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the Abraham
Lincoln Brigade

VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

THE LIBERATED NATIONS

Even as Hitler is driven further and further back reactionaries are striving to regain or maintain their position of power in Europe. In one form or another they combat the Resistance movements which are rallying their respective nations for the fight against Fascism around a simple program of continued and increased participation in the war against Hitler; cleansing their country of traitors and quislings; formation of democratic governments including representatives of the Resistance forces; initiating a program of social reform which will improve the stature of their country and satisfy the needs of the people.

Great Britain is following a policy at the present time in which in many instances sets her in opposition to the democratic majority of the liberated people and supports or initiates the attempts of domestic reaction to saddle their discredited regimes on the backs of the people. This pattern appeared in Belgium, where Great Britain backs the Pierlot government which refuses to take any steps against open collaborationists and directs its activity toward suppressing and breaking up the Resistance movement. In Italy, Churchill backs the monarchy and obstructs the attempts of the Italian Cabinet to mobilize the forces of the Italian people in the war against Hitler and for the improvement of domestic conditions. In Spain there are very positive indications that English circles are supporting Franco and at the same time backing the maneuvers which seek to replace a discredited Franco with another reactionary combination. In Greece, British intervention has passed from the field of back door diplomacy to open war against the Greek people.

America's official position has been made quite clear by the declaration of our new Secretary of State, Settinus. We are against intervention in the domestic affairs of the liberated countries. We are for a democratic, anti-fascist solution of their problems. This position is receiving the overwhelming support of American circles and especially of labor organizations. On the other hand, the Churchill policy of support of reaction is condemned not only here in America but in Great Britain itself.

The Soviet Union is expressing its attitude to the peoples of the country which it helps liberate not so much in words as in action. As a result, Rumanian and Bulgarian armies, for example, are fighting on the side of the United Nations and Rumanian and Bulgarian high fascist officials are being purged. Finnish armies, too, fight alongside Soviet armies and democratic Finns are released from jail. Polish troops, as comrades in arms of the Red Army march forward ridding their country of Nazis while the Lublin Committee of Liberation satisfies the needs of Poland for a just and necessary distribution of land.

It is essential that the unity of the three great powers be preserved and extended into the post war world if we are to have complete victory and a lasting peace and thus fulfill the promise of Teheran. To do this the present dangerous divergence of policy must be corrected. Europe must be allowed to complete the demo-

cratic rebirth on a higher level which is now taking place. Great Britain must change her policy of support to reaction and America must help Great Britain make the change: first, by absolute opposition to the present policy of repression of the democratic movements; second, by herself removing the remaining inconsistencies in her own foreign policy, especially the continued recognition of the Franco regime; third, by realizing that the present British policy flows directly from the desperate, panic-creating knowledge of the British that they cannot survive in the post war world in direct and unrestricted economic competition with the United States.

Britain has been hit very hard in this war. She has seen the tremendous productive capacities of the United States at work. She knows she cannot compete with us on the open market. For that reason, she is trying to hold on to every market that she has, close her colonies against us, bolster her position by support of reactionary governments in Europe. The way out of this dilemma is the coming to an agreement between America and Great Britain for a major economic settlement which will guarantee that Great Britain will get a fair share of the markets in an expanding post-war world economy. America must help Britain solve her very real problems. Britain must realize that she cannot get this help if she continues her present course.

NEWS OF THE MONTH ---

LABOR'S CONVENTIONS

Both the AFL and the CIO have concluded their national conventions. The only point of similarity between them was the fact that they both met at approximately the same time. The CIO meeting in Chicago hit a real highspot in its deliberations. Never before has any national labor organization shown so keen an awareness of its role as a leading section of the American people. It demonstrated that the CIO people realize that their interests and the interests of the nation as a whole are identical. It backed the President's major policies 100% and put teeth into this backing by completing reaffirming its continuation of the no-strike pledge. Those few disrupters like Wolchok of the Retail Clerks and Reuther of Auto who have constantly angled to break this pledge kept their mouths shut at the convention. These guys, however, once the convention was over went back to work at their old stand and are now trying to spread a strike wave through use of the Detroit controversy with

S. L. M.

The largest number of vets in years were present in force at our annual Xmas Eve Ball (Two halls - two bands). It was good seeing old faces like Dave White, Carl Geiser, Sid Cohen proudly wearing RCAF insignia, paratrooper Fred Keller, Bert Bakerman (medical discharge from the Army - and sadly disappointed that he never got a chance to make use of the Chinese he studied for five months) and Milt Wiener - must to mention a few.

Milt was the hero of the ball; he's just returned from the Southwest Pacific where he was seriously wounded while on a patrol. He was a battalion scout and had volunteered with three others to knock out a Jap position. They ran into four automatics and after Milt had knocked out one machine-gun and pulled out a wounded comrade, he himself was hit in several places on his left arm. A letter from his lieutenant speaks for itself:

N.E.I.

Dear "Weiner": November 9/44
...I and my men have a great deal of respect and admiration for you and your courage.

Sgt. Dobbs, Baylor and yourself have been recommended for citation, and I certainly hope that they see fit to award you an appropriate medal. It was certainly deserved.

The boys and officers of the 2nd Bn. often ask me about you, and are interested in your welfare. We are all pulling for you and hope for a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

Lt. W.W. Bennett

LABOR'S CONVENTIONS (Continued)

Montgomery Ward's Sewell Avery, with Mr. Avery's heartiest cooperation. The Wolchok-Reuther strategy, of course, is to influence the vote in the approaching referendum of the Auto Worker's on the no-strike pledge.

The CIO gave Hillman and Murray the greatest ovation ever and enthusiastically decided to continue the Political Action Committee as labor's contribution to the democratic coalition which grew up during the elections. The Chicago confab gave complete endorsement and support to the London World Parley of Labor called to set up a new and virile international organization of workers. It blasted Anti-Semitism and condemned Franco and called for a withdrawal of American support to his regime. And finally it took a forthright stand against all moves for a "soft peace" with Germany.

But the AFL was an entirely different story. If the CIO hit the highest point of its career the AFL hit one of the lowest. One would hardly know that a hard-fought political election had just been concluded for all the mention that it received at this meeting dominated by the moth-eaten Woll-Hutcheson line. Indeed Secretary George Meany went out of his way to attack FDR. Their meeting did nothing to improve the chances of the CIO and AFL working together and was one long carping whine against the London Parley. They're agin' the Soviet trade unions and agin' anybody who ain't. They even talked about digging the International Federation out of its forgotten and unhonored grave. Along the same lines, they don't like the vigorous, growing Confederation of Latin American Workers and have begun maneuvers to form a bloc of reactionary discredited Latin American trade union leaders. It all adds up to a situation where all of the world labor movement will be united in one strong body while the AFL says there ain't no such animal!

The AFL refused to take action against those of its unions which discriminate against the Negro people. And it looks as if the stage is all set for William Green and Lewis to kiss and make up. Some people say it looks more like rape with Bill Green underneath. The AFL even spoke for a "soft peace" with Germany. All in all, a sad and dismal picture. That such events took place after the support that Roosevelt received from the majority of the AFL membership and from such leading people as

SIM (Continued)

Quite a few guys in the services dropped in the office these past weeks. Bob Steck; Irving Hyman, now on leave after participating in the Mediterranean theater; Sam Peck, arms instructor in a N.J. camp; Milton Conove, formerly with the RCAF, now with the AAF and looking very happy about the change; Fred Keller, who was not shipped despite high hopes; Joe Giofortoni, on furlough, now back in Texas; Rudy Schneiderman, whose pitiful job is guarding prisoners of war in Arkansas; Paul Burns, back from two years in England; Dave Thompson on leave from Virginia on his way to Wyoming - claims to have received his first diploma in the Army (plenty of schooling but no action); George Buck, British Vet and seaman, brought regards from Sam Wild; Bill Harris - discharged from the merchant marine; and Sam Gonshak - an expectant father.

Joe Brandt is overseas. . . Sid Rudner is at Camp Ellis waiting for an assignment. . . Vaugh Love took part in the invasion of France, is hospitalized for a while. . . Curley Mendelowitz, who had been discharged from the Army is now shipping out. . . Sam Bierman spent five months in the Soviet Union. . .

Dick Kenny will be married on or about the New Year. . . Milt Goldstein's wife gave birth on November 26th. . . And we take this belated opportunity to report the birth of a girl in the Alvah Bessie family and one for the Sidney Kaufmans. . . And Johnny Gates, while on leave deserted the Mohicans and tied himself up with Lillian Ross.

LABOR'S CONVENTIONS (Continued)

Tobin of the Teamsters shows the strength of the grip that the old bureaucracy manipulated by the Woll-Hutcheson-Dubinsky mob has on the Federation. Unity of action between CIO and AFL membership, unity of labor on a world-scale is needed more than ever before but it will be achieved only in the course of a real fight against these people. And it will have to come from inside the AFL.

On Dec. 18th Phil Murray wrote to Green saying that the one obstacle standing in the way of a successful fight for FDR's program for 60 million jobs is that "organized labor is not united on a broad program of action." He called for AFL-CIO unity in support of wage revision, extension of social security, legislation on the human side of reconversion, saying that the necessity was "joint effort, in defeating reactionary forces and helping to win the war and establish a permanent peace with economic security for the common man." But old Bill Green turned him down on the grounds that, "The only way to achieve unity is to unite organically." By organic unity some of the AFL big brains mean the kind of unity that a snake has with a frog after he swallows it. A popular pastime of AFL ward heelers is figuring out how to divide the CIO membership up among themselves.

By the way, the British Trade Union Congress delegate to the AFL is an old friend of ours from the Spanish days -- A.J. Horner -- President of the South Wales Miners Federation -- and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Great Britain. The AFL gave him a watch and he gave them something to think about.

LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS SPEAK UP

The final session of the Congress of the Confederation of Latin American Workers led by Lombardo Toledano demanded the end of diplomatic and economic relations with Franco Spain, and declared its support of the Supreme Council of National Unity. It also called for the liberation of Portugal from the Salazar dictatorship. The CTAL selected Jan. 25 as a day of demonstrations throughout Latin America for the release of all political prisoners held by Argentine's reactionary government. This move was initiated by representatives of the underground Argentine Confederation of Labor. The CTAL called on all nations to apply economic sanctions against Argentina to head off that country's feverish war preparations.

NEWS BRIEFS

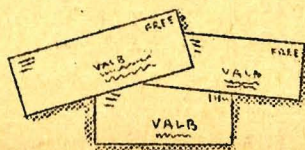
General Mark Clark, new commander of the Italian theater, appreciates the contributions of the North Italian Partisans. He doesn't think they should lay low for the winter as Gen. Alexander did. This and other developments all add up to increasing recognition of the role and importance of the Italian Partisans. You can expect to hear more from these boys and don't be surprised if you see some familiar Italian names among them...Hawaii's Territorial legislature will have 19 of 38 contested seats held by men endorsed by the Hawaiian Political Action Committee of Labor. Among them are 2 officials of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen CIO -- Joseph Kaholokula and Amos Ignacio...Frenchy Robinson will share the platform with Senator Coffee at an anti-Franco meeting on New York's West Side run by the West Side Citizen's Committee...Morris Schappes was released on parole from Wallkill Prison Dec. 18. A former City College instructor, he was witch-hunted by the Rapp-Coudert red-herring wavers...All five New York Department store unions, also Local 65 and other locals affiliated to the International led by Wolchok condemned his use of the strike weapon. They told Wolchok that they wanted the CIO-no-strike pledge upheld and that he should use other methods to settle the Montgomery Ward tangle. ...A national movement has been initiated by the Daily Worker to bring to justice 5 white men who committed mass rape on Mrs. Recy Taylor, a Negro mother, at Abbeville, Ala. The men are all known but authorities have not moved. More and more people, including prominent Southerners, are saying that it's about time these outrages are stepped on once and for all and suiting action to

LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS SPEAK UP (Continued)

The Convention accepted the invitation from the British Trade Union Congress to participate in the world parley of labor to be held in London on Feb. 8. and elected Toledano to lead their delegation with instructions to help create a World Confederation of Labor.

Arthur Horner, who had represented British Labor at the AFL Convention was also the British delegate to Latin America. In his speech he declared that the principles of the Atlantic Charter must be applied to Spain and India. Joseph Selly, president of the Communications Union and Otis Knight, president of the Oil Workers International spoke for the CIO. Selly highlighted the importance of the reelection of FDR for the furtherance of the good neighbor policy and pledged that the CIO and CTAL would work together in London. Knight promised to protest to Washington against discriminatory practices in the Canal Zone. The AFL refused to send delegates.

SERVICIO DE CORREO



LONDON - INT'L BRIGADE

Dear Harold:

One of the many friends made by Sidney Rosenblatt when he was in this country has just received some letters returned with the notice "Deceased." I can't say how sorry we all are. Sidney was one of those Vets who made the London office (and the homes of those connected with it) his second home, and we have very many happy memories connected with his visits. He was a high-spirited boy who always made us laugh, but underneath he was a most sincere anti-Fascist who never let up on the struggle. He fought oppression in whatever way he could. His fights in the Army on the Negro question were incessant and bitter; but he allowed no amount of personal persecution on his views to stop him.

We feel a real sense of personal loss at his passing. If you are in touch with his family, will you please tell them of our deep sympathy for them. Sidney brought two of his brothers to my house once; one is in the Army and one in the Navy, but I don't have their addresses.

their words...Nicaragua and the Soviet Union have established diplomatic relations...The Dean of Canterbury call's Churchill's actions in Greece, "perilously fascist" and demonstrations were held all over England against the Churchill policy. 20,000 turned out in Trafalgar Square...The Austrian Freedom Front in cooperation with Tito's Yugoslavs are developing guerrilla activities in South Austria...Dean Dixon's new American Youth Orchestra sponsored by the American Youth for Democracy received highest praise in their Carnegie Hall opening...New York progressives are developing a campaign of education to back construction of the long discussed St. Lawrence Seaway. They point out that the waterway, which would directly connect the Great Lakes with the Atlantic and develop cheap electric power for the rural districts, would do much for American economy. The last attempt to get the measure thru the Senate was turned down...A People's Radio Foundation for the creation of an F.M. radio station has just been formed. The idea is to have a station whose program will be guided by trade unions, people's organizations, etc. It has wide backing...The International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union and its president, Harry Bridges, are suing Pegler and the newspaper PM for many, many bucks. You can guess why on Pegler and here's the dope on PM. That paper's James Wechsler spread a phony story that Phil Murray was fed up with Bridge's militant support of the no-strike policy and his refusal to follow the Wolchok line of striking the Montgomery Ward stores. So Murray was going to give the gate to Bridges as West Coast CIO director, etc., etc...The West Coast workers aren't the only ones who think that PM should develop a sense of responsibility. The Bridges case is only one instance

Fascism can't we know, be fought in the cheap. But the knowledge doesn't take away the bitterness of losing our good people. We are very sorry indeed about Sidney.

Nan Green

F R A N C E

The "Volunteer" is such a damn good thing to have around. It can follow a man to the ends of the earth and will always bring home to him where his feet are planted.

I have been very busy the last few weeks and so have not had the chance to mingle as much with people as I would like to. However, when we first took this part of France, I met a lot of Spanish Republicans. Almost every town in this part of the country has a Hogar Nacional de Espagnoles, and they include people of all opinions. They are active, putting out literature, even the separate groups like the CNT, putting out their own pamphlets. Above all, they were a serving component of the original F.T.P.F. (Franc Tireurs et Partisans Francais - the real forerunner of the FFI.)

Why this should be so is quite clear. The Vichy government and their German masters immediately went about the job of cleaning up the refugees from everywhere in France, and then forced great sections of these refugees, even some without previous experience in active struggle, to turn to combat. But once again our Spanish buddies did themselves proud. Once again they were in the forefront of the struggle for a nation's liberation and for the annihilation of fascism.

Pfc. Irving Weissman

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

...A number of items since June 10th I have wanted to write to the organization and to express my thanks for sending the Volunteer and other items of news. However, we have been in the thick of things and have never been out of the sound of artillery even during our light days of rest since landing. The Ninth Division has been giving a good account of itself I believe; my own battalion has been cited for its drive on Cherbourg and I believe we will get another for our work in Germany.

Naturally the election is of great importance. Jerry seems to think so and has shot over propaganda leaflets bearing a caricature of Roosevelt and a text holding him responsible for the war and all casualties and urging the soldiers to vote, rather subtle, eh what?

Right now am in mud and all its miseries -- very much like Jarama; only the intensity is such that one is unable to express it adequately

of PM's failure to think things out before it begins scattering the glittering phrase... Post war Yugoslavia will be constructed along democratic, federal lines, said Marshal Tito. It will be a coalition of the democratic governments of the 6 national units which make up Yugoslavia. No more dominance of one national group over the others. It looks forward to the closest collaboration with the other Balkan countries...The same old crowd wants to raise NY's subway fare again. Councilman Peter V. Cacchione has taken up the challenge...One of the biggest hits on Broadway is "Anna Lucasta." Starring the gorgeous Hilda Simms and an all-Negro cast and with the kind of acting that has critics reaching down into their stock of rationed superlatives, this show has attracted wide attention to its original producers, "The American Negro Theatre." The ANT started off in 1940 as an amateur group with nothing but talent and willingness to work hard. Their stage-- the basement of the 135th Street Branch Library...The Popular Democratic Party of Puerto Rico which includes all of the liberal and progressive forces of that Island and has a New Deal and Good Neighbor policy, swept the board in the November elections. They won 17 out of 19 seats in the Senate and 36 out of 39 in the Insular Legislature. They support the Island's governor, FDR's appointee, Rexford Tugwell. One of the reasons for the Party's success was the backing of the up-and-coming General Confederation of Workers of Puerto Rico. In four years this outfit has organized 250,000 workers, signed 150 collective bargaining agreements, won wage increases of 10 to 25 percent and many other benefits including employer paid hospi-

How would you phrase it when the Kraut has put in five weeks of sniping with an eight inch railroad gun -- rather monotonously irritating?

However, it is discouraging to observe the Krauts as a Nation passively allowing their worst elements to plunge the whole country over the abyss. The easy fat living they enjoyed from the plundering of a continent and their seduction by Pan Germanic chauvinism has corrupted the people. I see no hope for German redemption by the present generation. Boy, the one real fear they have is of the Russians, not a bad conscience operating, just the shakiness of a bungling, unsuccessful hoodlum who has to face the music.

While passing through Leige and vicinity I met a leader of the local Socialists who knew Luis Companys well -- had a desk set gift from him and this fellow showed me how he and others had forged identity papers for the Belgian underground. He went into the garden and dug up a cleverly designed counterfeit rubber stamp that authenticated "their" documents. However, he felt pessimistic about many things -- rather sectarian I'd say.

It was good to see the first "free press" in Leige -- a paper published by the local trade union center.

Hope all is going well with you.
Dan Fitzgerald.

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

Since we arrived in Naziland we have been pretty busy at one thing or another. The old outfit is still in the line bugging away but it isn't what it used to be, which is to be expected. Glad to hear that the Fall affair was a success. Hope to be present at one of them soon, with my English wife, who I have yet to marry when I can get back there. Quite a girl, Harold, I don't mind saying. She is doing her share in London now. Wait until she sees what our American Vets dance is like. May the Lord have mercy on my soul!

I guess that I am in the position that most of the guys are and can't report very much now. Also we are not very far in Germany to say very much. However, if one looks around, you can see the results of four years of looting and plunder. There is no shortage of food in this country. They seem to have more than enough of everything. I don't like to be vengeful but it does my heart good to see them suffer. the more the better. Must close now. Regards to all the guys. Write soon.

Al Warren

talization and on top of it all improved employer-labor relations. Before the CGT came on the scene, labor was getting no place. The Free Federation of Labor, AFL, was free of everything, especially organization. The CGT is affiliated to the Latin American Confederation of Labor. The Popular Democratic Party and the CGT are working for the solution of three main problems.

Development of native industry; improvement of economic conditions; final and definite solution of the political status of the Island...Well, we have a lot more to say but no more room to say it...For further details read your daily paper. ...Hasta la vista.

IN MEMORIAM

OGDENSBURG, N. J.

The War Dept. has declared Sid dead as of November 15, 1944, a year and a day after his plane was shot down in Western Burma. I'm informed that the ship exploded on contact with the earth.

Sid was the armorer-gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber. He went overseas in June 1943. Entered the Army Sept. 18, 1942. Gunnery School at Ft. Myers, Florida. Then to Salt Lake City; Tucson, Arizona; and Biggs Field Texas.

There may be a hope that he's alive -- but doubt it very much.

Remember him sometimes.
(We'll nevery forget Sid Kurtz -- V.A.L.B.)

Ruth and Michael
(Kurtz)

NOTICE

NEW
ADDRESS: 13 ASTOR PLACE
Room 406 - N.Y.3, N.Y.
TELEPHONE: ALgonquin 4-8586

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY

Just received my share of Volunteer, CIO news and etc. Really doesn't matter since I've read several copies that the other guys received before. Just don't want to appear niggardly with my thanks. Sorry I never agreed with Jerry about that home by Christmas stuff...safe enough to say it now. However, I think we are all agreed that this part of the show should be wound up before another Christmas. Like as not some of us will then meander in an easterly direction...but not before a break to home.

I suppose there are plenty of newsworthy things happening over here but I fear they must keep until the next bull session, not that I can see why but the ways of censors are queer. The gang is in the best of health and the prospects for them remaining thus are uncommonly good... so good that most of us are going wacky over the entire deal.

Spanish news seems to have petered out rather suddenly. I wonder if some jerk managed to get the clamper on it again? For a while all the Army papers were headlining Spain and then... phhhh! Just like that. What do you hear on that end?

Regards to the gang from the gang, and we're hoping that the Xmas Dance is a smash hit!

A very merry Christmas and a victorious New Year.salud

Milt Wolff

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC

The package containing Fast's "Freedom Road" did it. For two months now I've been mumbling to myself about writing at least a line or two to Harold. Then as the Xmas season approached my mumbles became more specific -- "Gotta send Harold Xmas greeting." Two days ago I borrowed an anthology called "A Soldier's Reader" -- a good collection of short stories and excerpts from novels. On page 35 I ran into a portion of Bessie's "Men in Battle" and as luck would have it, the part printed contained references to Harold Smith, the "comic star" and his bitching about some missing White Rose Tea and sugar cubes that he had organized. That almost did it. But today when the book arrived my last defenses were gone. I not only had to do it but I wanted to.

My very best wishes to you, Harold, and any of the other guys you see, for the New Year and for all those things we have lived and hoped for for a long time. Salud,

Jess Wallach

P.S. I get the British Volunteer regularly and it's been fine. I haven't seen a copy of ours for quite a few months now. No personal news -- just waiting for something.

KEESLER FIELD, MISS.

I met Bill Sennet here, but he was transferred to the infantry a couple of days ago. It's too bad; the guy was doing a swell job in the Orientation Department.

My job is to write material for a radio script. It is a new program they are trying on the air once a week. Bill prepared one on the Dumbarton Oaks conference before he left and I did one on the Sixth War Loan Drive. At the moment, I'm working on one: "The Fight That Lies Ahead." It is on for 15 minutes each Thursday on a local station.

Lou Ornitz was here for about a week and was shipped to Texas. He may have stopped into the office to give you my regards and stuff.

Jack Bjoze.

CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

I'm about ready again for another try overseas -- been in since January of '42 you know! I hope I make it this time.

Inclosed is a copy of our Divisional paper the "Blizzard", it mentions Bruce Somers again, on the back page. Sent you a copy a while back mentioning his being commissioned on the field of battle -- get it.

And this copy of the "News of the week in review" mentioning the forum on Spain. The discussion was well attended. About 100 or so GI's and it was the general opinion of all that Spain did get a dirty deal when Franco took over (sic, Hitler & Mussy) and the feeling that she will be a democracy soon alongside of the other liberated nations of the world. Had a word with Dr. Lopez -- he was an officer in the Carbineros, then hit the concentration camps of France and later got away. He

CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

Just a few lines to thank you for the subscription to Readers Scope. Think its tops and thought it an excellent gift for the Vets. The new Volunteer sure fills a need and like it very much.

Just completed a course in Personal Affairs at Washington and Lee University (Army School for Personnel Services) and am working in that capacity here at the Hospital. The work is similar to the job of a Political Commissar in the Brigade except that we have nothing to do with the political education of the soldiers. With all its limitations it's quite interesting and I'm able to do a lot of good. . . .

Leonard Grumit

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

Know you'll be very much surprised to hear from me after all this time, and I'm sorry I haven't written before. Have been here in England for over three months. Me, I'm quite happy doing the job I was finally trained for, i.e. gunner. But I forgot you know that I was finally transferred from the Medics. We have a good crew, and believe me, it's sure a swell feeling to be dropping bombs instead of being under them.

Harold, my good friend, I haven't seen a Volunteer for four months! How about it? Well, can't think of much else to write about. Right now I'm sweating out my third duster to the air medal, but I think I'll stay here as long as they let me.

Joe Cobert

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC

We were in the invasion of Leyte. I'm not sure we can expect most, if not all, future operations to be as easy as it was at least in the initial stage.

Albert Robbins, MM3C

CAMP MACKALL, N.C.

Well old Buddy, I had one foot on the gangplank but somebody decided they got too damn many paratroops in England. So I'm back at Camp Mackall starting training all over again, and it's pretty tough too.

Freddy Keller

led the discussion admirably. There were but a few 'snipers', but they were welcome, it gave the Carbinero a fine chance by way of exposition and of course many in the audience knew the score also.

Walter Strauss

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

In the past you mentioned some subscription being made for the Vets. Enclosed you will find \$10.00 to cover that subscription and reading matter for the amount left over.

We have been destroying Superman, their tanks, their guns, etc. What we owe them for Spain is being partially liquidated. However, the only final payment is the complete freedom of Spain. Think quite a few of us would like to fight in that one again if we live through this one.

The Heinies look like Sing Sing graduates. It seems their political philosophy shows in their faces.

Saul Birnbaum

ROXBURY, MASS.

I think you will be interested to know that my husband, Sgt. Arthur Timpson, who is a Lincoln vet, and now with the United States Third Army in France, has been decorated with the Bronze Star. The official government citation states: "For heroic achievement in France in combat with an enemy of the United States."

Anne Timpson

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NOTICE

WITH THIS ISSUE "THE VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY" RESUMES ITS MIMEOGRAPHED FORMAT. WE HAVE FOUND THAT PRINTING THE ISSUE CONSUMES TOO MUCH TIME AND DELAYS THE PAPER. WE THINK THAT THE FELLOWS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING QUICK NEWS THAN PRETTY NEWS. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY
(Excerpts from a batch of letters
from Larry Cane)

Yesterday, when I wrote you, I mentioned being in an outpost for a few days. I'd like to tell you a little more about that, especially about something interesting I ran across out there.

The outpost was a group of houses, all battered and smashed from shelling and thoroughly looted by retreating Germans, but excellent to fight from. The house that I established my CP in belonged to an old, wealthy German family.

Well, naturally, when you get into a place like that, you kind of rummage around -- just out of curiosity's sake.

I got into a closet that had a bunch of old papers, medals, trinkets, and picture albums.

There were relics and pictures of the War of 1870 - 1871 against the French. You remember, when the Paris Commune was crushed. Then there was a lot of junk from World War of 1914-1918. But the thing that I became absorbed in was a picture life of the son and heirs of the house.

He was born in 1918, just after the end of the last war. The pictures are the ordinary thing. Proud mama and papa and little snookums.

The pictures go on through childhood, and young boyhood -- shots of school, summer camps, winter sports, family groups, etc.

Then comes 1933 and the business begins. Junior is now in the Hitler Jugend and a sturdy lad of 15. You see him with his "troops," all resplendent with his short pants and his "Rucksack." 1936 rolls around and he's now in the SA (Sturm Abteilung.) In 1937 he's in the Army.

In 1938 he's an "Unteroffizier" and is sent to Officer's School in Potsdam. And, oh the pictures of the parades and goosestepping and shiny boots now!

1939 and he transfers to the Air Corps. He is now a Second Lt. There are pictures of airfields and officers quarters, and more shiny boots and more goosestepping parades.

1940 and Junior is a full-fledged pilot. Bomber pilot at that. But in 1940 the pictures stop.

Among the papers I found an official notice of his death in action.

Among other papers and books there were the ravings of Adolph Hitler. I found a quotation that was quite appropriate from a document called "Training of German Youth for Military Service, 1935." Translated, it goes something like this, "It is repugnant to the heroic man that death on the battle field should give rise to sorrow and complaint. It should be regarded as the ardently longed for termination of life. . ."

Well, maybe this time when we finish with these bastards they'll sing, "I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier," instead of "Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles."

One thing, if they make us fight for every city -- they're going to be too busy building them up again for the next fifty years, to think of building up an army. . . .

This evening the house is a madhouse. I'm writing this in the little dayroom that we've fixed up for ourselves. But from the rest of the building comes all kinds of noises as the hoodlums (that's said with affection) in my platoon variously shoot crap, play the violin, keep the radio going, tinker with a broken down phonograph, run up and down the stairs, slam the doors, argue politics, talk about girls, try to get up a barber shop quartet and generally flow over with healthy animal spirit.

Hell, let 'em play. Plenty of time to get that old tired, front-line feeling. They're wonderful boys, especially when the going is tough.

We've seen so much rough stuff that they've labelled our company "The Russian Front." And we've got more decorations in this bunch than the rest of the battalion put together.

They say it's all right for us to announce that we were in the battle of Aachen. So if you haven't guessed, why hon, I was there.

Typical American humor reflected itself at Aachen when the day after we stopped fighting and started to clean up the Mines (yes, we did both) we found a big picture of Frankie Sinatra on the main road leading into the town labelled "The Price of Aachen." How can anyone hope to beat people like Americans?

Trends in Labor-Veteran Relations by BOB THOMPSON

The characteristic feature of relations between unions and veterans' organizations so far during the war has been the absence of active collaboration. This is true despite the fact that on many key issues, notably support of government war policy, they have followed parallel policies. A number of developments during the past several months have begun to make a change in this situation and afford a basis for the conclusion that the period of active collaboration between labor and veterans' organizations has begun.

Outstanding in this connection are the following developments:

1. In July of this year, the CIO, AFL, and Veterans of Foreign Wars arrived at a national agreement covering many of the toughest problems in the field of labor-veteran relations. On the key question of seniority, this agreement goes much further than Selective Service Administration rulings in recommendation measures which provide job security for veterans. For the serviceman without such a job to go back to, it provides that on getting a job he should immediately have credited to his seniority status his length of service in the armed forces.

The CIO at its national convention in November recommended that its affiliated unions "provide in their collective bargaining agreements that veterans who are employed for the first time in their plants be accorded cumulative seniority rights for the time spent in service since September 1st, 1940, the date of the passage of the Selective Service Act."

2. The wholehearted labor support given the Legion-sponsored "G.I. Rights Bill" has greatly improved labor-veteran relations. The unity behind this Bill is much more than agreement on a specific legislative measure. It is agreement on the basic principle that social security for the returning veteran is a national problem and a government responsibility.

3. Attitudes of hostility and distrust toward the established veterans' organizations which have carried over from the pre-war are beginning to break down. Outstanding in this connection is the action of the United Electrical and Radio Workers Union convention this year which called for "close cooperation with established veterans' organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans."

4. The policies adopted on the key issues confronting the country by the Legion convention in September of this year, despite certain important inconsistencies, mark a turning point in the history of labor-veteran relations. In the atmosphere created by the Dewey-Bicker campaign, and in face of concerted Republican pressure both from within and without its ranks, this convention endorsed the present foreign policy of our Government and called for national unity behind it. More forcefully than any other event to date, this convention of the Legion dramatized the wide and basic area of agreement which exists between organized labor and veterans. As these two great democratic forces in American life become more conscious of this area of agreement, and as active collaboration develops between them both on specific issues in the field of servicemen's affairs and on all matters vital to the nation, the policies of each will increasingly respond to and be influenced by the policies of the other. Few things hold more promise for the future than this.

The American Legion is emerging as the major veterans organizations of this, as well as the last, war. It already included in its ranks approximately 300,000 veterans of this war. The further rapid growth of the Legion among veterans of this war is the basic guarantee that this powerful organization will never again play the role that it did in the 1920's and 30's.

NOTE: We are sending you a most interesting pamphlet "A PLAN FOR AMERICA AT PEACE" written and distributed by the Electronic Corporation of America. It has been praised by the American Bankers Association and Earl Browder. It is a realistic and inspiring application of American thought to the development of the Teheran perspectives of a stable peace and expanding prosperity. We recommend it highly.

Activities of the V.A.L.B.

by LEONARD LAMB

When the first news reached the States that the Spanish guerilla units, under the leadership of the Supreme Council of National Unity, had begun to war against the Franco regime in a serious and coordinated manner, the VALB immediately organized to stimulate a broad campaign to break relations with Fascist Spain.

The first task was to clarify for the American people the difference between the democratic struggle in the years of 1936 to 1939 and the situation at present. For this we immediately reached the democratic progressive elements with whom we have always had a certain authority and influence and the membership within the trade union movement.

Activity is still centered in New York City. However, contact with other chapters in Chicago, Detroit, and on the West Coast will soon bring us news of accomplishments there.

How broad the campaign to break relations with the Fascist regime in Spain can be is obvious from the supporters of the Madison Square Garden meeting on January 2nd. The organizations cooperating are: The Nation Associates, National CIO, American Business Congress, Union for Democratic Action, League for Industrial Democracy, American Educational Fellowship, American Labor Party, CIO City Council, ACWA, American Committee for Spanish Freedom, Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, United Committee of South Slavic Americans, Free World Association, U.S. Student Assembly.

The VALB has established good relations with the Greater New York Industrial Council, and through them has developed a program of reaching into the CIO locals. The program calls for speakers at membership and executive meetings, and access to the local CIO trade union press. We have established a speakers bureau, and within a month have fulfilled 15 speaking engagements, reaching about 1200 people; other speaking engagements are pouring in. One neighborhood mass meeting has been held, under the auspices of the Upper West Side Citizens Committee. Representative Coffee, author Allen Chase, a veteran of the ALB, and WJZ radio commentator Gailmor spoke.

Mickey Lanser, wife of Manny Lanser, is organizing other such neighborhood meetings and we hope to have three others under way in the next few weeks. The campaign includes the use of petitions, postcards and letters. Buttons, bearing the slogan, "Break Relations with Fascist Spain" will be used extensively. A statement on breaking relations with Fascist Spain, issued by the Vets and sponsored by several hundred individuals will soon be ready for publication as an ad in the New York Times, besides serving as a basis for publicity throughout the country. A pamphlet on the new situation in Spain, and why it is to the interests of our nation to adopt a true democratic policy in regard to Spain is at the press.

Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
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