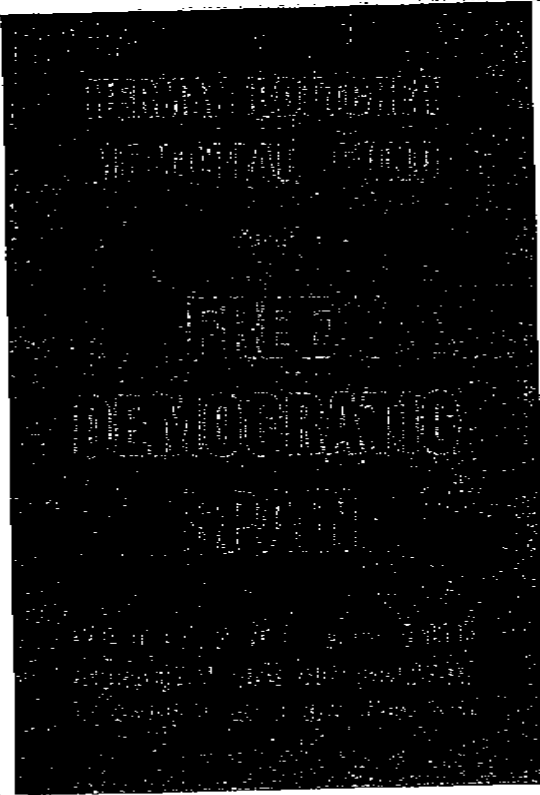


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"The Spanish people taught us how to fight fascism. We do not deserve victory and we will not get a secure peace, until Spain is free."

(From a letter by Capt. Botcher to the Veterans of the Lincoln Brigade)

*In Tribute to*  
**CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER**

*Killed on Leyte*

CUBA'S EX-PRESIDENT  
GENERAL FULGENCIO

**BATISTA**

CHARLES

**COLLINS**



REPRESENTATIVE  
EMANUEL

**CELLER**

COUNCILMAN  
STANLEY M.

**ISAACS**

REPEAT PERFORMANCE, BY POPULAR DEMAND, OF

NORMAN ROSTEN'S DRAMATIC SCRIPT  
ON THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

*"Road From Madrid"*

WITH THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL CHORUS

**THURSDAY, MAY 17th at 8 P. M.**

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Room 406, 13 Astor Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

ALgonquin 4-8586

MAY 1, 1945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In a letter addressed to David McKelvy White, executive secretary of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the War Department expressed its cordial support of the TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHEER, fallen German-American hero, which will be held on May 17 at Manhattan Center, under the auspices of the veterans' organization.

"The War Department has the highest opinion of Captain Bottcher's Army record," wrote Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy, "and welcomes appreciation of the value of his services and those of other soldiers who have done more than their duty....Captain Bottcher is deserving of all honor for his outstanding Army record, which earned him a battlefield commission, the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. The War Department Bureau of Public Relations is sending you copies of the citations which accompanied these awards. I hope these may be of use to you in arranging your program."

Captain Bottcher was a veteran of the war in Spain, interrupting his education at the San Francisco State College, early in 1937, to join the Loyalist armies as a soldier in the International Brigades. During 25 months of fighting in Spain, he was wounded twice and decorated three times, rising to the rank of major.

Killed in action on Leyte last New Year's Eve, the 35 year-old German-born hero had become a legendary figure in the Pacific theatre of war. His exploits in operating as a jungle fighter almost continuously behind enemy lines, harrassing the Japs and gathering vital information, were internationally celebrated in newspaper and magazine articles. The Australian government called him "America's one-man army."

*Waltchen* 0/2/48  
*NYG*

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade will greet the San Francisco Conference at a mass meeting, on May 17 at Manhattan Center, in tribute to Captain Herman Bottcher, "America's one-man army," whose death on Leyte last New Year's Eve terminated the brilliant career of an anti-fascist.

In announcing the plans for the TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER, David McKelvy White, executive secretary of the Spanish veterans' organization, released the following statement:

"The whole world mourns Herman Bottcher, German-born anti-fascist warrior, who fought from Spain to Leyte as though he were trying to atone for the sins of the German people. We honor a man whose passionate democratic convictions and almost fabulous courage drove him into battle against the Axis in Spain eight years ago, and sustained him, despite many severe wounds and temporary defeats, until a Japanese mortar shell cut him down half-way across the globe in the jungles of the Pacific. Bottcher's Odyssey in search of a better world came to an end almost within sight of his goal.

"In a letter to our organization some months before his death, he revealed his hopes for the future: 'The hardest battle for us will be to win the peace, to overcome discrimination, injustice, poverty, insecurity. We have to build a positive and dynamic democracy in order to survive.' In paying tribute to Captain Bottcher, his comrades in the Lincoln Brigade salute the United Nations at San Francisco who are erecting an enduring peace as a towering monument to the men of all nations who have given their lives for the vision of a new and better world."

One of the most-decorated heroes of this war, Captain Bottcher had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 9 1945'

Philip Merivale, stage and screen star, will appear as narrator in a performance of Norman Rosten's script, "Road From Madrid," to be presented as a tribute to America's greatest hero in the Pacific fighting, Captain Herman Bottcher, at Manhattan Center on May 17. Captain Bottcher, who first achieved recognition as a great soldier in Spain where he fought as a major against Franco, was killed on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve.

The author of "Road From Madrid" has just been awarded the \$1000 prize of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, for his contributions to creative literature.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 9 1945'

Norman Hosten, who has just won the \$1000 award of the Academy of Arts and Letters for his contributions to creative literature, has written a new script, "Road From Madrid," in tribute to Captain Herman Böttcher, America's greatest hero in the Pacific fighting, who was killed on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve. It will be performed at Manhattan Center on May 17, with Philip Merivale, stage and screen star, in the role of narrator.

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uopwa/1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lieutenant Morris Brier, who is convalescing at an army hospital from severe wounds received on Northern Luzon, last February, will express the admiration of our fighting men of the Pacific theatre for Captain Herman Bottcher, fallen American hero, at a meeting at Manhattan Center this Thursday evening, May 17.

Lieutenant Brier, who fought alongside Bottcher against the Franco rebellion in Spain in 1937 and 1938, will recount some of the stories of Bottcher's spectacular exploits as a "fascist-killer" in Spain and the jungles of the Southwest Pacific.

The TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER which will take the form of a V-E celebration, rather than a memorial meeting, will also hear General Fulgencio Batista, former President of Cuba, Congressman Emanuel Celler, Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, Gustav Faber, editor of the German language weekly, the "German-American," and Charles Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee. Mrs. Vincent Sheean will serve as chairman.

Captain Bottcher, who died on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Hailed as America's greatest jungle fighter, Bottcher was called a "One-Man Army" by the Australian Government, and widely publicized in "Yank," "Stars and Stripes," "Life" and numerous other publications.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gustav Faber, editor of the "German-American," influential anti-Nazi German language weekly, will express the viewpoint of the progressive German-American community on the question of "What to Do With Germany?", at the TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHEER at Manhattan Center, this Thursday evening, May 17.

Mr. Faber, whose newspaper enjoys the largest circulation of any publication among German prisoners of war in this country, was a well-known trade union leader in Germany before Hitler came to power, and was chosen by the OWI to make radio appeals by short-wave to the German people. He is secretary-treasurer of the Transport Workers Union.

The meeting at Manhattan Center, arranged by the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, will also hear General Fulgencio Batista, former President of Cuba, Congressman Emanuel Celler, and Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs honor the memory of Captain Bottcher, who was killed on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve after a distinguished record in Spain, where he fought against Franco, and in the Southwest Pacific.

Bottcher, a native of Germany, served as a major in the International Brigades in Spain in 1937-38. His heroism at Buna, New Guinea, in 1942 won him the Distinguished Service Cross and a battlefield commission as Captain. American citizenship was conferred on him by a special Act of Congress, to permit him to accept the commission. After his death, he was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star.

A feature of the Bottcher meeting will be the performance of Norman Rosten's script, "Road From Madrid," with Philip Merivale, stage and screen star, in the role of narrator.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Congressman Emanuel Celler, one of the most vigorous advocates of a "hard peace" for defeated Germany, will pay tribute to a German who died as an American hero, at a meeting in honor of Captain Herman Bottcher next Thursday evening, May 17, at Manhattan Center, under the auspices of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

Representative Celler will be joined by General Fulgencio Batista, former President of Cuba, and other notables in expressing the gratitude of the democracies for the outstanding contributions made by Bottcher to victory over fascism - in Spain against Franco, and in the Southwest Pacific against Japanese militarism.

One of the most decorated heroes of this war, Bottcher rose in rank from staff sergeant to captain, receiving a battle-field commission and the Distinguished Service Cross for his exploits as a jungle fighter on New Guinea in December, 1942. It was necessary for Congress to confer citizenship on him by a special act, in order to permit Bottcher to be commissioned. At the time of his death on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve, he had been recommended for promotion to the rank of major, a position he held in Spain where he served with the Loyalist forces for 25 months as a volunteer in the International Brigades. The Silver Star and the Legion of Merit were awarded him, posthumously.

When Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Australia in September, 1943, she said she was eager to meet Bottcher. She did meet him at the ice cream counter of the American Red Cross in Sydney and chatted with him for some time. The late President's wife said that her meeting with Captain Bottcher was one of the highlights of her trip.

General Fulgencio Batista  
MAY 7 1945

General Fulgencio Batista, former President of Cuba, will be the principal speaker at a meeting in tribute to Captain Herman Bottcher, fallen German-American hero, to be held on May 17 at Manhattan Center, under the auspices of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

Captain Bottcher, who served as a major during the Spanish Civil War where he fought on the side of the Republic against the Franco rebellion, was killed in action on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve after achieving international renown as a jungle fighter in the Southwest Pacific. Named "America's One-Man Army" by the Australian government and "the eyes and ears of his division" by his fellow officers of the 32nd Infantry Division, Bottcher was one of the most widely publicized and decorated heroes of the war.

His extraordinary daring and courage, his skill in operating behind enemy lines during which he killed hundreds of Japanese and gathered vital information, have been described in the army newspapers, "Yank" and "Stars and Stripes", in "Life" magazine and in numerous other publications both here and in other countries. Bottcher's decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

A native of Germany, which he left in 1928, he had not yet qualified for American citizenship when General McArthur requested that Sgt. Bottcher be made a citizen by special Act of Congress, so that he could be given a battlefield commission as captain. At the time of his death, he had been recommended for promotion to the rank of major. The citation which accompanied the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Bottcher, then a sergeant, read: "For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, during the period, December 5-11, 1942. During an attack on enemy positions, Staff Sergeant Bottcher personally led a unit which cut off communications between enemy forces at Buna Village from those at Buna Government station. On succeeding days, he repeatedly repulsed strong enemy counter-attacks on this vital position. During one simultaneous attack from both hostile forces, he calmly stood up in the face of enemy fire and threw hand grenades at the advancing enemy. Although wounded in this action, he remained with his unit until it was relieved. His outstanding leadership and personal heroism repeatedly inspired his men and was primarily responsible for the success of the defense."

Professor Albert Einstein, internationally renowned physicist, who fled his native Germany soon after Hitler seized power to find asylum and the opportunity to continue his work in the free atmosphere of America, today paid tribute to another celebrated German-American, Captain Herman Bottcher, who was killed on Leyte Island last New Year's Eve.

In a letter to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, sponsor of the meeting in honor of Captain Bottcher which will be held next Thursday, May 17, at Manhattan Center, the Nobel prize winner wrote:

"Being one of the most unheroic and unmilitary people imaginable, I would not venture to express my admiration for a person who was great in the military field. I have, however, a strong feeling of admiration for Herman Bottcher because he went to Spain and fought there for the freedom-loving Spanish people. In honoring this man you are keeping alive the public awareness that the democratic nations shared the guilt of the sin against the Spanish people and must make good the grievous wrong they did. Not by their words but by their actions will the statesmen of our time be judged by posterity. The name of Captain Herman Bottcher will always be cherished in admiration and gratitude; for he gave himself in the cause of freeing men from their chains."

Among the speakers who will participate in the TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER at the first large public meeting since V-E Day, are General Fulgencio Batista, ex-President of Cuba, Congressman Emanuel Celler, Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, Mrs. Vincent Sheean, and Gustav Faber, editor of the "German-American," anti-Nazi weekly.

Bottcher, America's outstanding soldier of the Pacific theatre, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.



**VETERANS OF THE  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
BRIGADE**

113 ASTOR PLACE  
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.  
ALgonquin 4-8586

May 15, 1945

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade invites you to cover the TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHEr this Thursday, May 17, at Manhattan Center, 34 Street and Eighth Avenue. The meeting will begin at 8:30 promptly. Press tickets are enclosed.

About 4,000 people are expected to honor the memory of America's greatest hero of the Pacific fighting, who fell in action at Leyte, last New Year's Eve.

A native of Germany, Bottcher received a battlefield commission as captain for his part in a decisive action at Buna in December, 1942. At that time, he was not an American citizen. To permit his promotion from staff sergeant to captain, Congress made him a citizen by a special Act. His decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Long before America entered the war, Bottcher fought against Franco in Spain where he served with rank of major in the International Brigades. In 25 months of service, during which he received two decorations, he was wounded three times.

Speakers at the Bottcher meeting, the first large public meeting since V-E Day, will include:

General Fulgencio Batista, ex-President of Cuba

Congressman Emanuel Celler

Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs

Gustav Faber, editor of the "German-American"

Charles Collins, executive-secretary of the Negro  
Labor Victory Committee

Mrs. Vincent Sheean, who will serve as chairman.

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The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade  
present a

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHEE

Manhattan Center

Thursday, May 17, 1945

\* \* \*

P R O G R A M

1. David McKelvy White  
Executive Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
2. Diana Forbes-Robertson. . . . . Chairman  
Contributing Editor of the New York Post
3. Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs  
New York City Councilman
4. Gustav Faber  
Editor of the "German-American" and  
Sec'y.-Treas. - Transport Workers Union, C.I.O.
5. Lieut. Morris Brier, U.S. Army  
Veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
6. Charles Collins  
Executive Secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee  
Official of Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union, A.F.of L.
7. "Road to Madrid". . . . . by Norman Rosten  
Philip Merivale and the Jefferson Chorus
8. General Fulgencio Batista  
Former President of Cuba
9. Congressman Emanuel Celler

\* \* \*

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER

Manhattan Center

Thursday, May 17, 1945

(The following are excerpts from the speeches prepared for delivery tonight)

\* \* \*

General Fulgencio Batista  
Ex-President of Cuba

"Franco is trying to ingratiate himself with the United States by declaring war on Japan. The Falange is like a snake which, although its fangs have been removed, still leaves its poison seeping through the body. We must build a federation of Latin-American countries, but it must be a federation based on democratic countries, and not on dictatorships. There are still several dictatorships in Latin-America, such as Honduras, Santo Domingo, Argentina, etc.. I will continue to oppose dictatorships, including that of Argentina."

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Congressman Emanuel Celler

"I believe it would be well that women be given their rightful place in Germany. I say this with the knowledge of the cooperation the Nazi women gave to the Third Reich. It arose out of the subjection of women in the German household, who were confined to Kuche, Kinder and Kirche. But I believe that if those who bear life are given a greater part in developing a moral climate for the preservation of life, much can be accomplished in the re-education of Germany.

"To my mind, the program offered by the so-called Morgenthau Plan is the sanest, most practical, and most certain of

success in reaching our aims -- the prevention of German aggression. It is not a question of a hard peace, soft peace, but that of a durable peace."

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"Naturally, we must start from the negative. Destroy the worship of militarism in the schools, enlist the aid of the churches. War is not glory. Aggression is not honor. Brutality is not courage."

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"I believe that the peace treaties should provide that all properties seized as alien properties in the Allied Nations should be sold to their own nationals, and neutral countries should be made to follow suit. The proceeds of these sales should be used as reparation in money to help in the rehabilitation of the devastated areas, to repair the havoc wrought by the German blood-hounds."

\* \* \*

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs  
N.Y. City Councilman

"This meeting has been called in tribute to the memory of Captain Herman Bottcher, DSC, veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who was killed in the service of his country in Leyte. It is natural that a hero of the war to save Spain from fascism should have been ready to agree to continue that fight in the World War. After all, the conflict in Spain, in reality, was basically the same as the world-wide conflict which followed. Each was a struggle to save democracy from fascism. One was local because the Spanish fighters for democracy were deserted by the other free nations of the world."

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"But fascism is not dead everywhere and all the appeasers have not passed from the world stage. We apparently are ready to admit to participation in this organization of free peoples, the Argentine, center of fascism in this hemisphere. Does that mean that we will tolerate Franco, too? Let us realize that we cannot organize for peace if, within the living international organism which we are trying to create to preserve peace, we are, at the outset, injecting the poison of fascist leadership and fascist ideas. Lincoln was right when he said that this country could not survive half slave and half free. Freedom cannot exist in our country or in any country, if there remains within its borders a fraction of its inhabitants which is not free. It is just as true that freedom cannot be preserved throughout the world through any international organization, if there is included as a member, any truly fascist state. Our world cannot be a free world if it is half free, or even if it is nearly all free. It must be a free world of free nations, everywhere."

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"Whatever reasons may have existed in the past for the acceptance of Franco Spain as a neutral state, they no longer exist. To be misled by the overtures of Franco and to accord him recognition anew, is to doom in advance the future of world security. For it must be agreed now that there can be neither peace nor security, as long as fascism is permitted to flourish in Spain... We must insist that the people of Spain be permitted to organize in their own way, and under their own leaders, their own free and democratic government. We must help and encourage the birth of a



free Spain created by Spanish Republicans who love liberty. ...I urge this lest those who died in that earlier fight for democracy in Spain against the fascist hordes and against the armies of Hitler and Mussolini shall have died in vain."

\* \* \*

Charles A. Collins  
Exec.-Sec'y., Negro Labor Victory Committee

"The debt America owes her citizens who fought and died in the fascist intervention of Spain, cannot be paid by eulogies or fine words of praise. It will only be paid when Franco joins Hitler and Mussolini in the gutter where he belongs. It is for this that Captain Bottcher gave his life at Leyte, it is for this that black and white members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade said "No Pasaran" to the fascists in 1936. It is for this that we, the victims and intended victims of fascism, take up the fight."

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Speech delivered by Gustav Faber, Editor of  
The German American, Secretary of the German-American  
Trade Union Committee, at Manhattan Center, May 17, 1945

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It is indeed a great privilege to be in one hall with so many people coming from all walks of life, many of whom perhaps have never met before, but we all came to pay tribute to a great American and to honor a great soldier who gave his life in defense of his country.

Captain Herman Boettcher who died on the battlefield and who was long before World War II an outstanding fighter against every form of Hitlerism and Fascism, was a true American.

Long before some governments and statesmen saw the evil of fascism rising all over the world, Boettcher became an active anti-fascist. And when the Civil War in Franco Spain gave the signal to the fascists in other countries to mobilize their 5th columns against world democracy, we found Boettcher in the Lincoln Brigade on the side of the Spanish Loyalist Government.

The democracies were not ready and willing to fight Hitler, Mussolini and Franco and so world fascism won its first round.

Deep conviction to the cause of democracy, devotion to the duties and also rights of the common man and courage, yes, great courage, were necessary to join the Lincoln Brigade in 1936. The fascist minded press had poisoned the minds of the American people and so there were no reception committees for the fighters from Spain at their homecoming. Instead Boettcher lost his American citizenship for being a good American fighting fascism in its very beginning.

Pearl Harbor found him in San Francisco working his way through college. But there was no time for education. America, his country by free choice, was attacked by the Japs and Boettcher wanted to do his share. His courage and leadership had to be recognized. His American citizenship was returned to him by a special act of Congress. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Distinguished Service Cross for outstanding heroism. Private Boettcher became a Corporal, a Sergeant and was made an officer of the United States Army on the battlefield. He rose to the rank of a Captain and was recommended for promotion to Major, when his fighting heart was stopped forever by Jap Fascist bullets.

We German-Americans are especially proud of Boettcher because he was born in Germany, because his deeds have proven to the world that there are other Germans besides the Nazis.

More than a million of the best anti-fascists in Germany did not have the opportunity to fight Hitlerism on the battlefields, but they died for their anti-fascist convictions in Hitler's concentration camps. German anti-fascists like Boettcher were shot, starved or beaten to death by countless thousands.

If Boettcher had come back, he would have done all in his power to help in the formation of a democratic peaceful world. Boettcher and many like him did not live to see the victory over Hitler, his arch-enemy. But he left some unfinished business to be carried on by us. The Pacific war is not yet won. Airplanes, guns and other war material so necessary to finish the job must be made available and forthcoming. The entire home front must make one final effort to drive the snakes of fascism from the face of the earth.

On various occasions he expressed his hatred for Hitlerism and was fighting the Nazis since 1939 in every form. Yes, the war is won against Germany, but Hitlerism is not yet destroyed. We must ruthlessly destroy the Nazi Party, the Nazi leaders, those S S gangsters and hangmen, the murderers of Jews, and Christians, prisoners of war and anti-fascists. We must destroy the military caste, who after the last world war, worked underground to rebuild the German War Machine. We must definitely destroy the Junker class and large landowners who transferred their loyalty from the Kaiser to Hitler, but remained the outstanding privileged class even under the Weimar Republic. We must destroy the Captains of the heavy industries, who during the war robbed and plundered the industries of the whole European Continent and became the paymasters of Hitler's Party Machine long before he came to power. We must destroy the teachings of fascism in the universities and schools in order to be able to develop a genuine democracy in Germany in years to come. And last but certainly not least we must prove to the world, that crime does not pay: Arch Fascists like Doenitz, Goering, Himmler and many of the Junker Generals who are responsible for 20 million Russians never seeing their city, town or village; those responsible for the V Bombs that killed innocent children, men and women without warning in London; those responsible for the hundred thousand Gold Star Mothers in the United States must be punished.

Herman Boettcher would want us to demand that war criminals are not dined and wined but that they are turned over to the people of Europe to be judged for their crimes and punished accordingly.

If we want to build a monument for Boettcher we must see to it that the arch fascist Franco is treated as a war criminal for the direct help he gave to Hitler by sending his troops to fight against our Ally Soviet Russia, by keeping filling stations for German submarines which were used at a cost of many sunken American merchant ships and American merchant seamen; and for the crimes committed by him and his henchmen against the heroic defenders of the Loyalist Government.

We must therefore, support the Resolution sponsored by Representative Coffey in the United States Congress to break relations with fascist Franco and help to reestablish a democratic Spanish Republic.

Let us not be fooled into believing that Fascism is gone forever in our Country. Of the 25,000 members of the Hitler Bund only a few were brought to justice. Thousands of the former Bund members as well as members of other Fascist organizations are still at large waiting for the opportunity to strike again. Yes, our brand of Fascist regrets that Hitler's armies are not in England instead of Eisenhower being in Germany and he very sincerely regrets that Hitler is not in Moscow but Stalin is in Berlin. Herman Boettcher left a will not only in words but in deeds. Let us execute his will for world democracy and a lasting peace.



majority of the German people. His whole life of heroic dedication to democracy was an indictment of the Nazi war criminals. We would understand little of his worth, we would pay poor tribute to him, if we did not resolve that these criminals be promptly and ruthlessly tried and executed. One of the things that must be fought is America's tendency ~~to~~ easily to forgive and forget. And this tendency will most certainly be played for all it is worth, under all sorts of pseudo-"humanitarian" guises, by those who seek to save some fragments of organized fascism from the wreckage. We must be firm and determined, as Bottcher was, intent single-mindedly upon the real and thorough wiping out of this hideous fascist menace.

And, speaking of war criminals, we must in Herman Bottcher's memory bear in mind one who is not yet widely enough recognized as a war criminal, the Falangist fuhrer of Spain, Francisco Franco. Franco has recently come up in the world. Not long ago, he was merely a lackey of secondary importance. But today, Mussolini lies dead in a gutter, where he has always belonged. Hitler's body most likely lies among the charred ruins of Berlin. Most of the second-string quislings are dead or in prison. And Franco, strictly by default and because he has survived, has become Europe's Public Enemy NO. 1. Not in the eyes of our State Department, where antiquated Franco-appeasement still has important influence, where it is felt that Franco is now "Behaving himself", and where it is thought that, though we learned at bitter cost that "you can't do business with Hitler," yet we can and should do business with his main and most important inheritor, Franco.

Well, we of the VLB most emphatically disagree. We insist and we will continue to insist ~~that~~, and we call to witness the proud record of Herman Bottcher, that Franco is not a ~~friend~~ friend but ~~is~~ a war criminal. We insist that so long as Franco, or his regime under whatever phoney disguise of monarchy or otherwise, remains in power, fascism is not defeated, and our lives and liberties are not safe, from a third world war, breeding this day, this very hour in fascist Spain. We will not be quiet on this subject, and we will demand that Congress see ~~to~~ and acknowledge this truth.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHER

Manhattan Center

Thursday, May 17, 1945

(The following are excerpts from the speeches prepared for delivery tonight).

\* \* \*

General Fulgencio Batista  
Ex-President of Cuba

"Franco is trying to ingratiate himself with the United States by declaring war on Japan. The Falange is like a snake which, although its fangs have been removed, still leaves its poison seeping through the body. We must build a federation of Latin-American countries, but it must be a federation based on democratic countries, and not on dictatorships. There are still several dictatorships in Latin-America, such as Honduras, Santo Domingo, Argentina, etc.. I will continue to oppose dictatorships, including that of Argentina."

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"To my mind, the program offered by the so-called Morgenthau Plan is the sanest, most practical, and most certain of

success in reaching our aims -- the prevention of German aggression. It is not a question of a hard peace, soft peace, but that of a durable peace."

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"Naturally, we must start from the negative. Destroy the worship of militarism in the schools, enlist the aid of the churches. War is not glory. Aggression is not honor. Brutality is not courage."

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"I believe that the peace treaties should provide that all properties seized as alien properties in the Allied Nations should be sold to their own nationals, and neutral countries should be made to follow suit. The proceeds of these sales should be used as reparation in money to help in the rehabilitation of the devastated areas, to repair the havoc wrought by the German blood-hounds."

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Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs  
N.Y. City Councilman

"This meeting has been called in tribute to the memory of Captain Herman Bottecher, DSC, veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who was killed in the service of his country in Leyte. It is natural that a hero of the war to save Spain from fascism should have been ready to agree to continue that fight in the World War. After all, the conflict in Spain, in reality, was basically the same as the world-wide conflict which followed. Each was a struggle to save democracy from fascism. One was local because the Spanish fighters for democracy were deserted by the other free nations of the world."

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"But fascism is not dead everywhere and all the appeasers have not passed from the world stage. We apparently are ready to admit to participation in this organization of free peoples, the Argentine, center of fascism in this hemisphere. Does that mean that we will tolerate Franco, too? Let us realize that we cannot organize for peace if, within the living international organism which we are trying to create to preserve peace, we are, at the outset, injecting the poison of fascist leadership and fascist ideas. Lincoln was right when he said that this country could not survive half slave and half free. Freedom cannot exist in our country or in any country, if there remains within its borders a fraction of its inhabitants which is not free. It is just as true that freedom cannot be preserved throughout the world through any international organization, if there is included as a member, any truly fascist state. Our world cannot be a free world if it is half free, or even if it is nearly all free. It must be a free world of free nations, everywhere."

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"Whatever reasons may have existed in the past for the acceptance of Franco Spain as a neutral state, they no longer exist. To be misled by the overtures of Franco and to accord him recognition anew, is to doom in advance the future of world security. For it must be agreed now that there can be neither peace nor security, as long as fascism is permitted to flourish in Spain... We must insist that the people of Spain be permitted to organize in their own way, and under their own leaders, their own free and democratic government. We must help and encourage the birth of a



free Spain created by Spanish Republicans who love liberty. ...I urge this lest those who died in that earlier fight for democracy in Spain against the fascist hordes and against the armies of Hitler and Mussolini shall have died in vain."

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Charles A. Collins  
Exec.-Sec'y., Negro Labor Victory Committee

"The debt America owes her citizens who fought and died in the fascist intervention of Spain, cannot be paid by eulogies or fine words of praise. It will only be paid when Franco joins Hitler and Mussolini in the gutter where he belongs. It is for this that Captain Bottcher gave his life at Leyte, it is for this that black and white members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade said "No Pasaran" to the fascists in 1936. It is for this that we, the victims and intended victims of fascism, take up the fight."

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TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN HERMAN BOTTCHEE

Manhattan Center

Thursday, May 17th

(The following are excerpts from the speeches prepared for delivery tonight.)

General Fulgencio Batista  
Ex-President of Cuba

"Franco is trying to ingratiate himself with the United States by declaring war on Japan. The Falange is like a snake which, although its fangs have been removed, still leaves its poison seeping through the body."

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"We must build a federation of Latin-American countries, but it must be a federation based on democratic countries, and not on dictatorships. There are still several dictatorships in Latin-America, such as Honduras, Santo Domingo, Argentina, etc. I will continue to oppose dictatorships, including that of Argentina."

Congressman Emanuel Celler

"I believe it would be well that women be given their rightful place in Germany. I say this with the knowledge of the cooperation the Nazi women gave to the Third Reich. It arose out of the subjection of women in the German household, who were confined to Kuche, Kinder and Kirsche. But I believe that if those who bear life are given a greater part in developing a moral climate for the preservation of life, much can be accomplished in the re-education of Germany."

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"To my mind, the program offered by the so-called Morgenthau Plan is the sanest, most practical, and most certain of success in reaching our aims -- the prevention of German aggression. It is not a question of a hard peace, soft peace, but that of a durable peace."

"Naturally, we must start from the negative. Destroy the worship of militarism in the schools, enlist the aid of the churches. War is not glory. Aggression is not honor. Brutality is not courage."

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"I believe that the peace treaties should provide that all properties seized as alien properties in the Allied Nations should be sold to their own nationals, and neutral countries should be made to follow suit. The proceeds of these sales should be used as reparation in money to help in the rehabilitation of the devastated areas, to repair the havoc wrought by the German blood-hounds."

Hon. Stanley M. Isaacs  
N.Y. City Councilman

"This meeting has been called in tribute to the memory of Captain Herman Bottcher, DSC, veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who was killed in the service of his country in Leyte. It is natural that a hero of the war to save Spain from fascism should have been ready to agree to continue that fight in the world war. After all, the conflict in Spain, in reality, was basically the same as the world-wide conflict which followed. Each was a struggle to save democracy from fascism. One was local because the Spanish fighters for democracy were deserted by the other free nations of the world."

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