

RELIEF OF TOLEDO.

Bilbao is the latest name in Spain to flame into headlines as a centre of destruction. As the troops on one side or the other advance, ^{like} they march through cities ~~that resemble~~ the ruins of a ^{long dead} former civilisation --- the wreckage of buildings and bridges --- the debris that ~~follows~~ lies in the path of opposing factions ~~in~~ of the same nation. On the road to Toledo our cameraman secured these vivid pictures of the insurgents' advance to relieve their comrades besieged in the Alcazar fortress for 71 days. The wreckage of an occasional aeroplane, grim though it is, pales into insignificance as the awful ruin of the Alcazar itself comes into view. Cautiously the rebel troops advance, expecting every corner to send a whistling messenger of death. The historic siege of ~~the~~ Alcazar is ^{ended} ~~at an end~~. General Franco, accompanied by gaunt and bearded General Mascardo who commanded the beleaguered garrison, walks in grim silence through the shattered streets. Amid the ruins, haggard inhabitants of the city of siege eat and exercise after many weeks of imprisonment and semi-starvation. General Franco spoke with great emotion to the ~~Iran~~ troops who had scarcely strength enough to stand to attention. ~~He congratulated them on their epic resistance in his cause. He embraced General Mascardo as he decorated him with Spain's V.C..~~

In a story of the horrors that war inevitably brings, this has been the most terrible of all.