



Volunteers in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade from the Pittsburgh Area



1. **Robert Garland Colodny** (1915-1997) was born in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1936, after having been expelled from Columbia University for refusing to take certain courses, Colodny became a chemistry student at the University of Chicago; there he expressly sought out recruiters for the International Brigades. In February 1937, Colodny sailed for Spain on the *Ile de France*. By late summer, he had been shot between the eyes, contracted gangrene of the brain, and was expected to die. But he recovered, and, though bandaged, weak and blind in one eye, was sent back to a front in the Aragon Mountains. It was not long before he was stricken with a high fever, however, and in March 1938, Colodny was granted permission to leave Spain on a sealed train to Paris. He sailed for the U.S. in April, partially paralyzed and blinded on the left side.



Despite his health history, Colodny joined the U.S. Army in 1941, and served for four years, stationed in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska in Army Intelligence alongside fellow-sergeant Dashiell Hammett. With Hammett, Colodny produced a Company newsletter, *The Adakian*, designed to boost troop morale, and co-authored a book commissioned by the Army, *The Battle of the Aleutians*; they also co-wrote and broadcast a radio program.

Colodny earned his doctorate in history and philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley in 1950. His Masters Thesis on the Spanish Civil War was later published as *The Struggle for Madrid* (1958). In 1959, Colodny joined the history faculty of the University of Pittsburgh. Two years later, Pennsylvania State Representative John T. Walsh accused Colodny of being a Communist sympathizer for having made a statement supporting the Cuban revolution. This was one of the last anti-Communist investigations in the nation's history. His career in jeopardy, Colodny fought a year-long battle to clear his name. In addition to his appearances before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), where he was cleared after stating that he had been misquoted on Cuba and denying membership in the Communist Party, Colodny underwent a separate investigation by the University of Pittsburgh. Ultimately Chancellor Edward Litchfield stood behind Colodny, declaring the University's strong commitment to protecting academic freedom. Colodny taught at the University of Pittsburgh until his retirement in 1984.

Colodny remained politically involved with progressive causes, including the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, throughout his life. His expertise in the many aspects of the history of science led to his activism for a number of environmental causes. Colodny was a member of VALB, regularly contributing to the group's publication, *The Volunteer*, and dedicating his energy especially to preserving the memory and lessons of the Spanish Civil War. He also served on VALB's historical preservation committee. In addition to his voluminous scientific writing and book reviewing, Colodny wrote and lectured extensively on the political implications of the Spanish Civil War. He also edited, consulted and contributed to many book, radio, film, and television projects on the subject, including work on *Death in the Olive Groves: The Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War* by Arthur Landis; and *Prisoners of the Good Fight* by Carl Geiser.

Colodny passed away from colon cancer in 1997.

Publications on the Spanish Civil War include:

1. *Spain: The Glory and the Tragedy* (New York: Humanities Press, 1970)
2. *Spain and Vietnam: The Fight for Freedom* (New York: Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, 1967)
3. *The Struggle for Madrid: The Central Epic of the Spanish Conflict, 1936-37* (New York: Paine-Whitman, 1958)

2. **Frank Carl Costanzo** (1912-1937/8) was a waiter and union member from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In early 1937, at the age of 25, Costanzo went to Spain to join the International Brigades, supporting the Loyalist cause in the Spanish Civil War. He hid the information that he had joined the war effort from his parents.

After attending Officers Training School (OTS), where he studied Spanish and military skills, Costanzo joined the staff of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion, and went with them into heavy action, fighting on at least four fronts. After spending time in a hospital with a sprained ankle, he returned to the front. Costanzo died in Spain in December 1937 or early 1938. He left behind a wife, Ida S. Costanzo and a son, Stan.

3. **Thomas Bleddyn Cynfyn** ("Jack") was born on November 22, 1899, in Carean, South Wales. He completed school up until the 5th grade, and he later served in the British Army during the First World War (first with the Coldstream Guards and later with the Welsh Guards). In 1923, Jack moved to the United States, where he found work as a Steel worker and a Coal miner. One year later, in '24, he joined the Young Communist League. The address he provided upon registering with the Communist Party in 1928 was located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He volunteered to fight in Spain in the Spring of '37. In Spain, he served with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battallion (Co. 1) of the XV Brigade, and later with the 3rd Battallion (Co. 1) of the 129th Brigade. He saw action at Fuentes de Ebro, Teruel, Seguro de los Baños, Híjar, Alcañiz, Caspe, Pino Blanco, Pino Mareo and Manzaurego. After leaving Spain, he was held in a French concentration camp. He attempted to return to the United States, but, unable to obtain re-entry papers, he returned to Wales instead.



4. **Benjamin Franklin Findley** was born on March 6, 1908, in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. He attended Indiana University for 2 years and was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma. Afterwards, Findley found work as a mechanic and electrician. He joined the Communist Party in 1933 and became a section organizer. Findley sailed to Europe aboard the *Georgic* in April of 1937, and he arrived to Spain in early May. In Spain, he served with the Machine Gun Company of the Lincoln-Washington Battalion (XV Brigade). Findley returned to the U.S. on December 15, 1938, aboard the *Paris*. Some years later, in April of 1944, toward the end of World War II, Findley enlisted in the United States Armed Forces.



5. **Herman Louis Glickman** (a.k.a Jim Stone) was born on December 28, 1911 to a Jewish family in Nasielsk, Poland. He came to the United States (year unknown), and went on to find work as a topographer, draftsman and surveyor. A passport he received in March of 1937 listed one address as 923 Vick St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and another in Cleveland, Ohio. Glickman sailed to Europe on April 5, 1937, aboard the *Britannic*, and he arrived in Spain on April 22nd. Glickman returned to the United States in February of 1939 aboard the *President Harding*. He went on to served in the US Armed Forces during World War II.
6. **Martin Joseph Grumet** (a.k.a. Jerome) was born on October 31, 1914, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to a Jewish family. He joined the Communist Party in either 1932 or '33, listing his occupation as auto mechanic. A passport he received in 1937 listed an address for him in Detroit, Michigan.

Grumet arrived to Spain on August 5, 1937, and he returned to the United States on October 25, 1938 aboard the *Ile de France*. Grumet passed away in May of 1986.

7. **Stanley Anthony Heinricher** was born on January 16, 1915, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Heinricher attended a Catholic High School through the 11th grade. Afterwards, he found work as a seaman and a steel worker. A passport he received in November of 1937 listed his address as 5571 Camelia St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Heinricher arrived to Spain in late 1937, and he served as a soldier with the Lincoln-Washington Battalion of the XV Brigade. Heinricher was reported missing in action near Gandesa. It turned out that he was captured by the enemy some time between March 30 and April 10, 1938. He was exchanged on April 22, 1939, and he returned to the U.S. aboard the *Ile de France* in May of the year. Heinricher would go on to serve as a Sergeant Major with the US Armed Forces (252nd Combat Engineer Battalion, Europe) during the Second World War. Heinricher passed away on October 7, 1990, in Rockledge, Florida.
8. **Jullius Anault Hene** (a.k.a. Heeney; Herne; Heine) was born on May 13, 1908, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hene went graduated from Cornell University in 1929, and he went on to get his Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Vienna in 1935. Hene joined the Communist Party one year before receiving his doctorate (1934). By the time Hene left to Spain in May of 1937, he was already married and working as a doctor in New York City. In Spain, Hene served as a doctor with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the XV Brigade. During the Ebro Offensive, Hene was with the Brigade, serving with the rank of Lieutenant. Hene returned to the U.S. aboard the *Paris* on November 2, 1938. He went on to join in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Second World War, and he was killed in action.



9. **James Lincoln Holt Peck** was an aviator who served as a pilot in the air force of Republican Spain. Peck was born in Stoops Ferry, Pennsylvania, on September 8, 1912. At a time when there were less than a handful of African-American pilots in the United States, Peck obtained a commercial pilot's license and studied at the University of Pittsburgh for two years. Despite his education and flying experience, Peck's applications to the U.S. Air Corps and Navy flying schools were rejected. Unable to support himself as a pilot, Peck worked for a time as a professional musician and as an elevator operator in New York. Peck joined the Communist Party in 1937. On August 11, 1937, Peck along with Paul Williams, another Black pilot, left for Europe aboard the *Queen Mary*. Once in Spain, they were integrated into the Spanish Air Ministry rather than being organized into a separate international unit. Peck was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Republican Army Air Force of

Spain. Williams and Peck were sent to Valencia for an intensive refresher and ground training courses. Neither pilot, however, was allowed to fly in Spain. The completion of their training coincided with the arrival of Spanish pilots who had been trained in Russia and France. Consequently, all international pilots were summarily withdrawn. Williams and Peck agreed to act as ground crew at a coastal base. Both men were repatriated along with the other international volunteers in December 1937. Following his return, Peck made appearances and gave lectures at American Legion Posts in New York and Pittsburgh; he also wrote stories about his experiences in Spain for *Harper's*, *Popular Aviation*, *Scientific American*, and other magazines, and authored two

books on aviation, *Armies with Wings* and *So You're Going to Fly*. During World War II, Peck served in the Merchant Marine. He died in San Diego in May 1996.

10. **John Kossert** was born on May 16, 1906. When he joined the Communist Party in 1935 he listed his occupation as “cook” and his marital status as “single.” A passport he received in San Francisco on September 1, 1937, listed his address as 103 Westhall St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He sailed to Europe aboard the *Berengaria* on September 11, 1937, and he arrived to Spain on September 25. In Spain, Kossert served as a Soldier in the Lincoln-Washington Battalion of the XV Brigade. He was reported missing in action during the retreats.



11. **Ernest Kozlowski** (Koslowski) was born on March 13, 1908 in Prosser, Washington. He attended high school up until his sophomore year, and later he found work as a lumber worker and Driver. Kozlowski joined the Communist Party in 1934. A passport he was issued in San Francisco in 1937 lists two addresses for him: one in Aberdeen, Washington and the other in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Kozlowski traveled to Europe aboard the *Normandie* in May of 1937, and he crossed into Spain in early June. In Spain, Kozlowski served as a scout in the 15th Brigade. He was later repatriated to the United States (reasons unknown), and he returned to Spain in the Spring of 1938, where he re-joined the 15th Brigade as a Corporal. Kozlowski returned to the U.S. on December 15, 1938 aboard the *Paris*. He later joined the US Armed Forces (77th Division, 307th Infantry Regiment, Co. G) with the rank Private First Class. He was killed in action on December 4, 1944 in Leyte, Philippines Islands.

12. **Sam Markowitz** was born on January 31, 1917 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The fifth of six children, he was born to a Jewish family that came to the United States from Romania. Markowitz was working as a Draftsman and Seaman when he joined the Communist Party in September of 1937. A passport he received in August of the following year listed his address as 73 Reed St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Markowitz arrived to Spain on August 31, 1938, and he served in the Lincoln-Washington Battalion (Company 3). He was killed the following month near Sierra Caballs; some accounts say he was killed in action, while others have it that he was captured and executed.



13. **Andrew Mitchell** was born on December 27, 1902. When he volunteered to join the International Brigades, he was working as a driver in Pittsburgh. His address was listed in 1937 as 17 Elmore St., Pittsburgh. Mitchell departed for Europe, on the *Berengaria*, on July 21, 1937. In Spain, after attending officer training school, Mitchell was assigned to one of the battalions of the XV Brigade on the Aragon Front. While at the front he became ill and was evacuated to Murcia. After he recovered Mitchell served as the Adjutant commander of a training company. When the front broke during the initial stages of the Retreats, Mitchell led a company to the front. He was killed between March 30 and April 2, 1938, during the retreat from Gandesa.

14. **Steve Nelson** was born Stjepan Mesaroš in the small farming village of Subocka, Croatia in 1903. By age eight Nelson had been trained by his grandfather to operate and repair the family-run mill. He received only five years of formal education. Following World War I, Nelson along with his mother and three sisters immigrated to the United States and joined an extended family of uncles, aunts, and cousins in an ethnically diverse, working-class neighborhood of Philadelphia.



His first job was in a local slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. There followed a succession of blue-collar jobs—laboring in machine shops, auto plants and metal works. In time Nelson found work as a carpenter, a trade that would sustain him throughout his life. Workers in the shops who introduced him to socialist ideology and writings initiated his political education. Impressed by the Communist Party's efforts to organize trade unions and improve the lot of workers, Nelson joined the Young Workers League (later called the Young Communist League) in 1923. He soon began working as a union organizer distributing shop newspapers and visiting the coal region of Pennsylvania to meet fellow Croatians who were laboring in the hazardous anthracite mines.

He moved to Pittsburgh in search of work and there met Margaret Yaeger, the woman who was to become his wife. Yaeger came from a family rooted in radical labor politics. As a young girl Yaeger took part in the 1916 Pittsburgh Westinghouse strike, distributing lemonade to the striking workers, and as a high school student she organized a Marxist study group. Nelson and Yaeger met in the office of the local Communist Party where she worked as a typist. Diffident and self-conscious of his accented English and limited verbal ability, Nelson developed his language skills with Yaeger's encouragement and at her prompting began to assume more leadership responsibilities within the Party.

The two married and moved to Detroit in 1925. Nelson found employment in the auto industry as an assembly line worker and union organizer. In 1928 the couple moved to New York City where Nelson studied Marxist theory and history at the New York Workers' School. With the onset of the Great Depression, the Nelsons were on the move again working full time for the Party. They organized the unemployed in Chicago and coal miners in Southern Illinois, before returning to the coalfields of Eastern Pennsylvania. These years were marked by rapid growth within the Communist Party and over the next two decades Nelson's career as party leader advanced with the Party's fortunes.

In 1931 the couple was sent to Moscow and Nelson spent two years at the Lenin School studying Party doctrine and serving as a courier for the Communist International (Comintern) delivering documents and funds to the Communist parties in Germany, Switzerland and China. In 1933 they returned to the United States, settling in Wilkes-Barre, and Nelson resumed activist work among the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania.

With the outbreak of war in Spain, the Comintern recruited thousands of international volunteers to fight against Franco's Fascist uprising and in 1937 Nelson joined these forces. He embarked from New York on the *Queen Mary* in March and traveled to Spain via France. Near the Spanish border, he and two-dozen fellow volunteers were detained and imprisoned in Perpignan by French authorities for violating their travel visas by attempting to cross the French border into Spain. France, like the United States and their European allies, had pledged neutrality in the Spanish Civil War and banned all travel to the riven nation. Released after serving a three-week sentence, Nelson and the other men made their way over the Pyrenees Mountains to join the International Brigades.

Nelson served as a political commissar in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, mustering morale and politically educating recruits. Oliver Law—considered the first African-American to command an integrated military unit and Nelson's former activist colleague from Chicago—served as the unit's commander. At the end of July, during the Brunete offensive, the Lincolns came under heavy attack and Law was mortally wounded, leaving Nelson in command of the Battalion. On the basis of his performance at Brunete, Nelson was promoted to Political Commissar of the XV Brigade. In this capacity he was present at the battles of Quinto and Belchite. In the latter conflict he was wounded and, after a period of convalescence, was recalled to the United States by U.S. Communist Party leader Earl Browder to report on Spain at the Party's National Committee meeting held in New York City in November 1937. From there he spent the next months on a national speaking tour raising funds on behalf of the Loyalists.

During the 1940s, Nelson rose to the top ranks of the Communist Party. He was assigned to the West Coast as a party organizer and later served as the chairman of the San Francisco branch. It was during these years that the Nelsons' children, Josephine and Robert, were born. With his election to the Party's National Board the family returned east, and, within a few years, settled in Pittsburgh when Nelson was appointed District Secretary of Western Pennsylvania.

With the advent of the McCarthy era, Nelson's prominence within the Party made him a target of rising anti-communist reaction. In August 1950, following a raid on the Pittsburgh Party headquarters, Nelson and two local party leaders were arrested and charged under the 1919 Pennsylvania Sedition Act for attempting to overthrow the state and federal government. Fearful of being tainted by charges of communism, no local attorney would accept the case, and Nelson was forced to serve as his own counsel. With professional FBI informant Matt Cvetic serving as witness for the prosecution, the case drew widespread media attention. Nelson was convicted, fined \$10,000, and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

After serving seven months in the Allegheny County Prison, he was released on \$20,000 bail pending his appeal. Concurrent with the Pennsylvania Sedition case, Nelson and five co-defendants were indicted in 1953 under the Federal Smith Act. All six men were found guilty and each sentenced to 5 years and fined \$10,000. Nelson and the others were granted bail pending their appeals. In the intervening period Nelson wrote about his experiences in Spain (*The Volunteers*) and his Pennsylvania sedition trial and imprisonment (*The Thirteenth Juror*). The modest proceeds from both books and contributions from friends and organizations helped sustain him and his family during these years.

In 1956 in *Pennsylvania v. Nelson*, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Pennsylvania Sedition Act. The court ruled that the enactment of the Federal Smith Act superseded the enforceability of the Pennsylvania Sedition Act and all similar state laws. In the same year, the Supreme Court granted Nelson and the other five defendants in the Smith Act case a new trial on the grounds that testimony had been perjured in the earlier case. By the beginning of 1957 the government decided to drop all charges, bringing six years of legal battles to an end. In 1957 Nelson left the Communist Party following Khrushchev's revelations of the atrocities that occurred under Stalin's regime. His withdrawal from the Party cost him friendships that had been forged over long years. Disenfranchised from the organization that had formed the nucleus of his professional and personal life and made notorious by the protracted sedition trials, Nelson was unable to secure steady employment. With his family he left Pittsburgh and moved to New York, where he spent the next years trying to eke out a living as a carpenter and a cabinetmaker.

In 1963 Nelson became the National Commander of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (VALB), an organization established during the Spanish Civil War to aid returning veterans and promote the ongoing fight against fascism. For the next forty years he guided the organization through an era of activism. Among the achievements of these years was the removal of VALB from the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations and the advancement of aid to political prisoners in Spain. VALB also took part in protests against the Vietnam War and provided aid to the

Sandinistas in Nicaragua in the form of ambulances and medical assistance. In 1975 VALB helped to establish the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) in order to preserve and advance the history of American participation in the Spanish Civil War. In 1978, two years after Franco's death, Nelson in the company of his fellow veterans, returned to Spain for the first time in 40 years.

With his wife, he retired to a home that he had built in Truro, Cape Cod in 1975 and in 1981 he published his autobiography, *Steve Nelson: American Radical*. In the final decade of his life he remained committed to VALB, participating in educational programs that took him to high schools and universities to lecture on the contributions of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and their fight against fascism. On December 11, 1993, Steve Nelson died. He was 90 years old.

15. **Charlie Nusser** was born on September 12, 1914 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended South Hills High School (Pittsburgh) before joining the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a public work relief program, at Camp Penna. Later, he worked as a union organizer, and he joined the Communist Party. He left Pittsburgh for Spain in early 1937, arriving in the war-torn country on February 14th of the same year. In Spain, he served with the Lincoln Battalion of the XV Brigade, seeing action in Jarama (arriving on February 26) and Brunete. Afterwards, he served as an Adjutant and, later, as Commander of the First Company of the Lincoln-Washington Battalion. He was wounded in action for a second time (details on the first incident are unknown) at Belchite. Nusser returned to the US on October 17, 1937, aboard the *De Grasse*. Nusser did not turn in his passport upon his return to the US, and he used it to try to go back to Spain for a second time, but he was turned back in Paris. He returned to the US yet again on March 26, 1938 aboard the *President Roosevelt*. Nusser joined the US Army during World War II. He passed away on November 10, 1993 in New York City, and his ashes were spread in Spain.



16. **Andrew George Pape** (a.k.a. Andrew Johnston) was born on August 8, 1914, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He listed his professions as a mechanic and a student when he joined the Communist Party (either in November of 1934 or October of 1936). He set sail for Europe aboard the *Lafayette* in early 1937, and he arrived to Spain on January 20, 1937. In Spain, he served as a Soldier first with the Lincoln Battalion and later with the Lincoln-Washington Battalion, seeing action at Jarama and Brunete. Pape was wounded in action on July 17, 1937 (shrapnel wounds), and he spent the next six months in a Republican hospital. After recovering and returning to his Battalion, Pape was reported missing in action near Gandesa on April 1, 1938, during the Retreats.



17. **John Williams Parks** (a.k.a. William Lewis Banks) was a textile worker and union organizer who served for 3.5 years in the U.S. military before volunteering to join the fight in Spain. Parks was of Native American descent, and he joined the Communist Party in 1930. A passport he received in July of 1936 listed his address as 256 North Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Parks sailed to Europe on January 5, 1937, aboard the *Champlain*. In Spain, Parks served as Commissar to Co. 2 of the Lincoln Battalion of the XV Brigade. He was killed in action on February 16, 1937 near Jarama, when the truck he was on took a wrong turn and strayed into Nationalist lines.

18. **John Rody** (a.k.a. Ivan Rodi) was born on July 10, 1916, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He finished high school and went on to become a Seaman. Rody visited the Soviet Union in 1930. Back in the U.S., he joined the Youth Communist League (YCL) and, later, the Communist



Party in 1932. Rody sailed to Europe aboard the President *Roosevelt* in March of 1937, and he arrived to Spain on May 25th. He served with the Lincoln Battalion and then Lincoln-Washington Battalion, and he was later transferred to the Auto Park in Albacete, where he worked as a Mechanic. Rody later attended and graduated from Officer Training School (OTS) on February 16, 1938. He went on to serve at Brunete, Aragon and the Ebro Offensive. Rody returned to the U.S. aboard the *Ausonia* on December 20, 1938, and he went on to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Second World War.

19. **William Charles Sanborn** (a.k.a. “Blacky”) was born on March 7, 1902, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was part Native-American and possibly part Jewish. Sanborn worked as a seaman, and he spent five years in the US Navy before joining the Communist Part in 1937. A passport he received the same year listed three addresses for him: one in Washington D.C., one in Philadelphia, and the last one in Pittsburgh (2533 S. 15th St.). Sanborn arrived in Spain on September 18, 1937, where he served with the XV Brigade. He either fell seriously ill or was wounded in action, and he returned to the U.S. on August 4, 1938, aboard the *Manhattan*.



20. **Anne Shuldiner Goldman**, one of 86 registered nurses from the United States who served in the American Medical Bureau, died peacefully on April 1, 2004, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she had lived since 1997. Anne graduated from the Beth Israel School of Nursing in New York in 1936 and headed Out-Patient Services there until she joined the AMB, providing direct medical care and civilian training in Spain. She served in Albacete and on the Cordoba Front in Belalcázar with the 86th mixed brigade, where she worked in both frontline and

rearguard hospitals. She described the frontline hospital as “remarkable and fantastic,” the rearguard hospital as “modern.”

In a 1990 interview she said, “We slept in tents. We had round-the-clock duty with the patients after they had had surgery. The patients were in a ward, half sunk into the earth and covered with a camouflaged tarpaulin... the hardest part, I thought, was for the people who had to select who was to be the next patient. It was up to us to evaluate the condition of the patient in terms of whose best interest would be served by having surgical intervention... The process of selecting patients came very hard for me. That didn’t mean I didn’t do it... We worked day and night. We made the most of our supplies. And, it is to our credit that we did what was acceptable for 1937, out in the fields, and so many of our patients did not suffer.”

She traveled as many as 90 miles to buy drugs. In Belalcázar she trained Spanish civilians to assist in operating the hospitals as aides and practical nurses. On her return to the United States in November 1937, Anne embarked on a speaking tour to fund-raise and do public relations for the Loyalist cause. She worked with the NYC Board of Health and later returned to her job at Beth Israel. From 1953 to 1980, she directed the Practical Nurse Training Program of the New Orleans Public Schools, one of the largest such programs in America, educating thousands of women and men.

Her husband Benjamin, Executive Director of the N.O. Jewish Federation, died in 1955. Their two children, Robert Goldman of NYC and Eleanor Hershberg of Pittsburgh, both became social workers. Anne Goldman completed her B.A. with honors in history at age 57 at the University of New Orleans. She was active in the Urban League, the League of Women Voters, the National League for Nursing, the civil rights movement, and many organizations in the New Orleans and Florida Jewish communities. She retired to Deerfield Beach, FL, to be near her two sisters and brother, becoming involved in VALB and the Nuclear Freeze Movement there.

(Biography courtesy of Eleanor Hershberg)



21. **Joseph Harry Steinberg** (a.k.a. Fred Gruff) was born on July 17, 1913 in what is now Poland, and his family (father, mother and one brother) moved to the United States from Putalsk, Russia, in 1917. He completed high school, and went on to become a printer and office clerk. Steinberg joined the Young Communist League (YCL) in 1933. A passport he received in early 1937 lists his address as 212 Covington St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Steinberg sailed to Europe aboard the *Aquitania* in January of 1937, and he arrived in Spain early the following month. In Spain, Steinberg served with the Lincoln Battalion (XV Brigade), and he was wounded in action near Jarama on February 27 of that same year. Steinberg returned to the U.S. on March 9, 1938, aboard the *Paris*. Back in the U.S., he returned to Pittsburgh and found work as a teacher. The U.S. Armed Forces rejected him due to his wounds in

Spain, so he enlisted in the Merchant Marine. Steinberg was killed in action on May 26, 1942, on the Murmansk run when his ship, the freighter *Syros*, was torpedoed and sank.

22. **Ralph Thornton** was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 20, 1902. In 1934 he joined the Communist Party and was a pressman by trade, when he volunteered to serve in Spain. Thornton left for Europe aboard the Rotterdam on April 10, 1937. At the end of September 1937, following his distinguished service in the battle of Quinto, Thornton was transferred to the Brigade staff. Later he was appointed clerk for the Commissariat in the U.S. Section at the Albacete Headquarters of the International Brigades. He returned from Spain, aboard the *Ausonia*, on December 20, 1938. He lived in Pittsburgh until his death in February of 1984.



23. **Leo Edward Walsh** was born on February 16, 1904, in Braddock, Pennsylvania. He completed school up until the 5th grade, and later spent one year in the US Navy. When he joined the Communist Party in 1931, he listed his occupation as "machinist" and his marital status as "single." Walsh sailed to Europe aboard the *Aquitania* on June 2, 1937, and he arrived to Spain on June 22nd. In Spain, he served with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the XV Brigade before being sent to the hospital on March 13, 1938. He returned to the United States on June 18, 1938 as a work-away aboard the *President Roosevelt*. Walsh passed away in November of 1971.



24. **Paul Elisha Williams** was an African-American pilot in the Spanish Air Force during the Spanish Civil War. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1909. After he graduated from high school, Williams attended Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh. As a student he worked at the Pittsburgh railroad yards. He later transferred to the Ohio School of Aeronautical Engineering and subsequently obtained work as a pilot flying for the Ohio Aero Company. Williams was the only Black pilot working in the Ohio area at that time. Later, with three partners, he formed a company to design and manufacture a light bomber plane to sell to the government. The venture failed because they were unable to compete with the larger companies. During this period Williams also worked as a test pilot and taught aeronautics to Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers at Patterson Field in Dayton. In September 1936 Williams began to build another plane of his own design, the WX21. Williams was a

member of the Communist Party and departed for Europe, along with James Lincoln Holt Peck, aboard the *Queen Mary*, on August 11, 1937. Williams and Peck were sent to Valencia for an intensive refresher and ground training courses. Neither pilot was allowed to fly in Spain. The completion their training coincided with the arrival of Spanish pilots who had been trained in Russia and France. Consequently all international pilots were summarily withdrawn. Williams and Peck agreed to act as ground crew at a coastal base. Williams and Peck left Europe aboard the *Aquitania* in December of 1937. After returning to the U.S., Williams participated in the activities of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and during World War II he served in the Merchant Marine.