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Veterans of
the Abraham
Lincoln Brigade

VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

MAY DAY 1947 by JACK BJOZE

May Day grew out of the fight in this country for an eight hour day. Workers downed their tools and marched to demand an end to the slave hours. In 1886, the leaders of the Chicago strikes for the eight hour day - Parsons - Fischer - and Engel, died on the gallows. Since the first May Day, American labor has fought many battles. On the railroads, in the mills, in the mines, in auto--against strike-breakers, goons, troops, tear gas and guns. And workers have emerged from each battle better organized and more powerful.

Organized labor has accepted the challenge of organized capital. The nation wide strikes to maintain living standards for workers in auto, steel, electrical, telephone and hundreds of other industries, have gained labor the support of millions of Americans who realize that what helps labor helps them too. These Americans look to labor to lead them in the fight against fascism which is establishing a foothold on this continent.

On May 1, 1947, labor marches under the slogans "For jobs, peace and civil rights." (In addition, we have our own slogan to fulfill, one which embodies the International solidarity which we symbolized in Spain, "Freedom for the Spanish people.") To win these demands, the unity of all people is needed. May Day, 1947 provides the opportunity for American labor to show to the employers and to the Government and to the world that we stand united for a world free from want and free from war. Labor is determined to win this new world.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade again will lead the May Day Parade in N.Y. All vets are expected to march. You will receive further notification as to mobilization point and time.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT IMPORTANCE, WE REPRINT IN THIS
ISSUE, THE SPEECH OF ANTONIO MIJE TO THE IB'ERS IN
LONDON.

EDITORIAL BOARD.....Harold Smith, Editor- Milton Wolff - Jack Bjoze

..... An Interview with Seaman Joe Sands

Joe Sands dropped into the office today. He has just come back from a Mediterranean cruise. Joe went ashore in Odessa, several ports in Italy and in Spain. He stopped at Antwerp and he had a lot to say about all of these especially about Spain, so we are passing them on to you.

Joe says that Odessa is spotlessly clean and that the women are terrific. He danced with a female winch operator and admired the work of the pioneers as they went about putting the city together. Building is going on everywhere and thousands of Romanian POW's who had destroyed the city, are now hard at work rebuilding it.

Joe got a kick out of watching a group of former officers in the Romanian army swinging picks and shovels on a sewer construction job. The Russians sing all the while they work. The kids are beginning to look good again. They are well dressed and they are beginning to fatten up. All the girls of age are going to the University and at one of the medical colleges, Joe and his shipmates met several American medical students. Prices are coming down constantly and bread rationing has been done away with.

The crew had complete freedom of the city and went where they pleased. Joe got mixed up with a conducted tour of sightseers and as a result wound up in an art museum where he developed an appreciation for 15th Century masterpieces. The crew brought cigarettes, sheets and other things into the city where they found a ready market. They were welcomed into the homes and into the clubs. Joe took part in several discussions and says that the Russians are pretty much up to date on what is happening in this country. There was little or no talk of war in Odessa.

When Joe's ship pulled out of Odessa, the Russians told him to come back in six months. They said that the city would then be something to see. Joe says that he is going back.

From there the ship sailed to Italy where sundry things happened but which we would like to skip so that we can devote much more of our space to Joe's experiences in Spain.

Four hours out of Italy, the skipper announced that he had orders to stop in Spanish ports. This announcement was of great interest to the Greek cook who had been in the IB's, the Yugoslavian who had been part of the technical aid movement to Spain, a Spanish Republican marinero and to Joe. In the first place, they were worried about the marinero, since Franco's gestapos have a way of picking Spanish Republicans off American ships and throwing them into concentration camps. They met with the skipper, discussed the problem with him and he promised that he would protect every member of his crew including the Spanish Republican. He made good on his promise later on. Then the boys rounded up 60 copies of the "Pilot" that were on board. Fortunately, it was that issue of the "Pilot" that carried in Spanish the story of the New Orleans waterfront picketline which protested the loading and unloading of Franco ships in port. The issue of the Pilot was complete with photos of the pickets and the placards clearly showed Anti-Franco slogans in Spanish.

The first port that they hit was Palamos, 40 miles north of Barcelona. Joe got a big kick out of seeing Spain again, a thrill that was dampened only by his fear that he would be denied shore leave, a fear that later proved to be unfounded.

The first Spaniards they saw were the Carbineri guards who were put on
(continued on page 10)

SPEECH OF ANTONIO MÍJUELA MADE TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL BRIGADERS - 25-2-47

I came to London to take part in the meeting organised by the International Brigade Association on the 16th of this month. We know from our experience that all those who fought for the Spanish Republic in the International Brigades still have a deep love and consideration for Spain. That is why we consider it our duty in whatever country where there are organisations of former International Brigaders, to inform them of the present situation of Spain, because we consider you a part of Spain, because you are "Spaniards".

WELL, COMRADES, WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IN SPAIN? According to all the information we possess, the Franco regime is not going to last very much longer. There are four main reasons for this. Firstly, the popular resistance, which is growing all the time. Second, the economic crisis which is very sharp under the Franco regime. Third, the contradictions which exist between the Monarchy and the Falange. And, four, the international campaign being carried on against Franco.

THE FIRST POINT, THE POPULAR RESISTANCE, I am going to explain briefly. The fighting in Spain is acquiring a very violent character. The Guerrilleros are very well armed in Spain now. Franco has even been obliged to change the arms used by the Civil Guard because the Guerrilleros had a greater fire power to their arms than the Civil Guard. The use of the sub-machine gun by the Guerrilleros has caused a panic among the Civil Guard, and at a meeting in Madrid they recently demanded better equipment still from Franco.

In the months of November and December, the Guerrilleros killed 48 Civil Guards. They have raided important Civil Guard establishments; in some parts of Spain they are confiscating large sums of money. You know why? Because the Spanish guerrilleros are not receiving any assistance from any foreign Government whatsoever. They have definite orders to improve their armament by taking it from the Civil Guard, and I can assure you they are carrying out these orders. If you want proof of the anxiety that this is causing to Franco, I can give it to you in a few words.

Spain is an Agricultural country. 73% of the Spanish national economy is in agriculture, yet the budget for the year 1946/47 shows 55.8% for war and the police, and .7% for agriculture. There is another most interesting detail. Franco has published statistics of assaults on property in 1946. There were 59,016 assaults on property, four times as many as in 1945, and 15,600 assaults with violence. Altogether about 75,000 assaults in Spain in 1946. No wonder Franco has to spend more than half his budget on the Army and Police.

THE SECOND IMPORTANT POINT IS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. The economic crisis in Spain is really alarming. The difference between Spain and the other European countries is that whereas they are gradually overcoming their economic crisis and improving conditions, in Spain things are getting worse and worse and going downwards almost in a vertical line. I will give you a few figures. Steel production has decreased 34%, iron ore 46%, copper 40%, lead 9%. Now a few figures from agriculture: wheat has decreased 106%, rice 45%, sugar 200%, wine 81%, cattle 40%, goats 30% decrease, sheep 30%, pigs 50% less. Such a tremendous decrease in production obviously has an effect on the mass of the people. The food a Spaniard receives is the lowest in Europe. This is also reflected in wages. In 1936, a worker had to work twenty minutes to buy a kilo of bread; now he has to work 4½ hours. It is estimated that the standard of living of the workers has decreased nine times. All this is in comparison with 1936.

IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF FRANCO OVERCOMING THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS? No. I will give you a concrete example. The Spanish peasants have sown approximately 3,000,000 acres less than in 1936. The peasants won't sow because the Government takes away the bulk of their produce by force and buys it at a fixed price, and later re-sells it at exorbitant prices on the Black Market. Wheat, for example, is being bought from the peasants at 1 peseta 25 centimos. The same kilo, if the peasant wants to buy it for seed, will cost him 7½ pesetas. Under these conditions, the Spanish peasants, who are keen on their farming, the same as peasants in any part of the world, don't want to sow something which they know will be requisitioned, and there is a tremendous resistance in the countryside against the Franco regime.

What is Franco doing to attempt to deal with this economic crisis? He can't ask the people to work more. The working class refuses to produce more. The peasants won't sow more. That is why Franco is trying to attract capital from American circles, and American big business is very interested in placing capital in Spain. American Mining engineers are prospecting for oil in Central Spain. They want to buy the potash mines of Catalonia; they are building aerodromes on the shores of Galicia, Catalonia and near Madrid. They are bringing up to date the port equipment of Barcelona and Galician ports. The whole character of the American investments in Spain has one objective, that of future war strategy, and there is also a certain competition with the British. It was General Doolittle, the one who went first at the head of the Squadron which bombed Tokyo, who said, when he was asked why he went to Spain, that it was for strategic reasons, in order to extend the Air negotiations of the United States. The British Government are not pleased with the penetration of American capital into Spain, but they can't stop it. However, it doesn't matter how much capital the American invest in Spain, they will be unable to stop the downfall of Franco because American capital cannot replace the work of thousands of Spanish workers and peasants. Without the help of the people and the participation of the people, no national economy can be managed. The well-being and development of Spanish national economy does not rest with American capital, but in the hands of the Spanish workers and peasants.

Now we have arrived at my third point, WHICH IS THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE MONARCHISTS AND THE FALANGE. At present, everyone in Spain is faced with the problem of a change of government. Even Franco himself speaks about "resigning." It is rather curious, the first Fascist dictator in the world who has spoken about resigning. The Monarchists are exploiting the situation very strongly at present, because Lieutenant of the British Navy Don Juan, son of Alfonso, has the unique opportunity of becoming the king and is discussing with Franco the important problem of restoring the monarchy in Spain.

The Monarchists have three important groups of supporters: one, the Generals of the Franco Army, two, some reactionary circles in Britain, and three, the Vatican. One of the most important advisers of Don Juan arrived three days ago in London, another has gone to Rome to discuss this question with the leaders of the Vatican, and his Private Secretary is at present discussing the question with Franco in Madrid.

What difference is there between the Falangists and the Monarchists? The difference is this: the Falangists want the Monarchists to take over power, and all the Falangist policy with it. The Monarchists don't want to assume power and take over all the preceding policy of the Falange. The Falange want to make the Monarchists their heirs. The Monarchists, having seen how much the Falangist policy has been discredited, don't want to inherit it. Franco possibly fears that the Monarchists will not be able to establish order once he has left power. Franco has a theory which is perhaps not unfounded, he says to himself: "If I open the door to the Monarchists, others will enter that door and might even take over Spain."

But the Monarchists are in a hurry, they want to replace Franco as soon as possible. They have several times appealed to the Republicans to help them to assume power; they also ask the Republican forces not to organise any strikes or actions during one year so that the Monarchists could establish themselves firmly. There were some among the Republicans who thought this was not a bad idea. Prieto would be content to be a sort of "His Majesty's Opposition" in Spain. But he forgets that in Spain one cannot be "His Majesty's Opposition" in Parliament, but only in prison.

We have made a counter proposal. That the Monarchists should help to bring down the Franco regime and once that has been done to hold general elections in Spain. Comrades should remember that the Monarchy in Spain would not be the same as in Britain, Sweden or other countries; the role of the Monarchy in Spain has always been reactionary, and Spain is today in misery, cultural and economic backwardness because of the Monarchy.

That is why we oppose the Monarchy, and this idea is shared by most of the leading officials and Trade Unionists among the Republicans, so that in any negotiations which have been made the Monarchists have been unable to show that they have any support from the Republican forces behind them. And fortunately, a serious blow has just been dealt to the Monarchist intriguers, because the plan behind the fall of the Giral Government was to isolate the Communists and form a Monarchist government with a few Socialists, such as Prieto. We have prevented the formation of such a Government.

Probably those who follow Spanish affairs were a little surprised when the President called upon Senor Llopi's to form a Government. Llopi's is a moderate Socialist and has been associated with Prieto. A month before being asked to form a Government, Llopi's said that on no account would he participate in a Government with Communists. But the Communists are not at war with the Socialists, they are at war with Franco, and are prepared to ally themselves with the Devil himself to bring Franco down. And the Devil is certainly worse than Prieto. When Llopi's was asked to form a Government he asked me, as the leader of the Communist group in the Spanish Republican Parliament, under what conditions we were prepared to collaborate with him. I told him, under one condition only--that the Government should fight Franco and not negotiate with him. He said, all right, the Republicans can't possibly negotiate with Franco--so we said, good, then we agreed. We said, we must not be at loggerheads with the Socialists, we must fight Franco together. Thus, the Socialist group of Llopi's, which the Monarchists wanted to have behind them fighting against the Communists, is today together with the Communists fighting against the Monarchist plans, and the relations between the Communists and Socialists have improved.

In the international sphere as well, relations with the Socialists are improving. As we pointed out to Llopi's, those European Governments which have a majority of Communists have already recognised the Republican Government. So now let us work for recognition of the Government by the countries which have a Socialist majority in their parliaments. I think the time has come to tell Mr. Bevin that if he wants to recognise the Republican Government he will have the support of the people.

THE MONARCHIST PLAN WAS MEANT TO ISOLATE THE COMMUNISTS AND LEAD TO A SET-UP LIKE THEY HAVE IN GREECE. I assure you that we shall do everything possible to prevent that from happening. It is probable that the new Republican Government will approach the Monarchists and some of the discontented Franco Generals and say "let us put an end to Franco jointly." The present Llopi's Government could be enlarged and should put itself at the head of the fight to bring down Franco. And,

once it is installed in Spain, it will prepare elections to give the Spanish people a chance to show what they want. If they want a Republic, there will be a Republic, if they want a Monarchy, there will be a Monarchy. It is unlikely that the Monarchists will accept this principle, but we shall be able to say to those in London and Washington who complain that our Government is not fully representative, "Well, we have invited the Monarchists to come and fight with us, and they don't want to." We are prepared to collaborate with anyone who will help us to attain Franco's downfall, but we don't want to be at the tail of the Monarchists, we want to have them at our side.

MY FOURTH POINT WAS THE EFFECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN. This has had tremendous repercussions inside Spain. There was never an international campaign in favour of any people such as there is in favour of Spain. The strength of the campaign can be judged from the fact that some Governments, such as the British, have been forced to change their policy. Mr. Bevin told a meeting of some 500 Labour M.P.'s that he was not in favour of withdrawing the Ambassador from Madrid. Why, then, did he withdraw him? Because of the international pressure. The Cuban President, Grau, launched a campaign for a plebiscite in Spain along Greek lines. But Grau was obliged, by the international campaign, to put his plan back into the files, and the State Department had to shut up about it too. The Franco press, day in and day out, is occupied in denouncing the international campaign. One finds support and solidarity for Spain in every place. This is one of our greatest assets, but also one of our great responsibilities, because this solidarity demands the establishment of a free, democratic Spain.

Despite the tremendous weight of this solidarity, there are also certain international factors which prevent the full development of the struggle against France. For example: what is the will of the British people? To break with Franco. The T.U.C. agrees. Why are relations not broken? The British Government gives very weak excuses--that the Republicans are not united, that the Government is not fully representative. What has that to do with executing the will of the people? There is a difference between what the British people demand and what the Labour Government is doing. Why? Basically, it is because there is not sufficient pressure. But I think we can change this position.

Bevin says: "I am not going to break with Franco." We can answer, very well, send a representative to the Republican Government. The other day I was speaking to a Labour M.P. and he told me it is not the tradition of the British Government to recognise Governments outside their own country. I said: "Your memory is short. As far as I can remember, there was a Polish Government, a Czech, and others." I asked him whether a representative could not be sent to the Llopi's Government, and reminded him that in 1936, his Government sent a representative to Franco's rebel Government in Salamanca, so there is your precedent.

I think this can be achieved. We shall move heaven and earth to gain it. We shall ask our British friends, the T.U.'s, the Labour Party. And we shall ask Socialists in other countries to ask the Labour Party. We shall exert maximum pressure to win this small battle, which can become a great one. I have confidence that we shall win. It will be a heavy blow against Franco, for it will cause all sorts of people who now support him to withdraw their support if Britain sends a representative to the Llopi's Government.

That is why we are exerting ourselves to the utmost, and trying to get international help in ever-increasing strength. Because the problem must be solved in the next six months, that is almost certain. That is why we are asking the maximum help from everyone, so that within six months we can gain the victory of the Republican against Franco and set Spain free.

S.I.M.

The writer of this column puts in a plea to all Vets who are spending some part of this lovely Spring weather in the parks or otherwise killing a few hours to come down to the Vets office where volunteers for necessary miscellaneous work are needed.

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Eli Beal came down to the office loaded with cigars and the announcement of the birth of Judy Wendy Beal and Cappy, the mimeo man, expects a reprint in July. Mike Pappas adds to the census in June, and Milt Cantor is rapidly learning just how high diaper service is with his new son. Saul Friedberg and spouse have added to the new generation.

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Ed Littleton back from his trip to the West Coast, very tanned and with news of our West Coast boys. Milt Weiner discharged from the Army last week off to Mexico for a trip with his wife and looking forward to settling down in California upon his return. Jerry Quiggle much decorated after five years of service as a chief gunner in a Naval Air Squadron, in civvies after a medical discharge. And Bob Pike, quite ill and wanting to hear from some of the boys. His address is 149 Burton Street, Bellflower, California.

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Our tenth anniversary journal deadline was extended until July 30th. We're still waiting to hear from those Vets who haven't responded on the booster sheets.

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Milt Wolff's pamphlet "Franco Spain - Menace to Peace" is on the market for 5¢ apiece. It's a must. Our new Album is available to Vets at a 25% discount. Our advice is to grab it. Very much recommended.

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We still have a lot of 1947 membership books available. We urge all Vets to send in their \$3.00 for the new books. ALSO IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY.

ALL OUT MAY FIRST

Brigade Members will mobilize
on West 56th between 8th & 9th
Avenues at 12:30

TWO LETTERS FROM GERMANY

Gustav Flohr
4, Josefstrasse
Remscheid
Germany

Remscheid, March 4th, 1947

Executive Secretary of the Organisation "Veterans of the Abraham
Lincoln Brigade" New York, USA
c/o Comrade Jack Bjoze.

Dear Comrade, I have received Your letter of January 24th 1947 which You have kindly sent to me. I thank You very much for Your letter and consider him as a prove of the international solidarity. I was very pleased to hear of You. I too have returned to my native country in 1945 after an absence of 13 years. I do not intend to write much about these things only as much as You need for Your information. I hope soon to hear more of You that I can answer You all the questions which are interesting to You.

To day I only want to thank You for the letter and for the announcement of Your parcel.

I am in possession of a photograph of wounded comrades in Spain and hope that they are known to You and please if it is possible and they are still alive present my best compliments to them.

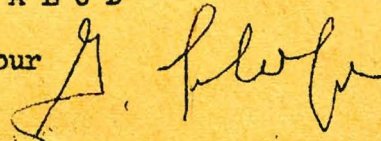
According to Your desire I send You the size of my foot in a papermodel. I see that You are still practical men. On the question of clothing which is very bad I only can answer that I am lacking most linen and pullover. But I would mostly enjoy a lasting correspondence between You and me and moreover I hope to find again that good agreement which once was among ourselves in Spain.

Moreover I can send You a few interesting informations from the Resistance in France by which I got to know some of Your countrymen having been in the army.

I hope soon to get a letter of You by which please ask all necessary questions and I would be glad of being able to answer.

I am, Dear Fellow, with a
S A L U D

Your



P.S.: After having written this letter I received to day Your parcel with great pleasure. I was very glad and thank You very much for here is a great food-shortage and Your parcel was a great assistance to me.

Philipp Kornmann
Remscheid
Ziegelstr. 35.

Remscheid, 21st of March 1947

Dear comrades from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade!

I want to express my gratitude to you and I would like to thank you for your kind letter and for the parcel which arrived here.

I can see that you, comrades of the 15th Brigade, prove to have understanding and solidarity for your comrades in the starving countries.

Once before in the fieldhospital of the 15th Brigade at Villa-Paz and Vich 1937 and
(continued on page 11)

This is the outline of the foot of a Veteran of the Thaelman Brigade. You have read his letter on the opposite page and you understand his need. Right now he needs shoes. The last time he bought shoes was in 1937...in Albacete. Since then he has been in a concentration camp in Dalmatian's France and in prison in Hitler's Reichland. Somehow, he has managed to survive cold, disease, beatings and starvation. With four hundred other members of the German IB he participated in the uprising in his prison. They killed the stormtrooper guards and joined the advancing Allied Armies in the final battles of the war. Now he is a tireless worker and organizer in his city. The people of this town look to him for leadership, they come to him with their problems. You see, he is one of the few Germans the people can trust. They KNOW that he is an anti-fascist. He fought in Spain. So he has a great deal of work to do. As he puts it, "the day isn't long enough...or the night either for the things that have to be done." He gives lectures in Democracy, he trains Trade Union Organizers, he analyzes political trends, he helps with the problems of housing, widow pensions, food rationing. He finds work for the workers and takes his cigarettes around to the hospitals. He has time for everyone EXCEPT HIMSELF. That is why he has no shoes. ***** In the long run we know that this is the man...he and hundreds like him...who will determine whether there will be a great German democracy in Europe...or a Germany thirsting for revenge and another war lead by another Hitler, But we have confidence in him. We saw him fight fascism in Spain. We know he refused to bend to the will of the Gestapo and the stormtroopers. We know he will never stop fighting for democracy ...AND WE WANT TO KEEP HIM AND HIS COMRADES...OUR COMRADES...ALIVE.*****

If you have the price of a pair of shoes...or of one shoe...send it to us. We will buy FOUR HUNDRED pairs of shoes for the Veterans of the Thaelmann Brigade and see to it that they get them.

board to search for stowaways and to prevent the crew members from taking any food or cigarettes ashore. The guards themselves however, bought all the cigarettes the crew would sell them at \$5.00 a carton. They explained they could sell them on shore for \$8 and \$9. These characters went on to tell how poor their pay was and how rough conditions were in Spain. They even said that Franco should be criticized for exporting olive oil when the people themselves couldn't get it. They said that they were receiving the same pay that they received under the Republican Government except now prices were up more than 200%. Then they brought their kids aboard for a meal and tossed food over the rail to their wives down below. The story of what happened in Palamos is practically the same as in all the other ports, Tarragona, Alicante, Malaga, Seville and Algeciras.

The people are hungry and in rags. Prostitution and TB are rampant. Everywhere they went they met former members of the Republican Army, some Spaniards who had fought with the IB. One of the Spaniards who had been with the 15th Brigade transmission detachment was crippled and paralyzed as a result of beatings and torture in four years of imprisonment. Troop movements were noticeable all over and in the homes the comment was "No milk, no bread, no oil, but plenty of uniforms."

The stevedores make about 23 pesetas a day. (Something less than \$2.50). They are lucky if they get two or three days work a week. The price of oil, on the black market of course, is 50 pesetas a litre or more than two days pay. Joe and some of the boys got together with the Spanish gangs in the holds and tried to answer the questions that they asked. "What is the United Nations doing about Franco?" "When are they getting rid of him?" "Are the democratic regimes in Europe doing okay?" "Are the American people on our side?" "Are the American workers, the American longshoremen doing anything to help us?"

They said that there was a great deal of sorrow among the people when Roosevelt died. They were worried about President Truman. When the crew asked them what they were going to do about Franco they answered that someday soon they were going to get rid of him. This time they said, they would win because all of Europe was on their side. Tito is the most popular international hero in Spain today.

In Tarragona the crew was questioned by the Spanish gestapo, who were looking for more editions of the Pilot and they wanted to know the meaning of the anti-Franco stamps that appeared all over the ship. It was on this occasion that they caught up with the marinero whom they wanted to take with them. However, the skipper stood by him and prevented his removal. Tarragona is a dead city. No night life, and very little movement of people in that city. It seems to be the headquarters for the Gestapo and the Military Police.

Anis which we used to get for 6 pesetas a bottle is now 30 pesetas. Those goatskin gourds that we used to drink the wine out of are also 32 pesetas and alparagatos which used to sell for 2 pesetas a pair are now 30 pesetas.

Joe had a couple of eggs, a few french-fried potatoes, one slice of bread and a glass of wine and the check was 60 pesetas, or \$6.00.

When his ship pulled into Alicante, the crew was restricted for a couple of hours. The police came on board "looking for ex-commissars". At Malaga the police kept the stevedores away from the garbage cans and then raided the cans themselves. In that town you can buy a salvo conducto for a pack of cigarettes. There the Americans watched a Spanish troop convoy getting ready to leave for Africa. They counted 40 box car type United States Army trucks being loaded on the convoy. In the town itself the women were all dressed in mourning. They were either Blue Division widows, their husbands having been killed in the Soviet Union during the war or the widows of slain guerrillas.

While the ship was in port, guerrillas raided a military airport and carried off a large quantity of arms and damaged several planes. All the people in the city knew about the raid and finally the papers carried the story. As bad as prostitution was in the other parts of Spain they visited, it was worse in Malaga.

In Seville, Joe found thousands of families living in Hoovervilles. There, the people were really desperate. Poverty and hunger and disease were everywhere. Yet it was in Seville, that Joe, making the rounds of the nightclubs found that they were luxurious, that scotch was available at 60 pesetas a shot and that strange Aryan looking Spaniards came up to him and asked him "Sprechen sie Deutsch." They were looking for cigarettes and wanted to know when the Americans were going to war with Russia.

Nowhere among the Spanish people, in the total of twelve days Joe spent ashore did he find any pro-Franco elements. Even among the police who were poorly clad, barefoot, and broke there were a large percentage of pro-Republicans and in the cities the destruction wrought by the war in '36 and '38 remained untouched. Everywhere the walls were marked with anti-Franco slogans. The fascist youth would stencil "Long live Franco" on a building and at night the resistance would come around and stencil underneath it "In a Concentration Camp." While the fascist youth would put up "Now We Have A Good Spain" the resistance movement would write under it "Without Bread, Milk, Coffee, Meat, Oil."

When the ship left Algeciras, the stevedores sent the boys off with a Republican salute.

In Antwerp, Joe, while riding with an official of the American Consulate, was told by this official that 300 American Army trucks which went by then in a southerly direction were headed for Spain. These trucks were of the boxcar type.

TWO LETTERS FROM GERMANY (continued from page 8)

1938 at Spain I got to know the solidarity and readiness to help of you, comrades of the 15th Brigade. I will never forget the operations carried out by Dr. Cohen, Dr. Reans and the professor Edelwater and the continuous help of the "Infermeras" of the 15th Brigade, which made it possible that at least I am able to walk with the aid of a walking-stick. Therefore I would be very grateful if you could pass on my best wishes to those comrades.

Dear Comrades,

Just the same as we were fighting in Spain should on shoulder with our friends from our countries to save democracy just the same you can see us German antifascists in the first line, in the fight, in the battle for a new German democracy. And that after 12 years of persecution we know.

The German people, we know, share the responsibility on the crimes committed by Hitler in the name of the German people in the whole of Europe. We are quite willing to do our share in the re-construction of Europe, but that is only possible if we get a chance to life. This is impossible in a brokedown Germany of poverty and starvation, lacking of clothing, housing, food and especially on fats.

All ready at a time, when the whole of the world was trying to come to an agreement with Hitler there was a counter-movement in Germany and ten thousands were thrown into the Gestapo-prisons and hundreds thousands were all ready at this time in the prisons and concentration camps. Together with us foreign antifascistic POW's and antifascistic workers were fighting and the number of persecution grow into the millions.

Here for an example figures of Remscheid, a town with a population of 100,000:

17 of our comrades participated in the battle of the International Brigade at Spain, 12 of it were killed in the fight for democracy, and only 5 returned home. 515 comrades were imprisoned or in concentration camps because of political, racial or religious reason. All together 445 men imprisoned for 799 years and 70 woman imprisoned for 190 years. Not counted with the above figures are a few hundred most Jewish comrades (an exact figure can't be given) who were killed or gassed in the concentration camps. Added to this figures comes further the great number of relations of the above who were continuously watched and bothered by the Gestapo. Not much less than the number of people killed in this from Hitler prepared world war is the number of antifascists murdered or gassed, their only crime it was to fight against the unculture and barbaric Nazism for the freedom of the people and for democracy.

We German antifascists who always in true friendship we are standing on your side whether in Spain or in the German concentration camp we expect of you today a small prove of comradeship, so to enable us to carry on our difficult fight for the re-construction of a new democratic Germany, and for a better understanding amongst the people of the - and for peace in the - world.

We can assure you, comrades, that we will do all in our part to garanty that the fascists Ideas will never grow again in Germany. But under present conditions the fight is handicaped by physical and moral defects, as more we do appreciate every help as little as it might be given to us. And I therefore thank you very much for the parcel you were kind enough to send.

Unfortunately, and that only by the way, the parcel was damaged, and sardines and cigarettes were missing.

In reply to your letter I herewith give you the following details:

High: 1,72 m (5' 8") slim,
suitsize: 48
coat: "
shirt: size 36
shoes: size 41 1/2 (enclosed sample),

Clothing: I as well my wife and daughter want to thank you for this gift and send our best wishes for the future to you, veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

Salud

Philipp Kohnmann