

July 3, 1951.

Salud, Mús,

Well, I'm settled here for the time being — I'm in the signal corp. It seems that my electrical engineering training will be helpful not only to me, but also to our battalion thru the signal corps. It really feels swell to feel that I am really useful here. It gives me that much more energy to go on and do the best I can.

It's just been decided that our battalion will be named the Makuzie-Papuan. That's swell! There's a whole mess of fine fellows from Canada here and they really deserve to have their own battalions. Not only will it help

us here, but it will also help  
the campaign for Spain back in  
Canada. I understand that already,  
on the basis of there being an  
Canadian battalion, they have  
already given us an ambulance  
and have promised a field kitchen  
that will probably come in very  
handy. The name also, being, as it is,  
the names of two "fathers" of Canadian  
democracy will also be very useful  
in establishing support support for  
Spain in Canada. Incidentally, McCloud  
was here yesterday and spoke to  
us, telling us of some of the support  
Spain was getting in Canada. He  
also spoke about the international  
situation, France and the meeting

of the C. I. & S. I. Anna Louise  
Strong was also here. She told  
us about her stay in the Soviet  
Union, about the constitutional  
convention ~~etc.~~

Back in the old country I used  
to speak about different this army  
was from those of bourgeois countries.  
However my actual experience has  
shown me that I underestimated  
the situation by far. My experience  
in the R. D. T. C. at school gives  
me a fairly good standard for  
comparison of the two. What bourgeois  
army has a lively and interesting  
wall paper in every barracks - has  
discussion and lectures along with  
the reading of our daily paper -

— has the discussions that take place  
in every barracks among the members.  
Remember that almost every man here  
was in some activity, in some trade  
union, in some class struggle,  
activity back in the old country, and the  
discussions and memories and  
histories of some of the fellows  
would make a fascinating book.

And finally, I never really  
appreciated what socialist competition  
meant till I reached this place.

True, the competition is fierce, and I  
mean fierce, — each man doing  
his utmost to be as proficient  
as possible in his own particular  
job, but how different is this  
competition from that existing in

capitalist societies. Here the paramount aim of every man is to raise the fighting level to its highest point, and because of that they realize that just to train themselves is insufficient. They must help the weaker comrades — help strengthen the weaker links in the chain of this ~~the~~ army; they must form a powerful fighting force, that will give the Spanish armies impetus in driving Franco out of this beautiful country so that he will only stop swimming when he faces the united force of the fighting American people's front on the other edge of the Atlantic. When he has ~~found~~ swum back

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across the Atlantic and found  
the Peoples Front of France still  
solidly united, and a solid front  
against fascism in England  
(to expect); ~~He~~ then, he will be  
forced to crawl back into the  
arms of Hitler and Mussolini,  
and say "I'm sorry Adolph, I'm  
sorry Benito, but it seems the  
whole world is against us now,  
the people are too strong, they are too  
united. Look at Spain now for instance,  
After they drove us out, life became  
beautiful for all the people there, life  
became clean and wholesome, rich  
and happy. That's not what  
we want. Let's crawl into a hole

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somewhere and die."

And I can assure you Mma,  
and Misa and Bert, that  
that is what will happen with  
the bunch we have here.

I'm going - great guns here  
and so are the rest of the fellows  
I came over with.

Keep a-writting gal,  
Salud

Paul

- I'm sending a picture a bunch  
of us took in Valencia before  
we came here. See if you  
can find one.

Address is still - Paul Sigel

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