



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

Patrons Ken Livingstone
Prof. Paul Preston

www.international-brigades.org.uk

Charity no. 1094928

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INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

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Welcome once again to a Newsletter packed with news for this special 70th Anniversary year. The Pyrenees walk was a great success and we returned home elated by the experience. All credit to Pauline Fraser, who organised it all so well, and managed to raise a tidy sum for the Trust!

The Len Crome Memorial lecture was given this year by Enrique Moradiellos, a very popular speaker. Our thanks to him, and also to Peter and the Crome family for providing the tea. A report is on page 4.

You'll also read about the plans for the unveiling of a memorial at Wortley Hall, in Sheffield on 1 July, at Blaenavon on 16 July, the Annual General Meeting in Manchester on 14 October and much more.

On the back page there are details of the memorial day in Jubilee Gardens, London, on 15 July and I hope as many of you as possible will come to that. We are delighted that for the first time a representative of the Spanish government, His Excellency the Spanish Ambassador Carlos Miranda, will be with us, and we also welcome an old friend, Rodney Bickerstaffe, former General Secretary of Unison.

We will launch our anthology of Brigaders' poetry on that day, and our beautiful commemorative china will also be on sale. After our usual buffet lunch in the Travel Inn, you can stroll along the riverside to Blackfriars Road to the Paper Moon for a social with films, an exhibition of photos of the Pyrenees walk and good music till late.

Media interest in the 70th anniversary is building up so watch out for items on TV, radio and in the newspapers. If you are arranging an event, make sure it is covered by your local media.

We recently learned about four more Brigaders who are still alive: Keith Andrews in Taunton, Edwin Soar in Nottingham, Terry Malony in West Nighton and Stanley Hilton in Australia. This knowledge is largely due to the higher profile we now have, generated by such publicity. Salud,

Marlene Sidaway

Three grandsons of International Brigader Benny Goldman, with t-shirts featuring a picture of their grandfather, on the anniversary crossing of the Pyrenees. Full report on page 5.



Marking the 70th anniversary

The crossing of the Pyrenees by IBMT supporters at Easter was the first in a series of events this year which will mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War and the creation of the International Brigades.

Many of those who took part will return to Spain in October for a commemoration of the International Brigades in Madrid and Barcelona which is being organised by the Madrid-based Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales (Friends of the International Brigades).

All eyes are now on the IBMT's national commemoration in London's Jubilee Gardens on 15 July, this year in the presence, for the first time, of the Spanish Ambassador. Later that day we will be hosting an evening of films and music.

On the following day a plaque will be unveiled at the National Coal Museum, Blaenavon, to the South Wales miners who fought in Spain.

At Jubilee Gardens, the IBMT-sponsored anthology of poems written by British and Irish International Brigaders, "Poems from Spain", will be on sale for the first time. Published as part of the Trust's 70th anniversary activities, the anthology is the first ever collection of poems by British and Irish volunteers.

Commemorative IBMT mugs and trinket boxes will also be on sale at Jubilee Gardens and at the

unveiling at Wortley Hall, Sheffield, on 1 July of a memorial to the volunteers from South Yorkshire.

The Pyrenees walk was organised by IBMT Membership Secretary Pauline Fraser and involved 70 IBMT members and friends, including three veterans, crossing from France to Spain. They took a route that would have been used by some of the volunteers. On the following day a memorial plaque was unveiled at the Castell de Sant Ferran in Figueras, where volunteers mustered after the crossing.

The walk was supported by members of a local French walking club, Randonnée Céretane, who acted as guides and interpreters. Mario Kloostra, originally from the Netherlands, whose father and uncles were International Brigaders, was especially helpful – and made a welcome donation of wine to the group. Local IBMT members Maggie and John Comley identified the route, and supplied flowers to lay at memorials along the way.

● Please send sponsorship money for the Pyrenees walk to Pauline Fraser (90 Roding Lane North, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 8NG) as soon as possible; cheques payable to the IBMT. The grand total raised will be published in our next Newsletter.

● See back page for details of forthcoming events.

Jim Jump

Brief notes

Ciaran Crossey from Belfast has changed the address for his website on **Ireland and the Spanish Civil War**. It can now be found at: [www.geocities.com/irelandscw]. You should also find a link to it on our own excellent website. I'm constantly getting compliments for it – well done Richard Baxell! See for yourself and go to [www.international-brigades.org.uk].

David Leach is our roving representative in Australia – and Spain, where he was instrumental in getting the Ebro memorial put up on Hill 705 last May. David also produced the film "Voices from a Mountain". In Australia he has made contact with relatives of **Kevin Rebechi**, who went to Spain with Jack Jones and George Wheeler. Kevin was killed and, remarkably, has a known grave in the northern Catalonian town of Vic. David and Kevin's relatives plan to put up a plaque in his memory. Kevin's niece, Nina Craven, spoke for them all when she said: "To me he is representative of a large number of young men who went to Spain and made the ultimate sacrifice. At least we know where he is buried. So many other families don't have that." In the local archives, David was shown a letter written in Spanish by a Spanish friend of Kevin Rebechi's father, asking for news of his son.

We mentioned in the last Newsletter that Brian Walsh was seeking information about his Uncle Eddy (Samuel Edward Walsh, of Newcastle upon Tyne). Brian has already given reports of his visit to the **Brunete** battlefield where his uncle died in July 1937, and he's keen to try and get a memorial erected at the site to honour Eddy and his comrades. If you have a relative who was at Brunete, and want to get involved, contact Brian at [brian-walsh21@yahoo.co.uk] or me at [marlensid-away@hotmail.com].

The plans for the new design of **Jubilee Gardens**, London, have been approved, and there is reassurance that our International Brigade memorial will not be moved more than a few yards from where it now stands. We're not sure when work will start, but it should not affect this year's gathering.

Meanwhile, **Ian Walters**, the sculptor of the Jubilee Gardens memorial, has been awarded a medal from the Society of Portrait Sculptors for a "lifetime achievement of powerfully expressive sculpture". His statue of Nelson Mandela has been

Presenting our commemorative china



The IBMT's commemorative china carries the wording "Spain 1936-1939 / 70th anniversary / International Brigades" (not what is on the demonstration examples pictured above), along with a quotation from the famous speech by La Pasionaria.

The mugs will sell at £7 each or two for £12.50. The trinket boxes will sell for £10 each or two for £15. Both items will be for sale at Wortley Hall, Sheffield, on 1 July and on 15 July at the IBMT's annual commemoration in Jubilee Gardens, London. For pre-orders contact Christopher Hall at [christoff_hall@yahoo.com] or by writing to 286 Brantingham Road, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0QU. Smaller boxes and a tankard will also be available later and details about postage will be put in the next Newsletter and on our website.

approved and there are now ongoing considerations about where it will eventually stand – Trafalgar Square or Parliament Square. Joyce Akresi is filming a documentary about social sculpture, which will feature Ian's work, and she'll also be filming our ceremony on 15 July.

At the recent launch of Tom Wintringham's poetry anthology, "We're Moving On", at the Marx Memorial Library, editor – and author of Wintringham's biography – Hugh Purcell mentioned that he couldn't find a memorial at **Jarama**. In fact there are at least two in towns adjacent to the battlefield:

– Morata de Tajuña, in the town cemetery; it was unveiled in 1994 and a photo was on page 2 of our June 2005 issue.

– Rivas Vaciamadrid: first unveiled alongside the Jarama river, at the Arganda Bridge, during the 60th anniversary events in 1996, it was subsequently moved to the main square of the nearby town of Rivas. Thanks to Manus O'Riordan for this information.

The Imperial War Museum's "The Children's War" exhibition begins with two of the most famous Spanish Civil War posters warning that bombs falling on civilians in Spain will fall on London next – a good reminder of the link between the two wars.

It was good to have some **Dutch comrades** with us on the Pyrenees walk at Easter. We have had a

letter from Giny Klatser-Oedecker, enclosing an article about some Dutch Brigaders. Over 600 Dutchmen and women joined the International Brigades, but there are now only three known to be alive. The article*, by Andre Dryansky in "Amsterdam Weekly", tells of their struggles when they finally reached home, some after many years in prison or forced labour camps. Because the Netherlands kept to the non-intervention pact, they were declared stateless. Some came to Britain and continued the fight against fascism in the Prinses Irene Brigade, a Dutch unit formed by the British Army during the Second World War. The annual celebration near the monument of remembrance to the Spanish Civil War in Amsterdam took place on 10 May. Although the Dutch group is small in number, they are always glad to hear from friends in other countries, says Giny. Hopefully, some of them can join us at our own commemoration on 15 July.

**I can photo-copy the article if anybody would like it.*

Mike Arnott in **Dundee** is planning a series of commemorations, not finalised yet, but he's hoping to have a public meeting on Monday 17 July to mark the start of the Spanish Civil War. Many more events are scheduled for 2007/8, and Mike has also put in a bid to hold our Annual General Meeting in Dundee in 2008 to tie in with the re-siting of the memorial there. Any bids for 2007?

Marlene Sidaway

IBMT Newsletter

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President's message

It is sad to report that we have lost four of our old comrades recently. George Wheeler and Ronald Bates in England, John Dunlop in Scotland, and Michael O'Riordan, father of Manus one of our most active committee members, in Ireland. We pay tribute to them and vow to keep their memory strong.

However, in this 70th anniversary year, we also have good news of our activities so far. The lecture in March at the Imperial War Museum given by Dr Enrique Moradiellos went extremely well and was highly attended.



The commemorative Pyrenees walk in April was a phenomenal success, which I was lucky enough to attend. So a tremendous vote of thanks to our wonderful Membership Secretary Pauline Fraser for organising it!

Coming up we have what looks like being our biggest ever Jubilee Gardens event in July along with the launch of our poetry anthology which has been edited by committee member Jim Jump. This will be followed by socials in the afternoon and evening. We hope you will all attend!

Likewise, we encourage you all to come to our 70th anniversary Annual General Meeting in Manchester in October, where special events are also planned.

We exist, and are making every effort to expand, to commemorate that terrible war where so many of our comrades were lost, to keep their memory green but most of all to keep the flame alive of that great cause for which we fought and which continues now and into the future for a free and just society.

¡No pasarán! ¡Salud!

Jack Jones

Obituaries

John Dunlop



John Dunlop, who died on 5 May, aged 90, was born in Winnipeg, Canada to Scottish parents.

On their return to Scotland, John grew up in a middle-class home and attended the prestigious George Watson's College in Edinburgh

before training to be a chartered accountant with a firm in Glasgow. It was while in Glasgow that John was drawn to socialist ideas and joined the Communist Party. He went to Spain in May 1937 and joined the British Anti-Tank Battery. He fought at Jarama and Brunete, then was assigned to the machine gun company at Teruel then Belchite. He joined the rifle company for the Ebro offensive and formed a friendship with George Wheeler that endured despite geography and social background. John returned to Britain with the British Battalion in December 1938.

Until his death, he was one of only three surviving Scottish veterans and gave a stirring oration at the La Pasionaria memorial on the banks of the Clyde in October 2003 when the Trust's Annual General Meeting was held in Glasgow. In David Leach's film "Voices From A Mountain", which was shown at that event, he talked extensively about his time in Spain. Pauline Fraser recalls meeting John at his home in Edinburgh: "He had the qualities of gentleness, of caring, so evident in his poetry. The humanistic side of John's personality was tempered by a clear, analytical mind."

GA

Michael O'Riordan



Michael O'Riordan was born in Cork on 12 November 1917. As an Irish Republican he fought Blueshirt fascism on the streets of Cork in 1933/4.

In 1938, aged 20, he joined the British Battalion of the XV Brigade. In the

Republic's final offensive in July 1938, he carried the Catalan flag across the Ebro and in August was wounded while fighting on Hill 481 outside Gandesa. After his return to Ireland, from 1940 to 1943, he was interned as a Republican political prisoner in the Curragh internment camp.

Michael worked afterwards as a bus conductor before becoming General Secretary of the Irish Communist Party. In 1979 he published "Connolly Column", the story of the Irishmen who fought in the International Brigades.

Michael's coffin, draped in the Irish tricolour and the Connolly Column banner, was borne by family members. A crowd of several hundred walked behind. Those who mourned his passing included the Cuban Ambassador, and a former minister in the first post-apartheid government of Nelson Mandela. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, who had received Michael O'Riordan with other veterans in October last year, sent a message of condolence, as did the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, who described him as a fearless fighter for the labour movement throughout his life.

PF

George Wheeler



George Wheeler, born in Mitcham, Surrey, in March 1914, was captured during the battle of the Ebro in the autumn of 1938 and spent seven months as a prisoner of Franco. Released in April 1939 he returned home and

to his work as a carpenter. The war in Spain had affected him deeply, so much so that he wrote an account of his time there, which for years remained unpublished until film-maker David Leach offered to edit it. "To Make the People Smile Again" was finally published in February 2003. And only days before his death in February 2006, he learnt that a drama based on his account was to be produced for BBC World Service.

Raised in Battersea, then a centre of radical working class political activity, George's decision to go to Spain came after hearing a speech by Labour MP Aneurin Bevan in Trafalgar Square early in 1938. He set off for Paris from Victoria Station in May of that year.

From July to September 1938, he took part in the Ebro offensive, crossing the river and advancing as far as Gandesa. After capture on 23 September, he was taken to the prisoner of war camp at San Pedro de Cardena near Burgos where he survived beatings, lice-infested, typhus-infesting squalor and ritual humiliations. His vivid account of his experiences helped make "To Make the People Smile Again" such a critical success.

JJ

News from home...

Len Crome Memorial Lecture: The perfidy of British policy

Britain's policy of non-intervention in the Spanish Civil War deliberately and successfully secured victory for Franco and his fascist-backed rebellion, Enrique Moradiellos told an audience at the Imperial War Museum, London, in March.

Delivering the IBMT's annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture, Moradiellos said that Britain's neutrality was "a diplomatic cloak and shelter" for a fraudulent policy benevolent towards the military insurgents. He described Britain's stance on the civil war as a specific and regional version of the overall policy of appeasement, which also allowed Hitler to annex Austria and dismember Czechoslovakia.

Over 120 people attended the lecture, named after the former president of the International Brigade Association who became the Chief Medical Officer of the Republic's 35th Division and, during the battle of the Ebro, the 15th Army Corps. IBMT Patron Paul Preston introduced Moradiellos, Professor of Modern History at the University of Extremadura in Cáceres, as the world's foremost expert on British government policy towards the Spanish Civil War. The lecture's title, "Albion's Perfidy", was also the title of his ground-breaking book, published in Spain in 1996.

Moradiellos explained that the non-intervention pact the Conservative government persuaded France and the other main European countries to sign, was applied mainly against the Republic because Hitler and Mussolini flagrantly ignored it, sending plentiful supplies of arms and between them, 100,000 German and Italian troops to fight on Franco's side. Such help was never matched by the Soviet Union, the only country that sold significant amounts of arms to the Republic, nor by the 35,000 volunteers in the International Brigades. The policy of non-intervention was also designed to disguise the pro-Franco sympathies of the government in the face of British public opinion that was pro-Republican.

Quoting several confidential reports and communications by Foreign Office officials and Conservative ministers, Moradiellos showed how the British government was aware throughout the war that its policy favoured Franco's rebellion. A secret assessment written by Sir Robert Vansittart, Chief Diplomatic Adviser to the Foreign Office, shortly before the Republic's defeat in 1939 showed that "the whole course of our policy of non-intervention, which has effectively worked in an entirely one-sided manner, has been putting a premium on Franco's victory". For example, it was in order to help Franco that Britain successfully persuaded France to close its border with Spain in June 1938, thus cutting the last channel of war supplies to the Republic.

The main reason why the government initially favoured a Franco victory, said Moradiellos, was

Right: Enrique Moradiellos delivers his lecture at the Imperial War Museum, London.



because it feared that Spain was in a pre-revolutionary state and therefore a potential threat to British strategic and financial interests.

Jim Jump

"I think that the turnout here today shows how much of a chord has been struck with all the people who have come along."

Extract reproduced courtesy of the Galloway Gazette, 6 March 2006

Jack Brent memorial

The memorial plaque to Spanish Civil War hero Jack Brent – Whithorn's George Dickie – has been finally erected in his home town. In honouring Brent's exploits against fascism, the ancient Galloway burgh now joins the Canadian city of Ottawa in having a memorial inscribed with his name.

On a cold but bright day, local councillor Alistair Geddes welcomed everyone before Whithorn resident Jessie McLean, 90 years young and friend of Geordie Dickie, drew back the red velvet veil to reveal the simple, but beautifully engraved plaque. Fixed on the wall of the former butcher's shop where Geordie Dickie once worked, the plaque hangs next to the historic pend through which Scotland's kings and queens passed in centuries gone by, the Royal Coat of Arms of Scotland still emblazoned on the archway.

MSPs, representatives from the International Brigade Memorial Trust, the Spanish Consulate, Whithorn Community Council, Whithorn Business Association, the Council, and family members and friends heard Jack Brent's nephew, John Dickie, express his thanks.

North-west Ireland volunteers

The North West Spanish Civil War Committee intends to honour the International Brigades and the men from Derry, Donegal, and Tyrone who served in defence of the Spanish Republic by erecting a permanent plaque in Derry City Centre and by holding a series of events.

The committee has received support from Derry City Council, trade unions, and a number of community organisations and activists.

Anyone who wants to help should contact: [xvbrigade@yahoo.ie] or online at: [www.nopasaran.netfirms.com]. To make a donation, please send cheques and postal orders payable to: "North West Spanish Civil War Project", c/o 3 Glenside Gardens, Derry BT48 0BT.

Southampton progress

Fundraising for the planned Southampton memorial and for a headstone for Jimmy Moore's grave in Portsmouth is going well and it is hoped that both will be unveiled in August or September. For further details, to make a donation, or to provide information about Hampshire



Jack Brent's nephew John Dickie watches local resident Jessie McLean unveil the plaque.

volunteers, contact Alan Lloyd at [alan.lloyd121@virgin.net] or tel: 023-8043 2598.

Belfast project

The planned memorial for the volunteers from Northern Ireland who died in Spain is currently awaiting planning permission.

Meanwhile, recent events have publicised and raised funds for the memorial. There has been a poster exhibition in the John Hewitt bar, an exhibition of original art work in the Linen Hall library and the library was also the venue for a well attended public meeting addressed by Daniel Kowalsky of Queen's University.

International Brigade Commemoration Committee Secretary Kevin Doherty addressed the conference of the Northern Ireland Congress of Trade Unions. At the Belfast May Day rally, t-shirts, badges and posters were on sale.

Badges are available for £4 (inc. p&p) from IBCC, Unemployed Resource Centre, 45/47 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG.

Ciaran Crossey

Focus on women

International Women's Day in Belfast in March saw Angela Jackson giving an excellent illustrated talk about the role of women in the Spanish Civil War. In the evening the film "Into the Fire", about the role of US women in the war, was screened. Afterwards a great social night was held with a variety of musicians, including Brenda O'Riordan, Michael O'Riordan's daughter, singing and playing the harp. The event raised funds for the memorial that the International Brigade Commemoration Committee is hoping to establish in Belfast.

Visit our website at: [connollycolumn.org].

Lynda Walker



Rob Smith lays a wreath on behalf of the IBMT at the memorial in Westmount, Jersey, to the slave labourers brought to the island by the Nazi occupiers during the Second World War. They included 1,500 Spanish Republican refugees in France. This year's ceremony, on 9 May, was notable for the attendance of the Spanish Ambassador in London, Carlos Miranda.



Above: The new memorial at Figueras.



Right: veterans (from left) Jack Edwards, Jack Jones and Bob Doyle at the memorial at Las Illas.

Across the Pyrenees to unveil a new plaque

Before we set off on Easter Saturday, we paid homage to Republican fighters at a memorial plaque in Las Illas. There we heard from Serge Barba, secretary of the organisation for descendants of the 500,000 refugees who fled from Franco's tyranny along these paths. At every stop we paused to listen to readings from the poetry and memoirs of Brigaders. At the border we stopped again to eat a packed lunch. Then there was a parting of the ways. About half the walkers took the shorter route towards the nearby village of La Vajol, while the rest went to Castell de Cabrera, a fine viewpoint involving more of a climb.

In La Vajol the walking groups were joined by the party that had crossed the border by coach. Speeches by the mayors of La Vajol and nearby Agullana, welcomed our commemorative walk. Then we doubled back up to the border again, to a monument to Lluís Companys, the President of the Catalan Generalitat when the Republican forces collapsed. Josep Fernández, secretary of the committee that preserves the memorial and memory of Companys, explained that the former president was arrested by the Nazis in Paris and taken back to Spain, where he was executed by firing squad on October 15, 1940.

The next day, we followed the Brigaders' route to the Castell de Sant Ferran at Figueras. A party from the Fighters and Friends of the International Brigades, the German counterpart of the IBMT, joined us there. The *Amigos*, the Spanish Friends of the International Brigades, also sent four representatives, including their secretary, Ana Pérez.

At the castle, where the volunteers were housed until they were moved south to the International Brigade base at Albacete. we

unveiled a plaque which the Generalitat of Catalonia had commissioned. The inscription, suggested by the IBMT committee, is in four languages. It ends with the lines from the C Day Lewis poem "The Volunteer": "We came because our open eyes could see no other way."

The unveiling was an emotionally-charged moment and moved Jack Jones to make a particularly fine speech. A wreath was laid at the newly-installed plaque and, inside the castle, there were further readings from Brigaders' memoirs and poems and a vote of thanks to the Generalitat.

Pauline Fraser

Pauline Fraser is producing a much fuller report of the commemorative walk, in booklet form, which will be available at the Jubilee Gardens reunion on 15 July and other events this summer.

One of the IBMT members who took part in the walk, Richard Thorpe, has written his own moving and amusing account of the Pyrenees crossing. It can be viewed online at: [www.lacolumna.org.uk/news_pyrenees_2006.htm].

Appeal by film-makers

Film-makers Margaret Dickinson and Pepe Baenes Ruiz want to know if relatives of Brigaders have relevant photographs and memorabilia which could be used in the film which they are making about the Pyrenees crossing. They also want to ask how people's lives and attitudes have been influenced by what they know about the Spanish Civil War. Contact Margaret at [mdickinson@ndirect.co.uk] or tel: 020-74851457.

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.

● Brigadier **Steve Fullarton** (one of two remaining Scottish veterans) needs someone to help with his memoirs. Steve, registered blind and with hearing difficulties, recently gave a lecture in his local library about his experiences, which was very well received. He needs someone to read to him the memoirs typed so far, to take his dictation and type out the rest. If you would like to help, contact Steve at 0131-551 6580. He lives in the Craighall Road area of Edinburgh.

● Tommy Barr is looking for information about **James Hyndman** from Shields Road, Glasgow, who died at Las Rozas on the 12 January 1937. James was a member of the Young Communist League and took part in the 1936 hunger march. He was with John Cornford when he was killed. Tommy is interested in finding out about James's life in Glasgow, and particularly about his trade union activities. Contact Tommy at [tommybarr@tb123.freeserve.co.uk].

● Lewis Mates is writing a book on the support provided by **North East England** for the Spanish Republic at the time of the Spanish Civil War. This includes those who fought in the International Brigades, the campaigns and funds supported by trade unions, Labour and other political parties, and the wide-based "Aid Spain" campaigns organised in the region. Can anyone with information contact Lewis at [lewismates@yahoo.co.uk] or c/o Dr Gidon Cohen, Politics Department., School of Government and International Affairs, University of Durham, 48 Old Elvet, Durham DU1 3LZ.

● Mark Squires is seeking photographs and information about his father, **Frank Squires** (Frank Antrim in Spain), born in South Shields. He fought at the battle of the Ebro, in the No.2 Company. Before that, he served as an instructor in riflery and in small boat handling. He was with the British Battalion until it left Spain. Afterwards, he and four other volunteers, including Peter Gladwin of Australia, sailed across the Atlantic to America, a voyage documented by Gladwin in the 1948 book "Reaching for the Sun". Contact Mark at [marksq@gmail.com] or write to him at Amatzia 7, Jerusalem 93148, Israel.

● Mike Clement, a cousin of the late Martin Fitch, would like to hear from anyone who remembers his father and uncle, International Brigaders **Eric and Ernst Clement** (Erich and Ernst Klementschtz) who came from Graz, Austria. Ernst, a lawyer, was killed in Spain. Eric survived, and obtained a visa to join a sister in Formby,

England in August 1939. An Austrian national, he was interned in Lancashire, transferred to Canada and finally sent to the Isle of Man. Eventually he enlisted in the British Army. At the end of the war he learned that his father had been taken to Buchenwald. Erich went there after the US liberation of the camp, and found that his father had survived. Sadly, his mother had died in Ravensbruck. Contact Mike at [mike.clement@btinternet.com].

● Janice Paterson's maternal grandfather **Frank Rush** is believed to have been an International Brigader during the Spanish Civil War, although it is likely he changed his name for political and religious reasons. If anyone has any information contact Janice at [janpatmed@yahoo.com].

Eileen Turnbull plans a trip to some battlefields in Spain. She would like to hear from any English speakers who could guide her round Teruel and Belchite. Contact Eileen on [eileen_turnbull@hotmail.com].

● Alex Smith is looking for information about his uncle, **Joseph (Joe) Stevenson**, born in Bellshill, Lanarkshire in 1908. His parents were Lithuanian immigrants and Joe changed his surname from Stinkas to Stevenson. He is mentioned in "Voices from the Spanish Civil War" (ed. Ian MacDougall) by his friend Hugh Sloan who referred to him as a miner from Ayrshire, but in fact he had only gone there for work. A member of the Communist Party, he started a branch of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement in Ayr and led a hunger march from there to Glasgow. Sloan recounts how Joe was in charge of a group of 30 to 40 volunteers for Spain who were trying to leave London for France in April 1937. He fell ill at Teruel in January 1938 and Sloan took him to the clinic in the town's plaza. Joe is recorded as having died of typhoid in February 1938. Contact Alex at [askinav@blueyonder.co.uk].

● Chris Ferguson recently found out that his late grandfather, **Herbert Emmanuel Soloman**, may have volunteered for the International Brigades. Does anyone have any information? Herbert was born in Kennington, London, in 1911. It is possible he could have changed his name to go to Spain. Contact Chris at [cf003e9385@blueyonder.co.uk].

● Kenneth Phillips would like information about **Charles Chaplin**, a native of Dalry, Ayrshire, who lost an eye in the Spanish Civil War, emigrated to the US but was deported back to Britain because of trade union activities. He was blacklisted in Britain and unable to follow his trade as an engineer in London. He changed his name to Charles Hanlin and then worked as a gardener in Newbridge, Dumfriesshire, where he lived briefly

with his wife and young son. Contact Kenneth Phillips at [kenneth.phillips1@btinternet.com]; tel: 01560-483 387 or write to him at 48 Morton Road, Stewarton KA3 3BD.

● Aberdeen postgraduate student Caitlin Prentiss is researching **Aberdonian commemoration** of the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War. Can anyone give her information about when and how these were commemorated in the UK in general directly following the war, and when the anniversary events began? Contact Caitlin at [t01cmp5@abdn.ac.uk].

● Eric Paice, a modern language student at Southampton University is currently working on **Spanish emmigration** from the civil war, including economic migration during the Franco years, until the present day. He would like to interview people so that he can learn more about the arrival and conditions of Spaniards who came here, and their subsequent integration. Contact Eric at [efp101@soton.ac.uk]

● Frank Ward and Stewart Hunter plan to set up a **Highlands** branch of the IBMT and are hoping to publish their research on International Brigaders from the region and to erect a memorial. If you can help with their research or fund-raising for the memorial, please get in touch with Frank at: St. Barrs, Bishopfield Road, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3LJ or at [gobbledegook@ukonline.co.uk].

● Kimberley Sanders is looking for information about her great uncle **Geoffrey Mossman** (Charles Geoffrey McKenzie Mossman) of Howarth, Yorkshire, who fought in Spain. The family knows that he returned after the war. He seems to have disappeared sometime between his return from Spain and the beginning of the Second World War, and has never been heard of or from since. If anyone has any information, contact Kimberley at [kas2610@yahoo.com].

● Tina Baratto is searching for information about her late father **Ernesto Baratto**, an Italian who migrated to Australia in the late 1920s and left for Spain from Queensland, where he was a sugar-cane worker. She recalls him talking about the Lincoln Battalion but knows that many Australian volunteers joined the British Battalion. If anyone has any information about Ernesto contact Tina at [tinasj@xtra.co.nz].

● Bill Bonnar, secretary of the **Rutherglen & Cambuslang** (just outside Glasgow) branch of the Scottish Socialist Party, is anxious to know of anyone from the area who were members of the International Brigade, with a view to commemorating the 70th anniversary. Bill's uncle, Harry Andrew Bonnar, was killed at Jarama. Contact him at [bonnarb@nvha.org.uk].

Books etc

Published in July: "Poems from Spain"

The IBMT-sponsored anthology of poems written by British and Irish International Brigade volunteers during and since the Spanish Civil War is to be launched on 15 July at the annual commemoration at the international Brigade memorial in London's Jubilee Gardens.

With nearly 90 poems by 33 volunteers, "Poems from Spain" also contains biographical notes on all the poets, plus photographs of many, and a brief history of the volunteers from the British Isles in Spain from 1936-39.

By arrangement with publisher Lawrence & Wishart, the IBMT will exclusively sell a hardback edition of the book to members and supporters. Only a paperback edition will be available through bookshops.

The hardback edition is priced at £16.99 and the paperback will sell for £10.99.

"Poems from Spain" is the first ever anthology of poems written by International Brigaders. It is edited by IBMT committee member Jim Jump and has a foreword by IBMT President Jack Jones.

Among the endorsements for the book is one from internationally-acclaimed journalist John Pilger: "This the most moving, inspirational collection of poetry I have read in many years. 'War poetry' does not describe the remarkable work in these pages. What is it about the International Brigaders that makes their memory and the recall of their political humanity so relevant today? Courage, a loyalty to the best within us, a political imagination that thinks with the heart: the list is long. These qualities shine from this collection, which ought to be required reading in every school."

The hardback edition is likely to become a collector's item, so get your orders in early. Add £1.50 per book for postage and packing. Please note that only the hardback is available through the IBMT. Send orders to IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (see address on front page), making cheques payable to the IBMT.

Jim Jump

Book review

"Ghosts of Spain: Travels Through a Country's Hidden Past", by Giles Tremlett, published by Faber & Faber; £16.99 (hardback).

Giles Tremlett has done for post-civil war Spain what Gerald Brenan provided for Spanish history leading up to the outbreak of the civil war in his book "The Spanish Labyrinth".

In his opening chapters he goes in search of Spaniards to ask them about their memories of the civil war, and on which side they or their families were. In some towns and villages, people living across the road from each other were on opposite

sides, but for a long time after the death of Franco there was absolute silence about what really happened in the conflict. After his investigation into the post-Franco silence, he moves onto the emergence of modern Spain in a chapter entitled How the Bikini saved Spain. Following that, he has a number of chapters devoted to Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia, reminding us that Spain's regional differences and languages are still very much as they were before the civil war.

Martin Green

Barcelona book event

In Barcelona on 7 June International Brigade veteran Alun Williams signed copies of his autobiography "From the Rhondda to the Ebro" and "I vaig tornar a creuar l'Ebre", a special edition in Catalan that tells of his experiences as a front-line medic in the Spanish Civil War.

Organised by the British Council and publishers Warren & Pell, the event featured two accounts of the care of casualties by the Republican army during the battle of the Ebro, 1938.

Also present was Angela Jackson of the Catalan civil war remembrance group No Jubilem La Memoria, who gave an illustrated talk on the cave hospital at La Bisbal de Falset, the subject of her latest book "Beyond the Battlefield", also published in Catalan as "Més enllà del camp de batalla".

The meeting was chaired by Geoff Cowling, former British Consul General in Barcelona.

Reading souvenir

The Reading International Brigade Memorial Committee has produced a 4-page souvenir card to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the creation of the International Brigades, price £1 including p&p. Contact: [ray@rayparkes1.wanadoo.co.uk].

Publisher please

IBMT member Colin Carritt, who has written a novel highlighting aspects of the Spanish Civil War and some of his father's experiences in the International Brigades, would like to know if anyone in the IBMT could advise him on how to go about finding a suitable publisher.

The novel features "second-rate" journalist Tony Alderson, who is introduced to an old man, Eduardo (Edward), while on holiday in Cuba. Eduardo, an Englishman who had gone to Spain in 1937 to join the International Brigades and deserted in order to track down the Francoist officer who killed his brother. Events lead him to Mexico and Cuba, and then back to Spain to discover that powerful families implicated in the Francoist purges still wield significant political clout.

Contact IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (see page 1 for details) if you have any suggestions.

IBMT education pack

Currently opportunities to teach the Spanish Civil War exist in the curriculum up to the GCSE level but it is rare that teachers do so. The IBMT has now begun explaining to history teachers where these opportunities exist. Attendees at seminars are to be provided with a guide to the IBMT Education Pack. The pack covers the following areas:

– Key Stage 2: Britain in the 1930s (Aid for Spain, the Basque refugees, the International Brigades).

– Key Stage 3: 20th century world (the Spanish Civil War, with more detailed lessons on the KS2 themes).

– Key Stage 4 GCSE modern world course work study (the Spanish Civil War and how it has been interpreted).

The idea behind the pack is that it should not be a finished article but continue to grow with different modules being added to it. The first seminar for teachers in the Midlands was well received and draft copies of the packs were distributed on CD-ROMs.

Richard Thorpe

Bob Doyle book launch

The English-language version of International Brigade veteran Bob Doyle's autobiographical "Rebel Without a Pause" (published in Spanish as "Memorias de un rebelde sin pausas") will be launched at Liberty Hall in Dublin on Tuesday 27 June at 6.30pm.

'Death in El Valle'

Brian Walsh has sent information about "Death in El Valle", a DVD documentary by a young US woman of Spanish descent, CM Hardt, about her search for the truth about the death of her grandfather, Francisco Redondo, killed by the Civil Guard in 1948. It has had "rave" reviews in the USA and UK. For further information, contact the website: [www.deathinvalle.com], or for the DVD email: [aboutdvd@deathinvalle.com].

Michael O'Riordan

A PDF of Michael O'Riordan's memorial booklet can be accessed via [www.geocities.com/irelandscw/ibvol-oriordan.htm]. Some photographs of the funeral can also be viewed by clicking "Gallery" on this site. There are more funeral photos on [www.indymedia.ie/article/76189] and [www.comunistpartyofireland.ie/index.html#nasc].

70th anniversary events

South Yorkshire Festival

Saturday 1 July, at Wortley Hall, Sheffield: unveiling of plaque and planting of olive tree in memory of those from South Yorkshire who took part in the defence of the Spanish Republic. There will be an exhibition on the Spanish Civil War and the IBMT's new commemorative pottery will be launched. For overnight accommodation in Wortley Hall tel: 0114-288 2100; email: [info@wortleyhall.org.uk]. Another option is Northern College, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley S75 3ET; cost £21.50. Transport will be available between Northern College and Wortley Hall. Book early by contacting Mary Wilby on 01226-776 015.

Annual commemoration

Saturday 15 July at Jubilee Gardens, London (see details in adjacent panel) The new collection of Brigaders' poetry, "Poems from Spain", will be launched at that event, and there will be selected readings from the anthology both outside and afterwards at the Travel Inn. La Columna will attend in period costumes.

Memorial to South Wales miners

Sunday 16 July at the National Coal Museum, Big Pit, Blaenavon: unveiling of a plaque to the miners who went to Spain to defend democracy.

10.30am: Songs by Cor Corchion Caerdydd.

11.15am: Opening by Michael Houlihan.

11.40am: Unveiling by surviving International Brigade members.

12 noon: Buffet, £5 per head.

1pm: Opening of exhibition; there will be film screenings and a tour underground.

For more information contact Alan Warren at [warren.ofbooks@virgin.net].

Conference at Bristol University

Monday 17 July-Wednesday 19 July: "War Without Limits" conference; keynote speakers are Paul Preston, Helen Graham and Michael Richards. The aim of the conference is to explore the international, social, political, military and cultural history of the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to the present. Details from Dr Martin Hurcombe, tel: 0117-928 8447; email: [m.j.hurcombe@bristol.ac.uk]. The full programme is available at [www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/war_programme.html].

Homenaje/Tribute in Madrid and Barcelona organised by the Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales (Friends of the International Brigades)

● Saturday 7 October-Monday 9 October in Madrid: Reception at the Spanish Cortes; meeting with political parties and trade unions; unveiling of the monument to the International Brigades in Morata de Tajuña; visit to Jarama battlefields.

● Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12 October in Barcelona: Reception at the Palace of the Generalitat; visit to the monument to the International Brigades in Fossar de la Pedrera; public function with performances.

International Brigade Memorial Trust

Annual commemoration Jubilee Gardens, London SE1 1pm Saturday 15 July

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 1936-1939 and to remember the 526 who did not return

1pm-1.30pm: Commemoration at the International Brigade memorial, Jubilee Gardens (next to the London Eye).

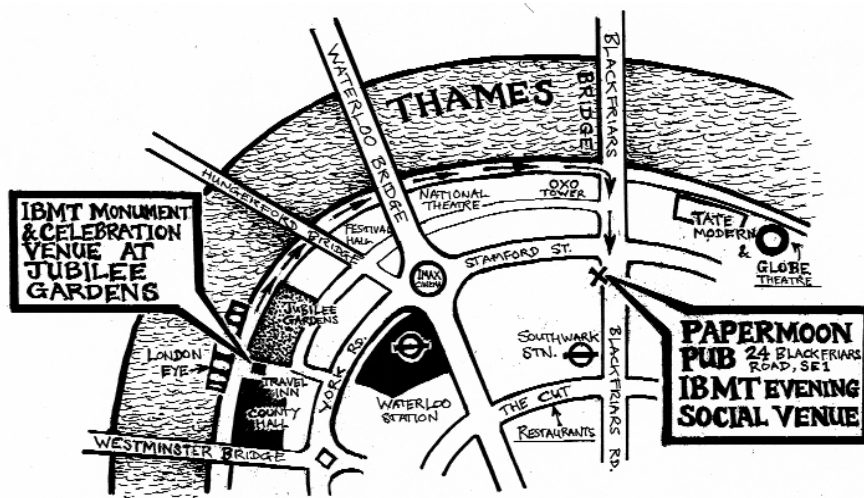
– Chairman: Jack Jones, President of the IBMT

– Guest speakers: HE The Ambassador of Spain, Carlos Miranda, and Rodney Bickerstaffe, former General Secretary of Unison.

1.45pm-4.30pm: A social in the adjacent

Travel Inn, with an optional buffet lunch available.

5.30pm-midnight: An evening of films and music at the nearby "Paper Moon", 24 Blackfriars Road SE1. As well as films, there will be an exhibition of photos from the Pyrenees walk. Live musical entertainment begins at about 8pm and ends with a disco. The Paper Moon serves pizzas and there are many other restaurants nearby.



If you intend to go to the Homenaje in Spain or require further details, contact IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (see details on front page).

IBMT Annual General Meeting

● Saturday 14 October

1.30pm: Rededication of the memorial plaque in Manchester Town Hall to the men and women from the North West who went to fight in Spain and supported the Spanish people.

2.15pm: Civic reception in the Manchester Town Hall and an exhibition.

4.30pm- 5.45pm: Annual General Meeting in the Town Hall.

7pm-11pm: Social event with food and music at the

Mechanics Institute (in the centre of Manchester).

● Sunday 15 October

11am: Visit to the People's History Museum (Pump House Museum, central Manchester).

1pm: Meal in a Spanish restaurant.

We have negotiated rooms in the Castlefield Hotel, Liverpool Road, M3 4JR; tel: 0161-832 7073; online: [www.castlefield-hotel.co.uk]. The rooms will be held until 31 August. Double/twin rooms £65 per night, single rooms £55, for bed and breakfast; Booking reference number: 6661. For further information contact Hilary Wild at 0161-224 1747; email: [hilary.m.jones@btinternet.com] or Dolores Wild at 0161-226 2013; email: [dolores@long.freewire.co.uk].