and less means of struggle than they require. The aid reaching them from without and with many difficulties is still very small. And yet they are willing to fulfill their duty with all the audacity, courage and spirit of sacrifice that the liberation of Spain demands.

With such spirit, no matter how great the task confronting them, they cannot fail.

JARC OK'ed by President's Board

The President's War Relief Control Board has just certified the Joint Anti-fascist Refugee Committee as being a bona fide organization eligible for participation in the National War Fund.

Spaniards Defy Franco Honor V.A.L.B.

Johannes Steele reported that many Spaniards utilized the occasion of the International Fair held in Barcelona to demonstrate their antagonism to Franco and their support for the United Nations. Thousands filed past a huge picture of Abraham Lincoln with whom all Spain connects the exploits of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

Vincent Lombardo Toledano stated that the war will end in the country where it began: in Spain.

the guaranties that are being established that its role of the '20s and '30s will never be re-enacted.

The American Legion is on the road toward becoming the largest and most representative organization of the veterans of both wars. In the course of this much will have to happen. Veterans of the present war will have to be brought in proportionate numbers into the leadership. In many departments and posts, men whose thinking has nothing in common with the spirit of this war, and with the spirit of this war, and with the post-war perspectives rising out of it, will have to give way to men who are capable of understanding and supporting the goals given expression at Teheran.

The organization will have to learn to recognize more clearly the friends and the enemies of our country. Friendly fraternal collaboration with all sections of the labor movement will have to be achieved much further. Its policies will have to take into account far more fully the great lesson of this war—that the Communists are an indispensable and valuable part of the camp of national unity. There need be no doubt that, as the American Legion becomes increasingly representative of the spirit of the servicemen of this war, all this can and will happen.

The two largest of the established veterans' organizations, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars,

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Further, the coalition and its component parts, especially labor, must carry on an active fight right now for progressive legislation, and rally the broadest support from all circles. For example, legislation which will implement the President's Economic Bill of Rights for full employment, decent education, housing and medical care for all, a real break for the returning Veterans, and equal rights for the Negro people. In addition we must increase and improve our activities to prevent strikes, protect and extend the rights of the Negro people and continue in its various forms, the campaign for the soldier's vote.

By keeping the need of national unity in mind, we can solidify and gain adherents to the coalition behind FDR, which includes labor, the middle classes, the Negro people and sections of big capital. Such a coalition working in a non-partisan way can gain the support of the independent voters, 25% of the nation and always the decisive element in any presidential election. A non-partisan approach means that voters, and this includes rank and file Republicans, must be convinced by their own understanding of the issues that the election of Roosevelt and a win-the-war and win-the-peace Congress is a national necessity. They must see with their own eyes that FDR deserves support not because he is a Democrat and the candidate of the Democratic Party but because he is the essential leader of our victorious war effort and because he is the man who was so instrumental in forging that international unity, symbolized by Teheran, which is so necessary for a stable peace and a prosperous world. Conversely, opposition to Dewey must be shown to be based not on the fact that he is a Republican, which of course he is, nor on the statement that he is a fascist, which of course, he is not. Opposition to Dewey must be shown, based on the fact that his election would bring into governmental power, forces of the Hoover and McCormick type. Prosecution of the war would be weakened, complete victory over

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have both made valuable contributions toward solving the critical problems which will arise during the period of reconversion and demobilization.

The actions of the biggest and most important of the established veterans' organizations show that these groups are deeply concerned with the welfare of the veterans of this war; that they do have a sound understanding of their needs and the needs of the nation; and that they are capable of accomplishing some things tangible and substantial toward the solution of the veterans' economic problems. The same cannot be said for the new veterans' groupings.

Undoubtedly sincere and high-minded individuals have in many cases been involved in the launching of these new veterans' organizations. Without in any way impugning the motives of such individuals, it is necessary to point out another set of purposes having nothing to do with the interest of the veterans or the country, which it is possible for "new enterprises" in the veterans' field to serve. It is possible for these new groupings to serve the interests of political adventurers who, "be it ever so small," want a machine they can call their own. They can serve the purposes of Social Democrats with factional axes to grind. They may be of benefit to the garden variety of pie card artists looking for a soft organizational berth and a steady income.

The veterans of this war will, of course, decide their own organizational questions. Certainly the labor and general democratic movement is not the quarter from which any infringement of this right will come. It is, however, certainly of no help to the veterans for the organized labor movement to maintain a passive or indifferent attitude toward these questions. It is one of the duties which labor owes to the servicemen, as well as to itself, to make known its views on the organizational problems facing the veterans of this war.

New Organization Enters Fight for Spanish Freedom

A distinguished sponsor's committee,

Democratic Convention

The Democratic Convention which nominated Roosevelt and Truman, was itself a great contribution to the development of the correct policies for victory and peace.

All classes of Americans were represented at the convention, and the hopes and aspirations of all America were expressed in a platform which promised a speedy and just victory, world unity, full employment and social security.

The forthright statement of foreign policy had its inspiration in Teheran. It pledged that America will join a world organization to maintain peace and to promote international trade. The planks on domestic economy followed the record and stated policies of the Roosevelt administration, accenting an expanded economy and the President's Second Bill of Rights. FDR's program with regard to the vets, was reaffirmed. One plank enunciated the policy of the earliest possible release of war-time restrictions and controls, and the encouragement of private enterprise.

In line with recently proposed legislation, such as the Kilgore Bill and the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, pledges were made for adequate dealing with the questions of reconversion, compensation to workers during demobilization, and social security for all, with emphasis on assurance of employment and economic security for veterans.

A sharp controversy raged over the plank on racial minorities. The reactionary delegates did not get their "white supremacy" plank nor a "states rights" plank. Their defeat was of no mean import. The fear of a complete rupture within the party gave birth to a compromise in the plank. It was an opportunity for a successful fight on the Jim-crow.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RACE

With Roosevelt's renomination, a foregone conclusion, interest centered on the nomination of his running mate. Wallace was the candidate of the common man. Sen. Truman, administration supporter,

ITALIAN GUERRILLAS**ARE A GRAND BUNCH!**

(from a letter from Lt. Bill Alexander, formerly of the English Battalion)

I have had some quite interesting experiences lately. First I have been fighting in snow, wearing white smocks, nightgowns, gloves and whatnot. I appreciate just how capable and expert the Red Army must be to carry out their large-scale operations in even deeper snow.

Then for a time I looked after a little village, where we had a group of Italian partisan fighters. They were a grand bunch; most of them came from the village or from nearby farms or hamlets. The leader, however, was a student from Rome, who had been an anti-Fascist even whilst he was an officer in the Italian Army in the desert. Everyone was a volunteer, and it was most stimulating to hear them argue as to who should go on patrol. They had assorted weapons—German, Italian, or British, which they had captured or "organized".

They were mostly non-political (using the term in the narrow sense, but intensely anti-German. Their struggles and ideas are very understandable. The Nazis have made a terrible mess of this part of the world. They have destroyed the mountain villages in the most methodical manner, and as they retreat they drive off cattle, take clothes and furniture and food, and send off the young people to work in Germany.

It was a pleasure working with the partisans. They knew the countryside intimately, and we had a number of all-night parties covering anything up to twenty miles — doing things we could never have attempted had we been finding our own way.

I met a Frenchman fighting out here who had spent some time in the Spanish concentration camp of Miranda. He did not meet the International Brigadeers there, but their spirit was almost legendary among all the prisoners.

First Fall Event

Don't miss the principal gala

Fascism would be impossible, international unity would receive a decisive setback, internal progress based on an expanding productivity and full employment, would not get far if it depended upon the leadership of those who tried to solve the last crisis, with the sale of apples on the street corners.

If the issues of the elections are presented in this, their true light, and not allowed to be covered by camouflage of petty partisan issues and if the necessary organization to get out and register, every last possible voter, FDR and Truman and a people's Congress will win. (Condensed excerpts of an article by Eugene Dennis, which appeared in the Sunday Worker.)

U.S.S.R. Urges Spanish People Aid Allies

A series of broadcasts from the U.S.S.R., according to the N. Y. Times, were directed to the Spanish people urging them to adopt the necessary actions for breaking relations with Hitler and to liberate themselves from Franco's yoke.

On September 5th, the same source reported that a broadcast from the U.S.S.R. to Spain promised that the members of the Blue Division and all those guilty of crimes committed against the Allies will be punished.

A distinguished sponsor's committee, headed by Bishop Lewis G. Hartman of Boston, has created the American Committee for Spanish Freedom. This new organization is aimed at rallying Americans to support the liberation struggle of the Spanish people. The first task it has set for itself is to spur action on Congressman Coffee's resolution to extend Lend-Lease aid to the Spanish Liberation Movement.

Among the ACSF sponsors are: Louis Adamic, S. N. Behrman, Elmer Benson, Van Wyck Brooks, Bennett Cerf, Norman Corwin, Stanley Isaacs, Bishop John J. McConnell, Fritz Mahler, Clifford Odets, Pierre Van Paasen and the Rev. Claude Williams.

Sen. Truman, administration supporter, had vigorous backing from the strong state organizations, particularly New York, New Jersey and Illinois, and at the same time, was the choice of the AFL. The anti-fourth termers, the poll-taxers and reactionaries, wanted no part of either. Truman's nomination on the second ballot made possible greater unity within the ranks of the party.

There was no doubt that Truman's victory was in the stream of the growing liberalism of the Democratic Party. He has been an ardent supporter of the Administration and his work as head of the Senate Committee investigating war contracts, won the enthusiastic praise of all true patriots.

event of the fall season! Our eighth annual fall dance to be held at Manhattan Center on September 30th will present one of those infrequent opportunities for all the guys and gals to see one another and talk over old times.

VOLUNTEER for LIBERTY

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