

# *The* VOLUNTEER *for* LIBERTY

Issued Monthly

January, 1938

ORGAN OF THE VETERANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES (AMERICAN CHAPTER)

## OUR VICTORY IS YOUR VENGEANCE

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Chapoooff, Samuel  
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Panazis, George  
Christodolow, C.  
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Lou Levick  
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Joe Dallet  
Milton Herndon  
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Victor Franco  
Pincus Kaplinsky  
Robert Shissler  
Dan Pasternack  
Jack Shiffman  
Matt Elomaki  
Julian Baublis  
Ben Smith  
Nathan, Schilling  
Isidore Schrenzel



Horzich, Sam  
Lepo, Daniel

# The VOLUNTEER for LIBERTY

ORGAN OF  
THE VETERANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES  
(AMERICAN CHAPTER)

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We dedicate this first issue of the VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY to the memory of our fellow Americans who gave up their lives in Spain.

These men were brave, though they disliked being told so. Their embarrassment before extravagant praise--an embarrassment which we all shared--arose from their realization that courage is not something which is known only in Spain or which rises miraculously only in the presence of death. It must not be, it can not be divorced from the complex texture of character, growing through natural development and built solidly on experience. Most of these men learned lessons of devotion and self-sacrifice in the labor movement in America. Their going to Spain, was merely a logical extension of their actions here. They themselves saw nothing sudden or startling or surprising in all this.

We are proud to do honor to these our friends and companions, with whom we marched and beside whom we fought.

## OUR ORGANIZATION

We who have returned from Spain and have formed the American Section of the Veterans of the International Brigade may be expected to have an especial interest in the setting up of still another anti-fascist organization. If there are two things we all learned in Spain, they are first that there is immediate and pressing need for effective resistance to the growth and spread of fascism, and second, that this can be accomplished only through sound organization.

We are very happy that in present-day America, the friends of progress are not forced to organize by battalions and brigades. We are happy that our American democracy protects us in our

efforts to preserve it against threatening reaction. But we see too that much education is needed and that there is much work to be done.

America's relative geographical isolation from Europe and Asia has been in the past, both a blessing and a curse. At the present time it represents a grave danger, for it gives the American people a false sense of security. The average citizen, except these in or near a few large cities--is dependent upon newspapers from which the slightest local occurrence will crowd all but the most world-shaking of foreign events and upon a radio which finds almost any important contemporary topic too 'controversial' for the comfort of its huge and diverse

audiences. It is not unnatural, therefore, that he should feel that the physical distance which separates him from Spain and China from Germany and Italy and the Soviet Union means that happenings in these countries can never really affect him.

It is true that in recent months large sections of the American people have become conscious of the tightening of the lines in this country. Political and economic realignments and the great activity in the labor movement have clarified the American scene for millions of people and shown them where the banners of progress are moving. And the dismal collapse, for instance, of the red-baiting attacks on Roosevelt and LaGuardia, demonstrated that the people are certainly not destitute of political intelligence.

But all these stirrings and movements have not been invented all of a sudden by and for America. The world progresses because it is possible for us to learn from our own experience and from that of others. America must advance to meet and solve her problems with the advantage of knowing by what methods and with what results other peoples have confronted problems which are in many ways similar.

To this end the Veterans offer themselves as individuals and as an organization. We pledge ourselves to work shoulder to shoulder with all who strive to disclose the nature and dangers of fascism, with all who combat reaction in all its forms, with all who seek to advance freedom, and democracy and to maintain world peace.



Rotograph, 817.  
Broadway, N. Y.

## JACK SHIRAI

**JAPANESE - AMERICAN VOLUNTEER, KILLED  
AT VILLANUEVA DE LA CANADA, -- JULY, 1937.**

I hear that Comrade Shirai fell.  
Who did not know him?  
His funny pidgin English,  
His smiling eyes,  
And his brave heart  
Made him loved as a brother  
In the Abraham Lincoln Battalion,  
JACK SHIRAI of Hakodate  
Son of Japanese earth.  
Re went to America  
Because at home there was no bread;  
Became a cook in Frisco.  
His art tickled the palates  
Of the richest playboys of the city.  
In the summer of nineteen hundred thirty-  
six  
as the newspaper wrote,  
In Europe, in Spain,  
The Fascist wolf had come out to murder.  
Jack Shirai packed his few things  
And was among the first  
To come from America  
Helping the Spanish people in their fight  
For human rights.  
When the bullets whistled  
And the tearing shell, burst  
Then the boys of the Lincoln Battalion  
Watched Jack Shirai.  
He had a laughing heart!

In answer to many requests on the part of the Veterans we are printing the,  
words to the:

"JARAMA RIVER VALLEY"  
(To the tune of the Red River Valley")

There's a valley in Spain called Jarama  
It's a place that we all, know too well  
For (t'was there that we gave of our  
manhood  
And where most of our best Comrades  
fell.

We are proud of our Lincoln Battalion  
And the stand for Madrid that it made  
For we fought like true sons of the soil  
As a part of the 15th Brigade.

Once (in June on the Jarama)  
He was sent as a cook  
Behind the lines to a hospital.  
They liked him there--the sick,  
'The wounded, everybody.  
And the village farmers talked often  
Of the Japanese who had come so far for  
them.  
But one day he ran away,  
Back to the lines--to the front.  
In the North, when we cracked  
The ring around Madrid,  
He was there as we stormed Brunette,  
And Villanueva de la Canada.  
As the night was bright  
With the shine of the Burning towns,  
Torn by exploding bombs  
And the voices of the great guns,  
JACK SHIRAI FELL.  
The Abraham Lincoln Battalion  
Of the People's Army of Freedom,  
And the Japanese proletariat,  
Will not forget him.

LUDWIG D.

With the rest of The International Column  
In the fight for the freedom of Spain  
We swore in that Valley of Jarama  
That fascism never would reign.

We have left this dark Valley of sorrow  
And its memories we ne'er shall forget  
So before we continue this reunion  
Let us stand for our glorious dead.

## VETERANS LAY A WREATH ARMISTICE DAY AT THE ETERNAL LIGHT IN NEW YORK



TO YOU, FALLEN IN SPAIN, TO  
YOU, STILL FIGHTING TO AVENGE  
THE FALLEN AND TO PRESERVE  
THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY  
AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT OF FAS-  
CISM, AND TO YOU COMRADES,  
WHO HAVING OFFERED YOUR  
LIVES AND STRENGTH, AND NOW  
WOUNDED IN THE STRUGGLE,  
RETURNED TO CARRY ON THE  
FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY HERE IN  
AMERICA, I EXTEND MY  
GREETINGS.

WE MUST NOT SLACKEN OUR EF-  
FORTS WITH THE SPIRIT OF DE-  
TERMINATION THAT PREVAILS IN  
THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE--  
WE MUST CONTINUE OUR FIGHT  
FOR THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY  
IN SPAIN AND IN THE WORLD.

BILL LAWRENCE.

THE VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Two Greetings  
to the  
Conference

**B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission**  
(1942 Constitution of the American Union)

ALFRED A. COHEN,  
President, War Fund

WALTER BISHOP,  
Secretary, War Fund  
100 State Building  
Columbus, Ohio

RESEARCH BUREAU  
115 & 117th St., N. E., Room 1  
117 1/2th Ave.  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Dec. 4, 1937

Mr. David McE. White,  
Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

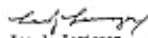
Dear Mr. White:

It gives me great regret that I cannot arrange to be with you for the meeting of the Veterans on December 11th.

Samuel was one of you, devoted to the same cause for which you have all served and sacrificed, and his family are enlisted for life in the same service on the home front.

I know as a veteran of the World War how much a veterans' organization can mean, not only for the very important task of keeping together the men who have such deep common interests and experiences, but even more in lining them up for a common platform in the future. The cause of anti-fascism alone is one which will undoubtedly call for continued service in the future, and it is one where your experiences will make you doubly useful in America. And there are certainly other principles and other realizations of yours which will become a part of your continuing platform.

Give my best wishes to the new organization and the men who are establishing it.

Very sincerely,  
  
Lee J. Levinger,  
Past National Chaplain,  
The American Legion

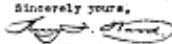
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
ORGANIZED IN 1827  
NEW YORK  
Dec. 2nd, 1937

Mr. David McEvelly White  
Veterans of the International Brigade  
125 West 45th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

It is well that those who have risked their lives in the struggle for democracy, to prevent the Fascists from destroying the only road that leads to peace, should organize to further promote the cause for which they fought.

As Chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy I welcome this group who will bring to the ranks of the militant anti-fascist of this country, the spirit of "No Passover". I suggest that the veterans of the International Brigade give their special attention to methods for bringing the ex-soldiers of the United States into the ranks of those who are working to preserve and extend democratic rights to all sections of the American people, to keep the United States out of war, and to help keep war out of the world. I cordially invite you to associate yourselves with the American League for Peace and Democracy for this purpose.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Harry F. Ward

Dr. Harry F. Ward and  
Rabbi Levinger were  
both invited to speak  
at our Conference.  
Being unable to, they  
sent these letters.