

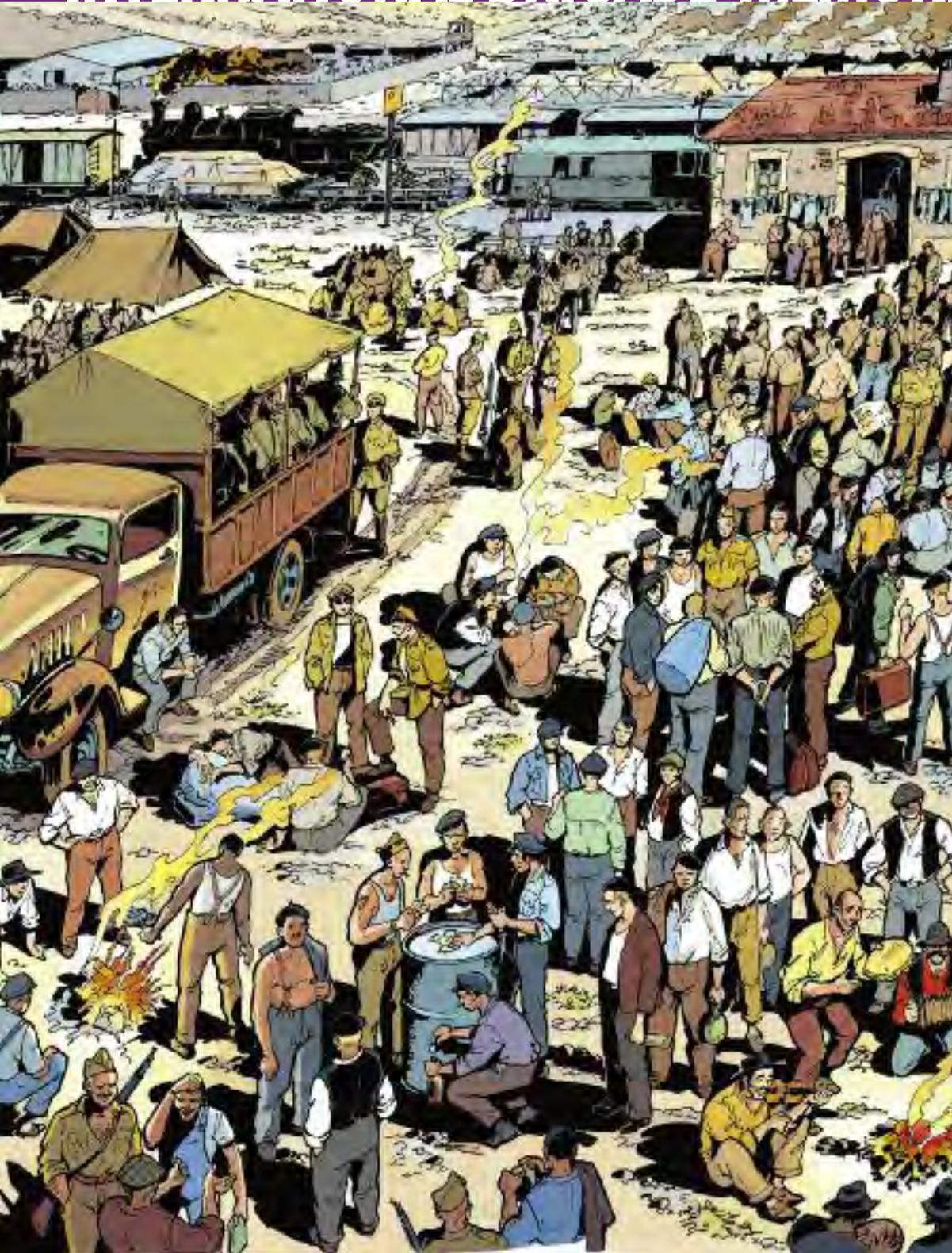


# IBMT Newsletter

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

Issue 40 / 3-2015

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST



Tributes  
with words,  
music and  
flowers on  
London's  
South Bank



### Arrival in Spain

Cartoon impression of the  
volunteers at the International  
Brigade base camp at Albacete

All welcome to a weekend of events and activities

# ABERDEEN



**Notice of the International Brigade Memorial Trust's 2015 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17 October from 2.30pm-5pm at the Aberdeen Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AQ**

## Weekend programme

### Friday 16 October

● 7.30pm: Civic reception for IBMT members with the Lord Provost in the Town House (see address above).

### Saturday 17 October

● 9.30am-10.30am: Unveiling of a plaque to Brigadier Bob Cooney at Bob Cooney Court, AB25 3SP.

● 11am-12.30pm: Unveiling of a plaque to Brigadier John Londragan outside the Aberdeen Trades Union Council office in Adelphi Lane, AB11 5BL; followed by a visit to the ATUC office to see the International Brigade Memorial Library and the original Spanish Republican flag used as a shroud for Aberdonian International Brigaders Archie Dewar and Tom Davidson.

● 2.30pm-5pm: IBMT Annual General Meeting in the St Nicholas Room at the Town House.

● 7.30pm-11pm: Social evening of film, music and poetry in the Staff/Councillors' Dining Room at the Town House.

### Sunday 18 October

● 10.30am-12pm: Prayers and the blessing of International Brigade and union flags and banners, plus secular talks on past and present anti-fascist struggles by Councillor Neil Cooney and Tommy Campbell (Unite the Union) at the Kirk of St Nicholas, Back Wynd, AB10 1JZ.

● 12pm-1.30pm: ATUC and IBMT march to Castlegate with flags and banners led by Grampian District Pipes and Drums, followed by closing speeches and light refreshments at the Town House.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Fifty rooms at rate of £65 per room b&b (singles or doubles) available at Aberdeen Douglas Hotel, 43-45 Market Street, AB11 5EL [www.aberdeendouglas.com] tel: 01224 582 255; quote "IBMT15" when booking.

**NB:** Check "Events" on IBMT website: [www.international-brigades.org.uk] for updates.

## AGM agenda

- 1 Chair's opening remarks
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous AGM
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Executive Committee report
- 6 Election of officers and Executive Committee members
- 7 Any other business
- 8 Date and place of next AGM
- 9 Chair's closing remarks

● *Nominations for officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and Executive Committee members (no more than 11) must be received in writing by 3 October 2015.*

● *Proposed items for "Any other business" must be received in writing by 10 October 2015.*

● *Send nominations and agenda items to: [secretary@international-brigades.org.uk] or write to: IBMT Secretary, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.*



**In Memorium**

**PUBLIC CEREMONY** will be held in Music Hall, on Sunday, 27th November, 1938, to the memory of the five Aberdeen Volunteers killed in Spain while serving in the ranks of the International Brigade.

Speakers: PETER KERRIGAN, Glasgow, Councillor TOM MURRAY, Edinburgh, BOB COONEY, Aberdeen.

Admission: Free. Doors open 7.30 p.m.

**BELCHITE**

**BRUNETE**

**EBRO**

**JARAMA**





## Issue 40 / 3-2015

### Cover

- Illustration by Jean-Paul Dethorey and Frank Giroud: see page 21
- Photos by Andrew Wiard and Neil Grange: see pages 12-13

### 3-8 News

- Pedalling for the Oxfordshire volunteers
- Reading memorial refurbished and relocated

### 9-10 Secretarial notes

#### 11 Letter from Spain

Justin Byrne writes from Madrid

#### 12-13 Annual commemoration

Report and photos from London's South Bank on 4 July

#### 14-18 Features

- Victims of Francoism seek justice via Argentine courts
- My actor great uncle who died at the Ebro
- John Cornford and Margot Heinemann in poetic dialogue
- Geordie crews who rescued thousands from Bilbao

#### 19-21 Books

#### 22 What's on

#### 22 Postscript

The IBMT Newsletter is published three times a year and is sent free to all members. Back numbers can be downloaded from the IBMT website on [www.international-brigades.org.uk/newsletter.htm]. All content is the copyright © of the IBMT and credited contributors and cannot be reproduced without permission.

#### 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

Registered charity no. 1094928



**BANNER BRIGHT:** The IBMT banner was carried proudly through the streets of Durham during the annual Miners' Gala on 11 July. A week later it was at the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival, when union and labour movement banners are paraded through the Dorset village.

Marshall Mateer

# IBMT sponsors drama based on lives of Jarama comrades Clem Beckett and Christopher Caudwell

## New play on International Brigades will tour in 2016

The IBMT is supporting plans for a new play about the International Brigades that will tour Britain and Ireland from the autumn of 2016 through to spring of the following year.

The drama is to be centred on the contrasting lives of International Brigaders Clem Beckett and Christopher Caudwell. Beckett was a Lancashire blacksmith who became a famous motorcycle speedway rider, while Caudwell, whose real name was Christopher St John Sprigg, was a renowned writer, poet, novelist and Marxist critic.

Both were killed at Jarama in February 1937 and had become friends as members of the British Battalion's machine-gun company.

The production's touring schedule will cover the 80th anniversaries of the creation of the International Brigades in October 1936 and the Battle of Jarama itself.

#### Written

The play will be written by Neil Gore ("United We Stand" and "We Will Be Free!") and Stephen Lowe ("Touched" and "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists"), with music by John Kirkpatrick (Richard Thompson Band, Steeleye Span and Brass Monkey).

It will be produced by Louise Townsend of Townsend Touring Productions (www.townsend-productions.org.uk) in association with Harrogate Theatre.

Townsend says the aim of the play about the International Brigades will be to understand better and draw conclusions about the political and social situation both nationally and internationally that confronted Beckett, Caudwell and the other volunteers.



**SHARED FATE:** Clem Beckett (left) and Christopher Caudwell came from differing backgrounds.

"We can highlight the extraordinary contribution made by the International Brigaders and highlight the difference they made to events," she adds.

Use will be made of British popular songs and songs of the International Brigades and Spanish Republicans, as well as the poetry and writings of the volunteers, including Caudwell, along with art of the period.

To help fund the project, the IBMT's Executive Committee has agreed to use part of a legacy left to the Trust by Jonathan Carritt, a history teacher and political activist from south-west London who died in 2013. Two of his uncles were International Brigaders, one of whom died in Spain.

The IBMT is especially pleased that plans for the new play include a video of the whole play and a music CD, thus leaving a lasting legacy of the project.

Townsend Touring Productions has recently staged "We Will Be Free!" about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and "United We Stand" about the Shrewsbury Pickets, who were imprisoned on conspiracy charges following the 1972 national building workers' strike.

## Eightieth anniversary events for Paris and London

There are plans to unveil a new memorial to the International Brigades in Paris next year to mark the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Brigades in October 1936.

ACER, the IBMT's sister association in France, is organising the erection of a commemorative plaque at the Gare d'Austerlitz, one of the mainline railway stations used by the volunteers for their journey south to the Spanish frontier.

An unveiling ceremony is likely to

be held on 22 October, with ACER (Les Amis des Combattants en Espagne Républicaine) hoping to attract an international gathering for the event.

Paris was the main recruitment centre for the International Brigades. Volunteers from Britain would typically arrive with a weekend ticket to the French capital – thereby avoiding the need for a passport. There they would be medically and politically screened before taking the “Red

Train” that left each night from Austerlitz Station.

The same 80th anniversary of the creation of the International Brigades will be celebrated in London in combination with the anniversary of the 4 October 1936 Battle of Cable Street.

### Gala night

A gala night of music, film and spoken word will be organised by Philosophy Football at the Rix Mix arts centre in Shoreditch in associ-

ation with the IBMT and anti-fascist and East End community groups.

Cable Street has been dubbed “the road to Spain”, as many of those who took part – using the same “They shall not pass” slogan as the defenders of Madrid – went on to join the International Brigades.

The Cable Street protesters prevented the police from clearing a way through London's mainly Jewish East End for a march by fascist Blackshirts.

## From Edinburgh to Aberdeen to remember the volunteers in Oxford

IBMT activist Colin Carritt will be pedalling the 150 miles from Edinburgh to Aberdeen for the IBMT's Annual General Meeting on 17 October. The aim is to raise money for an International Brigade memorial in Oxford.

With him on the sponsored ride will be IBMT Treasurer Charles Jepson and other members of



**THUMBS UP:** Colin Carritt aims to raise money for the memorial.

the IBMT and the National Clarion Cycling Club 1895. They will call at several International Brigade memorials along the way.

Carritt is the chair of the Oxford committee of IBMT members who are raising funds for a memorial to the 31 volunteers from Oxfordshire.

“We're making good progress,” he reports. “We've received enthusiastic support from Oxford City Council, and we have a site in one of the city's prominent public spaces, Bonn Square.

“We also have a dramatic and striking design by sculptor Charlie Carter and we've published a

book about the Oxfordshire volunteers called ‘No Other Way’. Our committee hopes soon to get the final green light from the council.”

He adds: “All that remains is to complete the project funding. We already have £12,000 but we need £21,000.”

Among the Oxfordshire volunteers was Colin's father, Noel Carritt (1910-1992), and his uncle, Anthony Carritt, who was killed while driving an ambulance during the Battle of Brunete in July 1937.

Anthony is one of six Oxfordshire Brigaders who died in Spain and whose names will be inscribed on the memorial.

To sponsor the cycle ride email [colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk) or write to IBMT Treasurer Charles Jepson, Aysgaard, Beardwood Brow, Blackburn BB2 7AT.

“Aidez l'Espagne” t-shirts (S, L & XL), £15 plus £3 p&p, all proceeds to the memorial in Oxford, can be ordered from: John Haywood, 1 Queen Rd, Banbury OX16 0EB; [a.j.haywood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:a.j.haywood@hotmail.co.uk). Also available is the book “No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War”; £5 plus £3 p&p (or £1.50 with t-shirt order); all cheques made out to the IBMT. See inside back cover as well.



## Eighth socialist cycling club member identified as a volunteer in Spain

Another volunteer who went to Spain has been identified as a member of the National Clarion Cycling Club, thanks to an old newspaper cutting from *The Irish News* that was spotted by a club supporter.

The latest name is that of Fred McMahon, who, according to a report from 15 November 1936 carried by the *Irish Times* on 15 November 2005 in its “On this day” column, had recently been re-elected as honorary secretary of the Belfast Clarion Cycling Club.

The cutting was passed to IBMT member and Clarion club activist Stuart Walsh, who in the last issue of the *IBMT Newsletter* (2-2015) wrote a piece about the involvement of seven members of the socialist cycling club in the International Brigades.

The *Irish Times* report concerned two Irish prisoners held by the fascists: Joe Boyd and Fred McMahon. They had been captured at Carabanchel, near Madrid early in November 1936.

Walsh has identified the two as being members of the Scottish Ambulance Unit.

Stuart Walsh would like anyone with more information about Fred McMahon to contact him at [s.walsh13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:s.walsh13@hotmail.co.uk). For more about Joe Boyd see: <http://irelandscw.com/ibvol-Boyd.htm>.

## London's Portobello Road gets second mural

“Guernica Alley” is one of 13 new murals by Peter Dunn on Portobello Road that illustrate the historical and cultural influences on the Notting Hill district of west London.

An International Brigade banner and several volunteers are pictured on board the *Habana*, which

brought nearly 4,000 refugee children from Republican Spain to Britain in May 1937 – many of whom settled in and around Notting Hill.

Commissioned by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, the mural also shows the ruins of the bombed Basque town of Guernica.

The IBMT has meanwhile received assurances from the Westway Trust that the “Echoes of



Part of the new mural.

Spain” mosaic, also on Portobello Road, will not be affected by forthcoming redevelopment plans for the market-stall area under the Westway flyover.

Depicting local International Brigaders and Spanish Republican exiles who lived in the area, the mosaic was created as part of a community arts project and unveiled in 2006 by IBMT President Jack Jones.



**TAKING PART:** Reading Mayor Tony Jones (front row, second from right) among attendees at the unveiling ceremony.

## Makeover and new site for Reading memorial

The restored memorial to the International Brigade volunteers from Reading was unveiled at its new location in Forbury Gardens on 10 May.

In attendance was the memorial's sculptor, Eric Stanford, now aged 82, who had also been present on 5 May 1990 when the memorial was unveiled at its original site outside Reading's civic centre, which is currently being redeveloped.

A 20-page brochure to mark the 2015 unveiling has been produced by the Reading International Brigade Memorial Committee, with information about the local volunteers and the Eric Stanford sculpture. Written by Ray Parkes, Keith Jerrome and Mike Cooper, it can be downloaded here: [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/rededication-reading-memorial](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/rededication-reading-memorial)].

At least 16 people from or with a strong connection to Reading are known to have gone to Spain to join the International Brigades. Three were killed.

For the unveiling, Reading Mayor Tony Jones was joined by local trade unions and political groups, along with members of the IBMT.

The mayor said: "I am very pleased to see this memorial – and an important part of Reading's heritage – renovated and relocated to the Abbey Quarter of these gardens. This rededication service honours and remembers those Reading residents who fought for freedom and democracy in the Spanish Civil War."

Ray Parkes, of the Reading International Brigade Memorial Committee, said at the unveiling: "After 25 years it's wonderful to see this nationally regarded monument returned to its original condition, and relocated to such an historic setting." Parkes took part in the original



**SCULPTOR:** Eric Stanford in front of the International Brigade memorial.

**INSET:** Ray Parkes and Labour councillor Nicky Jerrome and her daughters lead the singing of "Jarama Valley".

fundraising efforts in the 1980s and is a co-author of "We Cannot Park on Both Sides", a book detailing the experiences of the local volunteers.

IBMT Secretary Jim Jump pointed out that the memorial was being rededicated during national celebrations of VE Day's 70th anniversary.

"The volunteers who went to Spain were the first Britons to fight Hitler and the European fascist dictators on the battlefield," he added.

Present at the first unveiling 25 years ago were local veterans Jimmy Moon, Reggie Saxton and Thora Silverthorne.

## Protests stall moves to rename Warsaw street

Plans by Warsaw city council to change the name of a street named after the Polish volunteers in the International Brigades appear to have been scrapped following an international outcry.

The IBMT was one of many organisations and individuals to send protests to Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz over moves to rename Dabrowszczaków, the street dedicated to the Dombrowski Battalion.

Writing on 1 July to the mayor, IBMT Secretary Jim Jump said: "To erase the memory of these Polish volunteers would be a travesty of history and a disservice not only to the memory of these brave Polish anti-fascists but also to Poland's international reputation."

The rightwing city council's decision reportedly stemmed from the fact that most of the Polish volunteers were communists.

Jump added in his letter: "All were politically on the left, as it was the parties of the left that led the resistance to fascism in the 1930s."

International Brigade associations around the world were alerted to the move in June by Polish anti-racist campaigners SWR – Stowarzyszenie Wszyscy Razem (All Together Association).

However, within a few weeks the SWR – which had launched an online petition campaign – reported that the council had quietly agreed to shelve any renaming.

Meanwhile, there are moves to name a square after the Dombrowskis in a Madrid suburb where the battalion was stationed in November 1936.

For a list of Spanish places named after the International Brigades see: [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/spanish-streets-etc-named-after-international-brigades](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/spanish-streets-etc-named-after-international-brigades)].

## 2016 conference to focus on women in the Spanish Civil War

Next year's Len Crome Memorial Conference will have as its title "Women in the Spanish Civil War".

Speakers for the IBMT event have yet to be named, but leading Spanish Civil War historian and IBMT Founding Chair Paul Preston has already agreed to chair the day-long conference. It will be held in Manchester on Saturday 12 March.

The Len Crome Memorial Conference (previously a Memorial Lecture), has since its inception in 2002 hosted talks by the world's most acclaimed historians of the International Brigades and war in Spain.

Three guest speakers will be invited to take part in the 2016 conference.



**REUNION:** Thirteen of the refugee children from Spain’s Basque Country who settled in Britain after the Spanish Civil War were at their annual reunion in London on 7 June. The *niños* (children), as they are still called, met for lunch with families and friends at the Meliá White House in central London. Nearly 4,000 *niños* and their helpers arrived in Southampton on 23 May 1937 – the largest influx of refugees into Britain on a single day. They had sailed from Bilbao during Franco’s bombing campaign and offensive in northern Spain. Most eventually returned to Spain but for about 400 of them Britain became their permanent home.



**PRIDE:** Cardiff delegate Dave Hamblin wore an IBMT British Battalion t-shirt when he spoke at the rostrum at the GMB conference in Dublin in June. Under his @UnionisedDavid moniker he Tweeted a photo with the message: “Proud to be speaking at #GMBCONGRESS15 & Proud to be wearing International Brigade Memorial Trust shirt”. The IBMT re-tweeted the message from its @IBMT\_SCW Twitter account, which now has more than 900 followers.

Non-Twitter users can view the IBMT’s Tweets on the Trust’s website pages (except Merchandise): [www.international-brigades.org.uk].



**GATHERING:** International Brigade supporters in Derry held a commemorative get-together under the International Brigade plaque at the city’s Unite office on 19 July. There was a social event and live music afterwards in nearby Sandino’s Café Bar.

## In brief

- The Spanish Republican flag will fly over **Paris** every 25 August in honour of the leading role played by Spanish Republican fighters in the liberation of the city in August 1944. The decision was taken by Paris’s socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo, who is a grand-daughter of Spanish Republican exiles in France. The flag will be raised at the city’s town hall – the Hôtel de Ville – where the gardens have been named as the Jardin des Combattants de la Nueve. The “Nueve” was the name given to the Spanish Republican company of the Free French Army which entered the city as the occupying Nazis fled. The gardens were controversially named by King Philip VI and Queen Letizia of Spain on 3 June in a ceremony postponed from 25 March following the Alps airline disaster.

- Spain’s Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory (ARMH) has won the 2015 ALBA-Puffin **Award for Human Rights Activism**. The award was presented to ARMH co-founder Emilio Silva at a ceremony in New York on 9 May hosted by ALBA (Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives), the IBMT’s sister organisation in the US. The ARMH has initiated excavations and exhumations from mass graves throughout Spain, and has given evidence to the United Nations about the unsolved and uninvestigated disappearance of thousands of Spanish Republican supporters.

- The IBMT was among many organisations that took part in the ceremony at the **Soviet War Memorial** in London’s Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park on 9 May to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Trust President Marlene Sidaway and Trustee Pauline Fraser laid a wreath in Spanish Republi-



**IN LIVERPOOL:** Family members of Merseyside International Brigaders held a get-together in Liverpool on 23 May at Jack Jones House, the Unite offices in the city. They are pictured here by the memorial plaque to the local volunteers. Convened by the IBMT, the meeting brought together relations and supporters of the International Brigades to discuss activities to keep alive the memory of the 120 volunteers from Merseyside.

can colours at the memorial, situated next to the Imperial War Museum. Cries of “¡No pasarán!” came from the 1,000-strong crowd.

- Supporters of Friends of the International Brigade in Ireland commemorated the 77th anniversary of the **Battle of the Ebro** at the memorial overlooking Carlingford Lough on 25 July.

- A new International Brigade information project, called **Sidbrint**, is being developed by the University of Barcelona in association with other Spanish and European universities. Its aim is to collect personal data on all individual 35,000 International Brigade volunteers. See [http://sidbrint.ub.edu/en].



**REMEMBRANCE:** The volunteers from North Lanarkshire were remembered on 19 July, the day after the 79th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War, at the International Brigade memorial in Motherwell’s Duchess of Hamilton Park. Among the speakers was IBMT Scotland Secretary Mike Arnott (above).

# Spanish Republican internees in Lancashire



Dr Richard Cleminson (right) of Leeds University gave a talk at Adlington Library on 5 June on the Spanish Republicans interned at Hall o' the Hill Camp, near Chorley, in Lancashire, during the Second World War.

The library also hosted a month-long exhibition of photographs showing the conditions and everyday life of the 26 Spanish Republicans held as aliens until their release in the spring of 1946.

Pictured with him are (from left) IBMT member Dorothy Winnard, the main organiser of the exhibition, and Vera Lyle and Mavis Parkinson, sisters of Mildred Fernández, née Gaskell, who married one of the prisoners at the camp, Juan Fernández, in 1947.

There were others related to the men imprisoned in the

camp among the 60 people who attended the talk at the library. Many brought along their own photographs and memorabilia.

They included members of the family of Pedro Cuadrado, who settled in Bolton and opened Pedro's Taverna, a popular restaurant in the town.

One of the key instigators and contributors to the exhibition was IBMT member Lisa Croft. Her grandmother was a local journalist during the war and had a local artist do sketches to illustrate their stories.

## News from Belfast

By Lynda Walker

The Belfast-based International Brigade Commemoration Committee is continuing consultations with Belfast City Council on a **stained glass window** in Belfast City Hall dedicated to those who fought fascism in Spain. Meetings have been held with council members and on 21 June we met the artists, who displayed their proposed artwork for the window.

It is hoped that the window will be unveiled late in October or early in November. To this end we would like to invite all members of the IBMT to the unveiling in Belfast. We aim to block book a hotel when we have the date, which will be made known as soon as we get it.

A **May Day lecture**, "The Battle for the Future: Spain's Ongoing Civil War", was given by Dr Connal Parr in the Unite office, Belfast. In the evening we had a great social with music

from Brendan and Charlie from Limerick.

Following the lecture we laid flowers at the memorial in Writers Square. We hope to publish the talk, along with the lecture given by Brian Hanley at our annual general meeting in February, on "Blueshirts, the Christian Front and the Right in Ireland", in the coming months.

IBMT member Manuel Moreno gave our annual lecture on "**The Guernica Generation**" at the Shankill Library on 7 August. Manuel's mother came from the Basque Country and his father served in the Spanish Republican and Free French armies before settling in London.

This event was organised by the IBCC as part of Belfast's annual arts and culture festival Féile an Phobail in partnership with the Shankill Library, Belfast & District Trade Union Council, Irish Congress of Trade Unions Youth Committee, Greater Shankill Partnership and Trademark.

For further information about IBCC activities contact the secretary, Lynda Walker: 028 9077 9394.

### New address and phone number

The IBMT has a new phone number and registered office: 020 7253 8748 and 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU. Observant readers will notice that this is also the address of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School, where we are now renting much needed office and storage space. The IBMT has long outgrown using the private addresses of Trustees for its official headquarters and for storing items such as the "Antifascistas" exhibition and IBMT banners, as well as publicity material, merchandise and much else. However, we are still a wholly voluntary organisation, so normal office hours do not apply. Visitors will be received by prior arrangement only.

### Facebook page status

The IBMT has changed the status of its Facebook page. It is now no longer a public group – which allows all group members to post comments and images. With more than 4,000 members, it became too big to administer and moderate. A new public group has meanwhile been created by former users of the IBMT page. It's called The International Brigades Remembered, and already has more than 700 members (in August). Other similar public groups are: Spanish Medical Aid Research Group, Scotland and the Spanish Civil War and the Ireland-based International Brigade Commemoration Committee and Limerick International Brigades Memorial Trust.

### Trade Union Coordinator

The IBMT now has a designated Trade Union Coordinator. He is Mike Arnott, also our Scotland Secretary. Mike is a GMB activist in Dundee, where he is the local trades council secretary. He also runs the Facebook page Scotland and the Spanish Civil War [[www.facebook.com/groups/8325228079](https://www.facebook.com/groups/8325228079)]. Mike's trade union role in the IBMT is an important one. The Trust values its links with the trade union movement and encourages unions and branches to affiliate and take part in activities. When there are sufficient IBMT volunteers, we also try to have a stall at union conferences. If your union branch isn't affiliated, get in touch with us and we'll send you an affiliation form.

### On the committee

The latest meeting of the IBMT Executive Committee decided to co-opt Marshall Mateer, our long-standing Film Coordinator, onto the committee. Marshall looks after the IBMT's YouTube and Flickr sites and films most of our events. He is keen to make contact with members who video IBMT-related events in order to share footage. Email [[marshall.mateer@btinternet.com](mailto:marshall.mateer@btinternet.com)].

## Plaque and mural for Dubliner who 'saved' Barça

By Mark Metcalf

The Irishman who "saved" Barcelona FC during the Spanish Civil War has been honoured by a plaque in his home town of Dublin and a mural in Belfast.

Patrick O'Connell (1887-1959) played for Belfast Celtic, Sheffield Wednesday, Hull City and Manchester United, while also captaining his country when Ireland first played in the Home Championships in 1914.

After managing several clubs in England and Spain, O'Connell was appointed as manager at Barça in 1935 by club president Josep Sunyol,

Patrick O'Connell pictured reading a civil wartime newspaper on part of the Belfast mural – next to Lionel Messi.



who was later to be assassinated by Franco's troops on 6 August 1936.

With the military conflict at its height, the offer for Barcelona to tour Mexico in 1937 was gratefully accepted and "Don Patricio" took 16 players with him. Only he and four chose to return. But he also brought with him a considerable kitty as the tour had generated a \$12,900 profit. This cleared Barcelona's debts after it was deposited in a French bank account to prevent Franco stealing it.

The tour had saved the club and Barcelona lived on thanks to O'Connell, who is sometimes referred to as "the saviour of Barcelona".

The plaque was unveiled on 5 June at O'Connell's former home in Dublin's Fitzroy Avenue, next to Croke Park. The mural by Danny Devenney was unveiled on 7 August on the Falls Road in Belfast.

Mark Metcalf is an IBMT member and football historian. For more information see [www.pocfund.com].



**AT THE UNVEILING:** From left, Martin Buchan (Manchester United), Mike O'Connell, Patrick's grandson, Bertie Auld and John Clark (Celtic FC) and Steve Archibald (Barcelona FC).



**SWEDEN REMEMBERS:** Supporters of the Friends of the Swedish Volunteers for Spain held May Day rallies at the International Brigade memorials in Stockholm (above) and Gothenburg. In Gothenburg, the director and playwright Astrid Menasanch Tobieson (left) spoke about the Spanish government's new law against public political protest. The controversial Ley de Seguridad Ciudadana (Protection of Citizens Act) – better known as the Ley Mordaza (Gagging Act) – makes it illegal to gather outside government buildings without permission and illegal to film, photograph or make sound recordings of policemen on duty. Organisers of non-sanctioned protests, including those who use social media to publicise them, are liable to fines of up to 600,000 euros (£450,000).

## Wreaths and a conference on Dutch volunteers

By Wouter van Dijk

In Amsterdam on 21 May the annual commemoration of the 700 to 800 Dutch volunteers who fought for the Spanish Republic or helped in the medical services took place. Many died in Spain, and those who returned faced hard times, first under Nazi occupation and later because of the Cold War. International Brigade memorial association Stichting Spanje 1936-1939 organised the remembrance and this year hosted a conference with the theme "Freedom for which you fight!"

Journalist and researcher Yvonne Scholten opened the conference with a talk on her new project, a digital platform on the Dutch volunteers, which aims at creating a database with personal data on each of the volunteers. The project runs in cooperation with the International Institute for Social History at Amsterdam University.

Cultural anthropologist Henk Driessen then talked about his personal experiences in late-Francoist Spain. During the 1970s he lived and worked in two Andalusian agrarian communities.



Floral tributes at the memorial in Amsterdam.

He told the audience about the great divide that still existed between the former Republican and Francoist supporters – and that still had not disappeared the last time he returned in 2010.

University lecturer in Spanish language and culture Gijs Mulder next spoke about the role played by the so-called "pact of forgetting" in Spanish society. He remarked that the former people in power under Franco and their descendants had nothing to win from raking up the past.

See: [http://spanje3639.org/english].

## OBITUARY

### Ray Davies

Ray Davies (right), a well known IBMT activist in Wales, died on 7 May, aged 85. With his trademark red beret, he was a familiar presence at International Brigade events in Britain and Spain, not least as a member of the South Wales Cor Cochian (Red Choir).

Ray was a leading figure in the campaign for a memorial to the Welsh volunteers, culminating in the unveiling of the memorial in

Cathays Park, Cardiff, in 1992. He also helped to organise the IBMT's Annual General Meeting in the Welsh capital in 2005.

Ray was a Labour local councillor in Bedwas, Caerphilly, for over 50 years. He was also vice-chair of Wales CND for many years and featured prominently in the Ken Loach film "Spirit of '45" (2013) about Clem Attlee's Labour government following the end of the Second World War.





## Foresight of Brigaders who raised our London memorial

*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*

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

[facebook.com/groups/7123291063](https://facebook.com/groups/7123291063)

[twitter.com/IBMT\\_SCW](https://twitter.com/IBMT_SCW)

[youtube.com/user/IBMTnews](https://youtube.com/user/IBMTnews)

[flickr.com/photos/ibmt](https://flickr.com/photos/ibmt)

### Secretary

Jim Jump

37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU

020 7253 8748

secretary@international-brigades.org.uk

### President

Marlene Sidaway

marlenesidaway@hotmail.com

### Chair

Dolores Long

doloreslong@fastmail.fm

### Treasurer

Charles Jepson

clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk

### Ireland Secretary

Manus O'Riordan

mmanusoriordan@gmail.com

### Scotland Secretary

Mike Arnott

dundeetuc@ymail.com

### Membership Secretary

Mary Greening

memsec@international-brigades.org.uk

### Education Officer

Richard Thorpe

thorpe.ortiz@btinternet.com

### Merchandise Officer

Chris Hall

christoff\_hall@yahoo.co.uk

### Other Executive Committee members

Richard Baxell, Pauline Fraser, Hilary Jones,

Duncan Longstaff, Marshall Mateer,

Danny Payne, Mick Whelan

### Founding Chair

Professor Paul Preston

### Patrons

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

Registered charity no. 1094928

IBMT Secretary **JIM JUMP** writes

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of the magnificent International Brigade memorial in Jubilee Gardens on London's South Bank. The imposing sculpture by Ian Walters (1930-2006) was unveiled by former Labour leader Michael Foot on 5 October 1985 in the presence of many International Brigade veterans and their supporters.

Raised with the vital support of the Greater London Council and following a financial appeal supported by several trade unions and many other organisations and individuals, the memorial has more than achieved its aims.

Anyone who has spent any time in Jubilee Gardens will be struck by how many passers-by stop to admire the memorial and read its inscriptions – including the adjacent plaque that was installed in 2012 when the 2½-metre high sculpture and plinth were relocated in the park to avoid the congestion around the London Eye. Many Spanish tourists in particular are clearly moved – and surprised – to see such a prominent monument to those who fought for the Spanish Republic in a prime central London location.

Its other important role is to be the focal point of our annual commemoration in July (see pages 12-13 of this issue).

Significantly, it was also one of the first of the memorials to the Brigaders to be established following the restoration of democracy in Spain and has thus served as an inspiration to others that have been raised in scores of towns and

cities around the British Isles since then.

We therefore owe a great debt of gratitude to those veterans in the International Brigade Association who had the determination and foresight to create the memorial and to all those who supported them. Their legacy has already survived a generation and will hopefully remain a landmark to inspire and inform many generations to come.



**INSPECTION:** Viewing the plaster cast by sculptor Ian Walters in his studio in London; among those pictured is International Brigade veteran Joe Monks (in dark suit).

### Graffiti galore

Our thanks go to Alan Warren for cleaning up this latest piece of graffiti (see below) to appear on the plaque to the dead of the British Battalion in the Battle of the Ebro. Other Spanish Republican memorials on top of Hill 705 in the Sierra Pandols were also daubed with anarchist symbols and slogans early in May, says Alan, a Barcelona-based battlefield historian and tour guide.

This was not an isolated incident. The memorial to Irish poet Charlie Donnelly on the Jarama battlefield has also been defaced by graffiti this year, and so too has the International Brigade memorial in Madrid's University City.

Sprayed in red over the Ebro plaque to Republican army general Enrique Lister was the word *asesino* (assassin).

The incident was reported on the IBMT's Facebook page, and sparked a lively debate.



**EBRO PLAQUE:** Daubed in red.

*Continued overleaf*

## From previous page

SH Kang posted on 18 May: “Just because we, the Anarchists (speaking as a *cenetista* [supporter of the CNT anarchist union], have lingering grievances against the dubious behaviours of the PCE [Spanish Communist Party] during the war, it doesn’t mean we’re allowed to express them in a way that makes us look squarely alike with the *facha* [fascist] punks. This is just poor education in manners before taking it to the realm of ideology.”

George Waterhouse was harsher: “Disgraceful behaviour. Lister was a military hero, not just during the Spanish Civil War but also during the Second World War, as were the 5th Regiment and the International Brigade.”

## Solidarity is now unlawful

Several readers have told me how much they liked the news story “Thanked at last: men who said ‘Nae pasaran’ to a dictator” (*IBMT Newsletter* 2-2015) about the Rolls Royce workers in East Kilbride who, with the support of Scottish International Brigade veterans, boycotted jet engines for the Chilean airforce during the 1970s. The action was taken after brutal dictator and Franco admirer General Augusto Pinochet had seized power. The union shop stewards concerned have this year been officially thanked for their principled stand by the now democratic Chilean government. The Brigaders would no doubt have been sad to note that nowadays solidarity industrial action of this sort is unlawful. If it were to be organised today the union would risk being taken to court under Thatcherite anti-trade union legislation.

## Max the centenarian

Happy 100th birthday Max Levitas. The legendary anti-fascist campaigner and IBMT supporter became a centenarian on 1 June, and living proof that, as many on the left say, the struggle keeps you young.

Born in Dublin in 2015 to Latvian and Lithuanian Jewish immigrant parents, Max and the rest of the family moved to London in 1927.



Max Levitas (left) and Monty Goldman lay a wreath at the International Brigade memorial in July 2014.

Along with his brother, Maurice, who served in the British Battalion in Spain, Max took part in the Battle of Cable Street in October 1936, when local residents and anti-fascists prevented the police from clearing a way through the Jewish area of the East End for a parade of anti-semitic Blackshirts.

Among the birthday greetings that were read out at a party for him in Whitechapel on the eve of his birthday was one from Irish President Michael Higgins. It was delivered in person by IBMT Ireland Secretary Manus O’Riordan. Also present at the celebration were TUC General Secretary Frances O’Grady and local Labour MP Rushanara Ali.

Max served for 15 years as a Communist Party local councillor in Stepney and last year laid a wreath at the International Brigade memorial on London’s South Bank.

For more about Max Levitas see [<http://spitalfieldslife.com/2015/06/02/happy-100th-birthday-max-levitas>].

## TV interview stirs old controversy

An hour-long interview with celebrated film director Ken Loach was screened on BBC4 on 14 June. Among the films singled out for discussion was “Land and Freedom”, his only film about the Spanish Civil War.

Loach said the film depicted how a revolution that had taken hold in parts of Spain was crushed “by social democrats and Stalinists” – presumably his way of describing the Spanish Republican authorities.

A clip from the film’s final main action scene showed an entirely fictitious incident on the Aragon front in which International Brigade troops – in laughably neat uniforms – open fire on a militia unit of the POUM, the semi-Trotskyist Workers’ Party of Marxist Unification.

Loach’s latest remarks have once again stirred the controversy over his film that erupted as soon as it was released in 1995.

The main objection to the film – and to its literary twin, George Orwell’s “Homage to Catalonia” – is that, by making the Republic’s heavy-handed repression of the mutinous POUM the dramatic centrepiece of the Spanish Civil War, the impression is given that this was the defining moment of the war and the one moreover that doomed the Republic to defeat.

The clashes in May 1937 between the Republic’s security forces and the POUM and their dissident Anarchist allies were undoubtedly a tragic episode. Hundreds of people were killed in fighting in Barcelona, and many Spanish anti-fascists were unjustly labelled as pro-Franco traitors. Nonetheless, objections to Loach’s film surely remain valid.

Writing in the *London Evening Standard* of 5 October 1995, Martha Gellhorn, the legendary American correspondent in the Spanish Civil War, said the movie “has blown up a minor sideshow of the war” and “misinforms a new audience about the terrible heroic two-and-a-half years when the people of the Spanish Republic and the International

Brigades fought alone against united Fascism”.

She added: “According to POUM doctrine, Stalinists controlled the army and the International Brigades, to say nothing of the government, hence the Republic is Stalin’s puppet and the Spanish War is run to suit him. This outrageous rubbish is the basic message of the film.”

Equally unimpressed was Scottish International Brigade veteran John Dunlop. After seeing the film at the Edinburgh Film Festival in 1995, he fired off a 1,700-word review with the verdict: “I can certify that it bore little resemblance to the realities of those days and the film makers made little attempt to get even the small details right.”

To be fair to Ken Loach, he has always been a vocal admirer of the International Brigade volunteers, calling them “the flower of their generation”. And his film – just like Orwell’s Spanish Civil War memoir – has brought the war in Spain and the memory of the international volunteers to the attention of many thousands of people who might otherwise not have known about them.

To read John Dunlop’s review in full go to [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/land-and-freedom-review](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/land-and-freedom-review)].

## Stanbrook makes a splash



It’s good to see the story of Capt Archibald Dickson and the crew of the *Stanbrook* receiving prominent publicity (see left) in the English language press on the Costa Blanca in Spain. In March

1939 the *Stanbrook* rescued more than 2,600 Spanish Republican refugees from advancing fascist forces in the final days of the Spanish Civil War. *Round Town News* reported the visit in April to Dickson’s home port of Cardiff by a delegation of Spaniards who donated a memorial plaque to the city council. The IBMT is supporting efforts to have the plaque installed in an appropriate waterfront site on Cardiff Bay.

## Donation from the Mortimers

Our thanks go to staunch IBMT supporter Pat Mortimer who has sent us a cheque for £1,000. Pat is the widow of Jim Mortimer (1921-2013), who was a trade union leader and General Secretary of the Labour Party in the 1980s. She stresses that the donation is very much from both of them, as Jim was also a lifelong admirer of the International Brigades. Pat insists there are lessons still to be learnt today about the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War. “We also need continued vigilance against fascism,” she adds. Amen to that.

Jim Jump

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

## JUSTIN BYRNE writes Brunete: The battle of thirst

More people than ever joined the 9th Brunete Memorial March on 27 June to remember the Spanish and International Republican combatants in the terrible battle of July 1937. The turnout was particularly impressive given the early Saturday morning start 20 miles outside Madrid, and above all the heat. The route covered five miles of hilly terrain around Boadilla in temperatures close to 100°F. This gave marchers a small taste of conditions in 1937, when the extreme heat and difficulties getting water to the front line explained why Brunete is known as the *Batalla de la sed*, the Battle of Thirst.

Insights into the battle were provided en route by Ernesto Viñas, local activist and researcher, and cofounder with Sven Tuytens of Brunete en la Memoria, the local historical memory group that organises the now annual march with the support of the AABI (Friends of the International Brigades). Special thanks should also go to members of the PSOE Socialist Party branch of Vicálvaro (Madrid), waiting at the end of the walk with much-needed refreshments.

The night before Ernesto and Sven had presented their new guide, “International Brigade Sites in the Battle of Brunete” (left), the fourth and final volume of the series dedicated to International Brigade landmarks and routes in the Madrid region published by the



AABI. Like its predecessors a snip at just 5 euros, the guide includes a short history of the battle, as well as a map featuring key positions for the five International Brigades (all except the XIV Brigade) that saw combat at Brunete. The English version of the guide is coming soon.

## Popular Unity is the big winner

As expected, the 24 May elections in 13 of Spain’s 17 “autonomous communities” and all the country’s town halls saw the two traditionally dominant parties lose ground to new contenders of left and right. Nonetheless, it is difficult to call a real winner, the resilience of the old parties as surprising as the force of the new in the run-up to the general election due in November.

The ruling conservative Partido Popular (PP) saw its share of the vote drop all over Spain, but it won most votes nationally. This is not a bad result for a party awash with corruption and fully committed to the austerity policies that have helped keep unemployment running at over 20



**ELECTED:** New leftwing mayors for Barcelona, Ada Colau (left), and for Madrid, Manuela Carmena.

per cent and turned Spain into one of the most unequal countries in Europe. Some way behind, the PSOE Socialists saw their share of the national vote drop, but the result was considered good enough to strengthen the shaky position of lightweight party leader Pedro Sánchez.

The around 15 per cent of the vote for Podemos, the radical anti-austerity, anti-corruption movement of the left, was impressive for an organisation formed little over a year before, but hardly enough to justify its claim to be the sole alternative to the PP. The other newcomer, Ciudadanos, the Podemos of the right, took under 10 per cent of the vote.

The shift from two to four-party politics has meant protracted negotiations to form regional governments. The PP has lost power in half a dozen autonomous communities, in most cases either to minority Socialist governments voted in with the support of Podemos, or, as in Valencia, by broad coalition governments of the left. In the Madrid region the Socialists and Podemos were just one seat short of a majority, all too

**“The two new women mayors – anti-eviction activist leader Ada Colau and the retired former communist judge Manuela Carmena respectively – are the visible faces of change and of the hope that another kind of politics is possible.”**

predictably enabling the PP to govern with the support of Ciudadanos.

The local elections brought even bigger change, with particularly significant victories for broad “Popular Unity” slates made up of differing combinations of radical social and political movements and independents allied with Podemos (which had decided not so stand under its own name at local level).

These have now taken over in larger cities and towns across the country, from Cádiz to La Coruña. In Barcelona and Madrid, the two new women mayors – anti-eviction activist leader



Wikimedia Commons

Ada Colau and the retired former communist judge Manuela Carmena respectively – are the visible faces of change and of the hope that another kind of politics is possible.

## ¡Adiós Espe!

The victory of the Popular Unity slate led by Manuela Carmena in Madrid was particularly sweet. Not only did it bring an end to over two decades of PP rule in the city council, but it also means we can now say *adiós* to Esperanza “Espe” Aguirre, the power on the throne of Madrid politics for over a decade.

Blue-blooded Aguirre cultivates an independent, down-to-earth, no-hairs-on-her-tongue image vaguely reminiscent of Boris Johnson. She has much more in common, however, with her political heroine Margaret Thatcher.

As president of the regional government from 2003-2012, Aguirre’s commitment to privatisation knew no bounds, although mass mobilisations forced her successor to reverse plans to privatise six new hospitals. Justified in the name of austerity, savage cuts in education, health care and public services helped drum up business for many of the ultra-liberal countess’s cronies and colleagues.

In fact, while Aguirre has so far managed to avoid charge, under her rule Madrid stood out in a very strong field as possibly the most corrupt regional government in Spain.

Such is the stench that even the new PP president of the regional government has rushed to distance herself from Espe and agreed to an external audit of the books of her years in power.

Educated at the elite British Council School, Aguirre is Britain’s oldest best friend in Madrid. In 2004 she was given an OBE for her services to Anglo-Spanish relations. The citation did not specify if these included awarding teacher training contracts worth millions of euros to... the British Council.

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

# We must remember them by building a better world

Speech made by **OWEN JONES** in Jubilee Gardens on 4 July...

They came from Dundee, Hull and Glasgow; from the mines of the South Wales valleys, from Northumberland and Dumfries: over 2,000 from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth. They left the comforts of peace, the love of their families and friends for the horror, tedium and carnage of war, because they knew that Spain's fight was Europe's fight and they knew it was humanity's fight as well.

The boot of fascism was stamping on the neck of democracy across our continent of Europe. In Italy, a decade before, Benito Mussolini's fascist bands had roamed the countryside, pouring castor oil down the necks of peasants who organised for justice and crushing trade unionists at the behest of big business, before finally seizing Rome.

In Germany, three years before, the most powerful labour movement on earth had been

***“Let’s keep the flame burning that they so proudly lit all those generations ago.”***

crushed virtually overnight, Hitler's Nazis already unleashing a campaign of terror against Jews, socialists, communists and trade unionists.

Two years before Spain erupted in civil war, the fascists had marched on France's national assembly and rioted, conspiring to overthrow democracy and freedom.

The lights were going out across Europe – and then the generals rose against the democratically elected government of Spain.

Those who fought in Spain didn't just have courage, they had foresight as well. The contemptible appeasers of London and Paris wanted a deal with Hitler to drive the Nazis eastward to the Soviet Union. But these wise, courageous Brits knew that war was coming, and not just any war: a war of annihilation and destruction unprecedented in the history of humanity.

While the appeasers did nothing, which paved the way to that murderous calamity, the Brigaders wanted to stop fascism while there was still time on the clock. But the Western democracies abandoned Spain to its fate. They let the fascist flames of Germany

and Italy unleash terror against the people of Spain. They stood back as Guernica was razed to the ground.

While the British and the French governments betrayed the Spanish people and the cause of democracy, these brave British people did not. They were there for Spain in its time of need, over 500 of them never returning to the families and lovers they had left behind. Those fallen heroes died not just for democracy and freedom. They died not just for those in Spain – but died for all of us.

Like Alfred Lichfield from Gateshead who died at Gadesa, James Walsh from Liverpool killed at Jarama, James Bentley from Hull at Calaceite and Thomas Flynn from Glasgow at Chimorra – these young men never made it back.

They remain heroes for all of us here today. The roar of those lions echoes through the generations. They are the giants on whose shoulders we all stand. And they are an example to us all today.

They teach that democracy and all the freedoms our ancestors fought for at such cost and at such sacrifice must never be taken away from us; that we must never give in to those who peddle hatred and those who tell us to hate and to despise. And whether it be the Kurds who defend Kobani from the terror of Isis, whether it be the Greeks who today confront the fascism of the Golden Dawn, the spirit of those young men lives on today.

It is our duty and our responsibility not just to remember what they fought against but also what they fought for. We owe it to them to build a different world, a world free of the oppression, injustice and poverty that scar the world in which we live. We owe it to them to build a different sort of society based on equality and justice and free from these scourges.

That should be the great legacy in part that they left behind, that they bequeathed to all of us. Let's keep that struggle alive. Let's keep the flame burning that they so proudly lit all those generations ago.

In the words of WH Auden:  
*What's your proposal? To build the just city? I will. I agree. Or is it the suicide pact, the romantic Death? Very well, I accept, for I am your choice, your decision. Yes, I am Spain. Solidarity. No pasarán!*

Owen Jones is a political commentator and campaigner. He is the author of *“Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class”* and *“The Establishment: And how they get away with it”* and writes regularly for *The Guardian* and the *New Statesman*.



Hundreds of International Brigade supporters, friends and family members gathered on London's South Bank on 4 July for the IBMT's annual commemoration of the 2,500 volunteers from Britain and Ireland in the Spanish Civil War, of whom 526 gave their lives.

The scene around the International Brigade memorial in Jubilee Gardens was a riot of colour, with International Brigade banners and Spanish Republican flags flying alongside banners of trade unions and of anti-fascist and community groups.

Speakers at the event included political commentator, author and activist Owen Jones. He was joined by Carmen Negrín, granddaughter of Juan Negrín, the last prime minister of the Spanish Republic. She is a leading figure in Spanish Civil War remembrance organisations in Spain and France.

## Courage

Praising the courage and foresight of the Brigaders, Owen Jones said: “We owe it to them to build a different world, a world free of the oppression, injustice and poverty that scar the world in which we live.”

“We owe it to them to build a different sort of society based on equality and justice and free from these scourges.”

Carmen Negrín said that international



Pictured clockwise from top left: Na-mara; Almudena Cros, President of the AABI Spanish Friends of the International Brigades, and three-month old Max lay a wreath; Jim Jump, part of the large crowd at the event; Karl Lewkowicz; Carmen Negrín; Francesca Beard; Owen Jones; and the International Brigade memorial.



# Songs, poetry and speeches hail legacy of International Brigades

solidarity had become a reality with the International Brigades. “It was a unique case in history,” she added. “In many ways it compensated, if not militarily, at least morally, for the absence of solidarity shown by the so-called democracies of those tragic years.”

She continued: “My grandfather was eternally grateful to them. When we were children, he used to tell my brother and me how brave and devoted these men and women were.”

In his opening remarks, IBMT Secretary Jim Jump said it was worth recalling on this 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War that many International Brigade volunteers and thousands of exiled Spanish Republicans played a leading part in the defeat of Nazism.

He went on: “Sad to say, but there are attempts nowadays to rewrite and downplay the story of the great victory they achieved in 1945. In particular, the leading role played by communists, socialists, anarchists and others of the left is ignored or denigrated.

“Memorials to the International Brigades are

being removed and destroyed in some countries of Eastern Europe – while at the same time Nazi supporters and collaborators are being rehabilitated as nationalist heroes.”

Performance poet Francesca Beard recited her poem “No Pasarán”\*. She wrote it to mark the 70th anniversary of the return of the British Battalion from Spain in December 1938. On this occasion she was asked to deliver it to mark the 30th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial in Jubilee Gardens in October 1985.

### Winner

Music was provided by Karl Lewkowicz, composer of the musical “Goodbye Barcelona”, winner of Best Musical in Spain’s latest annual musical theatre awards. He sang three of his songs from the show.

Na-mara led the singing of “Valley of Jarama”. The folk duo later played a set, along with award-winning folk singer-songwriter Ewan McLennan, at the informal IBMT get-together in the nearby Camel and Artichoke pub.

At Jubilee Gardens wreaths were laid by, among others, representatives of the Catalan government’s delegation in London, International Brigade friendship organisations from Spain, France and Sweden, Spanish exile and refugee groups, the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women and several union and political bodies. This was followed by a minute’s silence.

Jim Jump recalled that when the South Bank memorial was unveiled 30 years ago there were scores of International Brigade veterans present. Now there was none with us in Jubilee Gardens, though the importance of their remembrance was just as great.

Only one British veteran of the International Brigades survives, he added: Stan Hilton, aged 97, a former merchant seaman from Newhaven, Sussex, who lives in a nursing home near Melbourne, Australia.

\*The poem was published in full in *IBMT Newsletter 1-2014*.

A photo gallery of the commemoration can be seen at: [<http://bit.ly/1H8izHz>]. Videos of Owen Jones and Carmen Negrín delivering their speeches are viewable on the IBMT’s YouTube site: [[www.youtube.com/user/IBMTnews](http://www.youtube.com/user/IBMTnews)]. The full text of the speeches by Carmen Negrín, along with the opening remarks of IBMT Secretary Jim Jump, are on the IBMT web-site: [[www.international-brigades.org.uk/blog/blog](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/blog/blog)].



## Not an IBMT member? Join now and help keep alive the memory and spirit of the volunteers

Complete the form below and send subscriptions and any donations to:  
IBMT, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU

For a Direct Debit form or for any other membership or subscription queries  
tel: 029 2019 5412; email: memsec@international-brigades.org.uk

### Membership application form

Full name

Up to three additional names (for family membership)\*

Address

Postcode

Email\*\*

Telephone\*

Membership category and annual subscription rate (please tick as appropriate):

- Free – International Brigade veterans and partners and widow/ers
- £25 – Family (single household)
- £20 – Individual
- £12.50 – Unwaged
- Institutions – contact Membership Secretary (see above) for rates

Donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed\*

Signature

Date

\* Optional / If applicable

\*\* Members who provide an email address will receive our news service emails.

Make cheques payable to International Brigade Memorial Trust.

NB: Please note that different annual subscription rates apply to overseas (non-UK) members. These reflect the higher postage costs of mailing the IBMT Newsletter. They are:

- Family (single household): £30 / \$48 / €37
- Individual: £25 / \$40 / €30
- Unwaged: £17 / \$27 / €22

### Gift Aid declaration

Please complete if you are a UK taxpayer:

*I wish this and all subsequent payments to the International Brigade Memorial Trust to be treated as Gift Aid donations.*

Name

Signature

Date

*Keeping 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**

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

Registered charity no. 1094928

## FEATURES

# Why I'm fighting for justice via the Argentine courts



By Inés García Holgado

**M**y legal action in the Argentine courts began on 14 April 2010, the 79th anniversary of the proclamation of the Spanish Republic. I was joined by Darío

Rivas Cando, son of the socialist mayor of Lugo shot by the fascist rebels in 1936, Spain's ARMH (Association for the Recovery of Historical Memory) and several human rights organisations.

Our aim is to order an investigation into the crimes committed under Franco, identifying those responsible and punishing them in law.

Citing the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, our lawsuit is "for genocide and/or crimes against humanity committed in Spain by the Franco dictatorship between the start of the military coup on 17 July 1936 and the holding of democratic elections on 15 June 1977".

There are now some 350 of us involved, either victims of Francoism or, as in my case, family members of victims of the repression. We are all resident in Argentina.

On 18 September 2013 the judge in the case took the major step of requesting the extradition from Spain of Francoist police officers accused of torture during the Franco dictatorship.

Then on 5 December of that year came a historic moment. For the first time ever, these police officers were forced to appear in the dock. They arrived at Spain's Audiencia Nacional (high court), hiding their faces with scarves and dark glasses, and had to listen to accusations of torture.

The judge ordered the accused to surrender their passports and banned them from travelling abroad. However, extradition was eventually rejected on the grounds that the offences described were "common crimes" and therefore exempt from extradition.

### Demanded

The Argentine courts have not given up. On 15 November last year, the extradition from Spain of 20 individuals was demanded, all of them former Franco government ministers, torturers, doctors or others implicated in torture. So far no action has been taken.

Both the United Nations and Amnesty International are pressing Spain either to extradite or try the accused.

We believe that the Spanish state has a duty to investigate the crimes of Francoism – in my case what happened to members of my family.

The García Holgados were from La Fregeneda,

International Brigade Memorial Trust

close to the Portuguese border in the province of Salamanca. This was the birthplace of my grandfather and his two brothers.

My grandfather, Vicente García Holgado, worked for the Spanish postal service in Madrid, where he was a Communist Party activist. When the civil war ended he was arrested, tortured and sentenced to 12 years in jail for the surreal crime of “aiding the rebellion” – in other words resisting the actual rebellion by the fascists.

Released early, he moved to San Sebastián, where he became involved in union work on behalf of local fishermen, who were obliged to join Franco’s so-called “vertical unions” that were strictly controlled by employers and the state. While on a visit to the headquarters of Spain’s national fishing authority in Madrid in 1946 he “fell” to his death from a seventh-floor window. This was a common way in that era of disposing of people deemed to be a thorn in the side of the regime.

### Brothers

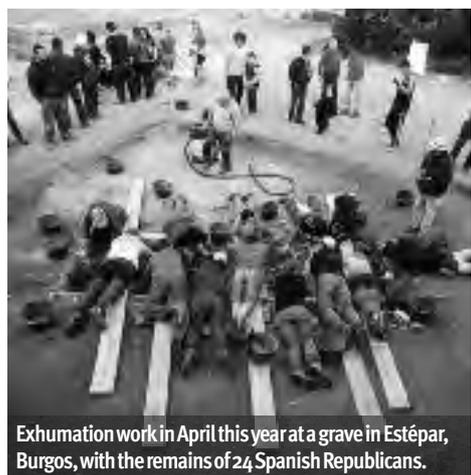
His two brothers, Luis and Elías García Holgado, had already paid with their lives for their beliefs. Luis was a freemason and socialist. He was a postal worker in Hervás, in Cáceres province, and was arrested and executed in 1937. Elías was the mayor of Lumbrales in Salamanca. He was executed in 1936 immediately after the start of the civil war.

Two other great uncles fell victim to Franco. Juan Romero Montesinos, a magistrate in Valencia when the war ended, was shot by the fascists. The fate of Vicente García Holgado, who served as a doctor in the Spanish Republican army, remains unknown. He is what we call in Argentina a “disappeared”.

To have lost a grandfather and four great uncles gives an inkling of the extent of the brutal repression imposed by Franco. Mine is not an isolated case. Tens of thousands of Spaniards were summarily executed or “disappeared” by the fascist rebels. This did not end with the war. The tortures and executions continued for another four decades.

Our choice now is simple: justice or injustice. To deny justice is to acquiesce to injustice, something we will never do. We will continue our campaign in the Argentine courts for as long as it takes.

Inés García Holgado is a Buenos Aires-based lawyer. She is pictured above speaking at the International Brigade memorial on London’s South Bank on 14 April this year.



Exhumation work in April this year at a grave in Estépar, Burgos, with the remains of 24 Spanish Republicans.

# Across the Pyrenees in search of my great uncle Bruce Boswell

By Joy Johnson Boswell

My mother’s elder brother, Bruce Boswell, was a working-class lad who went to war because he believed that there was no choice. He was an actor with the Unity Theatre, and was at Unity when Paul Robeson was rehearsing “Plant in the Sun”. He may even have received coaching from Robeson. Inspired perhaps by that experience, he too thought: “The artist must take sides. He must elect to fight for freedom or for slavery.” And Bruce took that literally. On 3 May 1938, he enlisted in the International Brigades. By 14 May he was writing home to his parents, saying: “Please understand that I gave my services voluntarily to the [Spanish] government, and I am prepared to carry out any orders I am given, whether it be to continue to fight, go home, or anything else.”

He would probably have been in the barracks at Montblanc at this time, having “beans for dinner, beans for tea, twice a day, seven days a week” and have been “training, five rifles between forty of us, no ammunition, that’s all needed at the front”, as he told his fellow hams at Unity in a letter from that same time.

I had always known that my uncle was killed in the Spanish Civil War; knew that he was 20, an actor, had been in a film; I’d seen a still taken from it – my grandmother had it on her fireplace – but otherwise my knowledge was as hazy as that picture. Still, I thought that one day I would write a book about him.

Back in the 80s I wrote to Bill Alexander and Jack Jones. Jack recalled: “I only met your Uncle Bruce fleetingly... he was a young, cheery, but rather shy man who, like many of us, was very much of an idealist”; Bill put a request for information in the International Brigade Association newsletter, and Ted Smallbone wrote: “I have only a very vague recollection. I think it was in ‘Chabola Valley’ ... then on up to the Ebro Crossing and finally Hill 481”. And I met Jack Selford, who remembered Bruce very well from his time at Unity, where Jack was in charge of Communist Party training as well as Head of Plays.

But the trail went cold, and life got in the way. It’s only now, 30 years later, that I have returned to the research and, through the wonders of the internet and with help from Richard Baxell in London and Alan Warren in Barcelona, have found that it is easier now than it was then

to follow a trail. I was inspired to travel from Paris to Barcelona in May this year, at about the same time of year as Bruce’s travels. In Paris, I went to the Communist Party headquarters, a huge concrete and glass building that undulates across Place du Colonel-Fabien, and sought out the plaques dedicated to the International Brigades. I went by train to Perpignan and found Place Arago, where some of the early volunteers met the contacts who helped them cross into Spain. We drove up into the Pyrenees to Maureillas-las-Illas, a small sunlit town where history plays in the shadows; and then to Las Illas where a monument stands to the “fallen of the International Brigade”.

From Perpignan I travelled to Barcelona, speeding under the Pyrenees at 280kph. It took two minutes to cross those mountains.

And then from Barcelona, with Alan Warren as my guide, I visited the places where the volunteers trained, lived, fought and, in the case of Bruce Boswell, died.



TAKING SIDES: Actor Bruce Boswell was killed in the Battle of the Ebro.

It was a whistle-stop tour. Montblanc, Marça, Chabola Valley, where we think Bruce and Ben Glazer, also a Unity Theatre actor, tried to get a “People’s Theatre” going, acting out “Waiting for Lefty”, “Slusher” and other plays and declamations they

knew, asking Unity to send them scripts.

And then to the last stop on the tour. Standing on the top of the mountain and looking across at Hill 481, the “Pimple”, brought a different quality to my research. Despite the heat, and the pinprick bugs that dust your skin and leave droplets of blood behind, it is a beautiful place. But it’s harsh, and hard walking on dry, sliding scree. Imagine, then, how it would be in July, carrying old rifles, wearing ill-fitting boots and knowing that you were facing death.

In Bruce’s last letter home to his mother he wrote: “Don’t think I’m enjoying myself, far from it, or that I like war. I came out here because I hate war and love life so much – so much that I am willing to die for it.”

The scripts came too late for Bruce. He died on 28 July 1938 with “no official news of how he died, but believed to be returning from the front line”.

Joy Johnson Boswell is working on a book about Bruce Boswell. Follow her research on her blog [<https://mysteryhistoryandfantasy.wordpress.com>].

One of the best known poems to emerge from the Spanish Civil War is John Cornford's love poem to his sweetheart Margot Heinemann (1913-1992). The couple, pictured right, met at Cambridge University, where they both joined the Communist Party. Called simply "Poem" when it was published posthumously in 1937, it is now more commonly titled "To Margot Heinemann".

Cornford was killed at Lopera, near Córdoba, on 28 December 1936, the day after his 21st birthday. He was fighting with the English-speaking company of La Marseillaise Battalion. Before joining the International Brigades he had served with the semi-Trotskyist POUM militia on the Aragon front – hence the reference to Huesca in his poem. Also sometimes known by its first line, "Heart of the heartless world" (paraphrasing Karl Marx), the poem is considered by many to be one of the finest love poems of the 20th century, and the reader's knowledge of the writer's fate makes its intimate tenderness and confessional tone all the more poignant.

*Heart of the heartless world,  
Dear heart, the thought of you  
Is the pain at my side,  
The shadow that chills my view.*

*The wind rises in the evening,  
Reminds that autumn is near.  
I am afraid to lose you,  
I am afraid of my fear.*

*On the last mile to Huesca,  
The last fence for our pride,  
Think so kindly, dear that I  
Sense you at my side.*

*And if bad luck should lay my strength  
Into the shallow grave,  
Remember all the good you can:  
Don't forget my love.*

Cornford's poem takes its place in a sequence of four poems. The other three were written by Margot Heinemann in 1936, 1937 and, probably, around 1950.

Taken as a whole they serve to reinforce the romantic view of the tragic Cornford-Heinemann love affair and his Byronic image as a dashing young soldier, poet and lover cut down in his prime.

Graham Stevenson, the biographer of leading British communists (see [www.grahamstevenson.me.uk](http://www.grahamstevenson.me.uk)) says: "Margot Heinemann and John Cornford are perhaps the main example of the great love affair in the British Communist movement, rivalling Noreen and Clive Branson's personal loss (he was killed in the Second World War) by their remark-



For this year's centenary of the birth of John Cornford on 27 December 1915, JIM JUMP looks back at the poems inspired by his love affair with Margot Heinemann.

## Margot Heinemann and John Cornford

# Poems of love and loss

able poetry." Branson of course was another International Brigader.

Born into a distinguished family of academics, Cornford was the son of a Cambridge University philosophy professor and the great grandson of Charles Darwin. He read history at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Margot – from a rich Jewish family in London – was not Cornford's first girlfriend. He had also been romantically attached to Rachel Peters, a Communist Party activist from South Wales, and they had a son in 1935.

Cornford's poem can be seen as a response to Heinemann's poem "For R.J.C. (Summer, 1936)" RJC are Rupert John Cornford's initials. Here's an extract:

*When he began, he talked too fast  
To be heard well, and he knew too much.  
He had never had, though learned a little  
at last,  
The sure, sincere and easy touch  
On an audience: and his handsome head  
Charmed no acquiescence: he convinced  
and led.*

Though it almost reads like a eulogy, Heinemann's poem was written, as its title suggests, while Cornford was still alive. She composed it on a train travelling back from the south of France after she picked up John's *poste restante* message that he had enlisted in Spain.

Then, devastated by the news that

her lover had been killed, she penned "Grieve in a New Way for New Losses" in 1937. It begins with Heinemann imagining his decomposing body (which was never recovered from the battlefield):

*And after the first sense "He will not come again"  
Fearing still the images of corruption,  
To think he lies out there and changes  
In the process of the earth from what I  
knew,  
Decays and even there in the grave, shut  
close  
In the dark, away from me, speechless  
and cold,  
Is in no way left the same that I have  
known.  
All this is not more than we can deal with.*

Both "For R.J.C. (Summer, 1936)" and "Grieve in a New Way for New Losses" have appeared in anthologies, such as "Poems for Spain" (edited by Stephen Spender and John Lehmann, 1939) and "The Penguin Book of Spanish Civil War Verse" (edited by Valentine Cunningham, 1980).

Less well known is "Ringstead Mill", the final poem in this sequence, though it was published in "Red Sky at Night" (edited by Andy Croft and Adrian Mitchell, 2003).

It was discovered in Heinemann's papers following her death. Daughter Jane Bernal explains: "At first we thought it must have been written in the last two years of her life. It now seems it was written rather earlier, probably in the late 1940s or early 1950s, but she did not show it to many people and it was never published during her lifetime. Ringstead Mill is a house in an old windmill that belonged to friends of the Cornford family. Margot and John stayed there in December 1935."

The poem was read at Margot's

funeral by the actress Tilda Swinton. Here it is in full:

*Stranger whom I once knew well,  
Do not haunt this house.  
Sorrow's but a ravelled thread,  
To draw back the active dead,  
Nor is pleasure mutable  
Such as smiled on us.  
Stranger whom I once knew well,  
Do not haunt this house.*

*Idle and low spirits can  
Take your name and face:  
Old green sweater, battered coat,  
Coal-black hair and sleeves too short.  
Though I know the living man  
Finished with this place,  
Idle and low spirits can  
Take your name and face.*

*Here we laid foundations where  
Never walls were built.  
Faded is the fireside glow,  
Things we knew or seemed to know  
Blown around the empty air,  
And the milk is spilt.  
Here we laid foundations where  
Never walls were built.*

*And the hard thing to believe  
Still is what you said.  
With a bullet in the brain,  
How can matter think again?  
All things that once live and move  
Endlessly are dead.  
And the hard thing to believe  
Still is what you said.*

*So from these deserted rooms,  
Even memory's past.  
As your closely pencilled screech  
Grows more faint and hard to read,  
So our blueprints and our dreams,  
Tom from time are lost.  
So from these deserted rooms,  
Even memory's passed.*

*Mountains that we saw far off,  
Sleek with gentle snow,  
To the climbers axe reveal  
Ice that jars the swinging steel,  
Armoured on a holdless cliff  
With the clouds below –  
Mountains that we saw far off,  
Sleek with gentle snow.*

*Time bears down its heroes all  
And the fronts they held.  
Yet their charge of change survives  
In the changed fight of our lives –  
Poisoned fires they never dreamed of  
Ring the unrented field.  
Change is their memorial  
Who have changed the world.*

Heinemann became – along with Noreen Branson – a leading figure in the Communist Party and was an author and novelist as well as poet. From the early 1950s she lived with the scientist and fellow communist Professor JD Bernal. However, as "Ringstead Mill" so movingly makes clear, she never forgot John Cornford.

Jim Jump is the editor of "Poems from Spain" (Lawrence & Wishart, 2006) and the IBMT Secretary. Jane Bernal is writing a biography of Margot Heinemann. See also this blog: [<http://adathecadre.wordpress.com>].

# Geordies to the rescue of Bilbao refugees

By Sarah Richardson

Over days and weeks in May 1937, a group of Newcastle cargo ships steamed out of Bilbao, their decks crowded with refugees. They were taking part in a massive rescue scheme for Basque civilians during the Spanish Civil War.

Starving refugees had flocked into the port of Bilbao from surrounding areas as General Franco's Nationalist forces advanced and bombing raids intensified. Following the destruction of Guernica on 26 April, and the fall of the key defence town of Durango, near Bilbao, two days later, thousands more refugees thronged the roads to the port city.

A Basque representative appealed for help on 29 April, fearing a mass raid like the one that had flattened Guernica: "The fearful possibilities of an air attack on Bilbao are obvious. The population has increased from 300,000 to 500,000, including 100,000 children.

"The food situation is acute, and the wharf is crowded with children begging the crews of British ships for food."

The air-raids in Bilbao were the worst danger for British ships, the captain of the Wear steamer *Coquetdale* told the *North Mail*: "...one never knows whether a bomb is going to drop on the docks. Then it might be finish for us. Thirty aircraft, most of them three-engined machines, dropping a rain of bombs, weighing a quarter of a ton each, and wreaking havoc among the suburbs of the city... It gets on your nerves."

Both the *Coquetdale* and her sister ship *Brinkburn* had carried food from Antwerp to Bilbao. Capt Charles Smith of the *Coquetdale* was speaking to the *North Mail* when the ship arrived at Tyne Dock on 21 April, following the trip back with iron ore from Bilbao. He was ready to load coal for a return voyage to Bilbao, though taking on some new crew members to replace those who didn't want to return.

Foodships had been chartered by the Basque government to run the Nationalist blockade into Bilbao. From 25 to 29 April the freighters arriving in Bilbao included the Newcastle ships *Hamsterley*, *Backworth*, *Backhill*, *SheafField* and *SheafGarth*. The *North Mail* reported that the Newcastle steamer *Stesso* had also got through carrying coal. Not all the ships were successful, however. The Newcastle steamer *Greathope* couldn't get past the Nationalist ships blockading the port and had to turn back to Gibraltar.

The Newcastle ship *Backworth* made the nerve-wracking approach to Bilbao on 28 April. On board was the *North Mail* special correspondent Edward F Balloch, who radioed back to the newspaper office from the ship.

As the ship reached the three-mile limit to international waters, the *Backworth* had to rely on speed and Basque shore batteries to protect it.

The *Backworth* was "Commanded by Captain



The *Coquetdale* and crew.

"Hard Nut" Russell of South Shields", said the *North Mail*, and had a crew of 24 Tynesiders. Capt Russell had a personal commitment to helping the Basques. He told the *North Mail*: "As a

***"The crew of the Backworth shared Capt Russell's commitment to helping the Basque people. 'The crew subscribed out of their pay for parcels of food for Bilbao,' the North Mail reported.***

married man myself, I am happy to undertake the trip to help the defenceless women and children in the Basque country."

While the supplies were being loaded on his ship at Immingham (near Hull), he travelled to London to meet Wilfrid Roberts, MP for North Cumberland. Roberts was Treasurer of the Spanish Joint Relief Committee, which raised aid for civilians on both sides of the conflict, though he commented, "We have had little encouragement, however, so far from General Franco."

The *North Mail*'s report of 23 April said: "Mr

Wilfrid Roberts explained last night, 'On Tuesday night Captain Russell of the *Backworth* (2,480 Tons) listened to me in the House of Commons. He afterwards met Mr Lloyd George and a Basque representative. His ship is now lying at Immingham Docks already loaded with 200 tons of food contributed by the British trade unions movement.'"

In addition, the *Backworth* carried 2,000 tons of coal, which would be traded on a barter system for iron ore from the Basque territory.

The crew of the *Backworth* shared Capt Russell's commitment to helping the Basque people. "The crew subscribed out of their pay for parcels of food for Bilbao," the *North Mail* reported.

In recognition of the danger, British crews received a 50 per cent bonus on pay rates for a period of 24 hours either side of being in a Spanish port (raised to double pay from 17 May).

The *North Mail* a few days earlier reported that the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief was hoping to use the *Backworth* to transport refugees. "I shall probably take 600 refugees" said Capt Russell. "Other ships may take as many as 1,000."

Initially, Franco opposed evacuation of refugees, on the grounds that removing large numbers of vulnerable civilians would

*Continued overleaf*



**WITNESS:** This photograph of refugees (right) on the road from Guernica was taken by Norman Ramsey of South Shields shortly after the city was bombed on 26 April 1937. He had arrived on the Newcastle steamer *Hamsterley*, which had docked in Bilbao three days earlier with a cargo of food for the starving Basque population. Ramsey also photographed the ruins of the centre of Guernica (above). His pictures were published in the *North Mail* and *Newcastle Chronicle* after he returned to Newcastle in May.



## Geordies to the rescue of Bilbao refugees

*From previous page*

strengthen the Republican military position.

The refugee evacuation from Bilbao got under way at the beginning of May. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported: "Evacuation of women, children and invalids from the besieged Basque capital of Bilbao started late today [2 May], immediately after General Francisco Franco, Spanish Rebel dictator, relented and agreed not to shell refugee ships in the Bay of Biscay. The exodus under the guardian guns of French and British warships will be in full swing tomorrow when scores of Basque fishing boats put out from Bilbao with their cargoes of refugees.

"...France and Great Britain decided that British food ships now anchored at Bilbao – the *Marvia*, *Portalet*, *Hamsterley*, *Thurston*, *Backworth*, *Blackhill*, *Thorpehall*, *Consett* and *SheafField* – will be loaded with refugees for the first mass departures, probably Monday [3 May].

"The nine freighters will carry 5,000 women and children to France on their first trip. Another British freighter, the *Branhill* [*Bramhill*], arrived in St Jean de Luz with food bound for Bilbao. It will be pressed into refugee service... It was expected that 30,000 Basques, mostly children, would be removed from Bilbao immediately."

Five of the nine ships named for the initial phase

were from Newcastle – the *Hamsterley*, *Backworth*, *Blackhill*, *Consett*, and *SheafField*. The others were from London and other ports.

The *North Mail's* correspondent on board the *Backworth*, Edward F Balloch, radioed the refugee rescue plans back to Newcastle on 2 May.

The refugees rescued from Bilbao were taken to the French ports of St Jean de Luz, about 70 nautical miles along the coast, and Bayonne.

The *Backworth* left Bilbao on 7 May, a few days after the *Hamsterley*, in convoy with the *Thorpehall* of London, and the *MacGregor* (reported in the *North Mail* on 8 May). The *Thorpehall* had also previously delivered 40 refugees to the French port of La Rochelle.

It couldn't have been a comfortable journey for refugees. The *Hamsterley*, *Backworth* and other vessels were coal and general cargo ships – they weren't built to carry many passengers.

**T**he *Hamsterley*, having left Bilbao on 3 May, arrived back on the Tyne with a cargo of iron ore on 10 May. It would have been difficult to fit in separate refugee and cargo trips in the time (a direct voyage from Bilbao to the Tyne took two days), so presumably they were combined.

Strangely, the story published on the ship's return doesn't mention refugees. In fact, the *North Mail* goes oddly quiet on the subject altogether, though rescues by British ships continued from the northern coast of Spain. This may have been because the subject was politically delicate, since both Franco and his ally Germany had charged that protecting food ships in international waters and rescuing refugees were contrary to the Non-Intervention Agreement.

The German newspaper *Börsen Zeitung* criticised the British refugee rescue voyages in October 1937, as Sir George Ogilvie Forbes reported in a telegram to Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: "The *Börsen Zeitung* enquires in a leading article this evening what has happened to the refugees of whom, according to the First Lord

of the Admiralty, 89,000 have been evacuated from the north coast of Spain under the protection of His Majesty's Ships and 10,000 upon His Majesty's Ships themselves... We do not know what England is going to do with this mass of Red soldiers, hangers-on, agitators and common criminals... We have the right to ask England ... how this conduct is to be reconciled with the principle of non-intervention..."

However, by early June, the Nationalist blockade of Bilbao had lapsed. The Newcastle steamer *SheafField* had set out from the Tyne on 31 May with a cargo of coal, returning with iron ore to Tyne Dock on 13 June.

The *North Mail* reported: "A thrilling aerial duel above the Newcastle steamer *SheafField* at Bilbao, culminating in a Nationalist plane being brought down in flames, was described to a *North Mail* representative when the vessel arrived in Tyne Dock, yesterday, after another trip to the Spanish war zone.

"One of the crew said that although a Nationalist warship was in the vicinity while the *SheafField* was heading for Bilbao and also when she put to sea again on her return trip, no attempt was made to interfere with the vessel. The 'blockade' had collapsed."

One of the last aid ships into Bilbao before it fell to the Nationalists was the *Alice Marie*, which set out with medical supplies from Blyth in early June. Franco's Nationalists captured Bilbao on 19 June 1937. Iron ore exports to the Tyne were immediately stopped, but restarted in September 1937. British and French efforts to help refugees at Santander and the surrounding area continued.

Sarah Richardson is the Keeper of Art at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne. This edited article is one of a series of blogs written to accompany the exhibition "Conscience and Conflict: British Artists and the Spanish Civil War", at the gallery from 7 February to 7 June. See [<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/engage/blog>] and search the posts (which contain source information) from March to June 2015.



Front page cutting from the *North Mail*, 29 April 1937.

# Bob Cooney's 'Proud Journey' to Spain and back

The Spanish Civil War memoir of one of the best known members of the British Battalion, Bob Cooney, is being published this autumn.

Cooney (1907-1984) was a leading anti-fascist and communist in Aberdeen when he joined the International Brigades in September 1937. Publication of his first-hand account, titled "Proud Journey", is being timed to coincide with the IBMT's Annual General Meeting in Aberdeen this October – as well as with the 80th anniversary of the creation of the International Brigades next year.

Cooney's has long been considered one of the liveliest and most readable memoirs of the war. It is now being published by the Marx Memorial Library, where the original 180-page manuscript is kept.

Support for putting "Proud Journey" into print is being given by the IBMT and Unite. Cooney was blacklisted by building employers following the Second World War because of his trade union activities. He was forced to move to Birmingham to find work – where he became a regular performer in the city's folk clubs.

Cooney studied at Moscow's Lenin School in 1931-32. On his return to Scotland he was active in the campaign to prevent Sir Oswald



Bob Cooney (left) pictured during the 1938 Battle of the Ebro, with George Fletcher (centre) and Peter Kerrigan.

Marx Memorial Library

in the British Army during the Second World War. He writes in his preface: "I have written my narrative chapter by chapter in the not too congenial atmosphere of army camps and billets, and there are no doubt many imperfections in consequence."

"But if the reader gets anything like the same enjoyment from my book as I have derived from writing it, and if the cause for which we fought in Spain and which we fight for still is strengthened even in an insignificant degree, I shall count my work a success."

On 17 October, the day of the IBMT's AGM, a new plaque to Bob Cooney, "Communist, Anti-fascist, Trade Unionist and Political

Commissar of the British Battalion, XV International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939", will be unveiled in Aberdeen.

Mosley's fascist Blackshirts from establishing a presence in his home town. This period, including a number of arrests and a prison sentence, is documented in "Proud Journey".

But most of the book – 24 of its 30 chapters – is dedicated to the war in Spain. Bob Cooney saw action at Teruel, Segura de los Baños, Belchite and the Ebro, and from April 1938 until the repatriation of the British Battalion in December of that year was its Political Commissar.

The memoir was written while Cooney served



"Proud Journey" is priced at £5. To order a copy send a cheque for £8 (includes £3 p&p) made out to the IBMT, with a name and address, to: IBMT, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU. The book will be available from 5 October, after which orders will be despatched.

## Books for sale

London's Marx Memorial Library is the home of the International Brigade Memorial Archive and holds a large number of books, pamphlets, periodicals and documents relating to the Spanish Civil War. Over the years it has accumulated many duplicate copies of books and is now offering these for sale to IBMT members in order to raise funds necessary for improving the cataloguing and maintenance of the archive.

The Library welcomes book donations and always ensures that all donated titles are available for use by researchers. The Library does not sell inscribed, personalised or unique copies.

Add £2.50 to the listed price to cover postage costs, plus £1.50 for each additional item. Email [admin@mml.xy2] to place an order and arrange payment by PayPal. Alternatively, send cheques payable to "Marx Memorial Library" with name and address to: Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU. Cheques will be returned if orders cannot be met. Stocks are limited and orders will be dealt with on a "first come" basis.

● PB paperback; HB hardback

● Condition: VG very good; G good; R reasonable; P poor

### The Academy of Sciences of the USSR

- "International Solidarity with the Spanish Republic" Progress Publishers, Moscow (1976) PB VG £3

### Bill Alexander

- "British Volunteers for Liberty Spain 1936-1939" Lawrence & Wishart (1982) HB G £6

### Duchess of Atholl

- "Searchlight on Spain" Penguin (1938) PB G £2.50

### Richard Baxell

- "British Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War" Routledge (2004) HB G £6

### Richard Baxell, Angela Jackson & Jim Jump

- "Antifascistas" Lawrence & Wishart (2010) PB G £3

### Anthony Beevor

- "The Spanish Civil War" Orbis (1982) HB G £4.50

### Alvah Bessie

- "Men in Battle" Seven Seas, Berlin (1960) PB R £1.50

### Edouard de Blaye

- "Franco" Pelican (1976) PB G £2.50

### Raymond Carr

- "Images of the Spanish Civil War" Allen & Unwin (1986) HB G £4
- "Spain 1808-1975" Oxford University Press (1982) PB G £6

### S Carrillo

- "Dialogue on Spain" Lawrence &

Wishart (1976) PB G £3.50

### J Cleugh

- "Spanish Fury" Harrap (1962) HB G £3.50

### Ronald Fraser

- "The Pueblo are Back" Allen Lane (1973) HB VG £4

### Jack Gibbs

- "The Spanish Civil War" Ernest Benn (1973) HB G £3

### Thomas J Hamilton

- "Appeasement's Child – the Franco Regime in Spain" Gollancz (1943) HB R £2

### Ernest Hemingway

- "For Whom the Bell Tolls" Penguin (1974) PB G £2.50

### Frances Lannon

- "The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939" Osprey (2002) PB G £3

### Laurie Lee

- "A Moment of War" Viking (1991) HB G £3.50

### David Mitchell

- "The Spanish Civil War" Granada (1982) HB G £4

### George Orwell

- "Homage to Catalonia" Penguin (1966) PB R £1

### Abel Paz

- "The Spanish Civil War" Éditions Hazan, Paris (1997) PB VG £2

### Paul Preston

- "The Coming of the Spanish Civil War" Macmillan (1978) HB G £5
- "Comrades" HarperCollins (1999) HB VG £5
- "Revolution and War in Spain" Routledge (1993) PB G £3.50
- "Doves of War – Four Women of Spain" HarperCollins (2002) HB VG £5

- "The Spanish Civil War – Reaction, Revolution and Revenge" Harper Perennial (2006) PB G £3

### Frank Ryan (editor)

- "The Book of the XV Brigade" (reprint of 1938 publication of the Commissariat of War, XV Brigade) Warren & Pell (2003) HB VG £12

### Jorge Semprún

- "Communism in Spain in the Franco Era" Harvester Press (1980) HB G £3.50

### LE Snellgrove

- "Franco and the Spanish Civil War" Longman (1977) PB G £2.50

### Hugh Thomas

- "The Spanish Civil War" Pelican (1971) PB R £2

### JP Trend

- "The Civilisation of Spain" Oxford University Press (1963) HB VG £3

### T Worsley

- "Fellow Travellers" London Magazine Editions (1971) HB VG £4



**Tall tale of Spanish gold**

Chris Haslam's 2006 crime thriller "El Sid" (Abacus), is now available as a Kindle download (£2.99). The novel centres on former International Brigade volunteer Sid Starman returning to Spain with two associates on the trail of a stash of Spanish gold that went missing during the Spanish Civil War. The elderly Sid had last travelled to Spain as 22-year-old who had just taken part in the anti-fascist Battle of

Cable Street in East London.

The plot flashes back and forward to Sid's wartime experiences in a special operations unit. It was one of *The Independent's* crime books of the year and was given five stars by the *Daily Mirror*. Purists, however, might find some of the politics a bit clunky and the plot historically questionable in places.

Haslam said he was inspired to write the book by the legend of a massive gold heist in 1936, the proceeds of which were rumoured to be hidden in a cave in Aragon. His research involved interviews with International Brigade veterans, "numerous visits to Spain, weeks of wandering across baking battlefields, days of searching the cemeteries (the Spanish names in the book were all taken from the graves of children killed in the war: robbed of life, their names live on) and countless hours trying to circumvent the reticence of veterans".



**Expert contributions in Spanish**

The University of Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona has published a free downloadable eBook about the International Brigades. In Spanish only, it brings together more than 20 papers presented by experts at a symposium held in Barcelona in October 2011 to mark the 75th anniversary of the departure of the international volunteers from the city. Among the

contributors are two academics who have given the IBMT's annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture: Angela Jackson and Àngel Viñas. Edited by Josep Sànchez Cervelló and Sebastià Agudo, it can be downloaded from the IBMT website (see blog of 27 May) or from [http://digital.publicacionsurv.cat/index.php/purv/catalog/book/149].



**eBook reprint of a classic**

ChristieBooks has published a downloadable edition of William Rust's "Britons in Spain: the History of the British Battalion of the XVth International Brigade". It is available on Kindle (£3.36) and Kobo (£3). Rust (1903-1949) was a leading member of the Communist Party and editor of the *Daily Worker*. He was also the paper's correspondent with the Interna-

tional Brigades during much of the Spanish Civil War. "Britons in Spain" was written on his return to the UK. First published in 1939, it was for many years the only account of the British volunteers. Also available from ChristieBooks (www.christiebooks.com/ChristieBooksWP) is the eBook "The International Brigades and the Comintern in the Spanish Civil War" (2013) by Scots anarchist Stuart Christie, founder of ChristieBooks.



**Part of London's radical history**

There are several references to the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War in a new guide\* to London's radical history. "Rebel Footprints" author David Rosenberg will be well known to many IBMT members as the tour guide of East End Walks (www.eastendwalks.com), which offers radical history tours of not only the East End, but also Battersea, Bloomsbury, Islington and Westminster.

His latest book follows the same format, offering informative itineraries on foot through parts of London associated with Chartist, suffragette, trade union, socialist and anti-fascist movements and individuals.

\*"Rebel Footprints: A Guide to Uncovering London's Radical History" by David Rosenberg (London: Pluto Press, 2015).

# Fiery letters home from a New Zealand nurse

By Mark Derby

It started with a note on the back of a cheque. In late 1936 Dorothy Morris, a New Zealand nurse working in London, attended a meeting in support of Republican Spain at the Albert Hall. When donations were collected, she wrote a cheque and jotted a message on the back, offering her services for medical aid. Several months later Dorothy was one of four nurses who left for southern Spain with the ambulance unit organised and headed by the flamboyant and fearless *hidalgo inglés* (English lord) Sir George Young.

Dorothy spent the next two years with the International Brigades, and as head of the English Children's Hospital in Murcia. Throughout that period she wrote long, fiery and exceptionally vivid letters to her family in New Zealand's South Island. They comprise a unique and historically valuable first-person narrative of the Spanish Civil War.

I did not know of this trove of letters in 2009, when I co-wrote and

**"The letters comprise a unique and historically valuable first-person narrative of the Spanish Civil War."**

edited "Kivi Compañeros", the first and still the only book on New Zealand's response to the Spanish Civil War. Dorothy Morris makes a brief and tantalising appearance in that book, culled from newspaper articles she sent from Spain.

A year or so later the Morris family told me of her letters, and I found them electrifying reading. Dorothy had attended university before she went to nursing school. She spoke French and Spanish, was informed about European geopolitics, and was a fervent and lifelong democratic socialist.

Paul Preston, the IBMT Founding Chair, encouraged me to publish the



**DOROTHY MORRIS:** At a children's hospital in Murcia.

letters in book form. Much additional research was necessary to supplement and fill gaps in the material, and the earlier work of two British historians of Spanish Civil War medical services, Linda Palfreeman and Angela Jackson, was of immense value. The book appeared in May this year, with a foreword by Dr Jackson.

It recounts Dorothy's childhood and training in New Zealand, her service with the 13th International Brigade, and her leadership of the children's hospital in the garrison town of Murcia.

Most of her medical unit's funding came from the Quakers, and she became a close friend of prominent Quaker women such as Francesca Wilson. When forced to leave Spain by the advance of Franco's forces, Dorothy worked in Perpignan, France, with Spanish refugees, as a welfare officer in London factories during the Second World War, and finally with refugees in Germany for the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Agency.

Dorothy's middle name, Aroha, is the Maori word for "love" or "compassion". The life revealed in her letters and accompanying research demonstrates those qualities to a rare degree.

"Petals and Bullets: Dorothy Morris – New Zealand Nurse in the Spanish Civil War" by Mark Derby (Eastbourne: Sussex Academic Press, 2015) £19.95.

# International Brigades in cartoons and comics



There was an interesting addition to the literature about the International Brigades with the publication in Spain last year of an analysis of their portrayal in comics since the restoration of democracy in Spain.

“Las Brigadas Internacionales a través del cómic 1977-2012”\* is in Spanish only, but contains many interesting illustrations. Most of the comics are also Spanish. But in an appendix listing comics featuring the International Brigades, there are two examples from Britain. Both were published by Commando Comics:

Readers interested in the topic of comics and the Spanish Civil War can consult an in-depth online conversation on the Comics Forum between two academic experts, Sarah D Harris and Enrique del Rey Cabero: [<http://comicsforum.org/2015/04/29>].

“Bandit Country”, from 1993, and “Storm Over Spain”, from 2009 (see panel below).

A historical survey also finds several examples of English-language appearances of the International Brigades in comic or cartoon format dating back to the Spanish Civil War itself. These include a series of bubblegum cards published in the US under the title “Horrors of War” (see examples on right).

Produced in 1938 by Gum Inc of Philadelphia, the card series featured 288 scenes from contemporary and recent wars. Several were taken from the Spanish Civil War, and some feature in the new Spanish study of International Brigades in comics.

Among these are the death of photographer Gerda Taro in July 1937 at Brunete, International Brigaders escaping across the Ebro in April 1938 following the retreat through Aragon and a hospital train with wounded International Brigaders being attacked near Valencia by fascist airplanes, also in April 1938.

\*by Ángel Luis Artjona Márquez (Albacete: Instituto de Estudios Albacetenses, 2014) 19.76 euros.

**COVER PICTURE:** The XIV International Brigade base camp reception centre at Albacete in July 1937, as illustrated by Jean-Paul Dethorey and Frank Giroud in the 1995 French comic “Louis La Guigne” (Tome 2).



The death of Gerda Taro during the Battle of Brunete.



Retreat across the Ebro in the spring of 1938.



Militiawomen in action.

© Glénat Editions 2015



## Volunteers against ‘Nazi-backed Fascist Nationalists’

The British Commando Comics series has also touched on Spanish Civil War and International Brigade themes.

Written by Ferg Handley and illustrated by Ian Kennedy, “Storm Over Spain”, for example, tells the fictional story of a Hans Leibner who in 1936 deserted from the Wehrmacht because he disliked the Nazis.

The young German makes his way to Spain and joins the

International Brigades.

The official synopsis adds: “The country [Spain] was in the midst of a brutal civil war between the Nazi-backed Fascist Nationalists and freedom-fighting Republicans. Hans joined an International Brigade – a group of foreign volunteer soldiers dedicated to fighting for the Republican cause.

“It was a deadly business with many casualties, and things would get even worse

when Hans was suspected to be an enemy agent...”

Another in the Commando series is “Bandit Country”, by David Barnett and illustrated by Janek Matysiak.

The plot centres on a British officer helping anti-Nazi guerillas in Greece during the Second World War. They include former International Brigaders.

See [[www.commandocomics.com/collection/issue-4211-storm-over-spain](http://www.commandocomics.com/collection/issue-4211-storm-over-spain)].



**NEWHAVEN Until 1 November:** IBMT's "Antifascistas" and "Sussex and the Spanish Civil War" exhibition at Newhaven Fort, Fort Rd, BN9 9DS; [www.newhavenfort.org.uk].

**ABERDEEN 1 September-24 October:** IBMT's "Antifascistas" exhibition at Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct, AB25 1GW; Mon-Sat 9am-5pm (8pm on Mon and Weds).

**GLASGOW 19 September:** Hope Not Hate antifascist and IB commemoration at the Pasionaria International Brigade memorial at Custom House Quay from 11.30am-12.30pm; followed by social at Glasgow City Unison, 84 Bell St, G1 1PQ, with Arthur Johnstone, Calum Baird, Paul Sheridan (The Wakes) and Stephen Wright plus speakers, including IBMT Scotland Secretary Mike Arnott; see [www.glasgowhopenothate.org].

**MOTHERWELL 19 September:** "From the Calton to Catalonia" play by John and Willy Maley about their father James's experiences during Spanish Civil War; 7.30pm at the Motherwell Theatre, Civic Centre, Windmillhill St, ML1 1AB; £10 (£7 conc); [http://culturenl.co.uk/from-the-calton-to-catalonia].

**OXFORD 3 October:** Fundraising concert – see notice on right.

**ABERDEEN 16-18 October:** Weekend of events centred on IBMT's Annual General Meeting (on 17th); see inside front cover for more details.

Memorial to John Cornford and Ralph Fox in Lopera, where they were killed in action in December 1936.



**TRIP TO ANDALUSIA:** The Madrid-based AABI International Brigades friendship group has new dates for the planned organised tour of the Córdoba battlefields in 2016. The tour will now run from 6-9 April and not 21-24 April, as originally announced. The provisional schedule is:

- 6 April: Train from Madrid to Córdoba;
- 7 April: Bus tour of battle sites;
- 8 April: Homage to the International Brigades in Andújar and Lopera;
- 9 April: Return by train to Madrid.

When available, more details will be published here and on [www.international-brigades.org.uk/events].

## Blogger finds 'lost' memorial on Hampstead Heath



Unveiled in 1980, this bench on London's Hampstead Heath is co-dedicated to three brothers of the Gibbons family who fought in Spain. The memorial had escaped the notice of the IBMT until July this year when its existence was revealed via a blog by journalist and historian Andrew Whitehead. The IBMT is now trying to make contact with the Gibbons – or Dooley – family with a view to restoring the bench. If any reader can help trace either family, contact [secretary@international-brigades.org.uk].



## The Gibbons brothers: proudly remembered on forgotten bench

By Andrew Whitehead

**DANNY- TOMMY- JOE GIBBONS  
INTERNATIONAL BRIGADERS 1936-1938.  
PAT DOOLEY SPEAKER AT PARLIAMENT HILL  
EDITOR 1901-1958.  
THEIR FAMILY PROUDLY REMEMBERS  
APRIL 1980.**

That's the inscription on a bench on Hampstead Heath – just a five-minute stroll from Kite Hill, bordering a copse of pine trees, and looking out east to Highgate. My friend Martin Plaut came across this rather out-of-the-way bench while doing his morning sit-ups. It's in some disrepair. He's trying to contact the family to see if they would be on board for a bit of fund-raising to spruce up this rather touching memorial.

The International Brigades were those left-wingers who went to fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War. More than 2,000 headed out from Britain – 500 or so never returned. I had the privilege to meet and interview a few of them towards the end of their lives. The International Brigade Memorial Trust keeps their memory and spirit alive – though this modest memorial seems to have escaped the otherwise comprehensive list on their website.

Danny Gibbons, a Scotsman who moved to Camden, was a communist and for a while the Political Commissar of the British contingent of the Brigades – there's a brief biographical note about him here\*. He was wounded at Jarama in February 1937 and was sent home to recuperate. He insisted on going back to Spain, was arrested by Franco's troops, and was eventually released in a prisoner exchange involving German and Ital-

ian officers. His younger brother Tommy died in Spain, in the battle for Brunete in July 1937.

Joe (his real name was Patrick) volunteered with the American battalion in Spain – there's some details on this site\*\*. And there was a fourth brother, John Gibbons, who was apparently refused permission to join the International Brigades – according to some accounts, the CPGB leader Harry Pollitt said, with three brothers risking their lives, it would be wrong to have a fourth Gibbons fighting in Spain. He was, all the same, a very loyal member of the Communist Party and spent many years in Moscow.

Kathleen Gibbons was Danny's second wife, and her maiden name was Dooley. That may be the link with Pat Dooley – about whom I have been able to find out little. (Can anyone help?) A biography of the bohemian interwar poet Anna Wickham mentions Pat (his real name was Lawrence) Dooley as an activist who made rousing leftwing speeches at the top of Parliament Hill in the 1930s and '40s. Strange to think of this as a pitch for outdoor speakers!

I have a feeling that this blog will be returning to the story of the Gibbons brothers.

\* See Communist Biogs entry for Danny Gibbons on [www.grahamstevenson.me.uk]; \*\* see [www.unitetheunion.org/growing-our-union/education/rebelroad/statues].

Andrew Whitehead was for many years a BBC correspondent, presenter and latterly the Editor of BBC World Service News. He is a senior visiting research fellow at King's College, London, and a visiting fellow at the University of Nottingham. This article first appeared on his blog: [www.andrewwhitehead.net/blog].

# AIDEZ

# OCTOBER 3RD



## A CONCERT

RAN KAN KAN

THE SEA GREEN SINGERS

JOHN CHRISTIE

MAEVE BAYTON

LA PASIONARIA'S  
FAMOUS SPEECH TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
BRIGADERS

THE INTERNATIONALE

BAR OPENS 7<sup>PM</sup>

FILM BY  
SONIA BOUÉ

CONCERT  
7.45PM - 11.15<sup>PM</sup>

£10

Tickets  
in advance.  
£15 on the  
door.

BAR,  
RAFFLE,  
T-SHIRTS,  
CDs, BADGES  
ETC.

# L'ESPAGNE

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE OXFORD MEMORIAL TO BE ERECTED IN HONOUR OF THE VOLUNTEERS FROM OXFORDSHIRE.



A CONCERT IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OXFORDSHIRE  
WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR 1936-39

WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE, BOTLEY ROAD, OX2 0BT. 5 MINS. WALK FROM RAILWAY STATION. PLUS CAR PARK.

ADVANCE TICKETS £10 BY MONDAY 28TH SEPT. AFTER MON.28TH & ON DOOR £15 (PAYABLE TO IBMT)  
FROM JOHN HAYWOOD, 1, QUEENS ROAD, BANBURY, OX16 0EB. a.j.haywood@hotmail.co.uk 07785235715.

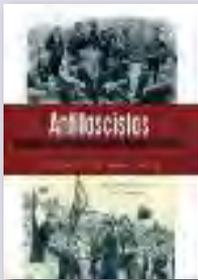
# IBMT merchandise

Proceeds help fund the commemorative, educational and publicity work of the trust



## CD single

Exclusively for the IBMT, **Billy Bragg** performs "Jarama Valley" and **Maxine Peake** delivers Dolores Ibárruri's (La Pasionaria's) emotional farewell speech to the International Brigades with a dub backing from **The Urban Roots**.  
£5 plus £1.99 p&p



## Antifascistas

**British and Irish Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War**  
The story of the volunteers in words and pictures, by Richard Baxell, Angela Jackson and Jim Jump (paperback).  
£10 plus £2.99 p&p



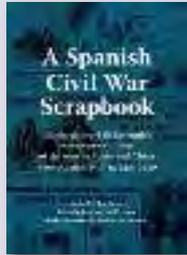
## Poems from Spain

Collection of poems written by British and Irish International Brigaders. Edited by Jim Jump (paperback).  
£10 plus £2.99 p&p



## Looking Back at the Spanish Civil War

IBMT's Len Crome Memorial Lectures 2002-2010 by expert historians on the Spanish Civil War, including Helen Graham, Paul Preston, Francisco J Romero Salvadó, Richard Baxell, Enrique Moradiellos, Angela Jackson, Ángel Viñas and Julián Casanova. Edited by Jim Jump (paperback).  
£10 plus £3.99 p&p



## A Spanish Civil War Scrapbook

Elizabeth Pearl Bickerstaffe's newspaper cuttings from the wars in Spain and China from August 1937 to May 1939  
With a foreword by Rodney Bickerstaffe and introduction by Paul Preston. Edited by Jim Jump (210mm x 297mm; paperback).  
£12 plus £3 p&p



## Unlikely Warriors

**The British in the Spanish Civil War and the Struggle Against Fascism**  
By Richard Baxell (hardback).  
£15 plus £4.99 p&p



## ¡Salud!

**British Volunteers in the Republican Medical Service during the Spanish Civil War**  
By Linda Palfreeman (paperback).  
£12 plus £3.99 p&p



## Tom Mann Centuria t-shirt

Made for the IBMT by t-shirt specialists Philosophy Football from ethically sourced cotton. Tom Mann Centuria banner on front. "International Brigade Memorial Trust" on sleeve. Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL and fitted women's size (see above for size details).  
£13 plus £3.99 p&p



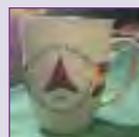
## British Battalion t-shirt

In red or grey and made for the IBMT by t-shirt specialists Philosophy Football from ethically sourced cotton. British Battalion banner on front and "International Brigade Memorial Trust" on sleeve.  
Available in:  
S (36inch chest/90cms)  
M (40inch/100cms)  
L (44inch chest/110cms)  
XL (48inch/120cms)  
XXL (52inch/130cms)  
Fitted women's (34-36inch/70-90cms).  
£15 plus £3.99 p&p



## Connolly Column t-shirt

Black cotton t-shirt with design (pictured) in Spanish Republican colours across chest commemorating the volunteers from Ireland. Available in S, M, L, XL.  
£10 plus £3.99 p&p



## No Pasaran tankard & Connolly Column mug

Made in the UK from finest bone china, the No Pasaran tankard (top) carries a quotation from La Pasionaria's farewell speech to the International Brigades in October 1938. The Connolly Column mug (bottom) commemorates the Irish volunteers and features words from Christy Moore's "Viva La Quince Brigada".  
Each item: £7 plus £3.99 p&p



## IBMT badge

Solid metal badge with International Brigade medal in centre and International Brigade Memorial Trust around the edge.  
£3 plus £2.99 p&p



## IBMT greetings card

Measuring approximately 15cm x 10cm, the IBMT greetings card features a drawing by Rafael Alberti dedicated to the International Brigades in 1996. Blank inside.  
£5 for pack of 6 (including envelopes) plus £1.99 p&p



## IBMT Orwell poster

A3 poster of George Orwell designed by Simon Hawkesworth of Fast Food Press for IBMT's 2013 Len Crome Memorial Lecture.  
£2 plus £2.99 p&p

Send orders, including your name and address, a size and colour where appropriate, and a cheque payable to the IBMT to: IBMT Merchandise, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

For multiple orders in the UK up to a value of £30 (excluding p&p) calculate total p&p by taking the highest p&p among items ordered, halving the p&p of the remaining items and adding them together. There is no p&p on orders for goods worth more than £30.

For orders outside the UK or to pay by credit card or PayPal, go to our website: [www.international-brigades.org.uk/merchandise.php] where there are also other items listed for sale.