

Scenes of Heroic Spain Fighting Against Fascist Barbarism



ALVAREZ DEL VAYO, Spanish War Commissar in the present Cabinet (above with glasses), is shown at the Madrid front surrounded by Loyalist soldiers.



AFTER the fascist bombers passed over, this old Spanish woman, whose son had been killed fighting the fascists, is left without a home.



TARGET of fascist bombers in their raids over Madrid is this young child now recuperating in a Loyalist hospital behind the lines.

Pollitt Visits Spain

SECRETARY OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN TELLS OF HEROIC FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

[This is the first of a series of articles written by Harry Pollitt, Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain.]

By HARRY POLLITT

The first time that I went to Spain was in the last days of February, just after the historic battle on the Jarama where the British Battalion, alongside the Spanish army, played such a glorious part in preventing the Fascists from cutting the main road between Madrid and Valencia.

It was impossible on the occasion of my last visit to Spain, at the end of June, not to notice the great change that has taken place in the entire situation all over the country. For six days and nights I travelled by motor over a very large area of Republican Spain and the chief impression that I gained was the new feeling of confidence and optimism among the decisive sections of the population as a result of the policy of the new Spanish Government.

Unquestionably the masses of the people have more confidence in the new Government than they had in any that has been in power since July 18, 1936. They feel that now really serious efforts are being made to bring about complete unity in the military command, in the development of efficient war industry and in ending sabotage and destructive activities carried out by those who are more concerned with their personal positions and their crank theories than they are with the supreme task, that of winning the war against Fascism.

There is no use burking the fact: victory over Fascism is not only impeded by "non-intervention," by the

support given to Franco by Italy and Germany, but also by certain forces within Republican Spain who will sacrifice their own country in an attempt to justify false policies and to advance their own personal supremacy.

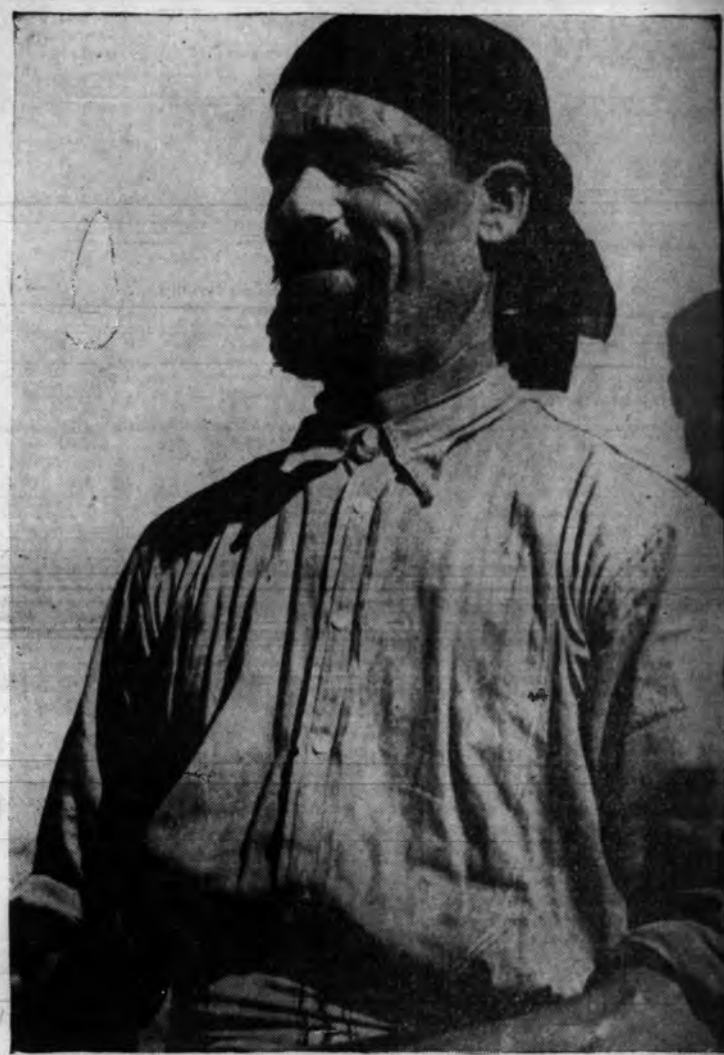
When the recent governmental crisis took place, these elements made all sorts of threats against the parties and people who clearly saw that without a change of government and policy, disaster lay ahead. But the masses of the Spanish people and especially the popular Republican Army, understood what was at stake, and demonstrated their determination to end the dangerous position that then existed, and to give full support to the new government which had to be formed if Republican Spain was to be saved.

The people and the army have given their full support to the new Spanish Government because the time was ripe once and for all to end factional struggles and to eliminate those weaknesses which were preventing speedy victory, thus objectively helping Franco more effectively than either Germany or Italy.

Every serious-minded citizen in Spain now feels the stronger for the change that has taken place in the internal situation. They see in practice that the new Spanish Government has taken more practical measures to win the war than the previous government have done in months. The result is that in spite of the daily bombing and shelling of Madrid and the coast towns, in spite of [Continued on Page 6]



A TRAWLER is armed and manned by the Spanish Loyalists to protect its shipping against the pirate ships of Gen. Francisco Franco.



TYPICAL of the thousands of Spanish peasants who have sprung to the defense of the Spanish democratic government is this peasant who has joined the People's Army to protect his country against the invasion of Hitler and Mussolini.



ROBERT MINOR (left), member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., stands as guard of honor at the bier of Guido Picelli, Italian Communist leader, killed at the Guadalajara front, January, 1937.



ANDRE MARTY, hero of the Black Sea revolt, French Communist leader, now on a visit to Spain.



DEFENDING Madrid, civilians join with militiamen of the Spanish People's Army in digging trenches in preparation for the offensive against the mercenaries and Italian Regular Army of the fascist general Francisco Franco.

POLLITT VISITS SPAIN

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Almeria, in spite of the fall of Bilbao, there is now greater confidence, élan and high morale than ever before both in the army and among the masses of the people.

It is clearer than ever before that in this situation, with the full backing of the democratic peoples of the whole world, a decisive victory can be won over fascism in the course of the next few months.

It needs also to be plainly stated that both those within Republican Spain and in the democratic countries (we have in mind in Britain the elements in the I.L.P. under the pernicious influence of Brockway) who, by their sniping, sabotage, creating doubts and propagating harmful theories, prevent the full mobilization of all the forces who want the Spanish Government to win, will bear before history a heavy and terrible responsibility.

Another most encouraging new development is the tremendous response that has been given within the ranks of the Spanish Socialist Party to the proposal of the Spanish Communist Party for the creation of one united working class political party. I attended

three mighty demonstrations in Madrid at which Communist and Socialist speakers spoke in favor of such unity, and no one could be in doubt that this not only corresponded to the desires of the Madrid workers, but that it is an aim that will be speedily accomplished.

It is impossible to over-estimate the great effect that such a united working class political party will have on the situation in Spain, and the new-found united strength that will be brought behind the government in all the problems that it has to solve.

I paid a short visit to the British Battalion, which I found having a well-earned rest after four and a half months continuously in the front line. The comrades were as glad to see me as I was to see them, and to have the chance of giving them the latest news of the political situation at home and abroad. News of the fall of Bilbao had reached them; they understood its seriousness, but it only served to increase their determination to avenge this defeat.

All the comrades, English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, were in fine trim and eager to get the letters I had taken out with me. And if in any of the letters there was a little

packet of Woodbines, what a popular fellow the lucky comrade immediately became! Fred Copeman, commander of the British Battalion, explained with pride, what a privilege it was to be at the head of such a splendid body of fighters.

Then the comrades bombarded me with letters and greetings to take home, as well as little presents that some of them had bought in Madrid. By now the families of the comrades will have received all the letters which were posted to them as soon as I returned to England, but if Mick Morgan only knew the adventures of the tablecloth he sent home to his wife, he would have a big laugh. I am sure that certain persons at an English port were quite convinced it was a secret document disguised as a tablecloth, but by now Mick's wife will no doubt be proudly displaying it to her neighbors in Sunderland.

It is really remarkable how different the International sounds when sung by the International Brigade and when sung in a quiet London hall. It takes on an entirely new significance and as I left the International was finely sung and lusty cheers were given for our common cause.

(To Be Continued)