

DORAN-FIRST TO ADVANCE -LAST TO RETREAT

By JOHN GATES, Commissar 15th Brigade



DAVE DORAN

Doran was a member of that great body of commissars whose names are inextricably linked with the history of the Spanish People's Army—of the great tradition of commissars who were the first to advance, the last to retreat.

One cannot speak of the transformation of the 15th Brigade into a disciplined regular army unit without speaking of Doran. Today we accept the discipline and forms of the regular army as a matter of course but veterans of the 15th Brigade remember when it was considered "bourgeois" to salute an officer, officers condescended to wear their stripes, and uniforms, morning parade, orders of the day, military instruction was not considered necessary, etc. Lt.-Col Copic in his article deals quite extensively with the valuable assistance Doran gave him in the successful struggle to militarize the Brigade, so I shall say no more about it.

Doran also made great contributions towards strengthening the bonds of unity between the Spanish and International comrades. He fought and exposed any manifestation of chauvinism against the Spanish, against any intimation that Spaniards are inferior. It was he who first launched the slogan of making the 15th Brigade a university for Spanish officers, of each International adopting a Spanish brother, pointing out that the best

and most lasting contribution the Internationals could make in Spain would be to leave behind a great body of Spanish officers and commissars trained by the Internationals. Doran not only instilled this idea in the minds of the men but also showed example by being the first to put his principle into practice. It was under Doran's tutelage that a soldier, a Miliciano de Cultura, José Maria Sastre, became Adjutant Brigade Commissar and finally Division Commissar. So also with José Maria Varela, now Adjutant Brigade Commissar.

Doran was one of those rare commissars who are as good military commanders as they are commissars. At Caspe, in the absence of Brigade Commander Copic, Doran acted as Brigade Commander for two days and organized a resistance which made the German fascist press declare later had delayed the whole fascist advance several days. Again as commander of the Batea sector, Doran, using the Lincoln Battalion as his main base, set up a successful line of resistance that halted the fascist advance until orders were received to retire—a retirement from which Doran did not return. Truly it can be said of Doran (the highest praise any commissar can receive, he was the first to advance, the last to retreat).

This is the heritage Doran has left us—a heritage that is the life of the Brigade itself and that we can never forget. Today we are faced with new and greater tasks. We are in a far more favorable position than ever before. But the enemy is also preparing: hard and difficult battles are ahead. We cannot be satisfied with our good work accomplished to date. It is necessary to carry forward with the GREATEST SPEED the program and heritage left us by Doran.



DIGGING IN
FORTIFICANDO

Therefore, on this May 1st, we the combatants of the 15th Brigade pledge in the name of our former Brigade Commissar Dave Doran: to rapidly improve and perfect our military organization, to improve the instruction for every man and officer, to accelerate our fortification work, to train new Spanish cadres, to further cement the unity between Internationals and Spaniards by organizing them together in the same squad, to carry into real life the slogan—WE LIVE TOGETHER; WE FIGHT TOGETHER, to develop vigilance against defeatists and gossip mongers and all those elements who aid the enemy, to work with ever increasing rhythm so as to perfect our fighting machine.

Let us be worthy of Doran. Let his life serve as an example to all of us. Let us share Doran's implacable hate towards fascism that caused him, an outstanding leader of the Young Communist League of the U. S. A., to come to Spain and give his life that democracy may live. Let us say together with Doran:

¡VIVA LA 15 BRIGADA!
¡VIVA EL EJERCITO POPULAR!
¡VIVA LA REPUBLICA!

"WILL FIGHT FASCISM TO END" N. Y. TIMES WRITER IS TOLD

William P. Carney, the New York Times correspondent with Franco, paid a visit several weeks ago to six of our comrades who had been captured during the last offensive. He found them all well, but not particularly eager to see or talk with him. "The general opinion among us," he quotes one of them, Max Parker, as telling him, "Is that you have sold out to the fascists".

Despite the fact that Carney's well-known pro-fascist attitude was



as evident as ever in this story, he could not help grudgingly admitting that the morale of these six American comrades was unshaken. John Logan, of Boston made no secret of his politics or of his political convictions in talking to Franco's stooge, Carney.

Logan then went on to say, quoting the account in the Times, "I came to Spain more than a year ago and have served on all fronts except the Andalusian. I gave up a job as a seaman when I enlisted. I have been wounded twice and I intend to fight to the end in this war against world fascism that is being waged in Spain".

The names of the six comrades from the Lincoln-Washington and Mackenzie-Papineau Battalions who so staunchly maintain their antifascist faith in spite of their imprisonment in one of Franco's concentration camps are: John Logan, Max Parker, Matthews Dykstra, Edward Hodge, Richard Thompson, and Morris Conway. They are an additional proof, if any were needed, of the firm spirit that has brought so many loyal antifascists to fight the German and Italian invaders of Spain.



COMMISSAR DORAN presenting soldier with reward for merit
EL COMISARIO DORAN ofreciendo regalos por méritos de guerra