



# ¡NO PASARÁN!

International Brigade Memorial Trust ● 3-2021 ● £5



**Welcome to our  
new Welsh banner**

# INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and weekend of activities in Southampton

The IBMT's AGM will take place on Saturday 9 October 2021 in Southampton, as part of a weekend programme of commemorative, educational and social events.

### Provisional programme

#### Friday 8 October

● 7pm: Welcoming reception and buffet at the Southampton Unite office, 41 Castle Way, SO14 2BW

#### Saturday 9 October

- 10.30am: Rededication of Southampton memorial at the Cenotaph in Watts Park, with speeches and the Red Star Choir
- 11.30am: Talk by Alan Lloyd on Hampshire Brigaders in Comms Rooms 3 & 4, Southampton Civic Centre, Civic Centre Road, SO14 7LY
- 2.30pm: Annual General Meeting in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre
- 4.30-6pm: Talk by Simon Martinez and Manuel Moreno on the *Habana* and the arrival of the Basque children, Comms Rooms 3 & 4, Civic Centre.
- 6.30pm: Dinner, quiz and No Pasarán Raffle draw at La Tavernetta restaurant, Civic Centre Road, SO14 7FJ.

#### Sunday 10 October

● 10am: Walking tour of Southampton focusing on the Second World War, starts in Guildhall Square. Limited places.

### AGM agenda

- (1) Chair's opening remarks
- (2) Apologies for absence
- (3) Approval of minutes of the 2020 AGM and matters arising
- (4) Executive Committee's report
- (5) Financial report
- (6) Election of Executive Committee members
- (7) Any other business
- (8) Date and place of next AGM
- (9) Chair's closing remarks

### Notice of elections and agenda items

Nominations are invited for candidates to fill four vacancies on the Executive Committee (EC). Should five or more IBMT members accept nomination, a ballot will be held among members attending the AGM.

All IBMT members may nominate fellow members to serve on the EC. Nominations must be made in writing and received by the Secretary by 8am on 20 September 2021. The names of the candidates will be published on the IBMT website in advance of the AGM. Proposed items for agenda item (7) must be received in writing by the

Secretary by 8am on 1 October 2021. Send nominations and proposed agenda items by email (these will be acknowledged) to: [secretary@international-brigades.org.uk](mailto:secretary@international-brigades.org.uk) or by post to: IBMT Secretary, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, the organisers need to know the number of attendees at certain events over the weekend.

Email IBMT Trustee Alan Lloyd at [alan.lloyd121@virgin.net](mailto:alan.lloyd121@virgin.net) no later than Sunday 26 September to indicate which of the following events you plan to attend: the Friday night buffet; the Saturday evening dinner; the guided walk on Sunday morning.

You are advised not to leave it until the last minute to book accommodation. There are four cruise liners due to dock on the Saturday morning, so there will be pressure on hotel accommodation. The West Quay area has several hotels and is close to the railway station, but there is a very steep hill up to the Civic Centre.

IBMT, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU ● 07865 272 639  
[admin@international-brigades.org.uk](mailto:admin@international-brigades.org.uk) ● [www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)



◀ Thelma Ruby (left) and IBMT President Marlene Sidaway in front of the IBMT's new Welsh banner (see page 4).

Photo: Andrew Wiard

### 5 Interview

● With IBMT Executive Officer Ajmal Waqif

### 6 Unfolding the past

● Emily Moore and Elizabeth Washburn write about a fan and photo belonging to a Brigader

### 9 Madge Addy

● Chris Hall introduces a biography

### 11 Linaria

● Jim Jump tells the story of a seafarers' strike in solidarity with Spain

### 14 Unity Theatre

● Simon Breden on left-wing theatre and Spain

### 17 Aid Spain

● Sarah Lonsdale on the women who rescued Basque children

### 19 Books

● Sebastiaan Faber previews 'Exhuming Franco', Tony Fox reviews 'The Good Comrade' and David Ebsworth introduces his thriller, 'A Betrayal of Heroes'

*iNo Pasarán!* (formerly the *IBMT Magazine* and the *IBMT Newsletter*) is published three times a year. Back numbers can be downloaded from the IBMT website. All content is the © of the IBMT and credited contributors and cannot be reproduced without written permission. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the IBMT.

**Editor** Ajmal Waqif

IBMT, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU  
07865 272 639

admin@international-brigades.org.uk

**International Brigade Memorial Trust**

www.international-brigades.org.uk



Andrew Wiard

**RONAN BURTENSRAW:** Speaking at the IBMT's commemoration.

## Commemoration salutes the Brigaders' internationalism

The IBMT's annual commemoration, which took place on 3 July in London's Jubilee Gardens, was invitation-only due to pandemic restrictions.

Thelma Ruby, actress and widow of International Brigader Peter Frye, was the guest of honour at the commemoration. She spoke about her memories of Peter and the other volunteers and laid a wreath on behalf of the Trust. Friendly and affiliated organisations also laid wreaths.

The main speaker was Ronan Burtenshaw, editor of *Tribune* magazine, who saluted the International Brigades, highlighting their association with the magazine and the internationalism of their cause. This is an edited excerpt of what Burtenshaw said:

**W**ithout the Spanish Civil War, without the International Brigades, there is no *Tribune*. It was born on the same day in 1937 as something called the Unity Campaign, which was to bring together a broad front of socialists and communists.

The opening letter called for a united working-class effort against fascism in Europe and was inspired by the battles that were going on in Spain. *Tribune* was a mouthpiece for this campaign and that effort to build unity on the left against fascism.

Throughout the 1930s *Tribune* carried eyewitness reports from Spain, including one by Clement Attlee which highlighted the scandal of Britain's attitude to the situation in Spain.

In 1938 *Tribune's* front page and its May Day rally was in support of Spain and freedom.

And over the years I'd like to think *Tribune* has kept that memory and that tradition alive. We've

had many International Brigaders who have written for us. I think of Geoffrey Bing, an Irishman from County Down, who was a journalist with the International Brigades, went on to be a Labour MP and who wrote for *Tribune* for many years.

I think of Jimmy Jump who wrote for *Tribune* on numerous occasions, including a commemoration of his comrade George Jackson, which was one part of a regular pattern of commemorations of Brigaders that have featured in the publication over the years.

This is a story of the threads that run through history. We think of those who went to fight in Spain on behalf of the Spanish Republic, we think of the names of the battalions they formed. They talked about Abraham Lincoln and the struggle against slavery in the United States and they talked about Tom Mann and the struggle of the British labour movement here. They talked about Ernst Thälmann and the struggle against Nazism in Germany and they talked about Jarosław Dąbrowski, who was one of the last commanders of the Paris Commune, his name borne by the Polish battalion in Spain.

**T**hose threads wove for us a wonderful tapestry, a flag that represents a universal struggle for working-class liberation at every corner of the earth. And that is what was passed to us by all of those who went and fought and died or were injured. Something wonderful that was given to us from terrible conditions, from incredible difficulties. I'm very happy to be able to speak on behalf of that cause today.

I say long live the cause of the International Brigades, and in the Spanish that was their slogan 'por vuestra libertad y la nuestra', thank you.



## NEWS

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

### International Brigade Memorial Trust

37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU

Executive Officer: Ajmal Waqif

07865 272 639

admin@international-brigades.org.uk

www.international-brigades.org.uk

Registered charity no.1094928

### President Marlene Sidaway

president@international-brigades.org.uk

### Chair Jim Jump

chair@international-brigades.org.uk

### Secretary Megan Dobney

secretary@international-brigades.org.uk

### Treasurer Paul Coles

treasurer@international-brigades.org.uk

### Ireland Secretary Manus O'Riordan

mmanusoriordan@gmail.com

### Scotland Secretary Mike Arnott

scotland@international-brigades.org.uk

### Wales Secretary David McKnight

wales@international-brigades.org.uk

### Other Executive Committee members

David Chanter, Pauline Fraser, Alex Gordon, John Haywood, Jonathan Havard, Alan Lloyd, Dolores Long

### Founding Chair Professor Sir Paul Preston

**Patrons** Professor Peter Crome, Professor Helen Graham, Ken Livingstone, Len McCluskey, Christy Moore, Jack O'Connor, Maxine Peake, Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, Mick Whelan

**Historical Consultant** Richard Baxell



# Welsh banner debut



A new IBMT banner, that celebrates the 185 Welsh volunteers who fought in the Spanish Civil War, was unveiled at the IBMT's annual commemoration in London on 3 July. Since then it made its first appearance in Wales during an International Brigade memorial ceremony at Cardiff's Cathays Park on 21 July.

The front of the banner displays the Welsh dragon and IBMT logo, alongside the colours of the Welsh and Spanish Republican flags.

The reverse features portraits of three well-known volunteers from Wales, including Harry Dobson, a South Wales miner and political activist who fought and died at the Battle of the Ebro in the summer of 1938.

Tom Jones, another miner turned International Brigader, also appears on the banner. Jones was wounded at the Ebro, captured and sentenced to death by a court. He was released in 1940 as part of a deal between the British and Spanish governments. He later helped found the Wales TUC and became the Regional Secretary of the Transport & General

Workers' Union, a forerunner of Unite.

The third volunteer pictured is Thora Silverthorne, a miner's daughter who trained to be a nurse and spent two years as a medical volunteer on the front-line in Spain. She went on to found the National Association of Nurses, which became part of the National Union of Public Employees and later Unison. She was also assistant secretary of the Socialist Medical Association, which played a key role in advising the 1945 Labour government on setting up the NHS.

The new banner was funded through generous donations from Unison Wales and Unite Wales and was made by veteran banner-maker Ed Hall.

IBMT Wales Secretary David McKnight said: 'It is fitting that UNISON Cymru/Wales and Unite Wales have sponsored our new banner and we are grateful for their support. The brave Welsh volunteers continue to inspire a new generation of trade unionists in the fight against fascism and the struggle for democracy.'

## A conversation with the IBMT's Executive Officer

**AJMAL WAQIF** began working as Executive Officer of the IBMT two years ago in October 2019. Born in 1993, his family settled in Britain in 1996 and he grew up in Northolt, West London before studying history at Birkbeck and Goldsmiths colleges, University of London. He is interviewed here by IBMT Chair Jim Jump.

**Tell us about your background and whether there was anything in it that made you interested in the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War?**

Through my parents I was exposed to conversations about socialism and internationalism from as early as I can really remember.

In the 1980s my parents were active members of the ruling People's Democratic Party in their home country of Afghanistan. They fled as political refugees in the early 1990s, when the pro-Soviet Afghan government was routed and a series of reactionary militias began fighting over Kabul.

Through my parents I passively absorbed a basic knowledge of the big names and events of 20th century socialism, anti-imperialism and anti-fascism. This grounding helped when I consciously started thinking about politics and history as a teenager.

So my interest in the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War comes from this wider interest and engagement that I've been working out for over 12 years; of socialism and internationalism as historical subjects of study, as well as contemporary political things to be involved in.

In terms of drawing a connection between my own background and the themes of the Spanish Civil War, I didn't notice any connections at all for a long time.

Recently however, when I've thought about the civil war's aftermath and all those exiled and

repressed after Franco's victory, I notice there might be parallels to be drawn about lost causes and generations of political refugees.

**Can you remember when you first heard about the International Brigades, and have your views on them changed since then?**

I actually probably first learned about the International Brigades, and indeed the Spanish Civil War, at 16, through the song 'Spanish Bombs' by The Clash. I'm sure I heard Woody Guthrie and Pete

**'This history is very much a living thing – something that doesn't really come across in the university seminar room or the intra-left reading group.'**

Seeger's versions of 'Jarama Valley' around then too, as I went down a rabbit-hole of political music.

That well-known 'poets' war' interpretation was how I understood it for a long time (although in my head they were working-class poets).

I studied the civil war further at university, but I encountered it most frequently in left-wing ideological debates where it's invoked either as a political litmus test or as counterfactual history.

After volunteering at the Marx Memorial Library and entering the orbit of and then working for the IBMT, I learned to really appreciate how much more complex the actual events were.

Meeting people connected to the volunteers and learning about the legacy of Francoism in Spain impresses on you that this history is very much a living thing – something that doesn't really come across in the university seminar room or the intra-left reading group.

**What are the main things you've discovered or learnt in the past two years?**

I've discovered probably two big things: Firstly, even the worthiest cause is based on such unexciting things as administration and finances.

Fortunately the IBMT is doing relatively well in this respect. However it's always important to remember that we can only do what we do if our subs and donations come in regularly.

The second thing that comes to mind is the depth of respect that people in this country and across the world reserve for the International Brigades and their legacy. Just take the symbols for example; trade unionists, anti-fascists, political activists of all kinds will rally around the three-pointed star, the raised clenched fist and the Spanish Republican flag.

**What do you think will be the main challenges for the IBMT in years to come?**

The big challenge will be making sure the IBMT not only survives but thrives in a period that looks increasingly precarious for heritage and educational institutions. Remember, we can't rely on funding from the government or super wealthy backers.

However, I'm always encouraged by the fact that as long as there are people for whom the International Brigades mean something, we will continue.

**Finally, how is this incredible story of the volunteers to be passed on to younger generations?**

That's definitely something we're thinking more about. One method is to improve what young people learn about the International Brigades, whether at secondary school or university. Our new secondary schools project is a confident step towards that.

A longer term process that I've been trying to figure out since I started is how to cultivate a base of members and supporters among younger generations. The IBMT can really benefit from the increased politicisation of a lot of young people. We will definitely be trying to reach out more to students and younger labour movement people and Spanish expat youth organisations.



IBMT Executive Officer Ajmal Waqif in the Marx Memorial Library's memorial garden in London.



▲ A traditional Spanish hand fan, an *abanico*, which was signed by International Brigaders in the 129th Brigade's anti-tank battery around September 1938. It is pictured here from the front, back and side.



# A fan, a photo and the International Brigades

▲ Photo postcard featuring members of the 129th Brigade's anti-tank battery, including Hans Maslowski (top left), believed to be the group who signed the fan.

**EMILY MOORE** and **ELIZABETH WASHBURN**, who are part of a student research team at the Martin-Springer Institute of Northern Arizona, explain what two historical objects can tell us about the International Brigades.

If pictures speak louder than words, how much can an object tell? For Bernd Häber, a German-born Arizonan, the discovery of a Spanish fan and a photograph from his great-uncle, Johann (Hans) Maslowski, led to an inquiry into the value of both objects and pictures as storytellers.

These artifacts are keepsakes of Hans's service in the Spanish Civil War as a member of the International Brigades. While the photo pictures Hans alongside fellow men, the back of the fan records the signatures of 31 *brigadistas* hailing

from the UK, the US and Canada. As revealed by the writing on the closed edge of the fan, these men all served together from May to September 1938 in the Levante region of eastern Spain in the anti-tank battery of the 129th Brigade.

Recognising the expressive potential of these artifacts, Häber mentioned them to his acquaintance Bjorn Krondorfer, director of the Martin-Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University, which is dedicated to the study of past conflicts, like the Holocaust, to gain insight into issues of violence and friction today. Seizing upon

these historical treasures as the basis for a research project, Dr Krondorfer and Spanish historian Dr Ana Varela-Lago now head a team of seven student researchers piecing together the puzzle pieces of the fan and photo to complete the picture of Hans Maslowski's Spanish Civil War remembrances.

Tracing the signatures on the fan, the team has employed the resources of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archive (ALBA), IBMT and the Canada and the Spanish Civil War databases to link 30 of the names to brief entries of biographical information. For some, the information is scanty beyond birth date and place; in some cases, even this rudimentary information is not certain. For others, however, the team has found news articles, FBI files, correspondence, oral histories, ship manifests, official documents, and occasional

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

# Your local IBMT affiliated memorial group

Several independent locally-based International Brigade memorial groups have sprung up around the country in recent years. The IBMT welcomes this development and supports their work.

IBMT affiliation costs £30. You can affiliate through our website here: [www.international-brigades.org.uk/membership](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/membership).

## DIRECTORY

### ● Aberdeen XV International Brigade Commemoration Committee

Contact: Tommy Campbell  
[tommy.campbell01@outlook.com](mailto:tommy.campbell01@outlook.com)

### ● Belfast International Brigade Commemoration Committee

Contact: Ernest and Lynda Walker  
[lynda.ernest@outlook.com](mailto:lynda.ernest@outlook.com)

### ● IB Cymru

Contact: Mary Greening  
[ibcymru1937@gmail.com](mailto:ibcymru1937@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/groups/314892162181123](https://www.facebook.com/groups/314892162181123)

### ● Hull International Brigades Memorial Group

Contact: Gary Hammond  
[thehutpeople@gmail.com](mailto:thehutpeople@gmail.com)

### ● North West International Brigade Memorial Group

Contact: Dolores Long  
[doloreslong@fastmail.fm](mailto:doloreslong@fastmail.fm)  
[twitter.com/ibgtrmanchester](https://twitter.com/ibgtrmanchester)

### ● Oxford International Brigades Memorial Committee

Contact: Colin Carritt  
[colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:colin.carritt@tiscali.co.uk)

### ● Sussex Brigaders Remembered

Contact: Pauline Fraser  
[pbf262@myphone.coop](mailto:pbf262@myphone.coop)

## International Brigade Memorial Trust

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

8 ¡NO PASARÁN!

# UNFOLDING THE PAST

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

references in the memoirs of other Brigaders.

The second artifact is a photo postcard, likely taken by a Kodak camera, stamped with 'Luis García Fotografía - Villena'. This studio may have been located in Villena, Spain. Photo postcards such as this one were popular souvenirs at this time. It is possible that there were multiples of the same image postcard, one for each member in the group.

One remaining key question is whether the people in the photograph correspond with the names on the fan. Stories have begun coalescing around the most highly documented names. Harry Blackley, from Greenock, Scotland, was a *Daily Worker* writer. He completed a questionnaire for the Partido Comunista de España, which records data such as when he arrived, his military involvement, education level,

## 'All of these names listed on the fan embody individual experiences which may dispel the dimness shrouding the history of the Spanish Civil War.'

and his membership and activity within the communist party. Michael Feller, a Jewish blue-collar worker from Brooklyn, New York, wrote to his family back home about Spain, the Brigades, the Jewish battalion, and his cause - as well as news of his nephew and brother on the front, and in appreciation of the cigarettes he received from home. Another man, Michael Sidorovich, was implicated in the famous Rosenberg trial in the 1950s, with FBI files indicating that he took confidential photos for Rosenberg's intelligence network.

Hans Maslowski's involvement during the war is recorded by his International Brigades military card, which Häber was able to find through a relative. This card records Hans's service at the Levante front under Nathan Budish, the commanding officer of the anti-tank battery.

### Record

For many men, however, such a precise record of service in Spain remains to be found, in either archives or attics. In the case of Clarence Wildsmith, a young man from Barnsley, who was a member of the National Unemployed Workers' Union, the written record we have found so far is



▲ Johann Maslowski's International Brigade carnet records his service at the Levante front.

limited to before his time in Spain. For others, such as Michael Sidorovich, information abounds in the time after. Celebrity shrouds one last name in mystery: 'George Dimitroff' from 'London'. The Dimitrov Battalion, named after George Dimitrov, a Bulgarian communist leader, was a battalion composed of Balkan volunteers that eventually merged with the 129th International Brigade. As of yet there is no documentation to verify that the famous communist leader actually signed the fan.

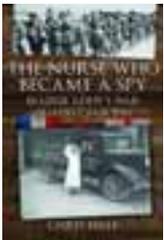
Whether this man was physically there, or someone signed his name as an internal joke, all of these names listed on the fan embody individual experiences which may dispel the dimness shrouding the history of the Spanish Civil War, so often overshadowed by the Second World War. Next time you rummage through lofts and basements, remember that objects such as these bring stories from the past to life. They are key to unearthing rich histories unknown and forgotten.

Even as we reveal parts of these men's stories, old questions linger and new ones emerge. What motivated these men to sign this fan? Did Hans buy it as a souvenir and then ask his comrades to inscribe their names? Could Hans have been a commanding officer for these men? Did they buy it and sign it for him as an act of appreciation? When was the photograph taken? Are any of the men in the photo signatories on the fan? If not, who are they?

*If you have information that might be useful to this research, please contact the Martin-Springer Institute at: [Bjorn.Krondorfer@nau.edu](mailto:Bjorn.Krondorfer@nau.edu). You can also visit the project website at: [www.martin-springer.in.wixsite.com/spanishcivilwar](http://www.martin-springer.in.wixsite.com/spanishcivilwar)*

# Manchester nurse became a spy to continue fight against fascism

Madge Addy and patients at the 'Manchester Ward' in Uclés Hospital where she was head nurse, 1938.



**CHRIS HALL** introduces his new biography of Madge Addy, the Manchester nurse who served alongside the International Brigades in Spain and went on to spy for the resistance in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War.

**M**adge Addy was a truly remarkable woman who fought fascism in two wars and had two roles: in the Spanish Civil War she served as a nurse, and in the Second World War she was a secret agent in France. She was married three times. First to a Manchester man, then to a Norwegian International Brigader in Spain and fellow agent in France (Wilhelm Holst) and thirdly to a Danish agent with whom she also worked in France (Thorikild Hansen). Add into the mix that she was also wounded and became a prisoner of war in Spain, and you have an amazing story.

Until her early 30s Madge lived a conventional life. She was born in Manchester, married a local man and trained as a nurse in a Salford hospital. The marriage was childless and the relationship was becoming strained. Madge's growing interest in the civil war in Spain led her to enlist as a nurse volunteer. In Spain she spent

most of her time as head nurse at Uclés Monastery hospital until the town was taken over by the Nationalist forces at the end of the war. Madge was wounded in Spain and spent several months as a prisoner of war before she was able to return to Britain. She briefly became a member of the Spanish Medical Aid Committee and became their expert on post-civil war Spain.

In late summer 1939 Madge left Britain for Paris, where she joined Wilhelm Holst in helping Spanish Republican refugees in France. When France was defeated by the invading Nazi forces, she and Wilhelm moved to Marseille. Here, they both became involved in resistance activities, Madge first as an amateur and later as a full-time agent. She helped to set up, and remained involved with, two escape lines. The first was the famous Garrow-O'Leary Line which helped British and Allied servicemen hiding in France to escape to Britain, usually via neutral Spain.

The second escape line was the Pierre-Jacques Line which helped exhausted or compromised Special Overseas Executive (SOE) agents to escape to Britain. Thorikild Hansen was the joint leader of this escape line. Madge also acted as a courier, travelling on German chartered planes

**'When France was defeated by the invading Nazi forces, she and Wilhelm moved to Marseille. They both became involved in resistance activities.'**

as a Norwegian citizen while carrying money and secret information to and from Lisbon hidden in the lining of her fur coat. She had two aliases: Mrs Oates and Billette, and became a full time agent, acting as second-in-command of two resistance networks: Billet and Alexandre. She even took over command for a time when Wilhelm Holst was ill.

Her Second World War activities were honoured with an OBE from the British

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

# MADGE ADDY



◀◀ Addy with the medical unit at Uclés, 1938.

◀ With second husband and fellow spy Wilhelm Holst, in Marseille, 1940.

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

government and the Croix de Guerre from the French authorities. In the 1950s she returned to Britain with Thorkild Hansen and lived her last years in London. Hansen died in 1966 and Madge died four years later aged just 66; the cause of death was, sadly, asphyxia due to alcohol intoxication.

## Story

Getting the story of Madge Addy into print was not something I had originally considered. I live in Chorlton-cum-Hardy in Manchester and I am very much a Spanish Civil War geek! I already knew that Madge had been a civil war nurse, but when I read an article by Angela Jackson in *IBMT Newsletter* 3-2016 that said Madge was born in Chorlton and had been an agent in the world war, it made me determined to get a City of Manchester plaque in her honour. My first stumbling block was that Madge was born in Chorlton-on-Medlock, not Chorlton-cum-Hardy, but from the electoral rolls I discovered she lived there from 1932-37 at 34 Manchester Road. The plaque is now installed on the outside of the building. At the unveiling ceremony I was encouraged by many people present to write her biography.

Trying to discover the life of Madge Addy and finding photographs of her was like being in an Agatha Christie novel. I was very confident about finding information about Madge's time in Spain, but I was clueless as to the rest. To add to the difficulties Madge was never interviewed, she had no children and left no documents or diaries.

She was known by several first names – Marguerite, Madge or 'Mrs' – and her surnames were Addy, Lightfoot, Holst and Hansen. She did write an account of her time in Spain, which

was sold with her medals in 1970; unfortunately, they have since been sold twice more and all ephemera has been lost. But a combination of diligent research, essential contacts and luck helped me to reconstruct the story of Madge's remarkable life.

For her early life I was able to obtain birth and marriage certificates. A local historian supplied me with census information and local authority comments on her nursing training. The biggest breakthrough was when Madge's great-niece happened to watch me talking about Madge's plaque unveiling on ITV's Granada

**'I was very confident finding information about Madge's time in Spain, but I was clueless as to the rest. She was never interviewed, she had no children and left no documents or diaries.'**

Reports. This led me to two of Madge's nephews, who gave me useful information about Madge and the family and supplied photographs of her early life.

I was on stronger ground on Madge's time in Spain; she is mentioned in several books on women and medical services in the civil war. Madge wrote many letters from Spain, which are stored in the Marx Memorial Library and Warwick University archives. Along with newspaper articles these letters yielded valuable

information. But what I lacked were photographs. I had seen a few in the *Daily Worker*, including one where she was giving blood during a transfusion. So, when I found out that IBMT Trustee Mike Arnott was visiting Uclés, I asked him to take some photographs. There, Mike discovered that a local Spanish historian had access to photographs of Madge at Uclés, which had been hidden by the village doctor throughout Franco's dictatorship. These pictures were outstanding, providing a vivid illustration of what Madge was writing in her letters.

After the unveiling of Madge's plaque, I had an email from a Norwegian man, the grandson of Wilhelm Holst. He had been researching his grandfather for 20 years and was assisting a Norwegian journalist to write his biography. Thus began a dialogue in which I shared information about Madge in Spain and they supplied information sources for Madge in the Second World War. This included advice on files in the National Archives in London and information from French archives. I was sent family pictures of Wilhelm, several of which included Madge. They also discovered the house in Marseille where Madge lived, and provided photographs.

At the time of her death, Madge and her story were unknown. I hope in some small way this biography will bring the life story of such a brave woman into the public domain. Why did she risk her life fighting fascism in Spain and France? I leave you with Madge's own words: 'I believe in taking the war into the enemy camp.'

*'The Nurse Who Became a Spy: Madge Addy's War Against Fascism' (2021) is published by Pen & Sword.*

# When British seafarers went on strike against Franco shipment



The *Linaria*, date and place unknown.

Benjido

**JIM JUMP** tells the story of the crew of the *Linaria*, who in a famous act of solidarity refused to take a cargo of potential explosives from the US to fascist Spain. The seafarers faced prosecution on their return to Britain and only narrowly escaped severe punishment, possibly imprisonment, thanks to a vigorous legal defence mounted with the help of supporters at home.

Much has been written and said in the past few years about those seafarers who supported and in some cases gave their lives for the Spanish Republican cause. A memorial to the British crews who ran the fascist blockade of Spanish Republican ports was unveiled in Glasgow in 2019. In 2018 a plaque was erected in Alicante to Archibald Dickson, master of the *Stanbrook*, the last ship to rescue Republican refugees in the dying days of the country's civil war. Scores of British and Irish merchant seamen also volunteered to join the International Brigades, often jumping ship in Spain to do so.

When remembering this proud record we should not overlook the story of the merchant ship *Linaria*, whose crew risked prosecution and their livelihoods for refusing to take ingredients for explosives to Franco-held Spain. They went on strike in Boston, Massachusetts, on 23 February 1937, announcing that 'we will not take out the ship if it means helping to kill people in Spain'.

This was not a simple case of industrial action. It was against the law for seafarers to go on strike in a foreign port. By deciding on their 'stay-in strike', the *Linaria* crew were breaching the draconian provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act. What they were doing was tantamount to mutiny.

Seventeen of the crew, most of them from Tyneside and the North-East, were arrested and charged under the 1888 Act on arrival in Liverpool a month later.

Abandoned by their own union, the National Union of Seaman (now part of RMT), which was then under right-wing, pro-employer leadership, they relied on local Aid Spain activists, as well as a defence committee set up in Tyneside to help them raise money for their legal costs and for travel and accommodation.

On Merseyside their defence was organised by Jack Jones, a local docker and union activist who would go on to join the International Brigades – and to become one of Britain's outstanding trade union leaders of the last century. He worked with local Labour MP and lawyer Sydney Silverman to launch a financial appeal, put together a legal team and

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

looked after the welfare of the men.

The crew decided to take a stand shortly after they were berthed in Portland, Maine, on 20 February, with a cargo of anthracite from the Soviet port of Mariupol (now in Ukraine). They learned then that their next port of call would be Boston, where the 3,385 ton Stag Line ship would load nitrates to take to Seville.

## Protest

They immediately made a united protest to the master, Capt James Robinson. According to a report in the *Daily Herald* on 22 February, under the headline 'British steamer crew's cargo protest', the nitrates were 'for use in the manufacture of explosives'.

The report went on to say that the crew had agreed to proceed to Boston, where there would be talks 'to thrash out the matter' with the owners and officers. They meanwhile elected a negotiating committee, headed by Alex 'Spike' Robson, a ship's fireman. He said: 'We do not want to help deliver nitrates because we do not want to be a party to the killing of women and children by bombs and shells.'

Robson later explained to *The Shieldsman* on 22 April that, despite assurances that the nitrates were to be used as fertilisers, 'we decided that the only course was to go on strike, which we did'.

The US dockers' union, the ILA, was reported as saying it would see to it that the cargo of nitrates would not be loaded.

On 26 February the Board of Trade in London ruled that the cargo for Seville did not contravene Britain's policy of non-intervention in the war in Spain. The seafarers disagreed and their sit-in strike in Boston lasted 10 days. During this time the NUS representative in New York strongly advised the men to proceed with the voyage, subject to the inclusion of a special clause in their terms that would provide additional wages and indemnity in the case of injury. When this was rejected by the crew as 'blood money', the NUS complained that the men were being led by 'a well known communist' – a reference to Spike Robson.

Fearful no doubt that the example of the *Linaria* crew might inspire other seafarers to take industrial action against trade with Francoist Spain, the British consul-general in Boston warned the strikers that they would find it very difficult to get another job. He told them that 'every British captain and every British shipping company in the world will know that you are of the *Linaria* crowd'.

Don't be bluffed by Tory Lies—

MAKE NO MISTAKE:

VOTE THUS:—



Continue Mrs. Hamilton's good work. Elect a man who understands your needs and will

**GET THINGS DONE!**

Give your support to the Party who fight for the Poor. Vote Labour on Thursday. Show your Strength and Might.

**Vote for J. L. JONES**

The *Linaria* strike took place against the background of efforts initiated by Scandinavian maritime trade unions to agree an international trade boycott of Franco's Spain. By the end of 1936 plans for the boycott had been drawn up by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). However, backed by the TUC, the NUS and

**'This was not simply a case of industrial action. It was against the law for seafarers to go on strike in a foreign port... What they were doing was tantamount to mutiny.'**

the Transport & General Workers' Union, representing dockers, immediately objected. ITF general secretary Edo Fimmen said after hearing their objections at a meeting in Paris in 1936: 'It was just as if they were representing their own government.'

Meanwhile, the Norwegian seamen's union began telling its members to prevent the departure of ships to Franco-held ports. Several were stopped in Cardiff and Newcastle when Norwegian crews walked off their ships. Rank-and-file union activists on Newcastle Trades Council supported the

action. But as Fimmen noted in January 1937: 'The British unions not only do not join the action, but indirectly try to hinder it by allowing their own people to load [the ships] for the rebels and man them.'

Though facing hostility from their own union, the *Linaria* crew did receive backing for their stand from Labour leader Clement Attlee. Raising the dispute in the House of Commons on 26 February, Attlee asked whether the government had sent instructions to the consul-general in Boston to support the crew. The future prime minister went on to ask what the position was of seafarers 'who are asked to load supplies which are obviously war supplies'. In response, the government reiterated its view that the nitrate cargo was not prohibited.

In a hopeless position, however, the *Linaria* crew eventually agreed to be paid off and repatriated, with money deducted from their wages for their time on strike. On arrival in Liverpool they were charged with 'neglect of duty and wilful disobedience of a lawful order'.

## Court

Their case came to court in Liverpool early in May 1937. They presented evidence from an analytical chemist, who pointed out that nitrates are essential for the manufacture of munitions. The magistrate declared their action justified, but fined them each 40 shillings (about three days' pay) for impeding the progress of their ship.



◀ Soon after helping the *Linaria* crew, Jack Jones was elected as a Labour councillor in Liverpool. In the following year he joined the International Brigades.

▲ Clem Attlee raised the *Linaria* case in Parliament.

▶ Alex 'Spike' Robson was elected by his *Linaria* crewmates to head the strike committee; pictured in Royal Navy uniform during the Second World War.

▶▶ Plaque dedicated to seafarers and railway workers who joined the International Brigades in the RMT union's headquarters in London. It was unveiled by IBMT President Jack Jones in June 2004.



Though let off relatively lightly, the men and their supporters launched a successful appeal, which saw their fines quashed. As Jack Jones later recalled: 'A good case was

## 'The Board of Trade in London ruled that the cargo for Seville did not contravene Britain's policy of non-intervention in the war in Spain. The seafarers disagreed and their sit-in strike in Boston lasted 10 days.'

presented before the Recorder, EG Hemmerde, KC. The defendants were lucky because Hemmerde had strong socialist sympathies.'

The *Daily Herald* reported on 6 June: 'Holding that they were justified in refusing to sail to Spain, the Recorder of Liverpool, Mr EG Hemmerde, KC, allowed an appeal by members of the crew of the North Shields steamer, *Linaria*. Fifteen had each been fined

£2, and the other two, apprentices, discharged under the Probation Act, for refusing to sail the *Linaria* from Boston, USA.' In an interesting aside, the report noted: 'The captain, James Robinson, agreed that the men constituted the best crew he had had in 30 years.'

### Verdict

The *Daily Worker* gleefully declared on 15 June that 'the Recorder showed himself more progressive than the leadership of the NUS'.

Not surprisingly the shipowners were unhappy with the verdict and the case ended up in the High Court in April 1938. Renowned socialist barrister DN Pritt defended the crew and Spike Robson defended himself. The appeal was thrown out and all costs awarded against the owners.

Robson, however, paid a price for his role in the strike and was blacklisted from the shipping industry. But with the outbreak of war in 1939, he found work on auxiliary Royal Navy ships crewed by merchant seamen. As a footnote, Robson was elected in 1947 to the NUS's executive council, the first communist to serve in that capacity. He later became a mentor for Jim Slater, a future NUS general secretary, who was one of the key figures on

the North East coast in the militant National Seamen's Reform Movement of the 1950s and 60s.

Though an important legal victory was achieved, the story of the *Linaria*, when seafarers challenged what one historian has dubbed 'an unholy alliance' of government, shipowners and the men's union, also answers a question which has been posed by labour historians: why was direct solidarity action by British maritime workers so limited during the Spanish Civil War? Robson and his shipmates took a unique stand – and in doing so fully exposed the implacable opposition such action faced.

*For more information see: 'The Spanish Civil War and the British Labour Movement' by Tom Buchanan; 'Union Man' by Jack Jones; 'The Spanish Civil War and the British Left' by Lewis H Mates; 'The ITF and the Spanish Civil War' by Dieter Nelles in 'The International Transport Workers' Federation 1914-1945' edited by Bob Reinalda; and Graham Stevenson's online 'Encyclopedia of Communist Biographies' ([www.grahamstevenson.me.uk](http://www.grahamstevenson.me.uk)).*

*Jim Jump is the IBMT Chair and former editor of the NUS/RMT newspaper, The Seaman.*

TO CELEBRATE  
**THE BATTLE OF JARAMA**  
THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE ASSOCIATION  
*presents*

“we fight on”



**THE EPIC STORY** OF THE

**INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE** from 1936 to 1943

IN 13 DRAMATIC EPISODES

A UNITY THEATRE PRODUCTION

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY J.S. FRIEZE.

CAST AND CHOIRS OF 150

**SCALA THEATRE**

CHARLOTTE STREET, W.1 (GOODGE STREET STATION)

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 7<sup>PM</sup>**

**TICKETS: 1/6 2/6 3/6 5/-**

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE ASSOCIATION  
144 HOLBORN, E.C.1. TEL.: HOL 2583. OR UNITY  
THEATRE, GOLDINGTON STREET, N.W.1. TEL.: EUS 5391

# Forgotten plays about the civil war

**SIMON BREDEN** describes how left-wing theatre groups and playwrights, including International Brigade veterans, depicted the struggle in Spain.

Relatively little has been written about British theatrical responses to the Spanish Civil War. Perhaps this is due to the ephemeral nature of theatre, but most examinations of literary responses to the war have focused on poetry and prose.

However, at the instigation of Professor Emilio Peral Vega of the Complutense University in Madrid, as part of a government-funded project, *Métodos de propaganda activa en la Guerra Civil* (Methods of Active Propaganda in the Civil War), seeking to discover unpublished works on the subject from around the world, my research has uncovered a strong and prolific theatrical current in the UK that had largely been forgotten.

My recently published collection compiles a selection of eight plays staged by Unity Theatre companies around the UK between 1936 and 1946, all but one previously unpublished and located in archives in the UK and the US. All of these plays focused centrally on the Spanish Civil War, seeking to inform working-class audiences about what was going on, or on the International Brigades and the importance of the Spanish Civil War within the context of a wider worldwide struggle between communism and fascism.

## Company

As the very name of the company implies, the Unity Theatre was closely tied to the Communist Party and its calls for a government of national unity to combat the rise of fascism. Unity also developed a close collaboration with Victor Gollancz's Left Book Club, generating a

◀ Poster promoting a performance of JS Frieze's 'We Fight On', printed by FD Hull, about 1950.

▶ Unity Theatre poster advertising their location in Goldington Street, London, where they were based from 1937.

nationwide network of amateur theatre companies reporting to the Left Book Club Theatre Guild.

This network would send out recommendations of plays written for a left-leaning working-class audience, therefore offering a theatre programme completely distinct from the popular mainstream theatre of the era, which offered little comment and no leadership on the subject of Spain.

The scale of Unity's effort cannot be sufficiently stressed: my research uncovered records of at least a dozen more Spanish Civil War plays, although I have not yet been able to

track down these scripts.

The plays compiled in my book, 'El Unity Theatre y la Guerra Civil Española' (Unity Theatre and the Spanish Civil War), were written by left-wing writers and International Brigaders, some of whose names are now largely unknown.

Perhaps the most famous piece is Jack Lindsay's 'On Guard for Spain!' (1937), which has enjoyed a long publication history, more often as a poem rather than a play. However, it was conceived as a piece of theatre, a 'mass declamation' as he termed it, to be performed

**'All of these plays focused centrally on the Spanish Civil War, seeking to inform working-class audiences about what was going on.'**

by a chorus of voices: it was enormously popular in the early years of the war, becoming the most frequently performed play on the Spanish Civil War, staged many times by Unity companies all over the UK.

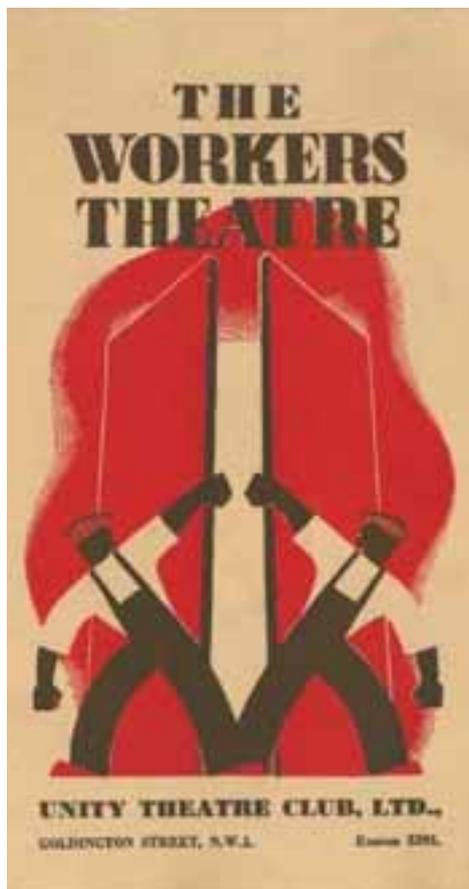
However, it was not the first play on the subject: Randall Swingler's 'Spain' (1937) was the earliest response, performed at the Unity Theatre's Britannia Street venue, and containing all the major hallmarks of these pieces: a preoccupation with explaining the nature of the conflict, connecting it to a wider global struggle, and offering a damning indictment of the Conservative government's policy of non-intervention.

The collection's other plays include two sketches by Edgar Criddle for the Liverpool Unity Theatre, 'Insurgent's Aid Committee' and 'Before Guernica' (1937), both satirising the rebel forces and the complicity of the UK government in their atrocities.

## Brigades

Two further plays examine the International Brigades centrally: JS Frieze's 'We Fight On' (1943) and Ted Willis' 'All One Battle' (1945), both plays written after the conclusion of the Spanish Civil War, with the Second World War well underway, and designed to suggest that the fight against fascism had started with the Communist Party's leadership forming a

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

working-class army in Spain.

The propagandistic bias of these plays is evident, but it goes some way towards helping us understand the concerns of the British public and the efforts of the British Communist Party and the Comintern to present a particular

**‘They offer a valuable window into how resonant the conflict was at the time and how it polarised public opinion.’**

narrative of the events from 1936 onwards.

Two plays remain, which we may slightly set apart from this purely propagandistic intent, although they both quite clearly display their leftist sympathies, as they attempt to show a more human side to the conflict rather than simply making broad political statements.

The first is Carmel Haden-Guest and Robert Orchard’s play ‘Madrileñas’ (1937), which shows us the Red Aid offices in Madrid under siege.

Haden-Guest’s visits to Spain and her humanitarian efforts resonate clearly throughout a piece that attempts to show the suffering of Spanish civilians under intolerable circumstances.

At this point I should note that I have been unable to find any record of the co-author Robert Orchard, and would be delighted if any readers happen to have any information at all on who he was.

The second play is George Leeson’s ‘This Trampled Earth’ (1946), the only full-length play in the collection. With echoes of Lorca and Lope de Vega, the play presents a Spanish village attempting to resist its Falangist mayor, and seeks to generate a great deal of empathy with the repressed ordinary townsfolk depicted.

Leeson was an International Brigadier and one of the men captured at Jarama in Harry Fry’s machine gun company. At the time he was already translating Lorca and Alberti and he would later become the general manager of the Unity Theatre in London.

### Involvement

The personal involvement of both Haden-Guest and Leeson in the conflict produced the two most naturalistic plays depicting ordinary Spaniards and the situation in Spain as directly witnessed, rather than the more dispassionate external perspective on the conflict that the

other playwrights in this collection had provided.

My book presents all these plays in English alongside my translations into Spanish. The introduction, also in Spanish, summarises the British literary responses to the war and seeks to place these rediscovered plays within the more familiar context of Spanish Civil War poetry and prose. They offer a valuable window into how resonant the conflict was at the time and how it polarised public opinion.

Most importantly, it restores the Unity Theatre to a place of prominence at the forefront of literary responses to the war, demonstrating the extent of its engagement, through the creation of a variety of new plays in different registers, performed by hundreds of amateur companies around the country.



*Dr Simon Breden is a lecturer at the University of Duesto in Bilbao and author of ‘El Unity Theatre y la Guerra Civil Española’ (Unity Theatre and the Spanish Civil War), (Madrid: Guillermo Escolar, 2020).*



Jack Lindsay’s ‘On Guard for Spain’ (1937) performed by Bristol Unity Players’ Club in Winterbourne, June 1938.



# Leah Manning and the women who helped rescue Basque children

Women played key roles in the Aid Spain movement, which counts the evacuation of nearly 4,000 Basque children to Britain in May 1937 as perhaps its greatest achievement. **SARAH LONSDALE** highlights the contributions of three women who made it possible.

Just before the lockdown shutters came clanging down last spring, I went on holiday to northern Spain, visiting the coastal towns of Santander and Bilbao, and also Guernica, historic ancient capital of the Basques. In Bilbao I strolled into a quiet square, fringed with tall plane trees, their leaves just starting to emerge into the Spanish sunshine. The name of the square intrigued me: Plaza de Mrs Leah Manning, and I wondered why the people of Bilbao had named this leafy square, surrounded by schools, after an Englishwoman of whom I had never heard.

It turned out there was a pretty big reason: in the spring of 1937, while the Spanish Civil War was raging and as General Franco's troops were bombing towns up and down the Basque coast, Mrs Leah Manning helped 4,000 Spanish children escape on a ship, the *Habana*, to England. The night of their departure, 21 May, Franco's bombers attacked Portugalete, Bilbao's harbour where the children were being loaded. They almost didn't make it at all.

When I started to investigate Leah, I discovered that she was not the only British woman who tried to help the Basques in the spring of 1937. Many women joined the Aid Spain movement, raising money to help send clothes and food, and also to try and help rescue Spaniards, whose worlds were being bombed to smithereens by the fascist coup that was taking place in the country. This is the story of just three of those women.

In March 1937, Florence Roberts, aged just 20, was helping her widowed father, merchant seaman

▲ Leah Manning (1886-1977), teacher, trade unionist, MP and founding member of the Spanish Medical Aid Committee in 1936.

William Roberts take his Cardiff-registered *Seven Seas Spray* to Barcelona to pick up a cargo of olive oil, almonds and barrels of cognac. Once the valuable cargo of sun-drenched goods was loaded, the ship's orders changed and Florence and her father changed direction for Bilbao. The residents of Bilbao were starving – General Franco had blockaded the harbour

**‘Many women joined the Aid Spain movement, raising money to help rescue Spaniards, whose worlds were being bombed to smithereens.’**

and the roads into the town so no food could get in. People were eating their dogs and cats.

French and British merchant vessels were trying to run the blockade to deliver food to the Basques but none had so far managed to get past the Italian cruisers guarding the port – Mussolini had sent his navy to help Franco.

On the night of 19 April, the *Seven Seas Spray* left the French port of St Jean de Luz. With her navigation lights off, she passed, unseen, close by an Italian cruiser shortly after leaving France, but after that, had an uneventful voyage. After 10 hours' sailing the *Seven Seas Spray's* arrival in Bilbao was feted by the Basque authorities. English newspapers celebrated the 'pretty, 20-years-old' captain's daughter sporting a jaunty sailor's cap. Florence briefly became a journalist and she reported, in her first despatch for the *News Chronicle*.

*I have seen children and even women run after lorries leaving one ship with loads of salt and snatch a handful of it. Hordes of children gather round the food shops from early morning till dusk pleading for food. What they prize most are pieces of white bread... despite their hardships they would rather starve than surrender.*

Florence and her father ran the blockade all through the spring and summer of 1937, taking in food, and taking out refugees. Then in August, while in Santoña, the *Seven Seas Spray* was boarded by Italian soldiers and Florence, William and the crew spent the next two months as prisoners.

While Florence and her father were secretly making food deliveries in small ports along the coast, it soon became clear that a larger operation was needed.

## Bilbao

Guernica had been bombed – causing international scandal – killing hundreds of people. It was clear that Bilbao would be next, and the citizens had only days. But while a French ship had succeeded in evacuating some children, Britain's Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, had been unwilling to offer help for fear of looking like Britain was taking sides.

Leah Manning had arrived in Bilbao on 24 April. She drove straight to the British consulate to ask for help in persuading the government to approve the evacuation. She was seen, she later wrote as 'an officious busy-body'. But Manning wasn't to be dissuaded. Briefly a Labour MP in 1931, she had been a teacher since she left school and her whole

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

# AID SPAIN

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

life was dedicated to helping children.

On 17 May, while the British consul was away from Bilbao, Manning sent a telegram to London from the consulate, more or less claiming that the evacuation of the children was so well underway that it would be impossible to stop. While the British government thought her a busy body, Manning had public opinion on her side. The large amounts of money now raised by the Aid Spain Committee for the children's upkeep meant that Whitehall objections over the cost of caring for the children were neutralised.

On 21 May the yacht *Habana*, with a capacity of 800, began loading the young passengers, with the help of British doctors, Audrey Russell and Richard Ellis and nurse Aileen Moore.

## Evacuation

Aileen Moore volunteered to help the evacuation because she could speak Spanish. When she flew from Biarritz into the Spanish war zone, it was the first time she had ever flown in her life. She wrote in the *Nursing Mirror and Midwives' Journal*:

*The little monoplane was perched, glittering, in a field of clover and daisies against a background of blue, snow-covered Pyrenean peaks. Her weight was 25 kilos...Up, up, up, so high that the rolling Atlantic seemed only a corrugated gleaming blue surface, broken by deep patches of shadow...far down, miniature destroyers rode on the white specked blue sheet of sea.*

Waiting for final embarkation orders, she ate rice,



▲ Florence Roberts helped her father captain the *Seven Seas Spray*, as reported in the *Daily Mail*.

beans, cat and donkey steak, dodging German air raids as she escorted distraught children away from their weeping mothers.

Before the *Habana* was fully loaded, the Nationalist air raids on the port had become so intense that the ship left without all of the children on board. Apart from severe bouts of seasickness ('for two dreadful days and nights Richard, Audrey and I slipped and slithered from one pool of vomit and diarrhoea to another') they arrived safely in Southampton on 23 May. Two weeks later, Bilbao fell and many of the children's parents were killed. Manning had literally snatched the nearly 4,000 boys and girls out from underneath Franco's nose. Once they arrived and had been put in temporary tents outside Southampton, Manning did not give up



▲ The steamship *Habana* arriving in Southampton from Bilbao in May 1937.

fighting to find them homes and schools. The children, when adults who either returned to Spain or settled in Britain, remembered her fondly. One woman, Esta Nickson, who had been on the *Habana* wrote in 1991: 'I remember her very well, we all loved her. She always had a smile and a cuddle for all of us.'

Leah, Florence and Aileen's stories tell us how compassion for children in danger can turn even 'ordinary' people – a nurse, a teacher and a merchant sailor's daughter – into heroes.

*Dr Sarah Lonsdale is a senior lecturer at City University of London, and author of 'Rebel Women Between the Wars' (2020) and 'The Journalist in British Fiction and Film' (2016).*

## Choose your IBMT t-shirt



The IBMT offers a range of t-shirt designs including one featuring the iconic emblem of the International Brigades, in a variety of colours (left).

All t-shirts are on sale for £20 (plus £3.99 p&p) and most come in a range of sizes (S-5XL) and are made from ethically sourced cotton.

The t-shirts are produced in partnership with specialist radical apparel outfitter Red Molotov. All proceeds from sales help fund our vital commemorative and educational work.

To place an order online go to the Shop page of the IBMT website:  
[www.international-brigades.org.uk/catalog](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/catalog)



**SEBASTIAAN FABER** (above), chair of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, discusses 'Exhuming Franco', a new work which considers the legacy of Francoism in Spain.

Around the time of the Catalan referendum in 2017 some Spanish intellectuals complained that foreign correspondents were unfairly painting their country as 'Francoiland'. 'A large part of educated public opinion in Europe and the Americas, including the academic and journalistic elites, prefer to hold on to a somber vision of Spain,' Antonio Muñoz Molina wrote in *El País*. 'They lazily stick to the worst stereotypes, especially concerning the legacy of the dictatorship or our bullfight-like tendency to bloodshed and civil war.' Some of them, he added, 'are so in love with the idea of a rebellious Spain fighting fascism that they refuse to accept that fascism ended many years ago. They're so enthralled with our picturesque backwardness that they take offense when we explain everything in which we have changed these past 40 years'.

Yet the idea that Spain is still burdened by lingering Francoist legacies is not only held by foreign elites. 'Our democracy is the result of an 'adaptation manoeuvre' by the regime of General Franco when it was faced with the choice to either integrate into Europe or maintain itself in indefinite isolation,' wrote a reader in reaction to a column by Rosa María Artal in *ElDiario.es* around the time of Pedro Sánchez's investiture as prime minister in early 2020, less than three weeks after Franco's remains had been exhumed from the Valley of the Fallen. 'Its master move,' the reader added, 'was to force a Transition in which those who held power during the dictatorship remained in place, concealed under the cloak of a democratic

# How different is modern Spain really?

society...[A] couple of years later, during the successive majority governments of Felipe González, a golden opportunity was lost to turn this country inside out like a sock...All the political problems that we suffer today derive from those two historical facts.' It was the highest rated comment to Artal's column that day.

This will be no surprise to any observer of Spanish current affairs. The idea that every single one of Spain's challenges today can be linked with a persistent Francoist legacy continues to hold great attraction, especially among the Left and the *soberanistas* in Catalonia and the Basque Country. But how useful is it to rely on the dictatorship as an explanatory paradigm in 2021, in a Spain that – let's face it – looks very little like it did between 1939 and 1975? Does it make sense to continue to speak of

**'If Francoism does still exist in some guise today, how exactly does it manifest in political life, in the news media, the judiciary, the universities or the economy?'**

'sociological Francoism', the concept popularised by Manuel Vázquez Montalbán? If Francoism does still exist in some guise today, how exactly does it manifest in political life, in the news media, the judiciary, the universities, or the country's economic structures? Also, is it really true that Spain is more burdened by its recent past than other countries?

These are some of the questions I try to address in my short book 'Exhuming Franco: Spain's Second Transition'. Or, rather, these are the questions I pose to some 35 journalists, historians, philosophers and activists, from Cristina Fallarás, Montse Armengou, and Guillem Martínez to Enric Juliana, Magda Bandera, and José Antonio Zarzalejos. And even though the bulk of my informants would identify as left-leaning, their disagreements are significant.

Written for a non-specialist audience, the book brings up difficult, even uncomfortable questions. Some of my interlocutors point to the corruption of the monarchy, the reactionary profile of the judiciary, the lack of professional ethics in the news media, or the continuing influence of the Catholic Church as reasons to question whether Spanish democracy is

quite as 'consolidated' as some politicians and intellectuals like to claim. Others suggest that if there still are attitudes and practices that we can associate with the Francoist period – ways of practicing politics or conceiving public institutions, ways of pursuing and exercising power – these are not necessarily limited to the political Right or the Castilian-speaking parts of the country, however much it's often the Left and the Basque and Catalan independence movements that like to paint Spain as 'Francoiland'.

## Roots

Yet others emphasise that Francoism itself had a long genealogy, with roots reaching deep into the 19th century, if not further. Nor do my interlocutors agree on the recent rise of the radical right. For some, Vox is a deeply Spanish phenomenon – *castizo*, Catholic, (neo-)Francoist – while others argue that Abascal's party has much more in common with other populist right-wing movements (in France, Germany, Brazil, or the United States) than with any particularly Spanish tradition. And even if it's true that Spain's democracy needs work, some of my interlocutors question the solutions proposed by domestic activists or international bodies, whether it's a Truth Commission, constitutional reform, a second transition, or something as simple as a museum of the civil war and Francoism.

In the final chapter, I wonder whether Spaniards have tended to exaggerate the exceptionality of their own country. To be sure, self-critical comparisons with other nations can be quite effective: 'In the Netherlands, a university president caught plagiarising would have resigned right away; in Spain, no one ever resigns'; 'Can you imagine in Germany a monument holding Hitler's grave?'; statements like these have been common in the Spanish public sphere, especially since the rise of the memory movement, around 2000, and the 15-M or *indignados* 11 years later. Yet in practice these examples are often based on a superficial, if not idealised, image of northern European countries, many of which face plenty of challenges of their own. And when it comes to determining what to do with a complicated, conflicted, or violent past, Spain is far from alone in the world.

*Sebastiaan Faber is professor of Hispanic Studies at Oberlin College. 'Exhuming Franco: Spain's Second Transition' is published by Vanderbilt University Press (2021).*

**'The Good Comrade: Memoirs of an International Brigader' by Jan Kurzke, with an introduction by Richard Baxell and an afterword by Charlotte Kurzke (The Clapton Press, 2021).**



# Kurzke's splintered account of Spain

**T**he Good Comrade' consists of the previously unpublished memoir of artist, political refugee and International Brigader Jan Kurzke. Born in Hamburg in 1905, Kurzke fled the Nazi regime in 1933 and eventually found refuge in Spain where he 'toured the country'. After Spain he travelled on to England where he met Kate Mangan, a married artist, actress and journalist.

Mangan would acquire a divorce in 1934 and would leave for Spain in 1936 in search of Kurzke. Jan had enlisted in the newly formed International Brigades and fought in defence of Madrid, sustaining a wound in the process. When Kate arrived she found and nursed him back to health, and then arranged for his evacuation from Spain. On their return to England they married.

What is really odd is that none of this wonderful love story is mentioned by Jan in his memoirs. As Richard Baxell explains in his detailed introduction, this was half of a wider memoir written with Kate Mangan, and her part of this dual memoir is published separately, also by The Clapton Press, with the title 'Never More Alive'.

A challenge to this publication is that Kurzke's memoirs are fragmentary; his description of his Spanish tour is left incomplete in 1934, frustratingly just as he

**'His first-hand accounts of his encounters with fellow tramps and the Spanish peasantry are deeply empathetic.'**

embarks on a new adventure. The memoirs are picked up again with Jan crossing the border back into Spain in 1936, this time to join the British section of the Commune de Paris Battalion and fight for the Spanish Republic. The memoirs finally end as he crosses the border once again, this time as a seriously wounded soldier.

The reason for the discontinuous nature of the memoir is made clear both by Richard

Baxell's introduction and in the two appendices; put simply, this is all that remains. The choice not to succumb to temptation and add context and explanation within the narrative is fully justified. It allows us to appreciate this fantastic account, to relish in the beautiful prose, to value the compelling narrative. It must be pointed out that the phrasing of the prose is so sublime that one forgets that Jan has written these memoirs in his second language.

The introduction provided by Baxell, describing what Jan does and sees and explaining what happens prior to and after his first visit to Spain, identifies the point in which the narrative cuts off. It also highlights Kate Mangan and her search for Jan, and how she finds him in a hospital awaiting the amputation of his leg, how she manages to avert the procedure and eventually takes him to safety.

## Tramping

Jan gives us a glorious account of life tramping around southern Spain. He is witness to the debilitating, feudalistic poverty of the rural population. His first-hand accounts of his encounters with fellow tramps and the Spanish peasantry are deeply empathetic; the descriptions of the absolute deprivation need no accompanying elaboration.

The opening scenes as Jan prepares to traverse Spain are deeply reminiscent of Orwell's 'Road to Wigan Pier', but this account swiftly surpasses Orwell's detached and

observational account, for Jan is not merely playing a role for a few short months and then returning to his comfortable life, gathering anecdotes and inspiration. We feel Jan Kurzke living the life of a tramp, we take the journey with him; he is literally penniless, he is barely surviving, barely keeping himself alive.

This first section is invaluable in contextualising the second; we don't need to be told why Jan felt compelled to support the reformist Republican government because his account of the living conditions of the Spaniards he encounters is so overwhelming. This first section of the memoir comes to an abrupt and admittedly jarring end in 1934.

The opening scene in this second section has Jan travelling into Spain from France and it feels much like an entirely separate narrative, which indeed it is because two years have passed and Jan is a different man: older, wiser, with more responsibilities. However, the prior section means that we are familiar with this character, we have an insight into his thoughts and feelings, we know him. The wonderful prose is still there but this time it is not so light. It is much more descriptive, reflecting the subject matter, although Jan has lost none of his warmth and humanity.

IBMT members will find the second section equally rewarding, but for different reasons to the first section. The battle for Madrid at the end of 1936 is a fascinating, if rather overlooked aspect of the International Brigades story. We are familiar with the Tom Mann Centuria, if only because the iconic



◀ International Brigaders in the Casa de Campo during the defence of Madrid in November 1936. Kurzke served among them.



◀ Kate Mangan and Jan Kurzke pictured in a Madrid hospital, after he received treatment for a leg injury sustained during the battle to defend the city.

image is used so frequently. However, there is still very little written about them; this also applies to the Commune de Paris Battalion, part of the 11th International Brigade, which fought in the defence of Madrid at Casa de Campo, where Jan was injured. Among the British section dead was the leader of the group, Fred Jones, while John Cornford, the Communist intellectual and poet, received a wound to the head.

This account changed my perception of the 11th Brigade's defence of Madrid; previously I had followed the anglo-centric mythologising which has the Brigade, and the British section in particular, filled with the Communist intellectual middle-class – primarily from the south of England; hence the volunteers adhere to the stereotypical perception of enthusiastic amateurs. The British accounts of this early period of the Brigades almost exclusively focus on this narrow social-political grouping.

### Training

Kurzke is not part of this image of those early volunteers; he may not have served in an army, but he did have military training. Like most European volunteers Jan had some experience in firearms prior to Spain – some type of service was widespread on the continent. We get a more nuanced perception of the International Brigades and their performance before Madrid; the vast majority of the men could handle firearms and understood tactics, therefore required very little instruction, Jan among them. This account also helped me to understand the numerous complaints about the quality of volunteers arriving at Albacete that we find in the RGASPI Russian state archive files; the British volunteers were not, at this stage,

militarily as competent as other European volunteers.

We get the impression that Jan fell comfortably into the role of soldier; little seemed to phase him and he is matter of fact about most things, even his injury. He also had an advantage over most of his fellow British volunteers as he was multilingual. He could

**‘He fell comfortably into the role of soldier; little seemed to phase him and he is matter of fact about most things, even his injury.’**

communicate easily and had a much broader international experience.

He has an easy familiarity with significant individuals: he was friends with Cornford and with Jock Cunningham, who Jan says had a permanent look of puzzlement on his face. I'll never look at a picture of Jock, who led the British Battalion after Jarama, in the same way again. But of course Jan is writing about them before they gained recognition and notoriety. It would be Cornford who would drag the wounded Jan to safety.

It is not the proximity to the great and the good, nor the association with the great events which makes this book so fantastic, but the simplicity with which it is presented.

Jan has a narrative skill which matches that of his fellow intellectual comrades. The account of his time in hospital feels so authentic, with tiny changes in routine taking on monstrously dramatic significance simply

because time is dragging for him. Once again, while fully immersed in Jan's experiences, the narrative ends abruptly.

It is at this abrupt end that the editor plays a trump card; appendix one contains the correspondence between Charlotte Kurzke, the daughter of Jan and Kate Mangan, and Bernard Knox, the academic who had fought in the International Brigades alongside Cornford and Kurzke.

The exchange itself is fascinating as it highlights the difficulties and choices we face when using testimony; an account constructed after the events. We also see their frustration with Jan's odd choices and omissions. It is shocking to find that he does not mention Charlotte's mother in his account. One disquieting omission comes when lovers Jan and Kate are reunited in Madrid. Jan replaces this event in his memoir with a description of him bedding a girl he met in a bar. Neither Charlotte nor Bernard can explain this void in the narrative. The reader too can speculate, but there seems to be no satisfactory explanation.

The second appendix comes from Simon Deefholts, the head of Clapton Press, in which he provides material that suggests that Jan may have had an added incentive to return to Spain. As with the first appendix, this is not done to explain the situation, but to present material, allowing the reader to draw their own conclusions.

We have been presented with a number of parts which don't quite fit neatly together and certainly don't make up a complete whole. However, what we do have is a fantastic description of Spain prior to the outbreak of the war and an invaluable account of the initial stages of the defence of Madrid, one which corroborates some of the most important English-language accounts of a phase of the International Brigades that is often overlooked. Jan is shown here as a fine writer. It is a credit to his daughter, Charlotte, that this has been brought to the notice of the public.

You should read this book if you seek fine prose, an interesting narrative, an impression of Spain before the outbreak of the civil war, an insight into why it broke out, and an interest in the first few months of the war. There are multiple reasons for getting hold of this publication, but primarily the major reason is that it is outstandingly good.

TONY FOX

# The Spaniards who liberated Paris

**DAVID EBSWORTH** explains the inspiration for 'A Betrayal of Heroes', his new thriller about Jack Telford and the Spanish Republicans who continued the fight against fascism.

As an author of historical fiction, none of the periods in which my novels are set has been more special for me than the Spanish Civil War.

I'd already written a couple of thrillers set towards the end of the conflict, 'The Assassin's Mark' and 'Until the Curtain Falls'. They follow the fortunes of fictional journalist Jack Telford.

The climax of 'Until the Curtain Falls' finds Telford on board the *Stanbrook* – that remarkable true episode during which a final shipload of Republicans managed to escape from Alicante on board the tramp steamer captained by Cardiff skipper Archibald Dickson – and then in Oran with the vessel's refugees. But I started to be intrigued by what might have happened next.

I knew that when Paris was liberated in August 1944, the first Allied troops into the city belonged to a company of Leclerc's Second French Armoured Division. Yet they weren't French troops but Spanish, as many readers will know. They belonged to the Ninth Company in the Third Battalion of the Chad Armoured Infantry Regiment.

The company was by then universally known as La Nueve, because most of its soldiers were formerly members of the Spanish Republic's army. Their half-tracks were emblazoned with the names of battles in Spain – Teruel, Guadalajara, Jarama, Belchite and others. Their battalion commander was an old

**'Most of its soldiers were formerly members of the Spanish Republican Army. Their half-tracks were emblazoned with the names of battles in Spain.'**

warhorse, Joseph Putz, a French veteran of the First World War, but who'd also commanded the 14th International Brigade as a volunteer in Spain.

So, between the *Stanbrook* in March 1939 and the liberation of Paris in August 1944, what had happened? Was there a link, a thread between one event and the other? Naturally – and it turned out this thread would inspire the story which forms the historically factual background of the novel.

There's a very direct link, of course, since one of the Republican soldiers who escaped aboard the *Stanbrook* was Amado Granell Mesado, who fought throughout the Spanish Civil War and, not quite by



▲ Spanish Republicans in the vanguard of the liberation of Paris in August 1944.

coincidence, was also adjutant to La Nueve, helping to lead the company when they fought their way into Paris five years later. He features strongly in the novel.

Granell operated a motorcycle shop in Orihuela, south of Alicante, until the outbreak of the civil war in 1936. He served with distinction for the Republic and did, indeed, escape from Alicante on the *Stanbrook*. After the war, he received the Legion of Honour but rejected an offer of promotion within the French army. By 1950 Granell had opened a restaurant, Los Amigos, on the Rue du Bouloir, Paris, which became a meeting point for Spanish Republicans.

Another La Nueve member that makes an appearance is Miguel Campos, formerly a baker from the south of Tenerife. Known as Campos the Anarchist, he hadn't fought in Spain since he'd been imprisoned early in the civil war and later in various forced labour camps. After his escape, he'd joined the French Resistance in Oran in time to take part in assisting the American landings during Operation Torch.

Later, he'd joined La Nueve and, though he had no military experience, he was a natural leader. His exploits in Normandy, in the liberation of Paris, and during the fighting in Lorraine, became something of a legend. Yet he disappeared without trace during a routine patrol in December 1944.

Jack Telford may be a fictional character but perhaps it's worth a mention of the factual background which, in my novels, had brought him to Spain in the first place.

I needed a 'real' newspaper for which Jack might have worked, and I chose *Reynold's News* – a hugely popular and progressive Sunday newspaper back in the 1930s, whose editor, Sydney Elliott, worked hard to support the Aid for Spain campaigns. Elliott, I knew, would have been intrigued by the brochures that suddenly appeared in all of London's travel agency windows early in 1938: 'National Spain invites you to visit the War Routes of the North' – an invitation to tour the glories of northern Spain and the scenes of Franco's victories. It was an important and often overlooked part of Franco's propaganda strategy, and one which attracted more than 20,000 tourists, from every country in Europe and further afield, an average of 80 tours each year between July 1938 and June 1945. An all-inclusive holiday for just £8, and all the pro-Franco propaganda you could handle. So, why not send ace reporter Jack Telford off on one of the tours, to expose the truth?

The betrayals which give the novel its title are many and varied, but they include the false promises made to the Spaniards fighting within Leclerc's Division – promises that, once the Allies had dealt with Hitler and Mussolini, they would next turn their attention to Spain and Franco.

Yet those promises were never kept and the men of La Nueve suffered the double agony of hearing how, in October 1944, thousands of *guerrilleros*, having previously liberated so many of those southern French cities like Toulouse, took the weapons supplied to them as part of the Resistance and drove a Republican wedge through the heart of the Pyrenees into northern Spain, the Aran Valley, towards Lleida. Without support from the Allies, the *guerrilleros* were doomed to fail and they were ultimately overwhelmed by Franco's forces.

Those former soldiers of the Republic within the ranks of La Nueve, and Brigaders like Joseph Putz who fought alongside them, continued their battle against fascism to the very end.

Sadly, the part they played has, until relatively recently, been airbrushed from history. But thankfully that further betrayal is now being corrected – perhaps 'A Betrayal of Heroes' might make some small contribution to that process.

*'A Betrayal of Heroes' by David Ebsworth was published in July by SilverWood Books (silverwoodbooks.co.uk).*

# Merchandise from the IBMT

Proceeds help fund the commemorative, educational and publicity work of the International Brigade Memorial Trust.

Free postage & packing on goods totalling £30 or more for orders within the UK and Europe.

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.

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



**International Brigade emblem t-shirt:** Produced by t-shirt specialists Red Molotov. Available in black, blue, bottle green, charcoal, grey, natural, navy, olive green, purple, red, sky blue, white, yellow and in sizes **5XL** (160cms); **4XL** (150cms); **XXXL** (140cms); **XXL** (130cms); **XL** (119cms); **L** (109cms); **M** (99cms); **S** (89cms). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**Ireland International Brigade t-shirt:** This t-shirt combines the Spanish Republic's flag and the starry plough of the Irish Citizen Army. Produced by t-shirt specialists Red Molotov. Available in **5XL**, **4XL**, **XXXL**, **XXL**, **XL**, **L**, **M**, **S** (see International Brigade emblem t-shirt for size details). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**Scotland International Brigade t-shirt:** This t-shirt remembers the 549 Scottish volunteers who fought fascism in Spain. Produced by t-shirt specialists Red Molotov. Available in **5XL**, **4XL**, **XXXL**, **XXL**, **XL**, **L**, **M**, **S** (see International Brigade emblem t-shirt for size details). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**Wales International Brigade t-shirt:** Celebrate the 184 volunteers from Wales who fought fascism in Spain. Produced by t-shirt specialists Red Molotov. Available in **5XL**, **4XL**, **XXXL**, **XXL**, **XL**, **L**, **M**, **S** (see International Brigade emblem t-shirt for size details). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**Anti-fascist women t-shirt:** Features names of British nurses who served in Spain. Made for the IBMT by t-shirt specialists Philosophy Football from ethically sourced cotton. 'International Brigade Memorial Trust' on sleeve. Available in **XXL** (130cms); **XL** (120cms); **L** (110cms); **M** (100cms); **S** (90cms). £20 plus £4 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**, **M**, **L** and **XL** (see Anti-fascist women t-shirt for size details). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**15th International Brigade t-shirt:** With flag of 15th International Brigade, which included British, Irish, American, Canadian and Commonwealth volunteers. 'International Brigade Memorial Trust' on sleeve. Available in **S**, **M**, **L** and **XL** (see Antifascist women t-shirt for size details). £20 plus £4 p&p.



**Football scarf:** In the colours of the Spanish Republic. Says ¡No pasarán! on one side, International Brigade Memorial Trust on the other. £13 plus £5 p&p.



**International Brigade flag:** Replica of the flag of the mainly English-speaking 15th International Brigade, which included the British Battalion. Based on the flag of the Spanish Republic. 150cms x 87cms. £11 plus £4 p&p.



**British Battalion flag:** Reproduction of the first company flag named after Labour Party leader Clement Attlee. Red background with dark gold lettering. Ideal for carrying on marches or mounting on the wall. 150cms x 87cms. £11 plus £4 p&p.



**International Brigades tote bag:** High quality cotton canvas tote bag with a design depicting the International Brigades farewell ceremony. 38 x 42cms. Approximately 10l capacity. £7 each plus £4 p&p.



**Spanish Republic tote bag:** High quality cotton canvas tote bag with a design depicting the allegory and flag of the Spanish Republic. 38 x 42cms. Approximately 10l capacity. £7 each plus £4 p&p.



**IBMT badge:** Solid metal badge with International Brigade medal in centre and 'International Brigade Memorial Trust' around the edge. £4 plus £3 p&p.



**Classic badge:** A vintage badge design now back in stock by popular demand. Metal badge in purple, red, blue and gold, with the IBMT name in a banner across the foot of the badge. £5 plus £3 p&p.



**Tin-plated badge:** With three-pointed red star of the International Brigades and the background in the colours of Republican Spain. 2.5cms diameter. £2 plus £3 p&p.



**International Brigades mug:** 2,500 volunteers from Britain and Ireland joined the legendary International Brigades to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil War. This quality ceramic mug features the emblem they wore with pride. Produced by merchandise specialists Red Molotov. £10 plus £3 p&p.



# Become a Friend of the IBMT and help preserve the memory of the International Brigades

You can help make a special contribution to our essential work by becoming a Friend of the IBMT.

Donate more than £50 a year and you will be considered a Friend of the IBMT.

We'll send you an exclusive Friend of the IBMT badge (above) to wear with pride.

● Send a cheque for £50 or more made out to the IBMT, along with your name and address, to: IBMT, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU. If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to make a Gift Aid declaration to go

with your donation, you can request a form from [admin@international-brigades.org.uk](mailto:admin@international-brigades.org.uk)

● Alternatively, click the Donate button on our website ([www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)) and make a donation of at least £50 via PayPal. If you do this, please email [admin@international-brigades.org.uk](mailto:admin@international-brigades.org.uk) to notify us.

Thank you for your support. ¡No pasarán!

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

