



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

Patrons Ken Livingstone
Prof. Paul Preston

www.international-brigades.org.uk

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INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

37 Reginald Road, London E7 9HS

Tel/fax: 020-8555 6674

Email: marlenesidaway@hotmail.com

President: Jack Jones

Secretary: Marlene Sidaway

Treasurer: Peter Crome

Committee Members: Jack Edwards, Sam Lesser, David Marshall, Gerry Abrahams, Richard Baxell, Tish Collins, Pauline Fraser, Katie Green, Jim Jump, David Leach, Dolores Long/Hilary Jones, Manus O'Riordan

It's been a busy summer, as you can read elsewhere, and next year promises to be even busier. I would just like to say a big thank you to all who made the July meeting in Jubilee Gardens such a success, particularly John Pilger for his excellent speech and of course to Jack Jones, Jack Edwards and Sam Lesser – and to all the other Brigade veterans who were with us to remember their comrades. Their presence among us is an awe-inspiring reminder of why the Trust exists, and their tenacity in making the journey, which for some is very difficult, is a testimony to their famed determination and commitment.

Bob Doyle Jnr and his friends played at the social in the evening – a great band with a wide range. I hope they will do the same next year, but we'll try to get a venue nearer to Jubilee Gardens and perhaps time the social so that it's more convenient for those travelling a distance.

We're all looking forward to the Annual General Meeting in Dublin on 15 October (see back page) and to the Len Crome Lecture in March next year (details to be confirmed). See page 6 about some plans already afoot for next year, the 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War. Join in if you can, or plan an event in your own area! Salud,

Marlene Sidaway

Jubilee Gardens event proves a great success



Jack Jones at the memorial on 16 July. See page 4 for Jon Pilger's report and speech.

Once again the sun shone from a cloudless sky for our annual memorial day in Jubilee Gardens, London, on 16 July – and there was a bigger attendance than ever before.

As usual the proceedings were chaired by our President, Jack Jones. Lizzie Shirley led the singing and Jack Edwards laid the wreath. Sam Lesser spoke about the recently unveiled memorial at the Ebro and read the C Day Lewis's poem "The Volunteer" from which the lines on the London memorial plinth are taken: "We came because our open eyes could see no other way."

The choice of John Pilger as our guest speaker was inspired. He was warm, friendly and approachable, and gave a superb speech, which you can read on page 4.

He also offered to help us in any way he could, and has incorporated his speech in articles on his website [<http://pilger.carlton.com/print>] and in print, each time quoting the Trust, so raising our profile and encouraging new members.

John Kenton provided the PA system – and the chairs, which were a real blessing!

We welcomed for the first time – but I hope not the last – Nick Newland and his friends from "Tuba to Cuba", who accompanied our singing of "The Internationale" on their brass instruments and brought the meeting to a close in rousing style.

I have a few CDs and videos of the day still available at £10 including p&p.

Marlene Sidaway

The association *No Jubilem la Memòria*, in collaboration with the town councils of Marçà / Marsa and Flix, will be holding a programme of events during the weekend of 5/6 November to welcome International Brigaders making a return visit to Catalonia and to commemorate their participation in the Battle of the Ebro.

Every effort will be made to provide interpreters for the speakers or a translation of the text. Email Angela Jackson at nojubilemlamemoria@yahoo.com for further information and to reserve places for meals and coaches. The provisional programme is:

Return to the Ebro: 5-6 November

5 November: Marçà

11.00: Assembly in the Plaça de les Arenes (outside town hall); coach to the inauguration ceremony of a plaque to Argentinian Brigader Fernando Iaffa at the site of John Cookson's grave.

12.00: Sala Polivalent, Marçà; welcome and presentation of civic recognition from the town

council to veteran Brigaders attending.

12.15: Presentation of "Otra Colina" (Another Hill), the autobiographical novel by Milton Wolff, former commander of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

13.15: Documentary "Un Pessic de Memòria al Priorat" by No Jubilem la Memòria.

14.00: Lunch.

16.00: Presentation of the memoirs of Welsh Brigader Alun Menai Williams ("From the Rhondda to the Ebro"), now published in Spanish.

17.00: Showing of several short films relating to the civil war, with presentations by the film makers.

Continued on page 3

Brief notes

There are many events now being planned to take place during next year's **70th anniversary** of the start of the Spanish Civil War and the formation of the International Brigades, including the erection of new memorials and plaques.

● The **Jack Brent** memorial plaque will be unveiled at Whithorn, south-west Scotland on 25 February at 1pm. See story on page 7 for more information.

● As reported in the last Newsletter, Ciaran Crossey and the IB Commemoration Committee in **Belfast** will also erect a commemorative statue in 2006. Contact Ciaran on [cpcrossey@hotmail.com] if you can help with fundraising or wish to receive their newsletter. See page 7 for more information.

● Joan Brown and Andy Ducker are organising a special event at the **South Yorkshire Festival** at Wortley Hall on the first weekend in July 2006. (International Co-op Day). It is hoped to have an exhibition about the SCW, guest speakers, and the inauguration of a new memorial in the beautiful grounds. Wortley Hall is known as "The Workers' Stately Home", a splendid 18th Century Country Mansion which hosts conferences, meetings etc (details from 0114-288 21000). If you'd like to get involved with the organisation or fundraising or just want to be there, contact Joan on 01709-372 887 or Andy at [andyducker@blueyonder.co.uk].

● Work on the **mosaic memorial** in west London is continuing with some very dedicated, hard-working Trust members and it is hoped that this too will be unveiled in 2006.

The memorial meeting in **Jubilee Gardens**, London, will be on 15 July next year – the gardens may well be in the midst of re-development by then but we are hopeful that the developers will be able to avoid disruption to our meeting. It was good that the Project Manager, Andre Kotowicz, and Jerry van Eyck, a partner in West8, which has won the contract to re-design the Gardens, were at our meeting this July and were made aware of the importance of the memorial, and the annual commemoration.

Don't forget: our **badges** are good value and look great for £2 each (plus p&p 50p) – cheaper if you get more for a group.

And don't forget the **book exchange** scheme! Contact Chris Hall at [christoff_hall@yahoo.com] if you are looking for a book relating to the SCW or if you have any to spare.

Arrangements are going well for the **2006 Annual General Meeting**, to be held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday 14 October. Already several trade unions have pledged their support, Dolores Long is the main organiser, and there will, of course be a social afterwards. Contact Dolores on [dolores@long.freewire.co.uk] if you can help. There will be more information regarding this in the next Newsletter.

Right: Wortley Hall, near Sheffield, will be the venue for next year's South York shire Festival, when it is hoped that a new International Brigade memorial will be unveiled in the grounds. See full report on left.



Meirian Jump is compiling an information sheet for those wishing to visit the **International Brigade memorials, battlefields and museums in Spain**. She would like to hear about any experiences which Trust members have had whilst exploring these sites in Spain. Contact her on [meirian.jump@st-annes.ox.ac.uk] or write to Marlene.

The **London Socialist Film Co-operative** is screening "Behind the Spanish Lines" and "Bars in the Memory" on Sunday 12 February 2006. at 11am at the Renoir Cinema, Brunswick Square, London WC1. A discussion will afterwards be led by Sam Lesser. Further information from LSFC Secretary Nicola Seyd at [nseyd@hotmail.com] or 13 Foundling Court, Brunswick Centre, London WC1N 1QE.

Election of Committee: As reported in the last Newsletter, Nick Moreno's nomination for the post of Hon Treasurer has been endorsed by the Committee and it is hoped that Nick will be formally elected at the Annual General Meeting. Alan Warren has indicated that he would like to stand for election, and there are two vacancies on the committee due to the resignations of David Leach and David Marshall (see back page for details). Please note that committee members are responsible for the financial management of the Trust and consequently for any liabilities incurred because of their collective decisions.

There is a display based on **Jews who fought in the Spanish Civil War** at the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women of the UK (Ajex) Museum in Hendon: Shield House, Harmony Way, off Victoria Road, Hendon NW4 2BZ; tel: 020-8202 2323. It is open Monday to Thursday, 10am-4pm, and admission is free. Ajex's website is: [www.ajex.org.uk].

The BBC World Service Drama Department is proposing a programme about "**Old Revolutionaries**", people who fought for a cause, whether they won or lost. They want to find out why they fought, where they are now, and what they feel has developed since they fought? If they won, are they happy with the

results? Has it lived up to what they expected? If they lost, do they think they changed the situation at all? Obviously they would like to hear from Brigade veterans, but also from those who have fought other, less spectacular battles. Contact: Jessica Dromgoole, BBC World Service Drama, 118 EW Bush House, The Strand, London WC2B 4PH; tel: 020-7557 1178.

Thanks

● In the last Newsletter I particularly thanked Unison for the great contribution they had made to the funding of the Ebro memorial. I should also have acknowledged that the very first donation for the memorial came via Brendan Byrne from the **SIPTU Construction & Benevolent Fund**. We are very grateful to them, and to all of you who send donations to the Trust to enable us to fund memorials and other projects that serve to further our aims.

● ...to **Antonio Díez**, who was able to answer many of the queries raised in the last Newsletter, and thanks as always to **Jim Carmody**, who has a formidable archive of information and helps all enquirers with great efficiency. If you find out more about your relative because of the initial facts that Jim has given you, please don't forget to let him know, as all bits of information are a useful addition to his files.

● ...to **Richard Baxell** who runs our website, and to **Richard Thorpe** who compiled the Education Module – check the websites, there are always new things to see: [www.international-brigades.org.uk] and the educational module [www.international-brigades.org.uk/british_volunteers].

● ...to **Pauline Fraser**, our Minute Secretary and subscription coordinator for her continued support.

● ...finally, to **Gerry Abrahams** who edits the Newsletter, and **Jim Jump** who produces it. I get many complimentary messages about it, and about how successful it is in keeping us all in touch – and it's all due to them!

Note from the editor: This Newsletter would not exist without the commitment and hard work of IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway. A very big thank you to Marlene on behalf of all members.

Marlene Sidaway

Obituaries

Arthur Blackman

Arthur Blackman (of Winchester and London) left for Spain in May 1937, aged 22. He had been a clerk and a hairdresser and was a member of the Hammersmith & Fulham Communist Party. In June he joined the British Battalion at Albacete.

He is listed with the British Battalion No 1 Company as Clerk/First Aid in October 1937. By April 1938 he was attached to Servicio Sanidad (Brigade Medical Services) at Santa Coloma Hospital and was repatriated to Britain in the following month.

Paulin Paul

We have only recently learnt of the death of Paulin Paul at his home in Sydney, Australia in March 2004, aged 92. He fought with the 15th Division of the 15th Brigade in Spain from December 1936 to October 1938. During this time he fought at Jarama and Brunete.

Known as Paul Lewis in Spain, Paulin was born in Paris. His mother brought him to England as a baby but, aged seven, he was sent to an orphanage in West Norwood, London. Three former boys from the same school were subsequently killed in Spain.

Always fearing deportation by the British authorities because of his Communist background, he never applied for British citizenship. So, as a French citizen, he joined the Free French Forces in June 1940 and served with them until November 1945.

One of his happiest moments after joining his daughter in Australia in 1994 was to receive Australian citizenship at the age of 86 – the first time he had held the citizenship of the country where he lived.

Brian Platts

Brian Platts, a Czech, has died in Canada. He fought with the British Battalion and was in Britain during the war, before emigrating to Canada. Our thanks go to Brian, who has posthumously sent the Trust \$50 via Peter Taylor, the son of his old friend and compatriot, John Taylor, (Jan Theilenger) who died last year.

● Please also remember: **Pauline Longstaffe**, widow of Brigadier John Longstaffe; **Juan Moreno**, father of Trust members Juanito and Manuel Moreno; Labour politician **Mo Mowlem**, a friend of several Brigaders, who wrote the foreword to the 1990 poetry anthology "With Machine Gun and Pen" by late IB veteran James Jump.

President's message

The Jubilee Gardens commemoration this year was a truly memorable event, with a terrific speech by our good friend John Pilger and marvellous musical accompaniment to some great singing. My heartfelt thanks go to all those involved in organising this and the social events afterwards and I look forward to this occasion becoming more and more popular and meaningful, especially as next year will be the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Various events marking



this significant anniversary will be happening in many different places.

Our Annual General Meeting, this year in Dublin, is now a major "travelling" event for good friends and supporters to meet and indeed celebrate

together. We look forward to the opportunity to enjoy the company of our Irish comrades and friends and encourage as many people as possible to join us there.

As years pass it is more important than ever to salute the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the war and also to remember those who have passed away since. We do this best by maintaining and strengthening our organisation and its activities. The cause is worthy!

¡Salud!

Jack Jones

Prisoners are finally named

Two issues ago we carried this photograph featuring Glasgow veteran James Maley along with other members of the British Machine-Gun Company captured at Jarama on 13 February 1937.

Historian Jim Carmody has been trying for some time to identify the other prisoners in the photograph – which is taken from Movie Tone News footage. After consulting various people, he now believes the caption should read as follows: Chowney is on the far right; James Maley is second from right; Jimmy Rutherford is behind Maley's shoulder, and Basil Abrahams to his right. The tall man behind them is George Leeson; the next two are Martinson and Harold Fry, the company commander. First left is Goldberg; fifth from left is Tommy Bloomfield; sixth from left is Don



Renton. Then there is "Yank" Levy with forage cap and puttees; next left, with black beret, is Skemton.

Five were sentenced to death but later freed in exchange for captured Italian soldiers. Rutherford, who returned to Spain, was shot after being recaptured.

Can anyone confirm Jim's identification?

Return to the Ebro

Continued from front page

19.30: Refreshments, courtesy of the town council of Marçà, and a toast in celebration of the 90th birthday of Milton Wolff.

A selection of books will be on sale throughout the day and authors will sign copies at certain times.

6 November: Flix

10.45: Assembly at the sports centre/restaurant "L'Ebre"; coach to the ferry crossing on the Ebro.

11.15: Crossing of the river to Flix; speakers

include mayor of Flix, US Consul General and Brigader Milton Wolff; music and floral tribute to those who died in the battle of the Ebro.

11.40: Parade from the river to the town hall with the Miravet Band.

12.00: Exhibition of photographs at town hall; plus speakers and questions for the Brigaders from the students of Flix; bestowing of the title "Adoptive Son of Flix" on Brigaders present.

13.15: Coach to the International Brigade memorial in Flix.

13.30: Inauguration of a plaque in commemoration of the visit.

14.00: Coach to the restaurant "L'Ebre" for lunch.

Annual commemoration

by Jon Pilger

16 July 2005: It was International Brigades' Memorial Day in Jubilee Gardens beside the Thames in London. It was a hot with no breeze, "a Spanish day", one of the Brigaders said. Like the others, all in their 80s and older, he took shelter in the shade and rested on his walking stick. Twenty yards away, tourists waiting to board the London Eye, the great ferris wheel built for the Millennium, looked bemused at the elderly men in their berets, and the rest of us, not knowing who we were, what the men had done and why we were celebrating them.

Between 1936 and 1939, the International Brigade fought in Spain on the side of the Republican government against the fascist forces of General Franco. They were very young and all volunteers, determined to stop fascism in its tracks. They made a difference.

Although the government eventually fell, in February 1937, the 600-strong British Battalion of the XVth International Brigade stopped Franco's advance on Madrid. Four hundred were killed, wounded or captured in four days' bloody battle, Madrid was spared. There were many battles like that. Sam Russell, a Brigader, described eloquently how on the Sierra de Pandols, "there was not enough soil to bury the dead, so we covered them with stones". The poet Martin Green who had written of his father, George Green, stood at the edge of the crowd. George was killed when Martin was four years old. For his father, he wrote:

You had no funeral nor hearse / No grave except the place you fell / No dirge but a soldier's curse / And an explosion tolled your knell / ... I was a boy too young / To take the blow that felled / The tree that was your man.

On this warm Saturday, 67 years on, we stood and sang a tribute to them. To the tune of "Red River Valley", we sang the song of their battle for Madrid.

And we stood and remembered them. Jack Jones, the president of the International Brigade Memorial Trust, read out the names of his comrades who had died since their last reunion: Charlie Matthews (who had been reported killed on the battlefield in 1939 and whose obituary had appeared in his local paper) and Cyril Sexton, who was wounded at Jarama and went on to fight at Aragón, Belchite, Gandesa and Ebro where he was wounded again. Last April, he died at the age of 91.

I was given the honour of describing the meaning of the Brigaders' heroism today. I thanked David Marshall, an International Brigader who had put my name forward and whose poetry had been an inspiration for what I wanted to say. This is what I said...

I first understood the importance of the struggle in Spain from Martha Gellhorn. Martha was one of my oldest friends. She was one of the greatest war correspondents and is remembered for her dispatches from Spain during the civil war. In November 1938, she wrote this:

"In Barcelona, it was perfect bombing weather. The cafés along the Ramblas were crowded. There

Fighting fascism then and now



was nothing much to drink: a sweet fizzy poison called orangeade and a horrible liquid supposed to be sherry. There was, of course, nothing to eat.

"Everyone was out, enjoying the cold afternoon sunlight. No bombers had come for at least two hours. The flower stalls look bright and pretty along the promenade. 'The flowers are all sold, señores. For the funerals of those killed in the 11 o'clock bombing, poor souls.'

"It had been a clear and cold day all yesterday ... 'What beautiful weather,' a woman said, and she stood, holding her shawl around her, staring at the sky. 'And the nights are as fine as the days. A catastrophe,' she said. ... everyone listened for the sirens all the time, and when we saw the bombers, they were like tiny silver bullets, moving over, up, across the sky."

How familiar that sounds. Barcelona. Guernica. Hiroshima. Vietnam. Cambodia. Palestine. Afghanistan. Iraq.

Martha never tired of explaining why people fought for the Republic, the *causa*, and why going to Spain was so important. She wrote of the International Brigade: "Whatever their nationality, whether they were communists, anarchists, socialists, poets, plumbers, middle-class professional men, or the one Abyssinian prince... they were fighting for us all in Spain."

The enemy then was fascism, out-and-out fascism. Armband wearing, strutting, ranting fascism. The enemy then was a great world power, rapacious, with plans of domination, of capturing the

world's natural resources: the oil fields of the Caspian and the Middle East, the mineral riches of Africa. They seemed invincible.

The enemy then was also lies. Deceit. News dressed up as propaganda. Appeasement. A large section of the British establishment saw fascism as its friend. Their voice was a section of the British press: The Times, the Daily Mail.

To them, the real threat was from ordinary people, who were dreamers, many of them, who imagined a new world in which the dignity of ordinary life was respected and celebrated. Some were wise dreamers and some were foolish dreamers, but they understood the nature of fascism, and they saw through the lies and the deceit and the appeasement.

They also knew that the true enemy didn't always wear arm bands, and didn't always strut, or command great rallies, but were impeccable English gentlemen who supported ruthless power behind a smokescreen of propaganda that appropriated noble concepts like "democracy" and "freedom" and "our way of life" and "our values".

Does all this sound familiar? I ask that question, because when I read the aims of the International Brigade Memorial Trust, I was struck by a reference to "the historical legacy of the men and women who fought with the International Brigades against fascism..." The "historical legacy" of the International Brigade, as Martha Gellhorn wrote, is that they were fighting for us all. For me, that means a legacy of truth – a way of seeing through the smokescreen of propaganda, including and especially the propaganda of our own governments: a legacy of confronting great and rapacious power in whatever form.

That legacy is needed today more than ever. Impeccable gentlemen now invade defenceless countries in our name. They speak of freedom and democracy, and our way of life and our values. They don't wear armbands and they don't strut. They are different from fascists. But their goals are not different. Conquest, domination, the control of vital resources.

When the judges at Nuremberg laid down the ground rules of international law following the Second World War, they described an unprovoked, violent invasion of a defenceless country as "a crime against humanity, the paramount war crime".

The world is a very different place from Barcelona in 1938, and from the Sierra de Pandols, and the Valley of Jarama, but the legacy of those who confronted fascism then endures as a warning to us all today.

It is a warning about sinister power behind democratic facades that uses the battle cries of democracy. It is a warning about messianic politicians, apparently touched by God, and about appeasement and truth. It is about moral courage: about speaking out, breaking a silence. I salute those International Brigaders who are here today, who did more than speak out. I thank you and your fallen comrades for what you did for us all, and for your legacy of truth and moral courage. ¡La lucha continua!

News from home and abroad

Crossing the Pyrenees in 2006

Details are firming up on the IBMT's planned commemorative crossing of the Pyrenees, scheduled for 14-17 April 2006 (Easter weekend). See the June Newsletter for more details.

The last date for an expression of interest (no definite commitment needed at this stage) is 31 October. In November we will get back to all those expressing an interest with a final price, which will include a donation to the IBMT, and there will then be a limited period to send a deposit in order to confirm places.

If you wish to take part (and have not yet contacted me), please do so as soon as possible. My details are: Pauline Fraser, 90 Roding Lane North, Woodford Green IH8 8NG; tel: 020-8506 0088; email: [pauline@fraser4219.freeserve.co.uk].

Pauline Fraser

Madrid photo exhibition

There will be an exhibition of some 60 photographs in Madrid about General Walter (Karol Swiercewski), the Polish International Brigader, from 14 September to 6 November. The catalogue has around 300 photos. Entry is free. The Joris Ivens and Ernest Hemingway film "Spanish Earth" will also be screened. Centro Cultural Conde Duque (Conde Duque 9-11, 28015 Madrid; tel: +34-91-588 5834).



Flying the flag in Caracas

Spanish Republican flags were proudly borne aloft (above) at the opening ceremony of the XVI World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela, in early August. Delegates from Spain raised the Republican tricolour, together with thousands of young people from 144 countries around the world, taking part in the ceremonial parade. Delegates were later addressed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

Carrying on the fight – in SE Asia

Many former soldiers of the Spanish Republic went on to play a heroic role in the anti-fascist struggle in the French Resistance, the Soviet Red

Army and other arenas. At least one took part in the struggle of the peoples of South-East Asia for national liberation from French colonial rule. I heard his story from Kostas Sarantidis, a Greek national, who escaped from the French Foreign Legion and went on to fight with the Vietnamese liberation forces under Ho Chi-Minh. There had been other European volunteers, but the only name he could remember was that of a Spanish Republican soldier, Santos Merinos. He said that Merinos was killed in 1958 in Laos.

Pauline Fraser

Future events in Catalonia

Angela Jackson would like to hear from IBMT members who have ideas for future events in Catalonia. Contact her at [nojubilemlamemoria@yahoo.com].

North West Irish volunteers

The North West Spanish Civil War Project held a public discussion in Derry as part of our aim of honouring the International Brigade volunteers from counties Tyrone, Derry and Donegal in the run up to the 70th anniversary in July 2006.

At our first public discussion on 17 September, the main speaker was Irish labour historian Dr Emmet O'Connor. Ciaran Crossey, Belfast-based Spanish Civil War researcher, reported on the progress of the Belfast SCW commemoration project and John Black, from Derry, organiser of the North West Spanish Civil War project, explained how those interested locally can get involved.

To date we can list these volunteers from Tyrone, Derry and Donegal: Thomas Traynor (via Toronto), John Murphy (via London), Eamon McGrotty, George Gorman, Jack Flynn, James Donald, Peadar O'Donnell, James Campbell, Hugh O'Donnell, Paddy O'Daire, Paddy Roe McLaughlin, Paddy Glacken, Phil Boyle, Hugh Bonner, Sean Adams, Charles McGuinness and William McChrystal.

For more information: [xvbrigade@yahoo.ie].

J Connolly

Stoke-on-Trent lecture

The 12th annual lecture to commemorate the Stoke-on-Trent International Brigade volunteers took place at the Forum Theatre in the Potteries Museum in Stoke-on-Trent on 9 September.

In his talk, entitled "The Politics of the Third Term", Alan Simpson discussed the international causes of today that might inspire people in the same way that Spain did in the 1930s. He focused on environmental issues and urged local councils and communities to take self-sufficiency in energy consumption more seriously and outlined ways this might happen.

The annual lecture is supported by the City of Stoke-on-Trent, with the Lord Mayor making a presentation to Alan Simpson. Peter Crome and Roger Seifert also spoke.

Jews and the Spanish Civil War

Martin Sugarman has sent the following references to materials focusing on Jewish men and women in the Spanish Civil War:

● "Combattants Juifs dans L'Armée Républicaine Espagnole", David Diamint, Paris, 1979; copies at British Library and Marx Memorial Library (MML).

● "Jews in the Spanish Civil War", Martin Sugarman, London 1990s; Imperial War Museum, MML, LSE, Ajex Museum (Hendon), Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Manchester University.

● "German & Austrian Jews in the IB", A Lustiger, Leo Baeck Year Book no 35, London, 1990.

● "Belgian Jews in the IB"; MML Box D4 177/86.

● "The Jewish Naftali Botwin Company", J Rothenberg; MML.

● "Jews in the International Brigade in Spain", A Prago, Jewish Currents, New York, February 1979.

● "Jewish Participation in the IB in the SCW", AS Rockman, MA thesis, California State University, Fullerton.

● "Irish & Jewish Volunteers in Spain", M O'Riordan, 1987, Irish Jewish Museum lecture, Dublin.

● Jewish Quarterly (London) article by Colin Schindler – contact journal for reference.

● VALBA has an enormous archive on US Jewish participation – see website [www.alba-valb.org].

● "Canadian Jewish Boys in Spain", M Momryck, Canadian Jewish Historical Association, 1995, Montreal.

● "Judios en la Guerra de España", A Fernández, Tiempo de Historia, September 1975, Spain.

● "Los Judios Luchadores de la Libertad", G Medina, Madrid, 1937.

● "Juden in Spanischau Krieg 1936-9", Zeitgeschichte, Vienna, April 1973.

South Wales memorials

A guide to South Wales monuments to the IB, "In the Footsteps of the Spanish Civil War", has been compiled by Wendy Lewis and Ray Davies.

This splendid slim volume is very well illustrated and all 17 memorials are described and located on a map. The booklet also contains forewords by our President, Jack Jones, and by Hywell Francis (author of "Miners against Fascism"). In addition, there are quotes from former Brigaders and from Ana Pérez, President of the IB "Amigos" in Spain. Get your copy now: £4 (including p&p) from: Ray Davies, 172 Pandy Road, Bedwas, Caerphilly, CF82 8EP.

Iori Williams

Can you help?

If you are not on email and can answer any of these queries, contact IBMT Secretary Marlene (see details on page 1) and she can pass your message on.

● Nicholas Fordham is doing a thesis at Oxford University and would like to hear from any veterans who were involved in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement and the Hunger Marches. Any information would be appreciated. Contact Nick at [nicholas.fordham@hmc.ox.ac.uk]; tel: 07833-718 559.

● Robert Bellingford is trying to find out more information about his uncle Nathan Segal who fell at Cordoba in December 1936, particularly if Nathan has a known grave and, if so, its location. Contact Robert at [angels01@blueyonder.co.uk] or write to: 1 Morland Avenue, Croydon, Surrey CRO 6EA; tel: 020-8656 8374.

● Sam Remington would like to learn more about those who were in Spain from the beginning (18-19 July 1936), particularly any men or women who found themselves in the ranks of the anarchist militias. He would like to know if they would have taken the route via France in the earlier part of the war. Contact [musemansam@hotmail.com].

● Eric Pedersen, a journalist at the Danish local radio Kobenhavnerkanalen, is planning a series of radio programmes, including interviews with IB volunteers from Italy and Denmark. The Danish group "Artists for Peace" are to publish a CD with new versions of the old Spanish Civil War songs and are looking for musical notes and lyrics. If anyone has a song book or knows where to get one, contact [rikpedersen10@yahoo.dk].

● Israeli socialist filmmaker Eran Torbiner (www.matzpen.org) is working on a new film about IB volunteers from Palestine. He has already interviewed several survivors who went to Spain. One of the Austrian Jews whose family lived in Palestine, Robert, had a close relationship with Patience Darton. Can anyone who had any connection with Patience or is interested in the film contact Eran at: [erantor@hotmail.co.il].

● John Catanach would like to find out more about his uncle, Fred Jones, married to Nell (née Collard), both members of the Communist Party. Fred was in the same group as John Cornford and reported his death in a letter written in 1936, later published in a Spanish Civil War anthology. Does anyone have the book or any other information? Contact John at: [catanach@telefonica.net].

● Nicholas H Wright is looking for more details about Barton (Nick) Carter, an American in the British Battalion who joined on 21 February 1938 and was killed during the Ebro retreat in late March/early April 1938. His body was never found but Alan Logan, who knew Nick briefly, wrote to Carter's family in Boston after his release from San Pedro de Cardena. Apparently, from April 1937 Nick had worked with the Foster Parents Plan for Spanish Children and enlisted after the Italian planes bombed some of the children's colonies in Puigcerda. Nicholas would like to hear from anyone with any information on Alan Logan, who was 29 when he joined the IB in November 1937, came from Pinner, Middlesex, and was captured shortly after meeting Carter. He would also like information on an Australian woman, Esme Odgers, who worked on the foster parent scheme in Spain. Contact Nicholas at

[wrightnh@adelphia.net] or: Box 642, Williamstown, MA01267, USA; tel: +1-413-458 5841.

● Alan Lloyd has been researching the involvement of individuals and organisations from Hampshire in the Spanish Civil War and now hopes to place a memorial to James Arthur "Jimmy" Moore, born in Edinburgh but brought up in Southsea. Jimmy went to Spain at the age of 21. He was seriously wounded in the Sierra de Pandols in 1938, repatriated, died in St Stephen's Hospital, London, in January 1938 and was buried in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth. If you would like to contribute, or have any information about Hampshire involvement in the war, contact Alan at [alan.lloyd121@virgin.net] or phone 023-8043 2598.

● Dr James Whetter is trying to find out more about Christopher St John Sprigg (Caudwell), killed at Jarama in February 1937. He also hopes to find out more about Sprigg's family. He is looking into the possibility of erecting a memorial in 2007, the centenary of his birth and 70th anniversary of his death. A location is proving difficult as he moved around but his family originated in Coventry. Contact James Whetter on [trelispen@care4free.net].

● Angus Murray is looking for information about his grandfather Andrew McKenzie, from Dumfries, who fought in Spain. Contact [angusmurray@onetel.com].

● Michael MacKay is looking for information on volunteers from Aberdeen. Contact him at [mikeamanda@orangutang.freemove.co.uk].

Recovering the truth about Franco's crimes



A transcript of the 2005 Len Crome Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Paul Preston (left) at the Imperial War Museum, London, on 12 March, is now available in printed and digital formats

from IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (details on front page).

Paul Preston, Professor of International History at the London School of Economics, told a well-attended audience that it was now possible to put together a full picture of the "Spanish holocaust" under Franco.

At the Fourth Annual Len Crome Memorial

Lecture, the IBMT Patron and leading expert on modern Spanish history, spoke about the crimes of Franco, the subject of his forthcoming book. He talked of the ongoing work that would establish the total number of the murdered and disappeared who lost their lives between 1936 and 1945. Judging by the evidence to date, however, that figure was likely to be in the region of 180,000.

Many of the men, women and children were thrown live from cliffs into the sea, from high bridges into rivers or down disused mineshafts. Fleeing civilians were systematically bombarded, ambushed and slaughtered.

Afterwards bereaved families lived in terror for decades, unable to grieve properly.

The Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory, he reported, was currently carrying out 26 digs on mass burial sites and

had received 2,500 requests to establish the identity and place of burial of relatives.

Two books were launched at the lecture: "A Chronicle of Small Beer", the memoirs of Nan Green, who worked as a volunteer hospital administrator and organiser during the Spanish Civil War and was later for many years the secretary of the International Brigade Association, and a new edition of "Connolly Column", by Michael O'Riordan (see facing page).

Pauline Fraser

IBMT Newsletter

Editor: Geraldine (Gerry) Abrahams

Email: [gerry@reelscoop.freemove.co.uk]

Production: Jim Jump

Email: [jimjump@mac.com]

Books, articles, films...

Brigader's poetic fundraiser for the Trust

David Marshall's poems are now collected in a beautifully presented and illustrated book "The Tilting Planet".

In his introduction IB veteran David says: "I have written poems all my life, and they have reflected my life and the things that were occupying my mind at the time, they tell of my inner self, and my reaction to my personal world and to the greater world and events through which I have lived. Apart from "Retrospect" which I wrote just after my return from Spain in 1937, I have not sought publication until now – it seems that at the age of 89 I no longer feel possessive or diffident about my work.

"Perhaps I was reluctant to share my deepest thoughts with others, and yet I always hoped they would be read by 'ordinary' men and women, and would strike a cord with a shared experience of work, striving for a better life, dreaming great dreams and having them shattered..." Here is one of the poems:

*I wish I were back in the trenches round Madrid
Along with the chicos, among the strangeness of
tongues:*

*Strong in my body, testing it thus and thus,
Half wondering that my flesh can bear these things.*

*Glad in my loneliness, wrapt in my alien thoughts;
My quaintness cloaking me, like cold air
Stirring on the skin when putting off familiar
clothes –*

*Just as I stepped out of my time-pocked life
Into this.*

*Then the terror stript me of bewilderment,
Left me shrinking and shell-less, my soul
A slim white worm, curling blindly in fear:
Only one direction to my consciousness,
To kill before I was killed, and glad to die
That our new world begins.*

*And the tanks lurching like monsters
Stiff-shouldered through the slime,
The horrid black concussion of bombs
Spouting earth skywards,
And the vicious shrapnel*

*And the hideous chatter of machine-guns
All these could not shatter our resolution.*

● The book, and a CD with poems read by actors, is available from 37 Reginald Road, London E7 9HS. A donation to the Trust would be appreciated.

The Connolly Column

Cathal O'Shannon, maker of the Spanish Civil War documentary "Even the Olives Are Bleeding" (1976), spoke these words at the launch of the new expanded edition of "Connolly Column: The Story of the Irishmen who Fought for the Spanish

Republic" by Michael O'Riordan in Dublin on 16 March.

This book is not just an account of what Irish Brigaders did in Spain. Anyone who knows Michael O'Riordan would expect that his epic work would be more than a mere tale of fighting on the Jarama or the Ebro, Madrid or Barcelona or wherever. And, indeed, readers get more than that. They get a social history of Ireland in the 1930s and before; they get a history of Irish socialism of the period; they get the clear, gritty outspokenness of a man of huge socialist and republican ideals.

Michael O'Riordan could have chosen to write a book like Tom Wintringham's "English Captain", a military history as well as an account of the British part in the war, but he has given us much more than that. The range of the book is vast. Apart from battle accounts, you can read here on diverse subjects such as the manifesto of the Irish Labour Party, recollections of participants in 1916 and the letters of Irish bishops of the 20s and 30s to their cowering flocks...

If the original edition of this book has one thing missing then it is in the modesty with which Michael treats his own history. It told us little about the details of the man's life. I am glad to say that this new edition amends that, and there is an interview with the author done some years ago by Ciaran Crossey and John Quinn. There is also an interview with the late Eugene Downing and his recollections of men like Jack Nalty and Charlie Donnelly. There is also a graphic account of that other Ryan, Maurice Ryan, who was executed by Brigaders and, of course, a good deal about the great Frank Ryan.

Michael O'Riordan has always been the guardian of Frank Ryan's reputation, which he praises and defends in the original edition. In this new edition there is the very detailed account of the Ryan controversy in a long review by Manus O'Riordan of the book on Ryan by Fearghal McGarry – provocatively entitled "Was Frank Ryan a Collaborator?" Manus, a distinguished writer and historian on the period, argues convincingly that Ryan's sojourn in Nazi Germany after he was freed from Burgos was free of collaboration in the sense that he changed sides or opinions. I have always believed that Frank Ryan was a sick man in the physical sense when he was jailed, and that his morale was ground down when he was in Berlin. "Connolly Column" is published by Warren & Pell; £14.99/€22.50 paperback; £20/€30 hardback.

Out in November...

Angela Jackson's new book: "Beyond the Battlefield: Narratives, Memory and Remembrance of a Cave Hospital in the Spanish Civil War" will be published by Warren & Pell in November, price £12.99.

Memorials

Jack Brent memorial plaque to be unveiled

The Jack Brent Memorial Plaque will be unveiled at Whithorn, south-west Scotland on 25 February 2006 at 1pm.

Many people will remember Jack Brent, who was a Secretary of the International Brigade Association. He was born in Canada but shortly afterwards came to Scotland where he and his brother were brought up by their grandmother in great hardship.

After school he was a butcher's apprentice and the butcher's shop, now a bookshop, is the site of the plaque. Jack Brent (also known as George Dickie) went to Spain in February 1937 and was very badly wounded a few weeks later at Jarama.

He spent the rest of his life crippled and in severe pain, undergoing numerous operations. His indomitable spirit and enthusiasm for life and politics however, inspired many and his life is recorded in the book "Good to be Alive" by Stanley Harrison.

If you would like to be at the ceremony, or would like to show your support and admiration for an heroic comrade, contact Andy Sinclair at [sinclairandy@hotmail.com] or IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (details on front page).

Belfast to commemorate its volunteers

The Belfast International Brigade Commemoration Committee (IBCC) is planning a memorial in 2006 to the 20 men killed in Spain, plus Jim Haughey who died in the Second World War.

The IBCC has also produced a newsletter, "No Pasarán", which is available at [www.geocities.com/irelandsw/IBCC/IBCCIndex.htm] and is aiming to produce an updated trades council pamphlet with new material on Northern Irish volunteers by February 2006.

In addition, between February and March 2006, authors Jim Carmody, Ciaran Crossey and RJ Quinn are compiling a book (around 100 pages) giving biographical details of all Irish volunteers who fought on both sides in the SCW, and will include newly published letters, documents and photographs. Any further information would be welcome.

For information about Ireland and the Spanish Civil War, see: [http://members.lycos.co.uk/spanishcivilwar].

International Brigade Memorial Trust

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saturday 15 October 2005

at 2.30pm, Liberty Hall, Eden Quay, Dublin

Agenda

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Proposed change to Rule H – Executive Committee**
8. Election of officers**
9. Any other business
10. Date and place of next AGM
11. Chairman's closing remarks

**The 11 Executive Committee members at September 2005 are: President: Jack Jones, David Marshall, Sam Lesser and Jack Edwards (Brigaders), Treasurer Peter Crome*; Secretary Marlene Sidaway, Membership Secretary Pauline Fraser*, Website/Historian Richard Baxell, Marx Memorial Library/Historian Tish Collins, Manus O'Riordan* (Ireland) and Katie Green*. The committee wishes to propose that the number on the Executive Committee be increased to 15 to allow the three co-opted members, Geraldine Abrahams*, Jim Jump*, Dolores Long*/Hilary Jones* (job-share) (Manchester), to stand for election to the committee. Peter Crome, David Marshall and David Leach (co-opted) are not seeking re-election. All other members are. Nick Moreno is standing for election as Treasurer, his nomination having been endorsed by the committee. Rodney Bickerstaffe has been nominated as a committee member. Alan Warren is also seeking election as the Welsh representative. He is part of the Warren & Pell Publishing partnership and has published several books about the International Brigade and Brigaders. The results of the election shall take effect from this AGM.

* Indicates child or grandchild of Brigader.

Saturday 15 October

NB: All the events planned for Saturday 15 October will take place at Liberty Hall, Eden Quay (minutes from Lower O'Connell Street).

- 2pm: Wreath-laying by veterans Jack Jones, Michael O'Riordan, Bob Doyle and Jack Edwards at the Connolly Column/International Brigade memorial plaque at Liberty Hall.
- 2.30pm: The AGM. Afterwards there will be a break to allow people to explore some of Dublin, go shopping, and/or have an evening meal.
- 9pm: Members will re-convene at Liberty Hall to enjoy an evening of entertainment which will involve folk music, traditional Irish singing and set dancing.

Sunday 16 October

12.30pm: There will be a wreath-laying at the grave of Frank Ryan in Glasnevin Cemetery. Manus O'Riordan will be the speaker. For this event, the veterans will be collected from the hotel at 12 noon. The rest of the members will meet in the hotel lobby at 12 noon and will be guided to a direct bus service for the 20-minute journey to Glasnevin. A tour of historical graves has also been arranged.

Travel directions

From Dublin airport all the bus options stop at the top of O'Connell Street from where it's a two-minute walk to the Jurys Inn hotel, where many visiting IBMT members are staying. There are three bus options into O'Connell Street. The local bus No 16A, which stops at all the stops, costs €1.75 one way, exact fare only, no change given. The 747 double decker (painted green and yellow) is a direct service which costs €5 one way. The third option is the Air Coach (painted blue) which is more comfortable and also direct and costs €7 one way. The hotel is in Parnell Street, off Upper O'Connell Street. For links to the main tourist attractions nearby, check out Dublin tourist information at [www.iol.ie/globetrotters/gmap].

NB: The Republic of Ireland uses Euros. Visitors are advised to bring some Euros with them or to access some from ATM machines on arrival. Buses etc will not accept sterling. For further information about the AGM in Dublin, contact Annette O'Riordan at [annette@nestron.ie].

Treasurer's report

The Trust's annual accounts for the year ending 31 August 2004 have been approved by the Trustees and submitted to the Charity Commissioners. The successful Jack Jones appeal in 2002/3 has allowed the Trust to purchase a copy of the Moscow IB Archives, commission a replica of the IB Banner, which will be used at meetings, and to make donations to memorials. These exceptional items account for a small decline in reserves which, however, are considered adequate. The trustees have decided that in future years the decision to spend large amounts on specific projects will be accompanied by a targeted fund-raising campaign.

Peter Crome

● Peter Crome has been our Treasurer since 2003, and we are very sorry that he has resigned due to increased work commitments. At the recent com-

mittee meeting, we all expressed our appreciation for his work for the Trust – not just as the Treasurer, but as an enthusiastic participant in all our events. We shall greatly miss his steady hand on our financial tiller and his wise advice on all things. Thank you Peter – you have been a very valued member of the committee and we wish you all happiness and fulfilment in your new appointment.

Marlene Sidaway

Please pay up – or else!

We have a very healthy and growing level of membership. Many members make contributions in many different ways: whether by attending our regular events, undertaking research or initiating activities which support and publicise the Trust.

However, something every member can do is to give financial support. Regular income from sub-

scriptions is the lifeblood of the Trust. Subscriptions are kept low so that everyone can afford to be a member. The annual rates are £10 waged, £5 unwaged; affiliation fees by arrangement.

When you receive a reminder slip that your subscription is due, please act on it straight away and send a cheque to the IBMT to Pauline Fraser, IBMT Membership Secretary, 90 Roding Lane, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 8NG; tel: 020-8506 0088; email: [pauline@fraser4219.freemove.co.uk].

If you can pay by yearly standing order, please request a standing order form, as this makes things easier for everyone. If you are a taxpayer, tick the box which allows us to collect your subscription as Gift Aid, so making your subscription to the Trust go further.

Reluctantly, we will discontinue membership if you do not respond to reminder slips. Your membership will cease from June 2006 and you will be removed from the Newsletter mailing list.