



Spain

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SPAIN OCTOBER 1934

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Henri Barbusse :

The rising of the Spanish proletariat in October 1934 should be for us a source of inspiration, not of despair. True, it has been followed by a brutal repression which calls for the greatest sympathy towards its victims. True, it has been followed by the destruction of all the hopes aroused by the revolution of 1931, which rid Spain of Alphonso XIII. This systematic and cynical destruction and betrayal — which provoked a magnificent deed of righteous anger which has become a magnificent sacrifice — continues throughout Spain, with the complicity of all the different enemies of the people. But the popular wave which swept over Asturias, Catalonia and other parts, and which only retreated because they did not get the help they should have had, has gathered immense power, the conscious energy and support of the working masses and the intellectuals, devoted to the cause of Spanish liberty. The events of 1934 hold out great promises for the future. Since this sacrifice for the great cause of humanity has not been in vain, while we await the fateful changes hastened on by the vision and idealism of men, the most fitting tribute we can pay to the heroes of "Red October" in Spain is to uphold the greatness of their aims as opposed to the bloody cruelty of the reaction, to exalt the former and expose the latter before the whole world, and to defend unflinchingly and with all our strength those revolutionaries who are in the hands of the government which represents the enemies of the Spanish people.

Henri Barbusse.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC



On the Fourteenth of April, 1931, the Spanish people enthusiastically greeted the Republic. They looked forward to the distribution of land among the peasants and agricultural workers, the limitation of hours of work, a living wage for all, schools and popular education, the suppression of the hated Civil Guard, the autonomy of such provinces as Catalonia and the Basque Country, the disestablishment of the church. These are the powers which were «conquered» in the struggle for the Republic :



the Cross...

and



...the Sceptre.

The people were dissatisfied with...

a division of the national wealth which forced the great majority of the people to live in miserable hovels and even in caves, while a small class of parasites built luxury palaces for their own pleasure.

Three million agricultural workers had had enough of a system which compelled them to work 16 hours a day for the great landlords in return for a wage of 9d. per day.



Thousands of working-class families lived in these holes in the ground.

WHO OWNED THE LAND ?

	Number.	Hectares per individual	Hectares per class	Percentage of Total Land
Big landlords ...	50,000	464	23,200,000	51.5
Wealthy farmers ...	700,000	22.6	15,800,000	35.2
Small farmers ...	1,000,000	5	5,000,000	11.1
Poor peasants ..	1,250,000	0.4	1,000,000	2.2
Agricultural workers	2,000,000	—	—	0
Total	5,000,000	—	45,000,000	100

The population of Spain is 24 millions 51.1% of the land, more than half the country, belonged to a small class of big landlords, numbering scarcely 50,000, about a five-hundredth of the total population.



The Fine Arts Club, with its swimming-bath, restaurant, theatre, ball-rooms and gaming-rooms.

THE PEOPLE WERE DISSATISFIED WITH

the Duke of Medinaceli, one of the big landlords who spent his time in the luxury hotels of Paris and London

Don Juan March, a war profiteer, who had made a fortune of 12 million pounds out of the people by monopolising the tobacco trade,



The Duke of Medinaceli



Don Juan March

The Republic proclaimed...

on paper the disestablishment of the church, and promoted laws confiscating the lands of the Jesuits and taking education out of the hands of the clergy. With the help of the Parties of the Right, the clergy managed to



Pita Romero meeting Cardinal Pacelli at Barcelona, in order to bring about a rapprochement between church and state.

prevent these laws being carried out. They prevailed upon Alexandre Lerroux to admit into his cabinet Pita Romero, whose chief task was to lead the government into surrendering to the church.

Agrarian reform remains on paper. 12,000 out of three million families have received land. Of 45 million hectares, 40,000 have been distributed to the peasants! That is 0,009 %

In the Autumn of 1932, an agricultural worker received 3s. per day. By the Autumn of 1933 the wages had been reduced by half and 1934 to 9d. per day.;

AFTER THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF THE REPUBLIC...



the Duke of Medinaceli continues to squander his rents at Paris, London and St. Moritz.



Thanks to new business Don Juan March increases his fortune at the expense of the people.



thousands of agricultural workers still live in holes dug in the ground.

REACTION GROWS

Gil Robles, the representative of the clergy and the landed proprietors in the Cortes, prepares for the rule of the clerical and fascist elements. His programme includes: the restoration of the ancient rights of the church, the abolition of the new land laws, the deprivation of Catalan autonomy, and the restoration of a centralised autocratic government.



A Fascist exploit. One morning the banner of Primo de Rivera's Fascist group is unfurled on the roof of the Casa del Pueblo at Madrid.



«Long live United Spain!» A demonstration of Primo de Rivera's Fascist bands.



« Society has only one enemy — Marxism. We must exterminate it with blood and iron. Only when the conservative classes seize the opportunity will a better day dawn. » (Gil Robles).



Fascism trains the bourgeois youth.

Side by side with Gil Robles' clerical fascism, another Fascist group, using terroristic methods, also develops. It is led by Antonio Primo de Rivera, the son of the late dictator. His storm troops, the «Pistoleros», are hired thugs who miss no opportunity of looting shops and houses.

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The first victim of Fascist shooting, Lino Rico, who is permanently disabled.



The new police created by the Republic, the « Guardia de Asalto », at work.

“COMRADES, TO YOUR POSTS!”



A United Front meeting at the Madrid Stadium.



Largo Caballero, the leader of the left-wing of the Spanish Socialist Party, who has now been in prison for 6 months.



Passionaria, a peasant woman, who is an untiring fighter on behalf of the Spanish workers. For years she has been wanted by the police for her revolutionary activity.

Leaders of the



Margarita Nelken, Socialist deputy in the Cortes, an enthusiastic worker for the United Front in Spain.



Jose Diaz, President of the Central Committee for the release of



Jesus Hernandez, one of the Communist leaders, speaking to 80,000 Madrid workers at a United Front demonstration in 1934.

Lerroux 1907 : « The Spanish revolution is a necessity. Like all revolutions it is inevitable. That is why, comrades and friends, we place ourselves in the forefront of the struggle. We will be your champions. For myself, I claim the post where the danger is greatest.

15/3/81
Lerroux 1933 : « The task of this government is to establish peace and order... I am sure that, when the nobility of our intentions is recognised, all differences and political hostilities will cease so as to enable us to reach our goal.

Lerroux, October 6th, 1934 : « The state of siege will be enforced with all the severity necessary ».



Alexandre Lerroux.

revolutionary forces



of the Communist Party, speaking at a meeting Ernst Thaelmann.



Unity of purpose — Lerroux with Gil Robles.

The state of siege in Madrid

When Lerroux gave important positions in his cabinet to Gil Robles and his friends, Robles made the first move towards establishing a dictatorship; the government proclaimed a state of siege.



Enforcing the state of siege. Police firing on the people in the «Puerta del Sol», the centre of Madrid.



Soldiers pressed into service to break the strike.

The general

The workers and peasants replied with a revolutionary general strike, and with risings in Catalonia and Asturias.

strike

The whole appearance of Madrid was changed, and the streets were filled with uniformed men.



The police light the street lamps



The «Guardias de Asalto» protect blackleg taxi-drivers.



Soldiers have to bake bread.



Police searching a workers pockets.

CATALONIA



On October 6th, 1934, Don Louis Companys, the President of the Province of Catalonia, proclaimed the Catalan Republic, and...

While the General Strike was on in Madrid, the Catalan workers and peasants rose in revolt. Catalan autonomy, attained in 1931-1932 at the cost of great sacrifices, was seriously threatened by the clerico-fascist government of Lerroux and Gil Robles.

Catalonia with its capital, Barcelona, is the most important industrial and commercial centre of the whole of Spain. The people speak Catalan, which is very different from Spanish and resembles Provençal, the dialect of Southern France. This language is officially recognised and is used in the law courts, etc...



..... after 12 hours' fighting gave himself up to General Batet, the commander of the Government forces.....

The industrial proletariat and the peasants (« Rabassaires ») have fought for national independence. The middle class, belonging chiefly to the two parties, « Esquerra Catalana » and « Estat Catala », also stood for national independence. The workers and peasants looked to the nationalist parties for the solution of their economic problems and above all for agrarian reform, while the industrial proletariat hoped to achieve social emancipation through national freedom.

On October 6th, the workers rose in the industrial centres of Catalonia. Under their pressure, the President of the Catalan Province proclaimed a Republic — with the one condition, that it should be « federal », that is still a part of the Spanish State. He called on the workers and peasants to take up arms in defence of the Republic, and counted on the support of General Batet, commander of the garrison at Barcelona. But he was mistaken in this expectation, for Batet led his forces against the Catalans, and after one night of fighting Companys surrendered.

However, the workers seized power in Tarrassa, Mataros, Manresa, Sabadell, Badelona, etc. They fought with the courage born of despair against the troops which the Madrid government sent against them. In many localities they held out for two, sometimes three days. Only artillery fire forced them into surrender.

To-day the prisons of Catalonia are filled with thousands of prisoners. They have become so crowded that the government is forced to transform ships into floating prisons.



....meanwhile the young Catalans are ready to fight.

Spain in Revolt :

THE BASQUE COUNTRY



A worker of Andalusia being searched by the Civil Guard.

Revolutionary marksmen at Pasajes (Basque Country). The rising is suppressed, but the rifles — and the men who know how to use them — remain hidden.

As elsewhere in Spain the revolutionary strike commenced in the Basque Country on October 6th. The Basque Country is in the north of Spain, and up to 1836 the Basques were almost independent of the Spanish State. In 1875 they still did not serve in the Spanish army, and they always possessed a certain measure of administrative autonomy. The Provincial Councils, elected by the municipalities, were responsible for the administration of the province. Since the Republic only State Commissions function, nominated by the central government. The Basques had the right to levy their



The Civil Guard at work. Death for whoever shows himself at the window.

own taxes, of which only a proportion was paid over to the government. Lerroux's predecessor, the Radical Samper, in agreement with and supported by Gil Robles, decided to impose a tax on the Basque Country, but the Basques resisted this measure which violated their ancient rights. Thus began the conflict between the Basques and the Spanish government. The Basques formed a revolutionary committee which united all parties except the Monarchists.

On October 6th the Basque Country rose against the Madrid government. Nationalists, small traders, artisans, workers and peasants fought side by side. The mining region of

Biscaye was entirely in their hands. The fiercest struggles took place in the district of Eibar, in which are situated the armament factories of Pasajes, Mondragon and Portugalete.

Soviets sprang into existence everywhere. They disarmed the troops and armed the population, and they organised the food supplies. In the mountain regions the fighting lasted for a fortnight, in the towns for two days only. After the defeat of Catalonia, the nationalists laid down their arms. Left on their own, the workers and peasants were forced to yield to the numerically superior forces of the government.

THE FIRST SOVIET REPUBLIC IN SPAIN:

BANDO

COMITE CENTRAL REVOLUCIONARIO

BANDO.

AL OBJETO DE REALIZAR EL ABASTECIMIENTO DEL PUEBLO
SE ORDENA A LOS COMERCIANTES SE PONGAN AL FRENTE
DE SUS ESTABLECIMIENTOS ANTES DE UNA HORA.-
TODA PERSONA QUE NO SE PRESENTEN LES SERAN VIOLENTAS.
MISMOS.-

Octubre de 1934.-

BANDO DEL COMITE DE GUERRA

El ciudadano que da noticias tendenciosas que
favorezcan la posición de las fuerzas represivas del Go-
bierno, o que tome medida alguna para impedir la
libertad de la prensa, será detenido, y una vez proba-
do como todo comulgante al que no le corresponda por
haber abierto el comercio, que despache mercan-
día de cualquier clase, sin dinero, una vez comproba-
do por las autoridades.

Grado 13 de octubre de 1934
El Comité de Guerra Revolucionario.

Se le inmediatamente con el
Guardia Rojo que ha de velar por
la revolución.

En Oviedo a 9 de octubre de 1934

COMITE REVOLUCIONARIO

ASTURIAS

THE real struggle took place in Asturias. The miners knew that a Lerroux - Gil Robles government meant a dictatorship of the clerical and fascist parties, the suppression of working-class organisations, wage reductions and increased hours of work.



In their eyes the formation of this government was an act of grave provocation.



The anarchist workers of Duro de la Felguera fitted up armoured cars for the revolutionaries struggling against the government troops and the police, who had installed themselves in churches, convents and barracks.

SOVIET MONEY.

The hammer and sickle is engraved on the ordinary currency.



Strike breakers, under police protection, repairing the telephone wires which have been put out of action by the revolutionaries.



The workers bringing their artillery into action.

The United Front of the Asturian workers, composed of Socialists, Communists and Anarchists, declared a general strike. Armed with rifles, revolvers and ammunition, the revolutionaries seized power after a stern struggle. Immediately the Red Army was formed, and all men between the ages of 17 and 45 were called on to defend the Revolution.



A train which has been armed by the Anarchist workers and placed at the disposal of the Red Army.



The workers prepare to defend their revolution.

The decrees of the Asturian Soviet Republic bear witness to the greatness of its aims :

« We have proclaimed the Socialist Republic of Workers, Peasants and Soldiers », reads one of these decrees. « We have decided to abolish the private ownership of the means of production ».



The minister, Cid, a member of the Lerroux cabinet, negotiating with the Kalif, the ruler of Spanish Morocco.

Revolutionary order and discipline was enforced. The Revolutionary Committee forbade looting under pain of severe penalties. Ill-treatment of counter-revolutionary prisoners was likewise strictly prohibited. The members of the police who gave themselves up to the revolutionary government were set to work, mainly to repair arms. A manifesto was addressed to the government troops:

«Brother soldiers, come over to us. Desert the ranks of the capitalist class!»

All money was seized, and the Revolutionary Committee issued notes which the shop-keepers accepted in return for goods of primary necessity. Communal kitchens and restaurants were organised. The peasants brought their produce to the towns, and gave enthusiastic support to the revolutionary movement. A special decree abolished the rents payable to the landlords. Henceforth the land was to belong to those who worked.

Meanwhile the government sent its paid African troops against the workers. The Minister of War, Diego Hidalgo, a political ally of Lerroux, had them brought from Morocco. Later the Madrid government issued a pamphlet in which Hidalgo justified his action thus:

«I did not want our soldiers to be the victims of their inexperience and insufficient training, when in Africa we pay 12,000 soldiers, ready for war, well-trained in attack and defence, and with experience of war and camp life.

(The Green Book p. 62).



Murdered by the Moroccan soldiers



Hundreds of Moroccan soldiers hid in the Asturian convents in order to fire on the revolutionaries. « The only argument against the utilisation of these troops is that they fight without respect for or obedience to the law, and they are liable to violate the rights of the people. » Diego Hida.go (« *The Green Book* » p.62)



« Who would have said that, scarcely had I returned from the Autumn manoeuvres, I should have to direct fresh manoeuvres, this time at Oviedo? »

General Lopez Ochoa, commanding officer of the troops sent against the rebels (*Interview «A.B.C.» November 4 th, 1934*).



Aerial

on Oviedo

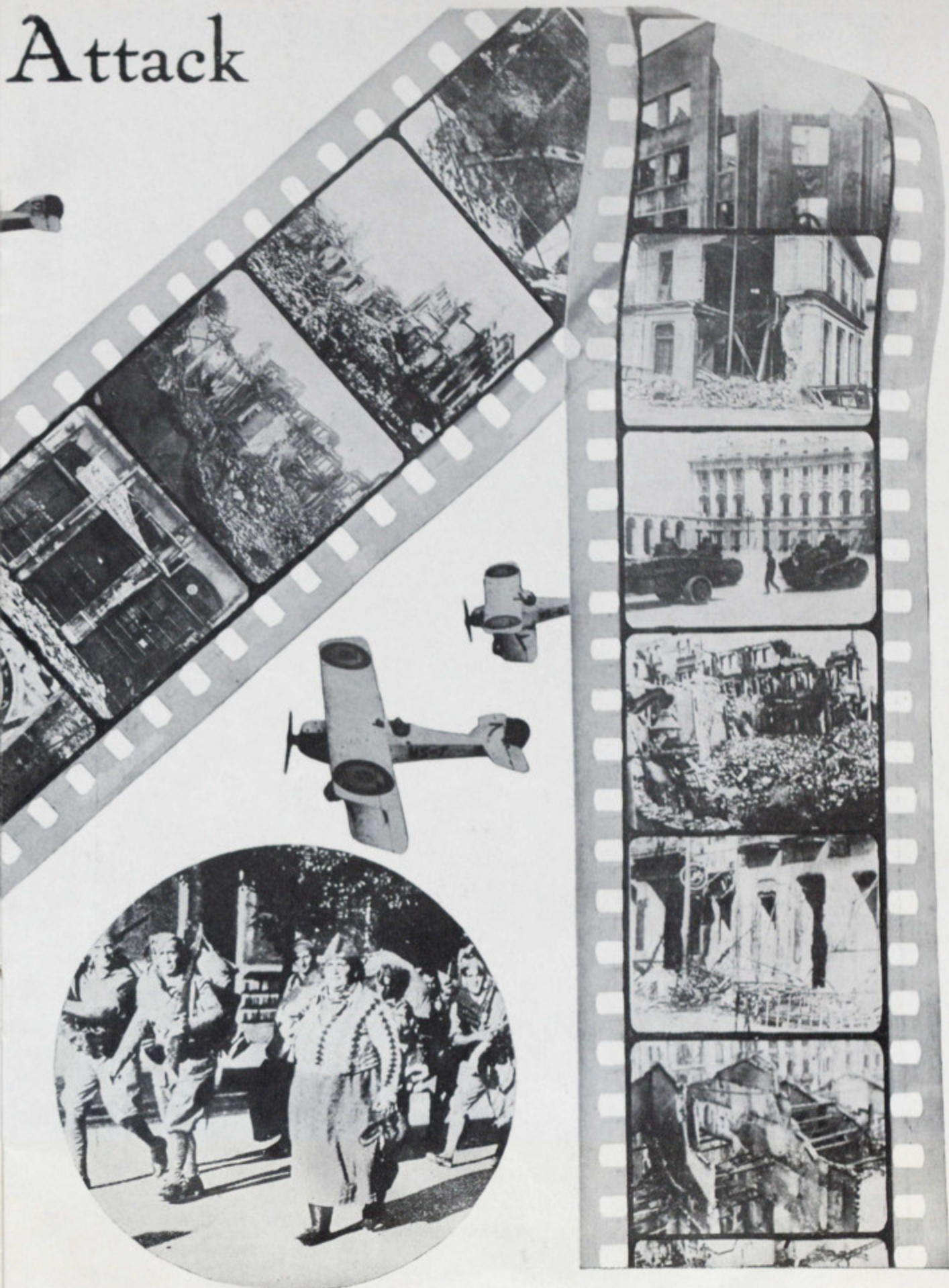
« On the Thursday, after a last warning, aeroplanes began to drop bombs on the town, which was still in the hands of the rebels. It was obviously impossible to prevent some bombs from falling outside the area of

actual fighting and from causing some casualties....

« Oviedo is nothing but a heap of ruins ».

(« Ahora », October 18th, 1934).

Attack

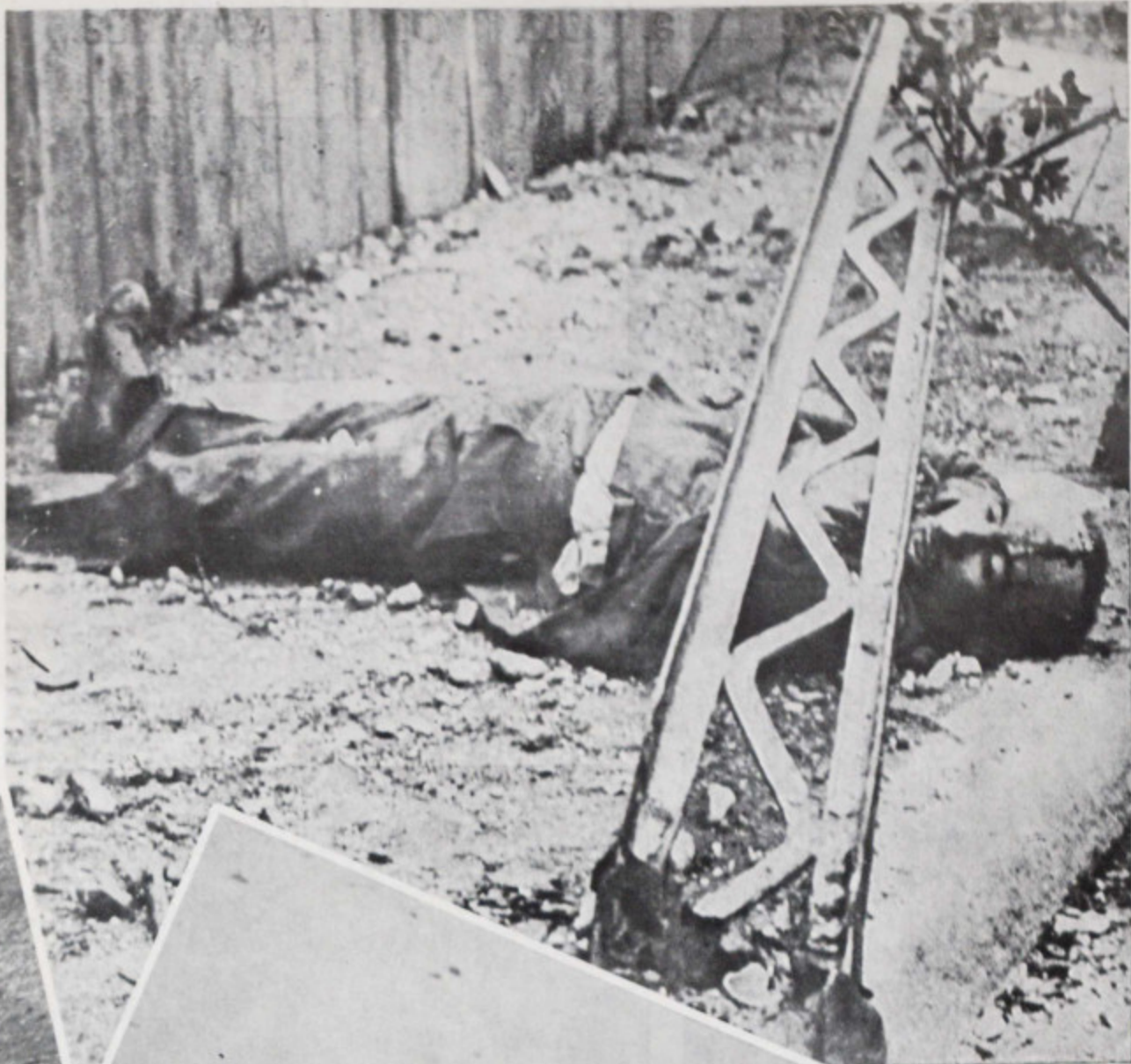


It's a great life for the pillagers of the Legion.

THE DEAD ACCUSE...



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The "pacification" of Asturias



The Arab troops have played their part.



"The raids, pillaging and brigandage of the Arab troops and the Foreign Legion are a legend."

(Hidalgo, Minister of war, in "The Green Book", p. 62).



The Foreign Legion has passed this way. The streets of Oviedo after the passing of the troops.



The women, camp followers of the Legion, make some good bargains.

is an accomplished fact...

« Collective punishments, if there are any, are difficult to inflict... »
(Lopez Ochoa, in an interview)



But :

Women and children are driven from their homes and farmsteads by Lopez Ochoa's troops





45.000 PRISONERS





45.000 PRISONERS





Commander Doval, Grand Inquisitor of Asturias.

“There is no terror” says LERROUX

The clerical and fascist parties in power use, with an inconceivable brutality, the worst forms of White Terror, against the defenceless workers, whose only crime is that they fought heroically for their ideals.

Gordon Ordas, who was a member of Lerroux's first cabinet, a right-wing Radical-Socialist, sent a letter to President Alcalá Zamora, in which he enumerated cases of terrorism confirmed by irrefutable evidence given on oath. Let us examine a few of these cases:

Beaten while hanging from the ceiling.

Jose de la Fuente Rabanal, aged 21, a native of Corocera (Leon), was arrested on November 3rd at La Baneza. After being cruelly beaten by his torturers, he «confessed» that he had hidden a rifle in the mountains of Santa Lucia. On November 29th he was taken to the spot he had mentioned, but no rifle could be found. The monsters beat the young man again to such a pitch that he was unrecognisable. Before starting on this work, they had tied a rope round his neck and fixed it to the ceiling, so that he was hanging with his feet just touching the ground. In danger of hanging himself at each movement he made, he was beaten

and kicked by the police. When his strength gave out he «declared» that he had organised attacks on the barracks of the Civil Guard, and had blown up arsenals and railways. He «confessed» everything that he was told to confess.

14 Days without Medical Assistance.

At Leon, Ramon Blanco sustained a fracture as a result of the ill-treatment he received at the hands of the Civil Guard. At the end of October, 14 days after he received the injury, he had not been visited by a doctor. His neighbours heard his cries of pain all day long.

The inquisition of old times persists to-day

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The above illustration, depicting the tortures of the Fifteenth Century Inquisition, illustrates equally well the report drawn up by Gordon Ordas in 1935.

« The Guardias de Asalto have fixed up a torture chamber in the school of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine. They fasten a wheel to the ceiling by means of which they hoist the prisoner, having first tied his hands behind his back. If the victim persists in not « confessing », pails of water or sacks of sand are tied to his feet. »



Xavier BUENO the editor of « Avance », a Socialist newspaper published in Oviedo. The wounds which can be clearly seen in the photograph were inflicted by blows from the butt of a rifle. Bueno has confirmed the tortures he suffered. The official book of the government on the events of October publishes this same photograph, followed by a medical report, according to which Bueno was suffering from merely an « ordinary boil »!



The miner, VALENTIN MARCOS, was so ill-treated by the police that he attempted to commit suicide, wounding his throat severely with a piece of glass.

The inquisition of old times persists to-day



One would have thought that torture by fire, employed by the Inquisition of the Middle Ages, was definitely dead. Nothing of the sort. To-day interrogation is carried on by the same methods. Iron nails are heated white hot, and are thrust under the prisoner's nails.

We submit an extract from the report, signed by 564 victims and witnesses of brutality and atrocities, sent by Alvarez del Vayo, a Socialist deputy in the Cortes and President of the League of Nations Gran Chaco Commission, to Alcala Zamora, Lerroux, Public Prosecutor, and other highly-placed persons. « Three of the tortures which are used most often must be men-

“There is no terror”
SAYS LERROUX

tioned : they are known as, « three motors », « the lesson » and « Marienbad ». « Three motors » is a torture which consists of hoisting the victim to the ceiling and beating him in this position. « The lesson » consists of forcing the victim to pass between two rows of police who hit the unfortunate person's legs with the butts of their rifles as he passes. « Marienbad » is an icy bath in which the prisoner is kept until his skin becomes particularly sensitive to blows ».



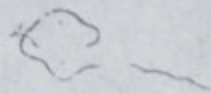
Manuel Seccado, son of a devout Catholic family of antirevolutionary opinions who was killed by the Foreign Legionaries.

Remorse
drives
him
to speak
the truth

«The undersigned confirms that the Lieutenant-Colonel paid 10 pesetas for each arm torn from the revolutionaries, that the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fifth Regiment stole a motor-

El abajo firmante afirma
que el capitán y el teniente
Colonel pagaban 10'00 pesetas
por cada brazo de revolucionario
y que el teniente
Colonel de la 5ª Bandera
robó una moto y que co-
sían la boca a los revolu-
cionarios en cuerdos y los
enterraban vivos.

Jose Antonio Jimenez



5ª Bandera 12ª Compañía

A
legionary
writes
from
prison

cycle and that the
soldiers stitched up
the mouths of re-
volutionaries
and buried them
alive»

(Jose Antonio Jimenez
Paza, 5th regiment,
12th company).

Interrogation



«The «legend» according to which prisoners have been ill-treated in order to obtain confessions is the product of overheated imaginations» (From a speech made in the Cortes, 1934).



Four revolutionaries condemned to imprisonment for life.

Tortured, left without food, he threw himself out of the window and, picked up dying, was still ill-treated.

JUAN LOPEZ D'ALBLANA was imprisoned in the dungeons of the « Adorers » (a convent) on November 18th or 19th. For three days he was tortured and not allowed to eat, drink or sleep; he was kept sitting upright against the wall, and was so tightly bound that his bonds cut into his flesh. On the third day he asked permission to drink from a pail of water which was standing by an open window. Unable to bear his torture any longer, he threw himself from the window, a height of about 30 feet. He was brought up again, stretched on a little mattress, and surrounded by Civil Guards was beaten with rifle-butts, while an officer, gun in hand, called for three inhabitants of Oviedo to come and act as witnesses to his will. Shortly afterwards, in a critical condition, he was taken to the Provincial Hospital, where he was received on November 23rd.

Beaten on the fingers with a hammer, and flogged unconscious.

LUCINIO GARCIA DE SAMA DE LAGREO, arrested on December 2nd, was taken to the same convent-prison with Julio Noval, also of Sama. Both were beaten with a hammer on the joints of the fingers. Afterwards they were forced to bend down with an iron bar behind their legs, the bar also gripping the arms. Since their hands, mutilated by the previous treatment, were incapable of lifting the bar, their legs were thus fixed, and blows were rained on them until they lost consciousness. The same punishment was also inflicted on Baltasar Palicio de Olloniedo in the same prison and on the same date. The brutalities committed over several weeks made him insane.



The Supreme Court

Ill-treated and shot by police during his removal from one prison to another.

FAUSTIND FREIJERO MARTINEZ, 32 years old, a porter from Sama de Langreo. Arrested on October 21st « while on his way to the town Hall of Langreo, to ask for a safe-conduct to go to visit his fiancée, Emma Camino, at Pola de Siero. After his arrest he was visited by his family. On the evening of the 24th when they brought his

dinner they were not allowed to see him. On the morning of the 25th, they were told he was no longer there. Later, his body was dug up at Coruxona. There were two deep wounds on each side of his stomach; his tongue was out, his hands clenched, and a rope was round his neck. His head was cut open, evidently by a piece of iron rail which was found nearby, covered with blood and with hairs sticking to it.

300,000 Years of hard labour

Sanaander.

Jesus Rancho Perez, sentenced to 6 years and one day imprisonment.

Cviedo.

Annibal Rocas, a civil Guard, sentenced for life.

Barcelona.

25 « rabassaires » sentenced to 12 years. 1 to 15 years.

2 to 2 years.

24 to one year, etc., etc.,

Gerona.

Jose Meras, Juan Sarrio, Jose Jofra, Ramon Marquez, 6 years each.

Madrid.

Antonio Trigo Mairal, 6 years.

Julio Elena Diaz, 6 years.

64 prisoners condemned to 10, 12 and 15 years.

Zamora.

Jose Alvarez Vaquero, 6 years and 1 day.

Leon.

Francisco Fernandez, 6 years.

Gijon.

10 death sentences, etc.

Beaten with sticks and bastinadoes in front of a Captain of the Civil Guard.

Juan Pablo Garcia, a lawyer from Mieres, was to have a « LESSON ». Twice he was severely beaten at the Model Prison in Oviedo in front of the Captain of the Civil Guard. On the second occasion he was beaten for two hours by a police inspector called Amado Gomez, a chauffeur in the uniform of the Civil Guard, and a sergeant of the 3rd regiment, Manzano. When he fainted, cold water was poured over him to revive him, and then they started beating him again. The same torture was inflicted on all prisoners coming to the prison at Oviedo during October, November and December.

Haemorrhage caused by kicks

Julio Macias Alvarez, of Medina del Campo (Valladolid), living at Sama de Langreo, a customs officer, was arrested on October 24th. On November 4th he was transferred to the prison at the convent of « The Adorers », where he was brutally ill-treated. One of the kicks which he received was in the pit of his stomach, and brought on a grave haemorrhage which compelled them to send him to hospital. When he had recovered, he was again arrested, taken back to the convent and ill-treated in the same way. The haemorrhage was renewed.

« What! This son of a bitch is not dead yet? »

Emilio Rodriguez, of Abuli (Oviedo), 26 years old, a farmer, was arrested on November 1st and taken to the barracks of the « Guardias de Asalto ». He was disgustingly ill-treated, as was Mariano Fernandez, a miner of 60 years of age, suffering from chronic asthma. Emilio was brutally beaten for three hours on end on the night of November 2nd. After this torture he was unable to stand and his comrades had to carry him to his cell. They saw there that he was bleeding profusely, and to try and avoid haemorrhage, they asked for something with which they could staunch his wounds. The Civil Guard who had been called, when

he saw the wounded man stretched out on the ground, exclaimed, « What! This son of a bitch is not dead yet? » He then flung himself on the dead man and beat him again. The next night they came to fetch Emilio, and his comrades tried to convince the Civil Guard that the wounded man could scarcely walk. « You see, I'll teach him to run », retorted the Guard, sticking his bayonette into the man as he lay on the ground.

Two Civil Guards, two women and two men of Turon ill-treat a miner.

Firmin Lopez, a Turon miner of 23 years of age, was arrested on December 23rd, and immediately taken to the magistrate's office, where the « interrogatories » were held. There two Civil Guards, two men and two women in mourning, apparently of some counter-revolutionary shot by the workers during the rising, awaited the victim. The Guards knocked Lopez down, and the women and men trampled on him and struck him.

Four workers of Llanera shot at the Oviedo prison.

Manuel Rodriguez Vasquez, *Manuel Perez Diaz*, *Ramon Garcia* and *Amador Menendez Alonso*, four Llanera workers, were arrested on October 10th. Accompanied by 4 Civil Guards and an officer of the Foreign Legion, they were taken, chained in pairs, to the Model prison at Oviedo. Without being separated they were locked in cells on Gallery III. Two hours later they were unfastened, only to be handcuffed and taken to the « Lawyers' Room » where a Captain of the Civil Guard was waiting for them. They were dragged into another room, where they had to wait for six hours. Suddenly a number of shots were heard in the prison court-yard. Apparently the punishment had been completed. The gunners, Gerardo Alvarez Garcia, Enrique Baragano and Jesus Martinez del Buso heard the officer of the Legion say to the Prison Governor, « There is no need for you to record these executions ».

A HEROINE OF THE REVOLUTION



« Libertaria », 16 years old, the daughter of the painter Lafuente, who stood by her machine-gun until the last moment, during the battles of Oviedo.

« Cowards, kill me then! » she cried to the legionaries who rushed towards her. Stabbed to death by bayonettes, she died crying:

« Long live the Revolution! »

Long live Communism! »



Imprison us, oppress us, ill-treat us!
OUR VICTORY IS NONE THE LESS CERTAIN !



Victims of fascist vengeance.

José Arguelles, a courageous revolutionary, was executed on the first of February at nine o'clock in the morning. The President of the Republic had not used his right of pardon. The sentence was carried out by soldiers of the Foreign Legion, who instead of killing him immediately, allowed him to die in agony, wounded by a number of revolver shots.

Arguelles died crying, « Long live the Revolution! »



For each Vazquez that they kill, a hundred more will be born.

Sergeant *Vazquez* was shot at Oviedo before his old regiment and representatives of all the troops stationed at Oviedo. Before dying he saluted the flag, saying to the soldiers:

« I am consoled by the knowledge that you will soon be revolutionaries ».

And to the officers :

« The acts that I have performed during the Revolution have been more patriotic than ever yours can be shooting me ».



Lerroux made the following statement to journalists at a press dinner : « I can say nothing at present about the death sentences, for I have not had time to submit the question to the cabinet. I have had to attend the funeral of M. Mello (the Portuguese ambassador) and the ceremony at the investiture of Dr. Sloker ».



Rocha, Minister for Foreign Affairs addresses a gathering of members of the Latin press.

**While
they
feast..**



Lerroux, the Minister of the Interior, M. Vaquero, and the Mayor of Madrid, M. Salazar Alonso, share a bottle of wine at Central Andalusia.



Honouring an officer of the Foreign Legion.



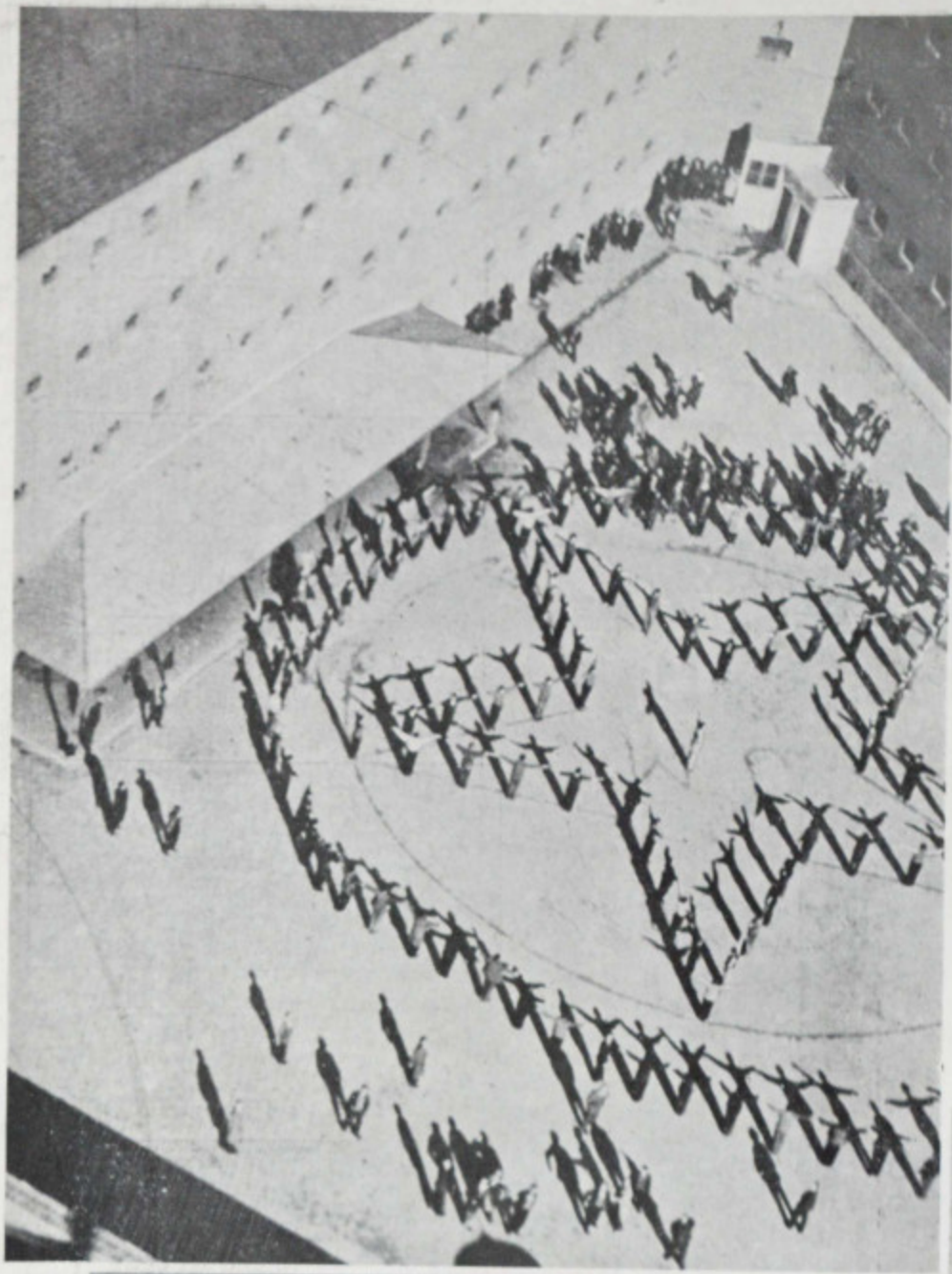
At Vigo a banquet of honour is held.

The bodies of 30 miners are left to rot



The bodies of 30 miners, shot by the troops, were thrown into a hole near the wall of the Oviedo garrison... But the revolutionaries live in the memories of the Spanish workers.





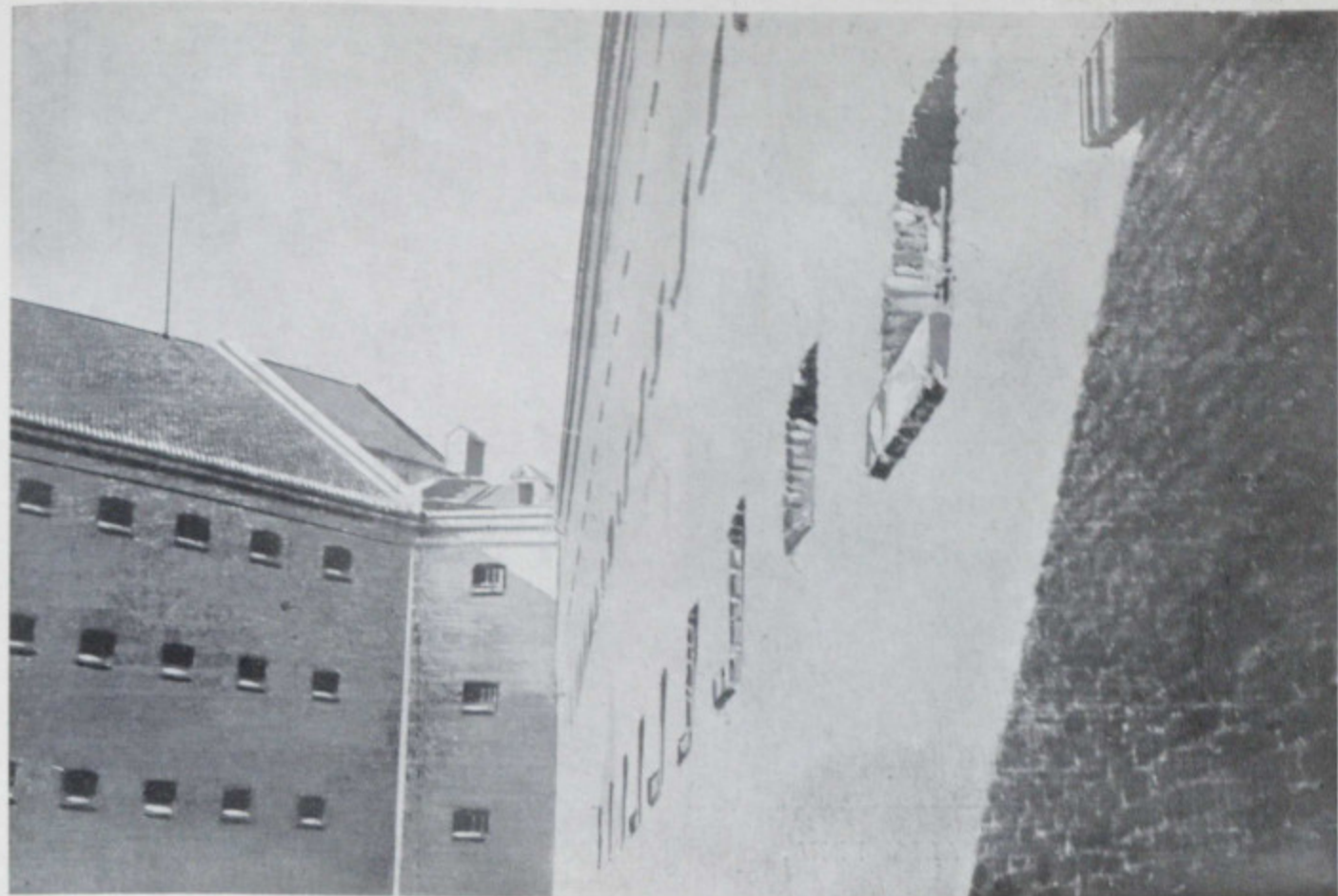
**The revolutionary
spirit still lives be-
hind the prison bars**

Largo Caballero, the socialist leader, was a joiner by trade. Together with Pablo Iglesias, he founded the Trade Union movement of the Spanish Socialists. In 1930 he was a member of the «Revolutionary Committee», and was thrown into prison by the monarchy, with Zamora, who is now President of the Republic, the Conser-

45.000
Revolutionaries



Largo Caballero, the Socialist leader, with his friends in the court-yard of the «Model» Prison at Madrid.



in the Prisons

vative, Maura, and other members of the same Committee. But the King dared not keep them in prison, and released them shortly afterwards. After April 14th, 1931, Caballero became Minister of Labour in the Republican Government. He continued his duties until 1933. To-day he recognises his mistake in collaborating



This is a cell designed for two prisoners in the « Model » prison at Madrid.



How the women prisoners are fed in the prison court-yards.

in a bourgeois coalition government, a mistake which he can never repair.

On October 13th, 1934, the police arrested him for instigating the revolution. The charge was based solely on extracts from speeches which he had delivered.

Caballero still remains in prison and awaits his trial.



RAMON GONZALEZ PENA.



TEODOMIRO MEMENDEZ.

Condemned

Ramon Gonzalez Pena

is a miner. He succeeded the Socialist, Llana, as leader of the Association of Spanish Miners. In 1917 he helped to organise the general strike at Mieres. Later he organised the workers of the Penarroya mine in Andalusia. In 1920 he led a revolutionary rising.

For several years he has been a deputy in the Cortes and the President of the Oviedo Senate. In his own words he has served the worker's cause in Asturias, « not as a leader, but as a militant fighter ».

The President of the Republic signed Pena's pardon under public pressure. The clericals and fascists demanded the execution of all the men condemned to death, above all Pena, and precipitated a crisis in the Lerroux-Gil Robles cabinet.

Teodomiro Menendez

was appointed Minister of Public Works by Prieto's government. From 1901 onwards he has been a member of the Socialist Party. He was the friend and disciple of Pablo Iglesias. On several occasions he edited the Party journals, and played a decisive part in the 1917 General Strike, after which he was imprisoned.

He did not take an active part in the Asturian revolt of 1934. The Spanish militarists, who had waited for an opportunity to avenge themselves on him, accused him of having instigated the revolution. While he was detained in Oviedo prison, he attempted to commit suicide by throwing himself into the prison yard. The Government had him sentenced to death, but under pressure of public opinion, commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment.



SIMON DIAZ



JUAN JOSE MANSO

to death!

Simon Diaz

a miner. For some years he has been a member of the Communist Party and is their Political Secretary in Asturias.

It was he who developed the comparatively weak organisation of the Asturian Party into the powerful movement which led the October revolution.

For two years he has been unemployed, for no employer will give work to a man who is «compromised» politically to such an extent.

During the October rising he was a member of the Revolutionary Committee. He showed splendid courage and wisdom in the organisation of the struggle and of the resistance to Arab troops and the Foreign Legionaries. His comrades praise his tireless work and his unshakeable faith in the people's cause. After the failure of the revolt he fled to Portugal, but was extradited by the Portuguese police and handed over to the Spanish authorities.

Juan Jose Manso

a metal-worker, has been a member of the Communist Party since 1927. He worked as a turner in the Trubia armaments factory. Despite his youth (he is only 25) he has not been slow in winning the confidence of his comrades by his organising ability, his unremitting work and devotion to the cause of the workers. The staff of his factory elected him President of their organisation, «The Workers of Trubia». During the revolt he was everywhere. He fought at the front, organised an expedition to the arms factory, which the workers took without a fight, and he was a member of the Revolutionary Committee. His courage and wise leadership gave him the reputation of being a «great revolutionary leader». After the revolt was crushed Manso hid for a long time in the mountains. The Civil Guard arrested him just as he was going to slip into France.

Spanish Mothers mourn their dead



EIGHT
of the two thousand victims
of Fascists and Police



Vincente Secado



Juanita Rico

A common sight in the streets of Oviedo in October

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The President
of the Republic,
Acaia Zanora,
praying for the
souls of the vic-
tims of his paci-
fic measures.



Rosalia Franco



Saturnino Lopez



Sra. de Rimada



Rufino Rimada



Luis Franco



Joaquin del Grado

International Solidarity

The Workers of All Lands Help the Victims of the Spanish Terror

The news of the General Strike in Spain, and particularly the setting up of Soviets by the Asturian miners, aroused the enthusiasm and sympathy of the working masses and oppressed peoples of the whole world.

The International Red Aid was not slow in translating this feeling of sympathy into material assistance for the struggling Spanish workers.

The call which it sent to its 72 sections and to the workers of the world, met with a response everywhere. While the battle was still raging in Oviedo, Catalonia and Madrid, the Red Aid was already organising assistance for the victims of the incipient terror. The British Relief Committee for the Victims of fascism, and the sections of the Red Aid in France, Belgium and even in countries where it is illegal, Germany and Austria, collected and sent the first £ 2,000.

This gift was followed by £ 30,000 collected by MOPR (the Russian Red Aid) from the workers of the So-



A poster of the French Red Aid, calling for solidarity action to save Gonzalez Pena, action which has already been successful in saving his life.

viet Union for the help of the Spanish revolutionaries.

With the help of this broad movement of practical solidarity, the Spanish Red Aid was able to organise its relief work. 2,000 Christmas parcels were immediately distributed to prisoners and their families, and sums of money were sent to families which had children to care for. During the first five months of this campaign of help, the Red Aid paid out £ 12,000.

All this work had to be done illegally, and in the course of it a number of militant workers were arrested.

In England it was first proposed to send a Food Ship to Spain, and collections were taken for this purpose. It was found, however, that the cost of this project would be too great, and since there was an immediate need for relief, particularly in Asturias, the Relief Committee for the victims of Fascism decided to send out the money that had been collected for actual distribution in Spain. The first delegation to Spain consisting of Ellen Wilkinson and Lord Lis-



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towel, took the first sum of money from England to Spain. Further sums were sent out and distributed by the members of subsequent delegations, by Leah Manning, who went with a second delegation, by Frank Moore, one of a delegation of miners, and by Stuart Friedenson, a member of a delegation organised by the Friends of Spain. The representatives of other countries on these delegations also distributed sums of money collected in their countries.

The protests against the terror, the torture of political prisoners, the judicial crimes in the shape of death sentences and long terms of imprisonment, spread far beyond the frontiers of Europe. The protest campaign was particularly strong in North and South America. Every day pro-



The banner of the Dutch Red Aid in the streets of Rotterdam.

test meetings took place in the towns and villages beyond the seas. From all over the world, thousands of telegrams of protest were sent to the Spanish government. Hundreds of deputations besieged the Spanish embassies and consulates. The same solidarity which had united the Spanish people in struggle, and which now united them in suffering and oppression, also united the workers of all lands, who, under the leadership and direction of the International Relief Committee for the Victims of Fascism, organised practical measures of assistance for their Spanish comrades.

This solidarity is of great value to the Spanish people in their struggle against Fascism, a struggle which never relaxes despite the fiercest terror.



International solidarity in support of the children whose parents were killed during the rising in Asturias.



Catalan women bringing food to the revolutionaries imprisoned on board ships



The first solidarity efforts for the children.

Solidarity, OUR STRENGTH!



Long queues of visitors at the prison-gates. Family affection? Not only that — solidarity with their comrades suffering in the fight.

Illegal Heroism

45,000 prisoners are actually physically and morally tortured in the Spanish prisons. Hundreds of thousands of town and country workers are exposed to the arbitrary will of the clerical-fascist government. But their revolutionary spirit has not changed. The Spanish people continue to struggle illegally.

There are strike movements despite the state of siege and the severest penalties inflicted on strikers.

At Barcelona and Madrid the metal workers struck at the end of December against the 48-hour week which had been re-introduced by the government with the same wages as had previously been paid for the 44-hour week which had been won under the Republic.

On January 2nd the miners at Sotondio (Asturias) struck because the management refused to employ four workers. At the beginning of January there was another strike at Taberga (Asturias) for a similar reason.

In February, at Ecija (Andalousia) there was a strike of labourers in the olive-yards of one of the big landlords. The Civil Guard killed one worker, and wounded a number of others, mostly women.

At the end of February the Socialist and Communist workers in Madrid demonstrated against the death sentences. They were attacked by the police and numerous arrests were made. Time after time the workers re-formed their ranks. As a result of the police attempts to disperse the demonstration, one worker was killed and several wounded.

The Red Aid publishes hundreds of illegal pamphlets. Despite the organisers being hunted by the police, the members of the Red Aid are able to visit the families of the victims of the terror, and bring them material assistance. At the cost of a thousand sacrifices, the Red Aid takes collections all over the country, distributing the proceeds to thousands of victims together with the monies subscribed by the International Red Aid.



The Proletariat on Guard.



All this is only a short summary: the list of heroic struggles on the part of the Spanish people would be too long, were we to pay tribute here to all the heroes of the daily struggles against fascist barbarism, to the thousands of unknown soldiers of the Revolution, to all those who are working illegally under the greatest dangers and difficulties. But the facts we have quoted are sufficiently striking to win all sincere anti-fascists for united action in support of the fighting Spanish workers.

In order to weaken the international solidarity which grows day by day, and so be able to wreak his vengeance on his victims with impunity, Lerroux has declared

that « *the terror in Spain never existed* ».

This book, compiled from reliable and genuine documents, contradicts before the whole world, these lies of Lerroux, and will give a new impetus to the movement of international solidarity. « The Spanish people, martyred and tortured, need your help, » declares the Red Aid of Spain, in a manifesto addressed to the whole world.

This appeal must be heard in all parts of the world. Millions of workers must respond to it. Increase the support for the victims of Spanish terror; help in the fight against savage oppression, for the liberty of all political prisoners and for the freedom of the whole Spanish people.

Long Live International Solidarity !

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