



IBMT Newsletter

www.international-brigades.org.uk

Issue 31 / New Year 2012

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST



SALUTE: British Brigader David Lomon (left) with former comrades Erik Ellman (second from right) from Estonia and the brothers Joseph and Vincent Almudevar from France in front of the new memorial in Madrid's University City.

Memorial unveiled on 75th anniversary of creation of International Brigades Return to Madrid

The 75th anniversary of the formation of the International Brigades was commemorated in Spain in October by a week of events in Madrid, Albacete and Barcelona. These included visits to the training bases at Madrigueras and Tarazona, concerts, academic discussions, acts of remembrance and film shows.

The highlight of the programme in Madrid at the start of the week was the inauguration of a new memorial to the International Brigades in the heart of Madrid's University City on 22 October. It was 75 years to the day since Largo Caballero, Prime Minister of the Spanish Republic, had signed the decree authorising the formation of military units of foreign volunteers.

A large crowd assembled at the site of the new memorial to hear British Brigader David Lomon, aged 93, speak with dignity and power to remember the courage of the 35,000 foreign volunteers who fought with the Spanish people against the fascist menace. "Today, more than ever, we say: '¡No pasarán!'", he declared as the crowd erupted in sustained applause.

The University City was the scene of fierce fighting in November and December 1936 during the defence of Madrid and it was there that the first volunteers underwent their baptism of fire.

Designed by teachers and students at the university's faculty of fine arts, the memorial

Continued on back page

Lecture to probe civil war's human rights legacy

There will be a contemporary focus to the IBMT's annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture this year, with American historian Peter N Carroll looking at the continuing impact of the Spanish Civil War.

Entitled "The Spanish Civil War in the 21st Century: From Guernica to Human Rights", the lecture is to be delivered at London's Imperial War Museum on Saturday 3 March.

The talk begins at 2.30pm and will be chaired by Professor Paul Preston. It will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

In the morning, the IBMT will screen two short films: Henri Cartier-Bresson's "With the Lincoln Brigade in Spain" and "The International Brigaders Among Us" – the British première of a new documentary on the British and American Brigaders before the Battle of the Ebro in 1938. The film session begins at 11.30am.

Peter N Carroll is the leading historian of the US volunteers who went to Spain and is the author and editor of 17 books. They include "Facing Fascism: New York and the Spanish Civil War" (2007), "The Odyssey of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade: Americans in the Spanish Civil War" (1994) and the memoir "Keeping Time" (2011).

He is also Chair Emeritus of the board of governors of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) and co-curator of two travelling exhibitions: "Shouts From the Wall: Posters of the Spanish Civil War" (with Cary Nelson) and "They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art in Wartime From the Spanish Civil War to Kosovo" (with Anthony L Geist). He is the editor of ALBA's *The Volunteer* and teaches history at Stanford University, California, specialising in American film.

Now in its 11th year, the IBMT's lecture series is named after Len Crome (1909-2001), who was working as a GP in Lancashire when he volunteered to go to Spain, where he became chief medical officer of the International Brigades.

See "Diary dates" for the full programme on 3 March: page 15.

Keeping alive the memory and spirit of the men and women who volunteered to defend democracy in Spain from 1936 to 1939

International Brigade Memorial Trust

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Membership applications, renewals and queries should be sent to Membership Secretary Mary Greening. All other correspondence should go to Secretary Jim Jump.

Annual membership rates are £15 standard; £7.50 concessions; £20 family (single household); affiliating organisations by arrangement. Further details and forms are available from the Membership Secretary.

IBMT NEWSLETTER

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]. Send all items for the next issue to the Editor by 31 March 2012 at the latest.

Editor: Jim Jump (see contact details above)
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Remembering the Brigaders on Remembrance Day?

By Jim Jump

Congratulations to the ITV Sport producers who beamed the image (see facing page) of a football fan holding a placard saying "We also remember XVth International Brigade British Battalion '36" to millions of TV viewers during the live broadcast on 12 November of the England-Spain football match at London's Wembley Stadium. The image appeared on screen for several seconds during the two-minute silence for Britain's war dead that was observed before the kick-off.

The identity of the holder of the placard is unknown. Nor is it known whether ITV Sport understood its significance, as the dead of the Spanish Civil War are not included in the official "red poppy" acts of remembrance.

The Wembley incident rekindled the debate about whether there should be recognition of the International Brigades on Remembrance Day.

When the suggestion came up a few years ago it was firmly rejected by veterans Jack Jones and Sam Lesser, who were IBMT trustees at the time.

I suspect that many IBMT members would still be deeply uneasy about the idea, not least because in recent years the occasion has also been used to bang the drum for what many people regard as highly contentious wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Having said all that, it's interesting to note that when veterans returned from Spain they did organise wreath-laying at the Cenotaph and other war memorials to remember their dead comrades (see cutting on facing page).

Look in the Mirror

Perhaps the football fan who held the placard at Wembley had read an article praising the International Brigades by *Daily Mirror* columnist Brian Reade two days before the match. He wrote: "As England face Spain this Remembrance weekend, we should be asking if the time has come for Britain to fully honour, not just those who fell at Flanders and the Somme, but those whose blood drenched the fields of Jarama, Aragon and Brunete. I'm talking about our members of the International Brigade who, in 1936, went to Spain to fight General Franco's fascists after they had overthrown the Republican government with the help of Hitler and Mussolini."

Is July the right month?

The IBMT, just as the International Brigade Association before us, has always organised our annual act of commemoration in London – which last year also went nationwide – in July. This is the month that saw Franco and the other rebellious generals launch their coup against the Spanish

Republic in 1936. Some IBMT members have often complained that by choosing a date in July we are effectively commemorating the anniversary of a fascist uprising. The matter was raised again and discussed at our annual general meeting in London on 1 October last year. The meeting was assured that we would keep it under review, though designating a different day – perhaps in February, anniversary of the Battle of Jarama, or October, when the International Brigades were formed – would present other difficulties with our timetable of events for the year.

Don't miss this year's event

This year's national commemoration will take place on London's South Bank on Saturday 7 July. It promises to be a special occasion as Jubilee Gardens will only recently have been reopened after redevelopment. As part of the works, our memorial, with its magnificent sculpture by Ian Walters, is being moved a short distance to a far better spot within the park and will have low-level seating around it, making it more visible. We will also be unveiling a new plaque beside the memorial giving more background information on the International Brigades. Put the date in your diary.

Never too old

IBMT members who follow political developments in Spain will probably have been disappointed, though hardly surprised, to see the ruling PSOE socialist party – which enacted the 2007 Law of Historic Memory that conferred Spanish citizenship on International Brigade veterans – voted out of office in the country's general election on 20 November last year. The victors



were the rightwing Popular Party. But there was at least one bright spot in the election campaign: Dr Moises Broggi (left) stood for election to the Spanish Senate as a candidate for the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) party. Now aged 103, Broggi was a field surgeon in the International Brigades' medical services during the Spanish Civil War and a close colleague of many British medics. Though the Barcelona-based veteran was unsuccessful in his election bid, he proved that you're never too old to get involved and – as many on the left are fond of saying – the struggle keeps you young.

Timely donation

Thanks must go to Harriet Hall for her £500 donation to the IBMT. Harriet is the daughter of Stephen Clark, who during the Spanish Civil War was a volunteer with the Spanish Medical Aid Committee. She is also the niece of Nathan Clark, who, as his obituary in our last issue explained,



served in the International Brigades for 16 months as a driver. Sadly, Stephen died last year too (see his obituary on page 14). The two brothers were members of the Quaker family that owns Clarks Shoes – Nathan, indeed, was the inventor of the ever popular desert boot.

Harriet explains that the donation is in memory of Stephen and Nathan, adding that she has enjoyed finding out more about their involvement in the war in Spain through the IBMT.

Her generosity is an opportunity to underline how much the IBMT relies on membership subscriptions and donations, however large or small. We are an entirely voluntary organisation. All our officers give up their spare time to run the Trust and organise its activities, and we depend on this income and hard work to make sure that the memory of the International Brigade volunteers and all those who helped them is not lost. *PS: Membership subscriptions for 2012 are now due (see notice on page 5).*



NATHAN CLARK: Pictured (left) at the International Brigade hospital at Huete.

Recalling Barcelona... and Guernica

Who said at the height of the Blitz on London and other British cities: "I believe our countrymen will show themselves capable of standing up to it – like the brave people of Barcelona...?" Perhaps surprisingly, says Geoff Cowling, former British consul-general in Barcelona and IBMT trustee, it was Winston Churchill during his famous "Finest Hour" speech in Parliament on 18 June 1940. The prime minister could have chosen Warsaw or Rotterdam as examples, writes Geoff in an article in the winter issue of *La*

Revista, magazine of the Anglo-Spanish Society, on the Spanish Republican contribution to the Allied victory in the Second World War. Geoff doesn't say it, but Churchill's invocation of Barcelona no doubt reflects the continuing outrage felt by the British public at the bombing of civilian targets by Franco and his fascist allies. It's worth remembering this as we approach this year the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Guernica on 26 April 1937.

Seen playing football

We are delighted that US historian Peter N Carroll will be delivering this year's Len Crome Memorial Lecture at the Imperial War Museum, London, on 3 March. In the morning session before the lecture we will be screening two films, one of them Henri Cartier-Bresson's newly discovered documentary "With the Lincoln Brigade in Spain". When it was premiered in London in November, John Kenton, the son of one of our surviving veterans Lou Kenton (now aged 103!), spotted his father playing football at the convalescent centre for the International Brigades at Benicasim. Most of the footage is of US volunteers, but – who knows? – there could be other Brigaders from the British Isles who might be identified not only in the Cartier-Bresson film but also in the other film that is being shown, "The International Brigaders Among Us", which contains footage of the XV Brigade before the Ebro offensive in 1938.

See page 15 for details of the lecture day.

Positively identified

Questions about the identity of two Brigaders whose pictures were published in our last issue have been solved with the help of readers.

The militawoman pictured in the article in which Geoff Lawes wondered whether she might be Felicia Browne has been identified as Fanny Schoonheydt, a Dutch volunteer from Rotterdam. Like Fanny, Felicia Browne was already in Spain when the Spanish Civil War began in July 1936 and immediately joined the workers' militias on the Aragón front. Felicia was killed late in August – the first British casualty of the war – but Fanny

POPPY DAYS: The placard (left) seen by TV viewers last November and (right) a cutting from the *Daily Worker* showing Brigaders leaving a wreath at the Cenotaph war memorial in London for Remembrance Day 1938. See "Remembering the Brigaders on Remembrance Day?"



survived the war despite injury and died in 1961.

For an account of Fanny's life and her time in Spain see the December 2011 issue of *The Volunteer* (published by ALBA, our sister organisation in the US): [www.albavolunteer.org].

The un-named Brigader who appeared in a Father's Day feature in *The Guardian* last year was Morgan Harvard, a miner from the Swansea Valley who, during the civil war, was badly wounded in the arm and shoulder before being taken prisoner by Franco's fascists. His arm was amputated after capture.

Chris Birch adds in a letter to the *IBMT Newsletter*: "After the war he had a van and ran a furniture removal business in London, which he advertised in the *Daily Worker*. Bert Ovenden, a catering worker from Folkstone who also fought in Spain, worked with Morgan."

As a postscript, it was good to see that Morgan's daughter, Julie Norton, who wrote the moving piece in *The Guardian* about her father, who died at the age of 58, and her regret at not properly realising he was a hero, attended the unveiling in December of a memorial plaque for the Swansea Brigaders.

"I think [my father] would be pleased with the memorial and I don't suppose he would have imagined such a thing when he was alive," she told a BBC South West Wales interviewer. *See page 5 for a photo of the unveiling.*



NAMED: Fanny Schoonheydt and Morgan Harvard.

IBMT GALA NIGHT

All photos by Simon Green/Eventful



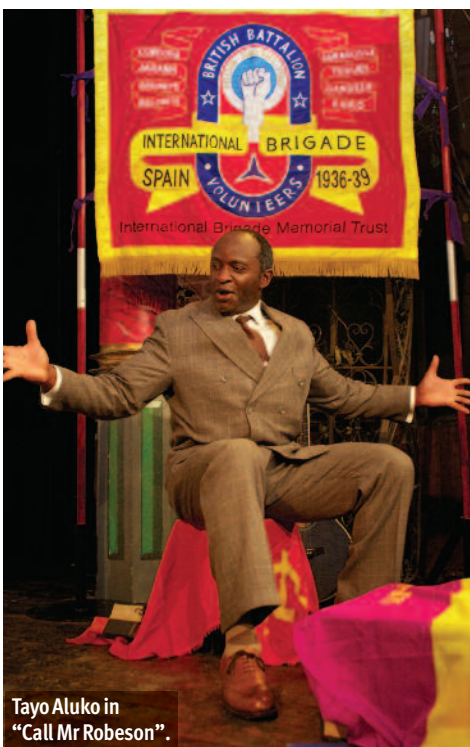
From left: Historian Helen Graham, singer-songwriter Billy Bragg, novelist Victoria Hislop, writer and broadcaster Robert Elms and poet Andy Croft discuss the significance of the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War.



Poems to make you laugh and cry from Jackie Kay.



View from the stage as the prize raffle is drawn.



Tayo Aluko in "Call Mr Robeson".

NIGHT TO REMEMBER: The New Red Lion Theatre Pub in London was sold out on 1 October 2011 for the IBMT gala night to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the International Brigades. Sponsored by Unite the Union and organised by Philosophy Football, the night raised £1,000 for the IBMT. The guest of honour was International Brigade veteran David Lomon. See a video by Sanum Ghafoor with clips from the evening and interviews with participants: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SY4lc_Er66I]. More photos can be seen here: [www.flickr.com/photos/philosophyfootball/sets/72157627897689246/].



Folk duo na-mara sang songs inspired by International Brigaders George Wheeler and Penny Feiwell.



Grace Petrie wrote and performed a new song especially for the event: "They Shall Not Pass".

Time to pay your membership subs for 2012

IBMT subscriptions for 2012 are now due. Please send them as soon as possible. When returning your cheque, clearly state your name and address so that these can be matched with our membership records. Also, please consider paying your subs by direct debit. The direct debit form can be downloaded at: [www.international-brigades.org.uk/join.htm]. Send cheques or completed direct debit forms to Mary Greening, IBMT Membership Secretary, 2 Woodford Close, Radyr Way, Cardiff CF5 2PH.

For any queries, tel: 029-2019 5412; email: [memsec@international-brigades.org.uk].



ASHES IN BARCELONA: Flowers for Sam Lesser at the Fossar de la Pedrera Cemetery in Barcelona's Montjuïc, where there is a memorial (right) to the International Brigades. The ashes of the veteran of the battles around Madrid and at Lopera in November and December 1936 were scattered in the cemetery on 30 September 2011 by his family. A memorial bench for the former IBMT chair – who as Sam Russell became a *Daily Worker* correspondent in Barcelona during the civil war and afterwards the paper's foreign editor – will be unveiled (at 10.30am on 18 March) in Victoria Park in east London, near where he was raised.



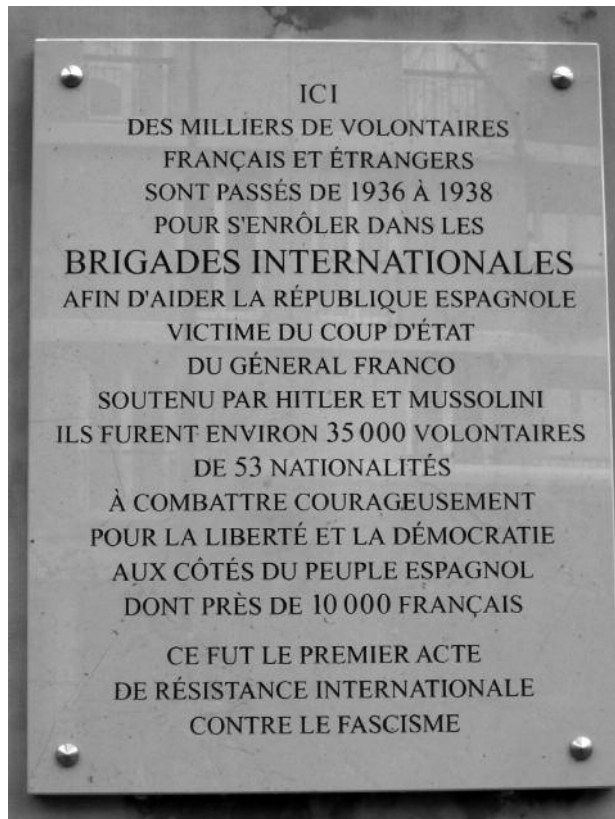
Plaque marks Paris recruiting centre

A plaque (right) now stands outside what used to be the central recruiting office of the International Brigades in Paris – which most of the volunteers from around the world visited for a medical and to be given tickets and instructions for their clandestine journey south to Spain.

Unveiled on 10 November 2011, the plaque has been erected by the IBMT's sister organisation in France, ACER (Friends of Fighters in Republican Spain), and is located at 8 Avenue Mathurin Moreau, Paris 75019.

The plaque says: "Thousands of French and foreign volunteers passed through here from 1936 to 1938 to enlist in the International Brigades in order to help the Spanish Republic, the victim of a coup by General Franco that was supported by Hitler and Mussolini. There were some 35,000 volunteers of 53 different nationalities who fought bravely for freedom and democracy alongside the Spanish people, of whom nearly 10,000 were French. This was the first international act of resistance against fascism."

One of those people who during 1937 worked at the Paris



recruitment centre – where volunteers were screened for their political reliability as well as given a medical examination and a final opportunity to change their mind – was the British Communist activist Charlotte Haldane (1894-1969), under the pseudonym of Rita.

She later wrote about the volunteers, one of whom was her own son: "The vast majority were men of splendid types, honest and brave, who in greater or lesser degree were conscious of being engaged in a crusade to rescue democracy from the grip of fascism."

In brief...

● Family and supporters of the 600 **Scottish volunteers** in Spain gathered at the International Brigade memorial in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, on 14 October 2011 to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Brigades. Organised by Gordon Munro, a Labour councillor on Edinburgh City Council, the event saw flowers laid at the memorial by Colin Cargill, a relative of three volunteers, and there were speeches by Javier Jiménez-Ugarte, Spanish consul-general, and historian Daniel Gray. At a social gathering later that evening, songs were sung by Gallo Rojo, a group of Scottish and Spanish musicians who have come together to commemorate the Spanish Republic's struggle against fascism. See: [www.gallorojoedimburgo.org].

● The new **IBMT constitution**, as amended at the 2011 annual general meeting, is available for viewing or download on our website: [www.international-brigades.org.uk]. A printed copy can also be obtained on request by sending a stamped addressed A5 envelope to: IBMT, 6 Stonells Road, London SW11 6HQ.



MEMORIAL IN SWANSEA: A plaque was unveiled in Swansea's Civic Centre on 14 December 2011 to the 11 local volunteers who fought in the Spanish Civil War, three of whom were killed in Spain. It was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Swansea, Ioan Richard.



RESTORED: Graham Thompson stands directly behind the renovated memorial in Swindon's Whitworth Road Cemetery to local Brigader Percy Williams (far right), a merchant navy engineer with Blue Star Line and member of the AEU engineering union, who was killed in Aragón in March 1938. Thompson's father had helped erect the

memorial in 1939 for the AEU's district committee. This time Unite the Union paid for its much needed restoration. Among those present at the rededication ceremony on 10 September 2011 was Joyce Murgatroyd, 95, (centre, in coat), who shared her vivid memories of Aid Spain campaigns in Swindon to raise money for refugees.



FLORAL TRIBUTE: The great-great-grandchildren of British Battalion political commissar Jack "Russia" Roberts (1899-1979), Owain and Sera Felstead, laid a Republican tricolour floral tribute to the International Brigaders in Spain on Remembrance Sunday at the Senghenydd war memorial in South Wales.

CAN YOU HELP?

Anarchist song for women

Folk singer and Spanish Civil War folklorist Geoff Lawes is trying to establish whether a Spanish anarchist song, "A Las Mujeres" (For the Women), existed or was sung during the Spanish Civil War.

He believes it was reprinted in a book published in 1978 called "Cantos y poemas de la Guerra Civil de España" by Joan Llarch.

So far the reference to the song closest to the civil war that he has discovered is in "Cancionero Revolucionario" (Ediciones Tierra y Libertad, Burdeos, 1947).

Geoff adds: "The 1947 reference can be seen on the following site where, if anyone is interested, you can also hear the song: [www.centrefedericamontseny.org/index.php?accion=cancion]."

"There are lots of references to the song on the internet, but they all seem to be quoting from the same, usually unnamed, source. The recording on all the websites is always the same one and, although the recording has some surface noise, I am not sure that it is a very old recording. If it is a recording from the period of the civil war then I think there would be a prior reference that would be quoted – but it never is. Curious."

If anyone can help Geoff or has a copy of "Cantos y poemas de la Guerra Civil de España", contact him on: [geoff@lawes223.karoo.co.uk]. See his discussion forum on songs in English about the Spanish Civil War at: [http://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=128093]. If you do not have access to email, contact the IBMT Secretary (details on page 2).



WEXFORD VOLUNTEER: Supporters of the Peter Daly Society Wexford beside a plaque to the International Brigade volunteer from Monageer, near Enniscorthy, in Ireland. Unveiled on 3 September 2011, the plaque is mounted on a granite plinth next to the main road in the centre of the village. Daly died on 6 September 1937 from wounds sustained at Quinto on the Aragón front. Among the speakers at the unveiling were Steve McCann, chair of the society, Cuban ambassador Teresita Trujillo and historian Harry Owens.

Manchester Evening News



SISTER: Joyce Harrison unveiled a plaque to her brother, James Keogh (left), at Tameside Central Library, Ashton-under-Lyne on 25 November 2011. Keogh, who died in Spain at the age of 22, was the eldest of 11 children and as a self-taught socialist spent many hours in the library before giving up his tailoring apprenticeship and heading for Spain in May 1937. He was killed on 22 March 1938 at Calaceite when he was hit by tank fire. The plaque was raised by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council after a campaign led by Tameside TUC.



SPANISH BULL: A memorial in Renton to the International Brigaders from Dunbartonshire – in the form of a sculpture of a bull – was unveiled on 27 August 2011 by local Scottish Socialist Party councillor Jim Bollan in front of a gathering of friends, families and supporters of the volunteers. See a video of the event: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-UfmulTW6E].

Medical volunteers for Spain At last their full story is told

The story of one of the most important contributions made by the volunteers from Britain who went to Spain – the provision of medical assistance for the anti-fascist cause – is now told for the first time in a dedicated book.

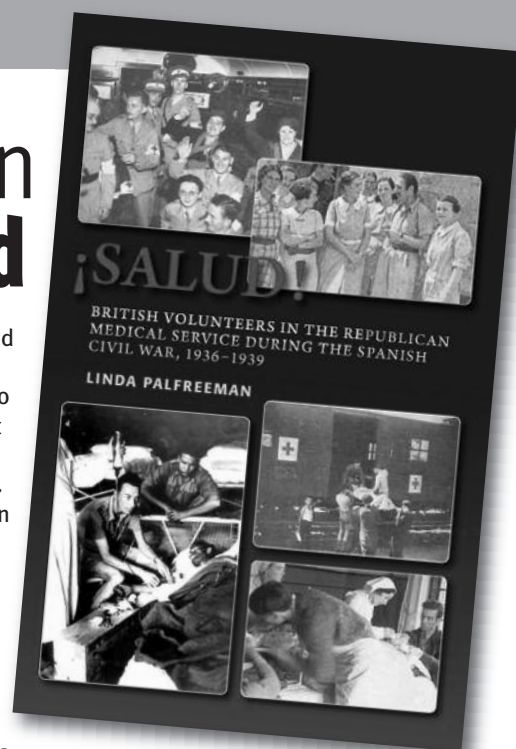
Author Linda Palfreeman describes the heroic efforts made by International Brigade doc-

tors, nurses and medics to maintain some kind of emergency medical service. Not only that, but some of the individuals involved were also responsible for important developments that were crucial to later military-medical practice and also to the history of medicine in general.

“¡Salud! British Volunteers in the Republican Medical Service during the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939” explains how the medical volunteers left everything – their loved ones, their jobs and the safety of their homes – in order to administer aid to a distant people.

There were surgeons, GPs, nurses, first-aiders and orderlies, ambulance drivers, stretcher-bearers, mechanics and administrators, individuals with a broad range of professional experience and from widely differing social backgrounds.

Some were communists, whilst others professed no particular political calling. A few were opportunists who went to Spain in search of adventure or as a means of gaining medical experience in conditions of war. But the very great majority were simply committed to using their specialist knowledge and expert-



ORDER NOW: “¡Salud! British Volunteers in the Republican Medical Service during the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939” is exclusively available to IBMT members in paperback at the special price of £17. This is £8 less than the retail price. Order now to receive your copy as soon as possible – send a cheque payable to the IBMT for £19 (£17 plus £2 p&p), giving your name and address. Send orders to: IBMT Secretary, 6 Stonells Road, London SW11 6HQ.

The book is being published in February 2012 by Sussex Academic Press in association with the IBMT and the Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies. The hardback cover price is £65 and the paperback will be on sale in bookshops for £24.95.

“Medical personnel generally worked in dreadful conditions, for hours and even days without rest, and with a lack of equipment and provisions of all kinds.”

ise in easing the pain and suffering of those in need.

The book considers the social and political circumstances leading up to the formation of the first British medical teams and the departure of the first volunteers for Spain, together with the subsequent creation of the medical service of the International Brigades into which the British medical units were incorporated.

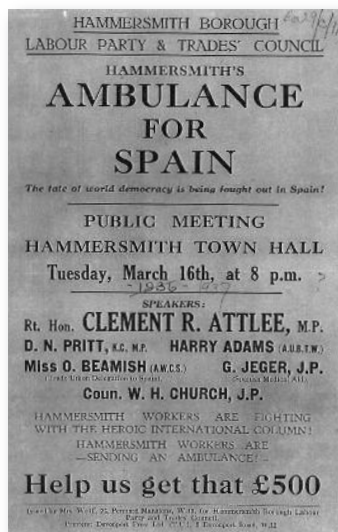
There is mention of the important medical achievements made during the war and, in particular, the part played in these by British medical personnel.

Much of the information is gleaned from reports and newsletters of the collectives involved in the organisation of medical aid to Spain, notably the Spanish Medical Aid Committee.

Reports in Britain poured praise on the marvelous running of hospitals in Spain. This is, perhaps, understandable given that the objective of such reports was to raise the consciousness of the British people about the plight of the sick and the wounded in Republican Spain and to raise funds towards their continued medical care.

The reality of life in the improvised hospital was often quite different. Medical personnel generally worked in dreadful conditions, for hours and even days without rest, and with a lack of equipment and provisions of all kinds. This inevitably created nervous tension and sometimes led to quarrels among the mostly young and inexperienced men and women of the medical unit who suddenly found themselves thrown together in desperate circumstances. All this is vividly described in Linda Palfreeman’s ground-breaking new book.

“The medical volunteers were charged with the task of salvaging something of life amidst inhumanity and mayhem,” she says. “That they rose to the challenge in itself merits tribute. I hope this new book does them justice.”



Images from “¡Salud!” include (above left) Thora Silverthorne and Alex Tudor Hart operating near the front line in 1937 and (from left) Peter Crome, Archie Cochrane and Kenneth Sinclair-Loutit.



Marx Memorial Library

Events in Britain and Spain to remember the formation of the International Brigades in October 1936

Scottish Ambulance Unit veteran Thomas Watters greets IBMT members before the Trust's annual general meeting at Unite the Union's headquarters in London during a weekend of events in London on 30 September/2 October 2011. The union's memorial to its International Brigade volunteers is pictured in front of the banner. The weekend included an IBMT gala night (see page 4) and a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, when East End anti-fascists used the slogan of the defenders of the Spanish Republic – They shall not pass / No pasarán – as they prevented the Blackshirts from marching through their streets.



Lutfur Rahman (centre), Mayor of Tower Hamlets, with veteran anti-fascist Max Levitas (whose brother Maurice was an International Brigader), greets the National Clarion Cycling Club 1895 riders on their arrival on 30 September 2011 at the mural depicting the 1936 Battle of Cable Street in London's East End. Seven cyclists had set out from Edinburgh two weeks earlier and arrived in London via Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, Cardiff and Reading, visiting International Brigade memorials along the way. Next to the mayor is the cycling club's secretary, Charles Jepson.



A plaque honouring the International Brigaders from Cyprus was unveiled by Cypriot ambassador Antonis Toumazis at Madrid's Fuencarral Cemetery on 23 October. There were some 60 volunteers from Cyprus, many of whom fought in the British Battalion.



A "mobile" memorial was placed in October last year in front of the former monastery at San Pedro de Cardena, near Burgos in northern Spain, where captured International Brigaders were imprisoned. Entitled "Roots of Memory", Susana Rioseras's memorial lists the distances to 20 capital cities of countries that sent volunteers to Spain and says: "The people of Burgos thank the International Brigaders who gave their lives for the Republic, anti-fascism and freedom. 1936-2011." Permission for the memorial to be installed permanently has not yet been granted.



Artist Rose Branson in front of her newly finished painting celebrating the International Brigades with Marx Memorial Library Director John Callow at the opening of an exhibition of paintings by her father and International Brigader Clive Branson (1907-1944). The three week exhibition opened on 30 September to coincide with the start of the 75th anniversary celebrations.



Volunteers George (Jack Shaloo), Jack (Mark Meadows) and Sammy (Tom Gill) discuss political differences on the Republican side.

La Pasionaria (Laura Tebbutt) bids farewell to the International Brigaders.



IBMT President MARLENE SIDAWAY reviews the musical "Goodbye Barcelona" about the International Brigades that played at the Arcola Theatre, London, from 24 November to 23 December.

This inspirational production of Judith Johnson and Karl Lewkowicz's "Goodbye Barcelona" was rapturously received by regularly full houses – and rightly so!

The songs are a good mixture of rousing choruses, tender love songs, and amusingly cynical takes on the political situation in Spain. The story takes us smoothly from the struggle against the Blackshirts in Cable Street, through to the volunteers' difficult journey and arrival in Spain, the adjustment to an unfamiliar country, climate and diet and the difficulties of actually fighting a war with inadequate arms and forces.

Woven through all of this are the two love stories of the young Sammy who volunteered, aged 18, and the Spanish girl Pilar whom he meets in Barcelona (Tom Gill and Katie Bernstein) and Sammy's mother Rebecca, who follows him to Spain as a nurse, and the anarchist Ernesto (Lucy Bradshaw and John Killoran).

Sammy's enthusiastic idealism provokes some lively debate with his fellow Brigaders, the cynical First World War veteran Jack and the dedicated communist George (Mark Meadows and Jack Shaloo). Laura Tebbutt's wonderful voice makes the words of La Pasionaria come to



Above: Sammy's mother, Rebecca (Lucy Bradshaw) nurses anarchist fighter Ernesto (John Killoran).



Above: Lovers Pilar (Katie Bernstein) and Sammy, the London East End volunteer.

Right: Sammy confronts the fascist Blackshirts at Cable Street in London's East End before deciding to go to Spain.



Left: George leaves for Spain.



Words and music by Judith Johnson and Karl Lewkowicz...

Inspirational musical did credit to the Brigaders

life, and other ensemble members of the cast give enthusiastic and tuneful support.

The musicians, under the direction of Mark Smith, deserve a special mention too, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one wanting to join in with some of the rousing verses of "The Internationale" and "Jarama Valley" with such a wonderful accompaniment.

The director, Karen Rabinowitz, and the whole of the design team have created a backdrop that evokes the times and passions of the 1930s, which the book and music of Judith Johnson and Karl Lewkowicz bring out so well.

Judith and Karl have been working on this project for six years, having been inspired originally by *The Guardian's* supplement about the Brigaders in November 2000. They then inter-

viewed volunteers Penny Feiwei, Jack Jones, Lou Kenton, Sam Lesser and Alan Menai Williams – and their inspiration for the project is acknowledged in Judith and Karl's programme notes.

I congratulate them on a fantastic achievement, which does great credit to the Brigaders and all who supported the Spanish Republic.

This is an ambitious work, combining love stories with the fate of the International Brigades and the doomed Republic. It eschews the usual clichés that the volunteers were communist dupes or that their idealism was betrayed by Stalin. Instead, we hear that they went to Spain without regrets and, in the words of poet Cecil Day Lewis that are sung in "Goodbye Barcelona", because their "open eyes could see no other way".

"Goodbye Barcelona... eschews the usual clichés that the volunteers were communist dupes or that their idealism was betrayed by Stalin. Instead, we hear that they went to Spain without regrets..."

Goodbye Barcelona and goodbye Spain
We came when you called us, we'll come again,
We gave all we had,
Should we go when there's so much to do?

Goodbye Barcelona, the skies are grey
The storm is approaching, with no delay
Hold on through the dark
We'll be waiting to see you come through.

Will you remember why we came today,
Not to find glory, no revenge or pay,
Just for a moment there seemed to be a way
We could stand up and fight, but now we must say,

Goodbye Barcelona, the world was blind,
Goodbye to the friends that we leave behind,
They'll stay here forever
Be sure you remember their names.

So when your children ask you why we came,
Say these open eyes could see no other way,
Say how we tried to keep alive the flame,
How we wanted to stay, but just had to say
Goodbye, Barcelona goodbye.

An English volunteer from Argentina

By Jerónimo E Boragina

Argentina in the first decades of the last century was not noted for its political stability and respect for ordinary people, nor for harmony between capital and labour. Law no.4144 of 1902 allowed the government to expel any foreigner who “compromised national security and threatened public order”. As a result, hundreds of immigrant workers were deported – many of them well-established in Argentina – to their countries of birth. In the case of Germans and Italians, many were handed over to the fascist authorities.

In 1932, two years on from the rightwing military coup by General José Uriburu, it was decid-

ed to expel 150 activists who had been demanding better wages and conditions for workers. On the night of 10 February they were put on board an Argentinian naval ship, the *Chaco*. Among them was an Englishman, Nat Cohen.

He had been held prisoner in Villa Devoto Prison, Buenos Aires, along with other trade unionists. He wrote about his imprisonment and the sea journey home in a letter to Rosita, his friend in Argentina, on 25 April 1932.

Nat had been in Argentina for several years and worked as a tailor. But he was also a communist union leader in the CGT national trade union centre. His union role and commitment to working-class causes gave the authorities the perfect excuse to expel him from the country. His union

militancy tells us that by necessity he had become proficient in the Spanish language.

Cohen wrote about the ill-treatment suffered on the *Chaco*, where there were daily beatings and, being the only Englishman on board, he was a special target. But the harshness experienced by the deportees in the ship’s holds failed to dent morale during the journey via Bahia (Brazil), San Vicente (Cape Verde) and finally Las Palmas in the Canaries.

Jerónimo E Boragina is the co-author (with Lucas González, Gustavo Dorado and Ernesto Sommaro) of “*Voluntarios de Argentina: en la Guerra Civil Española*” (Ediciones del CCC, Buenos Aires, 2008) and a video documentary about the Argentinian volunteers “*Esos mismos hombres*” (2006).



Nat Cohen, standing front left, in Barcelona in September 1936.

...who cycled through France to fight in Spain

By Dan Carrier

With the Olympics due to be held in Berlin in 1936, thousands of people were calling for a boycott. Nat Cohen was one of those voices and was asked by his union to travel to Spain to compete in the bicycle races at a Workers’ Olympiad for Berlin refuseniks that July.

Short of cash, he and his friend Sam Masters decided not to buy a train ticket to the south. Instead they hoiked their bikes on to a ferry, pedalled through France and over the Pyrenees to Barcelona,

arriving days before the fascist revolt started in Spain.

Nat, instead of turning round and pedalling home, immediately asked what he could do and was signed into a workers’ militia. With Spanish workers, he tried to retake the Balearic Islands – a disastrous mission, as Italian warplanes murdered the loyalist troops heading out to Majorca in small fishing boats from the Costa Brava harbours.

Nat survived – and his bravery was such that he was asked to head an English-speaking militia unit known as the Tom Mann Centuria. He fought through the war before

being shot in the knee. His friend Sam Masters was not so fortunate and was killed at Brunete in July 1937.

Nat came home to be greeted by a street party in Stepney in east London – thousands were there to welcome him. He returned with a wife, Dolores, a Spanish woman he had met behind the barricades. They had with them a Great Dane dog, a stray Nat had found wandering the streets of Barcelona and couldn’t bear to leave behind.

Dan Carrier is a London-based journalist. Nat Cohen was his great uncle.

Britain’s role in Franco’s victory

By Jim Jump



The nefarious role played by the British Government and the country’s intelligence services during the Spanish Civil War comes under the spotlight in the latest book by

leading Spanish historian Ángel Viñas. One of the three sections of “*La Conspiración del General Franco*”^{*} is a detailed examination of the reasons behind Britain’s hostility to the Spanish Republic and its covert support for the victory of Franco’s fascist-backed rebels.

Viñas can find no direct documentary proof linking the British state with the notorious airlifting of Franco by a British aircraft in July 1936 from the Canary Islands to Spanish Morocco – where he took command of the Army of Africa at the outset of the rebellion. The *Dragon Rapide* (pictured on the book’s cover) was, however, piloted by two men with close ties to British intelligence: Hugh Pollard and Cecil Bebb.

But Viñas uncovers conclusive evidence of close contacts between the coup plotters and British diplomats and agents. Secret cables sent to Whitehall conveniently – and mendaciously – spun the Francoist myth that a communist takeover of Spain was imminent. It was an analysis that was gratefully and unquestioningly received in Government circles, where narrow class interests and the policy of appeasing the fascist powers ensured that Britain would abandon the Republic to defeat.

This book is available only in Spanish, so English-only readers interested in this topic should instead read the chapter by fellow Spanish historian Enrique Moradiellos, “*Albion’s Perfidy: The British Government and the Spanish Civil War*” in “*Looking Back at the Spanish Civil War*” (ed. Jim Jump, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 2010), which is available at the special price of £15 plus £2 p&p from the IBMT.

^{*}Published by Crítica, Barcelona, 2011.

Archives go online

Work is under way at the Modern Records Centre, Warwick University, on a major project to digitise all its archives relating to the Spanish Civil War.

Most of the archives are from the Trades Union Congress collection and are expected to provide an excellent online research resource for academics, students and the public. The Spanish Civil War archives of the TUC extend to some 50 files, all containing large amounts of documents and correspondence from a wide range of people

including politicians, union leaders, charities, campaign groups and church dignitaries.

In addition, the Modern Records Centre is digitising several other smaller collections, including, for example, letters home by International Brigader Herbert Fisher and publications from the collections of Trotskyists Henry Sara and Hugo Dewar. These include examples of bulletins (in English and Spanish) produced by the Partido Obrero de Unificación Marxista (POUM).

The project will result in over 10,000 pages of archive material being made available online free of charge. Transcriptions will be available for



Pamphlets from the TUC collection.



every item, allowing researchers to search through the mass of material for key words or phrases. It is anticipated that the project will be completed this spring.

Archivist Helen Ford told the IBMT: "There seems to be a real growth in interest around the subject—we have noticed more students and researchers visiting us to look at the archives. We have had a link to Spanish Civil War resources on our web pages for a long time and these are also receiving more hits."

Visit [<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/news/scw>] and [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/subject_guides/spain].

At Whitby Folk Week

There was a very well received concert, called "Songs of the Spanish Civil War" at the Brunswick Room, Whitby, during the Yorkshire seaside town's Folk Week at the end of August last year, reports Mike Wild.

IBMT member Geoff Lawes of Hull made a PowerPoint presentation interspersed with songs and tales by Geordie McIntyre, Alison McMorland, Ewan McLennan, Jerry O'Reilly and Mike Wild.

There was feedback on Geoff's Mudcat website, with some very appreciative comments. The hall was full and many said they hardly knew about the role of the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War, so were glad of the chance to learn more. There were many requests for information on CDs and YouTube links. Several of the singers sang their own compositions.

See [<http://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=128093>].

Life of Bert Ramelson



Roger Seifert and Tom Sibley have written a biography of the Canadian International Brigader Bert Ramelson (1910-1994), who settled in Britain after the Spanish Civil War and

Scots give voice to the anti-fascist volunteers

CD "From Blantyre to Barcelona: Songs of the Scottish anti-fascists and the International Brigade" by Lanarkshire Songwriters Group (Root Records/Unison Scotland)

Reviewed by Jim Jump

With help from Unison Scotland, musicians in the Lanarkshire Songwriters Group have produced this superb collection of songs inspired by the Scottish volunteers in the Spanish Civil War.

Most songs are new compositions, but included on the 13-track CD are some re-workings of traditional Spanish songs and tunes.

A highlight of the album is "Jarama Valley", using the original words penned by International Brigader Alex McDade, killed at the Battle of Brunete in July 1937. Sung to the tune of the cowboy song "Red River Valley", the Glaswegian's sardonic lyrics were later rewritten to become the anthem of the British Battalion—which is still sung at IBMT events. Performed here by Billy Stewart, with guitar, banjo, mandolin and fiddle backing, this is the first time that McDade's song has been properly recorded.

The idea for this compilation arose from the project led by Unison South Lanarkshire Branch's Stephen Smellie to raise the memorial to three Blantyre volunteers killed in Spain that was unveiled in 2009. The CD was launched at a concert at the Blantyre Miners Welfare Social Club on 24 November last year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the International Brigades.

There are songs on the CD from John Young



and Gordon Neil dedicated to Blantyre Brigaders Thomas Brannan (killed at Jarama) and George Douglas and songs telling the stories of Scottish anarchist volunteer Ethel

HOW TO ORDER: The CD "From Blantyre to Barcelona" is available from the IBMT for only £5, including p&p. Send cheque (made out the IBMT) with your name and address to: IBMT, 6 Stonells Road, London SW11 6HQ.

McDonald (by Chris Rogers) and the Spanish poet and dramatist Federico García Lorca (by Robert Armour), murdered by the fascists early in the civil war.

Other stand-out tracks are two songs written and performed by Heather Young and Claire McGhee, exploring the feelings of women and mothers fearing for their loved ones in Spain, and a rousing closing song, "Fighting Against Franco" by John Malcolm.

became the Communist Party's highly influential Industrial Organiser in the 1960s and 70s.

Born into a Jewish ghetto in Ukraine, his family emigrated to Canada in 1921. He arrived in Spain in 1937 via the International Brigades' secret recruiting office in London and served in an artillery unit with the Canadian Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion ("the Mac-Paps") on the Aragón front and in the Battle of the Ebro, suffering wounds in both campaigns.

During the Second World War, he was a tank commander in the Royal Tank Corps and in 1941 was imprisoned by German forces after the capture of Tobruk. He later organised an escape from a prisoner of war camp and fought with the Italian anti-fascist partisans.

"Revolutionary Communist at Work: A Political Biography of

Bert Ramelson" (Lawrence & Wishart, London, 2011) retails for £25 but is on special offer for IBMT Newsletter readers at £15, including p&p. Send name and address to Book Offer, 156 St Stephens Road, Hounslow TW3 2BW, with a cheque payable to Tom Sibley.

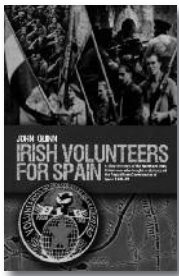
In brief...

● Athol Books of Belfast has published a new web booklet on Brigader and former IBMT President Jack Jones (1913-2009) titled "The Vindication of Brigadista and Union Man Jack James Larkin Jones: in refutation of the British intelligence campaign of character assassination". Written by IBMT Ireland Secretary Manus O'Riordan, the booklet brings together a series of five articles written by O'Riordan and first pub-

Continued overleaf

From previous page

lished in the *Irish Political Review* between July 2010 and January 2011. Also available free of charge on the Athol Books website is a February 2010 dossier compiled by O’Riordan on the MI5 campaign against Jack Jones, which provides direct online links to most of the press coverage on the question. See [http://free-downloads.atholbooks.org/pamphlets/Jack_Jones_Vindicated.pdf] and [http://free-downloads.atholbooks.org/pamphlets/jackjones_MI5.pdf].



● Belfast-based local historian John Quinn has written a history centred on the **Northern Irish volunteers** in the International Brigades. It contains brief profiles of six volunteers – James Haughey, Paddy McAllister, Eamon McGrotty, Fred McMahon, Jim Stranney and Liam Tumilson – as well as background on the Spanish Civil War and its impact in Ireland. Quinn lists 62 volunteers from Northern Ireland, out of a total of 275 volunteers who had at least one Irish parent. Published by Bryson

Publications, “Irish Volunteers for Spain” is available as a limited edition hardback from John Quinn for £10 plus £2 pp (cheques payable to John Quinn) at Copycats Building, 537 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BU. For more information email: [localhistorygroup@yahoo.com].



● A Spanish edition of the 1996 guide to **International Brigade memorials in Britain and Ireland** has been published in Spain as a 400-page hardback. “Salvad España, Salvad la Paz”* has been updated to list the memorials unveiled

since 1996 and contains additional photos and background information aimed at the Spanish readership. Now out of print, the original “Memorials of the Spanish Civil War” (published by Alan Sutton Publishing) was written by Colin Williams, Bill Alexander and John Gorman and was an official publication of the International Brigade Association.

* “*Salvad España, Salvad la Paz. Memoriales de la Guerra Civil Española en el Reino Unido e Irlanda*” ed. María Pilar Salas Franco (*Siníndice*,

Logroño, 2011) is on sale in Spain for €25 or available at a discounted price direct from [info@siníndice.es].

● **New songs about the International Brigades** keep coming... The latest is by Liverpool IBMT supporter Greg Quiry, who wrote and performed “One Last Kiss In The Rain” in tribute to the Merseyside volunteers. Watch it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=t43Xu-TPJMY]. Meanwhile Reinhardt Silbermann writes from Hamburg to say how much he likes Pól Mac Adaim’s “Civil War in Spain” about the volunteers from Ireland. See the video at [www.myspace.com/polmacadaim/music].

POSTER: Order this A3 poster designed by Simon Hawkesworth for the IBMT to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Jarama – which inspired the British Battalion’s song, “Jarama Valley” – for £7, including p&p. Send a cheque (payable to the IBMT) with your name and address to: IBMT Merchandise Officer Chris Hall, 286 Brantingham Road, Manchester M21 0QU.

LETTERS

Venue wanted for mass grave exhibition

In 2011 I tried hard to find a venue for an excellent exhibition about a mass grave in northern Spain containing Republicans murdered in the Francoist repression. The exhibition shows the process normally followed when a mass grave is opened anywhere in the world – from gathering information from witnesses to the moment when the skeletons are exposed. It is very sensitively and professionally done and only costs £100 to bring it over from Spain – it can be here in 48 hours.

My bid for the big space upstairs in the People’s History Museum in Manchester was not successful. I was offered the exhibition hall in the European Commission building in London opposite Parliament, but it is too small because the



The exhibition on show in Madrid.

exhibition includes a big colour photo of the mass grave in actual size. This photo is arranged on the floor, and on the walls are hung smaller photos that show the whole excavation and exhumation process.

I am looking for a space in Britain. Can anybody suggest somewhere for this exhibition?

Lala Isla

lala@lalaisla.co.uk

Chilling camp in Ariège



Who was Eric Dawson?

I was moved by a recent visit to the memorial and cemetery of an internment camp in southern France for Spanish Republicans and International Brigaders at Vernet

d’Ariège, between Foix and Toulouse.

As well as the memorial and cemetery, several other features and physical “facilities” used by the camp authorities survive in the surrounding fields. Anti-fascists escaping Franco’s victorious army were forcibly interned here and the death certificates and medical reports, often chillingly bunched into particular weeks, reflect that many of the internees were deliberately starved to death.

Most of those who died on the site and whose bodies have not been repatriated have been identified except for one person, Eric Dawson (died 11 July 1942), whose nationality is unknown.

I’m told that his name does not appear among those on the recently digitised MI5 list of suspected International Brigaders. Can anyone shed any light on who he was?

The use of the camp changed under Vichy France and the Nazi occupation to house Jews and others detained before transit to concentration camps such as Dachau and Alderney. There is a small museum with poignant memorabilia relating to the camp in the village of Vernet d’Ariège.

Graham Partridge

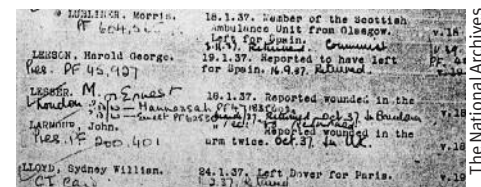
By email

Confused Lessers

I was interested to read Richard Baxell’s piece (Autumn 2011) on the MI5 files. When I looked up the Lesser brothers (Sam and my father Frank), there was only one entry, which got them hopelessly confused, not helped perhaps by the fact that they were both known by several names. Here’s another reason to suspect numbers were underestimated.

Miriam Harris

By email



One entry for Lesser, two volunteers.

THERE'S A VALLEY IN SPAIN CALLED JARAMA
IT'S A PLACE THAT WE ALL KNOW SO WELL
IT WAS THERE THAT WE GAVE OF OUR MANHOOD
AND SO MANY OF OUR BRAVE COMRADES FELL

WE ARE PROUD OF THE BRITISH BATTALION
AND THE STAND FOR MADRID THAT THEY MADE
FOR THEY FOUGHT LIKE TRUE SONS OF THE PEOPLE
AS PART OF THE FIFTEENTH BRIGADE

75TH ANNIVERSARY
1937-2012
OF
THE BATTLE OF

JARAMA

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES
AND THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, 1936-1939

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST
www.international-brigades.org.uk



Stephen Clark

By Jim Jump



Stephen Clark, who died on 31 May 2011, aged 97, was an active supporter of relief organisations during the Spanish Civil War and the brother of International Brigade volunteer Nathan Clark – who died just three weeks after Stephen (see obituary in our Autumn 2011 issue).

Stephen was born in Somerset in 1913, a member of the Quaker family who controlled C&J Clark, owners of the Clarks Shoes brand, and educated at Quaker schools in England and the US and at King's College, Cambridge.

He travelled to Spain in the autumn of 1936 on behalf of the Spanish Medical Aid Committee (SMAC). In October he visited the British Medical Unit hospital at Grañén during a quiet period on the Aragón front and reported back to the committee in London.

Though he found the staff to be “a little bored by want of work”, he concluded in his report: “I could not judge the hospital medically or surgically but as an organisation it seemed to me efficient, meaning by that that orders were obeyed without apparent friction.” However, he warned in a separate note: “Where there is no work there is nothing to do but drink cognac and feel nervous, jealous and irritable.”

Stephen was in Spain for only a few weeks and contracted pneumonia. He was nursed to health by fellow SMAC volunteers, the writers Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland, who were at the time working at the committee's office in Barcelona. He became friends with both and maintained a long correspondence with Sylvia for the rest of her life.

After the war he divided his working life between England and the US, working for the Avalon Leatherboard Company, a firm associated with the Clark family shoe company, and Joseph Bancroft & Sons, an American family business on his mother's side, based in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1966 he was appointed company secretary of C&J Clark until his retirement in 1975.

Stephen had a passion for restoring and preserving historic buildings and public open spaces, an interest that he energetically pursued following his retirement.

James Cornford

By Jim Jump



James Cornford, the son of International Brigader John Cornford, died on 26 September 2011, aged 76. His mother was Rachel (Ray) Peters, a Communist Party activist and daughter of a Welsh miner, with



John Cornford and Rachel Peters.

whom John had a brief relationship. The liaison had ended by the time that John, a gifted poet, went to Spain, where he was killed at Lopera in December 1936. He was aged 21 and his son was nearly two.

James was subsequently adopted and brought up by his grandparents, the Cambridge academics Francis and Frances Cornford. He had a distinguished career as an academic and as an advocate of social enterprise. Among many public posts he held, he was Professor of Politics at the University of Edinburgh for eight years, the founder and director of the Institute for Public Policy Research for six years and the chair of the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

In an obituary in *The Guardian*, Trevor Smith wrote: “The son was deeply aware of his father's commitment to the cause of anti-fascism and the sacrifice he had made for it, and this shaped the moral, political and social outlook from which he never wavered.”

Moira Tattam

By Sheila Gray

Henrietta Moira Tattam (Gray), who died on 29 November at the age of 93, was born in Seaham Harbour and grew up in Whitburn in the North East.

Losing three brothers in the fight against fascism had an enormous impact on Moira and her family. Older brothers Bill and Edward were killed in Spain in July 1937 (Brunete) and March 1938 (Aragón) respectively. This was followed in 1940 by the death of a younger brother, Jack, 19 years old, when a German U-boat sunk his ship bringing supplies to Britain from America.

Moira's parents were politically active, both becoming Labour councillors. Her father was sacked for his union activities while working on the railways, after which he worked as a miner at Seaham Harbour.

This background spurred Moira through political struggles. Her outlook was defined by her politics and, like her older brother Bill, who had been active in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement, she joined the Communist Party.

She was one of the many unsung heroines of

the labour movement – beaver away on the ground, not expecting any reward except the satisfaction of doing what she felt was right: from collecting Aid for Spain in the late 30s (which is how she met my father Ralph) to marching to oppose the war against Iraq.

The rest of her family had never visited Spain, but in 2007 we took Moira, firstly to Jarama, where she sat tearfully by the trenches that Bill, having worked as a miner, almost certainly helped to dig, and then to the Ebro.

Moira and IBMT President Marlene Sidaway sat together on the IBMT stall at the Durham Miners' Gala last summer. Moira was getting very frail then, but loving being there – she remembered the Gala from her youth.



Moira Tattam: Tears for her brother at Jarama in 2007.

Also remembered



● Argentinian International Brigade volunteer **Fanny Edelman** (née Jabcovsky) died in Buenos Aires on 1 November, aged 100. A

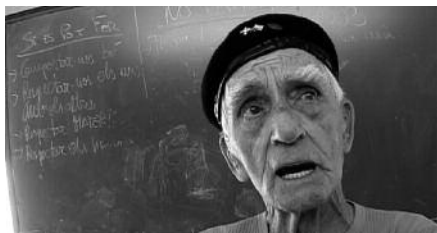
noted political activist and campaigner for women's rights, she was President of the Communist Party of Argentina until her death.

● The last surviving Romanian International Brigader, **Andrei Micu** (pictured below in Spain, front row, third from left), died on 16 September 2011 in hospital in Hunedoara at the age of 99. In Spain he served with the Djakovic Battalion of mainly Balkan volunteers.



IBMT lecture day at the Imperial War Museum

Saturday 3 March 2012, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ



Stills from the film "The International Brigaders Among Us" that will be premiered on the morning of the lecture, including (bottom) Steve Fullarton.

Programme

11:30am-1pm

● "With the Lincoln Brigade in Spain": a recently discovered 18-minute film by Henri Cartier-Bresson (including footage of British volunteers).

● "The International Brigaders Among Us": British première of a 26-minute film in English and Catalan (subtitled) made for Catalan-based historical memory group No Jubilem la Memòria by Jordi Domènech, Toni Orensanz and Manuel Vinuesa about the Brigaders stationed in the Priorat region of Catalonia before the Battle of the Ebro; includes previously unpublished footage from 1938 as well as more recent interviews with, among others, Scottish Brigadier Steve Fullarton.

Entrance free; all welcome; more details from: [secretary@international-brigades.org.uk].

● The second film will be introduced by historian Angela Jackson, who will also present her new biography of International Brigade nurse Patience Darton (Edney), "For us it was Heaven": The Passion, Grief and Fortitude of Patience Darton from the Spanish Civil War to Mao's China".

2:30pm-4pm



● Annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture, by US historian Peter N Carroll (left): "The Spanish Civil War in the 21st Century: From Guernica to Human Rights". The lecture will be chaired by Paul Preston

and will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

● **To 2 March 2012 MIDDLESBROUGH:** IBMT's "Antifascistas" exhibition at Cleveland Trade Union Centre, 119 Marton Road, TS1 2DU; 9.30am-5pm; tel: 01642-244 200.

● **11/12 February 2012 DUNDEE:** Annual commemoration on Sat at 11am at IB memorial, Albert Sq; on Sun at 2pm screening of Pathé newsreels on Spanish Civil War at Dundee Contemporary Arts, 152 Nethergate, DD1 4DY; contact Mike Arnott: [dundeetuc@ymail.com].

● **17/18 February 2012 MADRID:** Commemoration of 75th anniversary of Battle of Jarama; Fri 6.30pm meeting at CAUM, Plaza de Tirso de Molina 8 (first floor), 28012, will hear speakers on British Battalion commander Tom Wintringham and on novelist, poet and Marxist philosopher Christopher Caudwell, killed at Jarama on 12 Feb 1937; Sat from 9am by coach for tour of battlefield followed by lunch at Morata de Tajuña; closing date for registration is 18 Jan, but for possible late bookings and more details email Dan Payne: [danpayne40@yahoo.co.uk] or phone IBMT Secretary: 020-7228 6504.

● **25 February 2012 BELFAST:** Annual general meeting of International Brigades Commem-

oration Committee; 10.45am at Ramada Hotel, Talbot St, BT1 2LD; guest speaker: Dr John Callow of Marx Memorial Library; for more information contact Ernest Walker: 07751-951785 or [lyn-daernest@btinternet.com].

● **3 March 2012 LONDON:** IBMT's annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture, delivered this year by US historian of US volunteers in Spain, Peter Carroll; 2.30pm, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ; earlier, from 11.30am, two short films will be screened (see panel above); contact IBMT Secretary for more information (see page 2).

● **10 March-16 April 2012 SWANSEA:** IBMT's "Antifascistas" exhibition at National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Rd, SA1 3RD; 10am-5pm daily; [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/swansea].

● **28 April 2012 MANCHESTER:** "Gernika 75: Memories of the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War"; speakers Richard Baxell, Helen Graham and Paul Preston; 10am-12.30pm; People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, M3 3ER; more details: [dom@lancaster.ac.uk]; see also: [www.phm.org.uk].

● **12/13 May 2012 SOUTHAMPTON:** Activities to mark 75th anniversary of arrival of *Habana* with 4,000 refugee children fleeing Franco's bombing of Basque Country; organised jointly by Basque Children of '37 Association UK and Southampton University; includes lunch and entertainment on Sat and symposium "When History Meets Memory and the Arts" on Sun; for more information: [secretary@basquechildren.org]; web: [www.basquechildren.org].

● **2-6 June 2012 PYRENEES:** 75th anniversary walk across Pyrenees in footsteps of volunteers; travel by train to Perpignan on Sat (leaving London St Pancras at 9:44am) and return on Tues (arriving 7:03pm); crossing will be made on Sun;

re-dedication of plaque in San Fernando Castle, Figueras on Mon; if interested in taking part, email Pauline Fraser: [pbf262@googlemail.com] or tel: 020-8506 0088.

● **30 June 2012 BRUNETE:** Annual commemoration of Battle of Brunete; organised by Madrid-based AABI (Friends of the International Brigades); contact Severiano Montero: [seve.montero@gmail.com].

● **7 July 2012 LONDON:** Annual national commemoration at International Brigade memorial, Jubilee Gardens, SE1; assemble 12.30pm; followed by lunch from 1.30pm at Camel & Artichoke, 121 Lower Marsh St, SE1 7AE; contact IBMT Secretary (see page 2) for more information.

NB: Events not organised by the IBMT are the responsibility of the individuals and organisations concerned.



ACROSS THE PYRENEES: Younger IBMT members with Brigaders (seated from left) Jack Jones, Bob Doyle and Jack Edwards during a break in the 2006 anniversary crossing of the Pyrenees. A 75th anniversary crossing is being organised for this year – see entry for 2-6 June.

GOING NORTH OF THE BORDER: The IBMT's "Antifascistas" travelling exhibition will this year be in Scotland for the first time. Some dates and venues are still being finalised, but it will be in Dundee Central Library from 6-18 February, at the Scottish TUC (333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow) from 2-18 April and at its congress, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, from 23-25 April. Arrangements for Fife, Blantyre and Glasgow are still being made. For details, contact Exhibition Coordinator Marlene Sidaway: 020-8555 6674 / 07720-312 892.



CROWD: Over 1,000 people attended the unveiling of the new memorial to the International Brigades in Madrid (seen on the right).

Return to Madrid

From front page

received the backing of the university authorities.

The project was the initiative of the AABI, the Madrid-based International Brigades friendship group, whose President, Ana Pérez, told the assembled crowd that the Brigades would never be relegated to the past, as an army of nostalgia. Their example was a source of inspiration to all those still battling injustice and reactionary forces, not least in Spain itself.

Sadly, it took only a few days following the unveiling for the memorial to be defaced with red paint, though the university acted promptly to remove the graffiti.



VANDALISED: The memorial was soon cleaned up.

Even before its inauguration there was an unsuccessful legal bid by an individual linked to the Falangist (Spanish fascist) group *Manos Limpias* to stop the monument being unveiled, arguing that the International Brigades were “an invention of Stalin” and that the rector of the university was “playing politics”. The rector himself, José Carrillo Menéndez, described the attempted injunction as “reminiscent of the Franco regime”.

The words of Dolores Ibárruri (*La Pasionaria*) to the International Brigades are inscribed on the memorial: “You are history, you are legend. You are the heroic example of solidarity and the universality of democracy.”

Our Italian sister organisation AICVAS has put together a photostream of images from the week of 75th anniversary commemorative events in Spain: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkPUI9vALdo].

No support from the British Government for new memorial

The British Government gave neither financial nor moral support for the new memorial to the International Brigades that was unveiled in Madrid to mark the 75th anniversary of their formation.

The UK embassy in Spain failed to make a donation towards the cost of the monument. Nor did it send a representative to the unveiling ceremony.

Seven embassies provided financial assistance: Argentina, Canada, Cyprus, Norway, Russia, Serbia and Slovenia.

Others countries were officially represented at the unveiling, including China, France, Ireland, Sweden and Venezuela – along with Spain itself.

Measuring four metres in

height, the memorial was commissioned by the Madrid-based AABI (Association of Friends of the International Brigades), which early in 2011 approached the embassies of countries that sent volunteers to the International Brigades.

The AABI asked for donations of between €300 and €1,000 towards the €9,000 required for the monument.

However, despite several approaches to the British embassy, no contribution was forthcoming.

Some 2,500 volunteers from the British Isles joined the International Brigades during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War to defend the Spanish Republic against the fascist-backed mili-

tary uprising, and 527 of them died in Spain.

The IBMT donated €500 towards the cost of the memorial, which Brigadier David Lomon presented to AABI President Ana Pérez in Madrid on the day before its unveiling.

IBMT Secretary Jim Jump said it was a great shame that the British Government had missed this opportunity to give official acknowledgement to the International Brigades.

“Historians regard the Spanish Civil War as the prelude to the Second World War, so it would have been fitting for the Government to have recognised the sacrifice made by these volunteers who were the first to fight fascism on the battlefield.”

David Lomon’s speech at the unveiling ceremony

“It is a great honour to be here today to join with you in memory of all the young men and women who came to Spain to join your fight against fascism.

We must always remember those who gave their lives and also the suffering of the Spanish people.

The ideals of the international volunteers will never be forgotten.

Even though we lost the so-called civil war, the democratic powers realised that fascism must be stopped, or they too would suffer the

same fate. The Second World War was a continuation of the war in Spain.

Seventy-five years ago this month, the International Brigades were formed to fight against Franco, Mussolini and Hitler. Even today “No pasarán” lives on.

I would like to thank all those who have made this wonderful memorial. It will serve to remind the world of the future that a great price was paid to enable our ideals to live on. Salud!

Watch David Lomon give his speech at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtjDL_Jv8T4].