



JOURNAL DE LA 15^{ème} BRIGADE INTERNATIONALE

BRIGADE CONGRATULATED ON RECENT VICTORIES

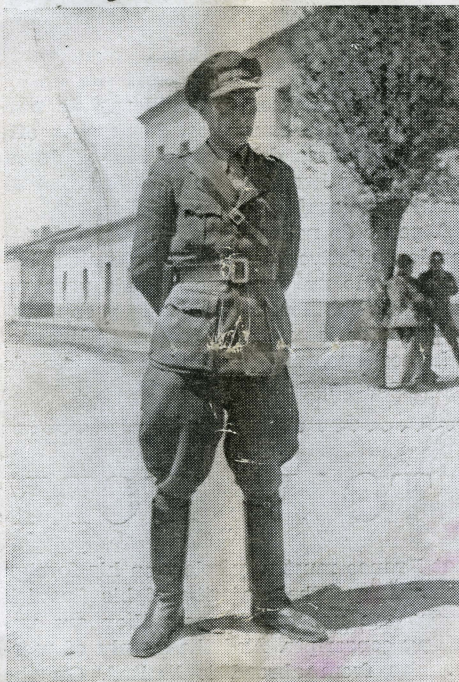
Lieut.-Colonel Claus Pays Tribute to Your Valour

Comrades: Our Brigade has successfully come through several great battles during the recent big offensive launched by our Army. Our storming of Villanueva de la Cañada, our crossing the Guadarrama river, our attack on the commanding heights of Romanillos and Mosquitos, our holding out in our advanced positions against the Fascist counter-attacks are pages of honour in the history of our Brigade.

Our Brigade has been in the front line from the first day to the last, continuously holding that line, and consequently winning recognition as one of the best Brigades in the Spanish People's Army.

Remember with praise: the great part played by the Dimitrov Battalion on to left flank, the English Battalion on the right, and the Franco-Belge in the centre at the storming of Villanueva de la Cañada; the valour of the Lincoln-Washington Battalion, especially in the last days; the re-taking and holding of positions lost during the Fascist counter-attacks on the right of the Brunete-Boadilla Road; the effective fire-support given us by the 24th Battalion during the Fascist counter-attacks on the Dimitrov positions; the bravery of the Spanish comrades; the effective cannonading by our anti-tank battery which inflicted heavy losses on the enemy; the heroism of our doctors and stretcher-bearers, many chauffeurs and kitchen-staffs, many officers and liaison-men of our Brigade H. Q. who set an outstanding example of courage and sense of responsibility.

Even though we have not been able to reach all our objectives in this latest offensive, we have gained a vantage-point for a new onslaught. We have also destroyed or captured some of the enemy's best troops, and have prevented the planned Fascist offensive against Santander, Madrid and Teruel. The people of Spain and of the whole world have been shown that in a short time a People's Army based on dis-



Lieut.-Colonel Claus.

cipline can be organised through a unified command.

A People's Army has been created, an army which can not only withstand the Fascist attacks but even already can prepare and carry out a large-scale offensive against Franco's troops and their Italian, and German Fascist allies.

Our Brigade is now at rest. We will spend many hours both in theoretic and practical training in order to benefit by our recent experiences, so as to ensure in the future the maximum success with the minimum loss.

Our People's Army is rapidly going from the defensive to the offensive, and our Brigade will play a prominent part in future developments. With our more tempered, experienced cadres we will, together with new comrades, go forward to victory over Fascism.

CLAUS
Brigade Commander.

How Fascists Fight: An Incident at the Front

It was dusk of the first day when our Battalion, in conjunction with others, had advanced to within about three hundred metres of Villanueva de la Cañada. Some were lying down in the ditch beside the road; five of us were taking cover behind the dung-heap on the right. Suddenly someone shouted: "Don't fire; there are children coming from the village". We looked down the road and saw about twenty-five people, men, women and children. In front was a little girl of about ten years of age. Behind her came an elderly woman, a boy of fourteen or so, a few old men. The remainder were young men. As they approached they shouted: "Comaradas! Comaradas!"

Believing them to be refugees, we answered them and called them forward. Some of us were now standing, some walking to meet and welcome them.

Pat Murphy, of Cardiff, was the nearest to them. He approached them, telling them to lay down their arms if they had any. For answer, a revolver blazed. Then the Fascists, who had been driving this group of old men, women and children as cover for them, started throwing hand-grenades in our midst. For a few minutes pandemonium reigned. The crash of grenades, the barking of guns and the shrieks of the women and children. In five minutes it was over; the last of the fascists lay dead.

Pat Murphy's chivalry almost cost him his life. In the melee he was seriously wounded in the groin by a hand-grenade.

Later, while going round to identify those of our comrades who had fallen, we could not help thinking of the brutality of Fascism when we found the bodies of the little girl, the elderly woman and the two elderly men. Such acts as these steel every comrade of the International Brigade to a higher degree of determination than ever in the past.

JACK ROBERTS
British Battalion.

NUESTRO JEFE NOS FELICITA

Camaradas: Nuestra Brigada ha atravesado con éxito las importantes batallas de la última gran ofensiva. Nuestro asalto de Villanueva de la Cañada, nuestra travesía del Guadarrama, nuestro ataque a las alturas dominantes de Romanillos y Mosquitos, nuestra resistencia en las posiciones avanzadas a los contraataques fascistas, son páginas de honor en la historia de nuestra Brigada.

Nuestra Brigada estuvo desde el primero hasta el último día en la línea de fuego, defendiendo siempre las posiciones y ganando la reputación de ser una de las mejores Brigadas del Ejército Popular de España.

Recordaremos con elogio el gran papel representado por el Batallón Dimitroff en el flanco izquierdo, el Batallón Inglés en el derecho y el Franco-Belga en el centro, en el asalto de Villanueva de la Cañada; el valor del Batallón Lincoln-Washington, especialmente en los últimos días, así como la reconquista y defensa de las posiciones durante el contraataque fascista a la derecha de la carretera Brunete-Boadilla; el eficazísimo fuego de apoyo que nos ha prestado el 24 Batallón durante el contraataque fascista sobre las posiciones Dimitroff y la bravura de los camaradas españoles; el muy preciso fuego de nuestra Batería antitanque, que infligió bajas tan grandes al enemigo fascista; el heroísmo

Nuestros voluntarios en buena unión con los campesinos.

★

Our volunteers in unity with the peasants.



de nuestros médicos y camilleros, de muchos choferes y rancheros, de muchos oficiales y enlaces del Estado Mayor de la Brigada, que han dado un ejemplo extraordinario de coraje y responsabilidad.

A pesar de no haber podido alcanzar todos los objetivos de nuestra ofensiva, hemos ganado un punto de ventaja para un nuevo asalto. Hemos aniquilado y capturado parte de las mejores tropas de Franco, y hemos quebrantado el plan fascista de ofensivas contra Santander, Madrid y Te-

ruel. Hemos demostrado al pueblo español y a todo el mundo que se puede organizar, en muy poco tiempo, un Ejército Popular basado sobre la disciplina, por medio del Mando Unico.

Se ha creado un Ejército del pueblo, un Ejército que es capaz no solamente de resistir los ataques de los fascistas, sino de preparar y ejecutar ofensivas de gran tamaño contra las tropas de Franco y sus aliados fascistas italianos y alemanes.

Nuestra Brigada descansa ahora. Vamos a dedicar muchas horas a la instrucción, tanto práctica como teórica, para aprovechar nuestras últimas experiencias y asegurar en el futuro el máximo éxito con el mínimo de bajas.

Nuestro Ejército Popular pasa rápidamente de la defensiva a la ofensiva, y nuestra Brigada desempeñará un papel activo en los acontecimientos del futuro. Con nuestros cuadros más templados y experimentados vamos adelante con los nuevos camaradas, hasta la victoria sobre el fascismo.

CLAUS

Jefe de la Brigada.

ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY

(On the eve of his death in action, on the Centre Front, GEORGE BROWN, Political Commissar attached to the British Battalion, handed us the following. This posthumous article will be a rallying-call for his comrades.)

"Who will win the war?" is an oft-repeated question asked more uneasily nowadays when Bilbao has fallen, and Italians and Germans are making a bold bid to exterminate the Basque people and their heroic Asturian allies. Who will win the war? For us there is only one answer. "We will win it. We MUST win it!"

Bilbao was a defeat—but not a crushing one. We cannot have victories every day. And our occasional defeats get over-emphasised—because they are occasional. The fall of Bilbao was, according to military rules, inevitable. It was hastened by the open intervention of sections of the German airforce and divisions of the Italian army. Our Government has already explained the circumstances which made it a physical impossibility for us to render effective aid to the Basques. Bilbao has fallen; but the people march onward to victory. For, on our side we have all the conditions necessary for the victory. The people are with the Government to such an extent that it would not be an exaggeration to say

that Franco must rely solely on his foreign mercenaries. The majority of his Spanish troops are not even dupes; they are unwilling conscripts. And the supply of mercenaries from abroad is limited. On the other hand, we have more troops than guns. You have often noticed, sometimes with grumbles, the numbers of able-bodied Spaniards still in civil life. But they are still in civil life because there are not enough arms for them. Thus our Peoples' Army can be reinforced from day to day with enthusiastic recruits, with young artisans who want to defend their standard of living, with young peasants who want to defend their newly-acquired land, with young workers determined to defend the peace, the hope to which the Peoples' Front has shown the way.

While Franco's armies are being torn with dissensions between the different cliques and between the various units of the foreign, hirelings, the forces of Republican Spain on the other hand are being welded in even closer comradeship and unity for the common aim—TO WIN THE WAR!

True, the so-called "Non-Intervention Committee" results in help for the Fascists. But remember that the Soviet Armies in 1919 were in a desperate position compared with ours. To-day we are stronger than we

were a year ago. We have made armies and equipped them; we have built up efficient rearguard organisations for munitions and other supplies. Every day of war is a day gained for us. Every day sees the Fascists draw out of their dwindling reserve of imported supplies. Every day sees us make more guns, more munitions. Time is on our side. Every day of war is a day lost for the fascists; every day of war is a day nearer victory for us.

Forward to that victory then! Crush fascism in Spain so that it will never raise its head in our own countries! Better that some of us die in this "last fight" than that thousands should have to die in opposing fascism again in other countries. Forward to the battle to defeat fascism, to free Spain, to free the human race!

GEORGE BROWN

WHAT OUR OFFENSIVE ACHIEVED

A Staggering Blow to the Fascist High Command

COMRADES: The July offensive on the Centre Front, in which our Brigade played a leading part, is already history. For three weeks, battles comparable in intensity with the biggest battles of the World War were waged in the Sierras. Against the thrust begun on July 6 by our newly-organised Army the Fascists, in a desperate bid to hold their lines, had to throw in their reserves of aircraft, artillery and men. In vain: when their counter-offensive finally petered out we remained victorious.

True the primary objective of our offensive has not yet been fully realised; the enemy still has his forces before the gates of Madrid. But, as is admitted even by the fascist press, our great attack has already had far-reaching results.

It has staggered the enemy High Command, destroying a number of their best troops, disrupting all their plans for offensive actions, forcing them to withdraw aircraft, guns and tanks, and even men from other fronts. It relieved the pressure on Santander thus giving the heroic people of the Basque land a breathing space in which to reorganise and strengthen their forces. Above all, it has shown the Fascists - and the whole world - what our newly organised Popular Army is capable of achieving. In the fiercest battles of the whole war, throughout days in which the Fascists massed great forces of guns and aircraft against us, they could not win back the sector. So it remains - a menace to their lines around Madrid, a base from which the freeing of Madrid by our Army will soon be achieved. Thus has our offensive stricken the enemy, thus has it given heart and hope not only to the people of Spain but to all the democratic peoples of the world.

It has been the first big offensive un-



TWO LEADERS OF THE BRIGADE
Major Jock Cunningham and Commissar George Aitken. A snap taken during the recent offensive.



FASCIST PRISONERS
A Falangist leader and his dupes captured at Villanueva de la Cañada.

"The Fifteenth Brigade Has a Record Second to None"

dertaken by our new Army. Profiting from the experiences gained in it, we will learn how to achieve bigger victories. Towards that end, the officers of each unit of our Brigade have already been directed to instruct the volunteers under their command.

On the territory which, in the past month, we redeemed for Spain have fallen many of our bravest and best beloved comrades. From their graves, from the shell-blasted soil of war racked Spain comes the call to you to carry on to the final victory for which they gave their lives. If we would honour duly our fallen comrades then let us raise them the one fitting memorial - the memorial they sought - the liberation of Spain!

Let us realise now not merely our weaknesses but our strength. The enemy, depleted in numbers but reinforced by Hitler and Mussolini with war-materials is making a last desperate bid for success. But we have ample reserves of man-power and daily increasing war-materials.

To your tasks then, comrades! Utilise this period of rest in preparing for the victorious completion of the war. You are soldiers of Liberty: therefore your morale is high. All that remains is to perfect organisation, to ensure the closest co-operation between the various arms of the Brigade.

In the past month you have added a glorious page to your already proud history. We do not state merely our own opinion when we say that the Fifteenth Brigade has a record second to none in the Popular Army.

Be worthy of that record! Organise and train now to surpass it, so that when we face the next fight our dead will be avenged and their cause and ours brought to victory.

AITKEN
Brigade Commissar.



Peasants liberated from the fascists.



Enemy bombers trying to halt our advance.



BILL MEREDITH

They Shall Be Remembered For Ever!

Our Battalion parades behind the lines again. The gaps in the ranks are many since the "last time". After eight months of war there are few of the faces that were familiar back at the Base in December, and in the fierce July fighting we have lost still more of the Old Guard.

Here we have space to mention only some of them from each service who were typical of the whole. Some died rifle in hand, facing the enemy. Others died as they did less glamorous but equally necessary work, bringing up munitions, or food, or tending to the wounded. All died in the same cause. All are equally cherished in our hearts.

Dr. Sollenberger, our Medical Officer, who worked night and day to save men mangled in war was killed in typical fascist fashion - the enemy bombarded our ambulance service. Alec McDade and George Brown, Political Commissars died as militants of their type die, at the head of their men. Tommy Gibbons, our Battalion secretary, and Pat Murphy from the ranks, Comrade Tatten, our Battalion observer, and cheery young Harry Gross - all of different ranks made equal sacrifice in the common cause.

Charlie Duval and Rodriguez, our French and Spanish interpreters respectively who had endeared themselves to all of us, veteran Comrade McCabe, Willie Keegan of Bellshill and Ralph Cantor of Manchester are but a few of the outstanding soldiers whom we all mourn.

Sam Masters did heroic work in getting the food up from the reserve to the front lines; he died at his task. So did Comrade Riddel of our Battalion kitchen who was one of the casualties when fascist avions strafed our field kitchen.

From Commandant Nathan down to the rawest recruit, these and others of our comrades gave their lives for Democracy. Their memory will always be with us, to cheer us onward to the Victory for which they fought and died. In the hearts of the working class of the world they shall be remembered forever.

NUESTRAS PAGINAS NOS PAGES D'HERO OUR PAGES OF P

HEROES OF BRITAIN

At the storming of Villanueva de la Cañada on July 6, the British Battalion lost two of its most courageous men and popular officers, Charlie GOODFELLOW, Second-in-Command of the Battalion, and Bill MEREDITH, Commander of Number Two Company.

Of Bill MEREDITH, Comrade Jack Cunningham says: "He was one of the most resolute and courageous fighters, standing out among the many such figures I have met in Spain. Arriving at the Jarama Front in the Spring, his qualities quickly



CHARLIE GOODFELLOW

ensured him as a leader of his comrades, and he was appointed to the Command of Number Two Company. His appointment was made while the Battalion was in one of the most difficult positions ever held in its stormy history. He did not fail in the tasks which his comrades had chosen for him. He did his job, and did it right well. In difficult moments he proved a great leader; in quieter periods he persevered in his tasks for the well being of all, endearing himself in the thoughts of all the comrades. He was wounded through the neck, but stayed out of the line only two days. This was characteristic of Bill—his whole life was the struggle, he died in the struggle, and his brief life—he was only 23 years—crowded with work, will be an inspiration to us all both here in Spain and in the future struggles of our class."

Before coming to Spain Bill had first been Secretary of the Labour Party Branch in his native Billingham. Subsequently joining the Communist Party he played a leading role in the political and industrial struggles on the Teeside. Hating publicity, he enlisted in the International Brigade

under the assumed name by which he was known to all British comrades. His real name was William DENNISON.

Charlie GOODFELLOW was born at Gartsherrie, Coatsbridge. Reared in the environment of Orangeism his daily toil in the coal-mine where he began work at the age of thirteen, brought into the working class struggle. Naturally, for an enthusiastic fighter of this type, he joined the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1921 and played a leading part in the working class struggles in Bellshill Lanark where he resided for many years.

Arriving in Spain he went to the Jarama Front as a section leader. Subsequently appointed as a Company Commander he finally became the Second-in-Command of the Battalion. "Brave almost to rashness he was nevertheless very cool" says Brigade Political Commissar, George Aitken who was his life long friend. "No matter how desperate the situation—and in Jarama it was often desperate—he never got excited. He performed many deeds that in another army would have won him decorations. He was one of the best type of anti-fascist fighters whom Britain has sent to Spain—a comrade who hated fascism with a hatred so intense that it brought him from his family to lay down his life for the freedom of the working class."

To the families of these great soldiers of Liberty we extend our sympathy. With them the International Brigade mourns the loss of two great stalwarts.



LE HEROISMO POPULAR L'HEROISME POPULAIRE POPULAR-HEROISM AND OF AMERICA

Harry Hynes was appointed Political Delegate of the 3rd. George Washington Company shortly before we left the Base for the front. He was always quiet and unassuming, wishing apparently to win our respect through the service he was always ready to render rather than from ostentatious meetings and thunderous orations.

In the "Sunday Worker" of July 25, Al Richmond tells of Harry's labour for freedom in three continents.

There are many here too who can tell of his splendid work during many maritime strikes. But it was not until we actually came to the front that we realised what a comrade we possessed in this Political Delegate of ours. Helping the Commander, he co-ordinated our sections under attack, moving about with absolute coolness under fire. Then, whether or not the battle had ceased for the day, he got us our food.

My last memory of Harry was on the morning of July 9, the third day of the offensive. He was bringing us our breakfast before we went to the attack. In the afternoon of that day he was leading a section of the company up a hillside when he was shot through the throat. In the night he died while lying in the gulch just below our positions.

We lost many splendid comrades; the names and faces of each one of them form an indelible line across our memories, but Harry Hynes because he embodied the best qualities of them all will remain with us as a symbol of their courage and sacrifice.

Max Krauthamer, prominent Labour attorney of New York, devoted the whole of his time to workers' cases and featured in the historic Scottsboro' case as well as the victorious case of Angelo Herndon.

Early in December 1936, he decided to join the ranks of the Republican Army in Spain. He felt that the fight here was more important, more sharp, and that he would be of more use here. He arrived in Spain and immediately was sent to the front with the Lincoln Battalion. He was one of those fearless fighters who were the first to go over the top whenever needed. Time and



MAX KRAUTHAMER

again comrades asked him to go to the rear to work, but he always refused, in spite of the fact that he had a heart ailment.

In March, at Jarama, when the fascists made a fierce attack against a Spanish Battalion on our flank, Max was the first to rush in defence of this position. There he received a slight wound in the eye but he refused to go into the hospital.

Max Krauthamer fell on July 6 in the attack against Villanueva de la Cañada. Severely wounded with machine gun fire, he refused First Aid saying that he was "done for" anyway and the First Aid men would only endanger their own lives in trying to carry him back. He died on the battle field, clenched fist upraised.

With the loss of Comrade Krauthamer the American Lincoln Battalion has lost an inspiring and fearless soldier. As we stand with bowed heads we promise that we will avenge him!

E. B.

En nuestro próximo número publicaremos las biografías de algunos camaradas españoles que dieron su vida por la Democracia en el mes de julio.



COMMANDANT NATHAN

Les dernières heures de Nathan

La nuit est relativement tranquille. Un arbre fracassé et les corps de deux agents de liaison de l'Etat-Major indiquent l'endroit où, dans un abri, se trouvent le camarade CUNNINGHAM, Chef des opérations, ainsi que ses hommes. C'est là que s'arrête la voiture du camarade NATHAN; celui-ci se dirige vers l'abri et donne des instructions pour la relève de la Brigade.

Il est 10 heures du soir.

Les camarades de la Brigade, qui connaissent le commandant Nathan depuis le soir, au cours de cette dernière nuit, circulant sans cesse, soit à pied, soit en voiture, s'occupant du transport des armes et des munitions, du mouvement des Bataillons et autres unités, donnant des indications à la Brigade qui nous relevait; en un mot, ayant l'oeil partout.

Sortant à peine de l'hôpital, j'arrivais sur les positions de réserve, extrêmement fatigué. Je dis à NATHAN: — Je voudrais me mettre là, à terre, sans chercher une meilleure place et ne plus bouger. — Non, me répondit-il, pas un seul officier de l'Etat-Major ne doit se coucher avant que nous soyons sûrs que tous les bataillons ont eu du café.

Nous nous assimes à la cuisine anglaise en attendant que les dernières unités aient franchi l'entrée du camp. Tout à coup, je m'aperçus que NATHAN était parti. Il ne m'avait rien dit, remarquant sans doute l'état de fatigue dans lequel je me trouvais.

C'est alors qu'une escadrille de "CAPRONI" se mit à bombarder les environs du camp. Peu après, un camarade venait nous annoncer que le camarade NATHAN était gravement atteint par un éclat de bombe.

Je m'enquis: — Où était-il allé? — On me répondit: — Il était allé voir si les cuisines étaient arrivées et préparaient le café pour les soldats.

Jusqu'au dernier moment, le camarade NATHAN avait donné l'exemple du souci pour les besoins de ses camarades.

ANDRE KOBAL



YOUR GRUB WAS LATE—AN WHY!

The cooks get all the kicks of war and none of the kudos. Admit it, you riflemen! You think of the cooks as "those guys behind the lines who are always late with the grub".

We never fed your regularly, nor very well, tis true. But fed you were, someway



or other, as often as we could. And there's no harm in your knowing how it was done.

Yeah, our life was a soft one, was it? At times we brought the kitchen as near to the lines as we dared. And we paid for it. We were bombed; we were shelled; we were strafed. More than once we had to pick shrapnel from our pots. Do you wonder that your grub was sometimes late?

At other times, we cooked back where only avions could reach us (and now and then they did reach us), and we brought up the grub in hot containers in lorries. The British truck was strafed and two men killed and two wounded in one morning.

A quiet life for the cooks, eh?

And in places where lorries couldn't go, we used mules. Sixteen mules were killed on these trips. "Only sixteen!" A quiet life, eh?

Now, remember we are not staffed by professional army cooks. We just did our best. Of course, we made mistakes. Many times you got the food cold, or there was not enough food, or it was late coming. We profit by our mistakes. We are overhauling our organisation and perfecting it for the "next time". So don't curse the cooks overmuch!

ONE OF 'EM

Nuestro Comisario, habla

Camaradas: Es verdad que el principal objetivo de nuestra ofensiva no se realizó completamente. El enemigo tiene todavía fuerzas a las puertas de Madrid. Pero como lo ha admitido incluso la prensa fascista, nuestro avance ha tenido resultados muy importantes.

El avance ha sorprendido al Alto Mando del enemigo, ha aniquilado una parte importante de sus tropas, ha quebrantado todos sus planes de ofensiva, forzándoles a concentrar su aviación, artillería y tanques, incluso tropas, retirándolos de otros frentes. La presión sobre Santander disminuyó, dando un descanso al heroico pueblo vasco para organizar y reforzar sus efectivos. Sobre todo se ha demostrado a los fascistas y al mundo entero lo que puede alcanzar nuestro Ejército, recién organizado. En las más feroces batallas de toda la guerra, en los días de la mayor concentración de fuerzas fascistas, artillería y aviación, no pudieron reconquistar el sector. Este sector es una amenaza para las líneas fascistas y una base desde la que nuestro Ejército podrá librar a Madrid en un futuro próximo. Así nuestra ofensiva ha dado un duro golpe al enemigo; así ha dado ánimo y esperanza no sólo al pueblo español, sino a todos los pueblos democráticos del mundo.

Algunos de los mejores y más valientes de nuestros camaradas han caído en el territorio reconquistado para España el mes pasado. De sus tumbas, de la tierra surcada por los obuses, de la España crucificada por la guerra viene el llamamiento para proseguir hasta la victoria final, por la que dieron sus vidas. Para honrar a nuestros camaradas caídos levantaremos un monumento digno de ellos—el monumento de sus anhelos—: la liberación de España.

Tenemos que reconocer no solamente nuestras debilidades, sino nuestra fuerza. El enemigo, perdiendo hombres, pero reforzado por Hitler y Mussolini con material de guerra, realiza el último esfuerzo desesperado. Pero nosotros tenemos amplios refuerzos de hombres y material de guerra, que aumenta cada día.

¡Cada uno a su puesto, camaradas! Utilicemos este período de descanso para prepararnos para una terminación victoriosa de la guerra. Vosotros sois luchadores de la Libertad, tenéis una moral elevadísima. Lo único que nos falta es perfeccionar nuestra organización y asegurar una cooperación más estrecha entre las diversas armas de nuestra Unidad.

En el último mes habéis escrito una página gloriosa de vuestro honroso pasado. Nosotros no somos los únicos que decimos que la XV Brigada tiene anales de los mejores del Ejército Popular. ¡Sois dignos de estos anales! Os organizáis y ejercitáis para sobrepasarlos y poder en el próximo combate vengar a nuestros muertos y adelantar hasta la victoria su causa, que es la nuestra.

AITKEN

Comisario de la Brigada.

POPULAR COMMISSAR STEVE NELSON

"Don't let em get Steve!" This is the word that travelled like a flash of lightning through the Lincoln-Washington Battalion during the recent offensive.

Steve Nelson, Political Commissar of the Lincoln-Washington Battalion. Tireless worker. At any minute, night or day, you can see him moving from trench to trench, always on the lookout for dangerous peep-holes, poor sandbags or bad machinegun positions; patiently explaining to the comrades news of other fronts and of the outside world; concerned with the opinion of every comrade, whether it be a question of winning a battle or of getting a tooth-brush.

Steve epitomises all that the Spanish People's Army demands of a Commissar. At one stage in the July fighting, when the Lincoln Battalion suffered a terrific loss of military leadership, Steve without hesitation assumed command. Seventeen hours a day could be called a short day for him. Not a day passed without a visit from this indefatigable leader of men to the machine gun company, infantry, kitchen, and armoury, in addition to many discussions with weary as well as with determined soldiers.

Now is not the time to tell in full the story of this comrade who is loved by his men. Suffice it at this time to say of him: soldier, political leader, comrade!

SOLIDARITY!

At one stage of the recent offensive, we of the Washington-Lincoln Battalion were in reserve, when the word came that reinforcements were needed immediately to stop the fascists from breaking through at a certain village. We started out on a thirteen kilometre hike through the sand. After an all-night walk, with no rest, we approached the village in the early morning. After a breakfast (good except for the coffee!) we got in readiness for an enemy attack. But there was no attack.

We were promised a wonderful supper of fruit salad, soup, bread and wine. Just when it was ready we were given the order to advance. The machine gunners dined well—they ate the whole works!

The enemy evidently expected us. We went up through an artillery barrage and a fierce aerial bombardment. The damage was mainly to our nerves; we had only one killed.

As we approached the front lines our hard presed Spanish comrades stood up in their shallow trench and with clenched fists sang the "International". They had been going through hell, hoping for our coming. We had arrived. The line was saved. Never did relief find more rousing heartfelt expression than in that chanting of the "International", to the accompaniment of machine guns, bombs and shells!

LA PAGE DU SOUVENIR

PAGINA DEL RECUERDO THE PAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

A CANADIAN HERO

Comrade Stuart O'Neill of Vancouver, Canada, was killed in action at the taking of Villanueva de la Cañada on July 6. He will be remembered by many of the Canadian comrades for his work in the Ex-Servicemens' League in Vancouver, and also for his leading part in the "On to Ottawa Trek". He was a member of the delegation which travelled from Regina to Ottawa to obtain a hearing from the Canadian Government on the critical situation at Regina, when some thousands of citizens and trekkers were attacked by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in that city.

When leading his section to attack on July 6, Comrade O'Neill was amongst the first to be stricken down. He called out: "Boys they've got me, but carry on". After being wounded he tried to move to a more secure position and was killed in the attempt. All through the early phase of the attack Comrade O'Neill gave tremendous encouragement to his section. Canada can well mourn the loss of this stouthearted anti-fascist fighter.

JACK SHIRAI, JAPAN

Jack Shirai was one of the Japanese anti-fascists fighting with the Spanish Republican Army. Jack was active for many years in the Anti-Japanese Militarists organization in many parts of the U. S. He went to Japan to help mobilize and organize the Japanese people against the imperialists. He went into the army and at the risk of his life he organized the soldiers.

He was one of the first machine gunners in the Tom Mooney Company of the Lincoln Battalion. Jack always said "I quit a cook's job in New York in order to fight fascism" but, whenever he was needed he went to the kitchen cooking for the boys, and at night returned to the front and his gun.

He fell on July 8 on the Centre Front. We salute you, Jack! You are an outstanding fighter for freedom and liberty of all peoples.

E. B.

ERNIE ARION

Ernie was one of the most liked and respected soldiers of the original Washington Battalion, Coming from New York, he was an active member of the Young Communist League organisationally, and also devoted much of his time to the cultural field.

As a "Convulsionary" he helped entertain our Workers' Clubs back home, and continued with a new group in Spain which provided many hours of fun for our Battalion and also for the friendly Spanish people who packed the halls at each performance given in the towns that were our Training Camps.

His aptitude in military matters soon led to his appointment as a Group Leader, and his qualities were recognised by the men he led. He died in the line on July 9, the third day of our offensive. That Ernie is forever gone is a hard blow to all who knew him.

Nuestro camarada Nathan

Fué en Córdoba, en el mes de diciembre del año pasado, cuando encontré por primera vez al Capitán NATHAN, que era Comandante de la Primera Compañía de lengua inglesa que por entonces estaba ligada a un Batallón francés. Jugueteano con una caña y fumando su pipa se paseaba por un infierno de fuego de ametralladora y artillería, sin parecer prestar atención a todo esto. "El Capitán con la pipa" ha llegado a ser una leyenda. Sabía poco francés y menos español, pero por su valor y también por su camaradería se hacía querer por todos los camaradas españoles y franceses. Su primer pensamiento era siempre para sus hombres. Como buen Comandante se aseguraba continuamente de que no sólo combatían, sino que comían y dormían bien.

No fué una sorpresa para mí el enterarme de que había sido promovido al cargo de comandante de un Batallón. Le vi en el Jarama en el mes de febrero, y en Segovia en el mes de mayo, y siempre tenía la pipa y siempre se paseaba por entre las balas sin ningún daño. Había sido oficial en el Ejército inglés durante la guerra mundial, pero yo creo que su valor no se debía a su experiencia del fuego; venía de su fe en la causa de la Democracia. Era un buen soldado porque creía en la causa del Pueblo Español.

La noticia de su muerte en el Frente del Centro era para mí, y para todos los camaradas españoles, una gran conmoción. Se había escapado de tantos peligros inminentes, que pensábamos que era invulnerable. El hecho de que cayó cuando la Brigada iba a disfrutar de un descanso bien merecido, hace mucho mayor la tragedia. Su pérdida es muy grande, no sólo para las Brigadas Internacionales, sino para todo el Ejército Popular.

¡Salud, querido camarada NATHAN! Recordaremos siempre tu último mensaje. Nos decía: "Haced un buen trabajo, camaradas".

Nosotros haremos un buen trabajo.

VOLUNTARIO

Au Bataillon Franco-Belge

Au cours des dernières batailles, le Bataillon Franco-Belge fut, tout comme les autres Bataillons de notre Brigade, à son poste de combat.

Plusieurs mois de front avaient réduit les effectifs. Mais, en dépit de leur nombre restreint, les gars du "6 Février" ont rempli consciencieusement et pleinement les tâches que leur avait assignées l'Etat Major de la Brigade. Du premier jour de l'offensive jusqu'à la relève, ils ont su surmonter toutes les difficultés qu'ils ont rencontrées.

Depuis plusieurs mois déjà, des camarades espagnols sont venus grossir les rangs du Bataillon Franco-Belge; la vie commune dans les tranchées, les nécessités du service ont créé des liens étroits entre ceux-ci et les "internationaux", et c'est fraternellement mêlés et avec la même ardeur qu'ils luttèrent contre l'envahisseur fasciste.

DIMITROV HEROES

The First Section of the Matija Gubec Company of the Dimitrov Battalion is almost wholly composed of comrades coming from Canada. These comrades are, in the main, Croats who were compelled by economic circumstances to emigrate from their native country. Some had left behind them their entire families, wives, children and relatives.

In Canada these comrades held together, building their own language organisations, to the wide activities of which is due the close comradeship of Croats in Canada. And that close comradeship further brought large numbers of them from their new homes to fight Fascism in Spain.

In our Battalion, these Croats from Canada were called "The Newcomers", but despite the fact that they were new to the Spanish front they are old fighters for Democracy, for National Freedom and against Fascism. Our "Canadian Croats" are exemplary in discipline and comradeship. In the recent battles they completely fulfilled the high expectations we had of them.

They demonstrated on the battlefield the heroism of the class-conscious proletariat, heroism which is born of close comradeship between men who know why they fight and for what they fight. Much of their achievements can also be attributed to the splendid guidance of the military and political leadership of the section, Comrade Kosta Nagy and Comrade Ivan Stimac respectively. Both these comrades share the fullest confidence of the men.

In the latest battles, in which we dealt heavy blows to the Fascist, we lost several great comrades. Four of our Section died bravely in action: Skopljec, Racki, Milan Serdar, and Dekan.

Comrade Skopljec was over 50 years of age. When told that he was too old to withstand the rigours of the front line he replied: "I feel young enough; I do not wish to be anywhere save in the front line".

Sergeant Racki led his platoon into attack, and fell at their head. Comrade Racki, you have fallen, but your platoon has advanced and will continue to advance! Cheerful Serdar and Dekan are no longer with us but their songs are still on our lips, and will inspire us in the battles that are yet before us.

Glory to our fallen heroes!

Forward to new fights!

Forward to new victories!

IVAN GOSNJAK

Aujourd'hui, pour des raisons de réorganisations, le Bataillon Franco-Belge est dissous, et nos camarades sont incorporés à d'autres Brigades; mais l'esprit du "6 Février" continue à les animer et c'est toujours haut et ferme qu'ils continueront à porter leur glorieux drapeau.

Salut aux camarades qui tombèrent héroïquement sur le champ de bataille! Salut aux blessés et à tous ceux qui sont décidés à lutter jusqu'à l'écrasement du fascisme, jusqu'à la victoire finale!

STEPHAN
Commissaire politique.

FIRST AID

The treatment accorded to the Sanitary Service by the Fascists is, I know, of such long standing that the bombing of ambulances or the strafing of the wounded is now the rule rather than news. But the obstacles overcome by our First-Aid crews, while evacuating the wounded from the battle-fields of the July offensive, are worth special mention.

It was during the last stage of our advance, when our troops were moving over level, and near-level, ground, that it became extremely difficult to give the wounded proper attention. Our ambulances could not move nearer than two kilometres from the First-Aid post, because of the too-accurate shell fire.

At that stage the English and American Battalions were in a narrow salient, and subject to rifle and machine gun fire from three directions. The ordinary risks were perhaps quadrupled, but our Sanitarios did not fail in their tasks. After a preliminary dressing of wounds those unable to make their own way had to be carried for two kilometres to the ambulance. Crawling and dodging from cover to scant cover, getting out of the range of snipers, we finally arrived at the range of the enemy shell fire. There is no dodging shells; you just have to flop when there is the whistle of one. When the last of the load is on the ambulance, about turn, and back again for more patients!

AN INCIDENT TO ILLUSTRATE HOW OUR WOUNDED BEHAVE!

K. and I were carrying Paul Burns, seriously wounded in the leg, to the ambulance. We put him on the stretcher and for the umpteenth time, started on that wild trip back. When he saw that we intended carrying him all the way he refused to stay on the stretcher. Of course he could not walk, but he was determined not to put us to the work of carrying him. We had to force him to stay on. That someone in such great pain should find time to think of others is a thing worth being able to tell to your grandchildren.

El camarada Fort está gravemente herido

En el curso de la última ofensiva, nuestra XV Brigada ha pagado otra vez caro el tributo a la causa de la Libertad. Muchos de nuestros camaradas han caído: los unos heridos de muerte; los otros gravemente heridos. Entre estos últimos hay que contar, desgraciadamente, al camarada FORT, antiguo Comandante del Batallón Franco-Belga, recientemente promovido al grado de Mayor y que dirigía las operaciones del primer grupo de nuestra Brigada.

Durante la gran ofensiva de Villanueva de la Cañada y Brunete, ha participado con su entusiasmo y arrojo habituales. El 6 de julio, es decir, el primer día de la batalla, dirige las operaciones en el Sector de Brunete, y yendo a reconocer las posiciones enemigas, cae gravemente herido por dos balas fascistas. Una le atraviesa el muslo; la otra, penetrando por el ojo derecho, le corta el nervio óptico antes de salir por la sien izquierda.

Our Doctors and First Aid Workers go forward with our troops to succour the wounded.



Le camarade Fort est gravement blessé

Au cours de la dernière offensive, notre XVème Brigade a encore payé un lourd tribut à la cause de la Liberté. Beaucoup de nos camarades sont tombés: les uns, frappés à mort; les autres gravement blessés. Parmi ces derniers, il faut malheureusement compter le camarade Fort, ancien commandant du Bataillon Franco-Belge, tout récemment promu au grade de major et dirigeant les opérations du premier groupe de notre Brigade.

Il serait superflu de retracer ici le portrait de cet excellent combattant; il est connu et aimé de tous. Il appartient à cette phalange de socialistes révolutionnaires qui ont compris les dures nécessités de la lutte antifasciste et les ont délibérément acceptées. Spontanément et sans restriction, il a mis au service de cette lutte, ses capacités militaires qu'il avait acquises

comme officier, sur les champs de bataille de la grande guerre.

Nous le trouvons sur le front de Jarama, en février, à la tête de ce Bataillon "6 Février", dont il était si fier et qu'il affectionnait tant. C'est là qu'il recoit sa première blessure. Alors qu'avec une folle témérité il dirigeait les évolutions d'une auto-mitrailleuse, à proximité des lignes fascistes, il est atteint aux deux jambes par les éclats d'une balle explosive. Aussitôt rétabli, il reprend sa place parmi nous.

Puis c'est la grande offensive sur Villanueva de la Cañada et sur Brunete il y participe avec son enthousiasme et son allant habituels. Le 6 juillet, c'est-à-dire le premier jour de la bataille, il dirige les opérations sur le secteur de Brunete et c'est en allant reconnaître les positions ennemies qu'il tombe gravement atteint par deux balles fascistes. L'une lui a traversé la cuisse et l'autre, pénétrant par l'œil droit, lui tranche le nerf optique avant de ressortir par la tempe gauche.

Aujourd'hui, le camarade Fort, avec un stoïcisme et un courage admirable, attend, sur son lit d'hôpital, la délicate opération qui lui permettra peut-être de recouvrer la vue de l'œil gauche. Ne disait-il pas récemment à son chauffeur qui venait le voir: — Dès que je pourrai me lever, tu tâcheras de me trouver une voiture (la sienne a été complètement détruite par deux obus) pour que nous allions dire de bonjour aux camarades.

Quel magnifique exemple d'abnégation! Et si le parti socialiste français peut, à juste titre, s'enorgueillir de posséder un tel militant, nous sommes également fiers, nous, combattants antifascistes, de le compter parmi les meilleurs d'entre nous.

Que le camarade Fort trouve ici l'expression de notre profonde sympathie et de nos souhaits unanimes pour son prompt rétablissement.

ROGER CODOU



Miss Min Sigel
135 Waverly Pl.
New York, N. Y.
U. S. A.

