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# VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Dear Vets:

The big news of the month has been, of course, the great Washington battle on red-baiting in the armed forces. It all started with the testimony of John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, before the House Military Affairs Committee (Feb. 27) in which he stated:

"A man's willingness, and in many cases his eagerness, to train himself for and to engage in hazardous employment in the Army, the testimony of his commanding officer, the judgement of his fellow soldiers after observation and questioning of the man himself, all afforded in my judgement more reliable material on the issue of the man's loyalty than the general doubtful evidence of membership in an organization or attendance at meetings alleged to have been Communist."

McCloy used Herman Bottcher as an example, though he did not refer to him by name, concluding, "This man proved his loyalty, regardless of what the War Department might have found."

Naturally, all this nearly gave Col. McCormick apoplexy. The following day the Chicago Tribune provided the House Committee with "the names of 10 army officers, about whose communist connections there can be little question." Including Milt Wolff, Irv Goff, Irv Fajans, Jerry Cook, Vince Lossovski, Harry Schoenberg, and Dick Kenny. (Three non-Vets somehow or other got their names included!)

A McCormick stooge (Elston of Ohio) used this ammunition before a later meeting of the House Committee, and got slapped down by no less a person than Major General Clayton Bissell, the head of G-2. "The Army's files show the loyalty of each of these officers," stated Bissell, going over the men's records in detail and noting that all were excellent, nine of them in battle.

It is clear that this strong and good position taken by top Army and War Department figures has a significance that extends far beyond the question of our men. Some of the contribution made by the Vets (and the office under Jack Bjoze) in campaigning for the right to active military service -- and in chalking up such fine records -- is evident in Major General Bissell's following words:

"Most of these charges are made on the flimsiest grounds. By implication the Army is asked to consider every member of the United Electrical and Radio Workers as Communist, and every member of the Transport Union and every person who ever interviewed Marshal Tito."

Several hundred really prominent Americans, supporting the War Department position that in granting commissions and making assignments, "the basic consideration is not the propriety of the individual's opinions; but his loyalty to the United States," signed a statement issued by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. "The virulent opposition of the Chicago Tribune, Congressman Rankin and other divisive forces," this statement declares, "must not be permitted to block the War Department's sound democratic decision."

A really important milestone in the battle against the No. 1 weapon of fascists everywhere, red-baiting. The climax was Bissell's emphatic declaration, the strongest blow ever struck in our country on this question:

"These officers have shown by their deeds that they are upholding the United States by force and violence."

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"The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade invite you to a Dinner honoring the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Republic of Spain, crushed by fascism and soon to rise again. Hotel Commodore - Wednesday, April Eleventh - 6:45 P.M."

Several thousand of such invitations are now in the mail, and we are hard at work, arranging our program, and phoning and visiting people to ask them to organize tables of guest. We are doing all in our power to make the occasion as broad as possible, and to see to it that, both among speakers and guests, past differences, while not exactly forgotten, are not permitted to stand in the way of present united work for our common objective -- the breaking of relations with Franco and the rebuilding of a free, democratic Spain.

We are working for an attendance at the Dinner of a thousand people. The speakers will be Congressman John M. Coffee, Congressman A. Clayton Powell, Jr., Diana Forbes-Robertson, Ralph Bates, and Bob Thompson. Mr. Bates will speak as the representative of the Friends of the Spanish Republic, the committee which ran the January 2nd Garden meeting. (Your current Executive Secretary now sits on this committee as your representative.) There is a good chance that R. J. Thomas, President of the UAW and head of the CIO delegation to the London World Labor Conference, and/or Vincente Lombardo Toledano may be added to the list of speakers within the next few days.

To date our 1/4 page ad has appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, and La Prensa. Appearance in two or three other papers is still pending. The response, both in funds and in letters to Congress, has been very good.

We are printing up 50,000 leaflets containing the text of the ad and the full list of signatures, such as enclosed herewith.

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After many delays, we have at last got our News Letter rolling. Thought you'd like to see one of the issues. From time to time you'll be sent issues of special interest, but since it appears once a week, we won't undertake to send you every one.

Since the last Volunteer, our re-order of "Break Relations with Fascist Spain" buttons has come in. And a pretty good number have gone out again -- onto lapels. But still no pamphlet. For some time it has been out of our hands, set up and ready to run off. All we can do now is struggle with the printer. C'est la guerre.

We are sending out letters to trade unions and mass organizations, proposing that they set aside a Spain Week during April for discussion of the Spanish situation, especially as it affects the United States now and for the future, and for action on the Coffee Resolution. As for May, by the next Volunteer we will have something to report concerning our proposed Bottcher Memorial Meeting.

Here in New York there has been a considerable amount of community activity on Spain. Almost without exception, the committees have been extremely broad and the meetings and other activity successful beyond our expectation. In Manhattan Beach, for example, the committee includes two Negro Ministers, one of the leaders of the local Chamber of Commerce, a Zionist leader, the local Democratic Party leader, two officials of the CDVO, three prominent Rabbis, two outstanding civic leaders, and a well-known local business man. This committee has issued a petition on the Coffee Resolution which has been taken into churches, synagogues, and a wide variety of local organizations. A really effective educational job is being done in this community.

In other places, well-attended meetings have taken place, some of them traditionally "difficult" communities. Thus recently in Brooklyn Heights, Williamsburg, Lower East Side Manhattan, etc.

Office Personnel Dept: Leona Thompson has been forced by circumstances beyond her control to hand over the organization of the Dinner to Millicent Ellis. Celia Saperstein is leaving us to go into a war plant. Her place is being taken by



Ida Lifshitz, whom many of you will remember from the old Spanish Aid Committee. We lose with regret and add with pleasure.

Most active Post continues to be L.A. but an order has just come in for a sizable amount of material from the Bottcher Post in Chicago. Still waiting to hear what is what with the Merriman Post (Oakland) and the Detroit guys.

Seems like every time I wind up one of these letters I run off to Washington. Curious. But here we go again. Salud!

## SIM

We have good news to report -- Saully Wellman is back from England, where as you know, he had gone thru a number of operations to extract shrapnel from his pericardium (sac around his heart, for your information). He landed in Nyack a few days ago and is being assigned to a chest center for recuperation. Saully hopes to get a furlough from there to be with his family and see his friends.

Milty Weiner is now at the Halloran hospital -- promised to come to see us week-ends, but it looks like the blonde has preference. Can you blame him?

Got the surprise of our lives when Freddie Keller called up the other day. He had told us so many times that he was going overseas, that nobody believed it was actually Freddie. We finally believed him, when he came into the office, smiling as usual and back on the chubby side. This time he says, he's definitely leaving the country.

Johnny Gates did finally make it. We haven't heard from him as yet, but the chances are he's in the European theatre of war.

Charlie Keith is back after a 9 month trip -- spent part of it in Italy. Charlie is looking fine and ready to ship again.

Arthur Bartl is back from Italy. Arty broke 3 ribs in an accident and was shipped home for convalescence.

Bob Thompson is back on his feet after a pretty bad attack of malaria.

We hear Sid and Ben Levine finally managed to get together in Oahu and spent joyous hours swapping stories. Now they must be going thru the same process with Frank Richards who is also on that island.

This column wouldn't be complete without a birth notice -- this time it's the Haggerty's of Los Angeles -- the proud parents of an 8 lb. 4 oz. son named Steve Ross.

"....Here's the latest dirt: -- Larry O'Toole was over to see us Feb. 12" --he was to get married next day..... "I was working aboard a ship this 13th day of Feb. and was overcome with Carbon monoxide gas. It sure looked like curtains for me, but I woke up amidst cops and oxygen bottles...however, everything is going alright again. Will be laid up for a while though. Remember me to all hands and see you soon."--Jim Murphy.

"....The vets would be interested in knowing that the partisans fighting in Northern Italy are no longer called Partisans, but officially named "Volunteer della Libertà" (Volunteers for Liberty) -- the Gallo influence, no doubt." Irv Goff.

Frenchie Robinson is back in town from a few months trip -- "Curley" Mendelowitz was in; also Roy "Red" Mouton and Irv Frankel of the Merchant Marine.



# SERVICIO DE CORREO



A very short time ago I arrived "somewhere" in the Philippines, our outfit having spent an extended and boring stay in the Northern Solomons. Among the pleasant and good things I found upon my arrival here was a V-mail letter from you written on New Year's Eve.

I haven't been here long enough to know much about the place or the people but all my original impressions have been good. First of all, after many months, and I mean many, of seeing only G.I.'s, it's a wonderful change to see children and women and civilian men (the older ones.). The Filipinos are very alert and intelligent and it is easy to conceive how good a life they will make for themselves as soon as they get the opportunity. They are extremely friendly and have a lot of admiration for Americans and on our way of doing things. Then too, we must look especially good to them after their experiences with the Japanese occupation. For the first time since I've been overseas, I've seen the war in some of its aspects of impact on human life and aspirations. Up to now it's only been a matter of very brief periods of combat in isolated jungle island, and then just hanging on and praying for a move to another sector.

Two days separate this new paragraph from the above. In that time the "Volunteer" arrived and also the papers on the latest situation in Spain and the new perspectives for our organization. The Volunteer is always a pleasure to read and learn about the activities and whereabouts of the other Vets. As for the conclusions reached about the future work of the VALB, based on recent developments in Spain, I heartily agree with them. The activity outlined can become a distinct contribution to the liberation of Spain, and just as important, an aid to national unity at home in the spirit of Teheran.

If I failed to mention it before I thought that Fast's book was terrific. Twenty other fellows in the battery read it and everyone was greatly impressed with it.

The prospects for the New Year certainly look good and I wish you and the family the best of luck and happiness in the New Year.

Salud,

Cpl. Jesse Wallach

P.S. I just received a clipping telling about the death of Bottcher. We certainly have a right to be proud of what that guy accomplished.

## SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE

Just as you asked I'll let you know that I think of a lot of the Volunteer and look forward to each copy. So if you feel you can get the news quicker via mimeo then I'm all for it. I'm not interested how it's actually put out but how often we can get it.

I want to thank you for the sub to Readers Scope which I have enjoyed reading very much in my spare time.

Got a card from Electronic Corp. of America but as yet no "A Plan for America at Peace."

I believe the last time I wrote you anything was while sweating it out on Anzio. Since then I've come a long long way on the road to Berlin.

After Rome fell we were pulled out and primed for August 15 when we hit So. France. On the way up I had occasion to run into a lot of Spanish FFI's and Maquis that were well thought of by their French comrades in arms. What I liked was the morale and spirit these Spanish fellows had and their determination that when France was free they were ready for the day and hour to resume the battle to free Spain. When we had any news of Spain in our papers I was getting hopeful that these Spanish guerrillas were already on their way hacking at Franco's fortress.

(more)



But for some time now have seen no news at all. That is why I look forward to all mail I get from you.

You know it may sound queer my heading being France. But war such as it is, made it that way. For a few days I spent some time on Superman's land and then came back to stop him from keeping his boast of retaking Alsace from us. I guess the big three have made decisions that will soon have all of us pretty well entrenched in Germany and well on the road to destroying our ancient enemy.

Will close now hoping to get the long overdue February Volunteer.

Salud,

Alex Todorovich

#### SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM

I believe that more than a month ago I piced up my pen to start to write a letter, expressing my enthusiasm at the ever more excellent quality of the Volunteer, and of all the publications you are sending me - and all the Vets, of course. I'm sorry I didn't write you then - your letter on the Garden meeting made me feel good. But the main compliments I wanted to pay are still in my mind. They boil down to this: You are doing (in my opinion) everything possible to keep a guy up to date, and to let him know the various important currents and reactions not only in our country but everywhere.

The mendacity of the bulk of the press the American soldier receives is self-evident when I tell you that so much of it is the Luce publications. I had had hopes that, with the election over, they would abandon their demagogic, anti-Teheran line, but they have instead increased it, aggravated it. But I'm confident of one thing. The deep currents among the American people, and among the soldiers who have witnessed the effects of German fascism, and who have fought the German, and who have been aroused to admiration by the achievements of our Soviet allies, are such as to give the greatest possibility for a lasting triumph of the progressive forces, albeit not without struggle.

How wonderful are the decisions of the Crimea conference. Nothing fundamentally new - but above all, the reaffirmation of Teheran, and the further isolation of the isolationists and fascists in our country. So long as this holds true, so long as this remains the international background for home politics, even such events as the present struggle over Wallace - important as it is, involving though it does the issue of post-war employment - are not of predominant importance. They will be ironed out also, because the groundwork has been laid, on a world scale, for their easier solution.

I do not know if I wrote you telling you we are in Belgium. We were quite busy when we first arrived, although things have changed radically in the city where I am located. However I know many of the Vets must be around here, and I would like you to give me the addresses of Jerry Cook, Larry Cane, and whatever others are in this theatre - Belgium, Holland, Germany and Northern France.

At the risk of repeating what I may have written before (as I said, I don't remember when I wrote you last, the days have been so crowded), I must tell you that contact with the Belgian population made a profound impression on my battalion at least. We came to Belgium at a tense time and found ourselves greeted with joy, when the people did not know whether it would be we or the Germans whom they would see in the streets the next day. The fact that these people have suffered two occupations in 25 years, the wanton destruction of the flying bombs, the profound hatred toward the Germans - all these made their impression. More Americans have thought this impression through than the correspondents generally give credit for, and above all, the mood is there, to stick, and the promise of greater and more democratic contributions by our country.

Write soon.

T/S Irving Weissman



## LETTERS TO ALICE GARDNER

From "Doc" Simon

Dear Alice:

Ben was to become one of the links between the Spanish preliminary and the World War. It was a symbolic and historic role that he played. In preparing for the birth of the new world which is to emerge, his blood was not shed in vain, and his deeds are forever recorded.

As you know, Ben was one of the few boys I knew before I went to Spain. He gave me practical advice which I followed, not realizing how soon he was to join us over there. Back from Spain, we had one or two opportunities to work together, the memories of which are very dear. So Ben's loss is particularly personal to me.

You have the sincerest sympathy of Ruth and me.

John Simon.

FROM BEN'S UNION FRIENDS: -

Dear Alice:

Like all Ben's circle of friends, I was grieved to hear of his passing and you have my deepest sympathy in your sorrow.

You can be proud of Ben. He fought Fascism in the early years before many of us realized our danger, and he stood for decency and progress in our Union.

With kindest regards,

Lou.

Dear Mrs. Gardner:

Lou Schlessinger gave me the sorrowing information that Ben gave his life for the service of our country.

I wish to express my profound sympathy and wish that God may grant you comfort.

I knew Ben well as a fine friend and a splendid unionist. He was always in the forefront of any voluntary effort to make our organization a better union. I called upon him often for aid to our Servicemen's Fund and he never failed me.

I know that you will be pleased to know that the memory of Ben and our other brave fellow workers has been of material benefit to the success of the 6th War Loan Drive and will, we believe serve its part in relieving some other dear wife or mother the heartaches that you have suffered.

Yours sincerely, Ed Galvin,

Chairman, Servicemen's Fund Committee

Italy -

Was somewhat puzzled by a personal greeting from Algiers in the November issue of the Volunteer. Feel sure, however, that the name, "Karol Kornies" is a misspelling of Karl Kormes. I am certainly happy to learn that he is safe in Algiers for Karl is a dear friend of mine and one of the strongest and best in San Pedro. I would very much appreciate getting his address for I would like more information about himself and our other comrades-in-arms who were at the mercy of the sadistic fascists when we left San Pedro.

It was a deep personal shock for me to read of the death of Sid Rosenblatt another vet with whom I spent so much time in San Pedro. Don't know what to say, it's hard to think of the irreplaceable Sidney as dead. Please extend my heartfelt sympathy to Bill, Irene, Al, Mildred, his father, mother, the rest of his family and his many friends.

I think it's swell that so many of the guys are close enough to one another to get together once in a while. I'm particularly envious of the vets in the same unit. Since I've been overseas I have met up with only one. Last time I saw Dave Thurston was about a year ago in North Africa. I was therefore surprised to read in this issue that Dave had been shot down over Roumania. I am glad that he is now at liberty and I hope he had a swell time on furlough. Would like to hear from him. Incidentally, just got an interesting letter from Max Parker who is somewhere in Germany." He was in contact with the heroic FFI and had some interesting experiences.

Found the analysis on "The new situation in Spain" exceedingly interesting. Was able to obtain some information through the press but not so connected and with a lot of gaps. Fully agree that it is most important for us to be as fully cognizant as possible of all developments in Spain. Am looking forward, therefore, to further information. Agree completely with the approach you have outlined and permit me to congratulate the vets on the home front for being on the ball!

Thanks for the subscription for Reader's Scope. It's sure an improvement on Reader's Digest. My best to Carl Geiser, et al.

Salud, Cpl. Hy Wallach



### SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

Glad to hear from you. Especially glad to hear about the "poop" sheets you are sending me.

You'll be pleased to hear that our Stars and Stripes published the story of Franco offering the U.S. and Eng. another anti-Comintern Pact.

"Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

Maxie Silverman wrote me, but I lost his correct address along with yours. I can write you at the old stand though and the letter will get to you.

It was saddening to read about Bottcher finally getting it. He was more of a credit to the Vets than most of us.

In the artillery here we work methodically and carefully as though in a factory. Even if reports of the effect of our artillery fire are taken with several grains of salt, we have eliminated a surprisingly large number of Heinies.

However it takes over a thousand dead Heinies to equal one Bottcher, and as we have lost several such, we must continue to balance the books to the last period. Not a single guilty Nazi must escape.

It is worth enduring all hardships and more, to do this kind of book-keeping. What despicable creatures they are, especially their Hitler Jugend.

In order to save the German nation an extreme kind of surgery will be necessary. That is why an absolute and unconditional surrender is the only solution.

Hope this finds everybody O.K. Regards to everybody.

Salud y victoria,

Capt. Saul I. Birnbaum

### STATES

Howdy,

This is Stuttgart, Arkansas - just in case you've got visions of yours truly setting on his ass in Germany which of course isn't true as I'm doing that very thing down here in the Arkansas. I got back to the States via the rotation plan at the end of December after 31 months in England and France. I was given a 21 day delay enroute to Atlantic City which I spent with my wife (a very swell gal) commuting between New York and Chicago. I managed to drop up into the Vet's office, but it was a mess. You all were moving so I didn't get to see anyone there...just two polite young ladies who were sympathetic and equally noncommittal. I left my name with them so the guys would know I'm back in the States.

I want to thank you for the copy of "Freedom Road". It finally caught up with me and I'm halfway through it already. Excellent. I know all of us appreciate the reading material you send us. I know it's helped me a lot.

My present address is: T/3 Sam Gibbons ASN 16067772 Control Squadron 2nd Tactical Control Group. S.A.A.F. Stuttgart, Arkansas. I don't know how long I'll remain in the States - perhaps six months, maybe the duration. Meanwhile, Reva (my wife) and I are making the best of things down here. (She's got a job in war industry here).

I like the change I've found in the States. The very atmosphere is healthier, more progressive and hopeful. Take for instance, the attitude of all of all classes of people towards the Crimea Conference; the question of post-war unity with our Allies; the tremendous achievements of the Soviet Union; the present Roosevelt Government as it's constituted; et al and so on. Today America takes these things for granted. PAC itself is a wonderful development that has changed many things on the political front here at home. For me, it's a brand new United States. True, we still have skunks like McCormick and Hearst and the fascist scum who attempt in every way they can to sabotage the forces of progress and the war effort. But these elements have fallen on lean times and the pickings aren't so good any more. They're dangerous and powerful, but at last we can meet them on better than equal terms. I realize the tremendous work and effort that has gone into making the present day situation so favorable on even a limited scale internally within our country.

(more)



The Soviet Union made all this possible. The Russians...but you know; everyone of us in this world together can never repay them for what they're doing for humanity.

I'll stop jawing now as already this letter is longer than I think it should be, and I know you're busy and trying to create a real Vet's organization with meetings and all the trimmings.

So long and salud,  
Sgt. Sam Gibons

LUXEMBOURG

Salud Amigos,

The Volunteer which came in the mail yesterday was a most welcome gift and a real source of inspiration. It was like real old times reading all the letters from the guys overseas and at home. I felt real guilty for not having a little contribution of my own in its pages. I'll try to remedy it in the future.

The veil of secrecy about the whereabouts of my outfit has been lifted by the censors. I am now free to say that we are facing the waters of the Sauer River where the Siegfried Line begins. It isn't much of a river. Brings back to me memories of the Ebro. It shouldn't be long before the entire river will be under our control.

The other day I had my first shot at Jerry. The High Command didn't order it. The lieutenant in charge of that sector, and I decided to make it a little hot for the criminals across the river. So we organized a little combat patrol. My squad pumped a few dozen 60mm mortar shells and then we opened up with a machine gun and a BAR and a few M1's. I emptied a few clips myself and I felt good about it. The morale of my squad rose 100%. We returned safely to our lines. That was payment in part for all they have done. I expect to repay them in full for all they have done.

They are sure to get my contribution toward their final defeat, which shouldn't be far off.

The snow which blanketed the countryside has now turned to mud. Spring came early to Luxembourg this year. We have been enjoying the beautiful sunshine but can't say the same about the mud. It's quite annoying to walk along and suddenly your feet sink so deep into the mud that it is impossible to take another step. With the weather as it is it shouldn't be long before big things begin to happen on the Western Front.

My best regards to David, who I understand is back in the saddle again. Regards to everybody and let's hear from you Harold, Nils, Lenny and the rest.

Salud,  
Ian (Sgt. Daniel S. Groden)

West Europe -

Just got the supplement of the Volunteer on the Garden meeting for Spain. It was very interesting, but whatever came of the rest of the Vol? I haven't gotten one in many months.

Met Jack Tweed, who is in my battalion. He was with the British battalion in Spain. I think he is from the West Coast.

Got a letter from Steve Levine, in the Mariannas. He's doing fine.

Please note that I am no longer the only vet who is a private. It took two wars to get out of that class but I finally did it.

Salud  
Corp. Normie Berkowitz

France -

Since my last letter I have been transferred from my old company into an Infantry reinf. pool. After a training period of six weeks I will be assigned to a company already in combat at the front or one about to go into action. From the way things are moving though it looks as if the Russians will finish the Germans, perhaps even before I finish my training. I did want at least one more crack at those Nazis. At any rate I am glad I'm no longer an Escort Guard. I did not like that type of work.

Give my best to whoever is around.  
Pvt. Jack Boxer



France -

Just writing a few lines to let you know I'm still alive and kicking. My outfit's on a relatively quiet sector now, and we're taking as much advantage of it as we can. We had it pretty rough for a while. Except for a little daily shelling, and patrols that we have to make, it's not too bad now.

We're in a pretty interesting place, but due to security reasons, I can't write about it, yet. I'll have some interesting stories when I get back.

What's new back home, and how about sending me a few addresses of some of the vets who are in France. I might run into them like I met Kenneth Shaker. Or if their APO is near mine I may get a chance to look them up.

Well, let's hear from you, and say hello for me to any of the gang that drop in.

Salud,

Harry - (Lt.H.I.Schoenberg)

From the Mariannas -

Received your letter a few days ago and as always was damn glad to hear from you. Have also received a package of literature, with the British Volunteer enclosed. Enjoyed every bit of the various items. Am eagerly looking forward to the next batch, thanks pal.

Congrats on the new office. Sure makes a guy feel good to hear what a swell job you guys are doing on the home front.

Had heard about Bottcher being killed just a day before your letter came. I read about it in an old small town newspaper one of the boys had gotten from home.

Am being kept plenty busy helping to keep these big babies in shape. Our boys are doing a swell job on these raids. Guess we are the best informed outfit in the air force. All of us are told just what occurs on a "strike". This helps to develop that "Gung Ho" spirit that Col. Carlson built his Marine raiders around. It's a true team and all jobs being as equal in importance.

Regards to the gang.

Salud y Victoria,

Steve Levine

States -

I have just returned from a long trip in the S.W. Pacific which ended up with the Philippine invasion.

I saw Herman Bottcher on Red Beach, Leyte, the day his outfit landed and was

able to talk to him for an hour or so before his group moved up to the front. I heard the terrible bad news about him soon after I got back home. "Butch" was a real good guy and comrade.

In knocking around San Francisco I ran into Irving Nachowitz who was with the Lincolns, and found that he had copied a prize for one of his drawings. I'm enclosing the announcement.

I was very pleased to get back and find quite a stack of Volunteers. Keep up the good work.

Salud,

Duncan Keir, Jr.

P.S. I owe some dues. I hope the enclosed 10 bucks will cover them.

Somewhere in England -

Thanks for the fistful of material you sent. It's always good to get such stuff. Helps one to know what's going on and keep perspective. And boy you've got to keep that like food in your stomach.

As you know, was wounded during the German breakthrough. Besides everything else the bastards disrupted a brilliant military career. One tank would have been enough. No! They had to use 4. Feeling good and in fine spirits except that my days of combat and jumping are over. Don't feel too good about that.

Our English friends have been wonderful. Writing regularly and sending plenty of reading matter.

Best regards to everyone,

Cpl. S. Wellman

England -

I received your very informative letter yesterday. I sure was pleased to receive the info that I asked you for. I will look them (the English Vets) up whenever I go up there. I am sure that it will be a very fruitful visit. I should also be able to contact a few of our lads there.

Well, "old man", I am well and in the pink and all that sort of stuff and so far I am very well pleased with things.

I received all of the material that you sent to me. It was the very thing that I wanted. I was sorry to learn that about "Bottcher". I hadn't learned it.

The campaign that you are running is very timely and the desired results should be reached. Keep me posted guy.

Salud y Victoria,

Cpl. Crawford Morgan.



States -

Just a line to let you know that they finally got me. I'm at an infantry replacement camp beginning my 15 weeks of basic training. We're to learn in time, the handling of a number of weapons and after a delay enroute to be sent overseas.

Comradely,  
R. Valuch

From Maryland -

Just a line to request that you bring my address up to date - Tr. A. 27 Sq. 7th Regt. - Ft. Meade, Md. and to state again that I appreciate the monthly shots in the arm arriving from your office, plus the Reader's Scope. It's good to see the VALB expanding, revitalized and preparing for its undoubted significant role in the presently unfolding events in the final liberation of Espana. I'm sure support will be much broader than ever before. Even my CO, certainly no politico, says he admires our foresight in going to Spain.

May try to get up for the Apr. 11th Dinner if I am still around. Meanwhile best wishes.

Salud y victoria,  
Smitty (Owen Smith)

Somewhere in Italy -

Glad to hear from you. I got your V letter also the Volunteer and all the rest of the publications.

Things here in Italy are pretty much at a stand-still. Italy is one heluva country to fight in. It is very mountainous, besides the mud and snow make it difficult for any tank or armor warfare.

The main work here is done, yes, you guessed it, by the infantry. I read about Bottcher in a clipping from the Daily. Remember that song in Spain we used to sing, "Good Soldiers Never Die, They Just Fade Away." That's the way I like to think of it.

Regards to the boys.

Salud,  
Pfc. Joe Luftig

From Washington, D. C. -

It's a long time since I wrote to you, but I've been kind of busy. Now that I'm getting out of school and going to sea I'll have more time to write and think of other things. It's been a pretty tough course but I guess it's about all over now. I'll be finished in 5 weeks and then - out

to sea.

I always wait eagerly for the Volunteer for Liberty. It's really swell and I pass it around.

By the way, I'm getting 2 copies of the Volunteer - one at my house and one at school. Cut out the one at the house and save money.

Nothing much more to write. There is very little to do at a school, but study. So so long until next time, and here's to a speedy and victorious peace.

Salud y victoria,  
Jack Yellin

Somewhere in France -

I am writing to you in receipt of your letter and also your Volunteer for Liberty. It would be nice if you prepared a list of all of the fellows and where they are located. Sometimes we could meet here in the E.T.O. I am in a civil affairs unit somewhere in industrial France. I haven't done much to learn the language and to know the possibilities of future advancement. There are many things to be done here in Europe and probably you get a more overall picture back there. I met an Italian fellow who is at a town not far from here. He was in the Garibaldi outfit, who fought Mussolini's gang down in Spain. Otherwise I haven't seen a lot of the boys. Hoping soon for Victory and a better world,

Cpl. Edwin L. Koll.  
P.S. Thanks for the books and everything.

France -

Have received your articles on Greece and the UE pamphlet and they came in very handy. However, I would like to get some stuff on the other boys and see how they're coming. Please note the new address very carefully, and act accordingly. We've just been regrouped and had our name changed altho its practically the same outfit that has gone through the European campaign. I just read Ted Allan's article in "Collier's" and was very interested. If he can make Collier's, it's a very good sign.

We were in the Calmar pocket campaign and there were some very warm spots, especially when we bridged the Calmar Canal. A few days ago I ran into Andre Malraux, the French writer (he commands an F.F.I. brigade) and we had a nice long talk.

Fraternally,  
Sgt. Neil Wesson