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Issued by the
Veterans of
the Abraham
Lincoln Brigade

VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Dear Vets:

Before you see this, we will have broken into print in a pretty big way. The New York Times, the Herald Trib, the Chicago Sun, the CIO News are carrying 1/4 page ads containing an anti-Franco statement issued by the VALB and supported by a long list of big names, including Joseph E. Davies, Vincent Lopez, Thomas Mann, Canada Lee, James Thurber, Quentin Reynolds, -- but you will get a copy. Not only you, but some 1500 newspapers, organizations, and individuals including all Congress, etc., and not counting a mass distribution of at least 30,000. A bit of a splash, we hope.

Leona Thompson (Bob's wife), who rehabilitated some of you guys when she worked in the Friends, is now in the office organizing a big Hotel Commodore dinner for April 11th, Objective: 1000 people, a juicy collection, and the widest publicity for our work.

On May 17th, we intend to move into our annex for a large Memorial Meeting. This meeting will pay honor to the memory of Herman Bottcher, but will of course include a tribute to all of our men lost in the battle against Fascism from February 27, 1937 to the present.

Within the next two weeks, we expect to have from the press our Pamphlet entitled "Fascist Spain -- America's Enemy." We hope to do a real job of distribution and have been practically challenged to do so by an order already received from Roy Sheehan for 1000 copies for the L.A. post. (Newly-organized Bottcher Post, Chicago) (Hy Tabb, Commander) and Merriam Post (Harold Smith, Commander) (This is the West Coast Smith) please take note. Bob Taylor writes things are stirring in Detroit.

In the meantime we have pulled in some money and spread the good word by the sale of buttons marked "Break Relations with Fascist Spain." 10,000 went like hot cakes. Fact is, we were caught short, and are having to turn 'em away, pending receipt of our 25,000 re-order.

Work in the office is now being carried on by Sophie Goff, Celia Saperstein, Judith Roudon, and Leona Thompson. And, of course, me, grimly barricaded as one of the last of the old guard bachelors, outnumbered six to one.

We are getting more and more help all the time from our local vets, as the Spanish situation thickens and as our activities convince the guys that we really need their help. Aside from the indispensable Harold, and the incomparable Nils, who have been steadies for a long time, others who are now active include: Phil Crane (who buzzed the trade unions for us), Dick Fine (who works on Finances), Murray Schweiner and Maynard Goldstein (who are rallying the Bronx), Ben Iceland (who is helping with translations), Marion Greenspan (on the Information Bulletin), Marty Friedman (on Finance Committee), besides a number of additional guys on the Exec., (Lennie Levinson, Bill Aalto, Erwin Wagner, Max Schwartzberg, Al Prago). Also working with us nowadays are a number of your wives (and with your help, there will be more); Mickey Lansen, Junith Toutloff, Paula Berman, Evelyn Carsman, and some of our old friends whose names you will be glad to see again; Charlotte Honig, Mrs. Wolman, Mrs. Freed, Mrs. Mizzy, Irene Rubens, Dan Shaw, and others perhaps not so familiar to you.

We've been covering quite a few meetings, though not enough. Swell NMU meeting, but that's hardly news. Here's one that is news. Guy arranging his Rotary Club Luncheons needs speaker for Lincoln's Birthday. Looks in phone book. Finds "Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Veterans of." Phones. P.S. I spoke. Had them breathless waiting to find out which side I fought on.

Oh, and I have another important meeting coming up -- The Young Peoples' Citizens Committee for Action, organized by Irv Fajan's brother-in-law (age 11). Greetings and Salutations from all here to all everywhere.

Have to close now. Must catch the Washington train. Am on a little delegation to see Representative Sol Bloom of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dave White

IN MEMORIAM

KILLED AT LEYTE	Capt. Herman Bottcher	December 11, 1944
" " "	Andrew Miltiades	"
" " "	Dave Altman	January 15, 1945
KILLED IN EUROPE	Capt. Julius A. (Doc) Hene	December 23, 1944

"Our Victory is Your Vengeance"

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC

Thanks for the book, which I got yesterday, and the British Vets' magazine, and the November Volunteer. Ben Gardner is a loss - a real swell guy.

Not much news from my particular bailiwick. We've been doing a Jimmy Higgins job and have missed most of the fun. The respect for the Russians, great as it already was, mounts daily. But it's a magnificent performance all around, East, West, and Pacific.

Got to close now. Salud,

Albert Robbins, MM3c

This is a rather belated acknowledgment of the various things I have received from you at this end of the line. The "Volunteer" has been coming steadily and a wonderful job is being done on it.

We have recently finished maneuvers and are packing for P.O.E. The general reaction is - it's about time! If you have any of the Vets pins about the office I sure would like to take one with me. Last - do I owe any money to the Vets? This last I would appreciate knowing.

Yours,

Richard Thompson

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

I sent by ordinary mail the Stars and Stripes with the notice of the Death of Herman Bottcher. There is really very little that I can write about for I do not go around much and in this very far-in-the-rear type of outfit the interest and conversation are usually not fit to print. I visit the I.B. office in London frequently. I see Ann Murray more often for she manages a day nursery, and I like to play with the kids. Salud,

Sgt. John A. Lockett

Please note change in address. I am receiving your bulletins, etc. regularly and with great interest. I am no longer doing orientation work - got shanghaied to North Ireland for three months where I sat on my fanny or travelled about seeing the country and people. Now back in England with an assignment and hopes of a more active one. The news of the good work our boys are doing on the various battle fronts was most encouraging and thrilling. The excerpts from various newspapers is a particular good feature. I had a long talk with Sam Wild and he sends his best to you all. Fraternally,

Sgt. Wm. Gandall



We had two very welcome visitors from the South Pacific - Nat Gross and Milton Weiner, who brought us first hand news of the battles of the South Pacific. Nat was in pretty good shape when he came and boasted of being one of the very few who had not come down with Malaria - until he went to Atlantic City to complete his recuperating period, when lo! and behold, a call comes in that he is in the hospital with a case of Malaria. Fortunately, the attack did not last long, and Nat is now on the way to Georgia.

Milt is stationed in Utica Hospital where he's undergoing treatment for his arm - banged up during South Seas skirmish. We see him quite often, however, since he comes into the city week-ends. Milt is making up for lost time - and judging by his cheery face and rosy cheeks, we would say he is doing all right. His other arm is very much o.k. He had a scrumptious blonde tucked under it - last time we saw him.

There was a collective house party for Nat, Milt, Dave White, incoming exec. sec'y, and Leonard Lamb, outgoing exec. sec'y, (Len shipped out). The party served as reunion for some of the vets around the organization, and hot discussions were carried on on military and political strategy as in the good old days. Both Milt and Nat have had personal incidents to relate of Herman Bottcher which were used in our press releases. Another distinguished visit was that of Jack Bjoze. Looking tanned and streamlined, but gets a longing look when he sees the work of the office. The Army Medics have put thumbs down on overseas service for him.

Dick Sherod is in the Veterans Hospital at Oteen, N.C. - write to him. Hy Rosner is back in town now, discharged from the hospital. Hy, as you probably know, lost a leg in an accident aboard ship. Now Hy is trying to get work on the home front where he can help the war effort.

Leslie Kish dropped into the office the other day on way to Morrison Field... Harry Noble is now on way to a Sioux City, Iowa Camp... Jack Teiger was in on leave

with his Baltimore wife... Also Arthur Harris and Joe Rehil of the Merchant Marine.

From the war fronts we received word that Toots Fajans and Vince Losowsky are down with yellow jaundice - the old reliable disease. Saully Wellman was badly wounded and is now in a Liverpool hospital undergoing a series of operations. Shrapnel in his lung. Got it at Bastogne - eyewitness accounts say he did a swell job as was to be expected. Any one around that area who can get to see him, can get the address from the I.B.A. in London - or write to him: Corp. S. Wellman, 42044890, U.S. Army Hospital, Plant 4189, APO 209, PM, N.Y., N.Y. Also heard from Irv Mitchell who is in Belgium - Bill Gandall, John Lockett, Crawford Morgan, from England.. Al Robbins, John Hovan, Ben Holzman, Ed Koll, and Tom Page.

We hope more of the boys will write in telling us what they're doing and where. And don't lose patience with us if you don't hear from us as soon as you should - There aren't too many of us around back here.

News from the home front - Birth announcements: Sgt. Irv Rappaport is the father of a 2nd daughter, Nancy, born Jan. 6. And Irv Soloway is the proud papa of a newly born son - Thomas Ion, Jan. 24. We are hereby extending our mazeltov and best wishes.

Ruby Kaufman is now with the Chicago SCMWA. Al Prago is working full time with the Jefferson School in N.Y. Nils Berg is doing well in the advertising field - he's now doing "Quick, Henry, the Flit"! Irving Goff has a good case of scabies. Stanley Postek is the father of a son. Bill Stencil is infanticipating in May. It's his second.

Sid Cohen - Canadian Vet in once more on his bi-monthly leave.

Let us know your new address when you move.

WOPWA
60-013
1-54

SERVICIO DE CORREO



I am asking for some information about our Comrade Bottcher. As you know by now that he was badly wounded and died, fighting the Japanese murderers of humanity. He was a great anti-fascist fighter and was loved by every one that knew his name, and the men and officers that he served with in the 32nd Recon. Troop. His name will always be remembered, and spoken by his men that served with him in New Guinea and in Leyte, operating behind the Nip lines. Even the Nips that were captured by his Recon. Troops, admitted that he was a brave and great fighter.

My officers asked me about his past, and trying to get as much information as possible about him, because they want to write a biography of him as a fighting soldier and officer of the 32nd Division.

B. Wawrzykowski

Somewhere in Belgium

I suppose you know that I was in on the Ardennes deal. It was quite a ruckus, but compared to what the Russians are doing right now, we were playing a polite game of croquet.

The outfit was attached to one of the Airborne divisions for the operation, and I tried to look up Saully Wellman. Not knowing his address, however, I may have been with a bunch other than his.

How about sending me his mailing address? Things are looking up these days, and I hope we second Uncle Joe's motion pretty soon. If we do, and break through, it shouldn't be too long before we can shake hands with the Russkis. Give my regards to all.

Lt. Lawrence Cane

Somewhere in Italy

Congratulations to you and to the new committee. No need to tell you that we are extremely enthusiastic about your plans for Spanish work. We all feel that the liberation of Spain from Franco and the Phalange will be the only true tomb-

stone for world fascism. Really sealing the grave, in a manner of speaking.

May interest you to know that our old Brigade Commander, Valledor, is now in command of a Division of Spanish Maquis fighting in the foothills of the Pyrenees (Spanish foothills). Almost unbelievable the way that guy gets around. Unfortunately, the situation here is such that we are unable to get more dope on what is going on. I managed a very brief contact with a group of Spanish fighters in France. Optimism was running high amongst them at that time, and they were speaking in terms of weeks. The actual situation looks somewhat grimmer now but the whole thing is alive with possibilities. I am sure that they will work out some method of doing the job.

No real news from us either. Toots and Ski are suffering from the familiar occupational disease, incipient ulcers and that is about all. Everybody is working overtime trying to keep up with the everchanging situations and some times we are ahead of ourselves and sometimes in arrears...but generally... why go on in this vein?

As close as I can figure it there is nothing in the way of report to tell you that you don't read in the papers, and if there were it would probably be untellable until after the war. What I started out to do in this letter is thank you for the material that has come our way and to urge that you send it more frequently. Salud y Victoria,

Lt. Milt Wolff

Somewhere in Germany

I sit here a-listening to the dits and dahs in the scout car somewhere in Germany - yep, here I am in der fuehrer's land. Well, I hardly have to tell you just how it feels. All I can say is that I feel fit and fine and anxious. As you know, this Division has been named the "Spearhead Division" and I assure you that we really lived up to it. Things are certainly shaping up for the

final blow -- our wonderful Allies are sure keeping the bastards on the run. You know, I haven't received a "Volunteer" for the past few months. I sure do miss it as I hunger for news about the vets. I ran into a former commandante in France who was living with a Basque family. We sure had a swell time and both agreed that the "cabron" Caudillo's days were numbered. We then Viva's La Republica over a good dose of Calvados. I found my Spanish was a little stale and I kept mixing it up with my French. Salud y Victoria,

Pvt. Maxie Parker

From California

This is about time I wrote to you and I have been meaning to do it about three weeks now, but can never settle down to do it, so now I'll endeavor to give you all the dope I can, and I hope to hear from you by return mail with all the dope, too.

I have met a lot of Vets since I got here -- as much as I have known in N.Y. We had a party given by the Vets together with a JAFRC and it was quite a success. It was a college and professional crowd and a good time was had by all. I was surprised to see how the people's interest in the Veterans was still so alive. We were entertained by Niacomo Patri, a well known artist here, brought a group of players and singers for the entertainment. I led the party in singing the Vets' recordings, and then auctioned the records off for 15 bucks. If I could have told another dirty joke, I would have got \$20 for them, but the host got nervous and told me to grab the 15 bucks before the guy changed his mind. Steve Nelson spoke on the role of the Vet and the main outlook in Spain. It was a small house party, but we took in \$230 for JARC. We are planning another party to be given by the Vets for Spain on Lincoln's Birthday, and if I am still around I will let you know what is what. Among the Vets who attended were Harold Smith (the West Coast Smith), Mark Billings, Dick Cloke, John Panasevich, Steve Nelson, Don MacLeod, Wilbur Wellman, Steve Trogl. Also ran into Bob Klonsky and William Baily.

Al Sanford, one of our first aid men, is in the Marine Hospital, 2635 Wakefield Avenue, Oakland. Drop him a line -- Steve Troxyl, our barber on the Jarama,

has been a hair stylist for the Waves at the Shoemaker Naval Hospital for the past year. He hopes to cut hair on a battleship or a flat top before the war is over.

William Baily is a tough guy to catch up with. All I saw of him was his picture in the local paper -- and here is where I got a beef coming. It is a sore point with some of our Vets. Here it is -- I can't understand why our fellows who hold the rank of Lt. and Lt. Commander in the Merchant Marine refuse to wear their uniform, or as some I have met either are ashamed or timid about wearing their gold braid to an affair. It certainly is no discredit to be seen in a Maritime Commission uniform, and would do us no harm to wear it. We certainly take pride in the fact that our fellows make the grade in the Army and even take pains to advertise the fact, so I think that Merchant Mariners should drop a little of that rugged individualism and polish up their brass and gold. That is what 20 months in the Navy does to you, but you get to resent sloppiness in our fellows, which they mistake for independence, or what?

I met Bob Klonsky at Steve's house. He is a tank driver waiting to go some place.

After the year I spent with the Demolition Unit, I never got to go across. The guys who went in my place hit Normandy on D-day, and out of 30 men, 2 hit the beach alive and are now back in the states in a hospital. So I was transferred back to the Seabees from the Amphibs and assigned to a Diesel Generator installation Team made up of four men each. I was supposed to go in July, then August, then all set to go in Oct., when our C.O. got sick and they had to send another outfit in our place. Here I am, just standing by and waiting for the word to go, since August. I hope they are not that way when it comes to sending us back. I am preparing to do a lot of reading and studying and little talking -- have already got a study course in Japanese, Chinese, and Russian lined up to take out with me.

It looks like the Anti-Franco Drive is really getting around. I am enclosing a piece from the local paper. It sounds like the heat is on when we can hear it out here - all the way from N.Y.

Regards to all the gang,

Harry Hakam, CEM

I got the Volunteer and all the other stuff. I didn't get much chance to read it because I was busy as all hell, and now that I'm in a position to read it, I haven't got it any more. We had a pretty rough deal for a while, but all is well now.

Having a belated Xmas party, and anyway there's nothing to write now. As soon as things become writeable, I'll write a real letter. Salud,

Pfc. Norman Berkowitz

This is the fifth branch of the service I have been in and the first time it comes of my asking. The army considered it a voluntary affair for men over 30 if they wished to be transferred to the infantry, or not. As you know for me it was a question of sounding up or piping down. I took the only course possible for one fighting and living in the present and dreaming of the vows taken in the valley of Jarama.

I joined the infantry in the middle of Dec. and went to the front just before Xmas - need I say where I was? I spent 25 days in the lines and I am now on my last day of a 4 day rest. My old complaint of not hearing shells or mortar bombs or small arms has been completely satisfied. I do not regret the transfer or my lot, on the contrary I am quite satisfied. I can make no bones about it. It has been pretty rugged especially on the physical end. Otherwise not insufferable.

As you can see advancement has been fairly rapid. I made S/Sgt in two weeks and I am now a Platoon Guide. Which makes me feel that I am doing my job pretty good and having it recognized. I will extend my utmost to keep it up. Sincerely,

Tony De Mayo

Somewhere in France

Haven't written before, because we've

been constantly on the go, and mail from home seemed to always remain a lap behind.

At present, however, we are stationed "somewhere in France" close enough to the front to have a bronze star on my E.T.O. ribbon. We are still playing nurse maids to those once invincible Aryan supermen.

The Volunteer keeps arriving late but regularly. It's a great help in keeping me informed. I'm looking forward to that new digest magazine. It should go over big.

We've got some FFI men pulling guard with us. They're a swell bunch of guys. They really hate the Nazis. Most all the French people I've spoken to seem to be very bitter toward them, for that matter. And toward the American, they have nothing but affection. They are only lukewarm about the British, tho. My very best to the bunch. Salud!

Jack Boxer

Pleased would be an understatement in reference to your letter. I'm splendid, living in a Chateau, no less.

The supplements to the Volunteer are a must, with events moving with such rapidity, even they may not be topical upon arrival.

By the way I hope to have a new APO soon. Infantry, no less - almost time I think, but more in detail soon. Salud!

Pvt. Thomas Page

Somewhere in Italy

Got the Volunteer for Liberty, also the CIO News, thanks. Thanks also for the subscription to Readers Scope. Know I will enjoy it.

Been seeing a little action here. As the rest of the boys say, not it is in our time to give the Nazi some of the stuff they threw at us in Spain. Here we have the planes and guns. In fact the only time he comes out with his planes is at night. At least I don't have to sweat out bombing from the air.

Haven't seen any of the guys here yet. Hope to get around to do it soon. Regards to all. Salud,

Pfc. Joe Luftig

From California

It's been a long time since I wrote but I have been very busy; as you can see by my new address I'm in the states. I've been overseas since June 1943 and it sure was good to get back.

I got back off leave the 11th of last month, and I can truthfully say I had the best time of my life. I also was glad to get back here after spending 30 days in Cleveland, not that I dislike home, but because I had enough fun to last me a couple more years. That was the first time I had any leave since 1941.

I'm ready to go to sea again; I like sea duty better than base duty. I spent 8 months in a relief crew at Midway Island and damned near went mad there; nothing but sand and birds, no women either. We did get our beer daily but was green beer and 3.2%.

There isn't much more for me to say so I'll sign off. Best regards to all the Vets.

I have been receiving the Volunteer regularly, thanks a million.

Frank J. Lukas, MOMM 3c

With the Ninth Army

There is a bit of a lull tonight, no work, no nothing, so I guess that I will get off a couple of letters. Snowing like hell outside and it isn't fit weather for man or beast. We have been going at a pretty steady pace since the Nazis started their big push. Being in the Ninth Army we were not in the path of it but it certainly brought us to our feet with a bang. The same tendency to underestimate or overestimate still exists, but I think that the events of the past three weeks will help to stabilize some of our pendulum thinkers. We are at work preparing for any eventualities or any tricks that the bastards might pull. We are now applying a few of the lessons learned in Spain. All of the men in my outfit are firmly convinced that this will be turned to our advantage and might go a long way towards shortening the war here. We are a little groggy from the first few punches, but looks like we are catching on quick and giving it back. There is a damn good angry feeling among the men now. Even in this beat up and tired outfit there is a feeling that the Jerries have gone too far and now we will

hold no punches. The Nazis recent actions have shaken a lot of silly notions about playing the game according to the rules.

Gene Morse is back in the outfit again and seems to be getting along fine. He is in one of the other line companies and we are not able to get together very often. Saw him yesterday for a while, and we swapped stories and had a couple of drinks that he managed to scavenge some place. I don't know if he has written to you recently, but he has some interesting tales to tell. Had quite a time with the FFI when we were back in France. That guy sure gets around. We hope to get a pass together someday and do a little snooping around. How do you like my proud possession, a portable type-writer, the best the Jerries can offer. Wanted one all my life, and now I have to guard it with my life. Well, I must close now. There is not too much to say these days except we are all looking forward for the day that this job is over and we can get down to other jobs. Fraternally,

Cpl. Alvin R. Warren

Somewhere in Germany

Just a few lines to say hello. Both Al and myself are o.k. We see each other once in awhile - not often since we're in different companies.

It's pretty cold, but we have plenty food, clothing and equipment, so all in all, it's not too bad.

Thanks for the stuff you sent. It's well received. Regards to all the bunch. Gene Morse

From Mississippi

Especially was I sorry to hear of Sid Rosenblatt. I remember him well at "First" Belchite. There were just a handful of us and Dave Doran, Merriman and Robbie gave us a little pep talk in the grain mill, and told us to get out and take the church. Lennie Lamb and Manny Lanser and Bill McCarthy ought to remember it well. What a time we had then. And, before that, in Quinto, Sid and a group of us scrounged around in the stores while the fascists still held the town. We really got a lot of stuff to eat and wear. Then, when one of our patrols got stuck in town, we helped

them out and carried our wounded out. Robbie gave us hell for not staying put. We were just a bunch of kids he used to worry over. I'll probably never forget Sid. He was a hell of a good soldier in more ways than one. Salud,

Cpl. Jack L. Teiger

Somewhere in England

Just a note to say hello, and to let you know I am in the best of health.

I am somewhere in England, and I am very pleased. The people here are very nice and friendly, and for the first time since I've been in the Service, I have Englishmen paying for my beer. They insist.

I really don't have anything to say but just wanted you to know where I am.

Salud,

Pfc. Crawford Morgan

From Rhode Island

I must admit inexcusable neglect in not writing you sooner. I am now back in the States after about twenty-seven months in the Pacific. I am in good health and am now stationed here at Camp Endicott. I do not know how long it will be before I ship overseas again.

I have been receiving the Volunteer and other reading material you have been so thoughtful to send me. Believe me, all of it had many readers before it was worn out. I wish to continue getting whatever you can send me. One certainly needs to read plenty to keep abreast of the fast moving events. Please change my address in your files.

My sincerest best wishes to all.

Yours for a victorious 1945. Salud,

John G. Hovan, MM3c

Somewhere in New Caledonia

Greetings from New Caledonia. Many thanks for Howard Fast's "Freedom Road" which arrived over the holidays plus the first edition of "Reader's Scope." Great stuff the latter.

Been also receiving copies of the "Volunteer". It certainly has kept me abreast of what the gang is doing.

At present I'm entering my third year overseas and doing a type of work which is a far cry from what I did "over there." I must say, however, the work is inter-

esting, it revolves around nefarious activities including the stamping out of the black market.

Must be pretty cold back home. Meanwhile we here drip sweat and look forward to cooler days. Thanks again, and

Salud y Victoria

Sgt. Joe Sacal

From Kwajalein

Here I was cussin' my wife out for sending everything but the kitchen sink to me for Christmas, and I see now that the digest mag (Readers' Scope) was from you! Thanks a great deal. This Kwajalein life is softern all hell, and I was darn lucky with my presents, so you can see I am the lucky guy. I saw Jack Teiger's name mentioned; how's about a word or two from him. How come he got back in with that trigger finger of his shot away? Last I remember it was all bandaged up, with the docs picking more scrap out of it than you'd find on one of our beaches. Note my address: Sgt. etc., 301 Depot Repair Sqdn. APO 241. I'm still a radio repairman - a tinkerer with the gadgets that baffle everyone, including ourselves, and a flying operator, to boot. In addition, am more than somewhat sun struck. Been here about some eighteen months and dreaming of furloughs. Got the damn handsomest son in the east, too. Seriously, I do want Jack Teiger's address - and Al Stone's, if anyone has it.

Sgt. Frank Richards

Stephansville, Newfoundland

Here I am returned from furlough, but must regret not being able to get down to see you in spite of my efforts as in spite of my previous plans.

Two things happened which made it quite impossible to get down to the office. First of all, I was distracted by my newly born son who is now two months old. But in spite of that I could have still made it were it not for the fact that amidst all the joy we received the bad news of the loss of my kid brother Ben who was in New Guinea. After that announcement, it was necessary for me to be with my Mother and Dad until I had to leave from my furlough....

Sgt. Louis Bortz