

# International Brigade Memorial Trust

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ISSUE TWO

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST.

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### Officers of the Trust:

President - Jack Jones/  
Secretary - Marlene Sidaway.  
Treasurer - David Marshall.

### Committee Members:

Richard Baxell, Rodney Bickerstaffe,  
Tish Collins, Peter Crome, Pauline  
Fraser, Katie Green, Sam Lesser.

*Hello everyone,*

*Welcome to the 2nd edition of the I.B.M.T. Newsletter, and thanks to all of you who sent such positive responses to the first one.*

*There are details of 13 July Meeting in London on the back page. Hopefully the weather will be better this year, but it didn't dampen our spirits last year, and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to make it.*

*The provisional date for the A.G.M. is Saturday, 5 October. It was agreed at the Committee meeting, 11 May, to hold this in Manchester. (venue to be arranged) It was suggested that it could also be a social occasion, perhaps with a concert afterwards - full details in the next Newsletter. Any comments/ suggestions, please let me know. Enjoy the Newsletter. Salud,  
Marlene.*

### Newsletter editor:

Geraldine (Gerry) Abrahams  
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Prodn Coordinator: Jim Jump

## Memories of Making Music in Spain

Herbert and Hans Rimmel's research about their uncle Willi has stirred some poignant memories for the family of British volunteer George Green who was killed on the Ebro front in 1938.

Willi had formed a musical group with classical musician George Green during the Spanish Civil War, and was among those German anti-fascists who, in the aftermath of the defeat of the Spanish Republic, were imprisoned by the French Government in the Gurs internment camp and subsequently handed over to the Nazis.

Willi was moved from one concentration camp to another during World War II, from Sachsenhausen to Buchenwald to Mauthausen, before being liberated by the Red Army. In the post-war years George's widow Nan, by then the International Brigade Association Secretary, continued to correspond with Willi. He died in Leipzig in 1970.



George Green (cello),  
Willi Rimmel (violin) &  
Nan Green (accordion)  
enjoy a musical interlude  
during the Spanish War

There is an Irish connection to this story too. Herbert Rimmel, who had been among a group of German children fostered by Irish families from 1946 to 1949 due to the post-war hardship of their families, paid a visit to Dublin in May, and met up with Irish International Brigader Michael O'Riordan, whom he had met at a veterans' commemoration in Berlin in 1996. He also visited the grave of celebrated International Brigader Frank Ryan. Herbert's father, Christian Rimmel, had been a member of the anti-Nazi Resistance in Cologne until his betrayal and arrest in November 1944. Sentenced to death he was, however, liberated by U.S. troops.

Herbert and Hans would like to hear from any other veterans or their relatives who might have memories of Willi. The address is: Herbert Rimmel, An der Koppel 11, D-19 065 Pinnow, Germany. E-mail Heremrn@gmx.de

## Brief Notes

\* The S.C.W. Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum was very successful, generating much interest. Brigaders were invited to the opening, and to several other events, and many were interviewed for local papers. We are grateful to the organisers, particularly Penny Ritchie-Calder and Christopher Dowling, for their help and support for the Trust. They have said we can have the Roll of Honour banners, with the names of those who died in Spain, which featured at the end of the exhibition. Any discrepancies will be corrected when we find a permanent home for it. Marx House, where the I.B.A. archives are kept, has no space to exhibit it, so we are looking for other suitable venues.

\* We have agreed to affiliate to the Marx Memorial Library, which will hopefully make it easier for members to access the archives. Incidentally, our researcher, Jim Carmody, has asked for feed-back from those people he has found information for. It's important for him to keep his archives up-to-date, so please let him know if his information has helped you to find out more.

\* On May 9th, I laid a wreath at the Soviet War Memorial in the grounds of the I.W.M. The ceremony was preceded by *Films of the Channel Islands*, and a talk by Robert le Sueur about conditions during the Nazi occupation and the bravery of those who helped prisoners. On the same day (C.I. Liberation Day) Rob Smith and Manuel Moreno laid a wreath on our behalf at the Memorial Ceremony in Jersey and Fernando de La Torre laid a wreath in memory of the Spanish Republicans who perished there.

\* The Summer Meeting of the *Kampfer und Freunde der Spanischen Republik* will take place on 7 and 8 September at the Kongresshotel Rahnsdorf, Berlin. The topic is "*International Solidarity - the fight in Spain - fight for peace today*". Secretary Harald Wittstock said the K.F.S.R. would heartily welcome friends from other countries. The cost will be about 75 euro (150. DM) for one night inc. breakfast & three meals. If you would like to go, please contact Harald Wittstock, Alfred-Rand-Strasse 11, 12559 Berlin. Tel.49 30 65495800, or e-mail [HWittstock@aol.com](mailto:HWittstock@aol.com)

\* As mentioned in the first newsletter, "La Calumna" is a living history group of enactors who recently set up a Spanish Civil War Group. They are taking part in the London Historical Action Spectacular at Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Feltham, West London, on 6-7 July. Further information from Kevin Cotgrave (Tel.0121 384 7145) or Richard Thorpe: [thorpe.ortiz@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe.ortiz@btinternet.com)

\* After *Voices from a Mountain* was screened at the Imperial War Museum, several members of the London Socialist Film Co-op expressed an interest in showing it. They promote socialist culture by arranging screenings of a wide range of films, with informed discussions afterwards. Screenings on Sunday afternoons 1.30 for 2.00 at Birkbeck College, Malet St., WC. Admission £5.50, Coes. £3.50 Discount to annual members, £1.00 Details from: LSFC, 13, Foundling Court, Brunswick Centre, London, WC1N 1QE. Tel. 020-7278-5764.

\* Two Comrades noticed that the I.B. Plaque in Cable Street, London, E1 is in need of refurbishment, and have volunteered to arrange and pay for it. We are very grateful to them, and hope to have "before/ after" pictures in the next N/I. It is a reminder to us all to keep monitoring Memorials wherever and whatever they are - trees, park benches, plaques....

\* Jo Carritt remembered a tree planted in Acton Park, Ealing in May 2000, and the inscription on a tombstone in Powerstock, W. Dorset to "John Pascal Rickman who died in Spain in Feb. 1937, aged 26 years. He gave his life in the cause of Freedom"

\* The Rev. George McCabe wrote to me of his thoughts when he visited the Memorial to Lothian & Fife Volunteers in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. It's good to visit and remember.

\* Another reminder of how research can be a dual advantage. Heather Stewart in Australia requested information about Ralph Fox. When I realised she lived near a Brigadier we hadn't heard from for some time, I asked her to try to make contact. She did, and found Brigadier Paulin Paul in good health, at 90, and very helpful in her research about the S.C.W. I was mortified when I realised I had been addressing "Ms. Pauline Paul", and send Mr Paul my apologies - I blame Bill's handwriting!

\* Angela Jackson's excellent Len Crome Memorial Lecture was very well attended, and enlivened for Brigaders present by a couple of bottles of wine she had brought from Casa Pinet in the village of Tarbena, inland from Benidorm. For those who have not visited Casa Pinet, it is full of photos, posters, letters and memorabilia of working class struggles around the world, and particularly those of the Spanish Civil War. If you are on holiday in the area, it's well worth a visit. There's always a warm welcome from Jeronimo Pinet and the food is excellent, but as I remember it, the road home is treacherous, so ONE of you will have to stay sober enough to drive!

\* Newsquest in Oxfordshire is hoping to do a feature on the volunteers who went to Spain from the Morris Car factory at Cowley. Jim has found three possible names, "Jock Birrell, A.J. Smith and (possibly) Nicholas Vasiliou, we don't think any of them are still with us, but if you have any information, please get in touch with Newsquest at Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ: Tel. 01865 42 52 62 or e-mail [news@nqo.com](mailto:news@nqo.com)

\* Footnote: Overheard by David Leach at a showing of his film. 1st usher: "What's this one about then?" 2nd usher: "Just some old cootes rabbiting on about the Spanish Civil War"!

Finally: We are now able to take subscriptions/donations by Bankers Order the details are: Halifax plc, 68, The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 1N. Sort Code 11-07-47 A/c International Brigade memorial Trust, No. 00599739 If your subscriptions are now due, you should have a reminder slip enclosed with this Newsletter.

\* Hope you enjoy the Newsletter, please keep in touch, Marlene.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On 13 July, at the splendid International Brigades Memorial on the Thames Embankment in London, our annual commemoration assembly will be held. It is my fervent hope that there will be full attendance by all my comrades who served in the cause of the Republic, together with relatives and the many friends and supporters who wish to keep green the glorious memory of the International Brigades.



Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, will give the address this year, which will make it a special occasion. It is a measure of the high esteem held for the volunteers of the International Brigades that the chief citizen of Greater London should address our cause. Ken is a long time supporter and for us his special role has great significance in having responsibility for the care and oversight of memorials such as ours in the metropolis.

In light of the growing fascist and racist threats, the message and example of the International Brigades is very relevant. People of goodwill generally, and especially the youth, should be inspired by our example to defend democracy and freedom today.

Our new Memorial Trust I am sure will have wide appeal as it develops and in order to extend the range of friends throughout the country, and keep the links with my comrades of the International Brigades still living, it is intended to hold our committee meetings from time to time in the areas outside London. Our first meeting in this regard will be in Manchester, and I am sure this will be very much welcomed by our comrades and friends in the North West.

With good wishes to all

Jack Jones

### LIST OF VETERANS

*Alfred Sherman  
Alun Williams  
Benny Goldman  
Bernard Knox  
Bernard McKenna  
Bob Doyle  
Bob Peters  
Charles Matthews  
Conrad Singer  
Cyril Sexton  
David Marshall  
Edwin Greening  
Eugene Downing  
Frank Ellis  
Frank Graham  
George Wheeler  
Jack Edwards  
Jack Jones*

*Jack Shaw  
James Maley  
Jim Brannan  
John Dunlop  
John Taylor  
Jud Coleman  
Kenneth Sinclair-Loutit  
Lou Kenton  
Michael O'Riordan  
Maurice Mendelson  
Nicholas Vassiliou  
Paddy Cochrane  
Paulin Paul  
Penny Feiwei  
Reg Sexton  
Sam Lesser  
Sol Frankel  
Steve Fullarton*

### OBITUARY



Joe Garber died on 2 May 2002 at the age of 91. His Tombstone Consecration will take place on Thursday 25 July at 5pm at Bushey United Synagogue Cemetery, Little Bushey Lane, Bushey, Herts. WD2 31P.

In a message to other veterans, Joe's son Jonathan said: "I look forward to seeing as many of the veterans who could comfortably manage it."

He added: "I wish you all continued success in keeping the memories alive, and may the next generation continue to carry the torch. It seems again that fascism and racism are making the headlines and that the Republican cry of 'No Pasaran' should be heard around the world."



# News at home

## Reunion in Havana

On a visit to Cuba in February, Connie and Pauline Fraser looked up Evelio Aneiro Subirats and Luis Pedraza Barrio, the two Cuban Brigaders whom Pauline had met at the 65th Homenaje in Madrid in October 2001. Many of the Cuban volunteers who went to Spain fought with the XV Brigade, which was largely composed of anglophone battalions.



Evelio, his wife, and  
Connie Fraser in Havana

Evelio told Pauline that of the 1,000 Cubans who volunteered to go to Spain, more than 300 were killed. Among them was Pablo de la Torriente Brau, a well-known and widely-acclaimed writer both within Cuba and internationally, and in whose memory an institute has been set up in Havana. Luis Pedraza attended a special concert in December to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth.

"Unfortunately Luis has since suffered a severe stroke, but was well enough to see us, and to present us with a number of works by, and about Pablo" reported Pauline. "And Evelio generously insisted on giving us a copy of 'Prisoners of the Good Fight' by Carl Geiser, political commissar of the Abraham Lincolns and Mac-Paps, and 'Cuba en Espana', which is a history of the Cuban volunteers and Cuban aid to Spain."

Both Brigaders are keen to have contact with British Brigaders. Letters and cards can be sent to: Evelio Aneiros, General Lee 217, e/n Figueros y Destrampe, Santo Suarez, Havana, Cuba, and Luis Pedraza Barrio, Ayuntamiento 79, Apartamiento 9, e/n Tulipan y Conil, Plaza de la Revolucion, Havana 6B, Cuba. Luis Pedraza's daughter, Lina Pedraza Cuesta, can be e-mailed: [cima@ceniai.inf.cu](mailto:cima@ceniai.inf.cu).

### NEW MONUMENT FOR TOULOUSE

On 12<sup>th</sup> January this year, a monument in memory of the Spanish Republicans who sought refuge in France in 1939, was inaugurated in Toulouse. The memorial was jointly funded by Toulouse Council and the Casa de Espana. While the sculpture commemorates the tragedy of the Spanish exodus, the inscription also honours the Spanish soldiers and members of the Resistance who took part in the liberation of France and fought for the liberty of Spain.

*From 'Mundo Obrero' April 2002*

### CAN ANYONE HELP?

Dan Gillman, a part time student at Birkbeck College, is writing a dissertation on the Impact of the Spanish Civil War on the British Labour Movement 1936 - 39. Can anyone help? He can be contacted at 161b Amhurst Road, London E8 2AW (tel 020 7 254 9120)

### MEMORIAL NEWS

A supplemental plaque, carved in memory of Brigader Thomas John Harley, is now in place in the foyer of the Civic Centre at Castle Street., Merthyr Tydfil, six years after the commemoration of a carved wooden plaque listing the names of the men from the area who went to Spain to join the International Brigaders.

Last year, when it became clear that a name had been omitted, the organiser & donator of the plaque, Merthyr-born Iori Williams, son of a Brigader, contacted wood-carver Ron Curtis who carved a small supplementary plaque which was officially handed over at the Civic Centre on Monday 27 May in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress Alan and Sheila Davis, and family and friends of the omitted Brigader.

The installation of a plaque in commemoration of International Brigaders from the Caerphilly and Islwyn area of South Wales is planned for the Tourist Information Centre opposite the Norman castle in Caerphilly. Guest of honour will be Alun Menai Williams, one of the last surviving Welsh Brigaders, and the film: *Voices from a Mountain*, in which he took part, will be shown. For information, contact Councillor Ray Davis at tel: 02920 889514 or e-mail:

[wendy.lewis@aladdinscave.net](mailto:wendy.lewis@aladdinscave.net)

Ella Quinn, Testimony Films, 12, Great George St., Bristol, BS1 5RS (Tel.0117 925 8589) would like to hear from any IBMT members with childhood memories of WW1

# and abroad

## MEMORIAL NEWS

On 31 May, Jack Jones opened the meeting to initiate the International Brigaders' room and library, and newly-refurbished building at the new Aberdeen Trades Council offices.

John Londragan House, is named after local hero and International Brigader John Londragan who left for Spain in Spring 1937 and earned himself a distinguished record with the British Battalion, fighting at Jarama on anti-tank guns. On his return to Aberdeen in August 1938, he became a delegate and activist in the Trades Council for many years. He died in 1993.

Reporting on the meeting, Jack Jones said: "In Aberdeen there were around 13 men who served in the International Brigades, in the British Battalion, including the commissar Bob Cooney. They are all dead now and I felt it my duty to comment on the record of John Londragan."

The meeting was organised by Aberdeen Trades Council and attended by the leaders of the Council, Lord Provost Margaret Smith, John Londragan's niece and various union members.

"The library's been out of use so it's a bit scant" added Jack "but we hope to find ways to send books and materials relating to the International Brigades, and to Spain itself, so that we can build it up. I'm hoping Paul Preston might donate one or two of his books to it."

## One Hundred Attend Memorial Lecture



Dave Marshall and Angela Jackson drinking a toast to the many friends of the Brigades in Spain.

A hundred people attended the Len Crome Memorial Lecture on 2 March at the Imperial War Museum. At the time of his death Len, Chief Medical Officer in Spain, was chairman of the International Brigade Association. The organisers, Len's son Peter and wife Ilana, invited Dr Angela Jackson to give a lecture: *Beyond the Battlefield: a Cave Hospital in the Spanish Civil War*, and Jack Jones and Peter welcomed the guests and spoke about Len's life and career.

The lecture, based on Angela's research for a new book to follow the recent publication: *British Women and the Spanish Civil War* told the story of one of the many front-line hospitals under Len's command, and covered themes like the public remembrance of the war. Photographs displayed the cave near La Bisbal de Falset, some featured patients and staff, and the inauguration ceremonies of 4 November 2001 when commemorative plaques were unveiled in the cave and in the local cemetery where those who died there were buried.

Afterwards, guests adjourned for refreshments, to talk to old/new friends, to toast friends of the Brigades in Spain, and the memory of Len Crome.

## 'EL EXILIO' EXHIBITION

King Juan Carlos will open an exhibition about Spanish exiles after the Spanish Civil War in Madrid's Palacio de Cristal del Retiro on 17 September. Messrs Blair, Putin and Chirac have been invited.

The documentary "*El Exilio, Libertad para recordar*" will be shown at 9.30 on 22 September on Television Española. It was produced by "ES-DOCU", "TV Española" and "Fundación Pablo Iglesias" and includes themes like: the Spaniards in the French Resistance, the Quakers, the guerrilleros, The Valle de Aran invasion, Northwick, and the "niños de la guerra" in Britain, Belgium, Mexico and Russia.

The film was directed, and co-written (with Julio Martín Casas), by Pedro Carvajal, and the ES-DOCU production assistant was Lala Isla. A book written by Carvajal will accompany the documentary, and will feature material not included in the film.

## BOOKS... BOOKS... BOOKS... BOOKS... BOOKS... BOOKS



Professor Paul Preston

There are probably about 20,000 titles written about the Spanish Civil War. Quite a lot are relatively worthless but several thousand of them are of crucial value to historians and researchers. Having been engaged in building a collection for the research organisation where I work, the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies, at the London School of Economics, as well as having been an obsessive collector on my own for the last thirty five years, I know how difficult it is to get hold of some titles. One of my greatest friends was Herbert Southworth who used to work for the Republican government in New York. During the Second World War, he ended up in North Africa where, over thirty, he built up the world's greatest private collection of books on the war. It now resides in the San Diego campus of the University of California at La Jolla.

Herbert Southworth collected by corresponding with a network of booksellers throughout Europe and Latin America. Generally speaking, for most collectors of books, the real pleasure lies in the unexpected find while rummaging in the dusty shelves of shops tucked away in a side street of Cuenca or Bolton.

The rarest books on the Spanish Civil War emanate from the Republican side. For obvious reasons, it is easy enough to find copies of most of the books that the Francoist censorship permitted to be published during its nearly four decades of operation. There are exceptions, mainly in the area of works that boast about the violence of the military rebels in the early days of the war or about the pro-Axis tendencies of the dictator and his regime. An interesting example is the book by José María de Areilza and Fernando María Castiella, *Reivindicaciones de España* (Madrid: Instituto de Estudios Políticos, 1941). I remember, as a student in Madrid in the late 1960s, when similar books might go for anything from 10 to 100 pesetas, a copy of *Reivindicaciones* would fetch 10,000 (more than a month's wages for most people). Important Republican works were published in Latin America, especially Mexico, but distance, poor paper and lack of local interest have made them rarities too. There is a substantial bibliography of books on the Spanish Civil War in English. Many can still be seen in charity shops – especially those by Franco supporters which were published by the Right Book Club and those produced in relatively large print-runs by the Left Book Club. Some important ones – like those of Franz Borkenau, *The Spanish Cockpit* (London: Faber & Faber, 1937) or Esmond Romilly, *Boadilla* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1937) – have been reprinted.

The rarest of all are probably five: the memoirs of the Irish fascist leader General Eoin, O'Duffy, *Crusade in Spain* (Dublin: Brown & Nolan, 1938); those of the Republican officer José Martín Blázquez, *I Helped to Build an Army: Civil War Memoirs of a Spanish Staff Officer* (London: Secker & Warburg, 1939) in which he recounts the problems faced in creating a professional army; the vivid eye-witness account of life in the Republic by the journalist Henry Buckley, *Life and Death of the Spanish Republic* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1940) – a wonderful book most copies of which were destroyed in the blitz; the memoirs of the man who led the coup against the Republic in the vain hope of a negotiated settlement with Franco, Colonel Segismundo Casado, *The Last Days of Madrid. The End of the Spanish Republic* (London: Peter Davies, 1939) and the book that brought home to Britain the horror of German intervention in Spain, George L. Steer, *The Tree of Gernika: A Field Study of Modern War* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1938). But there are many even less well-known and even rarer. The history of the International Brigades has been tremendously enriched by the many pamphlets and small books produced by local history groups or Labour Party or trades union branches in commemoration of particular volunteers.

PAUL PRESTON  
Historian

Jane Duran's *Silences from the Spanish Civil War*, published by Enitharmon Press. The author's father fought in Spain with the Republican army and went into exile after the defeat. Professor Paul Preston has written the introduction.

The International Brigades in Spain 1936 to 1939 by Ken Bradley and Mike Chappell is published in the Osprey Elite series, and is available direct from the authors priced £7. For further information tel: 0603 406785.

Martin Green's *Gandesa: Elegy for the Dead in Spain*, naming all those who fell in the British Battalion, can be obtained from him: 3, Antoine Terrace, Newlyn, Penzance TR18 5BW (£3.00 post free)



# Brigaders' Voices

My father **GEORGE GREEN**, a classical musician, went to Spain to drive an ambulance, but later joined the British Battalion. In September 1938, he wrote to tell his mother why he was there and what he was fighting for. The letter was only recently discovered in the handbag of an aunt, now deceased. George Green was killed a month after he sent the letter, on the last day the International Brigades were in action. The family knew nothing of his death until some months later.

*My dear mother*

*I would like to say as clearly as possible why we came to Spain - and by we I mean not only Nan and myself but all the volunteers of the International Brigades.*

*We came to war because we love peace and hate war. 2. Fascism, which is the maker of wars today, and which is threatening everybody's home and everybody's safety, this same fascism can be decisively beaten in Spain & if it is beaten in Spain then it is beaten forever as a world force. 3. We are not pacifists because we believe that the pacifist line is a direct encouragement to war makers...*

*For us, we shall be glad when it is all over. My idea of a good time is not being shot at, but is connected with the growing lettuce and spring onions & drinking beer in a country pub, and playing quartets with friends, and having my children about me to educate me and keep me human. And we're most of like that out here.*

*Mother dear, we're not militarists, nor adventurers, nor professional soldiers: but a few days ago, on the hills on the other side of the Ebro, I've seen a few unemployed lads from the Clyde, and frightened clerks from Willesden stand up (without fortified positions) against the artillery barrage that professional soldiers could not stand up to. And they did it because to hold the line here and now means that we can prevent this battle being fought again later on Hampstead Heath or the hills of Derbyshire...*

MARTIN GREEN

Our family's experience mirrors Martin Green's. Our father, **GERRY DORAN**, went to Spain in December 1936 with the first Irish group led by Frank Ryan, and was seriously wounded at Cordoba. He died in 1976 and with him, so many memories. My cousin in Dublin found this letter in her attic two years ago.

Albacete, Spain 21. 4. '37

*My Dear Mother*

*I just received your first letter two days ago which you posted on February 23rd so you see how sometimes mail is delayed. I am now feeling in the best of health and hope this applies to you and the family. My face and neck are suntanned due to the wonderful climate, and after I have my hand and arm massaged, together with electric treatment, I believe I will be more fit physically than ever before.*

*Well mother, I don't know what way you judge my action in coming out to Spain, but even now I am more convinced than ever that I did the only thing worth doing - helping to kill fascism before it spreads to my own country - IRELAND! Some of the best of Irish lads have fought and died in their efforts to save democracy Tony Fox, only 17 years old - Kit Conway, the finest type of soldier I have yet met - Dinny Coady, Mick Nolan, Mick May: all of them late of the IRA, they had no regrets as their deaths each resemble a nail in the coffin of International Fascism and of O'Duffy and his hirelings.*

*I don't yet know anything definite regarding myself. I will probably be examined by the Medical Commission in a few days' time and I will write and let you know their decision. I would like to see you all again as soon as possible, and yet I would like to remain here for the victorious ending - which I believe is nearer than most people imagine. There is no imperialist differentiation shown here - I get the same consideration as President Azoria, the same food as General Miaja. I want for nothing so you needn't send anything out. When things are settled up, we can have a good time to make up for our present separation....*

GERRY ABRAHAMS

**DAVID MARSHALL's** poem was published in *Poems for Spain* edited by Stephen Spender in 1939.

## Retrospect.

Go back -  
Six feet of snow on the Aragon front;  
While here  
Kids slide in the roadways  
Steadied feet thudding in the gutters:  
Ice blurs  
The red orange blue of neon lights -  
The harlot shops invite.  
But there  
The café lights blink and blacken  
Ribs tighten, skin grows ware -  
After the momentary adjustment  
A fumbling for the tasteless glass -  
A startled touch of warm-whorled fingers  
A greedy intake of smoke  
- The lung-shock battens the nerves -  
Strange faces glow intimate  
Red-arc'd by the fitful cigarette.

Distant shots  
Snap at lit windows -  
Tenseness strangles the blood -  
The walls reverberate  
From an anti-aircraft in the church next door  
That coughs dully, cough, cough...

Vienen los aviones, ay ay,  
Los aviones, says some woman -  
Carven deu, tancat la boca ...  
Then the bombs  
Belching earth-pits  
Quagging the ground,  
One two three sudden,  
Four, wait wait wait five,  
SIX god that's it

Shattering, rumbling racket  
Glass smashing and one thin endless  
scream.  
Then a dullness in the head,  
We stand over the table,  
A glass falls, rings,  
The air tastes of the Metro.  
The cigarettes are all out.  
A no-sex voice from the street  
Cries Sanidad Sanidad  
- Christ let's get out of this ...  
Ay, alli mucha de la muerte hay,  
Y aqui, que hay mejor. DM

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

A CEREMONY TO HONOUR THE 2,100 MEN AND WOMEN WHO LEFT THESE SHORES TO FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE SPANISH PEOPLE IN THEIR HEROIC STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM 1936 -39, AND TO REMEMBER THE 526 WHO DID NOT RETURN.



SATURDAY 13 JULY 2002 AT THE I.B.A. MEMORIAL  
JUBILEE GARDENS  
LONDON SE1  
(adjacent to the London Eye)

**at 1pm**

Chairman: Jack Jones - President of I.B.M.T  
Speaker: Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

Afterwards in the Function Room of 'Bar Med', 5, Chicheley Street, SE1

INFORMATION..... INFORMATION..... INFORMATION..... INFORMATION..... INFORMATION.....

**Dr Rachel Sperber's** commemorative exhibition on the International Brigades during the S.C.W. will be presented at the National and University Library in Jerusalem and at the Instituto Cervantes of the Spanish Embassy in Tel Aviv. She is looking for information about volunteers, particularly William MacGregor (in Spain from December 1936 to January 1938), and photographs of William Rust, John Sommerfield and Esmond Romilly, whose books are included in the exhibition. Contact Dr Sperber at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, POB 39081, Jerusalem, or at [rsperber@vms.huji.ac.il](mailto:rsperber@vms.huji.ac.il)

**Ulrich Kalbe**, who helped publish Harry Fisher's book: *Comrades* in Germany and manages his website [www.harryfisher.net](http://www.harryfisher.net), has offered (free) to translate our website and newsletter into German.

**Alan Cohen** wrote to tell us that when he was very young and lived at 27 Colberg Place, Stamford Hill in North London, he played with a girl: Betty Harris. Her father, a professional musician who played with Geraldo's band, joined the International Brigades in Spain. His name was missing from the roll of honour at the recent exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

**Kim Economides**, Professor of Law at Exeter University has been trying to gain recognition in Cyprus for the Cypriot volunteers in Spain, including his own father Michael Economides. Last year, Cyprus Weekly diarist George Lanitis wrote of his memories of Michael Economides in London and of Jack Jones's recollection of Cypriot Brigaders' bravery. Concluding, he referred to the S.C.W. as '*not romantic as written by another veteran Ernest Hemingway, but a bloody conflict where young men all over the world, joined by the idea of democracy, fought the fascist dictatorship*'.