



# IBMT Newsletter

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

Issue 36 / 1-2014

## INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

### Final sacrifice remembered at the Ebro



**Seafarers who paid the price for helping the Republic**



LEN CROME  
MEMORIAL LECTURE



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE  
MEMORIAL TRUST

# TAKING SIDES

Artists and Writers on the Spanish Civil War

★ Saturday 1st March 2014: 11am - 5pm

★ The Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, M1 3BB

Speakers include Carl-Henrik Bjerstrom, Carmen Herrero, Paul Preston and Jane Rogoyska

For  
booking  
details see  
page 26

*Historic Basque Town Wiped Out;  
Rebel Fliers Machine-Gun Civilians*





## Issue 36 / 1-2014

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Photo: Jim Jump

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Kathleen and Albert Hobbs

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## International Brigade Memorial Trust

www.international-brigades.org.uk

Charity no: 1094928



The IBMT's "Antifascistas" exhibition on show in the ruined church in Corbera d'Ebre, which has been preserved as a war memorial. The IBMT's new plaque is located next to the church and overlooks the Ebro battlefield.

To mark the last stand of the British Battalion in Spain 75 years ago...

# Ebro memorial unveiled

A plaque to the British Battalion's last stand in southern Catalonia in September 1938 was unveiled on 24 September 2013 by family members of those who took part in the fighting.

Erected by the IBMT, it stands next to the old church of Corbera d'Ebre, which was ruined during the Battle of the Ebro and itself has been preserved as a memorial.

Among the speakers at the unveiling were Jordi Palou-Loverdos, Director of the Catalan government's Memorial Democratic agency, IBMT representatives, local dignitaries and family members of International Brigade volunteers.

In English, Spanish and Catalan, the plaque explains that 23 of the British Battalion's volunteers were killed during those final three days of combat in the Battle of the Ebro, along with 175 of their Spanish comrades in the battalion.

On 21 September 1938 the beleaguered Spanish Republic announced the repatriation of all foreign volunteers from its army. The move was a vain attempt to put international pressure on Hitler and Mussolini for the withdrawal of their troops and aircraft from General Franco's rebel forces.

The British Battalion elected to remain in its front-line positions until being stood down three days later.

At the unveiling ceremony IBMT Secretary Jim Jump said the new memorial would inform future generations of the heroism, suffering and sacrifice of the International Brigades and their Spanish comrades.

He added: "Seventy-five years ago, in September 1938, these volunteers were defending democracy and shedding their blood for the cause.

"Let's not forget that in that very same month, September 1938, the governments of Britain and France were shamefully doing a deal with Hitler and Mussolini in Munich.

"Britain and France had already abandoned the Spanish Republic to eventual defeat. At Munich they sacrificed another democracy – Czechoslovakia – and made world war inevitable."

Jump also thanked Duncan Longstaff, the IBMT Trustee who had organised the memorial, as well

*Continued overleaf*

## 2014 subs now due

IBMT subscriptions for 2014 are now due. If you have not already done so, and don't pay by direct debit, please send your payment to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

Subscription rates remain the same as last year. See application form on page 20 for the UK and overseas rates. 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 and completed direct debit forms to: IBMT Membership Secretary, 2 Woodford Close, Radyr Way, Cardiff CF5 2PH. For any queries, tel: 029-2019 5412; email: [memsec@international-brigades.org.uk].



**CORBERA D'EBRE:** Flowers (above) by the newly unveiled plaque raised by the IBMT to mark the position of the last stand of the British Battalion (about 2km in the background).



**MEMORIAL STONES:** Two more memorials (left) were unveiled last year during commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Ebro. One is on Hill 402 above Corbera d'Ebre (above left), where the 35th Division had its HQ during the battle for Gandesa. The second one (left) is at La Fatarella, commemorating the last combat fought by the Spanish Republican rearguard.



**GROUP:** IBMT members and friends from the US and Spain visit the Ebro battlefield while on a week-long stay to tour local civil war sites and participate in the unveiling of the new memorial at Corbera d'Ebre.



**FOR THE MEDICS:** A new plaque was also unveiled at the site of the cave hospital at La Bisbal de Falset during the 75th anniversary commemoration on the Ebro battlefield. It replaced a plaque that was stolen earlier in the year.

**CROSSING:** Members of the British-based Spanish Civil War reenactment group La Columna joined fellow reenactment enthusiasts from Spain and elsewhere on 27 July for a 75th anniversary crossing of the River Ebro at the start of the Battle of the Ebro. The event was held in Fayón, Aragon, where there is a Battle of the Ebro museum ([www.labatalladelebro.com](http://www.labatalladelebro.com)). For more about La Columna contact [thorpe.ortiz@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe.ortiz@btinternet.com).



## Ebro memorial

### From previous page

as fellow Trustee Mary Greening and IBMT Patron Rodney Bickerstaffe, who gave generous donations towards the cost of the project.

A message from Bickerstaffe was read out by Dolores Long, IBMT Chair and daughter of Sam Wild, commander of the British Battalion during

the Battle of the Ebro, and translated into Spanish by his grandson, Gideon Long.

The message said: "My thoughts are with the many International Brigade volunteers that I've had the privilege to know over the years, all of them, sadly, now gone. Among them was my good friend Jack Jones... Those brave men and women are now gone—but their memory and the lessons they taught us live on—thanks in no small part to memorials like this."

IBMT President Marlene Sidaway read out the Cecil Day Lewis poem in tribute to the International Brigades, "The Volunteer", four lines of which are reproduced on the plaque in Corbera d'Ebre.

The IBMT's "Antifascistas" exhibition, with a translation into Catalan, was displayed inside the church until the end of December.

A slideshow of photos of the unveiling can be viewed here: [<http://bit.ly/16ymnw8>].



La Columna reenacts the arrival of rescued seafarers and families in Cromer on 2 November 1938.

## When the war in Spain reached British shores

On 2 November 2013 the Spanish Civil War reenactment group La Columna marked the 75th anniversary of the only military incident of the Spanish Civil War that took place in Britain: the sinking of the *Cantabria* off the Norfolk coast.

The Spanish Republican freighter was shelled by a Fran-

coist warship, the *Nadir*, and sank 12 miles north-east of Cromer. It later emerged that information about the *Cantabria*'s movements had been supplied to Franco by Nazi German intelligence.

Sixteen of the crew and family members were rescued by the Cromer lifeboat and a nearby

ship. But 29 others were captured by the *Nadir*.

Seventy-five years to the day, members of La Columna—including several IBMT members—set up an Aid for Spain stall outside the Cromer Museum and later told survivors' stories at the RNLI's Henry Blogg Museum.



# Edinburgh hosts weekend of AGM events

The IBMT's Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh on 12 October 2013 was preceded by a gathering of more than 120 supporters at the International Brigade memorial in East Princes Street Gardens in the heart of the Scottish capital.

Speakers included Labour city councillor Gordon Munro and historian Daniel Gray, the main organisers of the weekend of activities linked to the Trust's AGM. They were joined by IBMT Scotland Trustee Mike Arnott and Reinhardt Silbermann of the KFSR German International Brigades friendship group.

Wreaths were laid by, among others, representatives of GMB Scotland, the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association and Unison North Lanarkshire Branch, all of whom helped fund the weekend's events.

Later in the day there was an "Evening of Spanish Songs and Stories" at the Canons' Gait pub, which was packed for the occasion. The main attraction was local group Gallo Rojo, made up of Scots musicians and locally-based Spaniards. Daniel Gray read extracts from his book, "Homage to Caledonia", about the Scottish volunteers and poems were recited by Gordon Munro and IBMT Secretary Jim Jump.

## Attended

The AGM itself was attended by some 70 members. They re-elected the Executive Committee for a further 12-month term of office and approved the committee's report of activities and financial report.

The AGM heard that the IBMT's financial deficits of the previous two years had been reversed. Thanks to the 2013 subscriptions increase and the affiliation of 10 national trade unions over the past 12 months, a healthy surplus was achieved in the financial year to April.

Strong support was voiced at the meeting for the Trust to redouble efforts to secure a memorial to the merchant seafarers who died and risked their lives while sailing to Republican Spanish



Gallo Rojo performing at the IBMT social.



ports in the face of aerial and naval attack from Franco's warships and by bombers and submarines sent by his allies Hitler and Mussolini (see pages 14/15).

The weekend also featured a radical tour of the Cowgate area of Edinburgh led by Gordon Munro. The walk began at the memorial to Irish republican and socialist James Connolly, who lived in the city for several years.

There was also a special screening of the two-hour 2009 Scottish TV documentary "The Scots

Left: Gordon Munro (on left of the International Brigade memorial) addresses the meeting in East Princes Street Gardens. Daniel Gray (on right of memorial) looks on.

Who Fought Franco" at the White Horse Bar.

To welcome the IBMT's AGM in Edinburgh, Neil Findlay, Labour MSP for Lothian, tabled a motion in the Scottish Parliament noting "the considerable contribution made by hundreds of Scots as part of voluntary international forces in the fight against fascism in Spain" and recognising "the tireless work" of Scots in contributing to the Aid for Spain movement.

The motion went on to declare: "The Edinburgh events will reflect a commitment to opposing modern fascism, racism and prejudice. Parliament commends the International Brigade Memorial Trust for its ongoing and unstinting work in keeping alive the memories of the Scottish contingent and all those other brave men and women who made up the International Brigades as they hold their Annual General Meeting in Scotland."

## ...this year we'll be in Oxford in September

The IBMT's Annual General Meeting will take place earlier than usual this year so that it can be held in Oxford.

Saturday 6 September is the date chosen for the AGM and the venue will be Ruskin College, the further education college supported by trade unions.

Until now, the Trust's AGMs have been held in mid-October. However, that time of year would have clashed with

academic term time, making it harder to find suitable venues and accommodation in Oxford.

The IBMT is currently backing moves by Oxford Trades Council to raise a memorial to the more than 20 volunteers from the city and university who joined the International Brigades. Oxford City Council is supporting the initiative and is offering to provide a suitable site.

Six of the Oxford volunteers were killed in Spain: Edward Burke, Anthony Carritt, Francis Dewhurst, Lewis Clive, Ralph Fox and John Rickman.

As is usual, the IBMT will aim to organise a programme of events over the AGM weekend. Details will be announced later this year.

See page 26 for more information about the AGM and accommodation at Ruskin College.



**CARD:** This dove of peace was sketched in 1996 especially for International Brigade veterans by Spanish poet Rafael Alberti. The image is now on a new IBMT greetings card.

Measuring roughly 10cm x 15cm, the card has no printed message inside, so can be used for any occasion. The cards can be ordered online at the IBMT website ([www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)) or see the inside back cover.



**BELFAST:** A plaque naming Belfast volunteers William Beattie and Dick O'Neill was unveiled on 26 July 2013 on the International Wall, Falls Road, as part of the city's annual Anti-Racism World Cup amateur soccer tournament. Beattie was killed at the

Battle of Jarama on 14 February 1937 and O'Neill died on 23 July in the Battle of Brunete.



**DURHAM:** The IBMT banner was carried proudly at the 2013 Durham Miners' Gala on 13 July. Among those pictured here are IBMT President Marlene Sidaway (left), Pete Widlinski (behind her) and Sheila Gray (right).



**DERRY:** Supporters gather for the inauguration of a plaque (inset) to the International Brigade volunteers from north-west Ireland on 18 July 2013 in the Unite the Union office in Derry/Londonderry. Erected by the North West Spanish Civil War Project and supported by Unite and

Derry Trades Union Council, the plaque was unveiled by the union's Regional Secretary, Jimmy Kelly. It names 24 men from County Donegal, County Derry/Londonderry and County Tyrone who served in the International Brigades.



**ST ALBANS:** Folk duo Na-mara (above) headlined a benefit concert at The Maltings Arts Theatre, St Albans, on 6 December 2013 to raise funds for a memorial statue of Thomas Watters by local sculptor Frank Casey. Watters was one of the last surviving British veterans of the Spanish Civil War until his death early in 2012 at the age of 99. Though born in Scotland, Thomas lived in St Albans after his return from Spain, where he served with the Scottish Ambulance Unit from 1936-38. Casey has already produced a maquette (right) of his proposed memorial.



**MADRID:** A plaque was unveiled on 9 November 2013 in Madrid's University City campus to remember the arrival of the International Brigades on 8 November 1936 and

their key role in the defence of the city. Raised by the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group and ACER, the IBMT's sister organisation in France, the memorial can be found at the Casa de Velázquez (c/ de Paul Guinard 3). In November 1936 the British Battalion had not yet been formed, so many volunteers from the British Isles fought in the Commune de Paris Battalion of the XI International Brigade, which is named in the new plaque.



**COUNTY LOUTH:** A plaque naming seven local volunteers was unveiled on 16 November 2013 in the Slieve Foye Forest Park between Carlingford and Omeath, County Louth. It was erected by the Friends of the International Brigades in Ireland.



**LEICESTER:** More than 50 IBMT supporters gathered in Leicester's Victoria Park on 25 September 2013 to mark the 75th anniversary of the death of local volunteer Roy Watts in the Battle of the Ebro. They met at the International Brigade Memorial in the park's Peace Walk, which names

Watts and two other local volunteers who died in Spain: Fred Sykes and Jack Watson, who were killed at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937.

Speakers were drawn from the Leicester & District Trades Union Council and the Leicester Secular Society (LSS) – Watts having been a

member of the society and an active trade unionist. They included Allan Stanley and Ann Green of the trades council and LSS President Harry Perry, along with society members Eleanor Davidson and IBMT activist Lyn Hurst, who organised the event and is pictured above (on right) speaking.





Left (from left): Kirsty Weatherall, granddaughter of Frank Ellis of Hucknall, Councillor John Allin (Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council), Councillor Alan Rhodes (Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council) and Catherine Turnell, holding a picture of her great uncle George Turnhill.

# Labour honours pledge to restore Notts memorial

Nottinghamshire volunteers who gave their lives fighting fascism were remembered during a service to rededicate a memorial at County Hall, Nottingham, on 27 July 2013.

The ceremony saw the reinstatement of a public information board with details of the volunteers. The board was controversially removed in May 2009 after the Conservatives won the county council election.

To mark the memorial's rededication, a new plaque was unveiled. The inscription includes a poem by Ralph Windle, "Spain 1936-39".

Labour regained control of the council in the local elections of May last year and immediately

***"It's a shame that so few people know about the Spanish Civil War or the sacrifices made by the volunteers from this country, like my grandad. No one told them to go to fight fascism, it was just something they passionately believed in."***

arranged the return of the information board next to the main memorial.

The move fulfilled a pledge given while Labour was in opposition that it would restore the integrity of the county's memorial.

As well as speeches and wreath-laying by family members and others, there were Spanish Civil War songs from the Nottingham Clarion Choir.

Over 20 men from Mansfield, Hucknall, Worksop and Nottingham joined the International

Brigades during the Spanish Civil War. Nine were killed during the conflict.

Councillor Alan Rhodes, leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, said: "Many people are unaware of the significance of the Spanish Civil War or the role played by people from this country and our county in fighting fascism, even before Hitler's assault on Europe.

"It is vital that this does not become a forgotten conflict and in particular that the bravery and selflessness of volunteers from Nottinghamshire are remembered."

The International Brigade memorial at County Hall was unveiled in September 1993 by Jack Jones and Spanish ambassador Alberto Aza. It was commissioned from Doncaster-based sculptor Michael Johnson and depicts a scene from the conflict showing bombed-out buildings. A separate plaque lists the names of the volunteers.

IBMT President Marlene Sidaway welcomed the reinstatement of the information board, and thanked all those who had made it possible, including the local Trade Union Council.

"Why is it so important to have the information panel next to the International Brigade memorial?" she asked. "Because so little is known, or taught about the Spanish Civil War, yet it happened at a seminal moment in the history of the 20th century."

Among the family members attending was Kirsty Weatherall, granddaughter of Frank Ellis from Hucknall, who died in 2007.

She said: "It's a shame that so few people know about the Spanish Civil War or the sacrifices made by the volunteers from this country,



The reinstated information board (above) and the new plaque (below) to mark the restoration and rededication of the Nottinghamshire memorial.



like my grandad. No one told them to go to fight fascism, it was just something they passionately believed in."

She continued: "My grandad also fought in the Second World War, which is rightfully remembered. But although he was thanked by the Spanish government through the award of honorary Spanish citizenship, there is little recognition in this country. So I am pleased that the county council created the memorial in the first place and have decided to rededicate it."

Another of the speakers was Catherine Turnell, great niece of George Turnhill of Worksop, who was killed at Teruel in January 1938.

Others who died were Bert Tagg, Eric Whalley and Alfred Woodhouse from Mansfield and James Burley-Poole (known as Terry Grant), Robert Goodman, R Grant, John Mellors and Bernard Winfield from Nottingham.



**UNVEILING:** Mike Arnott (left) speaks at the inauguration of the new memorial in Motherwell, which on its reverse quotes the famous words of Dolores Ibárruri, “La Pasionaria”, in praise of the International Brigades.

## Motherwell memorial draws the crowds

A memorial to volunteers from North Lanarkshire who fought against Franco was unveiled on 20 July 2013.

A large crowd gathered at Motherwell’s Duchess of Hamilton Park to witness the ceremony. Speakers included North Lanarkshire’s Provost, James Robertson, who commended the heroic struggle of the International Brigades against fascism.

Several of the relatives of the 40 local volunteers—of whom 11 died in Spain—unveiled the memorial, and wreaths were laid to the accompaniment of a piper.

Other speakers included Mike Arnott, representing the IBMT, and Daniel Gray, author of “Homage to Caledonia: Scotland and the Spanish Civil War”.

The memorial stone is inscribed with the words of Spanish Republican leader Dolores Ibárruri (“La Pasionaria”), which praise the ideals, commitment and sacrifice made by the volunteers “for the cause of all advanced and progressive mankind”.

The event was organised by the No Pasaran Memorial Committee North Lanarkshire. Committee member Jim Baxter said: “To see such a large crowd, young and old alike, speaks volumes for the inspirational message the volunteers have given of belief and understanding.”

### Mobile plaque project

Scottish artist Christine Jones has created a photography memorial website—[<http://enmemoria2013.tumblr.com>—as part of a project to take photos of people in Scotland and Spain holding a plaque dedicated to those who fought Francoism both during the Spanish Civil War and afterwards.

Inspired by the life and work of Gerda Taro (see book review page 21), she says her work is “focused on the legacy of the Spanish Civil War found in the historical memory movement in Spain today”.

Christine adds: “The plan is to photograph indi-

viduals holding the plaque at locations of significance, beginning in Scotland, then in Spain.”

She continues: “If anyone would like to get in touch with me for whatever reason, then they are very welcome. I’ve already had a few people contact me. I’m always interested to hear stories of relatives of International Brigaders.”

Christine was in Edinburgh on 12 October for the IBMT’s Annual General Meeting and took photos at the rededication of the Edinburgh International Brigade memorial. They can be seen on her project blog: [<http://stillcause.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/ibmt-rededication-to-memorial-in.html>]. Later in the month she was taking photos outside the Spanish consulate in Edinburgh.

### Cyclists keep date in Barcelona

A group of cyclists from Britain commemorated the 75th anniversary of the withdrawal of the International Brigades by riding from Bilbao to Barcelona, arriving in the Catalan capital in time for the 28 October anniversary of the volunteers’ farewell parade in 1938.

The National Clarion Cycling Club 1895 members were joined by Spanish supporters as they cycled across northern Spain, visiting emblematic sites such as Guernica, Sartaguda, Belchite and Corbera d’Ebre.

Led by club secretary Charles Jepson—who is also the IBMT Treasurer—the ride was dedicated to the memory of four club members who joined the International Brigades: Raymond Cox, Tom Durban, Tom Oldershaw and Roy Watts (Cox and Watts were both killed in Spain). The club also honoured members Ted Ward and



Among the stops made by the Clarion cyclists (three of them pictured on far left) on their way to Barcelona was the memorial park in Sartaguda, Navarre (left), known as “the village of widows”, where 86 supporters of the Spanish Republic, out of a population of just 1,200, were murdered in 1936 by supporters of Franco’s coup. Here, a Navarrese dancer greets the cyclists.



**INSCRIPTION:** The brass plaque in honour of those who fought against Franco that artist Christine Jones is photographing with different people holding it in Scotland and Spain. See “Mobile plaque project”.

Geoff Jackson, who rode from Glasgow to Barcelona in the spring of 1938 to raise funds for the Republican cause.

### In brief

- The Belfast-based International Brigade Commemoration Committee held a well attended meeting at the **Shankill Road Library** on 2 August 2013 as part of the city’s Féile an Phobail—the People’s Festival. The hall was full to capacity as people came to hear IBCC Chair Ciaran Crossey talking on the topic, “From Belfast to the Ebro”. He spoke of the local men who had fought and those who had died there. Two nephews of Shankill volunteer Henry McGrath, killed at the Ebro, were at the meeting and the event honoured his memory.

- The North Ayrshire Trades Union Council organised an evening event on 6 September 2013 centred on the memorial in **Irvine Library** to local Brigader John Smith, a Kilwinning miner who was killed at the Ebro in September 1938.

- The International Brigades featured in the syllabus of the **Tolpuddle Radical History School** for the first time in 2013. The school is organised each year by the South West region of the TUC as part of the Tolpuddle Martyrs’ Festival in Dorset in July. The theme of the latest school, which attracts union activists and festival-goers, was “Lessons from the 1930s” and one of its sessions was devoted to a talk and discussion led by IBMT Secretary Jim Jump titled “Spain 1936-39: When British trade unionists took to arms”.





**FOOTAGE:** Stills from the film "Welcome to the International Brigade" show the return of the British Battalion from Spain on 7 December 1938, arriving by ferry in Newhaven (top) and then being greeted by crowds at London's Victoria Station (above).

The film was especially digitised by the British Film Institute for the IBMT for screening on 7 December 2013 when 250 people packed the Rich Mix arts centre in London's East End for "No Pasarán: A Night To Remember" to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the return of the volunteers from Spain. The event was organised by Philosophy Football in association with the IBMT.

The 6-minute film, believed to have been made in 1938 by Ivor Montagu of the Progressive Film Institute, was one of the emotional highlights of a memorable evening.

The film records the arrival of the volunteers at Victoria Station, where they are welcomed by labour movement dignitaries, notably Clem Attlee, leader of the Labour Party.

With the soundtrack lost, the IBMT arranged for the addition of the Funeral March of "Ballad of Heroes", which Benjamin Britten wrote during the Spanish Civil War in honour of the International Brigades.



**ON STAGE:** Among the speakers and performers at the 75th anniversary event in London were (from left) Bob Crow, General Secretary of the RMT transport workers' union, comedian Mark Steel and actor Maxine Peake. There were contributions too from singer-songwriter Maddy Carty, performance poet Francesca Beard (see panel on right), historian Richard Baxell and "socialist R&B" band Thee Faction – who ended the evening with a rousing rock 'n roll version of "Jarama Valley". A panel discussion about the legacy of the International Brigades included contributions from Stop the War activist Salma Yaqoob, writer Daniel Trilling, broadcaster Paul Mason and Olga Abasolo of Spain's *Indignados* movement.

## Poem written by Francesca Beard (right) and read by her at the commemoration in London on 7 December 2013 to mark the 75th anniversary of the return of the volunteers from Spain...



### No Pasarán

Francesca Beard

They shall not pass unknown into the dark,  
Not while there's words to form the shapes of  
will.  
They shall not blur into the crawling grain of  
time  
That shades the murky fact and story of each  
ill, factored  
By ourselves against ourselves.  
They shall not pass beyond the grasp of reason  
to reason why they acted.  
They shall not suffer to be unconsigned to  
history and to relegation  
For the crime of testifying to the crimes against  
ourselves committed.  
The things they knew shall not be hidden.  
They shall not be bypassed, undermined,  
Blanketed by the cosy ease of our forgetting.  
They shall not pass neglected,  
Unpropertied orphans.  
They shall not pass like undiscussed  
assumptions.  
They shall not pass like laws that guard the  
rich against the poor,  
Pass like corruption through corridors of  
unopposed power,  
Pass like thieves in the night, through ends  
Where those that money and law forgot  
Must take their chances  
Without the chances  
That favour those with money and law.  
They shall not pass like gentle rain,  
To wash away the traces of past shame of  
action, of inaction,  
Of ignoring and denying.  
They will not pass as jetsam, washed away,  
Upon the Thames, the Liffy and the Severn.  
They shall not pass forgotten,  
Faint fame eroded with each remorseless

wave of new disaster.  
They shall not pass erased, dissolved,  
unfeatured  
In the tales we tell our children.  
And these tales will light our way,  
Will be a torch to hold the circling dogs at bay.  
We must tell our children they did not pass,  
For we must guard our children against the  
dangers outside and in.  
So they shall not pass without our reaching for  
their names,  
And we will reach for them upon this night,  
And again on each night  
That we have need to reach for light to chase  
the hidden things away,  
To see our faces and the shadows that we  
make,  
Together, in crowds, alone, in mirrors,  
Stripped of all masks and institution,  
Past and future islands, all of us.  
They will not pass disrespected into disrepair,  
They will not pass unclaimed by us,  
Each name will be attended,  
Each sacrifice, a garden,  
Each act of courage, a tiny barricade of hope  
against despair.  
They will not pass without witness,  
They will not pass without honour,  
They will not pass like this too shall pass.  
Not obscurity or abandon will own them,  
But we will own our debt to them,  
And they will own a place in our hearts.  
For they are citizens of freedom and entitled,  
Belonging to each of us,  
Belonging to each place  
Where justice and reason rule.  
They shall have the keys to all true  
democracies  
And there they shall pass.

*London, December 2013*



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

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

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

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

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**Founding Chair**

Professor Paul Preston

**Patrons**

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

## FROM THE SECRETARY



Madrid Complutense University staff examine the latest act of vandalism against the International Brigade memorial, which took place last November. The red paint has now been removed.

## Welcome assurances on Madrid memorial

By Jim Jump

We've been assured by our friends in Madrid that the International Brigade memorial in the capital's University City is not in danger. As reported in our last issue, the memorial was deemed to be under threat following a Madrid court ruling in favour of a writ brought by a lawyer with far-right connections complaining that the memorial had been unveiled in 2011 without proper planning permission and should therefore be dismantled. The Complutense University authorities insist that they did in fact apply to the city council for the permit and have indicated that they have no intention whatsoever of removing the memorial from their campus.

Representatives of the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group say they expect the stand-off to de-escalate, and would not be surprised if a retrospective permit duly arrived unannounced in the post.

All this, adds the AABI, is down to the worldwide protests in which the IBMT and its supporters played a prominent part, along with an effective campaign in Spain itself. Protests to Spanish ambassadors, press reports about the threat to the memorial, motions critical of the court's decision in the House of Commons and Scottish Par-

liament and an international petition campaign have, apparently, taken the authorities in Spain by surprise. That's why a quiet resolution to the crisis is expected. Let's hope this is true; watch this space.

### True patriots

Journalist Mark Seddon was spot-on when he invoked the memory of International Brigader Lou Kenton (1908-2012) in his blog on 3 October about the *Daily Mail's* attack on the patriotic credentials of Ralph Miliband.

The father of Labour leader Ed Miliband was a man who "hated Britain", said the newspaper, because of his disdain for the Royal Family and other parts of the Establishment. Like Kenton, Miliband Snr, a refugee from European fascism, fought fascism, in his case for three years during the Second World War in the Royal Navy.

Seddon wrote: "I didn't know Ralph Miliband, although I knew many who did. But I did know Lou Kenton, of the same generation, also a Jewish Marxist, who distinguished himself as a volunteer ambulance driver with the International Brigades in Spain and doing successful battle with Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts in Cable Street in London's East End. This was at a time when Viscount Rothermere's *Daily Mail* enthusiastically bel-



Martin Green (right) and Jim Jump.

**GREETINGS:** The death of Dolly West-Shaer in July (see obituary in our last issue) reminded many of us of those International Brigade family members and friends who were active before the creation of the IBMT in 2001. They did much to lay the foundations of the IBMT today.

One of them is Martin Green. Along with Dolly he was a founder of the Friends of the International Brigades in the 1990s. FIB members later merged with veterans in the International Brigade Association (IBA) to set up the IBMT.

Martin, aged 81, lives in a care home in Penzance, Cornwall, and I'm pleased to say that he was in good spirits and well when I visited him last August to pass on the IBMT's best wishes, which he of course reciprocated.

Both Martin's parents were in Spain. George Green, a cellist from Stockport, was killed in the British Battalion's last day of action in the Battle of the Ebro. Nan Green, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, who died in 1984, was an administrator with the British medical volunteers and for many years after the war was the Secretary of the IBA.





**ON THE BALL:** Continuing this column's occasional items about International Brigade-themed displays at football games, thanks go to Michael Walker for

sending in these pictures of Dulwich Hamlet FC playing at home in south London in the Ryman Isthmian Football League. Dulwich Hamlet are pictured



here scoring the winning goal against local rivals Tooting & Mitcham on 29 October – the ball is on the top right of the international Brigade flag in Spanish

Republican colours. "International Brigade and Cuba banners are on show at every home game," is the heartening news from Michael.

lowed 'Hurrah for the Blackshirts', while prominent members of the British Establishment, including from the Royal family, were busy appeasing the Nazis and hunting wild boar with Herman Goering in the forests of East Prussia." To read the whole piece go to: [<http://labourlist.org/?p=48058>].

### Last men standing

Stan Hilton, pictured in 2013, examines a map of Spain.



David Leach

British veteran Stan Hilton is one of the nine, possibly 10, International Brigaders still alive around the world, according to the latest information of the AABI (Spanish International Brigades friendship group). They are:

**Joseph Almudéver** (France)  
**Delmer Berg** (US)  
**César Covo** (France)  
**Karel Dufek** (Czech Republic)  
**Stanley Hilton** (Great Britain)  
**Gert Hoffman** (Austria)  
**John Hovan** (US)  
**Hans Landauer** (Austria)  
**Juan Miguel de Mora** (Mexico)  
**Luis Alberto Quesada** (Argentina).

This information was true as at December 2013, though Karel Dufek's status was unconfirmed.

Originally from Newhaven, Sussex, Stan Hilton, who was due to turn 96 on 31 December as this issue of the *IBMT Newsletter* went press, lives in Yarrowonga, Australia.

### You never know who lives next door

It was a pleasure to welcome Reinhardt Silbermann and two of his colleagues from our German sister organisation, the KFSR, at our Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh in October.

One of our guests was Hilde Gutzeit, a next-door-neighbour of Reinhardt's in the Hamburg

apartment block where they live. I asked him the obvious question over a coffee in Edinburgh. How did they find out they were both admirers of the International Brigades?

It was all down to the IBMT or, more specifically, an IBMT badge. One day in 2010 when they were both travelling in the lift, Hilde noticed Reinhardt's IBMT badge and, to his surprise and delight, began singing "Die Thälmann Kolonne", the song of the German volunteers in Spain. Until then they had maintained cordial neighbourly relations, but had no idea about each other's political sympathies.

It transpired that Hilde's family had all been members of the KPD communist party. During the Second World War her father and uncle were both killed in Norway while serving in a penal battalion, having been arrested and assigned to it on account of their anti-Nazi activities.

Hilde's grandparents, Carl and Agnes Gierck, were also in the anti-Nazi resistance in Hamburg. Agnes was active in Rote Hilfe (Red Aid) and helped distribute an underground newspaper. She was captured by the Gestapo and died in a prison hospital in 1944.

In 1997, she was finally honoured by the Hamburg authorities, who re-named a street after her: Agnes-Gierck-Weg. The street had previously been called Peter-Mühlens-Weg after a local doctor, but then it was discovered that Mühlens had carried out medical experiments on prisoners during the Nazi era.



Good neighbours:  
Hilde Gutzeit and  
Reinhardt Silbermann.



**FROM DENMARK:** Thanks go to Oxford-based IBMT member Colin Carritt, who sent in this photo of the International Brigade memorial in Copenhagen's Churchillparken (Churchill Park). The memorial is "thankfully well tended and untouched by the local fascists", he reports. Around the plinth of the three-sided obelisk are inscribed the names of key battles: Madrid, Jarama, Huesca, Teruel, Guadalupe, the Ebro, Brunete, Quinto and Aragon.

Colin was on a short trip to Denmark and wanted to visit the Frihedsmuseet, the museum dedicated to those who resisted the Nazi occupation. "I was horrified to discover, on our arrival, that it had been burnt to the ground just a couple of months earlier. Of course, I had no idea and was perplexed, thinking maybe the museum had moved. On talking to local people it seems that it was a deliberate arson attack, probably by elements of the extreme right wing in Denmark."

So he was relieved to find the International Brigade memorial in an adjacent park.

He concludes: "The moral of this short story is that society must always be on its guard for the rise of fascism and ready to counter its pernicious and poisonous ideologies. The struggle goes on."



Ernesto Viñas is one the guides on the annual walking tour of key sites of the July 1937 Battle of Brunete.

## Walking the Brunete battlefield

By Brian Walsh

When I retired in 2004 I joined the IBMT. I wanted to find out as much as I could about my Uncle Eddy – Samuel Edward Walsh – who was fatally wounded at the Battle of Brunete in July 1937. Since 2005 I have made four visits to the battlefield, three of them accompanied by my wife and daughter.

On two visits we had a tour of the area leading up to Mosquito Crest, following the footsteps of the British Battalion, and almost certainly the place where Uncle Eddy received his fatal wounds. Our tour guides were Ernesto Viñas and Ángel Rodríguez.

I found out about Ernesto and Ángel through an article in the *IBMT Newsletter*, which described their great interest in the Brunete battlefield, their plans to establish a museum and their wish to show visitors the battle site.

These visits were wonderful, emotional and unforgettable. I was astonished at Ernesto and Ángel's great knowledge of the battle and every inch of the site, together with their ability to spot remnants of the battle and barely visible trench marks. Needless to say, we got on very well and since our first meeting have been good friends.

Then in July 2007 came the first organised Battle of Brunete commemorative walk, or "marcha". I think I can take a little pride in this, as I had written a letter to the IBMT to ask about the possibility of a memorial in Brunete. However, the decisions and practical organisation were due to the IBMT, Alan Warren and Severiano Montero of the "Amigos" – the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group.

July 7 was a very hot day so we made an early start to our walk along the battle front. As well as a few IBMT members there were lots of Span-

ish and other British comrades. The latter were residents of the Madrid area who were very friendly and helpful, and also helped man the refreshment/water stop.

Again for me it was one of the most enjoyable and memorable events of my life: a walk that truly commemorated our brave Brigaders, with congenial comrades, a meal shared with everyone in Brunete, poetry, songs, speeches and the late great Brigader Bob Doyle as guest of honour.

For various reasons I wasn't able to go on another *marcha* until 2012. I wouldn't have missed this one for the world as it was the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Brunete and the guide for this, the sixth *marcha*, was my friend Ernesto Viñas. It lived up to all my expectations. An outstanding memory among many was the *merienda* (picnic) under the trees at the command post by the River Guadarrama where we relaxed but also reflected on the bravery of the Republicans together with the volunteers of the International Brigades in the face of the combined fascist forces of Franco, Mussolini and Hitler. For a full report on the 75th Anniversary March, see the account in the Autumn/Winter 2012 edition of the *IBMT Newsletter*.

Last year Ernesto Viñas guided another successful *marcha*, the 7th, but there was no

***"For me it was one of the most enjoyable and memorable events of my life: a walk that truly commemorated our brave Brigaders."***

IBMT presence. I am aiming to be at the 8th on 28 June 2014 and would like to see as many IBMT members there as possible, especially anyone with Brunete connections. I hope I've given a small taste of the *marcha* at Brunete, but to get the full flavour you need to experience it for yourself.

Ernesto and his small but excellent research group do most of the organising, and his organisation, Brunete en la Memoria ([www.bruneteenlamemoria.com](http://www.bruneteenlamemoria.com)) has several core aims, but the one that gives them the most satisfaction is helping relatives of Brigaders connected with Brunete. However, he would be glad to hear from anyone about the battle and battlefield and those who might want to read his latest blog.

Contact Ernesto Viñas on [\[evcos37@yahoo.es\]](mailto:evcos37@yahoo.es). Brian Walsh is happy to give any information and advice about visiting Brunete: [\[brian21walsh@yahoo.co.uk\]](mailto:brian21walsh@yahoo.co.uk).

Spanish Republican commander Valentín González, "El Campesino", directing troops at Villanueva de la Cañada during the battle.





# Brother and sister who went to war



**GERALDINE PUXTY** is the daughter of May Hobbs, sister of Kathleen Hobbs, a volunteer nurse in Spain, and of Albert Hobbs, who also joined the International Brigades. Both are pictured above. Geraldine never met her uncle; he died in the final action of the British Battalion at the Battle of the Ebro on 23 September 1938. Her Auntie Kath, however, was a big personality in their extended family. Here Geraldine pieces together what she knows about the uncle and aunt who served in the Spanish Civil War.

Auntie Kath was a teacher and a nurse. We understood she was an ambulance driver in the Spanish war – so I guess she did her bit. I expect she was unusual being a woman driver, but that was typical of her.

Thanks to the IBMT I now know that she arrived in Spain in the autumn of 1937 as a nurse with the Spanish Medical Aid Committee. She appears to have spent most of her time stationed at the hospital at Uclés, in the province of Cuenca, along with the only other British nurse at the hospital, Louise Jones. Most of the patients were Spanish.

When Kathleen came back from Spain in March 1938, her brother Albert travelled south in the opposite direction to join the International Brigades.

She went on to marry Humphrey Ransome, a motorbike racer, who later died from injuries sustained at the Isle of Man races.

They had a daughter, Clare, born, like me, in Danbury, Essex. Albert's father (also Albert) owned seven houses in Danbury, near Chelmsford, which he rented out. He also owned a garage in the village and must have trained his son as a motor mechanic. When Albert went to Spain he gave an address in Danbury.

However, both Kath and Albert were born in Birmingham, and moved to Essex with the family when they were aged 11 and seven respectively. Incidentally, my mum, May, was in the middle, aged nine. Their parents were staunch Labour people.

Albert, born on 14 March 1917, was employed as a motor mechanic, and was a member of the AEU engineering workers' union and the Communist Party.

Our family has a photo from the *Essex Chronicle* in April 1937 showing a large group of men standing about in bus company uniforms. My mother

told me that it shows a strike at Chelmsford bus garage and Albert is in the picture somewhere.

He left home for Paris on 20 March 1938 and then travelled on to Spain to join the British Battalion four days later. In May he transferred to No.2 Company of the 45th Division's Artillery Unit. No doubt his motor mechanic skills were considered to be useful.

Albert was wounded on 17 August 1938 in the Sierra Pandols, near Gandesa, during the Battle of the Ebro. He rejoined the British Battalion and was killed a month later when the battalion came under fierce attack about two kilometres north-east of the village of Corbera d'Ebre, in the Sierra de Caballs.

It was very moving for me in September last year to attend the unveiling of the new memorial erected by the IBMT at Corbera d'Ebre, marking the last stand of the British Battalion. The memorial overlooks the battlefield where Albert was killed and says that 23 members of the battalion were killed in that final action. Albert was one of them.

In the 1960s Auntie Kath and daughter Clare, then aged 18, drove overland to Australia, via east Africa – where Kath worked in Uganda as a headmistress until Idi Amin came to power. By ship from Mombasa they arrived in New Guinea, where again she taught, then travelled on to Australia. They settled in Darwin, where Clare still lives.

I don't know much about Albert, only information from the IBMT and my mum. I know she went to Victoria Station to meet a train from Spain and he was not on it. That would have been 7 December 1938 when the British Battalion arrived home. Apart from that, he was my father's best friend and tried to persuade him to go to Spain.

**ABOVE:** Geraldine Puxty at the new memorial overlooking the battlefield where the uncle she never knew, Albert Hobbs, was killed in September 1938. She holds portraits of Albert and his sister, Kathleen Hobbs, also a volunteer in Spain.

# ‘And when I get another sh

## Ship for Spain

Herbert L Peacock

‘I had a ship,’ the captain said,  
‘A ship that sailed for Spain,  
And if I had that ship right now  
I’d sail there once again.

‘I’d take a story with me then  
And let the people know  
In Barcelona why their bread  
Is fathoms deep below.

‘With my own lips I’d to them say:  
The English people true  
Want you to hold against a foe  
But it’s more than the Government do.

‘Any fool with eyes could see  
When the planes swept over low  
They didn’t give a damn for the Union Jack  
Spread out across the bow.

‘And why don’t they care for the English  
flag  
And the rules of the bloody game?  
Because they know that Chamberlain  
Has traded the English name.

‘Has traded the name to the Japanese,  
Licked Mussolini’s boots,  
Let Hitler get hold of the Austrian lands  
For you doesn’t care two hoots.

‘We sent a wire when we got to land,  
And in Parliament next day,  
Franco’s lackey got up and said  
We just went there for our pay.

‘These are the taunts we have to bear  
From the traitors we’ve got at home.  
From the traitors who sullied the English  
name  
And played second fiddle to Rome.

‘I had a ship,’ the captain said,  
‘A ship that sailed for Spain,  
And when I get another ship  
I’ll sail there once again.’

*Poem first published in Poetry and the  
People, December 1938*

## The unsung story of the British ships and seafarers who defied fascist bombs and u-boats – along with British government indifference – to trade with Republican Spain

By Jim Jump

Exact figures are still hard to find, probably because they would have embarrassed the British government had they been compiled at the time. But two things are irrefutable: first, British ships and seafarers trading with Republican Spain during the Spanish Civil War suffered serious casualties; secondly, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain – “Franco’s lackey” in Herbert L Peacock’s poem (see panel on left) – did virtually nothing about it.

A report published by the Republic’s embassy in London in 1938 calculated that, between July 1936 and June 1938, 13 British merchant ships were sunk by enemy action, 51 others were bombed from the air, two were mined, five were attacked by submarines and 23 seized or detained by Franco’s forces.

Thirty-five British seamen had been killed in these attacks and nearly 50 badly injured. The Royal Navy also lost eight killed when in May 1937 the destroyer *HMS Hunter* struck a mine laid by Franco’s navy south of Almería.

### Victims of non-intervention

The attacks were being perpetrated by bombers, ships and submarines sent by Franco’s allies, Hitler and Mussolini. Underlining the farcical nature of the notorious international non-intervention agreement instigated by Britain and France during the civil war, the Italian dictator was entrusted with policing the agreement along Spain’s Mediterranean coast – while the Royal Navy patrolled the country’s Atlantic seaboard.

In fact, the figures put out by the Spanish embassy at the time appear to have understated the losses. According to a later study by historian Rafael González Etchegaray, 29 British ships were wrecked or lost during the civil war. Wikipedia, meanwhile, lists 26 British-flag ships destroyed by enemy action; see [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_foreign\\_ships\\_wrecked\\_or\\_lost\\_in\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_foreign_ships_wrecked_or_lost_in_the_Spanish_Civil_War)].

The total number of seafarers killed and injured



**TRIBUTE:** Frank Casey’s proposed memorial carries the names of British ships lost as they ran the blockade of Spanish Republican ports.



# ip I'll sail there once again'



**BOMBED:** Stills taken from the film "Prisoners Prove Intervention in Spain", showing the wreck of the *Stanwell* and two of the injured crew members.

is not known, but casualties were likely to have been substantial.

So alarmed was the National Union of Seamen (NUS) that it commissioned, along with the Committee of Shipowners Trading to Spain and the Merchant Navy Officers' Federation, a film about the attacks on British ships and their crews. Made in 1938 by the Progressive Film Institute and directed by Ivor Montagu, "Britain Expects" was intended to be shown to cinema audiences in order to tell them what was happening in and around Spanish Republican ports. It also pointed the finger at Chamberlain for being the first British Prime Minister to deny the merchant navy adequate protection.

But the 16-minute film was banned for public viewing by the British Board of Film Censors, highlighting the extent to which the authorities were prepared to go to suppress criticism of the government's policy of appeasement towards the fascist powers.

Another film shot by Montagu in 1938, "Prisoners Prove Intervention in Spain", showed footage of the bombed wreck of a British ship, the *Stanwell*, in Tarragona harbour, in which two British seamen were killed. Included is an interview with a captured German pilot of one of the planes involved in the raid.

Outraged at the British government's failure to act, NUS General Secretary William Spence con-

Chamberlain "faced by the pseudo Christian Spanish gentleman Franco, the murderer of thousands of defenceless women and children, was tragic in his futility. These things would be remembered by seamen in the next general election," he wrote in June 1938.

The only time a credible threat to take retaliatory action was issued by the British government was in the summer of 1937 following a spate of attacks by Italian submarines – which immediately ceased as a result. Significantly, the British response was led by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who resigned a few months later in protest at Chamberlain's policy of appeasement.

## Lest we forget

This piece of British history connected to the Spanish Civil War has long been largely overlooked. But some people are determined that we should not forget it.

One of them is Geoff Cowling, the former IBMT Trustee, who was Britain's Consul General in Barcelona for many years.

In 2008 he used his influence to see to it that the graves of nine British merchant seamen were repaired in what had been the near-derelict British Cemetery in Tarragona. They included the two crewmen of the *Stanwell*.

Coordinated by Cowling's successor as Consul General, David Smith, the work was carried out by sailors from *HMS Bulwark*, which was on a goodwill visit to Barcelona at the time, and with the help of the Tarragona local council.

Cowling is still concerned that other graves might be in disrepair. "As far as I can tell, we still don't know how many British merchant seamen were killed during the Spanish Civil War and whether they were properly buried."

Another IBMT member who wants appropriate recognition for the seafarers is sculptor and artist Frank Casey. Frank's interest in the subject developed after he heard an interview with WH Roberts, captain of the *Seven Seas Spray*, about how he ran the gauntlet of Franco's blockade to bring food to the starving people of Bilbao.

He was also startled to learn that the search for

the wreck of *HMS Ark Royal*, sunk by a German u-boat off Gibraltar in 1941, had been made especially difficult by the many wrecks from the civil war lying on the sea-bed in the search area.

Frank has made a maquette of a memorial to the British crews who faced great danger while sailing in and out of Spanish Republican ports. He has received backing for the project from rail and maritime union RMT. But an appropriate site for the memorial, plus adequate funding, still have to be found.

His research efforts have been helped by reading Paul Heaton's "Spanish Civil War Blockade



**RESTORATION:** Repairing seafarers' graves at the British Cemetery in Tarragona in 2008.

Runners", which tells the story of the ships trading out of Welsh ports, including the famous exploits of Captain David "Potato" Jones.

However, Frank, a Glaswegian now settled in St Albans, is quick to point out that it was not only Welsh ships involved. The Glasgow-registered *Oakgrove*, for example, took badly needed provisions to Republican Spain – and crew members waived their salaries as a protest at the shameful stance of the British government.

These are stories of heroism and sacrifice that the IBMT also hopes will be remembered in the form of a memorial to the seafarers involved.

For more information see: "La Marina Mercante y el Tráfico Marítimo en la Guerra Civil" by Rafael González Etchegaray (Editorial San Martín, Madrid, 1977); "The Seamen: A History of the National Union of Seamen" by Arthur Marsh and Victoria Ryan (Malthouse Press, Oxford, 1989); "Spanish Civil War Blockade Runners" by Paul Heaton (PM Heaton Publishing, Abergavenny, 2006).



**SUNK:** *HMS Hunter* hit a mine laid by Franco's navy.

trasted the Royal Navy's blockade of Piraeus in 1850 in response to a mob attack on a single British national in Athens. "Where was the strong arm of England now?" asked Spence. Neville

# Remembering Margaret Powell

By Ruth Muller

Like many Margaret Powell was born in March 1913, one of nine children, at Cwm Farm, Llangenny, where her father farmed a small Welsh hill farm. She attended the village school, leaving home aged 16 to train as a nurse, first in Essex, later in London at St Giles', Camberwell, and St Olave's, Rotherhithe – areas as hard hit by the depression of the 1930s as was South Wales.

When Franco and his cohorts rebelled against the elected Republican Spanish government in 1936 Margaret was advised to finish her midwifery training before volunteering. She was accepted by the Spanish Medical Aid Committee and left for Spain in mid-1937.

## Front-line

She was a front-line nurse in Aragon during the bitter battles of the terrible winter of 1937-38 when the wounded often froze to death before they could receive medical attention. Life-saving medication was in short supply and Margaret found herself, aged 25, having to "triage" the wounded as they arrived from the front – deciding who could be saved. Major surgery was carried out without anesthetics, the dark only redeemed by using cigarette lighters.

Often the team of nurses, a Spanish doctor and village girls rapidly trained as nurse-aides, had to move at a moment's notice, setting up operating theatres in barns, stables, a disused slaughter-house and once a ruined medieval castle in Montclar, Catalonia.

Margaret assisted in thousand of operations, often working 72 hours or more at a stretch as the wounded poured in from an offensive. She was proud that during this time the team didn't lose a man to post-operative septicemia – or a single piece of the precious surgical equipment sent from Britain.

***"Margaret found herself, aged 25, having to 'triage' the wounded as they arrived from the front – deciding who could be saved. Major surgery was carried out without anesthetics, the dark only redeemed by using cigarette lighters."***

During the occasional lulls in the fighting the team helped village people in Aragon who had never in their lives seen a doctor, giving ante- and post-natal care and minor surgeries where necessary.

Later, transferred to Barcelona, she worked in several hospitals, even as Franco's forces closed in and bombs fell. In February 1939 Margaret and part of the team retreated into France where she was promptly imprisoned with other Spanish refugees in beach enclosures without any facilities. She was rescued after more than three weeks by a team of Quakers who'd been alerted to her plight.

Although she started work again in England after a few months, it was only in 1944 that she went abroad again, this time to upper Egypt to care for Yugoslav partisans' families in the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) El Shatt desert camp.

Once the families returned home in 1946, she transferred to the American zone of Germany, working in the displaced persons camps of Amberg and Coburg. It was here that she encountered Jewish teenagers – survivors of the concentration camps – a number of whom committed suicide. These memories, combined with her experiences in Spain, were to haunt her for the rest of her life.

## Poorest areas

After 1948, she worked as a health visitor in some of the poorest areas of north London, married International Brigader Sam Lesser, became a mother, spent three years in the USSR and worked at the City of London Polytechnic.

In 1976 Margaret was made a "Dame" of the Orden de la Lealtad a la República Española by the Spanish government in exile. She died in November 1990, aged 77.

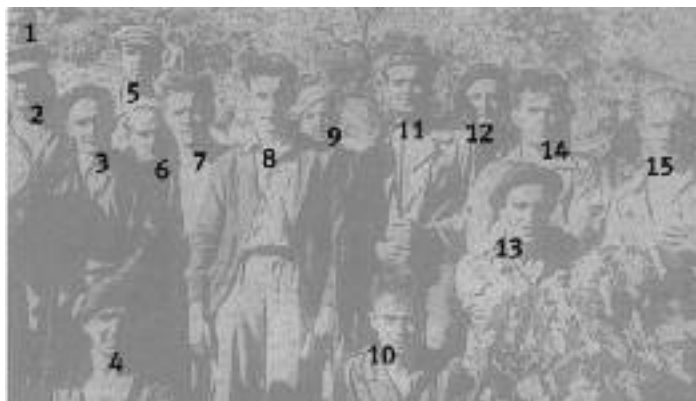
Ruth Muller is the daughter of Margaret Powell and Sam Lesser.



**NURSES:** Above, back row, left to right: Margaret Powell, Susan Sutor, Anne Murray and Patience Darton; seated: Agnes Hodgson and Mary Slater, at Poleniño Hospital, Aragon, in 1937. Below: Margaret Powell in Barcelona Hospital No.7 in 1938 with Dr Gonzalo Aguiló Mercader (left) and unidentified other person.







## Who's pictured here before the Battle of the Ebro?

Liverpool-based IBMT Trustee Danny Payne is trying to identify all the people in this well known photo of Merseyside volunteers taken before the Battle of the Ebro in July 1938. It is thought to be the only photograph of future trade union leader Jack Jones during the Spanish Civil War.

The image has pride of place in a permanent exhibition on the International Brigades in Liverpool's Casa Bar (29 Hope Street, L1 9BQ).

It first appeared in the *Liverpool Echo* of 21 July 1938 with a report of a visit to the British Battalion by George Bean, President of the Liverpool Guild of Undergraduates and Vice President of the National Union of Stu-

dents. He is number 8 in the photo.

An error-laden accompanying caption said: "Mr Bean met a considerable number of Liverpool, Birkenhead and Bootle members of the International Brigades—Councillor James Larkin Jones, W Acton, WC Bibby, Frank Proctor, Frank Buttl, Thomas Carlisle, B Clarke, Vincent Crompton, Z Deegan (Bootle), R Murray, Doherty, Peter Furlong, George Green, Hodgson, W Jones, George McClure, G Mumford, Captain Patrick O'Dare, EE Pilson (Bootle), P Proctor and W Thompson."

The *Liverpool Echo* photo included three more people on the left of the picture. Danny says the longer photo is in the Imperial War Museum's

photo archive in London (reference HU 34656). The caption contains several obvious errors—and more names than people. It also omits Jimmy Jump (number 14), who was born in the Wirral though living in Sussex when he went to Spain.

Danny guesses that the man on the far left (with cap) is Paddy O'Dare. "But that's pure speculation based on the officer's hat he's wearing," he writes. Otherwise, the only positive identifications are (with his comments):

**Number 3:** Jack Jones

**Number 7:** Frank Proctor ("A picture in the *Liverpool Echo* of 8 September matches the Ebro picture.")

**Number 8:** George Bean

**Number 9:** Frank Deegan

**Number 11:** Ces Bibby

**Number 12:** Bill Thompson ("I would add a question mark to his name.")

**Number 13:** William Jones ("He was identified by his two sons in September 2012 and from his Second World War merchant navy pass. However, he looks the image of Bob Clarke from the photo in his book.")

**Number 14:** Jimmy Jump

**Number 15:** Ernie Pilson ("He was identified in an email from his daughter via the Merseyside International Brigade Network site.")

Anyone with more information or comments should contact Danny Payne: [danpayne40@yahoo.co.uk].

## Naming the locomotive

Thanks go to Douglas Stuckey, of Wokingham, for sending in this photo of the naming of the Virgin Trains locomotive, "The International Brigades, Spain 1936-1939", in Stoke-on-Trent on 9 February 1998. Taken by railway enthusiast Colin Marsden, the photo shows Brigaders Jack Jones (foreground, right) and Dave Goodman (foreground left). Also pictured is the Labour MP for Stoke on Trent North, Joan Walley (third from right).

Can anyone identify the other people in the photo? Are there other Brigaders present?

The Class 90 overhead-electric 25kv AC locomotive (No. 90015), which operated on the West

Coast corridor until 2004, had previously been called "BBC North West". The name change was made after Jack Jones wrote to Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson—himself a distant cousin of Brigader Clive Branson—with the suggestion.

According to Sarah Honeysett, a North Staffordshire Labour Party activist, gardening blogger (<http://sarahhoneysetts-garden.blogspot.co.uk>) and railway enthusiast, "The International Brigades, Spain 1936-1939" hauled trains of air-conditioned carriages, including restaurant/buffet cars, all in Virgin livery, on the regular Euston-Manchester Piccadilly; Euston-Wolverhampton; Euston-Liverpool Lime Street and Euston-Glasgow Central main lines in conjunction with a DVT (driver vehicle trailer).

She adds: "These Class 90 locomotive operations were superseded by Class 390 Pendolino 9-car multiple-unit trains from 2004 onwards, and No. 90015 was relocated to the Liverpool Street-Norwich main line in the (now) Greater Anglia livery. According to my information, the nameplate has been replaced with a new one—'Colchester Castle'."

Anyone with more information write to: [secretary@international-brigades.org.uk].



● Peter Harrison is looking for information about his great uncle, **Arthur Llewellyn Bush** (left), of Port Talbot, born in 1907. "My late father told me that Arthur left the Glamorgan Police and one of the reasons was that he was told to

arrest people for taking coal," writes Barry-based Peter. Arthur was a member of the Communist Party and, according to the IBMT's records, arrived at the International Brigade base at Albacete on 21 December 1936. He was with the British Battalion at Jarama in February 1937, serving as a runner and ammunition loader. Further details are confused and sketchy, but he is reported to have arrived in Cardiff from Barcelona on the *Clintonia* as a stowaway on 26 May 1938. Anyone with more information should send it to the IBMT Secretary (secretary@international-brigades.org.uk) and it will be forwarded to Peter.

● Jim Neugass is looking for funding to make a film about his father, US volunteer **James Neugass**. It is to be based on "War is Beautiful", an unpublished manuscript of his father's memoir, which was discovered in 2000 in a used bookshop in Vermont. For more information go to [www.warisbeautifuldocumentary.com].



## Poet who stole funds for Spain



Myfather Ericson Smith (left) wrote this poem, “España”, at the time of the Spanish Civil War, when he was living in Newcastle. I would be very proud if you might find space for it as an example of what people at the time thought. It was published, under his pen-name of James Ericson, in

the *Daily Worker*, but I don’t have the date.

He was a shipping clerk, self-educated and very interested in “alternative” politics. He loved literature and wrote poetry in his twenties: he was proud to have been published alongside Dylan Thomas!

He was a “card-carrying” communist right up to his sixties, when, sadly, he developed vascular dementia. It was in this period that I took him to see his birthplace in Forest Hall. I believe his parents had moved there to be near the Clousden Hill Free Communist and Cooperative Colony.

He confided in me that he had “appropriated” some of his firm’s funds in 1938 to send to Spain. My mother used to say that when she was carrying her first child (between 1937 and 1938) he had sent their savings to Spain – so, in a huff, she went home to mother for a while.

I remember him as a gentle idealist who encouraged me to join the Young Socialists, which met in Summerhill Square in the 1960s, with Jeremy Beecham as one of the teenage leaders.

**Susan Hedworth**

By email

Then stir your blood with brotherhood – España!  
Downdriven by the winds of wealth, their leaves  
Ofred do not in conscience lie to rot,  
Bewildered, then done away with. They are  
That trinity – Bread, Peace and Liberty.  
They organize an acid force – they burn through  
greed.

Our land that bore, and saw a Chartist hang,  
Hears the dole-queue groan, the shriek of empire’s  
rust,  
Must somewhere have the ore that forges steel,  
Soviet-bright, worker-keen. Then grasp, you hands,  
In multiplying bands, the sickle curve,  
The hammer straight, whose symbol is your strength.

You want to live beyond this closed door,  
You want to hear the crow in homeward caw;  
Perhaps a lark, a finch. You never heard,  
Nor yet had time to learn, why rain occurred;  
These things you never see  
In the half-light of this slavery.  
O workers of the world, they are your right,  
I warn you, I charge you. I say – UNITE!

## Behaviour of the POUM bordered on treachery

Jim Jump’s report of the Len Crome Memorial Lecture proceedings (*IBMT Newsletter* 2-2013) is accurate and perceptive in identifying the main points at issue when assessing George Orwell’s role and work. As Paul Preston pointed out in his paper, Orwell’s analysis was partial in both senses of the word. It was also riddled with inaccuracies as well as being heavily tainted by political prejudices.

Contrary to Orwell, many objective and progressive historians have concluded that the communist movement, both within Spain and internationally, was the mainstay in building a united movement against fascism (see Helen Graham’s work). The communists, along with other sections of the broad labour movement, saw the need to develop an alliance of class and social forces capable of defeating Franco both militarily and politically.

But there remain differences of interpretation, particularly around the ultra-left’s anti-Republican government uprising in May 1937 and the nature and role of the Soviet Union.

On the Barcelona 1937 events, the recent work of leading Spanish historians (for example Professor Ángel Viñas) strongly suggests that this was a planned uprising against the Popular Front government, designed to thwart necessary efforts to build a centralised and effective national army and to reorganise industry and agriculture to better support the war effort. The dissident anarchists and supporters of the POUM (Partido Obrero de Unificación Marxista) in Barcelona put the need to protect their own power bases in the local militias and collectivised enterprises above the urgent requirements of the national struggle to defeat Franco and his German and Italian fascist allies.

The uprising received little or no support outside of Barcelona and was quickly put down by forces loyal to the Republican government.

The Soviet Union’s role is more heavily centred. The Soviets provided Republican Spain with massive humanitarian, military, technical and diplomatic aid. It saw that standing up to Hitler and Mussolini and defeating fascism in Spain was the best way to persuade France and Britain to drop appeasement and confront the fascist threat.

How to develop the Popular Front in Spain was the task of the Spanish working class and its allies. At all times Stalin stressed the importance of bringing the anarchists into the Popular Front government. The actions, often brutal, taken against the Trotskyist-influenced POUM, were encouraged by the Soviets, but they were initiated and strongly supported by all the organisations making up the Popular Front government under Juan Negrín’s leadership.

The POUM’s strategy and actions were adventurous and objectively counter-revolutionary – bordering on treachery. The POUM had to be defeated and its activists suppressed in order that the Popular Front’s anti-Franco alliance could be cemented both politically and militarily. It was this imperative which was shared by all sections of the Popular Front at national level.

**Tom Sibley**

By email

## I never knew I’d gain so much

In the latest issue of the magazine (2-2013), Marlene Sidaway asks members to top up IBMT funds where possible. As a relatively new member I hadn’t appreciated just how much you gain from the simple membership fee.

Although with a long-time interest in the Spanish Civil War, I only came into touch with the IBMT last year. I had no idea how many events it would be possible to attend and be involved with, although I haven’t managed to yet, but will in the future.

The *IBMT Newsletter* is a fund of useful information and opportunities to widen my library with the excellent reviews not available elsewhere.

I enclose a cheque for £25 as my donation to this good cause.

**Mike Cooper**

Milton Keynes

## Thanks from visitors from US

On behalf of our small group from the US, I want to thank the IBMT for inviting us to join the Ebro tour (see group photo on page 4). After following your activities in the *IBMT Newsletter* and Facebook pages for so long, it was a pleasure to meet some of you in person.

It was an inspiration to learn of the efforts of the friends and families of the volunteers from another country to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of the International Brigades and all they stood for. We learned from you and about you, as we became acquainted with the heroism and sacrifices of the British Battalion and the Connolly Column.

As a result, we’ve all returned home energised to rededicate our efforts in ALBA/FFALB on behalf of our unsung heroes and their unprecedented act of internationalism in the antifascist war in Spain.

Salud y victoria,

**Nancy Wallach**

Plus Alan Entin, John Kalin, Bobbie Rabinowitz and Henry and Josephine Yurek  
New York City (by email)



## Now I know more about my father



Thanks to information supplied by the IBMT I now know more about my father, John Nellis Hollywood (pictured above), and his time with the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War. Certainly this is something my son and daughter will be interested to learn about.

I'm the eldest of three sons. I was named John after dad, but was always called Ian. I left Clydebank in 1967 to commence a career at sea and spent the next 28 years in that industry, sailing under the Australian flag from 1973.

My parents came out to Melbourne about 30 years ago to see their first grandchild. At

that time I tried to extract information from my father about his time in Spain. He made light of his reasons for joining the International Brigades, claiming he did it following a night out beer drinking.

This disappointed me as I had hoped he had some serious political/moral reasons for risking his life in that dress rehearsal for the Second World War.

I do remember him telling me he had been wounded. I guess he was relatively "lucky" for having being wounded early in that war and being able to escape the horrors that followed.

He had a terribly hard life however, managing to keep himself employed in labouring jobs until he was almost 65. He suffered from Parkinsons and died in 1990, aged 77.

One story might amuse your readers. In the 1980s I was chief engineer on a very large tanker. We arrived in Bilbao to discharge crude oil. The agent invited the captain and myself out for dinner. Following a very

pleasant meal we moved to a busy bar for some additional refreshments. At some point during this evening I happened to mention that my father had fought in Spain during the civil war. There was a deathly hush in the bar as the agent asked the very pointed question: "What side did he fight on?" On giving the correct answer there were cheers all round and (unfortunately) lots more drinks supplied.

**Ian Hollywood**  
Melbourne (by email)

John Hollywood, from Bonhill, Dumbartonshire, a labourer and Communist Party member, was 23 when he went to Spain. He arrived in Albacete, the base of the International Brigades, on 7 January 1937 and joined the British Battalion. He was wounded on 15 February during the Battle of Jarama, after which he was classified as unfit for further service.

Ian would like to hear from anyone with more information about his father's service in Spain. Contact: [izh@spiritoftasmania.com.au].

### Erik Ellmann



Estonian International Brigader Erik Ellmann (left) died on 30 March 2013. He was 94. Erik arrived in Spain aged 19 and took part in the Battle of the Ebro in the Mickiewicz Battalion. After the war he spent four

months in refugee camps in France before making his way to the Soviet Union, where he was to resume the fight against fascism. His final trip to Spain came in October 2011 when, with other Brigade veterans, he inaugurated the memorial to the International Brigades in Madrid's University City.

### Elaine Morgan



The TV playwright, evolutionary anthropologist and socialist feminist Elaine Morgan (pictured in 2012), who died on 12 July 2013 at the age of 92, was the

widow of Morien Morgan (1916-1997), International Brigader and French teacher at Pontypridd Boy's Grammar School. Born Elaine Floyd in Pontypridd, she studied English at Oxford, where she was the chair of the Democratic Socialist Club, and later wrote scripts for TV dramas such as Dr Finlay's Casebook and Maigret. Among her many books on evolutionary theory were "The Aquatic Ape" (1982), "The Descent of the Child" (1995) and "Pinker's List" (2005), an attack on what she saw as the hijacking of Darwinism for the right by writers such as Steven Pinker.

### Jules Paivio



Jules Paivio, who died on 4 September 2013 at the age 97, was the last of the 1,400 Canadian volunteers in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigades. He was born near Port Arthur, Ontario, and raised in nearby Thunder

Bay by his Finnish parents. He was captured during the war in Spain, saved from execution by an Italian officer and placed in a prisoner-of-war camp. During the Second World War Paivio trained soldiers in map-reading and surveying. He was a qualified architect and taught at Ryerson University. "To My Son In Spain", 42-minute documentary by Saku

*Continued overleaf*

## Camp in France is worth a visit



I was recently in the Basque Country for the wedding of one of my great nephews and visited Camp Gurs in south-west France. My wife's

father, Janos Gezar Posner, a Czech Brigader, was interned with many International Brigaders and Spanish people in the camp about 10 miles west of Pau.

If any of your members have not been, it is well worth a visit. The camp was ignored for many years and had a wood planted over it. Then in 2005 the local mayor set about creating an appropriate memorial for the Brigaders and their Spanish colleagues and for the Jews who were sent from there to Auschwitz.

The cemetery is well looked after and the site has excellent explanations (sadly only in French) of all the events and the chronology and layout of this huge site.

**Quentin Kopp**  
By email

## Safe keeping for signed book



Letter received by the IBMT enclosing a copy of William Rust's "Britons in Spain" (Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1939), signed by 11 International Brigade volunteers (left)...

Herewith a book I bought at a left-wing bookstall in Leicester market circa 1947-49.

The bookstall has long since gone.

I was working in engineering since being invalided from the army, in which I served in the Middle East, eventually taking part in the landings in Sicily in 1943, where I was wounded.

I spent my working life as an active trade unionist in the AEU, serving as branch secretary, delegate to the district committee and trades council and shop steward.

Now 92 years old, I want my book to have a good home. I'm sure it will now.

**Timothy K West**  
Leicester



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

Complete the form below and send subscriptions and any donations to:  
IBMT Membership Secretary, 2 Woodford Close, Radyr Way, Cardiff CF5 2PH

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

## Membership application form

Full name

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

Address

Postcode

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☐ Institutions – contact Membership Secretary (see above) for rates

Donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed\*

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\* Optional / If applicable

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

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## OBITUARIES

*From previous page*

Pinta that tells the story of Jules Paivio, can be viewed here: [http://vimeo.com/74249603].

### Gervasio Puerta

Gervasio Puerta García, one of the founder members of Spain's International Brigades friendship group, the AABI, died in Madrid on 15 August 2013 at the age of 92. The AABI was set up in 1995 and Gervasio became its vice-president. For 20 years until his death he was also the president of the APRPA association of anti-Francoist ex-prisoners. After serving in the Republican army during the Spanish Civil War, he returned clandestinely to Spain in 1943, but was arrested and twice imprisoned for his political views and activities: from 1946-50 and from 1961-65.

### George Sossenko



Russian-born George Sossenko, who died on 14 March 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia, aged 94, was living in Paris when the Spanish Civil War broke out. The 17-year-old was turned down by the International Brigades for

being under-age. So he travelled to Barcelona with a group of anarchists and joined the anarchist militia. In Spain he was known as Georges Jorat. He was posted to the Aragon front and returned to France in the summer of 1937 after his parents had tracked him down. During the Second World War he fought with the Free French. After the war he lived for a while in Argentina and Brazil before settling in the US, where he worked as an engineer for tyre-manufacturer Michelin.

### Also remembered...

The IBMT was saddened to learn of the deaths of two loyal members. **John Fletcher**, of Exmouth, who died on 19 October 2013, aged 65, was the son of Manchester volunteer George Fletcher and, through the IBMT, was reunited with half-sister Helen Cadman after 50 years (see *IBMT Newsletter* 3-2009). **Mary Park**, aged 83, of East Kilbride, died on 8 December 2013. She was the widow of Eric Park, nephew of Alexander Park, from Glasgow, killed in Aragon in March 1938, and, like the rest of the Park family, immensely proud of Alexander's service in Spain.

### ...and thanked

Posthumous thanks must go to **Jim Mortimer**, former General Secretary of the Labour Party, who left £250 to the IBMT in his will. Mortimer, who died on 23 April 2013, aged 92, was a lifelong admirer of the International Brigades. He was Labour's senior official from 1982 and 1985, having previously worked for the TUC and as a national officer of the draughtsmen's union and was chair of the conciliation service Acas from 1974 until 1981.

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

**International Brigade Memorial Trust**

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

Charity no: 1094928



# Ambulances to the rescue

**"Aristocrats, Adventurers and Ambulances: The British Ambulance Units in the Spanish Civil War"**  
by Linda Palfreeman (Sussex Academic Press, Brighton, 2013) £55 (hardback)\*

Reviewed by Tom Sibley



Readers of the *IBMT Newsletter* will be aware of Linda Palfreeman's "Salud! British Volunteers in the Republican Medical Service during the Spanish Civil War". That splendid work has now

been followed up by this highly recommended study of two separate initiatives – that of the Scottish Ambulance Unit (SAU) and the University Ambulance Unit (UUA). The former operated in Madrid; the latter set out for Málaga but, after the Francoists took the city, was active in Almería and Murcia.

The units were created by two remarkable men, Sir Daniel Macauley Stevenson (SAU) and Sir George Young (UUA). Both were wealthy philanthropists convinced that Spain's need was desperate and required crucial assistance, irrespective of race, religion or politics. Both units were separate from the Spanish Medical Aid Committee (SMAC) based in London, which mobilised medical volunteers to assist the Republican side.

The SAU sent its first team to Spain in September 1936. Its work was greatly appreciated by the Republican government and the Popular Army. On the occasion of Stevenson's 87th birthday (13 August 1938), Cipriano Mera and Feliciano Benito, Chief and Commissar respectively of the 4th Army Corps, sent a joint telegraph saying, "...we will never forget those days of February 1937 when the Scottish Ambulance Unit, led by the spirited Fernanda Jacobson, rescued from the clutches of death the Spanish soldiers wounded on the banks of the Jarama".

Not that the unit's history was one of unblemished service. In the first months of its involvement in Spain, five members were disciplined and sent home for looting activities. And at the end of March 1937 three members resigned, Len Crome, Roderick MacFarquhar and Morris Linden, citing various unchecked misdemeanours by member of the unit, including spreading anti-government propaganda.

Here the author presents evidence from both sides and concludes that the basic clash was between the desire of the resigners to give full support to the Republican side, while Jacobson was determined to maintain a position of even-handed neutrality, arguing that "there have been

*Continued overleaf*

© Estate of Fred Stein



**COVER PHOTO:** Gerda Taro and Robert Capa in Paris in 1935. Fred Stein's photo of the two young photographers who would soon go to Spain is on the cover of Jane Rogoyska's illustrated biography of Taro.

Her reputation as a ground-breaking war photographer long overshadowed by that of Robert Capa, Gerda Taro is the focus of a new book\* that powerfully asserts the importance of her work in the Spanish Civil War, writes Jim Jump.

Author Jane Rogoyska describes how Gerda Pohorylles, a young Jewish émigrée from Germany, met and fell in love with the Hungarian André Friedmann, another Jewish exile from fascism in Paris. They reinvented themselves as Gerda Taro and Robert Capa, penniless but politically committed photographers.

Taro was just 26 when she was killed on 25 July 1937 during the Battle of Brunete. Capa was heartbroken. Though her funeral in Paris saw thousands of mourners throng the streets and she became an instant hero of the left, her memory and legacy

## Visualising the war in Spain

were soon forgotten. Capa, however, became a legend for his work in Spain – and also in China and the Second World War.

Then, 70 years later, came the discovery in Mexico City of the "Mexican Suitcase". It contained thousands of negatives of photos taken in Spain by Taro, Capa and colleague David Seymour ("Chim"). Among them was a cache of previously unseen pictures taken by Taro at Brunete. But, most astonishingly of all, the newly discovered archive showed that many photographs that had been attributed to Capa were, in fact, the work of Taro.

Richly illustrated with Taro's

photos from Spain, including many rare ones, Rogoyska's book tells the story of Taro's short life and demonstrates her influence in shaping not just the way we visualise the war in Spain but the nature of war photography itself.

**\*\*"Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa" by Jane Rogoyska (Jonathan Cape, London, 2013) £35 (hardback).**

Jane Rogoyska is one of the speakers at the 2014 IBMT Len Crome Memorial Lecture in Manchester on 1 March. See advert on the inside front cover and page 26 for booking details.



**ILLUSTRATED:** Among the many photos taken by Gerda Taro that are featured in Jane Rogoyska's new book is (on right) one of Fred Copeman (right), commander of the British Battalion, and Claud Cockburn, *Daily Worker* correspondent. It was taken shortly before the photographer's death in July 1937.

Gerda Taro © ICP/Magnum Photos

## Ambulances to the rescue

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atrocities committed by both sides, and in any case, one Spaniard is as good as another". The author's scrupulous enumeration of the factors involved gives readers the basis for making their own judgements. Crome and MacFarquhar went on to play outstanding roles in the SMAC unit with the International Brigades.

The University Ambulance Unit left for Spain in February 1937. Arguing that the strategic centre of the war was moving south and that the wounded were "often being abandoned to die of exposure, gangrene or the more merciful bayonet", Sir George Young announced that he was establishing a unit with field ambulances, nurses and doctors based in Málaga to serve "both sides". The unit arrived as tens of thousands of refugees were fleeing Málaga and surrounding villages, as Franco's army advanced from the south. With the help of German battleships, the fascists bombed and shelled the coastal towns and roads as the refugees streamed north to Almería, where the unit established a children's hospital, and then on to Murcia.

By October 1937, Sir George had run out of funds and handed over the running and services of his hospital to the American Friends Service Council (US Quakers). On returning to Britain, he continued his work for Spain, speaking out against the British government's support for the non-intervention agreement. But there was one final contribution. As Palfreeman explains, this was his involvement in the desperate attempts to evacuate Spanish refugees during the final days of March 1939 in the terrible wake of Colonel Casado's failed plan for a negotiated peace settlement – which provoked a civil war within the civil war, as the anarchists continued, with renegade elements of the Republican army, to attack army loyalists supporting the Negrín government, thus effectively handing Madrid over to Franco.

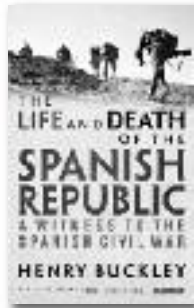
Young was a member of an international delegation to Spain, hoping to secure the safe evacuation of thousands of Republicans facing death or incarceration after Franco's victory. He was able to negotiate the evacuation of some 650 on a British cruiser. But due to the duplicity of Casado and the unwillingness of the British and French consulates to upset Franco, thousands were left unprotected to face Franco's barbarism. Sir George later became a member of the International Brigade Association, a forerunner of the IBMT.

**\*The IBMT has a small number of copies of this book for sale at the substantially reduced price of £27.50, including p&p, available on a first-come first-served basis. Only UK orders for single copies can be accepted. Send your name and address plus a cheque made out to the IBMT to: IBMT, 6 Stonells Road, London SW11 6HQ.**

Tom Sibley is the author, with Roger Seifert, of "Revolutionary Communist at Work: A Political Biography of Bert Ramelson" (Lawrence & Wishart, London, 2012).

## The inside story

**"The Life and Death of the Spanish Republic: A Witness to the Spanish Civil War" by Henry Buckley (IB Tauris, London, originally published 1940, new edition 2013) £20 (a £12.99 paperback version is planned)**



Reviewed by Richard Baxell

The reissue of Henry Buckley's long-lost memoir, "The Life and Death of the Spanish Republic", is an event which anyone interested in the Spanish Civil War should celebrate. Buckley's classic eye-witness

account of the eight years of the second Spanish Republic from 14 April 1931 to 31 March 1939 is, I think, one of the best accounts of the period penned by a Briton.

Knowledgeable, insightful and beautifully written, Buckley's memoir possesses a rare sense of immediacy that immerses the reader deep within Spain's turbulent 1930s. Spain is "a poor country with many rich people", struggling to cope with a difficult transition, where "new ideas, as well as motor-cars, raced along these fine broad roads which now intersected Spain". A devout Catholic, Buckley was nevertheless objective enough to recognise the Church's failings and its complicity in creating and supporting a deeply unequal society. In fact the text is astonishingly fair-minded and objective: while he became deeply sympathetic to the Republican cause (even toying with the idea of joining the International Brigades), he was not blind to its failings, arguing that the Republic needed not just to aspire to be good, but to actually raise the pitiful living standards of the poverty-stricken peasants "[who] still form[ed] the majority of the nation's population".

Unlike foreign correspondents who arrived at the outbreak of the civil war, Henry Buckley had been in Spain since 1929. He spoke the language fluently and knew the country well. He was acquainted with many of the key figures in the Republic, including La Pasionaria, Francisco Largo Caballero, Manuel Azaña and Juan Negrín. And his observations of many key figures are not written in the polite banalities of politicians and diplomats. For example, while Buckley has good things to say about many of the Republic's political and military leaders, especially Negrín and La Pasionaria, he is not always as enthusiastic about the socialist leaders Largo Caballero and Julián Besteiro.

There are occasional factual errors in Buckley's account, though surprisingly few when one remembers how deeply immersed in the situation the author must have been. And any errors are more than compensated for by the astute observations and intelligent, grounded analysis. The account of Largo Caballero's own contri-

bution to his fall from office in 1937 is one good example, as is Buckley's sorrowful analysis of the doomed attempts by the Western democracies to restrict the war to Spain's borders. Buckley fully understands the inevitable consequence of the French and British governments' determination not to come to the Republic's aid.

His eloquent account of the final dark days of the Spanish Republic and the dashing of the hopes of those fighting in support of the Republic are heart-rending. Yet, despite all, Buckley's conclusion is as clear as it is uplifting: "Their courage and efforts were not in vain. No sacrifice like that ever is" – a sentiment that, I suspect, many will feel is as true now as it was 75 years ago.

The paperback version of Richard Baxell's "Unlikely Warriors: The British in the Spanish Civil War" is published on 1 April by Aurum Press for £12.99.

## Complex Kopp

**"George Orwell's Commander in Spain: The Enigma of Georges Kopp" by Marc Wildemeersch (Thames River Press, London, 2013) £8.99**



Reviewed by Christopher Hall

Anyone who has read George Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia" or any major biography of Orwell will have come across several mentions of Georges Kopp. Unpicking the many facets of this

intriguing man has involved author Marc Wildemeersch in several years of investigation, including research both in British and European archives and interviews with members of the Kopp family.

Portrayed in this book we have an individual who served in the Spanish Civil War in the POUM militia, was imprisoned in Spain, served in the Second World War both in the regular French army, during which time he was wounded four times, and in the Resistance before finally moving to Britain, where he married into Orwell's wider family. If this was not enough we have a man who was a womaniser, spy, fraud, regularly in financial trouble, an inventor and possibly also the inspiration for a major character in Orwell's most famous book, "1984".

Georges Kopp is a complex figure and often lied and exaggerated about his life and career. For example, in Spain he claimed he had previous military experience and even Orwell believed this to be the case because of his bearing and natural authority. But Wildemeersch proves that in fact he had no previous military experience and this was never discovered. Maybe because of the inactivity on the Aragon front this was never seriously put to the test! The

*Continued on page 24*

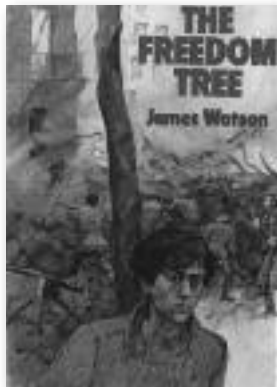


Two comments in the *IBMT Newsletter* (issue 1-2013) prompted me to write this article.

The first was an expression of concern about International Brigade memorials in the UK – their state of preservation and vulnerability to vandals. The second was the reference in Jim Jump's column to the late Jack Edwards's view that "the Spanish Civil War is so seldom taught in schools".

With regard to the first comment, as the author of "The Freedom Tree", a story for teenage readers, I would argue that while memorials are vital, so too is the printed word as a means of keeping vital history alive. There is a parallel: without due care and attention a book can suffer from oversight and neglect as much as a memorial in bronze or stone.

The link to education is easily made. "The Freedom Tree" has a long history, being first published by Victor Gollancz – a great friend of the left – as early as 1976. It later appeared in Fontana and Puffin paperback editions. Soon afterwards it was issued in Hungary, Denmark, Japan, Germany and eventually in Spanish. The *Birmingham Post* kindly called it a "superb book...alternately stark and lyrical".



When I attended the IBMT gathering in Jubilee Gardens in July 2013 I found that the novel was not entirely unknown or neglected. One man, I guessed in his thirties, had possessed a

# Memorials are not only made out of bronze and stone

paperback copy of the book. He remembered enough about it to point out that the cover of his edition differed from that on my leaflet advertising the book.

As a teacher for most of my working life I had felt the neglect suffered by those who volunteered so valiantly to fight in Spain on behalf of the struggling Republic. I was passionate to provide, in a dramatic and hard-hitting story, a picture of the experience of volunteers in the context of a Britain and France determinedly indifferent to the threat to democracy in Spain from the advance of fascism.

Young Will Viljoen leaves a recession-hit Britain with a group of volunteers, most of whom will never see British shores again. Combat in the winter trenches is followed by Will and his comrades entering the eye of the storm during the Battle of Jarama. There is not only Will but Molly, a nursing volunteer. They are captured. They escape, but it is a case of out of the fat and into the fire.

The climax of the novel is the bombing of Guernica. More than anything else, I wanted young readers to learn about, better still capture a glimpse of the experience itself, of the first

blitzkrieg in history. I would like to think that some time, somewhere, in a classroom in Britain or beyond, children's attention is not only drawn to Picasso's magnificent tribute to Guernica but to an equally passionate account of the atrocity in a little dog-eared paperback.

The freedom tree of the title is, of course, the freedom tree of the Basque people; a sacred oak that survived, along with all it stood for, everything the German Heinkels and Junkers could throw at it.

Amid the conflagration a helpless population had nothing to fight with but words; yet they were words of defiance that have resonated down the years: "Gora Euskadi Askatuta!" (Long live free a Basque Country) and "¡No Pasarán!" (They shall not pass). It was my hope in writing "The Freedom Tree" that the name Guernica, and La Pasionaria's inspiring call to arms, would be recognised by future generations of young people.

Of course while books are not exposed as memorials are to wind and weather, they too suffer, chiefly by being out of print. "The Freedom Tree" is long gone from the backlog of Collins and Penguin, but the good news is that digital publishing has offered fresh life and possibilities to old tales.

The novel is now available on Amazon Kindle. Considering that young people seem to prefer electronic devices to books, my account of a young man's experience as a British volunteer, may have a future.

James Watson is an author of novels for young adults and has written several novels with human rights themes, including "Talking in Whispers", set in Chile at the time of the overthrow of democracy by the military, along with "Ticket to Prague", "Justice of the Dagger", "Fair Game: The Steps of Odessa" and his latest novel, "Pigs Might Fly".

## Relief efforts on opposing sides

"Humanitarian Relief in the Spanish Civil War (1936-39)" by Gabriel Pretus (Edwin Mellen Press, Lampeter, 2013) £104.95



This tome of a book tells the story of what author Gabriel Pretus describes as "non-partisan humanitarian" relief, by international agencies during the Spanish Civil War, writes Tom Sibley.

Written from a Quaker perspective, it deals with the invaluable work of British and American Quakers, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Save the Children Fund (Britain) and the Save the Children International, twin to

the UK International Commission for the Assistance of Child Refugees in Spain. It is a thorough piece of descriptive work but often lacks both analytical and political insight.

In a generally supportive foreword, the distinguished historian Helen Graham concludes that this book "makes a pioneering contribution to an important but overlooked area of civil war studies, and is much to be welcomed".

This is a generous assessment of a work which will make an excellent reference source.

But, too often, in an attempt to be even-handed, the author bends over backwards to, in Graham's words, "present a favourable picture of the approach of the military rebels" in the management of humanitarian issues.

## International Brigade Sites in Central Madrid: the Spanish Civil War



**GUIDE:** The pocket guide to sites in Madrid associated with the International Brigades has now been published in English. Produced by the AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group, the guide can be purchased for €5 plus p&p from the AABI's website (see below). First published in Spanish in November 2012, the 80-page booklet comes with an A3 map of Madrid, with three walking and Metro routes around some 30 sites of historical interest in the centre of the city. Go to [www.brigadasinternacionales.org](http://www.brigadasinternacionales.org) and click on "Shop".

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author also looks at other questions, such as whether he was a communist spy, his links with MI5 and whether he had an affair with Orwell's wife Eileen Blair. What we do know is that Kopp's experiences in jail in Spain and his wounds in the Second World War cut short his life and he died from a blood clot at the age of 50.

This is a fascinating and well researched book and, as the author admits, could well have made a good novel. Wildemeersch, although sympathetic to the subject matter, gives a warts-and-all coverage of Kopp's life and includes the more unsavoury aspects of his personality as well as his undoubted bravery and anti-fascism. Kopp is one of the most mysterious figures in the Spanish Civil War. I strongly recommend this book, which is the first proper in-depth biography of Orwell's comrade in arms.

Christopher Hall is an IBMT Trustee and the author of "In Spain with Orwell: George Orwell and the Independent Labour Party Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939" (Tippermuir Books, Perth, 2013).

## One-sided justice

**"Shoot the Messenger? Spanish Democracy and the Crimes of Francoism: From the Pact of Silence to the Trial of Baltasar Garzón" by Francisco Espinosa-Maestre (Sussex Academic Press, Brighton, 2013) £25**

Reviewed by Jim Jump



The way that free elections and freedom of speech were restored in Spain following Franco's death in 1975 has been upheld as a template for other societies emerging from repression and dictatorship to copy. Yet *la transición española* is increasingly being questioned inside Spain, especially from the left. Critical voices have challenged the conventional narrative that depicts what happened as a top-down process facilitated by enlightened politicians and a modernising king. Street protests, strikes and popular campaigns also played their part in ensuring that diehard Francoists loosened their grip on power. And it was far from being a bloodless affair. Some 700 people died in political violence from 1975 to 1981, the year when a PSOE socialist government was elected and a coup attempt by reactionary elements of the armed forces was thwarted. With the exception of Romania, this is more than were killed in any of the Warsaw Pact countries of eastern Europe when they moved to democracy between 1989-91. Yet that process is invariably referred to as the cataclysmic "collapse of communism". Spain, by contrast, had a smooth-sounding "transition".

Doubts have also been expressed about the

**PORTRAITS:** Relatives of Franco-era victims demanded justice outside the Spanish parliament in Madrid last September. Their call for a Truth Commission came as the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances urged Spain to investigate what happened to thousands of people who went missing during the civil war and Franco dictatorship.



actual terms of *la transición* agreed between the Francoist establishment and the opposition. Chief among these is the 1977 amnesty law that exculpated political crimes during the Franco era and which underpinned the unofficial *pacto de silencio*. The result has been that the murders of tens of thousands of Republican supporters following the July 1936 military uprising, the violence and depredations inflicted on countless more and the ongoing torture and executions during 40 years of dictatorship have not been officially investigated, let alone properly recorded.

As one historian has pointed out, Spain is the only country in western Europe where it is possible to randomly dig a hole in the ground and run the risk of unearthing recent human remains.

The response to this state of affairs has been the emergence early this century of the movement for the recovery of historical memory. Essentially a loose amalgamation of families, local historians and grass roots political activists, the movement has set about cataloguing the crimes of Franco and exhuming the bodies of assassinated Republicans and giving them a proper burial. The process was afforded a measure of official blessing by the 2007 law of historical memory enacted by the last PSOE government. But it introduced largely symbolic gestures – including granting Spanish citizenship to International Brigade veterans and to Republican exiles and their families – and was met with huge disappointment by most of the movement's activists.

Historian Francisco Espinosa-Maestre has been a leading figure in this movement for the recovery of historical memory and is the author of several

books about the Francoist repression in the south of Spain. He was also an adviser to Judge Baltasar Garzón – famous in Britain for ordering the arrest of General Pinochet in London in 1998 – who, as a result of what Espinosa-Maestre calls in "Shoot the Messenger?" the "fiasco" of the 2007 law – announced in 2008 the opening of an investigation into the crimes of Francoism. Garzón argued that "crimes against humanity" could not be absolved by national laws. Indeed the United Nations Human Rights Committee has urged Spain to repeal the 1977 amnesty law on these grounds.

However, as Espinosa-Maestre recounts, Garzón's initiative faced immediate opposition, not only political but also, more tellingly, judicial. Lawsuits for malfeasance and abusing his powers were taken against the judge, including one for ordering the investigation into the crimes of Francoism. In 2012 the Supreme Court disqualified him for 11 years.

The infamous Garzón affair is one of 13 cases described in "Shoot the Messenger?" in which the Spanish judicial system has protected those implicated in Franco's crimes but has singularly failed to respect the dignity and memory of "the defeated". The cases range from the banning of the documentary film "Rocío" by Fernando Ruiz Vergara, because it named the person responsible for one of the massacres in south-west Spain, to the failure to prevent baseless slanders against Ámparo Barayón and her family; she was the wife of novelist Ramón Sender and was murdered in gaol in Zamora in 1936.

Then there is the case of Alfredo Grimaldos. He was convicted of tarnishing the memory of the Rosón brothers, from Lugo, by writing an article about their murderous activities in Galicia in the 1930s. The brothers both died in 1986, after high profile political careers that crossed over from the dictatorship and through the transition to democracy.

"This is precisely what could not be forgotten in Grimaldos's work," writes Espinosa-Maestre. "He had revealed the dark underside of the Transition and the dominant role played during that period by persons who had been openly involved in the military coup in July 1936 and in the fascist repression that followed."

The author concludes: "These lines of continuity are demonstrated by the Spanish judicial apparatus which decided against Grimaldos."

***"The Spanish judicial system has protected those implicated in Franco's crimes but has singularly failed to respect the dignity and memory of 'the defeated'."***



# Songs inspired by their stories

By Jim Jump

Joe Solo has in his time been a busker, barman, kerb counter, warehouse hand, copywriter and engineer. He has also been writing and recording original songs since 1987, including a series telling the forgotten stories of individual working men from his native Hull who lost their lives in the trenches of the First World War.

With his latest album he deploys his considerable talents as a songwriter and performer to celebrate the International Brigades and the fight to defend the Spanish Republic.

The CD is dedicated to the memory of all those who went to Spain from around the world. But three of them loom large: Jack Atkinson,

one of four men from Hull who died in Spain (he was killed in the Battle of Jarama in February 1937), Rotherham volunteer, lorry driver and political activist Tommy James, who died in 1971, and Penny Phelps (later Feivel), a nurse from north London who served in Spain.

The 11 tracks include “No Pasarán!”, a song about Atkinson, “Our Open Eyes”, which uses lines from Cecil Day Lewis’s poem “The Volunteer” and is inspired by the life of Tommy James, and “Blood Runs Red”, based on Penny Feivel’s story. Other songs reference the battles of Jarama and Brunete, and “Cemetery Walls” is about the massacre of Republicans in Málaga.

Now based in Scarborough, Solo explained to the *IBMT Newsletter*



that many of the details in the songs are lifted from James’s memoir “Rounded Earth”, along with information passed on by surviving relatives of Atkinson and James.

“There’s more in the album,” he adds, “a little of Penny Feivel’s story, the cemetery at San Rafael in Málaga, where 3,600 supporters of the Spanish Republic were murdered, and some pure fiction too. I hope I’ve done them justice.”

This is an emotionally-charged



collection of songs delivered in a modern folk style, with backing vocals and other instruments accompanying Joe Solo’s voice and guitar. The result is a worthy tribute to the volunteers who went to Spain.

To buy the CD for £5 go to [<http://joesolo.music.bandcamp.com>], where it can also be downloaded in MP3 format for £3. For more information about Joe Solo (pictured above), see [[www.joesolo.co.uk](http://www.joesolo.co.uk)].



**IN BOURNEMOUTH:** The cast of “iNo Pasarán!” in full voice.



**IN BARCELONA:** The Catalan production of “Goodbye Barcelona” opened on 24 September 2013 for an eight-week run at the Teatre del Raval in Barcelona to rave reviews and packed houses. The musical’s composers, Karl Lewkowicz and Judith Johnson, are hoping that this success will give renewed impetus to the possibility of other productions in Spain and elsewhere. The musical played for four weeks at the Arcola Theatre, London, in November and December 2011.

## Musical celebrates ‘heroism’ of the International Brigades

By Jim Jump

You wait years for a musical about the International Brigades, and then two arrive at the same time...

Hot on the heels of the success of “Goodbye Barcelona” comes “iNo Pasarán!”, staged at the De La Salle Theatre in Bournemouth from 15-19 October. With words by Roy Gaynor and music by Doug Gould, it tells the story of Patrick and Catherine, lovers who are separated by sectarianism in Ireland, but who are reunited in the Spanish Civil War. Patrick first joins the brigade of pro-Franco Irish Blueshirts, but then switches sides on witnessing fascist brutality and after Catherine – a volunteer for

the Spanish Republic – is captured by his unit.

More twists and turns ensue and the story – told through rousing songs and a narrator – ends where it began, in the 1980s, and with secrets from the war still to emerge.

The plot is implausible and ahistorical. And there is the occasional jolting lapse – the Francoists would never have scrawled anything resembling “Viva fascistas” (sic) on walls, nor raised a clenched fist; nor did the Republic turn into a “communist dictatorship” by the end of the civil war. But, overall, the lyrics and narration display a good grasp of the key themes of the conflict and the reasons why so many volunteered for the International Brigades.

Roy Gaynor first became interested in the subject matter after reading George Orwell’s “Homage to Catalonia”. He now hopes his musical – “a story of love, friendship and selflessness and the heroism of the Spanish people on both sides and of the volunteers of the International Brigades” – can reach new audiences at venues around the country.

A selection of some of the 38 songs in the production is available on a CD, though only one of the five, a medley of “No Pasarán”, “A Cause” and “Never Give Up”, features the more “political” songs. It costs £4 and can be ordered from [[www.no-pasaran-musical.com](http://www.no-pasaran-musical.com)], where there is more information about the musical.



### IBMT 2013 commemoration video

A 25-minute video by Marshall Mateer of the IBMT's 2013 annual commemoration in Jubilee Gardens, London, on 6 July is now on the IBMT-news channel on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/IBMTnews].

Along with speeches and orations, there are songs from the Catalans UK Choir and from Grace Petrie, including her own compositions "Tell me a Story" and "They Shall Not Pass!".

### Baxell and Preston on Orwell

Papers by historians Richard Baxell and Paul Preston on "George Orwell and the Spanish Civil War" for the 2013 Len Crome Memorial Lecture are now online on the IBMT's YouTube channel. Preston's contribution was read out in Manchester on 2 March by IBMT Secretary Jim Jump as Preston was unable to attend because of ill health. See [www.youtube.com/user/IBMTnews].

### Concert highlights



Highlights of the Concert for the International Brigades held at the municipal auditorium in Logroño, capital of the Rioja region of northern Spain, on 30 April 2013 are now available to view online. See [http://youtu.be/\_fUkKboRzoo]. Co-sponsored by the IBMT, the concert featured musicians who played

at the IBMT's annual commemoration in London's Jubilee Gardens in July 2012.

Made by Sonovisión Centro Electrónico, the film runs for nearly 21 minutes and includes, following introductory speeches, performances by Paco Marín, Ewan McLennan and Na-mara.

### Ireland links

Dublin IBMT member Luke O'Riordan has posted a 1971 Irish TV programme – see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qv4fUulSuQ8] – on his late grandfather, Irish International Brigader Michael O'Riordan (1917-2006). He has also posted – see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9B8cz8prbY] – a recording of his mother and IBMT activist Annette O'Riordan (1953-2013) singing "Pulling Hard Against the Stream" on 25 January 2002 at the "Tribute to Mick O'Riordan" concert organised by IBMT Patron Christy Moore in Dublin.

These postings also provide a link – see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTGZXL2syQ] – to the address by Luke's father, IBMT Ireland Secretary Manus O'Riordan, in Liberty Hall, Dublin, at the celebration of the life of International Brigader Bob Doyle (1916-2009) on 14 February 2009.

**1 February BELFAST:** Annual General Meeting of Belfast-based International Brigade Commemoration Committee; from 10.15am at Shankill Library, 298-300 Shankill Road, BT13 2BN; programme includes unveiling of plaque to local volunteers and talk by Connal Parr (Queen's University) on Protestant radicalism; for more information contact IBCC Secretary: 07751951785.

**9 February MANCHESTER:** Annual rededication of memorial to North West volunteers in Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square, M2 5DE; 11.30am-12.30pm; more information: Charles Jepson, tel: 01254-51302, email: [clarioncc@yahoo.co.uk].

**21-23 February MADRID:** 7th annual commemoration of Battle of Jarama; includes guided tour on Friday of British Battalion positions and evening event with guest speakers; on Saturday a tour of sites linked to the French, German and Italian battalions plus lunch at Morata de Tajuña; on Sunday, a choice of walking tour of University City battle sites or coach trip to Tarancón to visit former IB hospital and memorial to Scottish volunteers; contact Danny Payne [danpayne40@yahoo.co.uk] or IBMT Secretary, tel: 020-7228 6504; for information on trip to Tarancón contact Mike Arnott: [dundeetuc@gmail.com] tel: 07951443 656.

**1 March MANCHESTER:** IBMT's annual Len Crome Memorial Lecture, "Taking Sides: Artists and Writers on the Spanish Civil War"; see caption and photos of speakers above; 11am-5pm; Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, M1 3BB; conference fee £10 (or £12 on the day), £25 with coffee and buffet lunch, £45 with coffee, buffet lunch and evening meal from 6pm-9pm; pre-booking for catering options essential by 1 February; payments to: IBMT Treasurer, Aysgaard, Beardwood Brow, Blackburn BB2 7AT; contact Hilary Jones or Dolores Long for more information: [hilary.m.jones@btinternet.com] tel: 0161-224 1747; [doloreslong@fastmail.fm] tel: 0161-226 2013.

**13 April LONDON:** Screening of "The Mexican Suitcase" about the "lost" Spanish Civil War photos of Robert Capa, Gerda Taro and David Seymour; 11am, followed by Q&A with a panel including Professor Paul Preston; organised by the London Socialist Film Cooperative; Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way, W1T 5DL; more information: [http://socialistfilm.blogspot.co.uk].

**30 May–1 June HAMBURG:** Weekend of events organised by IBMT sister group in Germany, KFSR, including harbour tour of sites of anti-fascist resistance and visit to graves of International Brigaders; for more information



**SPEAKERS:** Talks are to be given at the IBMT's Len Crome Memorial Lecture (1 March) by (clockwise from top left) Carl-Henrik Bjerstrom (whose research at Royal Holloway, London University, centres on the cultural politics of the left in Spain in the 1930s), Dr Carmen Herrero (principal lecturer on Spanish culture and film at Manchester Metropolitan University), Professor Paul Preston (Director of the LSE's Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies and author of numerous books on the Spanish Civil War, including "We Saw Spain Die: Foreign Correspondents in the Spanish Civil War") and Jane Rogoyska (writer, filmmaker and author of "Gerda Taro: Inventing Robert Capa"). The event will be chaired by Professor Mary Vincent of Sheffield University.

contact: [brigadistas@arcor.de]; tel: +49 (0)40-616 484.

**28 June BRUNETE:** Annual walk around Brunete battlefield organised by AABI Spanish International Brigades friendship group; see [www.brigadasinternacionales.org] for more information.

**5 July LONDON:** Annual IBMT commemoration at International Brigade Memorial in Jubilee Gardens, SE1; assemble 12.30pm for 1pm; followed by social from 2.30pm at Camel & Artichoke, 121 Lower Marsh St, SE1 7AE; contact IBMT Secretary (see page 10) for more details.

**6 September OXFORD:** IBMT's Annual General Meeting at 2.30pm at Ruskin College, Dunstan Rd, Old Headington, OX3 9BZ; more details and programme of events to be announced; to book b&b accommodation (limited availability) at Ruskin for £54 per night (en suite) or £42 per night (standard) email: [nprint@ruskin.ac.uk].

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

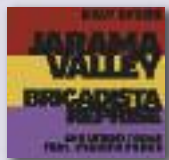


Ruskin College, Oxford: venue for this year's IBMT Annual General Meeting. See 6 September listing above.



# IBMT merchandise

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



## CD single

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



## Antifascistas

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



## Poems from Spain

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



## Looking Back at the Spanish Civil War

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



## ¡Salud!

British Volunteers in the Republican Medical Service during the Spanish Civil War, by Linda Palfreman (paperback). £12 plus £3.99 p&p



## IBMT badge

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



## Wristband

Stretchy rubber wristband in Spanish Republican colours and embossed with "IBMT" and "antifascistas". £2.50 plus £2.99 p&p



## 75th anniversary plate

A limited edition of 75 plates (individually numbered) made in the UK from finest bone china. Each plate (26cm diameter) has a copy of the medal given to International Brigade members along with a list of major battles. £30 plus £4.99 p&p



## Connolly Column t-shirt

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



## British Battalion t-shirt

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



## Tom Mann Centuria t-shirt

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



## Jarama 75th anniversary poster

A3 poster specially designed for the IBMT by Simon Hawkesworth of Fold Design to mark the 75th anniversary of the British Battalion's first and most bloody battle. With first two verses of "Jarama Valley". £2 plus £2.99 p&p



## IBMT greetings card

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



## IBMT Orwell poster

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

Send orders, including your name and address, a size and colour where appropriate, and a cheque payable to the IBMT to: IBMT Merchandise, 286 Brantingham Road, Manchester M21 0QU.

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

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



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

Photo: Jim Thatcher

● Saturday 5 July 2014

● International Brigade Memorial  
Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, London SE1

● Assemble 12.30pm

● Guest performers and speakers

● Social gathering from 2.30pm in Camel  
& Artichoke, 121 Lower Marsh St,  
London SE1 7AE

Commemorate and celebrate the anti-fascist  
**INTERNATIONAL  
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