



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

Life President: Jack Jones

Chair: Sam Lesser

Secretary: Marlene Sidaway

Treasurer: Nick Moreno

Committee Members: Gerry Abrahams, Mike Arnott, Richard Baxell, John Callow, Geoff Cowling, Jack Edwards, Pauline Fraser, Mary Greening, Mick Jones, Jim Jump, Dolores Long/Hilary Jones, Manus O'Riordan, Alan Warren

Welcome to the 16th edition of our Newsletter. If any of you have difficulty reading this, it is now available on tape. Contact me on 020-8555 6674.

It was a busy 2006, and you can read about the many events in the following pages. This year also promises to be very busy, beginning with the grand launch of the paperback edition of the poetry anthology and Battle of Jarama commemoration on Friday 16 February and our annual lecture at the Imperial War Museum. Please note the date for the latter has been changed and is now Saturday 3 March. The lecture will be given by Professor Julian Casanova of the University of Zaragoza. It will be preceded by the film "To Die in Madrid" and followed by a discussion and other film footage illustrating the lecture. Full details of these events are on the front and back pages.

The Jubilee Gardens memorial day will be on Saturday 21 July 2007 at 1pm. We hope that Billy Bragg will be able to join us on that day. If you would like a DVD of the July 2006 Day, please send me a cheque for £8 to cover cost and postage.

I was sorry not to be able to attend the annual general meeting in Manchester last year, but I know it all went very well and we're grateful to Dolores Long, Hilary Jones, Chris Hall and their team for their brilliant organisation.

Congratulations to Brigade veteran, Keith (Andy) Andrews who will be 100 years old in February. All our veterans are over 90 and many approaching their own centenary. We wish them all good health and happiness, and thank them for all their support and inspiration. I hope the coming months will give us many more opportunities to meet in friendship and commemoration of the events in Spain 70 years ago.

All good wishes for 2007,

Marlene Sidaway



Billy Bragg (centre) at the finale of the concert in Manchester in October to commemorate the International Brigades. See report on page 4.

An evening of film, music and Brigaders' poetry

Remembering the Battle of Jarama

To launch the paperback version of "Poems from Spain" and to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Jarama, there will be a night of verse, song and film on Friday 16 February from 7pm at the Offside Bar, 271 City Road, London EC1 1LA.

The special event is being presented by Philosophy Football in association with the IBMT and supported by the GMB trade union.

The evening combines archive film edited and compiled by Simon Green, readings from the newly published "Poems from Spain" anthology of poems by British and Irish International Brigaders performed by three of Britain's best-known radical poets, and a generation of protest songs inspired by "Jarama" and the International Brigades.

The poets will be Andy Croft, Mike Rosen, Lemm Sissay and the singers will be Leon Rosselson, Robb Johnson and Tracey Curtis.

Brigaders Jack Jones and Sam Lesser have also agreed to take part in proceedings.

There will be music from DJ MelstarsUK plus paella with meat, fish and vegetarian options.

The event is free but advance registration is essential. Either email events@philosophyfootball.com or call 020-8802 3499.

The hardback version of "Poems from Spain",

edited by IBMT committee member Jim Jump and published by Lawrence & Wishart, was launched at the 2006 Jubilee Gardens commemoration. The paperback edition (price £10.99) can be ordered from bookshops or from the Lawrence & Wishart or Philosophy Football websites: [\[www.lwbooks.co.uk\]](http://www.lwbooks.co.uk) and [\[www.philosophyfootball.com\]](http://www.philosophyfootball.com).

The Battle of Jarama on 12-14 February 1937, which cost the lives of at least 140 of the 500 volunteers of the British Battalion who took part, thwarted an attempt by Franco's forces to encircle Madrid.

Visit to the battlefield

Veteran Bob Doyle will join Harry Owens, Seve Montero and others at the Jarama battlefield on Saturday 10 February. The trip will include visits to Suicide Hill where Charlie Donnelly died, the new Republican monument, the museum and the cemetery. After lunch at El Cid restaurant in Morata de Tajuña, they will go to the Lorca Centre in Rivas Vaciamadrid to hear speeches by Brigaders, politicians and Ana Pérez of the AABI (Association of Friends of the IB). For more details contact Seve Montero at [\[seve.montero@gmail.com\]](mailto:seve.montero@gmail.com) or tel: 00(34) 91-413 9750, Ana Pérez at [\[aabi@tinet.org\]](mailto:aabi@tinet.org), or Harry Owens at [\[sameharry@gmail.com\]](mailto:sameharry@gmail.com).

Brief notes

Veterans Jack Jones, Sam Lesser and Bob Doyle were among the many Trust members who were guests of the Ensemble Theatre company at a gala performance of “**Ay Carmela**” at the Shaw Theatre, London, on Tuesday, 7 November. Elizabeth Mansfield sent a letter of thanks to all those who supported the evening, and said that the company, and particularly the playwright José Sanchis Sinisterra, were honoured by the presence of the three Brigade veterans and delighted that they were able to give interviews to the Spanish TV crew who were there. Elizabeth starred as Carmela, with Rob Pickavance as Paulino, and her late father, Geoffrey Mansfield, who had been a young supporter of the Aid Spain movement, had left some money to fund the gala buffet before the show. There was a good review of the play in the *Camden New Journal* (and *El País*), and extensive interviews with the Brigaders, especially with Bob, whose book “**Brigadista**” was also reviewed in the paper. Several members have seen the play while it was on tour, including our oldest veteran, Andy Andrews – 100 in February – who saw it in Taunton.

Those of you who were unable to attend the Trust’s **annual general meeting in Manchester** in October can obtain a copy of the draft minutes from me. Meanwhile, here is a précis of the business: Jack Jones was elected Honorary Life President; Sam Lesser was elected Chairman; the committee was expanded to 16 members; Katie Green resigned, as did Tish Collins of the Marx Memorial Library, who was replaced by John Callow of the MML; also newly elected were Mike Arnott, Geoff Cowling, Mary Greening and Mick Jones; the accounts were approved; membership is now over 700; annual subs were raised to £15 (£7.50 for concessions).

Another great theatrical evening was given in the **Library Theatre, Manchester**, which Dolores Long, Hilary Jones and Chris Hall organised superbly. Our thanks go to them, to the theatre staff, and to all who took part: Jackie Kay, the Houghton Weavers, Maxine Peake, Trevor Barnett, James Quinn, Malcolm Raeburn and Maggie Fox, and of course a special thanks to Billy Bragg, who not only gave a great performance but also sells our badges and gives us a plug at all his concerts. He is a great supporter of the Trust – try to return his support and see his shows whenever you have the opportunity.

The Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU, is planning a one-day conference celebrating the centenary of

Christopher Caudwell and his radical legacy on Saturday 20 October, 2007. They are calling for papers of 150-300 word abstracts on any aspects of his life and work: the Spanish Civil War, New Physics, Literary Theory, Crime Fiction, Popular Science or Poetry. Please contact John Callow, Librarian, at the MML.

The 70th anniversary of the **Battle of Cable Street** was celebrated on 8 October. Our banner was there as well as several from trade unions. Members of La Columna re-created incidents from the battle dressed in (rather smart) 1930s style, remembering the several Brigaders who were moved to volunteer for Spain after Cable Street, when Sir Oswald Mosley’s Blackshirt fascists were prevented from marching through London’s East End. There was a poster/photographic exhibition, music, dancing, speeches and poetry from Michael Rosen and his father Harold, a veteran of the battle.

Joan Ramelson was worried when her grandson failed to find the IB memorial in **Leeds Town Hall**, which includes the name of her late husband, Bert Ramelson. Enquiries revealed that it has been moved to the St George Street Corridor, where it is prominently displayed and can be seen by all attending concerts and public events in the Town Hall.

Reassurance too has been received about the plaque placed on **Hill 705** in the Ebro battlefield in 2005 which was reportedly showing signs of premature erosion or “flaking”. After consultation with the manufacturer, David Leach was assured that the material was designed to oxidise and to develop a “rusty” patina, and was given a sealant with which he gave the plaque three coats. He will keep checking its condition. Although we don’t need to worry about the elements, we need to be concerned about vandalism. Nearby memorials have been broken and defaced by Nazi graffiti, so perhaps any future visits to the Hill – for instance by the Ebro trip in May – should be low-key affairs in the local media.

There were also concerns about the memorial in **Liverpool**, after the building in which it was originally sited was vacated. I am happy to report that the plaque is now situated in the entrance hall of the People’s Centre, 50-54 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 and our Life President Jack Jones performed the unveiling ceremony there on 16 November. Thanks to Bob Braddock and his team for organising the placing of the memorial and the very enjoyable reception afterwards.

Jack Jones has been very busy cutting ribbons and pulling strings during the past months. There was the unveiling of the memorial in a garden adjoining **Barnsley Town Hall** on Monday 16 October, immediately after the re-dedication and AGM events in Manchester. He was at the “Echoes of Spain” mosaic unveiling in **Portobello Road**,

London, later in the month, as were Bob Doyle and Sam Lesser. Sam commented: “I don’t know if it’s ’cos I’m getting old and sentimental, but I thought it was a tremendous achievement, that all these people had got together and done it – it’s a brilliant memorial, everyone should go and see it.” Jack also unveiled the memorial to Brigaders from **Battersea and Wandsworth** in the entrance to the PCS union’s London head office at Clapham Junction on 11 December. Billy Bragg was also there too, and again there was a lovely buffet lunch and pledges of support from many trade union comrades.

Of course, there are many Brigade veterans who cannot take part in these events, but they are very generous in their support. Our grateful thanks to them and to all who have given **donations** to the Trust. They not only provide us with necessary funds, but indicate approval of the work we do.

I hope some of you heard the radio adaptation of **George Wheeler**’s book “To Make the People Smile Again”. Dramatised by Steve Chambers, it was broadcast on BBC World Service on Saturday 6 January at 2001hrs GMT.

The London Socialist Film Co-op is showing “**Death in El Valle**” on Sunday 11 March and “**Bethune: The Making of a Hero**” on Sunday 10 June. All screenings are in the Renoir Cinema, Brunswick Square, London WC1, starting at 11am. Details were in the last Newsletter or can be obtained from Nicola Seyd at [nseyd@hotmail.com] or on 020-7278 5764.

Joan Brown reports that the path at the **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** is booked, with 18 names of South Yorkshire International Brigaders, and will be ready in the new year. There is also the probability that there will be a memorial to the four Rotherham volunteers. More details next time.

New Zealand: A memorial wreath bearing the names of the six New Zealanders killed fighting with the International Brigade was laid at the Cenotaph in Wellington on 5 November. The address was given by Green MP Keith Locke, whose parents were active in the NZ Spanish Medical Aid Committee. A Trade Union History Project seminar “New Zealand and the Spanish Civil War” was held on the same weekend of 4-5 November. It was very well attended and led by Assistant Professor Judith Keene of University of Sydney and Amirah Inglis, author of a number of books on the Australian connection with the Spanish Civil War. Two leading New Zealand researchers, Michael O’Shaughnessy and Susan Skudder, whose 1986 thesis remains the definitive work on NZ and the SCW, also spoke. There were several other speakers, and performances of music, drama, poetry, and films related to the subject. For further details in print or via email, please contact me.

IBMT Newsletter

Editor: Geraldine (Gerry) Abrahams

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

Production: Jim Jump

Email: [jimjump@mac.com]

President's message

Israel: The archives section of the Israeli Defence Forces held a memorial evening on 12 December dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the International Brigades. Moshe Becher spoke about the Jewish volunteers from Palestine, about 170 men (300 according to some estimates), 70 of whom died in Spain, and five Arab volunteers for the Republic. The film "Madrid before Hanita" by Eran Turbiner was also shown. A memorial volume dedicated to Dr Desider Tallenberg is available from Professor Mordechai Kremer. Dr Tallenberg was a volunteer from Czechoslovakia and the doctor of the Capajev Battalion of the 13th Brigade, later director of the IB hospital in Benicasim and finally the chief doctor of the 129th Brigade. He died on the Morella front in April 1938 when he refused to abandon wounded soldiers in the field. The volume is available from Dr Kremer at the Department of Physical Chemistry, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91904, Israel.

Karl Lewkowicz was pleased to find a "graphic novel" about the Spanish Civil War in the children's section of his local (Camden) library – "**No Pasaran**" by Vittorio Giardino. A simple, exciting story, well drawn, and with a brief background to the SCW, a way of introducing young people to the subject. Ask your local library to stock it: ISBN 1-56163-313-5 51195.

Marshall Mateer has extended the webpage on the IBMT memorial to include some of **Ian Walters** other work and projects. People have been helpful in providing images and information. See [www.shapesoftime.net/pages/viewpage.asp?uniqid=10675].

Congratulations to the veterans of the **Abraham Lincoln Battalion** who have gained approval from the San Francisco Port Commission to erect a monument to the US International Brigade volunteers, which will be unveiled on 14 November 2007. *The Volunteer* reports that the memorial structure, 30ft long and 8ft high, will be built of translucent onyx engraved with photographic images and literary texts. At San Francisco's historic Embarcadero opposite the ferry building, the site is crossed daily by tens of thousands of commuters, residents and tourists.

Regretably once again we have been **unable to publish** several excellent (longer) articles submitted, because of lack of space. We plan to list them in the next Newsletter and make them available by request. Please note that, if timing is an important factor in your submission, you have a better chance of getting it into the Newsletter if you keep it short.

Marlene Sidaway



What a remarkable year we have just seen! The first year of our commemoration of 70 years since that terrible war in Spain has been most extraordinary indeed. We have had a

terrific series of events, both here and abroad, and our Trust has gone from strength to strength – now exceeding 700 members, and I would like to thank all those involved in making those events so successful.

I believe the Trust, with its ever-popular events, has now become something of a focal point and a beacon for those of us who believe in a genuine democratic socialist alternative to the present greed-driven miasma. We can look forward with great confidence to the new year. My own recent

attendance at the 70-year *Homenaje* in Spain further confirms for me how much we are part of a great and vigorous international movement. To see the unveiling of a splendid new monument to the International Brigades overlooking the Jarama Valley was a high point. Great thanks again to the Amigos in Spain.

Sadly we have lost a few good comrades in the past year and we pay tribute to them and will keep their memory alive alongside all who fought for democracy in Spain. The next two years will continue the 70-year commemoration and I encourage all to help our movement expand to communicate the great cause for which we fought, and for which so many died.

A good New Year to all,
¡Salud y suerte!

Jack Jones

Obituaries

Ronald Bates

Ronald Bates died on 19 April 2006, aged 94, and we are sorry not to have put an obituary for him in previous editions. He had joined the Trust comparatively recently, but his son Robert said that both Ronald and his wife Marguerite were proud of their activities in support of the Spanish Republic and had gained great benefit from membership of the IBMT. They were present at the dedication of the memorial in the GPMU union garden at Quorn Grange Centre in Leicester in November 2002 (see issue 4) and Ronald was delighted to return to Spain for the first time since the war when he went on the "Crossing of the Ebro" commemoration in 2003 (see issue 6). Marguerite was a volunteer children's nurse at Bray Court Colony for Basque refugee children and was at the opening of the exhibition organised by the Basque Children of '37 Association at Nottingham Trent University in March last year.

Marlene Sidaway

Conrad Singer

Conrad Singer has died in Manchester, aged 93. His autobiography, "Under Four Flags", tells of his eventful and dangerous life fighting in four different armies, first as a conscript in his native Romania and then, while serving as a galley boy in the merchant navy, he jumped ship to go to Spain. He described himself then as a "strong lad" and recalled sleeping in a cemetery, inadequately dressed, in the snow, but said he had "great com-

panions". He fought at Belchite and Teruel and after the fall of the Republic was interned in a French camp.

In the summer of 1940, in order to escape the camp, he volunteered for the French Foreign Legion and then when the Nazis overran France, he spent two years building the trans-Sahara railway. Liberated by the British in 1943, he arrived in Glasgow, in winter, wearing only the shorts and short-sleeved shirt he had worn in the desert. He then joined the British Army and served with the Pioneer Corps and the Royal Artillery.

Life was difficult after his demob, but he eventually married Lily and with her help set up a chain of Army Stores in Lancashire and became very successful. He summed his life up thus: "I was not a hero, but I was a survivor. My life was saved by many coincidences." He spent his last few months in the same nursing home as Lily, who survives him, as do three daughters and a son.

Marlene Sidaway

● As we go to press we have learnt with sadness of the death of **Bob Peters**, aged 92. See page 7 for more about his life. A fuller obituary will appear in our next issue.

● We remember **Marie Edwards**, dedicated supporter of the IBMT, daughter-in-law of Waterford Brigadier Frank Edwards and wife Bobby, Secretary of Irish Friends of the Spanish Republic. Despite ill-health, she attended the unveilings of the IB memorials in Waterford in July 2004 and in Belfast last September.

Manus O'Riordan

News from home . . .

Brigade veterans
(from left) Jack Jones,
Sam Lesser and
Bernard McKenna
with Terry Lloyd
(right), Labour MP for
Manchester Central,
inside Manchester
Town Hall at the
IBMT's annual general
meeting in October
2006.



Successful AGM in Manchester

More than 300 people attended the ceremony in Manchester Town Hall on Saturday 14 October which preceded the IBMT's 2006 annual general meeting. They were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and the speakers including IBMT President Jack Jones, Ruth Frow of the Working Class Movement Library, Tony Lloyd MP and Ann Hynes, who gave moving speeches recalling the contribution made by men and women in the North West in their support of the Spanish Republic.

There was an opportunity to look at exhibitions, photographs and the Town Hall plaque, and in the evening, over 350 attended a concert of music, song, poetry and flamenco dancing.

On the following day, people went to the People's History Museum to look at an exhibition of the Spanish Civil War and the Aid Spain movement. The weekend of events closed with a meal in a local Spanish restaurant. The weekend events were filmed by the BBC and featured in a TV programme which was broadcast in the North West.

Two weeks after the AGM, on 29 October, there was a sell-out concert commemorating the International Brigades at the Library Theatre in Manchester. Performers including poet Jackie Kay, Maxine Peake, TV star of "Shameless", our own Marlene Sidaway and local actors and poets sang songs, read poems and moving personal accounts from the men and women who went to Spain.

Bernard McKenna, a Manchester Brigadier in the audience, was given a rousing reception by the packed theatre.

Finally, Billy Bragg performed songs, reminding the audience that the same struggle for democracy and freedom that inspired men and women to support the Spanish Republic continues today.

Dolores Long

Forthcoming events in Scotland

● Tuesday 6 February, 12 noon, Howff Cemetery, Dundee; commemoration of 70th anniversary of Jarama.

● Thursday 10 May, evening event in Perth to commemorate Perth volunteers; contact Paul Philippou: [paul.philippou@stir.ac.uk].

● Friday 6 July, 12 noon, Howff Cemetery, Dundee; commemoration of 70th anniversary of Brunete.

● Rutherglen/Cambuslang: A new steering group has been formed to plan events for this year which will include a folk concert in Rutherglen with an International Brigade theme and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in Rutherglen Main Street. For further information contact Bill Bonnar at 0141-583 8022.

Echoes of Spain mosaic

Over 200 people gathered on the Portobello Road, London, on 18 October to see IBMT Life President Jack Jones inaugurate the Echoes of Spain memorial.

The mosaic, measuring 10 square metres, tells the story of the volunteers who went from Kensington to join the International Brigades and of the Spanish refugees who came to Britain, 4,000 of whom were Basque children on the ship *Habana*.

Carlos Miranda, the Spanish Ambassador, was one of the guest speakers. He emphasised that their sacrifices were not in vain and that Spain was now a democracy.

Alfonso Santana, who worked on installing the mosaic, spoke of his family's experience when the fascists attacked La Línea and how they escaped into Gibraltar, never to return to their homes. Amanda Hayes, vice principal of Kensington and Chelsea College, outlined the college's role in promoting community projects, and how they had supported this particular project over a long period of time. Fifteen to 20 volunteers had worked on it over a three-year period.

Jack Jones spoke about how ordinary people had taken the lead in answering the call to defend democracy in Spain and in a pivotal

moment in history led the fight to defeat fascism.

Among the gathering were many people with strong connections to that time in Spanish history. Felicity Asbee, now 94, showed posters she had designed in the 1930s to raise aid for Spain. Elvira Medrano told how, as a child, she had hidden in a lorry full of oranges going to the front so that she could see her father.

Manuel Moreno recounted how his father, at the age of 17, drove a Russian tank for the Republic. He talked of his mother coming to England on the *Habana* with the Basque children, how the children lived in 98 colonies around Britain, helped by the British people but not by the Government.

Sadly, all of the volunteers who went from Kensington have passed on, but two wives of volunteers were present: Margaret McLean and Robina Rose, as well as other relatives of volunteers. The Richardson family opened the meeting with a song about the fight for democracy and against fascism which their mother Hilda had learned in the 30s.

The mosaic was accompanied by an exhibition on the Spanish Civil War and it is hoped that a book telling all the stories will be produced in the near future.

Eddie Adams

Events in Ireland

● In Belfast on 16 September, the last surviving Irish Brigadier Bob Doyle unveiled a memorial plaque in honour of the International Brigades at a ceremony attended by 200 people, including relatives of one Scottish and 12 Irish Brigadiers. Bob's speech can be read at [www.geocities.com/irelandscw/ibvol-DoyleSpeech.htm] or viewed on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1wMogIL-xA]. This was part of a speaking tour also undertaken to promote his autobiography "Brigadista", with Bob addressing other meetings in Derry, Sligo and Dublin. Audiences heard Bob link the struggle in Spain with those today against globalisation and the war in Iraq. All available copies of his book, over 125 copies, were sold out on the tour.

● On the same day, preceding the plaque unveiling ceremony, the International Brigade Commemoration Committee held a public seminar on the Spanish Civil War. The speakers were Belfast historian Jim McDermott and Manus O'Riordan of the IBMT. Manus spoke under the title of "A Diversity of Volunteers", and his lecture can be read on [www.geocities.com/irelandscw/docs-Diversity.htm].

● On 19 October, Belfast held a tribute to Michael O'Riordan, organised by Lynda Walker, in which Annette and Neil O'Riordan also performed.

● On 7 December 7, under the joint auspices of the Ireland Institute and the Desmond Greaves Summer School, Manus O'Riordan gave a commemorative lecture entitled "The Connolly Column: Irish Experience of the Spanish Civil

...and abroad

War”, held in the Pearse family home, Dublin birthplace of the 1916 Rising leader Patrick Pearse.

Memorials in Hampshire

Two new memorials have recently been unveiled in Portsmouth and Southampton to the Hampshire volunteers. Bob Doyle was in attendance in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, when a headstone was erected on the grave of Jimmy Moore, who died from his wounds in a London hospital two weeks after returning from Spain.

Bob Doyle and Sam Lesser witnessed the unveiling of a new memorial in the shadow of the Southampton’s Cenotaph, in the city centre on 28 October. The memorial recognises the ultimate sacrifice of four Brigaders connected to the city who were killed in Spain: Ray Cox, Harold Laws, David Guest and Ivor Hickman.

For further details contact Alan Lloyd: [alan.lloyd121@virgin.net]; tel: 07836-764 411.

Marsa remembers

The meeting organised by No Jubilem La Memoria in 2003 was a joyous occasion welcoming the International Brigaders back to Marsa/Marçà by the villagers and their guests. The people who were old enough to remember Brigaders in 1938 enjoyed looking at Harry Randall’s photographs of the villagers in the summer of 1938. The Brigaders stay in the village in 1938, however memorable, was one moment out of a civil war that lasted three years, which was preceded and followed by decades of hunger and hardship.

The meeting in November 2006 was different. Most of the audience were the grandchildren or great grandchildren of people who lived through the civil war. There was interest shown in the first two lectures: the film about Brigader Alun Menai Williams’ return to the Ebro in 2005 followed by the reminiscences of five people, of whom three

were women, who lived through the civil war as children.

The greatest interest was shown in the three lectures about events leading up to the war in the Falset and Marçà area and the terror in Aragon in the summer of 1936, as well as a lecture about research into the killings in Falset in the summer of 1936.

On the Sunday there was a ceremony to commemorate the aviators from the Republic in the civil war. The lunch afterwards was attended by a few surviving aviators and their families, the families of dead aviators, and other guests.

Gillian Mehta

Homenaje in October

Lyn Joe Hill accompanied Bob Doyle and other Brigaders to Spain in October 2006 for a 70th anniversary Homenaje to the International Brigades...

We returned to Madrid for the first event of the itinerary: the unveiling of a new monument (a pair of steel hands 20ft high that can be seen for miles) at the Jarama Valley battle site, a fantastic occasion with massive crowds, brilliant weather/ scenery and excellent speeches, including those of IBMT President Jack Jones and Ana Pérez of the AABI (Friends of the International Brigades). The monument is a great tribute to all those who died there fighting fascism, including our comrade from Leicester, Roy Watts. In the evening we packed out a Madrid theatre to hear the music and poems of the civil war, performed as a tribute to attending Brigaders.

After Madrid we had similar receptions in Zaragoza and Barcelona, one of which included a speech from La Pasionaria’s daughter. At each rail station, large crowds met us, singing the “Internationale” and waving a forest of red flags. At the close of events in Barcelona, Bob read his brilliant speech from Salamanca. It had the crowd on their feet, shouting their approval. It was the

shortest and best speech of the whole trip. Everywhere we went, Bob was recognised as a hero and Brigader, and people young and old cried as they shook his hand and thanked him.

Ebro battlefield tour, May 2007

The 11-14 May weekend tour has now been organised by the IBMT and No Jubilem La Memoria to visit the significant sites covering the Battle of the Ebro in the summer of 1938. A full programme has been set out which will include a variety of visits for both fit and less fit, good food and good company. Full details are available from Alan Warren (see below).

The total cost for coach, food and accommodation will be £200. Please note that it is up to the individual to make their own arrangements and to buy tickets to Reus airport via whatever airport is closest to them in time to be collected at 16.45 on 11 May. The coach will drop off participants at Reus airport at 12.45 (for the Dublin flight) and 16.10 (for the Luton flight) on Monday 14 May. Details of trains from Barcelona to Falset can also be given.

To reserve a place please contact the organisers as soon as possible. For those who have already registered an interest please make cheques out to “The International Brigade Memorial Trust” and send to Alan Warren. All profits from the weekend will be shared equally between the IBMT and NJLM for future activities.

Contact: Alan Warren, *The Old Bible Christian Chapel, High Street, Abersychan, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 7AG with a SAE, or email [warren.ofbooks@virgin.net]; tel: 01495-775 561 or 07966-631286.*

Funding for Wales exhibition

Following on from the highly successful event at Big Pit Mining Museum, Blaenavon, in July, where a commemorative plaque was unveiled to the Welsh miners and the coalfield communities, a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been secured to update and enlarge the exhibition “Wales and the Spanish Civil War”.

The original panels documented the contribution made to the struggle for Spanish democracy by Welsh members of the International Brigades, as well as the wider political context of the time. The exhibition, consisting of photographs, letters and newspaper articles of the day, has been displayed all over Wales thanks to the tireless efforts of Arnold Owen, brother of volunteer Frank Owen.

The newly enlarged and revamped exhibition will be launched at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea in April, and will run until summer of 2009. It will be the catalyst for many events during the 70th anniversary commemorations,

Continued on back page



Unveiling of the Echoes of Spain mosaic in London’s Portobello Road. Speaking (right) is project convener Eddie Adams

Can you help?

If you do not have an email to reply to queries, contact Marlene Sidaway (details on front page) and she will forward messages and correspondence. Much of the additional information listed here about Brigaders comes from the British International Brigade archive, via Jim Carmody, the IBMT's researcher, whose work is very much appreciated.

● Paul Philippou is planning to organise an event in Perth (Scotland) to mark the contribution of volunteers from **Perthshire** who fought in the International Brigades. It will be on 10 May (in the local museum) and will comprise singing, poetry, readings and a short talk on the Spanish Civil War. He would like any Trust members or supporters near Perth to contact him if they could help him or contribute to the event. If you can help, contact [paul.philippou@stir.ac.uk].

● Paul Calderwood's grandfather, **Alexander (Sandy) Calderwood**, was reputed to have fought in the International Brigades, but we can find no record of this. Does anyone remember him? He was born in Glasgow, became a painter and decorator, and also fought in the First World War. If you have any information, contact Paul on 0151-520 0695 or write to 23 Corwen Drive, Bootle, Merseyside L30 7QA.

● **Frank Graham**: We have not heard from Frank or his family for a long time. Efforts to find out if he is still alive, or if he has moved from his home in Newcastle, have come to nothing. If anyone has any knowledge of Frank or his wife, Vera, please contact Marlene.

● Anne White in Australia is trying to find out more about her uncle, **Ronald Marsden**, reputed to have fought and died in Spain. He was born in July 1907 in Seaham, Durham, to Mary Ann and James Marsden, a coal miner. The family eventually moved to Doncaster. There is no reference to Ronald Marsden in our archives, but if you remember him, or his parents, please contact Anne at [big_ben13@bigpond.com].

● Dawn Broomfield (née Dobson) was told as a child that she was related to **Harry Dobson** and is trying to find out more about him and his family. There is a great deal of information about Dobson in many books and archives, and Jim Carmody has given Dawn over three pages of facts, but she would like to contact relatives so that she can fill the gaps in her family's history. If you can help, please contact her at [tonybroomfield@hotmail.co.uk].

● John Carrier is trying to find his cousin Dr Dolores Starr, daughter of **Nat Cohen**. John's

mother was Nat's sister and always regarded his Spanish Civil War actions as the most important political event of his and the family's life. You may remember that Nat is on the iconic photo of the volunteers with the Tom Mann banner in Barcelona, September 1936, with Ramona, who returned to England with him. John would very much like to meet up with his cousin Dolores again. Contact John Carrier on 020-7267 1376 or write to 37 Dartmouth Park Road, London NW5 1SU.

● Jonathan Derrick is editor of the Lewisham History Journal and a member of the local history society, he is researching into the life of **Fred Copeman** with a view to giving a talk to the society next June. Anyone with information about Fred, particularly about his later life and career after Spain, please get in touch with Jonathan on [jonathan_derrick@yahoo.co.uk] or 69 Swallands Road, London SE6 3JA; tel: 020-8697 0265

● Mike Mackay is setting up a small exhibition on the **Aberdeen** volunteers from 3 February to 21 May 2007 to mark the 70 years since the first Aberdeen men went to Spain. It will be in the McBey Room at Aberdeen Art Gallery. If anyone has artefacts/photos/letters etc, please contact Mike at [mikeamanda@orangutang.freemove.co.uk]; tel: 01224-820 090.

● John Dickie, nephew of **Geordie Dickie/Jack Brent** (see issue 14, page 4) is writing his uncle's biography, and needs help tracking down any artwork by Geordie's companion, Chris Maxwell. He believes she designed an "Aid for Spain" poster and probably drew Geordie at some stage. Has anyone any idea where her artwork can be found? Contact John at [johndickie100@hotmail.com] if you can help.

● Liz Perkins would like to find out more about her father **Thomas Ingram Lunt**, born in Liverpool in 1899 and died in 1955 when his daughter was eight. Liz was told that he volunteered for Spain in 1936 and sustained severe skull injuries which resulted in his having a metal plate inserted. Those injuries and his experiences affected the rest of his life. He had also served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in France in 1916. Thomas was living in Birkenhead when he married in 1944. He had also lived in Manchester at some point before the Second World War. If anyone can supply Liz with any information about her father, email her at [aj@perkins71.freemove.co.uk].

● **Bridgwater History Project**: Dave Chapple is collecting oral testimony and personal photographs from local people, together with written sources, to write the history of

Bridgwater people, their social and political organisations. If you can contribute, contact him at 1 Blake Place, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 5AU; tel: 01278-450 562; email: [davechapple@btinternet.com]. Dave's researching helped put us in touch last year with "lost" Somerset veteran Andy Andrews.

● Gary Ashley has some Second World War medals, given to **Sergeant L Davies**, who was born in Hythe, near Stockport, and died in 1976, having served in the RAMC. His details claim that he served in the International Brigades (possibly in a medical unit) but Gary can find no record of his time in Spain. Does anyone know of L Davies – or remember him? Contact Gary on [medwayantiques@aol.com] if you do.

● Bill Thornycroft reports that things are looking hopeful for a memorial in **Worthing** to honour those people in the town who looked after the refugee children when they arrived in May '37, and possibly one to Brigade volunteers from the town. Bill would particularly like to trace any niños who stayed in Worthing. He can be contacted at [billthebus@btinternet.com] or on 020-8670 4798.

● Claudio Veliz is trying to find out about the last few years of his friend of some decades ago, **Alec Digges**, who was Secretary of the International Brigade Association in the 1950s and 60s. Claudio has lost touch with Alec, and wonders if he is still around and, if not, when and where did he die. If anyone has any knowledge of Alec, contact Claudio at [cveliz@bigpond.com].

● **Griffith Campbell Maclaurin** was killed in the opening months of the Spanish Civil War at University City in Madrid. When doing some background biographical research on him, the team of Auckland City Librarians learnt that the beneficiary from his will – proven in London in 1939 – was Alonso Markham Elliott. Apparently Alonso was still alive in the 1970s and translating a book on Euro-Communism with Nan Green. Does anyone know if Alonso is still alive and does anyone have any details on him? He was a fellow student of Maclaurin's at Cambridge and like Maclaurin joined the Communist Party in 1934. If you can help, please contact David Verran, Team Leader & Local History Librarian at [david.verran@aucklandcity.govt.nz].

● Daniel Gray, archivist at the National Museum of Scotland, has been asked – following the museum's successful symposium on the Spanish Civil War in November – to write a book on **Scottish Brigaders**. He would like to hear from their relatives, particularly those of Tom Murray. Tel: 0131-623 3856; email: [d.gray@nls.uk].

Books etc

A bullet saved his life

The story of one of our last remaining veterans, Bob Peters, is told in a new book entitled "A Bullet Saved My Life". It follows Bob from his native Wales to Canada where he searched for work during the Depression. It describes his journey to Spain early in 1937 and his service with the British Battalion.

The book's title refers to a wound Bob suffered at Brunete which saw him transferred away from frontline duties to work as a dispatch rider.

Written by journalist Greg Lewis, the book features more than 30 photographs and fascinating reproductions of Bob's membership, pay and safe passage documents relating to not only the International Brigades but the Socorro Rojo Internacional and the anarchist CNT union.

It features a foreword by First Minister of Wales Rhodri Morgan and a preface by the late Alun Menai Williams, another International Brigader.

"A Bullet Saved My Life: The Remarkable Adventures of Bob Peters" is available from Warren & Pell Publishing, The Old Bible Christian Chapel, High Street, Abersychan, Pontypool NP4 7AG, or by emailing [warren.ofbooks@virgin.net].

Veterans and the Home Guard

"Home Guard Socialism: A vision of a People's Army", by Stephen Cullen, is a valuable account of the Home Guard in the desperate months in mid 1940 when Britain was alone in facing Nazi Germany. Its narrative covers the state of Britain during those early years of the Second World War and gives particular emphasis to the part played in the development of the Home Guard by those who had previously fought in Spain and those who had practical knowledge of the type of unconventional warfare which, it was anticipated, would be needed if the Nazis invaded Britain.

The part played by "Home Guard Socialists" like Tom Wintringham, who started the Training School at Osterley Park, and writers Bert "Yank" Levy and John Langdon-Davies is well documented, together with hopes of developing a "People's Army" which would have an active central role in the defence of Britain.

A fascinating insight into an important part of our working-class history, "Home Guard Socialism" is available from Stephen Cullen, 76 Hanworth Road, Warwick CV34 5DX; email [s.m.cullen@warwick.ac.uk]; price £3.50 including postage. Tom Wintringham's "Collected Poems" is available from Andy Croft, 26 The Avenue, Middlesbrough TS5

6PD; [andy.croft@ntlworld.com].

● La Columna will be participating in a homage to Osterley Park (home of the Home Guard, founded by Brigader Tom Wintringham) at English Heritage's Big Event at Kelmarsh in August. This may be preceded by another on May Day.

Spanish Civil War posters

Stuart Christie has released an extensive set of posters and Helios Gómez prints from the Spanish Civil War, which can be seen at [www.tvhastingschristiebooks.com/documents/art_main.html]. Stuart is giving IBMT members a 20 per cent discount off the prices listed on his website, as long as items are ordered via our Treasurer Nick Moreno (and we get at least five orders in total from members). Email Nick at [nick3737@hotmail.com] if you are interested in buying a poster/print. Please note that all A4 prints have sold out.

Leopold Kerney

September 2006 saw the launch of a very valuable research resource and web site – [www.leopoldkerney.com] – established by Eamon Kerney in memory of his father, Leopold H Kerney, Irish Minister to Spain from 1931 to 1946. Kerney worked strenuously to save the life of captured International Brigader Frank Ryan. The chapter headings of greatest interest to IBMT readers are: Frank Ryan in Jail; Frank Ryan out of Jail; Frank Ryan in Germany; and Frank Ryan's Correspondence.

Exhibits in Dublin

Last October, the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks, Dublin, inaugurated an exhibition entitled "Soldiers and Chiefs", detailing Irish involvement from the 16th to 20th century in wars at home and abroad, including both sides of the American Civil War and both sides of the Spanish Civil War. In the latter case the exhibition's subheadings are "Defending the Republic" (in respect of those who volunteered for the International Brigades under the Irish Republican Congress leader Frank Ryan) and "Signing up for Fascism" (in respect of those who volunteered for Franco's Irish Bandera under the Irish fascist Blueshirt leader Eoin O'Duffy).

The largest artefact dominating this section of the exhibition is the International Brigade Memorial Banner unveiled in 1938 in honour of those Irish volunteers who laid down their lives in defence of the Spanish Republic. My late father Michael O'Riordan was custodian of that banner and in 1990, in consultation with fellow

IB veterans, he presented it for display to the Irish Labour History Museum. Now it is officially on loan to the National Museum of Ireland.

On the Republican side, artefacts displayed include the militia identity card of Bill Scott, one of the first Irish volunteers in 1936, and the actual Army cap worn by my father during the 1938 battle of the Ebro. On the Franco side, artefacts displayed include the Irish Bandera uniform of J Doyle presented by his family, some shells from the battlefield, and the swastika-embossed autograph book of Sergeant Tom Hyde, killed in action in 1937 by his own fascist side during a confused attack by Franco's Canary Island troops.

Manus O'Riordan

Archive in Glasgow

Glasgow Caledonian University Research Collections, now housed in the new Saltire Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University, contains a considerable amount of varied material on the Spanish Civil War, spanning the different viewpoints expressed by volunteer participants.

The Gallacher Memorial Library material, initially donated by communist veterans of the International Brigades in Scotland, comprises books, pamphlets, journals, leaflets, photos, posters and more recently CDs, memoirs and memorial booklets of local historical interest. Also there are papers and correspondence of the former secretary of the Scottish IBA, G. McCartney, material from the Scottish Labour History Society, and pamphlets and journals covering the output of Guy Aldred during the 1930s relating to POUM and the anarchists in Spain; these were donated by John T Caldwell.

In 1995 Janey Buchan donated a substantial number of items relating to the Spanish Civil War, including ILP material, and this formed the basis of a separate collection, augmented by new and second hand purchases. Much is contemporary with the war and of special note is a selection of personal and press photographs of refugees and also nationalist areas of Spain.

The Centre for Political Song also holds special items from the Spanish Civil War.

Donations are welcomed by the university, and cherished photos can be loaned on a copy and return basis. For more details of the range of material please contact: John Powles, Research Collections Manager, tel: 0141-273 1189; email: [j.powles@gcal.ac.uk] and Audrey Canning, Gallacher Memorial Library, tel: 0141-273 1187.

Our archivist, Jim Carmody, has agreed to give a research "masterclass" when he visits the Spanish Civil War and Gallacher Memorial Library archives in the Spring. For further information contact Mike Arnott at [dundeetuc@hotmail.com].

Plans for our 2007 AGM in Belfast

The programme for Saturday 13 October and Sunday 14 October is being prepared. It will include a public event on the Saturday in Belfast City Centre, as well as the annual general meeting, and a social in the evening.

Sunday will include a bus tour of Belfast and meeting with local politicians and community activists. Lunch will be in the John Hewitt Bar where the plaque to the International Brigades is in place.

This programme has still to be confirmed and more details will be available closer to the date.

● **Accommodation:** The Days Hotel has agreed to hold 40 rooms for us for the 12 and 13 October for £65 per room single or double including breakfast (all rooms are either double bed or two single beds); wheelchair access. These rooms have to be booked before 31 August. This is a city centre hotel and is close to the day and evening venues. Book by phone: 028-9024 2494; email: [mailto:dayshotelbelfast.co.uk]; fax: 028-9024 2495; by post/cheque to Days Hotel Belfast, 40 Hope Street, Belfast BT12 SEE. When booking the hotel room quote the following reference: BTAGM. Budget accommodation is available at the International Hostel 028-9031 5435; Linen House Hostel: 028-9058 6400. Both these are quite cheap and city centre based.

● **Travel:** There are flights to Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport from Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Edinburgh, Exeter, Doncaster, Glasgow, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Newcastle, Manchester, Southampton, London Heathrow, Gatwick, Blackpool, Isle of Man, Cardiff, East Midlands, Cork (check with your travel agent). City Airport is nearer to the city centre, but both airports have regular bus services into town. By sea, there are ferries via Stranraer, Fleetwood, Liverpool, Cairnryan, Troon, and Holyhead. Via Dublin, flights and ferries are also available, but travel to Belfast will have to be arranged – about 100 miles by bus and trains, which are very frequent. A general rule is: the earlier the booking the cheaper the flight. Belfast flights can be quite expensive if left until the last minute.

● **Contacts for the organising group** are Lynda and Ernest Walker; email [mailto:lyndaernest@btinternet.com] or by post: FAO Lynda Walker, Belfast Institute of Further & Higher Education, Department of General Education, College Square East, Belfast BT1 6DJ, tel: 028-9077 9394 / 07751-951 785.

International Brigade Memorial Lecture

by Professor Julián Casanova

“The Spanish Civil War – Seventy Years Later”

2pm Saturday 3 March 2007, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ

Julián Casanova is the author of numerous important works on the Spanish Civil War, principally on the repression, the anarchists, and the Church. He is professor of contemporary history at the University of Zaragoza, and currently visiting professor at the New School for Social Research in New York.

We plan to make our annual lecture more of a “conference” day and the timetable will be:

11.00am: Film: “To Die in Madrid”

12.30pm: Lunch (good restaurant in the IWM or plenty of pubs nearby)

2pm: Lecture

3pm: Question and answer session chaired by Professor Paul Preston

3.45pm: Tea break

4.15pm: Showing of another film t.b.c.

Admission is free, but we will have a collection tin for donations to help defray expenses.

We also plan to have an early evening meal (at about 6pm) in a nearby restaurant. Please contact Marlene Sidaway on 020-8555 6674 or [mailto:marlenesidaway@hotmail.com] or Jim Jump on 020-7228 6504 or [mailto:jimjump@mac.com] if you are interested so that we can arrange a suitable venue.

Funding for Wales exhibition

From page 5

including educational workshops with schools to explore the relevance of the Spanish Civil War to our current political concerns.

The grant of £48,300 will be supplemented by the sale of educational packs for schools, books and posters. £1,000 will come from the fund set up by International Brigaders to maintain links between young people in Spain and Wales, held by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, which will manage the project. The South Wales International Brigade Memorial Trust, which raised the money for the Big Pit plaque, will contribute a further £200.

Ray Davies and Wendy Lewis

Cypriot volunteers remembered

Edited extracts from a talk given by Kim Economides in November last year in Nicosia at a meeting organised by AKEL (Progressive Party of the Working People)...

Cyprus has every reason to be proud of its sons who joined the International Brigades and who fought and died in the Spanish Civil War. But many if not most modern Cypriots are simply unaware of this contribution and even today there is no state recognition of these heroes in Cyprus.

Shortly before my father, Michael Economides, and Costas Lapithiotis died, almost a decade ago, both were made honorary Spanish citizens. And even in Britain during Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s 18-year Conservative term in office nearly every major British city erected a memorial for those who fought in Spain – yet, so far as I am aware, Cyprus has not one public monument.

Some 40 to 60 Cypriots joined the International Brigades, half of them going to Spain from New York and fighting with the Washington and Lincoln Battalions. The others went from London and they served with the British Battalion – 16 of them were killed. In the mid-1930s the population of Cyprus was 350,000 and this makes Cyprus the country with the highest percentage of volunteers in the Spanish Civil War.

My father had a photograph of all the Cypriot volunteers and I have presented it to the Ezekias Papaioannou Museum in Nicosia. As my father’s face is not visible (he is the one taking the picture) I also presented a picture of him. My hope is that the museum will not allow these brave men to be forgotten, for they are a fine example to future generations of the importance of volunteering for liberty.

Let me read to you a few lines from a powerful speech my father gave in July 1987: “Every generation has its challenges. The cry of the thirties “Peace is indivisible” is as true today as it was then. Indivisible also is the rule of law, democracy and above all the territorial integrity of nations. Partition is the filthiest crime of the age. Countries are cut in two to serve the requirements of imperialism.”

My father went on to refer to the arbitrary or fabricated partition in Vietnam, Korea, Ireland and of course his beloved Cyprus – and then concluded: “The heroes and the martyrs of the Spanish War are for us today an example and a challenge in our fight for peace, democracy and freedom.”

● A researcher based at the University of Stirling – Paul Philippou – is currently writing a book on the Cypriots who fought in Spain. If anyone wishes to learn more about this research he may be contacted at: [mailto:paul.philippou@stir.ac.uk].

Kim Economides