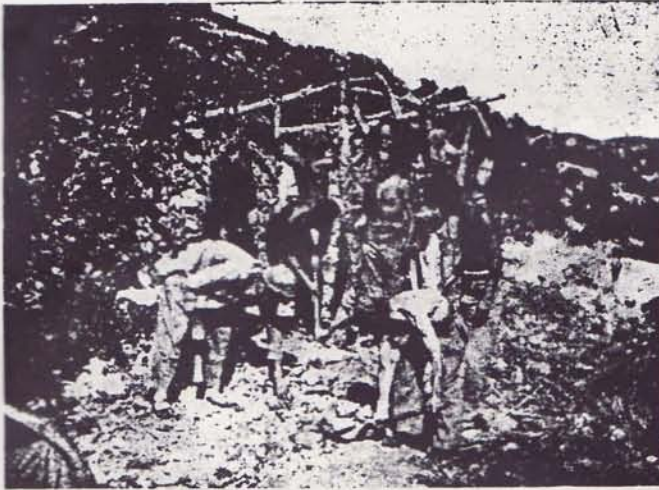


## HILL

by MORRIS L. MILLER 57th Battalion /  
(Killed by a fascist shell on the Ebro)



BRITISH BATTALION comrades building a shelter hut.  
LOS CAMARADAS DEL BATALLÓN INGLÉS construyen abrigos



DISHING out the grub during the Battalion fiesta on July 18  
SIRVIENDO la comida al Batallón durante la fiesta del 18 de Julio



BATTALION FOOT-BALL game, July 18 — PARTIDO DE FUTBOL en el Batallón  
el 18 de Julio

The history of the British Battalion in the last action is a record of high morale, of discipline and of doggedness in a series of attacks against fortifications which could have withstood all but the severest blasting by artillery; of a record of attacks made beneath withering machine gun fire, enfilading from left or right, under artillery fire that almost unceasing and beneath the ever-present threat of avion.

The first two days the Battalion lacked the support of Captain Paddy O'Daire's Company One, which was away on a mopping-up expedition. With Company Two in reserve, Companies Four and Two attacked and succeeded in occupying the ridges facing hill 481. It was in this action that the grim list of casualties among the officers of the Battalion began: Maxie Nash, youngest section leader in the Battalion, was killed as he led his men over the top, and Company Commander Angus received a severe wound.

Observers reported that the hill was heavily fortified and for the first time the action assumed a serious aspect. What had previously been regarded as a light action became a tough proposition.

On the second day, Company Three, Commanded by Cipriano, went forward to within 20 meters of the top of the hill and engaged in hand grenade combat with the enemy.

That night with the help of the Listers on the left and a group of the 13th Brigade on the right, the Battalion carried out a night attack. The Listers succeeded in occupying the ridge, but the peak of it remained impregnable and they had to retire.

In the morning the news came through that Vaño Vaño. Commissar of the Third Company had died while heroically leading the Company into action.

A report on the June Activist Congress of the 35th Division, written by Morris L. Miller shortly before the Brigade went into the Ebro operation, will appear in the next issue of 'The Volunteer'. Miller's greatest legacy to the Brigade was the activist movement, of which he was one of the outstanding leaders, and in whose formation and functioning he played a major role.

By this time the boys were thoroughly tired. Night and day they had made herculean efforts. To add to their difficulties, water was kilometers away and very rarely could details be spared. Moreover, communication had not yet been established with the Intendencia, though Bob Cooney, Battalion Commissar, had succeeded in getting up a small amount of tinned stuff which had been captured from the fascists.

Still the boys carried on without a murmur and when Faddy O'Daire and the First Company joined them they went forward uncomplainingly.

All the third day, the battle went on. Morris Davis, Commander of Company Four was severely wounded and Harry Dotson was killed.

On the fourth day, Company Two and Company Four combined under the leadership of Catalayud and Johnny Powers and on the fifth day, the last and most severe attack on the hill began.

All day long it went on with the leading men only twenty meters away from the top of the hill and the rest of the men not far behind. The air was thick with machine gun bullets and the fas-



CROSSING THE EBRO. Rapid get-away. — CRUZANDO EL EBRO. Marcha rápida.

= 81

Adjutant-Commissar  
(front)

cist shells were landing in our forward positions.

When Battalion Commander Wilde gave the order to withdraw, the last attack had ended. Among the comrades we lost in this attack was our brave comrade, Lewis Clive, who had returned from the hospital the previous day to take command once again of his old company. He was killed while directing the fire of his men.

The Battalion now earned itself the name of «Shock Battalion» of the 15th Brigade. In spite of the fact that the fascists still held the position, the reputation of the Battalion had increased a hundredfold.

Why was this?

First, throughout the action the Battalion had had the benefit of Sam Wilde's experiences as Battalion Commander. Day and night he was at the telephone directing operations, in his usual blunt manner, ordering advance here, withdrawal there, regrouping the companies, reacting quickly to changing circumstances. Never ruffled by the fact that he was receiving half-a-dozen reports at once. He was a model of resource and coolness.

Second, to Bob Cooney's efforts as Commissar of the Battalion, the Battalion owed its high political level. The Activist movement under his guidance had become extremely strong in the Battalion and the results of the unity it had achieved in the Battalion were to be seen in the action. Brazell Thomas, Dave Guest, Joe Harkings, Max Nash, Antonio Monterino and many others had shown by their heroism that they were indeed activists, but it was not so much examples of individual courage that revealed the success of the Activist movement, but to the fact that politically and militarily the whole Battalion had been influenced. Such comrades



MAJOR VALLEDOR with some of his officers. (Standing with paper in hand) Brigade Commissar John Gates is sitting nearest to Valledor with rolled up sleeves. Next to Gates, also sitting, are Company Commander Patty O'Daire and George Fletcher. Sam Wilde, leaning against the tree, appears to be planning revenge against the photographer.

EL MAYOR VALLEDOR con algunos de sus oficiales (de pie con el papel en la mano). El Comisario de Brigada John Gates está sentado cerca de Valledor con las mangas levantadas, al lado de Gates, también sentado, está el Comandante de la Compañía Patty O'Daire y George Fletcher, Sam Wilde, apoyado en el árbol en actitud de planear.

as Taffy Foulkes and Taffy Bricell, non-Activists, who distinguished themselves in the action would be the first to admit this.

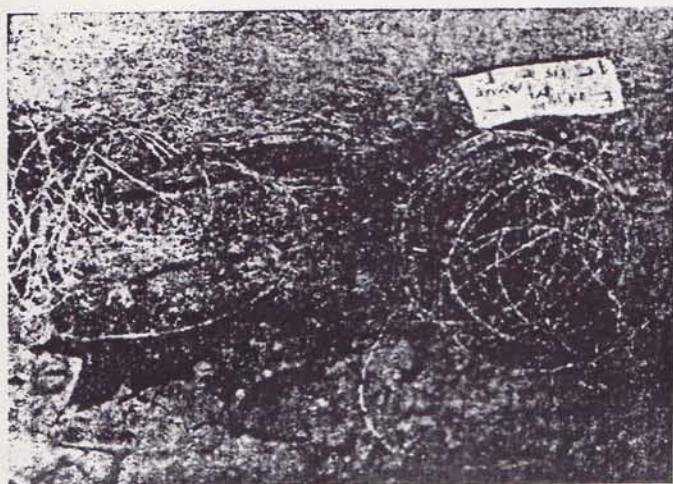
Third tribute must be paid to the leaders of the Battalion, Company Commanders, Commissars and section leaders who were outstanding in their courage and resource. They proved themselves — all of them.

The Battalion will always remember Hill 481 and it will always be proud of its achievements there.



CAPTAIN SAM WILDE (standing) and Commissar Bob Cooney, Leaders of the Battalion which earned itself the name of «Shock Battalion of the 15th Brigade». «The Battalion will always remember Hill 481 and it will always be proud of its achievements there».

El Capitán Sam Wilde (sentado) y el Comisario Bob Cooney, jefes del Batallón que ha conquistado el nombre de «Batallón de choque de la XV Brigada». El Batallón recordará lo que sucedió en la cota 481 y se sentirán siempre orgullosos de los acontecimientos que allí tuvieron lugar.



BARBED WIRE — ALAMBRADA