

(Ed. note: Sounds like the BLAND-
ING SCHOOL FOR BOYS!)

....I am now spending the winter
in Florida. It's not exactly a
vacation, but it's camp. The
place is OK. Excellent food,
plenty of recreational facilities,
and a lake right in the camp.

Sounds good, but my training
will start Monday, so maybe I
won't be enjoying it so much!

Pvt. Norman Berkowitz

(Ed. Note: Short order!)

....The news on the war front is
really swell and the rumors of a
second front continues. Please
give me a summary of latest war
and diplomatic events and also if
you have time, develop the ideas
of tanks and planes as setting
the pace of the war, defense mea-
sures against tanks and intensive
use of booby traps and mines.....

Pvt. Louis Gnepp

....Gosh, I forgot the most impor-
tant thing. We were addressed by
the General of the camp, a colonel
and battalion commanders. The
Battalion introduced men with pre-
vious service. First mentioned
was foreign service men. And the
first one mentioned to stand and
face a thousand men as Pvt. Dave
Gordon-18 months with the Loyal-
ist Republican Army of Spain!....

....Am still down here and work-
ing hard. Our tempo is greatly
increased with daily long marches,
double timing, physical exercise
until it comes out of your ears,
firing our weapons and of course,
a little tactics. Manages to keep
me very busy. Bearing up well.
Better than I thought, too. Still
have a good chance for the para-
troopers.....

Pvt. Saul Wellman

*Notify us of any
change in address*

Jan. 6, 1944

Dear Vets -

It gave me indeed pleasure to hear from you
and to get the Volunteer. After all, it is the
only connection that I have with any of the
"boys". The article of Kalman Tomanicka is es-
pecially interesting to me, because we shared a
room in Ripoll and were together in St. Cyprien
as well. How I wish that I could fight in that
theater of war. Although I had never doubted
the outcome of this struggle, I fear for the so-
cial, political implications after the war. The
hardest battle for us will be to win the peace,
to overcome discrimination, injustice, poverty,
insecurity. We have to build a positive and dy-
namic democracy in order to survive.

Since I wrote you last, I received another
DSC, which makes two, plus three Purple Hearts.
Frankly speaking, I am not so keen about the
latter. Now, I have a little request and I would
be extremely grateful if you could give me the
required information. While in the 15th Brig.,
I became an intimate friend of Jim Ruskin, who
was a Civil Engineer, living in London (Woolwich).
Perhaps by contacting some friends in England, it
would be possible to ascertain his address. I
hope that your efforts will be successful.

Our future plans here, are by necessity,
shrouded in secrecy, that does not mean that we
are resting on our laurels, however. Like in the
past, our slogan has been changed from "No
Pasaron" to "Pasaremos". Hasta Victoria.....

HERMAN BOTTCHER

P.S. Do you ever hear from the San Francisco Post
or any other unit for that matter, or have they
all been snowed under in the present turmoil.

Dec. 30, 1943

Dear Jack:

You cannot imagine the pleasure I experienced
upon receiving the VOLUNTEER and your letter.
For the first time in almost a year, I was able
to read something that catapulted me both back-
wards into wonderful recollections of the past,
and forward into perspectives for the future. I
keep marveling at how so many items of intense
interest can be packed into so few pages. A
"bolt out of the blue" was mild compared to the
effect it had upon me. Keep on sending 'em!

One fact cannot be denied, and it is very gra-
tifying, that the fighting traditions of the In-
ternational Brigades are being kept on high wher-
ever the battle front exists, whether it is in
the Far East, Italy, Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Fr
France, U.S.; on the ground, in the air and on the
sea. The news about Bottcher and Thompson
is terrific and I hope it's only the beginn-
ing. (Continued on page 11)