



# IBMT Newsletter

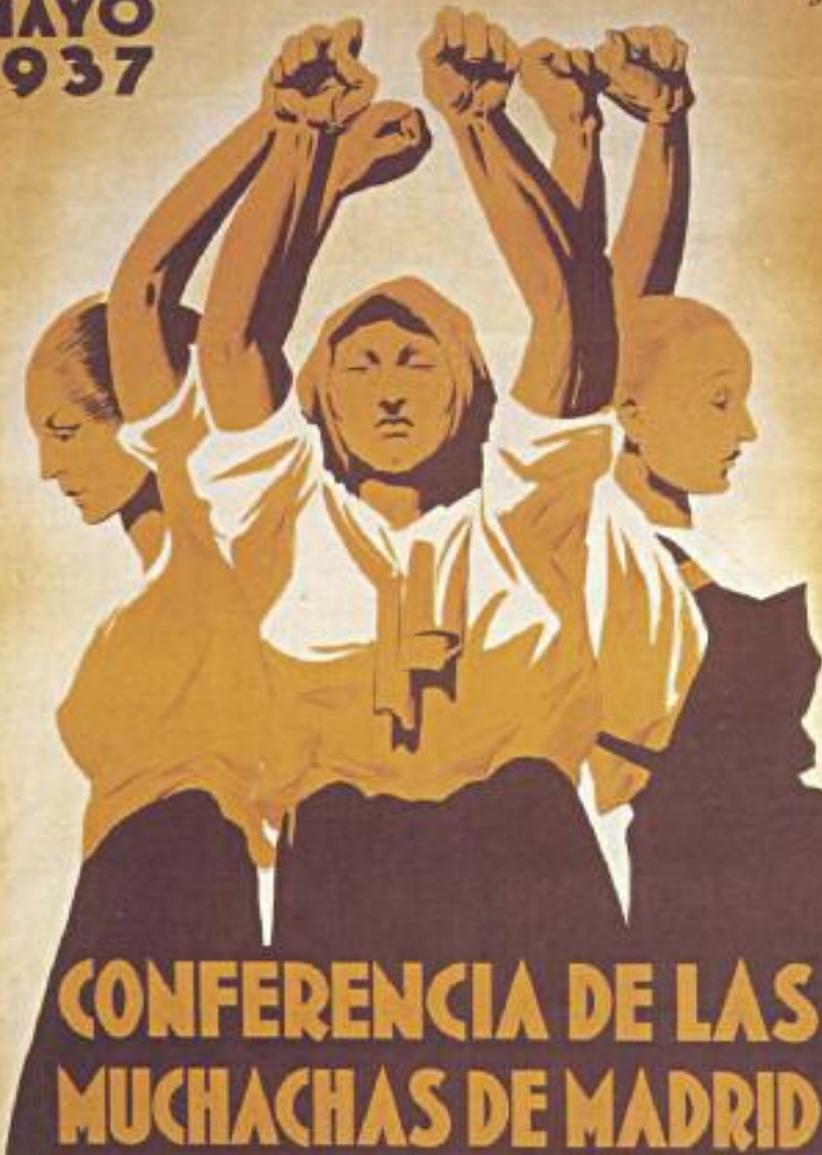
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Issue 41 / 1-2016

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST



MAYO  
1937



# WOMEN & THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR



International Brigade  
Memorial Trust  
2016 Len Crome  
Memorial Conference  
[www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)

**Saturday 12 March 2016 from 11am-5pm  
at the Manchester Conference Centre,  
78 Sackville St, Manchester M1 3BB**

**Professor Paul Preston**

Pasionaria of steel: the life of Dolores Ibárruri

**Professor Helen Graham**

Wars of development: Margaret Michaelis's images of 1930s Barcelona

**Dr Sylvia Martin**

Aileen Palmer and the British Medical Unit: 'our secretary, our interpreter, our dogsbody'

**Dr Linda Palfreeman**

Fernanda Jacobsen: Samaritan or spy?

**Fees and booking**

- £15 including buffet lunch (payment by 28 February)
- £10 entrance only (payment on the day)
- Send cheques payable to IBMT to: Charles Jepson, Aysgaard, Beardwood Brow, Blackburn BB2 7AT (no receipts will be sent); or pay online via PayPal: [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/catalog/conferencetalks](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/catalog/conferencetalks)]; queries: [[clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk)]01254 51302

**Further information**

- Dolores Long: [[doloreslong@fastmail.fm](mailto:doloreslong@fastmail.fm)]0161 226 2013
- Hilary Jones: [[hilary.m.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.m.jones@btinternet.com)]01625 527 540



Cover photo: Marshall Mateer

## Issue 41 / 1-2016

### Cover story

Stained glass window unveiled in Belfast City Hall: pages 11-12

### 3-6 & 8 News

Including report from the IBMT's Annual General Meeting in Aberdeen

### 7 Letter from Spain

Justin Byrne writes from Madrid

### 9-10 Secretarial notes

### 10 Obituaries

### 12-17 Features

- *Dad's Army and the Spanish Civil War*
- *February is commemoration month*
- *Remembering Bert Maskey*
- *Catalan cemetery where two volunteers are buried*
- *Jimmy Shand and his father*
- *Albania's volunteers for liberty*
- *New name on an Ebro plaque*

### 17-18 Letters

### 19-22 Books

Including study of blood transfusion techniques in Spain

### 22 What's on

Premiere for Hemingway play

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#### Editor

Jim Jump

37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU

020 7253 8748

secretary@international-brigades.org.uk

## International Brigade Memorial Trust

www.international-brigades.org.uk

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**GLASGOW GATHERING:** Anti-fascist campaigners from Hope not Hate held a commemoration for the International Brigades on 19 September at the Pasionaria memorial overlooking the Clyde in Glasgow. Speakers included IBMT Scotland Secretary Mike Amott, and the event was followed by a get-together with music from Arthur Johnstone, Calum Baird and others. Such was the success of the day that the organisers are hoping to make it an annual event.

## Planning application stirs strong opinions for and against

# IBMT makes case for Oxford memorial

Plans for a memorial in Oxford to the 31 volunteers from Oxfordshire who fought fascism in the Spanish Civil War are making progress – despite politically-charged objections by some local residents.

Strong feelings for and against the memorial have emerged during the public consultation on the planning application submitted by the IBMT to Labour-controlled Oxford City Council.

The application is expected to go before the council's planning committee in February.

The memorial has already won support from city councillors and officials and from local trade unions, political parties and community groups.

An editorial in the *Oxford Times* has also backed the idea, saying it hoped that “the city council will ensure that Oxfordshire’s rich and noble links with the Spanish Civil War will finally be properly celebrated in good time for its 80th anniversary”.

The aim is to raise a granite memorial of 1.8 metres in height in St Giles, a green space that includes the city’s memorial to the dead of the two world wars and abuts the St Giles churchyard.

The names of the six Oxfordshire volunteers who died in Spain would be inscribed on the stone, along with the outline of a clenched fist grasping a scorpion.

The memorial has been designed by sculptor Charlie Carter, who says he was inspired by an



**DESIGN:** The proposed memorial (above) names the Oxfordshire volunteers killed in Spain. The wording on the reverse of the stone will say: “International Brigades: In memory of the 31 men and women of Oxfordshire who defended democracy and fought fascism in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939. Six were killed in action.” The inscription ends with the words of poet C Day Lewis: “We came because our open eyes could see no other way.”

International Brigade cap badge with the same anti-fascist motif of a clenched fist and scorpion that was displayed at the 2014 exhibition on British art and the Spanish Civil War at the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester.

However, the planning consultation process has thrown up some local misgivings about the location, design and even principle of a memorial to the volunteers who went to Spain.

*Continued overleaf*



## Oxford memorial

*From previous page*

For example, Lib Dem councillor Elizabeth Wade complains that the design of the memorial is “aggressive and triumphalist”.

Quentin Campbell says the memorial is “an insult to the vast numbers of young Oxonians who died in the two world wars”.

Others have objected on religious grounds, arguing that Catholic clergy were murdered in some parts of Spain where the July 1936 coup against the Spanish Republic failed.

Not everyone agrees. Dr Mavis Bayton has written to say: “I support this proposal. The brave men and women who went to fight in Spain against fascism are largely forgotten. We need a memorial to remind people of their sacrifice for the democracy we now live in.”

Sculptor Charlie Carter welcomed the debate about what he called a “significant but largely overlooked” conflict.

“The clenched-fist salute is an entirely appropriate image to use in honouring the sacrifice made by the men and women of Oxfordshire who had the courage to stand up against the scourge

***“The brave men and women who went to fight in Spain against fascism are largely forgotten. We need a memorial to remind people of their sacrifice for the democracy we now live in.”***

of fascism that is rearing its head once again in our own times,” he said.

Local IBMT members have already raised more than £14,000, about two-thirds of the estimated cost of the sculpture and its installation, and last year commissioned the publication of an acclaimed history of Oxfordshire’s links with the Spanish Civil War, titled “No Other Way”.

### Fundraising continues

A benefit concert organised by IBMT supporters in Oxford raised £1,581 towards the memorial to the Oxfordshire volunteers. Held on 3 October at the West Oxford Community Centre, the concert featured performances from salsa band Ran Kan Kan, socialist choir the Sea Green Singers and singers John Christie and Maeve Bayton.

Just two weeks later Colin Carritt – one of the Oxford activists leading the memorial project – raised £1,100 in a sponsored cycle ride from Edinburgh to Aberdeen. He was with a group of riders from the National Clarion Cycling Club 1895 on their way to the IBMT Annual General Meeting in Aberdeen on 17 October.

“No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936-39” can be ordered from John Haywood, 1 Queen Rd, Banbury OX16 0EB; [a.j.haywood@hotmail.co.uk] for £5 plus £3 p&p; all cheques made out to the IBMT.

# Good site and fitting tribute for the Oxfordshire volunteers

By Colin Carritt

Oxford has been notably absent from the IBMT’s list of more than 100 memorials across the British Isles to the International Brigaders who defended democracy in Spain against the fascist insurgency of General Franco. This is despite a significant number of volunteers either living, working or studying in the city.

So in 2013 a group of Oxford IBMT members got together to put forward a proposal to the IBMT Executive Committee to redress this omission. We also commissioned three local historians to research the biographies of all those known to have connections with Oxfordshire at the time they went to Spain. Thirty-one volunteers were identified, their lives researched and the results published in “No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936-39”. [See ordering details at foot of this page.]

Several of the volunteers were from the city’s world famous university. Others were from the burgeoning Morris motor works at Cowley on the edge of the city. Others were agricultural workers from the rural hinterland. Some were politically active as anti-fascists, others had pacifist leanings or were from religious backgrounds, and many of these volunteered in non-combat roles as medics.

### Common cause

All came together in common cause. And many others, too numerous to mention here, gave time and effort and money. They raised funds for the families of dead or injured International Brigaders; they campaigned for a reversal to the government’s iniquitous non-intervention policy; and they sheltered some of the 4,000 refugee children who had fled the carpet bombing of Guernica and the Basque region in the spring of 1937.

As the book neared publication we continued to work on memorial designs and we took a preliminary planning application to Oxford City Council in October 2014.

The council’s planning committee greeted

our project with unanimous support. But they wanted us to be more ambitious in our memorial design and they had some reservations regarding our chosen location in the city centre.

On the suggestion of the council we sought advice from the Design Council on drawing up a design brief and specification. We then commissioned a competition and the successful sculptor was Charlie Carter ([www.charliecarter.co.uk](http://www.charliecarter.co.uk)). His design features a clenched fist gripping a scorpion, symbolising the struggle for freedom and democracy against the tyranny of fascism.

### Locations

In parallel we researched other locations in the city centre and eventually agreed upon a site that was satisfactory to all parties at the northern end of St Giles between the world war memorial and the attractive St Giles churchyard. This small park is owned and managed by Oxford City Council.

As well as sourcing and procuring the stone, we have obtained professional advice for the foundation design and have obtained quotations from civil engineering contractors with the required skills for the installation work.

At the same time we have consulted the Oxford Civic Society, the Oxford Preservation Trust, and the Oxfordshire Archaeological and Historical Society.

Throughout the planning stages we have been busy raising funds for the project through social events and concerts, book sales and donations from individuals and organisations. Our funding (as at 1 December 2015) now stands at £14,500 against a total project cost anticipated to be £22,500.

Revised plans were submitted to the city council in December 2015 and we hope soon to receive the green light to proceed so that the unveiling can take place for the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

Colin Carritt ([colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk)) is the chair of the committee of IBMT members in Oxford who are steering the memorial project.

# Annual General Meeting elects new officers to IBMT Executive Committee

## Aberdeen International Brigaders honoured in weekend of activities

The IBMT has a new Chair, Richard Baxell, and a new Treasurer, Manuel Moreno. Both were elected at the IBMT's Annual General Meeting held in Aberdeen on 17 October.

Richard Baxell is a historian and in 2001 was a founding Trustee of the IBMT, since when he has served continuously on the IBMT Executive Committee.

He is the foremost expert on the British volunteers who went to Spain and author of, among other books, "Unlikely Warriors: The Extraordinary Story Of The Britons Who Fought In The Spanish Civil War" (2014).

Manuel Moreno is a longstanding IBMT member and active supporter of the Trust. He hails from a strongly Spanish Republican background, both his parents having fled from Franco at the end of the Spanish Civil War.

He was for many years the chief executive of London-based wine importer and merchants Moreno Wines.

Richard Baxell replaces Dolores Long, who decided to step down as the IBMT Chair after five years in the post. He was elected in a ballot at the AGM in which he received 30 votes against fellow candidate Charles Jepson, who received 22 votes.

Manuel Moreno was elected unopposed, as was Jim Jump, who was re-elected for a sixth year as IBMT Secretary.

Moreno replaces Charles Jepson, who did not seek re-election as IBMT Treasurer, having served in that capacity for over three years. Along with Dolores Long, he was elected in Aberdeen as one of the Trust's 11 Executive Committee members.

Another nine Executive Committee members were re-elected by ballot at the AGM: Mike Arnott, Pauline Fraser, Mary Greening, Christopher Hall, Hilary Jones, Duncan Longstaff, Manus O'Riordan, Danny Payne and Mick Whelan.

They join IBMT President Marlene Sidaway on the 15-strong committee.

Richard Thorpe failed to be re-elected, though



**NEWLY ELECTED:** Chair Richard Baxell (left) and Treasurer Manuel Moreno.

### City's pride in its 30 Brigaders

Nineteen Aberdonians joined the International Brigades, five of whom died in Spain: Tom Davidson (Battle of Jarama, February 1937), Archie Dewar (Calaceite, March 1938), Charles McLeod and Kenneth Morrice (Battle of the Ebro, August 1938) and Ernest Sim (Battle of the Ebro, September 1938).

Their total rises to 30 if volunteers from the surrounding area are included, along with those who were born in Aberdeen but had emigrated from the city before going to Spain.

Unite regional officer Tommy Campbell, who led the organising of the events in Aberdeen on 16-18 October, said the weekend provided a valuable opportunity to remember the International Brigades.

"We should be proud of these men who stood up to fascism while the British government preferred to appease the fascist dictators. The International Brigaders were proved right, though they never got the credit they deserved from the government," he said.

he has volunteered to continue to serve as the IBMT's Education Officer.

The AGM was attended by 52 members and representatives of affiliated organisations and was part of a weekend of activities commemorating the International Brigades in Aberdeen.

To coincide with the AGM, Scottish Labour MSP Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) tabled the following motion in the Scottish Parliament:

*That the Parliament congratulates the Aberdeen Trades Union Council (ATUC) on hosting the International Brigade Memorial Trust's (IBMT) annual event to commemorate the role played by British volunteers during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s; notes that a series of events were held in the city from 16 to 18 October 2015, which included a civic reception with the Lord Provost, a social evening of film, music and poetry in the Town House and a march along Union Street; recognises that the ATUC and the IBMT unveiled plaques to mark the contribution made by two Aberdonians in the International Brigades, John Londrigan and Bob Cooney; further recognises that 19 men from the north east joined the brigades, five*



**NEWSPAPER CUTTING:** A march along Union Street with International Brigade and trade union banners makes a splash in the *Aberdeen Evening Express* (above).



**BLESSING:** Order of service (left) for a church service for the International Brigades at the Kirk of Saint Nicholas. The sermon was given by Minister Stephen Taylor, who also blessed a replica blood-stained Spanish Republican flag made by students at the Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen. Secular addresses were delivered by Unite regional officer Tommy Campbell, Neil Cooney, nephew of Brigader Bob Cooney, and IBMT Ireland Secretary Manus O'Riordan.

*of whom gave their lives during the conflict, and commends the IBMT and the trade unions from across the UK in their efforts to keep alive the memory and spirit of all of the men and women who volunteered and joined the International Brigades to defend democracy and fight fascism in Spain from 1936 to 1939.*

### Arrival

The weekend began with the arrival on Friday of a group of cyclists from the National Clarion Cycling Club 1895. They had set off from Edinburgh three days earlier and called at Spanish Civil War memorials in Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Dundee and Montrose along the way.

Members attending the AGM collected £297 for the Jack Jones Trust, which is raising funds to make a film about the former International Brigader and union and pensioners' leader who was the IBMT's Life President when he died in 2009, aged 96.

See our inside back cover for a selection of photos from the IBMT's AGM weekend in Aberdeen.

Oscar Rodríguez



**IN MADRID:** The 79th anniversary of the International Brigades' arrival in Madrid to defend the city from Franco's advancing forces was marked on 7 November at the International Brigade memorial in the Spanish capital's University City. Last year's commemoration was marked by a performance by the choir (above right) of the AABI, the Madrid-based Friends of the International Brigades, which organised the event.

Among the speakers was Luz Alonso, who shared her memories as a 10-year-old girl of the dramatic intervention of the XI International Brigade in the battle to defend Madrid.

On the same day AABI President Almudena Cros (above left, on right) and Mayor of Móstoles David Lucas (left) unveiled a restored memorial in the town's International Brigades Park that had previously been vandalised. Originally inaugurated in 1996, the memorial features a poem by Rafael Alberti to the International Brigades (above centre).

Then just a few days later on 19 November the town council of Móstoles, a southern suburb of Madrid, voted also to name a square after the International Brigades.



**IN BARCELONA:** The group Catorzedabril (above) led the singing of Spanish Civil War songs at a homage to the International Brigades held in Barcelona on 24 October.

The annual commemoration is timed to coincide with the anniversary – last year the 77th – of the departure of the Brigades from the city.

The gathering also heard a recital of the famous farewell speech by Spanish Republican leader Dolores Ibárruri (La Pasionaria) that was delivered in Barcelona on 28 October 1938. Organised by the Associació d'Amics de les Brigades Internacionals de Catalunya, along with support from Barcelona City Council and other civil war memorial groups, the event took place in Horta-Guinardó, next to the city's "David and Goliath" memorial to the International Brigades by Roy Schifrin that was unveiled in 1988.

### Voices from the past

Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias invoked the memory and spirit of the International Brigades when he addressed supporters in Madrid following his party's success in the Spanish general election on 20 December.

The voices of "heroes and heroines" from Spain's recent history were being heard at the rally, he insisted. Many of those he named were associated with the Spanish Republican side in the civil war, as well as cotemporary fighters and campaigners for social justice.

"We hear their voices tonight," Iglesias declared, "including those polyglot voices of the International Brigades who, having fought to defend our motherland, will for ever be counted as Spaniards."

Podemos, a left-wing anti-austerity party, won 69 seats in the new Spanish parliament, after being in existence for just two years,

The Iglesias speech (in Spanish) can be seen at: [[www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7UicgLTtI&app=desktop](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7UicgLTtI&app=desktop)]. The reference to the International Brigades comes at about 4mins 26secs.



**IN PRAGUE:** The Czech Freedom Fighters' Association has set up an International Brigades section ([www.zasvobodu.cz/interbrigady](http://www.zasvobodu.cz/interbrigady)) and on 23 October organised its first annual conference, held in the Senate Hall of the Czech parliament in Prague. Welcomed by Senate President Milan Štách, participants (pictured above looking at an exhibition of Spanish Civil War posters) heard historians, journalists and literary experts speak about the causes of the Popular Front's defeat in the civil war. Next year the conference will focus on the Czechoslovak volunteers who went to Spain.

### In brief

#### Greetings for IB supporter Corbyn

The IBMT was among Jeremy Corbyn's many well-wishers after he was elected as Labour leader on 12 September. Noting the Islington North MP's strong links to the cause of the Spanish Republic and the International Brigades, IBMT Secretary Jim Jump wrote in a letter of congratulation: "We wish you well in your new role, and trust that those who campaigned and fought for democracy and against fascism in the Spanish Civil War can serve as a continuing source of inspiration for you and others in the party."

Corbyn's parents met during the Spanish Civil War on a march in support of the beleaguered Spanish Republic, something that he has often pointed out in interviews.

Less well known is the fact that his second wife's grandfather was the Spanish consul in Chile when the civil war broke out in 1936 and he returned to fight for the Republic.

In 2013, Jeremy Corbyn was the sponsor of a motion in the House of Commons deploring the threat by the then right-wing Madrid city authorities to remove the memorial to the International Brigades in Madrid's University City.

#### Happy birthday Delmer and Stan

The IBMT sent birthday cards and best wishes in December to the two last known members of the XV International Brigade: Delmer Berg, who was 100 on 20 December, and Stan Hilton, who celebrated his 98th birthday on New Year's Eve.

Delmer, a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, lives in Columbus, California. Born into a family of poor farm workers, he was working as

*Continued on page 8*

**JUSTIN BYRNE** writes

## Historical memory on the political agenda

Corruption, the ongoing economic crisis, austerity, rising inequality and moves towards independence in Catalonia were the big issues in the campaign running up to the general election in Spain on 20 December. However, the IBMT's sister organisation in Spain, the Asociación de Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales (AABI), was one of dozens of organisations from all over the country and beyond that put the issue of historical memory onto the political agenda as well.

At a national meeting held in Madrid in October, representatives of over 70 organisations approved a manifesto denouncing – 40 years after the death of Franco and eight years after the previous socialist government's Law of Historical Memory – the fact that the Spanish state had failed to put in place effective policies of truth and justice for the victims of Francoism.

They drew up a wide-ranging list of measures for implementation in the life of the next parliament. These include official condemnation of the Francoist regime and legal recognition of and reparation for all victims of Francoism. Also demanded was the identification and exhumation of the remains of over 100,000 people, the victims of summary executions committed during or after the civil war and still lying in hundreds of mass graves around the country.

In addition, the manifesto called for the opening up of all Francoist archives, the repeal of the 1977 Amnesty Law and the investigation and prosecution of the crimes of the Franco regime, particularly the widespread abduction of babies at birth to be given away for adoption.

Other proposed measures are intended to help avert any possible repeat of the civil war and dictatorship. These include curricular reforms to ensure children learn about Spain's recent history from a democratic perspective and the introduction of an annual official day commemorating the victims of Francoism.

### Anniversary

On 22 November, two days after the 40th anniversary of Franco's death, hundreds of people took to the streets of Madrid in support of these demands, marching behind a banner calling for "Truth, justice and reparation for the victims of Franco" and under a sea of Republican flags.

The response of the political parties was predictably varied. Support was strongest from the "old" left, and above all Izquierda Unida (United Left), whose leader, Cayo Largo, told the demonstrators that the leftist coalition would present their demands in Congress the very next day.

While no other party has espoused the manifesto in its entirety, Podemos, the new anti-cor-



Demonstrators in Madrid on 22 November.

Marcos del Mazo / DISO Press

ruption and anti-austerity movement of the left, is broadly sympathetic, and other parties have expressed their support for at least some of its demands. The PSOE socialists said they would set up a truth commission to investigate the crimes of the civil war and Francoism, ensure public funding to exhume the mass graves and identify the victims and more generally "revitalise" the 2007 Law of Historical Memory.

More surprisingly, Ciudadanos, the anti-corruption challenger on the centre-right, has announced that it too supports, and would fund, systematic exhumation of civil war mass graves.

Among the major national parties, only the conservative Partido Popular (PP) has ruled out any new legislation, insisting that "90 per cent of the issues [of historical memory] have already been resolved".

## Jarama trenches now open to visitors

October saw the opening of the Open Air Museum of Cerro Melero (Melero Hill), featuring a section of Spanish Civil War trenches and fortifications overlooking the Jarama Valley, the dramatic natural scenario of the first major battle

of the war in February 1937. The construction, however, dates from the following year, when it was built by the Republican Army a mile behind the frontline, the last point of defence in the event of a Francoist advance on Arganda del Rey and the vital Madrid to Valencia highway.

Following archeological excavation and restoration of the site, visitors can now walk along hundreds of metres of trenches linking the different elements of the fortifications.

These include a concrete-covered observation post, 32 machine-gun and sniper positions and air-raid shelters for commanders and troops, all "manned" by various life-size, two-dimensional steel profiles of Republican soldiers in action. Information panels and, at the entrance to the site, a sculpture representing the course of the Jarama River, with an extract from Pablo Neruda's famous civil war poem, "España en el corazón", complete the installations.

An initiative of the local council of Arganda del Rey and co-funded by the European Union, the museum is one of the very few examples of officially sponsored efforts to preserve and curate civil war battlefields in Spain. Motivated both by the desire to maintain the town's historical heritage and to attract tourists to the area, it sets an important precedent and example for other local and regional governments in Spain.

A must for any visitor to Madrid with an interest in the civil war, Cerro Melero lies about 20 miles south east of the city. It can be reached by bus from the city centre (the 331 from Plaza Condé de Casal) and can be visited independently at any time or in guided tours (in Spanish) organised by the local tourist office (tel: 91 871 13 44). Above all for those travelling by car, it can easily be taken in on the way to the monument to the International Brigades on the Jarama battlefield and the Museum of the Battle of Jarama in Morata de Tajuña.

Justin Byrne is a historian and teacher in Madrid. He is active in the AABI Spanish Friends of the International Brigades [[www.brigadasinternacionales.org](http://www.brigadasinternacionales.org)].



Trenches at the new Cerro Melero museum overlooking the Jarama Valley.



**ON THE TILES:** Not content with painting an International Brigade mural on the side of his house (see photo top left and the report in our 1-2015 issue), IBMT member Sean McNeill (pictured), of Dartford, Kent, has now added a ceramic tribute (above) to the volunteers in his living room. The black and white tiled image is a copy of the famous Robert Capa photo (right) taken during a farewell ceremony to the Brigades at Les Masies, near Barcelona, on 25 October 1938. "Never underestimate the tiles at B&Q," says Sean, whose only quibble about his framed handiwork is its weight.



Robert Capa © International Center of Photography

## In brief

*From page 6*

a hotel dish-washer in Los Angeles when he volunteered to go to Spain. He has spent a lifetime of political and union activism ever since.

Stan Hilton, a merchant seaman from Newhaven, Sussex, jumped ship to join the British Battalion. He emigrated to Australia in the 1960s, and now lives in a nursing home near Melbourne.

According to the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group, Berg and Hilton are two of only six foreign volunteers who are still alive. The other four include two Frenchmen and two Mexicans. They were among more than 35,000 volunteers who went to Spain between 1936-39 to help the Spanish Republic.

### Call to end Blue Division pensions

The KFSR German International Brigade memorial association is calling on its government to end state pension payments to Spanish veterans of the Blue Division of 45,000 soldiers sent by Franco to help Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Accusing the Blue Division of war crimes on the Eastern Front, in particular during the siege of Leningrad in which more than one and a half million people died, the KFSR is demanding that the German authorities revoke a 1962 treaty between the Adenauer government of West Germany and Franco's Spain. "The continuation of this treaty sends a political message which is wrong and damaging," says the Berlin-based group.

### Sussex talk draws 100 plus

Former IBMT Treasurer Mike Anderson reports that more than 100 attended his talk on "Sussex and the Spanish Civil War" on 6 November at Uckfield Civic Centre.

Organised by the local University of the Third Age group, the talk centred on the 20 volunteers from Sussex who joined the International Brigades, as well as the arrival of refugee children from the Basque Country in the spring of 1937.

Few in the audience, says Mike, knew about Britain's role in smuggling Franco out of the Canary Islands at the start of the uprising against the Spanish Republic in July 1936. One member of the audience, however, said she had worked in the 1960s for the same aviation company as Cecil Bebb, the British spy and Sussex farmer who piloted the Dragon Rapide that took Franco from Las Palmas to Tetuán in Spanish Morocco.

### More than 1,000 Twitter followers

The IBMT now has more than 1,000 followers on Twitter. The milestone was passed in November 2015, less than three years since we started tweeting. Anyone who isn't a member of Twitter can still see the IBMT's regular Tweets on our website by going to the News & Blog, Events or Education pages at [www.international-brigades.org.uk].

**EMBASSY PROTEST:** Groups representing Franco's victims handed in a letter of protest at the Italian embassy in Madrid on 17 November denouncing the Italian government's support, via its diplomatic representatives in Spain, to a series of events commemorating the troops and airmen sent by Mussolini to help Franco's rebellion. Held from 1-4 November, these events included a mass at Franco's mausoleum at the Valle de los Caídos outside Madrid, a homage in Zaragoza to the 75,000 Fascist Italian troops sent to Spain and an act of remembrance for General José Moscardó and his rebel forces who resisted the Republican siege of the Alcázar in Toledo.



Victor López/La Comuna



**CAMP OF SHAME:** French Prime Minister Manuel Valls opened a museum and memorial centre (above) on 16 October at a camp in southern France where Spanish Republican refugees were interned in wretched conditions after Franco's victory in 1939. During the Second World War the Rivesaltes camp housed Jews, Gypsies and other "undesirables" before their transfer to Nazi extermination camps. Many of the Spaniards too were sent from Rivesaltes to the Mauthausen concentration camp and to their death.

Known at the time as Camp Joffre and located near Perpignan, the Rivesaltes camp comprised 650 barracks (inset) covering more than 600 hectares, making it Western Europe's largest concentration camp. It was one of a network of camps created by the French authorities close to the Spanish border to intern tens of thousands of Spanish refugees and International Brigaders.



*The International Brigade Memorial Trust keeps alive the memory and spirit of the men and women who volunteered to defend democracy and fight fascism in Spain from 1936 to 1939*

**International Brigade Memorial Trust**  
37a Clerkenwell Green  
London EC1R 0DU  
020 7253 8748  
www.international-brigades.org.uk

**Secretary**

Jim Jump  
secretary@international-brigades.org.uk

**President**

Marlene Sidaway  
president@international-brigades.org.uk

**Chair**

Richard Baxell  
chair@international-brigades.org.uk

**Treasurer**

Manuel Moreno  
treasurer@international-brigades.org.uk

**Membership Secretary**

Mary Greening  
memsec@international-brigades.org.uk

**Merchandise Officer**

Chris Hall  
merchandise@international-brigades.org.uk

**Other Executive Committee members**

Mike Arnott (Scotland Secretary), Pauline Fraser, Charles Jepson, Hilary Jones, Dolores Long, Duncan Longstaff, Manus O’Riordan (Ireland Secretary), Danny Payne, Mick Whelan

**Founding Chair**

Professor Paul Preston

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Rodney Bickerstaffe, Professor Peter Crome, Hywel Francis, Professor Helen Graham, Ken Livingstone, Len McCluskey, Christy Moore, Jack O’Connor, Maxine Peake, Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

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## SECRETARIAL NOTES

**SHOT IN THE BACK:** Cartoon by Dave Brown from *The Independent* of 3 December 2015, showing sniper Hilary Benn felling Jeremy Corbyn – with acknowledgements to Robert Capa’s famous photo of a Spanish Republican militiaman being killed in action.



© Dave Brown/The Independent 2015

## International Brigades are called into action yet again in arguments over war

### JIM JUMP writes

The International Brigades and the fight against fascism in Spain were controversially invoked during the House of Commons debate on 2 December that ended with a vote in favour of bombing Syria.

In their justification for supporting RAF attacks in Syria, two Labour MPs, including Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn, linked military action against ISIS/Daesh with the efforts of those who fought Franco and fascism in the 1930s.

Benn’s words were: “What we know about fascists is that they need to be defeated and it is why, as we have heard tonight, socialists and trade unionists were just one part of the International Brigade in the 1930s to fight against Franco.”

Meanwhile Ruth Smeeth (Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove) referred to the plaque in Stoke-on-Trent town hall commemorating the International Brigades. “The men and women of that movement risked their lives for their commitment to internationalism and solidarity, standing against an ideology that posed an existential threat to our way of life. Daesh poses no less a threat.”

Though Benn’s speech was praised in most of the mainstream media, his reference to the International Brigades provoked a storm of online protest on Twitter, Facebook and elsewhere.

“A cheap bit of rhetoric”, was how one person described it. The general gist was: While ISIS is a deplorable and barbaric movement, how can RAF Tornados dropping bombs from 30,000 feet be likened to the courage and sacrifice of those volunteers who defied their own governments to go to Spain and fight Franco, Hitler and Mussolini?

This is far from being the first time that the Spanish Civil War has been used in arguments supporting one side or other in wars in the Middle East and Maghreb.

The parallels drawn are always at best spurious and at times completely wrong or

dishonest. We’ve had newspaper columnists saying young Britons joining anti-government jihadist groups in Syria are just like the International Brigades. In 2011 the then Labour leader Ed Miliband said failure to bomb Libya would be like non-intervention in the Spanish Civil War.

Labour’s record in the Spanish Civil War, incidentally, was not blameless. For the critical first 15 months of the war, the party backed the Conservative-led government’s “non-intervention” policy – which blatantly favoured Franco by preventing the Spanish Republic from buying arms.

While the IBMT is carefully neutral on all contemporary political matters that have nothing to

***“The International Brigades and the lessons of the Spanish Civil War are still being used, however inaccurately and irresponsibly, as moral and political benchmarks by which to judge our actions today.”***

do with our stated aims and objectives, it’s instructive, if not flattering, that, nearly 80 years after the event, the example of the International Brigades and the lessons of the Spanish Civil War are still being used, however inaccurately and irresponsibly, as moral and political benchmarks by which to judge our actions today.

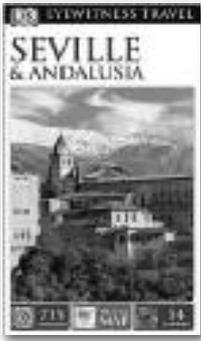
Finally it’s worth noting that a third Labour MP, Ivan Lewis (Bury South), also cited the International Brigades during the Commons debate in December. His speech, however, was in opposition to British military intervention in Syria – a position shared by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and most Labour MPs.

It would be “rewriting history”, said Lewis, to equate being on the left with always opposing military action. “I feel this more than most, as my grandfather fought in Spain for the International Brigade against Franco’s fascists.”



**WET PAINT:** Publicity given to the “forgotten” and neglected memorial bench dedicated to the Gibbons brothers on London’s Hampstead Heath (see page 24 of issue 3-2015) seems to have done the trick. When Marlene Sidaway, our President, visited the bench soon after its sorry state was blogged by Andrew Whitehead (see [www.andrewwhitehead.net/blog/the-gibbons-brothers-still-proudly-remembered](http://www.andrewwhitehead.net/blog/the-gibbons-brothers-still-proudly-remembered)). She found that it had been restored and re-varnished – indeed the paint was still wet, as a warning sign (pictured) proclaimed. The inscription on the bench remembers Danny, Joe and Tommy Gibbons, who joined the International Brigades. Tommy was killed at Brunete in July 1937.

## Not a good guide to the civil war



Here in the IBMT we are used to distorted depictions of the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War. Ironically they often appear when writers are being “balanced” and “impartial”, as if it’s right to try to find the centre ground in an argument between supporters of a

democratic government and those who back a rebellion led by murderous fascists and assorted reactionaries.

Usually we wearily let things pass – but not always, as is the case with the guide book “Eyewitness Seville & Andalusia Travel Guide”, which an outraged IBMT supporter brought to our attention.

We’ve now written to publishers Dorling

Kindersley complaining of “unacceptable bias” in the book’s two-page spread on the Spanish Civil War (pages 58-59).

We point out that the authors fail to mention that the Spanish Republic was a constitutional democracy – with elected governments of centre-left and right in power between its proclamation in 1931 and the start of the civil war in 1936.

Nor do they mention the fact that Hitler and Mussolini supported Franco’s fascist-backed military revolt – support which most historians conclude proved decisive in determining the outcome of the war.

The IBMT letter adds: “What makes this omission all the more inexplicable is that you find space to point out that the Soviet Union ‘supplied’ (more correctly ‘sold’) arms to the Republic. Yet such sales were far outweighed by the scale of help given to Franco by Hitler, who sent his expeditionary Condor Legion to Spain and provided large amounts of materiel, and Mussolini, who deployed some 70,000 troops, along

with tanks and aircraft, to attack the Republic.”

The letter goes on to deplore the book’s vague statement that Picasso’s *Guernica* merely “depicts the tragic effects of the Civil War” – and says nothing more about the painting.

In fact Picasso painted *Guernica* for the Spanish Republic’s pavilion at the 1937 international fair in Paris, Dorling Kindersley were reminded. “He was outraged by the deliberate bombing of civilian centres of population by Franco and his allies, and named his masterpiece after the Basque town that was destroyed by German and Italian bombers at Franco’s behest.”

The IBMT letter, dated 21 October, concludes by expressing the hope that appropriate textual revisions can be made in any future edition of the guide. As this issue of the *IBMT Newsletter* goes to press (at the end of December), no reply has, so far, been received from the publisher.

**Jim Jump**

[secretary@international-brigades.org.uk](mailto:secretary@international-brigades.org.uk)

## OBITUARIES



### Ada Grossi

Italian anti-fascist and veteran of the Spanish Civil War Ada Grossi (above) died in her home town of Naples in August 2015, aged 98. Born into a family of socialists who later fled Mussolini’s Italy for Argentina, Grossi worked in Spain as a translator and broadcaster for the Spanish Republic. From Unión Radio Barcelona and Radio Spagna Libera in Valencia she appealed to Italian

troops fighting with the Francoists to desert and also broadcasted direct to Fascist Italy. At the end of the war she spent time in French concentration camps before marrying Spanish doctor Enrique Guzmán. An obituary in Rome daily *La Repubblica* described her as “the radio voice that denounced fascist crimes”.

### Illtyd Harrington

Illtyd Harrington, who died on 1 October 2015 at the age of 84, was the son of South Wales International Brigader Timothy Harrington and the deputy leader of the Greater London Council in the early 1980s. This was the time when the council, led by Ken Livingstone, was actively supporting moves for a national memorial to the International Brigades in central London. The GLC indeed went on to provide the site in Jubilee Gardens, which was then run by the council.

### Al O’Donnell

Irish folk singer Al O’Donnell, who has died on 3 September 2015, aged 71, was a good friend of International Brigaders, writes *Manus O’Riordan*. He sang at the launch of the second edition of “Connolly Column” by my father Michael O’Riordan in March 2005 and for Brigadistas at the AGM of the IBMT in Dublin in October 2005.

### Nicola Seyd

Nicola Seyd, who died on 26 November 2015, aged 79, was the mainstay of the London Socialist Film Coop, as well as a longstanding IBMT member. She always made sure that films about the Spanish Civil War and International Brigades featured in the LSFC’s programme of monthly screenings (see 13 March listing: page 22). Nicola was also an active trade unionist and secretary of Camden Trades Council for many years.

# Belfast's new memorial window illuminates shared radical heritage of city's working class

By Lynda Waker

The placing of a stained glass window in Belfast City Hall to the International Brigaders who fought fascism in Spain marks a milestone in Belfast politics. It took place on 24 November, with the unveiling of the window being done by Belfast Lord Mayor Arder Carson and Liz Shaw, the daughter of a Belfast Brigader.

Many memorials to the International Brigades have been erected throughout the world, but this is probably one of the few, if not the only one, that is a stained glass window. The window was initiated by the International Brigade Commemoration Committee (IBCC), who first asked the council to place a permanent memorial in the city hall.

Then in 2014 Councillors Pat McCarthy and Andrew Webb moved the following motion: "This council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the city hall to commemorate the sons of our city who fought in support of the democratically elected government of Spain against the forces of fascism." The motion added that this would be in line with the council's policy to "make the environment within the city hall balanced and inclusive and to reflect the cultural backgrounds of all of the citizens of the city of Belfast".

The window is dedicated to those Belfast men and women who supported democracy in Spain and to those men from Belfast who went to fight Franco and subsequently Hitler and Mussolini.

In Belfast these men came from Communist, Labour and trade union backgrounds. They were from the Protestant and Catholic sections of the working class and they understood the nature of fascism and the threat it posed to humanity.

Though there is no evidence of Belfast women going to Spain, they were to feel the brunt of the situation at home. As mothers, wives and daughters they would be left to pick up the pieces when their loved ones were killed or returned home wounded.

Women, moreover, did play a very active role in public meetings, collections and so on, and were active in several support groups, such as

***"At the unveiling of the window there was probably the largest gathering of local relatives of Brigaders that there has ever been in Belfast, with over 30 in attendance."***



Photos: Marshall Mateer



**UNVEILING:** Belfast Lord Mayor Arder Carson (above) with Liz Shaw, daughter of International Brigader Joe Boyd, one of 51 Belfast men who joined the International Brigades. Belfast City Council put aside £24,000 for the stained glass window project.

**NO PASARÁN:** Belfast City Hall's stained glass window (left) was produced and collaboratively designed by workers at the family-run firm Alpha Stained Glass in Derry. Using the colours of the Spanish Republican flag, the window names major battles of the Spanish Civil War and depicts the coming-together of the city's nationalist and unionist communities in the fight against fascism in Spain. The 12 shadows represent the Belfast men who were killed in Spain. They were William Beattie, Danny Boyle, John Campbell, James Domegan, Bill Henry, Thomas Kerr, William Laughlin, Harry McGrath, Dick O'Neill, Jackie Patterson, Jim Stranney and Liam Tumilson. All served with the British Battalion except Henry (Abraham Lincoln Battalion) and Patterson (Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion).

the International Brigade Dependents and Wounded Aid Committee.

The Irishmen who went to Spain were immortalised in Christy Moore's song "Viva la Quinta Brigada", with the details regarding the names and their deaths coming from Brigader Michael O'Riordan's book, "Connolly Column".

O'Riordan, originally from Cork but living in Dublin, was present 10 years ago when the IBCC was formed by local activists and the Belfast & District Trades Union Council.

Over the past 10 years the IBCC has held many meetings and commemorative events, putting plaques in the John Hewitt Bar in 2006 and the Shankill Library in 2014, and a memorial in Writers Square in 2007.

A booklet has been produced for the unveiling of the window, containing details of IBCC activities and also facts about the Brigaders.

There are some 50 short biographies in the

booklet. A large number of Belfast men and indeed Irishmen emigrated to Canada, Scotland, England and Australia, a common feature in the 1930s at the time of the Depression.

At the unveiling there was probably the largest gathering ever of local relatives of Brigaders in Belfast, with over 30 in attendance. The Lord Mayor spoke, as did Ciaran Crossey, Chairperson of the IBCC, who said the window marked a landmark in efforts to preserve the memory of those who mobilised against fascism. "Their struggle must be linked to the continued struggles for equality and justice," he added.

Marlene Sidaway, President of IBMT, spoke and read Aileen Palmer's poem "The Dead Have No Regrets". Freddie McGrath, nephew of Brigader Henry McGrath, said a few words, noting that an end to wars is long overdue.

*Continued overleaf*

## Unveiling of Belfast's stained glass window

*From previous page*

International Brigade songs were sung by Andy Irvine and Mel Corry.

The council committee that oversaw the work comprised councillors from the Ulster Unionist Party, Social Democratic and Labour Party, Progressive Unionist Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Alliance Party and Sinn Féin.

IBCC Secretary Ernest Walker said this all-party group was a tribute to the values and principles that the Brigaders stood for. He also welcomed working with the city council, noting that Arder Carson was the third Lord Mayor (after Jim Rogers and Niall Ó Donnghaile) who had worked on the project with the IBCC.

**W**hat of the window? Standing proudly alongside the stained glass window that commemorates James Larkin and the 1907 dockers' strike, it contains the colours of the Spanish Republican flag: red, yellow and purple, and the three-pointed star of the International Brigades. It also contains the names of battles such as the Ebro, Córdoba and Brunete. In addition there is an image representing women – La Pasionaria – and the slogan “No pasarán”.

A poem written especially for the occasion by Sam Burnside is etched on the glass:

*The Call, 1936*

*Solid man, calf to ankle riveted,  
Booted foot to floor bolted, then the call:  
No fife, no drum  
A common man's conscience roused  
With others one by one from streets, far flung.  
Bestriding all barriers, they come.  
Modest men, men of backbone.  
Brothers all.*

The following inscription is on the plaque next to the window:

*With the agreement of all the political parties, this window was commissioned to reflect the contribution of citizens from Belfast to the fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1939.*

*About 320 Irish volunteers fought against Franco's forces as members of the XV International Brigade. Of these, forty-eight were born in Belfast. Twelve died in Spain.*

*The Spanish Civil War became for many an opportunity to stand against the growth of fascism. Men and women from all over the world answered the call to defend democracy and their working class counterparts.*

*Northern Ireland, already impacted by political and religious divisions, was deeply affected by these events and many local people took part in the Spanish Aid Campaign, including Belfast activists Alderman Harry Midgley, Betty Sinclair, Sam Haslett and Sadie Menzies.*

*They played a significant role at home, raising awareness to support the democratic cause abroad.*

*Having given all they had to give,  
To save from blood and fire and dust  
At least a hope that we can trust.  
We must remember them – and live.*

—Aileen Palmer, 1939

Lynda Walker is the Treasurer of the International Brigade Commemoration Committee in Belfast.

**O**ne of 2016's biggest movies will be “Dad's Army”. Directed by Oliver Parker, it will star Catherine Zeta-Jones, Toby Jones, Bill Nighy, Tom Courtenay, Bill Paterson and Michael Gambon. Filming began in Yorkshire in October 2014 and it is due to be released early this year.

Today we treat the Home Guard as a bit of a laugh. Dad's Army, as it is usually known, has been the butt of many jokes and the subject of the hilarious TV programmes and now the new film.

In fact the Home Guard was a serious attempt at building an organised resistance that would fight a guerilla war if Hitler's plan to invade Britain came to pass. It would be the final defence to stop our country falling under the Nazi jackboot. No joke really.

Civilians trained in guerilla warfare and classic resistance techniques like street fighting, sabotage and civil disobedience would be the last bastion against the Nazi invaders and the British traitors, some of them members of the aristocracy, press barons and even the royal family who would have undoubtedly thrown their lot in with the Nazis.

The man who dreamed up this fighting group, officially known as the Local Defence Volunteers, was Tom Wintringham, long-time communist and Marxist, military theoretician and historian who had fought in the trenches in the First World War.

Wintringham learnt about guerilla warfare commanding the British Battalion in the Spanish Civil War. When he wasn't fighting he was a noted journalist and writer, particularly on politics, military affairs and military history.

Wintringham was born in 1898 in Grimsby. In 1915 he won a scholarship to study history at Balliol College, Oxford, but left university to join the Royal Flying Corps. Poor eyesight stopped him flying, so he worked as a mechanic and motorcycle despatch rider.

At the end of the war he was involved in a mutiny before going back to Oxford. Already sympathetic to communist ideas, he spent his first long summer holiday in Moscow. Back in England he assembled a group of students aiming to

## Dad's Army: the Spanish connection

**National treasure Dad's Army has been turned into a film, but the men of the Home Guard were far from a joke, finds PETER FROST**

establish a British section of the Third International. This grouping would be one part of what would eventually become the Communist Party.

Wintringham graduated from Oxford and moved to London, ostensibly to study for the bar at the Temple, but in fact to work full-time in left-wing politics. By 1923 he had joined the newly formed Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) and in 1925 he was one of the 12 CPGB leaders jailed for seditious libel and incitement to mutiny.

In 1930 he helped to found the *Daily Worker*, the predecessor of the *Morning Star*, where his name became well-known. At the same time in pamphlets and articles in other communist publications he established his reputation as the party's military expert.

**E**ven before Nazi planes bombed the Basque town of Guernica — a rehearsal for later Blitz bombing — he called for air raid precautions. The CPGB took up this campaign and even shaped government policy.

At the start of the Spanish Civil War, Wintringham went to Barcelona, initially as a journalist for the *Daily Worker*. He soon swapped his pen for a rifle, joining and eventually commanding

Andrew Wiard



**CHARLES JEPSON** urges IBMT supporters and groups to organise commemorations, however modest, at their local International Brigade memorial in February...

In the preface of the International Brigade Association's book “Memorials of the Spanish Civil War”, published in 1996, Bill Alexander wrote: “There are fifty-five memorials dedicated to the men and women who left their homes in 1936-39 to help the Spanish people defend their liberty against fascism.”

Today, as we approach the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of that tragic war, it is pleasing to report that there are over 130 such memori-



Clockwise from left: Tom Wintringham and Kitty Bowler; Michael Gambon as Private Charles Godfrey on the set of "Dad's Army" in October 2014; Tom Courteney on set as Lance-Corporal Jack Jones; Osterley Park in west London.



Partkywiki

Partkywiki

the British Battalion of the International Brigade.

While in Spain he met and started a romance with left-wing US journalist Kitty Bowler, who was reporting on the Republican cause. Later Kitty would become his second wife.

In February 1937 he was wounded in the Battle of Jarama. While injured in Spain he became friends with Ernest Hemingway, who based one of his characters on Tom.

Following a second injury in action, this time on the Aragon front, a seriously infected wound saw him near death. Kitty visited him in military hospital and discovered he was suffering from typhoid and septicaemia. Patience Darton, a nurse with the International Brigades, saved his life: "I poked around with a pair of scissors and found he had a lot of pus in his wounds, which had been sewn up too tightly. And that was it; he got better very quickly."

He was repatriated, and wrote a book, "English Captain", based on his time in Spain.

Kitty came to England with him but in 1938 the CPGB accused her of being a Trotskyist and a spy. Tom refused to leave her and was expelled from the party.

He found a job on *Picture Post* magazine. He

also started to campaign for an armed civilian guard to repel any fascist invasion. As early as 1938 he was calling for what would become the Home Guard. In *Picture Post*, the *Daily Mirror*, *Tribune* and the *New Statesman* he wrote articles calling for all-out war against the Nazis.

The Communist Party was deeply divided. Wintringham strongly condemned the comrades who wanted to stay out of the war. He was even stronger in his criticisms of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. He regarded the Tories as Nazi sympathisers and campaigned for them to be removed from office.

In May 1940, after Dunkirk, Wintringham began to campaign for the founding of squads of Local Defence Volunteers, the forerunner of the Home Guard. He started his own military training school at Osterley Park, London.

There he taught volunteers the guerilla warfare techniques he had learnt in Spain. Along with other ex-International Brigade comrades he taught street fighting, anti-tank warfare, sabotage and demolition, all the skills in fact that would be essential to resist a Nazi invasion. He wrote many articles putting forward his views under

the slogan "a people's war for a people's peace".

The Colonel Blimps of the army did not trust Wintringham because of his communist past. After September 1940 the army began to take charge of the Home Guard training in Osterley and Wintringham and his comrades were gradually sidelined. Wintringham resigned in April 1941. Despite his role in founding it, he was never allowed to join the Home Guard because of a rule barring membership to communists and fascists.

He helped to found the briefly popular socialist Common Wealth Party. Later he and Kitty joined the Labour Party. In his later years he worked mainly in radio and film. He continued to write about military history, opposing atomic weapons and championing Mao's China and Tito's Yugoslavia. Tom Wintringham died on 16 August 1949, aged 51.

See the new film, have a good laugh, but never forget what Dad's Army really stood for: a civilian guerilla resistance movement that could have stood between us and the horrors of a Nazi occupation.

Aversion of this article first appeared in the *Morning Star* on 14 October 2015.

## Let's make February International Brigade memorial month

als, with others in the pipeline.

The IBMT holds an annual commemoration at the national memorial on the South Bank in London on the first Saturday in July. A number of towns and cities also hold annual ceremonies at their memorials on other days of the year. Such ceremonies of remembrance and rededication are extremely important to furthering the work of the Trust, as they help to raise awareness of this too easily ignored war, generate the sale of merchandise and increase membership.

Commencing this year, the 80th anniversary of the start of the war in

Spain, the Trust would like to encourage every village, town and city which has a memorial to the volunteers of the International Brigade to hold some form of ceremony, and more importantly make a pledge to continue it each and every year.

### Ceremony

The size and format of the ceremony is not particularly important; the main thing is to ensure that these memorials are used and used on a regular basis. Just one person placing a bunch of flowers will be a most valuable contribution to helping to

keep alive the memory of those who gave so much.

Where communities already hold an annual ceremony we would not ask them to change the date. Where no commemoration takes place we would ask our members and our supporters in the labour and trade union movement to organise some form of commemoration during the month of February. This would coincide with the bloody Battle of Jarama, where so many of the volunteers fell repulsing the fascist attack on Madrid in 1937.

Members should forward a photograph of any such events to the Trust

for posting on our website and possibly for use in the *IBMT Newsletter*. If only one or two groups or individuals make a start, we believe these commemorations will grow quite rapidly.

Memorials must be seen as crucial weapons in the on-going struggle against the ever present dangers of fascism. To hold any ceremony no matter how small will help to raise awareness of what was a glorious chapter in the history of the labour and trade union movement.

Charles Jepson [clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk] is an IBMT Trustee.



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**International Brigade Memorial Trust**

[www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1094928

## FEATURES

# Remembering Bert Maskey

By David Mason



**B**ert Maskey (left) was born Barnett Masansky in 1893 in Wilna, then in Russia, the youngest of four brothers. The Masansky family were reasonably

well-off Jewish silk merchants, with contacts in London, Germany and Baltimore. Bert had a good education and was fluent in Russian, German, French and English.

One of Bert's brothers was active in the socialist movement. In 1907 Bert was arrested, convicted and imprisoned for distributing pamphlets belonging to this older brother. Family influence managed to get his sentence reduced and Bert was smuggled into exile in Germany and from there to north London, arriving in 1911 or 1912.

Then along came the First World War. Bert was conscripted in September 1916 into the Royal Field Artillery and trained as a driver. By 1917 he was battery barber and billeted on Blackheath in south east London. Because he spoke fluent German, he was also used to question German prisoners-of-war. However, his attendance at socialist meetings of prisoners and his encouragement of the POWs he interviewed to join these groups led to his hasty demobilisation in 1919.

### Barber and Bolshevik

During the 1920s Bert ran his own barber's shop in Manchester and, after he joined the Communist Party in 1922, the shop became the unofficial headquarters of Cheetham CP and Young Communist League. All his comrades have fond memories of gathering there to discuss with Bert the latest political developments and campaign arrangements.

Bert was also involved in speaking at public meetings in Manchester's Free Trade Hall. His barber's shop became an unofficial library and bookshop for foreign socialist literature. He was also responsible for helping to collect money for the first Workers' Loan to Soviet Russia, selling stamps for a shilling a time.

This level of activity soon brought him to the notice of the authorities, especially Inspector King of Manchester Special Branch.

In 1924 Bert was arrested and imprisoned in Brixton prison, awaiting deportation as an undesirable alien. Fortunately for him, all the potential recipient countries refused to accept him. The Soviet Union labelled him a Trotskyite; Poland refused him as an alien; Lithuania, the geographical country of his birth, also rejected him. So Bert was released from prison and put under an alien order. The surveillance and house

searches increased. Inspector King became a more frequent visitor to his barber's shop – and not merely to get a free shave and haircut.

When he lost his barber's shop in a game of cards, Bert got a job in the barber's section at Lewis's, and joined and was active in the shopworkers' union. When the Depression left him unemployed, he became involved in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement, playing a leading role in the 7 October 1931 demonstration in central Manchester.

### Going to Spain

Late in 1936 two close friends, Bert Maskey and Sam Wild, left Manchester to defend the elected government of the Spanish Republic. They went to London to be met by Robbie Robson, the Communist Party official in charge of recruiting volunteers for Spain, and were given travel documents to Paris, where they were helped onto the next destination – Barcelona.

Sam has written: "We were in the same group until we arrived at the International Brigade training base in Spain. We separated when Bert was transferred to headquarters as an interpreter with his knowledge of Russian, French and German. Bert was killed on 12 February [1937], on the first day of the Battle of Jarama. I was wounded on the same day. I had a great liking for Bert and nobody knew him better than me."

Bert Maskey's death was announced in the *Daily Worker* on 10 May 1937, although a few days earlier the Manchester Dependants and Wounded Aid Committee had organised a memorial meeting in the Coliseum, Ardwick Green, in honour of Bert and eight other Manchester men who had fallen at Jarama. The speakers included Sybil Thorndike.

Sam Wild described Bert as "short, stocky and fair-haired; an avid reader, a great talker, a good mixer and a bit of a gambler on the side".

Joe Norman, another Brigader, knew him as a hard man, hard in the sense of tough in the struggle, a real socialist. "Bert was a legend before I came into the movement."

### Families united

Bert had two families. The first was with Sally Boon, with whom he had two sons, Boris and Leon. For their surname they took the alias of Mason on Bert's alien card. The second family was with Hilda Wild (Sam's sister), with whom he had one son, Albert.

On 25 May last year, at the Sacred Heart Community Centre, Manchester, over 50 people of all ages met to celebrate Albert Wild's 90th birthday. Everybody was a relative of the two men, Sam Wild and Bert Maskey, who left Manchester in 1936 to fight for justice, freedom and democracy in Spain. Albert, son of Bert and Hilda, sang the Patsy Cline classic "Crazy" as a duet with Fiona Cox, great-granddaughter of Bert and Sally.

I think Barnett Masansky would have been very happy with that as a memorial.

David Mason: [davidmason46@gmail.com].



The farm building that housed Clinic No.3 during the Battle of the Ebro (above); the site of the mass grave at El Perelló cemetery (right), and witness Rosa Safont (left).



## A cemetery in Catalonia: resting place for two British Brigaders

By Ivan York

In 2006 I began a regular series of visits to Catalonia, culminating with the purchase of a small house in El Perelló, Tarragona province, in 2011. My wife and I spend four to six months there every year and have made many friends. Since the beginning of our time there I have been hiking across much of the Sierra Pandols and Sierra Cabals, including Hills 666, 402 and 481, and last year was so pleased to see the latest IBMT plaque remembering the British Battalion's sacrifice in and around Corbera d'Ebre.

It was in 2012 that I began researching mass burials in Catalonia, specifically relating to the Battle of the Ebro. According to a map produced for the Spanish Justice Department by the ARMH Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory, the El Perelló town cemetery was a site of a mass burial. I visited the cemetery and discovered an area in the middle of it (see photo) that had no markers or grave stones and appeared to have a concave surface – consistent with excavations. My curiosity was pricked – who were the people buried here?

I discovered that two British volunteers from the 15th International Brigade, Cyril James Scott of Swansea and John Ferguson of Glasgow, were listed in the IBMT Roll of Honour as having died of wounds in a hospital in El Perelló. I began asking the older people whether they recalled a hospital in the village – but none could.

It was only in the summer of 2015 that I was able to make several more connections



**JOHN FERGUSON**, of 840 London Road, Bridgeton, Glasgow, was a veteran of the First World War. He emigrated to Alaska and then Canada, working as a miner. He arrived in Spain on 17 March 1937. He was with the Abraham Lincoln Battalion at Brunete, then joined the British Battalion's machine-gun company in June 1938.

**JAMES SCOTT**, of 51 Wern Road, Swansea, was a merchant seaman, single and aged 30. He jumped ship, the *Greatend*, at Valencia and joined the British Battalion on 13 November 1937.

regarding these two men, which leads me to conclude that they are amongst those buried in the mass grave in El Perelló.

During and following the Battle of the Ebro, field hospitals were set up in the Burga valley, which at that time came under the administrative responsibility of El Perelló. My next stop was the El Perelló *adjuntament* (town hall), where the town clerk, Francesca Batlle i Bosch, and the mayor, Genoveva Margalefi Valiente, were very helpful. The 1938 registry included death certificates for John Ferguson, dated 26 July 1938, and James Scott (spelled Escot), dated 31 July 1938. Both had died at "Hospital Clinic No. 3".

After several more visits and meetings with locals I found the site of the clinic, now a farm building housing tractors and implements. While photographing it I met an elderly man who told me that as a boy he knew one of the volunteer nurses who had worked there during 1938 and as far as he knew she was still alive.

I traced Rosa Safont to a nearby village and despite her 96 years she was able to explain in great detail not only her work but also the impact of the civil war on herself, her friends and family. She could not recall any specific individuals, but did remember soldiers coming from the 11th (Lister) Division and some from the 15th International Brigade. She also described how the dead were wrapped in sheets and transported by truck to El Perelló for burial in the cemetery's *fossa comuna* (mass grave): the last resting place for Ferguson and Scott.

By Lee Richardson

Whilst engaged in an unrelated piece of research I came across the name of James Shand, and once I had completed my initial task I devoted some time to finding out more information about this interesting person and his son, who fought in Spain as a member of the International Brigades.

James Shand was born in 1887. At some point in the early 20th century he qualified as a pharmacist and was working in the Bristol area. His brother, William Garrow Shand, was a doctor in Salford, whose obituary in 1916 stated that he was a prominent member of the Socialist Party and had served on the local council in that capacity from 1908 for four years.

James eventually moved to Salford himself and also became politically active, joining the Communist Party as an early member. A 1921 election report from Caerphilly describes James as “that most enthusiastic of Bolsheviks”, after he supplied election campaign supporters with two cars and a motorcycle and sidecar.

**Career**

He seemed to have forsaken his career as a dispensing pharmacist as he set up several greyhound tracks in Liverpool during the 1930s – my grandfather’s family training several of his coursing greyhounds.

# The story of Jimmy Shand, father and son

James’s son, Jimmy, attended the Summerhill School and joined the Young Communist League in Liverpool whilst working as a clerk at one of his father’s dog tracks.



James Shand, in light coloured long tweed coat with rosette, with wife Minnie Shand (on his left) at a greyhound meeting.

He arrived in Spain in January 1938 to join the Brigades and saw action in an anti-aircraft battery, serving in Teruel, Aragon and Levante. After the farewell to the Brigades in October of that year, Jimmy stayed on in Spain, broadcasting on Radio Madrid and providing valuable propaganda for the Republicans.

During this time his father was active with the Merseyside branch of Aid to Spain and part-financed a ship taking refugees to Mexico.

As the situation in Spain worsened in early 1939, Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the Communist Party, wrote to the Spanish Communist Party asking that Jimmy be released from his duties as a broadcaster.

His father chartered an aeroplane to rescue him and others. Not wishing to leave any of his son’s comrades behind, Shand Senior even hired a taxi to take three of them from Marseilles to Boulogne.

Upon return to the UK Jimmy became a regular contributor to the *Daily Worker*, reviewing books, assisting with research – and providing eyewitness accounts of the Casado putsch in Madrid that ended the war in Spain.

During his latter years Jimmy enjoyed a more sedate life as a farmer in Pettistree, Suffolk, occasionally racing sports cars in amateur events.

With thanks to Danny Payne, Alan Warren and Kevin Buyers.

# Albania still remembers its volunteers for liberty

By Brian Ferris

On a recent trip to Albania I visited the National Historical Museum in Tirana. This used to be a paean to the glorious past of Albania in general and the Party of Labour of Albania in particular, led by Enver Hoxha. It was then cynically referred to by visitors as the National Hysterical Museum.

However, in a new section of the museum devoted to casting some light on the true history of Albania during the 20th century, I came across a small memorial to those Albanians who joined the International Brigades in Spain.

Of 37 Albanians known to have taken part, 17 were killed in the Spanish Civil War. Three subsequently became famous in Albania, and one of the display panels in the museum is dedicated to these “Vullnëtarit i Lirisë” (volunteers for liberty).

**Mehmet Shehu**, like most Albanians, joined the Italian Garibaldi Battalion and ended the war in a French concentration camp. He returned to Albania in 1942, where he quickly became commander of the 1st Partisan Assault Brigade and took a leading role in the liberation of Albania.

After the war he was prime minister of Albania from 1954 to 1981. A close friend of Enver Hoxha, he committed suicide in mysterious circumstances in 1981, after which he was denounced as a multiple traitor, spying for the Russians, Yugoslavs, Americans and British. His entire extended family was arrested and imprisoned.

Rumours persist that he was murdered on the orders of Hoxha, who feared Shehu might supplant him as Party of Labour general secretary.

**Skender Luarasi**, a writer, lecturer and poet, had been imprisoned under the regime of King Ahmet Zogu. He travelled to Spain in December 1936 and was unable to return to Albania until 1945. He had a difficult relationship with the post-war Albanian government and, although never actually arrested (because of his cultural status), frequently had his publications censored or banned. He died in 1982.

**Petro Marku** was another writer who was imprisoned under the Zogu regime. He was one of the first Albanians to travel to Spain, in August 1936, and fought with the Garibaldi Battalion. He was the author of the only two issues of *Vullnëtarit i Lirisë* that were published in Albanian in Madrid.

Marku was deported from France to Albania in 1940, but was immediately arrested by the occupying Italian army and remained in prison until October 1944. Upon his release he took part in the partisan struggle against the German occupying forces.

After the war he fell foul of the Ministry of the Interior, and spent 3½ years in prison, having been tortured into confessing that he had passed information to the British and Americans. He continued to write after his release and his most famous work, “Hasta la Vista”, about his time in Spain, was published in 1958. Some of his later

works were banned but, following his death in 1991, he was recognised as a cultural hero and has a square named after him in his home town of Dhermi, on the Ionian coast.



From left: Photos of International Brigaders Mehmet Shehu, Skender Luarasi and Petro Marku at Albania’s National Historical Museum.

Right: Colleen and Sam Darby at the Battle of the Ebro memorial at Camposines, near La Fatarella.

Below: part of the memorial ceremony.



## Name on a plaque means so much

**COLLEEN DARBY** recently attended a ceremony to commemorate those who died in Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War. She was delighted that her uncle's name has now been added to a memorial there. This is her report.

My uncle, Maurice Friedman, was from San Francisco, California, as I am. At the age of 20 in 1937 he was a merchant seaman when he volunteered to fight against the fascist uprising in Spain. A few short months later, in April 1938, he was killed near Gandesa.

Alan Warren ([www.pdlhistoria.wordpress.com](http://www.pdlhistoria.wordpress.com)) helped a great deal in doing research about my uncle. Then early in 2015 I received an email from him telling me that the Catalan regional government was planning to put some more names on a plaque at the Camposines war memorial, asking me if I wanted my uncle's name engraved on it.

Needless to say I was both overwhelmed and overjoyed. I gave my uncle's details to the Catalan office, they verified these details and replied that they were happy to include his name on the plaque.

A few weeks later I received a letter inviting me to the annual ceremony to be held on

***“Finally my uncle was going to be remembered for sacrificing his life fighting fascism and defending democracy in a foreign land.”***

Saturday 17 October at the Camposines memorial near La Fatarella. The memorial is for the Battle of the Ebro fought from July to November 1938, but it includes people like my uncle who fought and died in the retreats in April 1938 in the same region.

It is on the side of a small hill overlooking the valley where much of the Battle of the Ebro was fought. The memorial is very simple and tasteful. You look out from it to see the valley and you can climb a narrow staircase that evokes life in the trenches.

The ceremony was also simple and tasteful. The main speaker said a few sentences in English, in which he acknowledged the role of the International Brigades and thanked us for attending the ceremony.

Then Dani Morén sang some beautiful songs. Dani runs the music collective Brigada Intergeneracional ([www.brigadaintergeneracional.wordpress.com](http://www.brigadaintergeneracional.wordpress.com)). They are looking for foreign contributors and the idea is to engage young people in understanding the Spanish Civil War.

After the ceremony was over everyone gathered at the plaques where the names of relatives are listed to place red carnations and take photos. Altogether, the plaque with my uncle's name on it, the memorial and the ceremony were extremely moving.

At one point I was overcome by the unbelievably amazing and wonderful knowledge that finally my uncle was going to be remembered for sacrificing his life fighting fascism and defending democracy in a foreign land. My mother and grandmother, who wept whenever he was spoken of, would have been so grateful to know this.

I only hope that all the others who died in the Spanish Civil War can also be remembered in this way.

## I'm pleased I told my dad a white lie

I've read with pleasure the Letters section of three recent issues of the *IBMT Newsletter* (2-2014, 1-2015 and 2-2015). All were of special interest as I am Jimmy Moon's son and am thrilled that memories of my dad are being kept alive in your pages. I still have a number of his papers and can add further information on aspects published in your pages.

● Issue 2-14: My copy of the poem “Cloudless Day in Spain” is virtually identical to that given to Martin Cantor in 1990 and has a note in my dad's handwriting after the last verse showing it was amended on 23 June 1986.

● Issue 1-15: A letter from the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham dated 11 August 1997 was sent to my dad inviting him to attend the



Jimmy Moon's 1963 passport photo.

unveiling ceremony in Bishop's Park, which he accepted but was disappointed (without showing it) that his name was not carved on the stone.

It took several phone calls from me over many months for dad's name to be added. I received a confirmation letter dated

10 August 1998 from the mayor's office just short of a full year since the unveiling had taken place. I must also admit to telling a little white lie when my dad's health had deteriorated and he was too ill to leave the house. I told him that his name had now been carved on the memorial and the smile and look of satisfaction on his face convinced me to feel I had done the right thing. My dad died on 19 May 1998 in Dartford, Kent.

● Issue 2-15: I hadn't seen the photo before of my dad with three other people in a boat, which Ken Thomas included in his recollections of Jimmy Moon. I do have several of my dad's passports, including the one he used for that trip to the German Democratic Republic in 1963. The visa stamp pages show that he travelled via the Hook of Holland and then overland to the GDR. He left the GDR exactly three weeks later.

**Donald Thomas Moon**

By email

### How the IBMT has grown!

What a splendid issue 3-2015 is: a particularly striking front cover with the picture of the base camp at Albacete — in some ways much more effective than a photograph would have been; the fascinating postscript about the “lost” memorial on Hampstead Heath; Owen Jones's terrific speech at the annual gathering in Jubilee Gardens; and so much more — 24 pages packed with interesting news.

The photograph on page 9 shows, in addition to the late Joe Monks, Betty Birch in the fore-

*Continued overleaf*

# John Cornford was one of a generation of left luminaries

Thank you for printing (“Poems of love and loss”, issue 3-2015) “Ringstead Mill”, the poem that my mother Margot Heinemann wrote so many years after the death of her first great love, John Cornford [pictured]. It is right to say that she remembered John all her life.

She did not, however, always agree with what later writers made of him. She enjoyed Victor Kiernan’s piece in “John Cornford: A Memoir”, saying: “It resists the kind of hero-worship and idealisation sometimes attached since to John, but that is partly what makes it telling.”

She wanted to remember him as he was, not as a saint, a visionary or a poster-boy. For example she wrote: “I don’t myself see him as the charismatic lost leader of the left and think this characterisation comes from reading a few biographies in isolation from the history. It was a time at



which a great many people, including young ones, were drawn to the Left and to Communism, and the leadership which developed was very much a collective affair: its weaknesses and blindnesses were collective too.”

She added: “The leadership of the Cambridge students was not a one-man band.” She names James Klugmann, Brian and Roger Simon, Dick

Freeman, George Matthews, Malcolm McEwen, Freddie Vicars, David Guest and Eric Hobsbawm as among the “charismatic” leaders. “Indeed you could say that Ram Nahum, killed by a stray bomb in Cambridge in 1941, was quite as charismatic for his generation.”

She also wrote: “I don’t think in those years John Cornford was primarily interested in being a revolutionary poet, though he was intensely interested in poetry and that indeed is largely how we got to know one another. But he was greatly concerned—as we all were—with immediate action to create a wide movement against Fascism, against poverty, against war and that both took up most of his time and provided the practical experience which he was very conscious of lacking and without which he felt that neither his poetry nor his historical writing

could be more than superficial.”

Margot kept three pictures on display in the nursing home where she died: one of John Cornford; one of my father, JD Bernal; and Clive Branson’s picture of a man selling the *Daily Worker*, the one that appears inside the front cover of *IBMT Newsletter* issue 2-2015. It hung on our wall at home when I was a child. Noreen Branson was Margot’s closest friend. Both of them tried to see their personal losses (Clive fought with the International Brigade but was killed in the Second World War in Burma in 1944) in a wider political context. This could mean that what they said in public sounded a little impersonal. They got on with their lives, they formed other relationships, but in some ways they grieved and mourned all their lives.

**Jane Bernal**  
By email

## From previous page

ground and, we think, Ann Mildwater, the daughter of Jeff Mildwater, wounded at Fuentes de Ebro. They were among the members (including myself) of the International Brigade Memorial Appeal committee, which raised the money for the memorial.

How the IBMT has grown! It is several years since Betty and I have been able to attend the annual Jubilee Gardens event as we are now not mobile enough to do so. But we are so proud to have been associated with the International Brigade Association and now the IBMT for the past 64 years.

Congratulations, best wishes and many thanks to you and the rest of your team.

**Chris Birch**  
By email

## Appreciation from France

Thank you for the beautiful time we spent with you on 4 July at Jubilee Gardens. Not only did you arrange “Spanish weather” for your guests and participants, but you also gave us a very moving ceremony to celebrate what we all share in *la*

**EBRO UNVEILING FOOTAGE:** IBMT member Mark Hulbert, from Bath, wants to know if there is any video footage of the visit to the Ebro battlefield in May 2005. This was when a plaque listing the British Battalion dead was unveiled in the Sierra Pandols. Present were four International Brigaders: Bob Doyle, Jack Jones, Sam Lesser and Alun Menai Williams. If you know of any such video, get in touch with the IBMT (see page 9) and we will pass on the information to Mark.

*fraternité* of International Brigade memorial associations. The tone of speeches from our younger supporters underlined the never-ending need to promote and defend those universal values that inspired “Los Internacionales”.

My regards to all members of the IBMT who managed to make this event possible.

**Roberto Lample**

ACER – Les Amis des Combattants en Espagne  
Républicaine  
Paris

## Recommended DVD



DVD “Invisible Heroes: African Americans in the Spanish Civil War”.

Having received and viewed it, I must recommend this film very highly. It is based around the memoirs of James Yates, a black American volunteer in Spain who wrote an exceptional book, “Mississippi to Madrid”, which deals with his life and especially his time in Spain.

The DVD also outlines the contributions of some of the over 80 African-American volunteers who served. Outstanding are the parts showing the contributions of individuals such as Walter Garland, who commanded a machine-gun company, Salaria Kea, a nurse who looked after the wounded and later married an Irish volunteer, Pat

O’Reilly, and Oliver Law, who commanded the Lincoln Battalion until his death in battle, the first example in American history of a black man to command an integrated group of soldiers.

Also included are interviews with academics and political figures, such as the late General Secretary of the Spanish Communist Party, Santiago Carrillo.

I urge anyone interested to go to the ALBA website ([www.alba-valb.org](http://www.alba-valb.org)) to obtain a copy of a unique example of people’s history.

**David Horsley**  
By email

## Who remembers Arthur Poxon?

In the early 70s, whilst working on the *Daily Express*, Manchester, I became acquainted with Arthur Poxon, a porter at the then Smithfield market. We journalists took our breaks in the Burton Arms, Swan Street, close to the market.

He told me about his experiences in the International Brigade, and he had particularly grim memories of Belchite, where, I think, he had a finger shot off. I recall he was from the Nottinghamshire area, and he had a strong East Midlands accent. I assume, therefore, that Arthur and Lionel Poxon (referred to in the “Mystery sketch” article in *IBMT Newsletter* 1-2013) were one and the same person.

I believe Arthur died circa 1975. I would love to know more about him, having just read Richard Baxell’s “Unlikely Warriors”.

**Robert Hargreaves**  
By email

If anyone can help Robert, send the information to the IBMT Secretary (contact details on page 9) and it will be forwarded to him.

# Pioneers of blood transfusion techniques



**“Spain Bleeds: The Development of Blood Transfusion during the Civil War” by Linda Palfreeman (Eastbourne: Sussex Academic Press/Cañada Blanch, 2015) £50 (hardback)**

Reviewed by Richard Baxell

It has become a tired cliché that necessity is the mother of invention, but it is nevertheless true that the demands of warfare have spurred the advance of technologies; some of them fortunately designed to preserve lives rather than cut them short.

The war in Spain was no exception, with the pioneering work in the treatment of fractures and front-line surgery by the Catalan surgeons Josep Trueta and Moisès Broggi offering one pointed example. Developments in blood transfusion, the subject of Linda Palfreeman’s latest study, is another. As the author points out: “The Spanish Civil War marked a new era in battlefield blood transfusion.”

Though written in an academic style, the book is accessible to a non-specialised reader. It

**“Readers will be pleased to find a chapter on Reginald Saxton, whose transfusions helped save the lives of numerous British and Irish casualties at Jarama and Brunete in 1937”**

begins with a useful overview of developments from ancient times to the present, covering the use of direct arm-to arm transfusions established in the 19th century, Karl Landsteiner’s vital (and Nobel prize-winning) discovery of blood-groups in 1900, and subsequent improvements in storage.

And for anyone with an interest in haematology, there is plenty of detail on the actual processes of transfusion: overcoming the limitations of direct arm-to-arm transfusion, mixing donations to minimise rejection and the use of sodium citrate to prevent coagulation.

The book focuses on the contribution of a number of key players involved in the developments of transfusion in Spain, including a brief chapter on the Nationalist efforts, led by Carlos Elósegui Sarasola. Interestingly, many Nationalists appear to have been singularly unenthusiastic about the use of stored blood, preferring traditional direct transfusions.

Amongst those working on the Republican side, the ground-breaking work of the Canadian doctor, Norman Bethune, obviously features strongly. Described as an “explosive and unpredictable virtuoso”, Bethune does not seem to have been the easiest person to work with.

However, as he has already been the subject of a previous volume in the Sussex/Cañada Blanch series, this study spends less time on the personal politics that underpinned his downfall, instead concentrating on his undeniable contribution to the Republican blood service and the mechanics of transfusions.

British readers will be pleased to find a chapter on Reginald Saxton, whose transfusions helped save the lives of numerous British and Irish casualties at Jarama and Brunete in 1937. Intriguingly, Saxton experimented with the use of cadaverous blood during the battle of Teruel in the winter of 1937-8. However, his work was apparently brought to a halt by a Spanish law which prohibited any experimentation on corpses within 24 hours of death.

The author is clearly an admirer of Frederic Duran Jordà, for two chapters are devoted to the influential Catalan surgeon. However, a little explicit bias does not do the book any harm. Certainly Duran and his work were admirable and, as the author convincingly argues, political

malice and the professional envy of colleagues have prevented his ground-breaking work from receiving the fame it should have.

In fact, the author chooses to conclude the book with Duran’s exile to Britain in 1939 after the Republic’s defeat. Unwilling or unable to follow up the lessons learned during the Spanish war, the British government initially refused Duran permission to practice as a doctor and he could only find work as a laboratory technician. It was only in 1941 that he was at last able to take up a job as a pathologist. As the relatives of Brigaders will know, it is an all too familiar tale.

Richard Baxell is the Chair of the IBMT and the author of “Unlikely Warriors: The Extraordinary Story Of The Britons Who Fought In The Spanish Civil War” (2014).

## Well balanced citizens



**“Radiant Illusion?: Middle-class recruits to Communism in the 1930s” edited by Nicholas Deakin (Edenbridge: Eve Eden Valley Editions, 2015) £10 (paperback)**

Reviewed by Richard Baxell

This edited volume is based upon a series of public lectures and seminars at Gresham College, London, delivered during 2013 and 2014. It features an introduction and two central essays by professional historians (Roderick Floud, Kevin Morgan and Nicholas Deakin) and a number of biographies, most by family members – the so-called “red nappy babies” – with brief additions by Denis Healey, Peter Hennessy and Juliet Gardiner.

The book’s central premise is to critically re-examine the reasons that lay behind middle-class men and women joining the Communist

*Continued overleaf*

## Memoir finally in print



The Spanish Civil War memoir of Aberdeen International Brigader Bob Cooney (1907-1984) has finally been published – nearly 70 years after it was written.

“Proud Journey” is a fast-paced description of

Cooney’s time in Spain, where he saw action at Teruel and Segura de los Baños, across Aragon in the great retreat of spring 1938 and then in the Ebro offensive in the summer of

that year. He became the British Battalion’s Political Commissar, and his account of the war in Spain is interlaced with political analysis strongly influenced by his membership of the Communist Party.

Also recounted is Cooney’s anti-Blackshirt battles in Aberdeen before he travelled to Spain in October 1937.

During the Second World War Cooney served in the British Army, during which time he wrote “Proud Journey”. The manuscript was eventually deposited in the International Brigade archive at London’s Marx Memorial Library, which has now published the memoir in association with Manifesto Press and with the help of the IBMT and Unite the Union.

After the war Cooney was blacklisted by employers in Aberdeen, and he moved south to Birmingham to find work in the construction industry. During this period he became a folk singer-songwriter and a regular performer in folk clubs.

A new plaque was unveiled to him in Aberdeen before the IBMT’s Annual General Meeting in the city on 17 October. And all 52 members who attended the AGM were given a complimentary copy of this book.

“Proud Journey” is priced at £5. To order a copy send a cheque for £8 (includes £3 p&p) made out to the MML, with a name and address, to: Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

**NURSE:** A still taken from a new 6½-minute video about International Brigade hospitals in Cuenca province during the Spanish Civil War. The film was produced by the Cuenca Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory. See [[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYsdf7xeofw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYsdf7xeofw)].



### Dan follows in their footsteps

London-based journalist and IBMT member Dan Carrier has posted on YouTube a rough cut of a video diary of his trek across the Pyrenees, following in the footsteps of the International Brigade volunteers—including his great uncle Nat Cohen. The film runs for 1hr 5mins. See [[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NxBNEi63VA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NxBNEi63VA)].

### Interviewed: Last US vet Delmer Berg

The website of the Spanish daily *El País* has a short video interview with Delmer Berg, the last US veteran of the International Brigades (see In brief story on page 6). The film is in English with Spanish subtitles: [[http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2015/05/01/actualidad/1430441493\\_842907.html](http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2015/05/01/actualidad/1430441493_842907.html)].

### On the theme of exile

Oxford-based artists Sonia Boué and Jonathan Moss have produced a film, “Without You I Would Not Exist”, on the theme of exile and the Spanish Civil War. Running for over 14 minutes, the film sees Boué use objects to explore the experience of her Spanish Republican father. He settled in Britain thanks in large part to Alec Wainman, a Quaker who served with the Spanish Medical Aid Committee in Spain, where he also worked for the Spanish government’s Ministry of Propaganda. Wainman hosted Republican refugees in his home at Shipton-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire, including Sonia’s exiled father. See [[www.soniaboue.co.uk/section792894.html](http://www.soniaboue.co.uk/section792894.html)].



**VIDEOS:** Dan Carrier (above) and Delmer Berg (below).



### French study of the British

Our sister association in France, ACER (Les Amis des Combattants en Espagne Républicaine), has sent us a dissertation by Bertrand Largeaud, a postgraduate student at the Sorbonne University, Paris, about the British volunteers in the International Brigades and the changing public perception of them over the past 80 years. ACER last year gave an award to the study, which is in French and can be downloaded from the IBMT website: [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/french-study-british-volunteers](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/french-study-british-volunteers)].



**AGAINST FRANCO:** Now online is the documentary “A War In Hollywood” (“Hollywood Contra Franco”), which describes the influence of the Spanish Civil War on Hollywood’s actors, writers and producers. It explores the ups and downs in the attitude of studio bosses, according to the political climate in the US, with clips from several films, including “For Whom The Bell Tolls”, “Behold a Pale Horse”, “Blockade” and “The Way We Were”.

The 92-minute Spanish film by Oriol Porta was released in 2008. It is narrated by Alvah Bessie, a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, later a successful screenwriter who was blacklisted as one of the Hollywood Ten. In the film he returns to Spain 30 years after the war ended. Historian Román Gubern traces the changes in Hollywood through decades; Dan Bessie and Lincoln veteran Moe Fishman also add commentary.

The film can be viewed with an internet search for “A War In Hollywood”. From the list that appears, select Culture Unplugged. Following a registration process the film will appear on screen. Click the forward arrow to play it; select English, Catalan or Spanish.

## Well balanced citizens

### From previous page

Party of Great Britain during the 1930s. One obvious answer, of course, might be that, following the party’s abandonment of its disastrous class-against-class policy, they were no longer discouraged from doing so. Kevin Morgan’s essay, however, provides a rather more detailed analysis of what Juliet Gardiner refers to as “a perfect political storm”.

Clearly, the rise of fascism was crucial, but Deakin argues that there were as many different reasons for joining the party as there were members: some practical, some philosophical. And, of course, Spain played a vital part, becoming “the ‘good cause’ of the decade and one on which communists could campaign—and recruit—without inhibition, alongside other progressives”.

While many of the essays are critical in the strict, academic sense, there is the sense that, 25 years after the end of the Cold War and freed from its intellectual baggage, studies of the CPGB in the 1930s are free to adopt a more nuanced view.

Yes, there is recognition that many recruits had to suspend their critical faculties in order to swallow the party’s unquestioning support for the USSR, their philosophical about-turns and ideas of “revolutionary expediency” and “democratic centralism”. However, at the same time there is an acknowledgement that most people became communists because they wanted to make the world a better place, and believed that the party was the best means of achieving this.

As Elizabeth Dolan puts it, writing about her parents, Mary Macintosh and Richard Clark: “It is my contention that this youthful enthusiasm for Communism, with its at that time inevitable support for the Soviet Union, far from being an illusion, or misguided or naïve,

**“Youthful enthusiasm for Communism... far from being an illusion, or misguided or naïve...”**

in fact helped to produce well-balanced, thoughtful citizens whose subsequent lifestyle, attitudes and values were a direct development, not a contradiction.”

What is missing is a discussion of the Cambridge Spies. It’s true that plenty has been written about them already, but it does rather lead to an unfortunate feeling that everyone is carefully avoiding something important. Apart from Denis Healey, that is, who cannot resist drawing a comparison between the Oxford communists (of whom he was one) who “never wanted to do anything particularly for the Russians”, with those from Cambridge who “all spied for the Russians”. Clearly sectarianism can be just as rife in academia as it is in politics.

## New guide to civil war sites in Barcelona



Barcelona-based local historian and tour guide Nick Lloyd has written and published a guide to his adopted home city, drawing on the extensive knowledge he has acquired in over 20 years as a resident of the Catalan capital.

“Forgotten Places: Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War” (Barcelona: Nick Lloyd, 2015) presents a topographical history of the Spanish Republic and the Spanish Civil War from a Barcelona perspective. This takes in the build-up to the declaration of the Republic in 1931 and ends with the misery and repression in the aftermath of Franco’s victory in 1939. There are links throughout to related memorials, buildings, streets and sites in the city, along with biographies of key protagonists.

Lloyd notes in his introduction that more than 60 nationalities have been on the civil war tours he has been running since 2009. “People are drawn from numerous angles,” he writes, “art and photography, women, anarchism, fascism, military history, Orwell, the International Brigades, literature, cinema, a prelude to World War Two and other conflicts.”

The guide is available for £6.49 from Nick Lloyd (nick.iberianature@gmail.com) as an eBook – or in print for £14.25 from Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk/Forgotten-Places-Barcelona-Spanish-Civil/dp/1519531117).

## Remembering the Battle of Cable Street



Michael Rosen’s latest anthology of poems, “Don’t Mention the Children”\*, contains a tribute to his East End parents and their part in the anti-Blackshirt and Aid Spain movements. “They shall not pass” was first read in 2011 at an

attempted EDL (English Defence League) march through Whitechapel. Part of the poem says:

*You both saw Hitler on the Pathe News  
You both saw Hitler blaming the Jews  
You both collected for Spain,  
collecting for Spain  
when Franco came.  
When round the tenements,  
the whisper came  
Mosley wants to march  
here, through the East End.  
So what should it be?  
To Trafalgar Square to support Spain:  
No pasaran?*

*Orto Gardiner’s Comer to support Whitechapel  
They shall not pass.*

Rosen is famous as a broadcaster and for having been the Children’s Laureate. “Don’t Mention the Children” contains nearly 80 poems for grown-ups and is his first collection since “Selected Poems” (Penguin) in 2007. Subjects include fascism and war, anti-Semitism, UKIP, Israel/Palestine, the General Strike and Auschwitz – alongside humorous commentaries on everyday life.

\*Published by Smokestack Books (<http://smokestack-books.co.uk>), Ripon; 2015; £8.95.

# Tasselled cap reveals great uncle’s story



By Jim Jump

The title of the book says it all: “When the Gorbals Fought Franco: The story of John Lynch, international volunteer in the Spanish Civil War, Irishman, Glaswegian”.

Author Mark J Gillespie found out about his relative John Joseph Lynch (pictured above) on a visit to his grandparents’ home in Glasgow. Aged eight at the time, he came across a strange-looking cap with golden tassels while rooting around in a cupboard. It had belonged, explained his grandmother, to her brother, who had brought it back from Spain.

More probing of his grandparents followed, supplemented in recent years by some detailed research. The result is this fine example of

self-published family history, centred on Mark’s great uncle and set against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War and the Gorbals district of Glasgow during the 1920s and 30s.

Born in Derry in December 1917, John Lynch’s family moved to Glasgow in 1920. John was the eldest boy in a family of seven children. He became radicalised in the harsh economic conditions of the Gorbals, joining the Scottish Socialist Party.

With the British Battalion in Spain, Lynch saw action at Jarama and Brunete, but was repatriated following pleas to the Communist Party by his mother. She said that, as a 19-year-old, John was too young to be in the Brigades. She was right and John came home in September 1937.

He went on to serve in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and afterwards in the merchant navy. He died of lung cancer in 1949, four days after his 32nd birthday.

Gillespie explains early in his

book why he emphasises his great uncle’s Irish roots: “Of all the non Axis countries who saw their citizens fight in the Spanish Civil War, Ireland saw an abnormally high percentage fight on the side of the fascists. This was two to three times the number who fought on the Republican side. Over six hundred men enlisted with O’Duffy’s Fascist Bandera, and while their involvement was minimal and largely ineffective, the fact that they sided with Hitler’s Nazis remains an embarrassment to many.

“While many notable Irishmen fought under the Republican flag, such as Frank Ryan, it is worth identifying the many Republican volunteers who had their origins in Ireland. John Lynch was born in Ireland and shaped in the Gorbals.”

The 70-page paperback version of “When the Gorbals Fought Franco” costs £5 including p&p within the UK. It can be ordered by emailing [gorbalsvfranco@gmail.com](mailto:gorbalsvfranco@gmail.com). A Kindle edition costs £3.

## Spanish Civil War and the Camino de Santiago

By David Ebsworth

As readers will know, the Spanish Civil War lasted from 1936 until 1939, although the fighting along the north coast of the country largely came to an end in October 1937 with the surrender of the loyalist Republican Army of the North to rebel General Franco’s insurgent Nationalists – supported by Mussolini’s troops and Hitler’s bombers.

In “The Assassin’s Mark”, set towards the end of 1938, I included a description of a pilgrims’ mass, held at Santiago de Compostela – an actual event mentioned in the Nationalist newspaper *ABC de Sevilla* and which made me wonder what happened on the now famous Camino de Santiago during the civil war itself.

This is another difficult area to research, but I finally came across a remarkable book by Fernando Lalanda: “The Camino de Santiago, from left to right (1930-39)”, which records the way that pilgrimages had fallen off steadily during the late 1800s and early 1900s. But Franco’s insistence that his early victories in 1937 had been brought about by the direct intervention of Saint James led to a resurgence of their popularity, and Pope

Pius XI declared 1938 an Exceptional Holy Year to help cement the bond between Saint James and the Francoist “cause”.

In 1938, 9,000 worshippers took part in pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, some coming by bus or train from local towns and cities, but others walking the traditional routes, despite the Republican *guerrilleros* still active in the region. Indeed, Franco’s Tourist Department specifically encouraged young Catholics from all over Europe to take part in these pilgrimages – another twist to the strange story of Franco’s use of tourism to help his propaganda exercise.

So, two big questions... First, what on earth would *Reynolds News* correspondent Jack Telford be doing on the Camino de Santiago at the beginning of October 1938? (Of course, you’ll have to wait for the sequel to “The Assassin’s Mark” to find that answer!) And, second, has anybody come across other interesting Camino stories from the civil war?

David Ebsworth is the pen-name of novelist Dave McCall [[davemccall@talktalk.net](mailto:davemccall@talktalk.net)], a former regional secretary of the Transport & General Workers’ Union. “The Assassin’s Mark” was published in March 2013.

**Prize-winning book on nursing**

A nursing book with a chapter by Angela Jackson about International Brigade nurses in the Spanish Civil War has won a prize in the US. "One Hundred Years of Wartime Nursing Practices, 1854-1953" (Manchester University Press, 2015) was given the Mary M Robert Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing for an outstanding edited book. Jackson is the author of several books on the Spanish Civil War, particularly on women.

**New na-mara album**

*Folk duo na-mara are longstanding friends of the IBMT and regularly perform at Trust events. Here's a review of their latest*

album, "Navajos & Pirates" (Rightback Records), first published in the Morning Star on 21 October 2015.

If shanty storytelling is your thing, Paul McNamara and Rob Garcia are your men. The melodious intimacy of this repertoire commands attention from the first notes and words.

Navajos & Pirates were the *noms-de-guerre* adopted by young Germans who resisted fascism in the late 1930s and during the Second World War in the industrial Ruhr. Their symbol was the elderflower.

Na-mara's moving paean honours that struggle: "The harder they pushed, the harder you fought." The "Silver Duro" similarly retells the rescue of the Spanish Republican Basque children and their fate in Britain, while "Garden of England" warns against modern-day slavery: "When you put a chain around another man's neck, the other side is around yours."

Masterly performed instrumentals, drawn from the Galician *muiñeiras* and Asturian and Breton song traditions, add further spice to what is a highly impressive collection of songs.

**Hans was an 'extraordinary witness'**

References to International Brigaders pop up in all sorts of unexpected places, and another example came in a BBC Radio 4 serialisation of Edmund de Waal's "The White Road", a history of porcelain manufacture. Episode 4 (broadcast on 25 September) told how Hitler's SS had their own porcelain factory at the Dachau concentration camp during the Second World War. Among the slave workers was Austrian International Brigader Hans Landauer (1921-2014). His drawing talents, spotted by two Austrian and Spanish communists already working at the factory, were used to design the Nazi-inspired figurines and bowls. De Waal describes Landauer as an "extraordinary witness", and draws on the Austrian's memoir to depict the wretched conditions of those producing so-called Allach porcelain, named after a Munich suburb where the Nazi workshop was first located.

**Brigaders centre stage in Hemingway play**

Nearly 80 years on from the start of the Spanish Civil War, a play by one of the 20th century's greatest writers appears in London for the first time. Ernest Hemingway was in Madrid in



1937 during Franco's siege, and wrote "The Fifth Column" there, under that bombardment.

Philip Rawlings, a spy-catcher and covert member of the International Brigade, is engaged in a life-and-death struggle to unmask Fifth Columnists inside the city. He is also passionately in love with a

war correspondent living in the hotel.

Around them, the people of Madrid are trying, often comically, to survive; and the idealism of the young men under him, who came to fight with the

International Brigades, is contrasted with the ruthlessness of civil war.

The leading characters owe much not only to Hemingway and his lover Martha Gellhorn, one of the first female war correspondents, but also to Tom Wintringham, commander of the British Battalion, and his lover Kitty Bowler.

There are echoes of Hemingway's masterpiece of the Spanish Civil War, "For Whom The Bell Tolls", in "The Fifth Column".

"The Fifth Column" runs at Southwark Playhouse (77-85 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BD) from 24 March to 16 April 2016.

Professor Paul Preston, the foremost British historian of the civil war and the IBMT's Founding Chair, will be leading a discussion after the performance on 5 April.

Book online (tickets are £12-£20) at [www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk) or by phone: 020 7407 0234.

**LONDON 28 January:** Public seminar "War within the Spanish Church at the End of Franco's Regime?"; speaker: Eladi Mainar; chaired by Prof Paul Preston; 6pm at Cañada Blanch Centre, Cowdray House, LSE, Portugal St, WC2A 2AE [[www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/canadaBlanch/events.aspx](http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/canadaBlanch/events.aspx)].

**WORTHING 13 February:** Commemoration at International Brigade plaque in Worthing Labour Hall, Lyndhurst Rd, BN11 2DE; 2pm-4pm; speakers: IBMT's Secretary Jim Jump and Treasurer Manuel Moreno; music from Worthing Socialist Singers; contact Pauline Fraser [pbf262@googlemail.com] tel: 01903 824 270.

**MANCHESTER 14 February:** Commemoration at International Brigade memorial in Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square, M2 5DB; 11.30am-1pm; speakers and Bolton Wood Street Clarion Choir; more information from Charles Jepson [clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk] tel: 01254 51302.

**MADRID 19-21 February:** Battle of Jarama commemoration organised by the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group; see [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/19-21-february-madrid](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/19-21-february-madrid)] for more details or contact Danny Payne [danpayne40@yahoo.co.uk].

**ALICANTE 22-24 February:** IBMT tour of Spanish Civil War sites organised by the Alicante historical memory association; see [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/22-24-february-alicante](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/22-24-february-alicante)]; contact Mary Greening [memsec@international-brigades.org.uk] tel: 07772 620 279.

**LONDON 24 February:** "Fact versus Fiction? The Spanish Civil War in the Literary Imagination": London School of Economics literary festival panel discussion with Helen Graham, Eduardo Mendoza and Paul Preston; 6.30pm-8pm at the Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 2AE; booking information: [<http://bit.ly/1QFukMv>].

**NEWHAVEN 1 March-31 October:** IBMT's "Anti-fascistas" and "Sussex and the Spanish Civil

War" display at Newhaven Fort, Fort Rd, BN9 9DS; see [[www.newhavenfort.org.uk](http://www.newhavenfort.org.uk)] for admission information.

**BRADFORD until 3 March:** Exhibition "Los niños vascos: Basque children in Yorkshire 1937" produced by the Basque Children of '37 Association UK; Peace Museum, 10 Piece Hall Yard, BD1 1PJ; open Thurs 10am-4pm; [[www.peacemuseum.org.uk/2015/12/09/new-temporary-exhibition-basque-children-in-yorkshire-1937](http://www.peacemuseum.org.uk/2015/12/09/new-temporary-exhibition-basque-children-in-yorkshire-1937)].

**MANCHESTER 12 March:** IBMT Len Crome Memorial Conference: "Women and the Spanish Civil War"; details on inside front cover.

**LONDON 13 March:** Screening of rarely seen documentary "The Will of the People" (Louis Frank, 1939) plus "War is Beautiful" about US ambulance driver James Neugass (Aelwen Wetherby, 2014); followed by Q&A with Dr Miriam Frank; organised by London Socialist Film Coop; 11am, Bolivar Hall, 54-56 Grafton Way, W1T 5DL; [<http://socialistfilm.blogspot.co.uk>].

**CÓRDOBA 8/9 April:** Guided tour of Córdoba battlefields, including commemoration at memorial to John Cornford and Ralph Fox at Lopera; for more details see [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/homage-volunteers-who-fought-andalusia-april-2016](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/homage-volunteers-who-fought-andalusia-april-2016)]; contact Pauline Fraser [pbf262@googlemail.com] tel: 01903 824 270 if interested in attending.

**LONDON 14 April:** Informal ceremony at 12pm (time to be confirmed) at the International Brigade memorial, Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, SE1, to mark the anniversary of the declaration of the Spanish Republic in 1931; check [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/events](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/events)].

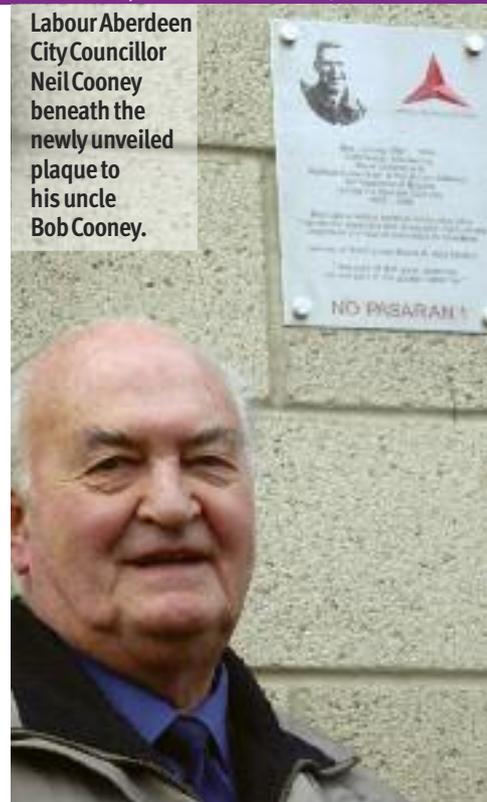
**LONDON 24 April:** Premiere of Daniel Burkholz's 2014 film "No Pasaran" (<https://filmfreeway.com/project/416480>) plus panel discussion; jointly organised by IBMT and ANPI Londra, London branch of Italian anti-fascist partisan memorial association; 2pm-4.30pm at Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1R 0DU.

# SCENES FROM OUR ABERDEEN WEEKEND

Photos by Marshall Mateer and Jim Jump;  
more photos at: [www.flickr.com/photos/ibmt](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ibmt)



International Brigade and trade union banners are paraded along Union Street to Castlegate. The march was led by Grampian District Pipes and Drums and ended with a rally to close the weekend of activities in Aberdeen from 16-18 October 2015, including the IBMT's Annual General Meeting.



Labour Aberdeen City Councillor Neil Cooney beneath the newly unveiled plaque to his uncle Bob Cooney.



Granddaughter Nina Cunnington with a new plaque dedicated to John Londragan at the offices of the Aberdeen Trades Union Council.



The plaque commemorating Bob Cooney is unveiled at Bob Cooney Court by Neil Cooney, with Unite regional officer Tommy Campbell (left) looking on.



Aileen and Maureen Saunders, great granddaughter and granddaughter of Archie Dewar, carry a replica of the Spanish Republican flag in which his body was wrapped before burial in Spain. The original flag hangs in the International Brigade Memorial Library at the Aberdeen Trades Union Council offices.



The splendour of the Aberdeen Town House was the setting for an evening of music and poetry, as well as for the AGM itself.

Saturday 2 July 2016:  
Annual commemoration  
at Jubilee Gardens, South  
Bank, London SE1, 1pm-2pm



Keeping alive the memory and spirit of the

# INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE VOLUNTEERS

who fought fascism  
and defended democracy  
in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39



International Brigade Memorial Trust  
[www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)



Max Memorial Library

