

The Volunteer

"...and that government of the people,
by the people, and for the people,
shall not perish from the earth."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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MONUMENTAL!



Madison Dedicates Memorial to the Volunteers for Liberty

By Daniel Czitrom

Brilliant sunshine, balmy autumn weather, a magnificent setting on Lake Mendota, an enthusiastic crowd of 300 people, and the presence of nine Lincoln Brigade veterans from around the nation—all these helped turn the dedication of the nation's second memorial to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, in Madison, Wisconsin on October 31, into a joyful celebration. The two hour program combined elements of a political rally, family reunion,

Veteran Clarence Kailin at the Madison Memorial dedication reminding spectators of the Lincolns' ongoing commitment to social justice and the importance of preserving historical memory.

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Letters to ALBA

Sept 11th, 1999

Comrades,

I cannot stomach the publication of that fucking wishy-washy Office resolution on Kosovo, while [some] boast of the “democratic” vote that endorsed it. What the hell was democratic about the procedure when only that resolution was put up for voting? No discussion, no amendments, no counter, or other proposal submitted? Hell, I’m not hung up on Robert’s Rules of Order, and maybe such were not violated by the Office; what I’m talking about is the image, the reputation of VALB—what are we, followers of Mahatma Ghandi, or are we Anti-fascist soldados in the Good Fight?

Nothing has been truly resolved in the Balkans, and won’t nearly be so long as Milosevic remains in Belgrade; the dumbest thing, matched only by the VALB resolution, was the giving Milosevic thirty days to leave made by the opposition when as evidenced by their one huge protest demonstration they could have hung the cuno by his neck, a la Mussolini style.

So what I am sending along is the resolution I proposed, along with my reasons for doing so. I certainly don’t expect the Volunteer to run all of it, if any at all . . . but I’ll feel better knowing I made the attempt.

I believe it is up to the Serbian people to get it right: to get rid of Slobodan and his nationalist zealots in whatever way possible, the sooner the better. The Serbs, not just their present leaders, have to make atonement for cheering the rabid nationalists on; for, in fact, allowing themselves to become accomplices. To assume that isolating a few in the leadership will produce a long lasting peace in the Balkans is to reaffirm a belief in the Tooth Fairy’s potency.

As for the Kosovars, it seems from the limited amount of information I have they were in the main more or less content with, or accepting of their situation as it was, ante bellum, so to speak, and that the KLA separatists had won relatively few supporters among the general population. Perhaps there should be an international law similar to the Hate Crimes Law now in effect in the USA that would facilitate the trial and possible conviction of nationalist groups such as the ETA, the KLA, and others of that sort, who preach, and/or resort to violence to press their claims for statehood.

I guess the main point I want to make in adding this post script is that I was in no way influenced by the World Court’s decision to indict S. Milosevic; my thoughts on the matter, and my suggestion for a resolution different than the one VALB proposes, reflects my long-standing take on the situation addressed. . . for the record, you might say.

So let me propose a Resolution, with balls:

Slobodan must go, cost what it may cost. The KLA must be disarmed and disbanded. The Serbs must withdraw all military personnel, leave in place civil servants. Negotiations yes-but not with the same cast of characters

who screwed up when there was still time for a peaceful solution—negotiations moderated by Netherland arbiters.

I know there are some 60 vets, and maybe you as well, who will say, “But what about the people getting killed?” Good question. What about ‘em? They voted Slobodan in; they stood by him and his comrades re Croatia and Bosnia, they cheered him on in Kosovo . . . and now they are the ones who can turn everything around . . . can kick the power-hungry ex-aparatchik bums out . . . and turn the lights on again. What they need is a little help to get ‘em moving, and it seems to me there is no other way to get ‘em going without a push . . . and I can’t think of another way to push than spraying the homeland with a bit of reality . . . can you?

Salud

Milt Wolff

My uncle Reino Tanttila was killed in Spain in 1936. Did anyone know him? How he was injured and in what battle? What hospital he died in? Where he may be buried? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Margaret Tanttila

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ALBA in Chicago

“Shouts” Reverberate in Chicago As Thousands Attend Cultural Events

By **Marta Nicholas** (with material from Charles and Yolanda Hall, Brian Peterlinz, Muriel Goodfriend and Phyllis Higgins)

“Shouts From the Wall” literally reverberated around the city of Chicago this summer as ALBA’s poster exhibit inspired a tremendous outpouring of cultural activities in a variety of venues. Sponsored by the Chicago Public Library at the Harold Washington Library Center and the Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade, companion programs erupted like mushrooms in the city’s major institutions, bringing a gratifyingly large number of Spanish Civil War-related presentations to a variety of audiences. The opening reception drew 250 people, who heard African-American congressional Representative Danny Davis (7th District) speak of the political awareness and activism of the Negroes of that time. He noted that in his last official act before his untimely death, Mayor Harold Washington (Chicago’s first African-American mayor, for whom the library was named) declared November 21, 1987, to be “Oliver Law and Abraham Lincoln Brigade Day” on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the International Brigade. Chicagoan Law, a Commander of the Lincoln Brigade, was the first African-American to ever lead a racially integrated military unit.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Studs Terkel, narrator of the film “The Good Fight,” gave a spirited discourse on the historical significance of the

brigadistas being at the forefront in the fight against fascism. When he brought the six Chicago-area vets to the stage, they received lengthy, ardent applause. The program was further enriched by poems of Edwin Rolfe, movingly read by playwright Peter Glazer, and songs from “Pasionés,” stirringly performed by Jamie O’Reilly and Michael Smith. The exhibit drew compliments to the Library staff for mounting “Shouts” so handsomely. During the two months of the exhibition, it was seen by over 8000 people. Visitors ranged from those who knew almost nothing about the Spanish Civil War when they entered the exhibit to extremely knowledgeable scholars.

Enthusiastic audiences enjoyed several programs at the HW Library complementing the visual materials, including the complete version of the powerful presentation “Pasionés: Songs of the Spanish Civil War,” gallery talks by vets and other members of the Chicago Friends, and a showing of “The Good Fight.” Exhibit co-curator Cary Nelson’s slide lecture “Painting and Writing While Bombs Are Falling: Art and Literature during the Spanish Civil War” drew an audience of 125. A lively discussion followed his exposition of how the artistic techniques and the symbolism used in the posters dramatically conveyed ideas on so many issues—from timely specifics (such as land reform) through transcendent concerns of the human condition.

It was heartening to note the wide age-range of the attendees at these and earlier events (the Capa exhibit at



the Terra Museum, Robeson programs, the Hemingway Centennial in Oak Park, and San Pedro vets reunion events at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago). There definitely are young people interested in the issues, the actions, the implications of those crucial years. One of the focuses of the CFLB is to encourage more such awareness and interest.

CFLB’s interest in outreach into the Hispanic communities resulted in “The Good Fight” being shown in several

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A distant relative of the late vet Ed Balchowsky is interested in learning more about him. If you have any stories, please contact Jeff Balch, 1703 Cleveland St., Evanston, IL 60202-2003 email jbalch@ripco.com phone 847/864-9468.

Chicago events

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PHOTOS SUSAN STALL



Brian Peterlinz,
CFLB Co Chair

branch libraries in Latino neighborhoods as a part of Latin American Heritage month. CFLB presenters Brian Peterlinz, Nancy Mikelsons, Henry Garcia, and Chuck Hall

reported vigorous discussions following the showings.

The highlight of events was an incredible week of classroom discussions and cultural programs that took place at one of the important educational institutions in the city, Northeastern Illinois University. For eight days, under the theme "Americans in Spain, The International Brigades—Retelling the Story," several score NEIU faculty and more than 700 students (plus interested members of the public) participated in a series of 18 sessions discussing and debating issues related to the War. Topics included "The Lincoln Brigade—Allies and Enemies," "Women's Voices During the Spanish Civil War," "Picasso, Guernica and the War Years," "Poems of Spanish Resistance," "Langston Hughes: Recording the Voices of Anti-Colonialism in the International Brigade," "Latin American Participation in the International Brigade," "U.S. Intellectuals and the Spanish Civil War," "Revitalizing Commitment—What History Can Teach Our Youth Today."

The latter topic was expanded upon in an invigorating session led by 84-year-old vet Abe Osheroff. Introduced by 34-year-old teacher Brian Peterlinz (who is co-chair of CFLB), Osheroff talked about how his decision to go to Spain fit into a lifetime of radical humanism, and how today's generation can make their own choices to work for progress and for freedom. He emphasized the

importance of the students' role as teachers of a new generation. Following the presentation, the students were all keen to speak with him personally. Later, in a university-wide meeting of several hundred students, "Talking Across Generations—The Legacy of The Abraham Lincoln Brigade," Osheroff showed his film "Dreams and Nightmares" and responded to pointed questions from a panel of student leaders from the Student Council and other campus organizations about the commitment personified in the Lincoln Brigade. The audience was deeply moved by the sincerity of the student inquiries and their observations about the challenges facing today's young people.

The NEIU Planning Committee, co-chaired by Professor Susan Stall of the Sociology Department with Provost Estela Lopez as Honorary Chair of the week's events, received the plaudits of University President



Chuck Hall, CFLB Co-Chair, congratulates Dame Libby Komaiko on the performance of Ensemble Español

Dr. Salme Steinberg. CFLB is proud to have co-sponsored this fabulous program, which culminated in a special program by Ensemble Español, NEIU's Spanish Dance Theater, led by Dame Libby Komaiko.

Titled "The Passions of Spain: The Untold Story," the outstanding dance presentation was performed to an overflow crowd. A moving introduction by Professor Angelina Pedrosa brought a tremendous ovation as VALB members Chuck Hall and Aaron Hilkevitch brought greetings from the Chicago Friends of the

Lincoln Brigade and thanked the faculty and students for the remarkable week of activities. Retelling the story of the International Brigades, Hall observed, was also a tribute to the heroic Spanish people who were the first to resist the fascists at a crucial time in history.

Other events in the city include the University of Chicago's campus film society, Doc Films, presenting a 10-week series of films (both English-language and subtitled Spanish-language) relating to the SCW; it will continue through the end of November. CFLB is cooperating with organizers Frederick Whiting and Mario Santana to provide some speakers for the regular-series films.

CFLB is also working with the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel to present the musical program "Pasiones" in the Chapel in February, marking African-American History Month with special material

honoring Commander Oliver Law and the other Negro volunteers from Chicago's South Side.

Michele Gibbs, daughter of vet Ted Gibbs (deceased) and a poet and visual artist resident in Mexico, opened the Hispanic Heritage Month events at Northwestern University, in a program called "Remembering the

Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, and the Volunteers from the Americas: The Story of the International Brigades."

For the first time ever, The Institute for Learning in Retirement of Northwestern University is offering "The Spanish Civil War," examining the historical importance of the SCW: art, literature and film of the conflict and its aftermath, as well as political and military history. Under the leadership of Ed Holmgren and Alex Hilkevitch, the course will emphasize the singular importance of the international character of the war. ■

Pinochet on Trial

By Gabriel Jackson

I am writing this article five days after Judge Ronald Bartle of the Bow Street Magistrate's Court in London announced his decision that General Augusto Pinochet can be extradited to Spain to face a general charge of conspiracy to torture, specific allegations of torture against 34 individual Chileans, plus some 1198 cases of "disappearance." I trust that readers of *The Volunteer* know that Pinochet overthrew the legally elected government of the Socialist President Salvador Allende in September, 1973, that he ruled as dictator until March, 1990, that his regime was aided by the CIA and by Nobel Peace Laureate Henry Kissinger, that his forces killed, or caused to "disappear," some 3000 persons, that they tortured and/or forced into exile some tens of thousands of other political "enemies," that the price of his "retirement" in 1990 was the imposition of a constitution which guaranteed that there would be no investigations or charges against him and his collaborators, and that he would be named a lifetime senator in the restored civilian regime.

Pinochet's arrest in England last year raises important questions about the role of Spain and on the international human rights implications of the judicial actions taken by Spanish and British courts. In the late 1980s, two Spanish investigative magistrates, Balthasar Garzón and Manuel García Castellón, began to investigate the deaths and "disappearances" of numerous Spanish citizens who had been victims both of the Argentine dictatorship of General Videla and the Chilean dictatorship of General Pinochet. The post-dictatorial, constitutionally elected governments of those countries did not interfere with the Spanish magistrates interviewing of witnesses and collection of documents, but neither did they recognize any legal right of Spanish authorities to prefer charges against members of their military or police forces. Since the Spanish executive also gave no

encouragement to these investigations, all three governments could comfortably assume that the labors of Garzón and García Castellón would have no practical consequences.

But in the fall of 1998 General Pinochet went to London for medical treatment. Judge Garzón saw an opportunity to apply international law. He sent a 300-page list of formal accusations of kidnappings, tortures, assassinations, and "disappearances," all of which crimes had been defined in numerous United Nations documents since the Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and all of which—with slight technical differences—had been ratified by both Spain and Great Britain and had been adopted in their respective national legal codes. In October 1998, a British court issued a warrant for the ex-dictator's arrest. Six weeks later, the House of Lords, act-

case is of course inevitably and intensely political. For the Labor Government, which is following largely conservative economic policies, it is especially necessary to show its commitments to human rights and not be complicit in legal maneuvers that would free a murderous dictator from all accountability for his crimes.

The Spanish government represents conservative voters, many of whom supported General Franco and the great majority of whom wish to see the Popular Party and the Aznar government internationally recognized as a fully civilian, democratic regime. But its two highest prosecutors, Jesus Cardenal and Eduardo Fungairiño, have both defended the Videla and Pinochet dictatorships as "temporary" derogations of the constitutional order made necessary by "revolutionary disorders." They are

The Chilean government has been understandably worried about the possible reactions of its own military establishment.

ing as the highest judicial body in the realm, denied the General's claim of immunity as a former head of state. The ensuing year has been occupied by numerous legal maneuvers centering on the questions of whether Spain—and several other countries, notably France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Austria—can claim jurisdiction over his alleged crimes against their citizens, and whether England should honor the Spanish request for his extradition to Spain. Judge Bartle's decision, announced on October 8, 1999, confirms the Spanish request for extradition, and will doubtless be followed by efforts of Pinochet's lawyers to overturn the decision and to insist that the general's state of health is too delicate for him to stand trial.

The governments of The United Kingdom, Spain, and Chile have all reiterated that they fully respect the independence of their own, and each other's, judicial authorities, but the

themselves happy products of the Franco era and they have never hidden their distaste for the likes of magistrates Garzón and García Castellón.

The Chilean government has been understandably worried about the possible reactions of its own military establishment, and it bitterly resents what it sees as an attack on Chilean sovereignty. In addition, it is a matter of living memory for all politically conscious Spaniards and Chileans that Spain never investigated, much less punished, the many violations of human rights committed by the Franco regime. The dictator died in bed, and one of the understood conditions of the transition to democracy was that the Spanish torturers who had served him would be left in peace.

In July 1999, when it became fully clear to Chile that the British might

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Augusto Pinochet, with other members of the Chilean military junta in Santiago on September 11, 1975, during the celebrations for the second anniversary of the coup against the Allende government.

Pinochet

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indeed approve the extradition of Pinochet, President Frei asked the Aznar government whether it would agree to a non-judicial bi-lateral solution. The Spanish reaction was ambiguous and confused. Simultaneously the Madrid government told Chile that it could not interfere with a judicial procedure that had been in motion for many months, but that perhaps a way could be found to transfer the whole question to the International Court at the Hague, or that perhaps some less complex, time-consuming method could be found. Chilean diplomats accused the Spaniards of hinting at their anti-extradition sentiments and at possible undefined solutions while not really accepting either the bi-lateral proposal or the transfer to the Hague court.

The Aznar government also asked

the Socialist Party whether they would join in a consensus solution. The socialists indicated that they would not do anything to undermine the extradition process. The Aznar government, desperate to hide its own internal divisions, then blamed the socialists for refusing a consensus (which had never been clearly defined).

A few days before the Bartle decision, Spain's Foreign Ministry sent two functionaries to London to indicate to the British Foreign Office that Spain would not appeal the decision if it went against the Garzon request for extradition. The British flatly rejected the attempt clandestinely to undermine the judiciary. Spain then publicly claimed that it had no intention of interfering with Magistrate Garzón's conduct of the extradition process.

The most important aspect of this whole affair is the fact that, whether or not Pinochet is eventually extradited and tried, the international laws of

the last few decades, aimed at protecting human rights across all national borders, are for the first time being seriously applied. Torture, assassination, and "disappearance" of political opponents can no longer be swept under the rug by claims of national sovereignty, self-granted amnesties and immunities by blood-stained dictators. As I write, Chilean judges are actively investigating some of Pinochet's collaborators, and are announcing plans to interrogate the General himself, in England or in Spain or in Chile. Perhaps the example of Magistrates Garzón and García Castellón will also lead to greater international judicial activity against other known butchers. A final point which moved me particularly as a historian of Spain: The present work of the two Spanish judges stands in the honorable tradition of the handful of 16th century Spanish justices who insisted on the human rights of His Majesty's Indian subjects. ▀

New Alba Exhibit Receives Grant from Puffin Foundation

By Tony Geist

In August 1999 Gladys and Perry Rosenstein, directors of the Puffin Foundation, gave ALBA a substantial donation to begin work on a new traveling exhibition titled "They Still Draw Pictures." The show will display a selection of wartime drawings done in 1937-38 by Spanish Republican children in the "Colonias Infantiles" and that are now held by the Herbert Southworth Collection of Spanish Civil War materials at the University of California, San Diego.

The Children's Colonies were set up in southern France and in the relative safety of Republican controlled eastern Spain, from Barcelona down to Alicante, to handle the massive influx of refugees from the war zones. Historians estimate that some 600,000 civilians, among them 200,000 children, fled from Franco's forces.

The government faced the problem of how to care for the refugees, and were particularly concerned with the children, many of whom were orphans. Others had been separated from their families or sent for safety to the east. They had the option of housing refugee children with foster families, themselves already strained by war shortages, or creating special group homes. The Republic favored group homes.

At the time children's welfare workers in Europe and the US were engaged precisely in this debate. Virginia Malbin, one of five young women from the American Social

Workers Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, spent several months in Spain in 1937 studying the Children's Colonies, and wrote a detailed two-

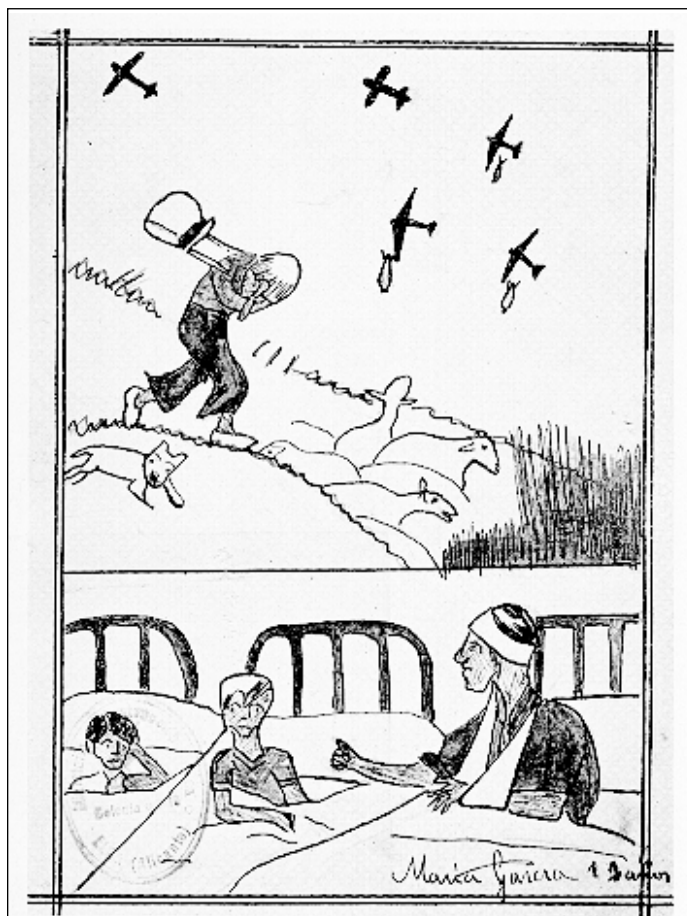
theme in the literature and iconography of the war. The great Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wrote of the blood of children running in the streets, and

Cesar Vallejo, from Peru, cast Spain as a mother and teacher, exhorting the children of the world to aid her. A number of posters in ALBA's "Shouts from the Wall" exhibit feature children as victims of fascist terror, and Robert Capa captured the poignancy of children forced into exile.

The drawings differ significantly from these other artistic responses. For the first time in modern history, children depicted their own suffering. Rather than objects and themes, they become subjects who participate in the representation of their experience of the war. The drawings from the Children's Colonies have an aura of authenticity and directness that adult artists do not seem able to achieve. Children's drawings from the Spanish Children's Colonies have only been displayed twice before in the US: in New York and Boston, in 1938; and at the Columbia University library in 1986.

ALBA's exhibit, curated by Tony Geist and Peter Carroll, will feature some 75

drawings by Spanish refugee children, and perhaps another 35 from later wars: the Holocaust, Southeast Asia, the Balkans, the Middle East, Africa, etc. "They Still Draw Pictures" is slated to open in New York in the Fall of 2001 at a major venue, still to be determined. ■



Manuel Garcia, 12 years old. From a hospital cot, Manuel recalls his flight from enemy planes. Covering his eyes to shut out the sight of falling bombs, he runs with dogs and sheep as frightened as himself. Children's Colony, 10 Alicante, from *They Still Draw Pictures*.

part article for *Social Work Today* describing the Spanish solution to the refugee problem.

One of the most remarkable things to emerge from the Children's Colonies were thousands of drawings in which the children represented the effects of the war on them. Children's suffering, of course, was a major

From the ALBA Archives

New Material On Vladimir Copic, Commander of the XVth Brigade

By John Kraljic

Vladimir Copic's life presents a number of enigmas. The roots of his Croatian nationalism, his turn to Communism, his role in Spain and, finally, his execution have all raised questions among those who have studied his life. He was born in 1891 to a Serbian Orthodox father and Croatian Catholic mother in the Croatian coastal town of Senj (then part of Austria-Hungary) and along with his brother Milan (who also served in Spain) he was raised in the Orthodox faith (while his sisters were raised as Catholics). He first developed his singing talents, which were often commented upon later in his life, in the local orthodox church choir. However, despite his mixed ethnic background, Copic became a fierce Croatian nationalist, joining a radical movement known as Young Croatia. Indeed, a number of his close friends in Senj's gymnasium and at Zagreb's law school later became prominent leaders of the fascist Ustashe movement which ruled part of Croatia as an Axis satellite during World War II. Copic, however, along with a number of his colleagues, changed their political faith following the Russian Revolution.

For Copic, this occurred while he was in a Russian POW camp where, he later wrote, he discovered in Communism the best means to secure

Bibliographical Note. There is no biography concerning Copic available in English. The major works concerning him which appeared in the former Yugoslavia include Ivan Ocak's *Vojnik revolucije: Zivot I rad Vladimira Copica*, Zagreb, 1980; *Zivot I djelo Vladimira Copica*, Rijeka, 1978, which contains materials presented at a symposium concerning Copic in Senj in 1976; and a number of articles which appeared in *Senjski zbornik*, an annual publication of Senj's Museum.

the true liberation of his homeland. Following his return to the newly-formed Yugoslav state, Copic became a member of the Central Committee of the forerunner of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY) in 1919. He later won a seat to Yugoslavia's Constituent Assembly becoming head of the Assembly's, Communist Club.



Vladimir Copic, from *Aura of the Cause*

After the Yugoslav government banned the CPY, the regime brought Copic to trial a number of times for his political work, the last trial occurring in 1925 after Copic returned from Moscow as a delegate to the Comintern's III Congress. Though sentenced to prison, Copic, through the intervention of several friends, obtained a transfer to a hospital from where he escaped and returned to the USSR. After Copic attended the International Lenin School, the Comintern sent him to Prague as its representative to the Czechoslovak Communist Party (CPC). Copic became a member of the CPY's Politburo in 1932, but he came into conflict with the CPY's Secretary, Milan Gorkic, who engineered Copic's removal from both the Politburo and the Central Committee in late 1936. By January 1937 Copic was in Spain, where he was initially named commissar of the XVth Brigade, becoming the Brigade's commander on February 27, 1937.

Copic had problems with a number of Americans in the Brigade. Among other things, he has been criticized for ordering the American attack at Jarama, though, in fairness, it is difficult to assign sole blame to Copic since it appears that Copic's superior, General Gal, pressed him to order the American advance. Copic also ran into conflicts with certain American officers, including Robert Merriman, Allan Johnson and Harry Haywood. Mirko Markovic, a Serbian-American who served as commander of the Lincoln-Washington Battalion for a short period, claimed that many of these conflicts had their roots in the belief of some American officers (initially supported by Ernest Hemingway) that an American should lead the XVth Brigade. Copic further faced trouble with the Brigade's French-Belgique Battalion and its commander, Gabriele Fore, due to what Copic regarded as the Battalion's indiscipline.

Milan Gorkic reported on Copic's apparent lack of popularity to Moscow in May 1937. Writing from Paris to the CPY's delegate at the Comintern, Gorkic quoted from a report of the CPY's representative in Spain, Blagoje Parovic (who later died as commissar of the XIIIth Brigade), which noted that "they are not satisfied with Copic here. He especially has [no tact] with people and his staff. . . . He is too administrative. . . . I will attempt as much as I can to correct and support him." Copic's position was further complicated by his command over the Dimitrov Battalion in which many Yugoslavs served. Gorkic had expressed concern that Copic's

John P. Kraljic is an attorney practicing in New York. He is currently researching the role of Croatian and Serbian American and Canadian volunteers in Spain.

anger at his removal from the Politburo would lead to factionalism in the Battalion. But Copic, at least initially, avoided superfluous contact with his compatriots to a point where some volunteers believed him to be from Czechoslovakia.

While his personality was not to the liking of many, Copic nevertheless received praise from some of his colleagues. Vljako Begovic, a Bosnian Serb who served on Copic's staff, remarked favorably on Copic's great organizational talents, noting that he often personally inspected the trenches and placed his post near the front lines (probably as a result of which he suffered minor wounds in July 1937). He also appears to have had excellent relations with the U.S. commissar David Doran. Moreover, despite his problems with the U.S. volunteers, Copic often expressed great respect for them in his war diary. In battle, Copic successfully led the Brigade in a number of actions, though he received much blame for the failure at Fuentes de Ebro in October 1937. Copic, however, believed the criticism to be misplaced.

He insisted that the failure stemmed from poor planning of the campaign by his superiors. Copic remained in charge of the Brigade until June 1938 when he was recalled to Moscow. Though it is possible that his recall may have been caused by the failure at Fuentes de Ebro, more likely it was related to changes in the CPY's leadership. In mid-1937 Gorkic had been removed from his post and disappeared in the Gulag. Though Josip Broz Tito took over Gorkic's responsibilities, he was not to receive Comintern confirmation in his new post as CPY General Secretary until 1939. The resulting power vacuum raised Copic's hopes that he would be reinstated in the CPY's leadership. Indeed, during 1937 Tito had already written to Georgi Dimitrov urging Copic's recall into the higher echelons of the Party. Copic returned to Moscow, via Paris, in September 1938, where he began to collaborate with Tito on a new Croatian translation of the Short Course of the History of the All-Union Communist Party

Extract from Vladimir Copic's Report on the Operations of the XVth Brigade in the Sector of Batea-Calaceite-Gandesa Between March 30th and April 2, 1938

"On the night of March 30-31, I received an order from the division commander to deploy the 58th Battalion to the vicinity of Cuadret in order to establish contact with a battalion from the XIth Brigade which was carrying out its operation north of the valley in Cuadret and a battalion operating in the Vallbona area. The Lincoln Battalion carried out this task with great success.

An attempt by the enemy forces to penetrate our sector was blocked, we took several prisoners and, with great initiative, we established contact with those battalions of the XIth Brigade. Political Commissar Blank of the XIth Brigade greatly appreciated the operation we carried out on the night of March 31st. He said that the Lincoln Battalion was better than some of his own units and envied our success.

The Lincoln Battalion remained at this position the entire day of March 31st up until 16:00 hours of April 1st, when we were ordered by the divisional commanding officer to retreat because enemy forces had already taken positions at Pobla de Masaluca, Mudefes and Horta. As we were starting our retreat movement, we learned that the Batea-Gandesa road and the road to Villalba de los Arcos had already been cut off by the enemy forces. The Lincoln Battalion was surrounded and sustained an enemy attack. As a result of this attack, we lost about 450 of our personnel, who were either killed, wounded, captured or reported missing in action. The Political Commissar,

(Bolshevik). But he was soon arrested and condemned to death by a Soviet Military Collegium on April 19, 1939.

Posthumously, the CPY expelled Copic and a number of other former leaders (including Copic's nemesis, Gorkic) from its ranks. The Soviets rehabilitated Copic close to twenty years later, on June 10, 1958. An appraisal of Copic's work in Spain would inevitably lead to polemics between his supporters and detrac-

Comrade Doran, who was serving at the time with the battalion staff, was killed. Our brigade Chief of Staff was captured. About 100 of our soldiers fought through the enemy lines and reached the Ebro. Some of them had been on the move from ten to fourteen days."

Extract from Copic's Summary of the Operations:

"The commanders of the 57th and 58th Battalions demonstrated their ability rather well, with a minor exception (Lt. Richardson of the 57th Battalion)...

At the same time there were many soldiers and officers who performed exceptionally well. Among the best, I would name Captain Fletcher, acting commander of the English Battalion; Captain Wolff, commander of the Lincoln Battalion, and his Political Commissar, Gates; commanding officer Dunbar and several others.

Regarding our losses, it will be noticed that many are designated as "desaparacidos." Mainly, those men (especially in the 57th and 58th Battalions) were either killed or captured, but we could not determine their fate with certainty.

May 9, 1938

[Signed] V. Copic, commanding officer of the XVth Brigade ■

Translated from the Russian by Alexander Gribanov and Victor Berch.

tors. However, there is no question that his role in Spain represented only one aspect of his thirty years of struggle against existing authority. His role as commander of the XVth Brigade made his name known throughout the world through the newspaper reports of such writers as George Seldes. His subsequent execution cannot be logically explained but remains a tragedy which befell many volunteers following their service in Spain. ■

German Vets Gather in Berlin

Nearly a dozen Spanish war veterans from Germany, Poland, Austria, Israel, and Bosnia met in Berlin in September to endorse activities to preserve the anti-fascist heritage of the International Brigades. Spurred by the Homage reunion in 1996, friends of the IBs organized "Friends and Relatives of the Fighters for the Spanish Republic, 1936-1939" to keep alive the spirit of the German volunteers who fought against the Nazis in Spain.

"Tens of thousands of people from 50 countries going to Spain voluntarily, risking and often losing their lives to help the people of Spain and stop the fascists from more murdering and marauding—that has surely happened only once in history," said one middle-aged participant at the meeting.



(l to r) Kurt Lohberger (German IB), Victor Grossman, Dolly Shaer (GB), Jane Larson, Salman Salzman (Israel IB), Hans Landauer (Austria IB), Karl Kleinjung (German IB), Eugeniusz Szyr (Polish IB), Roman Gula (Polish), Helmut Huber (German IB).

Clinton Apologizes to Sgt. Carter's Family

When President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to Lincoln veteran Edward Carter, Jr., he did not know that the U.S. Army had blacklisted the African American Sergeant in 1949 because of his prior service in Spain.

In August, Clinton offered a formal apology to Carter's widow, Mildred: "I was saddened to learn of the . . . injustice he had suffered by being denied re-enlistment in the United States Army. Had I know this when I presented his Medal of Honor two years ago, I would have personally apologized to you and your family.

"On behalf of all Americans, I want to do so now . . . It was truly our loss that he was denied the opportunity to continue to serve in uniform the nation he so dearly loved."

Now the Carter family is seeking correction of the soldier's military records. There is also talk of naming an armory in California in his honor.

"Because this spirit is so important today—just look at East Timor or the neo-Nazis here—we must pass it on, especially since there are constant attempts to forget or falsify the tradition of the democratic People's Front and the Interbrigades."

Among the participants were German veterans Rosa Coutelle, Julius Goldstein, Fred Mueller, Karl Kleinjung, and Helmut Huber. Veterans from other countries were Hans Landauer of Austria, Eugeniusz Szyr of Poland, Salman Salzman of Israel, and Cedo Kapor of Bosnia.

Kapor, the sole living IB veteran of Bosnia, received the most enthusiastic welcome from the group. He brought copies of a new book about the former Yugoslavian volunteers entitled "Za Mir I Progres U Svijetu," which was published this year in Sarajevo. Ana Perez of AABI also attended the meeting. Dolly Shaer, the daughter of British veteran Frank West and secretary of the British IB Association, also participated.

For the German group, there is an urgent need to establish their own archives in a non-friendly environ-

ment. Hans Landauer's hard work at the Documentation Archives of the Austrian Resistance (DOW) in Vienna was highly praised in the meeting, and was recommended as a model for the German archives. Landauer has been able to document materials on about 1500 Austrian volunteers, and now he is assisting the German group.

Dolly Shaer reported a successful union summer school program held in London this year. The week-long activity consisted of nine lectures, films, and photographs about the Spanish Civil War. Len Tsou discussed the activities organized by ALBA-VALB in cooperation with colleges, such as photograph and poster exhibits, explaining that they are effective in getting students' interest, especially if lectures are delivered in conjunction with the exhibition. The group also realized that an internet web site is a powerful tool for the organization and they are in the process of setting it up. ■

This story was assembled from reports by Len Tsou and Victor Grossman.

I.B. Monument Dedicated in Paris

By Robert Coale

PHOTOS ROBERT COALE

As the Spanish say, “Más vale tarde que nunca” (better late than never). This seems to be the unfortunate rule for monuments to the Volunteers for Liberty. Despite strong emotional ties to the Spanish Republic of 1931-1939, it was not until Saturday October 16, 1999 that the first International Brigade monument was unveiled in France, at the French Resistance Museum in the eastern Parisian suburb of Champigny.

The three meter high white marble slab represents a hand showering a fallen comrade with flowers and is the work of Brazilian architect Oscar Nemeier. An adjacent plaque remembers the 9,000 French men and women who fought to defend democracy in Spain.

Unlike American IB events, the usual pomp of official French veterans celebrations was the order of the day: battle flags, government representatives, members of parliament, speeches, and “La Marseillaise.” What made this event unique was the presence of 20 of the surviving 45 French

volunteers as well as that of the daughter and granddaughter of “La Pasionaria.” Following the public unveiling, a luncheon was offered to brigadistas and their close friends.

A sign of their surprising élan was given during the group photographic session in front of their faded battle flag as they broke into an enthusiastic rendition of “La Jeune Garde” to thunderous applause. René Maisons, veteran of the epic struggle for Madrid in 1936, as well as the French resistance and a survivor of the Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald stated; “Singing that song is proof our morale is still high and that our struggle is far from outdated. It is up to future generations to continue and for that reason the monument will serve more to inspire them than to honor us. After all, we have not forgotten Spain.” Manu Sternzy expressed similar wishes, “This monument confirms the justness of our struggle in Spain for generations to come. It will motivate our children and grandchildren.”

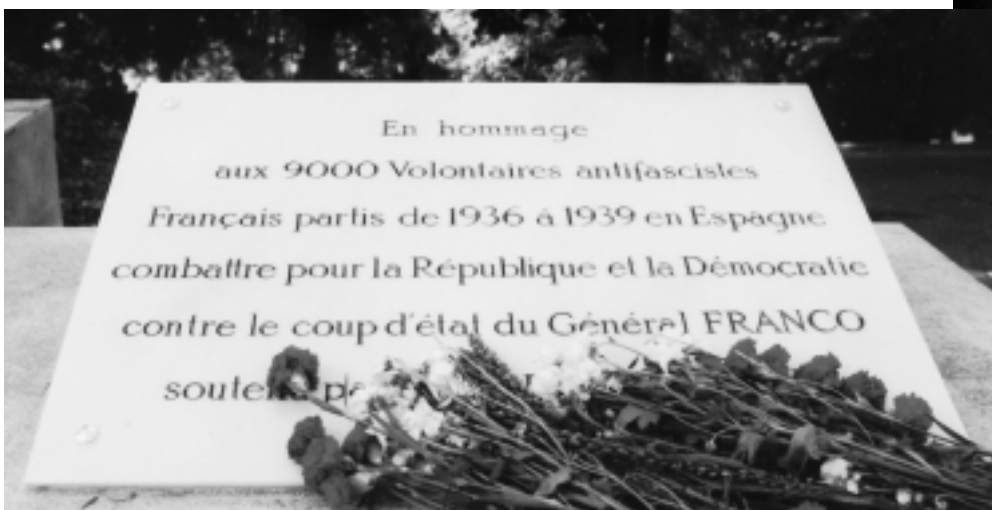




PHOTO BRENT NICASTRO

Madison Mayor Susan Bauman

MONUMENTAL!

Continued from page 1

and history seminar as a broad range of speakers and well-wishers paid tribute to the 2800 American men and women who volunteered to fight Fascism in Spain more than 60 years ago.

At the center of all this activity was 85 year old Clarence Kailin, a Madison native, Lincoln vet, and long time activist in a variety of social justice struggles. Inspired by the first monument erected in 1998 at the University of Washington in Seattle, Kailin was the driving force to get a monument built in Madison. His efforts provide an organizing lesson for us all. Kailin enlisted over 100 Madisonians to sponsor the memorial, and, with the help of the VALB National Office, received contributions from 200 people around the country, totaling nearly \$15,000. No wonder nearly every speaker made a point of congratulating Kailin for his extraordi-

“I was a member of the Communist party here, as many were at the time. We understood the implications of the war in Spain. We knew who Hitler was, we knew what fascism was. We knew what anti-semitism was. I’m Jewish. Here was a chance to go over there and fight back.” Clarence Kailin in the Wisconsin State Journal.



PHOTO Y. HALL

Chuck Hall

nary energy and persistence, and for his skill in uniting so many different people and organizations around the goal of memorializing the Wisconsin contingent of the Lincoln Brigade.

John Nichols, editorial page editor of the Madison Capital Times newspaper, made a terrific master of ceremonies. Looking out over a crowd




PHOTO BRENT NICASTRO

President of Wisconsin State Senate Fred Risser Holding Up Proclamation



PHOTO HARRY SALZBERG

Dan Czitrom Speaking



Certificate of Special Recognition
From United States Secretary of the Interior

Presented to
The Veterans of the Lincoln Brigade

In Recognition of
The Valuable Service these Veterans have provided
Best Wishes on the Dedication of the
the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
October 30, 1999

October 28, 1999
Date



Moe Fishman

that included a rich mixture of veteran activists, students, VALB family members, trade union officials, and local political leaders, Nichols reminded the audience that the Lincolns “had the courage to be anti-fascists before it was appropriate to be anti-fascist.”

Two key themes stood out in most of the speeches and proclamations.



Special Recognition
Senator Russ Feingold

Presented to
Lincoln Veterans of the
Spanish Civil War

Recognition of
Veterans Provided Their Country.
Dedication of the Memorial for
the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
October 31, 1999

Russ Feingold
United States Senator, Wisconsin



Master of Ceremonies
John Nichols

PHOTO Y. HALL

One was the importance of honoring the living tradition of the Lincoln vets, linking the struggle against fascism to a broader range of social justice issues over the past 60 years. These have included the fight for a democratic and socially conscious trade union movement; an end to segregation and other forms of U.S. apartheid; the efforts to stop murderous American foreign policy

the Second World War, and the entire postwar era.

One of the more remarkable and heartening aspects of the day was the strong participation of elected officials and labor leaders. Madison Mayor Sue Bauman gave a thoughtful speech in which she recalled how her parents had given aid to several Lincoln volunteers before they shipped out to Spain. U.S. Representative Tammy



Carl Geiser

Clarence Forrester

PHOTO BRENT NICASTRO

ventures in Vietnam and Central America; and the current fight for universal national health care.

A second motif throughout the day underscored our responsibility to combat the historical amnesia that increasingly distorts American political and intellectual life. The Madison memorial—and those to come—provide an educational rallying point for countering the Pat Buchanan-Ronald Reagan view of the Spanish Civil War,

Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), elected last year through a powerful coalition of organized labor, women’s groups, gay activists, and other progressives, sent along the remarks that she had read

Continued on page 14

Daniel Czitrom is a former Chair of the ALBA Board of Governors. He is Professor and Chair of History at Mount Holyoke College.



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS

"In Honor of Clarence Kailin and the Wisconsin Volunteers of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on the dedication of their Memorial in James Madison Park, Madison, Wisconsin"

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Extension of Remarks
October 29, 1999

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Clarence Kailin of Madison, and the brave men and women who volunteered to serve in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish Civil War, especially those courageous volunteers from my home state of Wisconsin.

They, along with 45,000 volunteers from over 50 different countries, fought side by side during the early struggle against fascism. Their foresight in recognizing the rising tyranny of fascism was a call to arms that went unheeded by the free world, and resulted in the long and bloody conflict that became World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to these men and women who helped to defend the democratic Spanish Republic from fascist aggression, at a time when the fate of democracy in Europe was being threatened by all sides of the political spectrum.

On October 31st, in James Madison Park, in the state capitol of Wisconsin, a memorial will be dedicated to those sons and daughters of the "Badger State" that joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. A volunteer unit comprised of American citizens from all ethnic and religious backgrounds and walks of life, were all equal in their resolve to stem the tide of fascism. Our country's reluctance to aid the Spanish Republican government did not deter these brave people who understood what the consequences were if a legitimately elected government were to fall.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in our country's long history of isolationism, United States citizens were reacting to threats to liberty and freedom on the international level more passionately than ever before. Mr. Kailin was one of those citizens, had it not been for him and other brave volunteers in the Lincoln Brigade, the tide of fascism would have swept over Europe unchecked. The corps of international volunteers who came together in Spain would be the same volunteers to comprise the victorious armies of the allied forces that triumphed over the fascist dictators Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to honor these dedicated men and women in the same rightful fashion as my state. The strength of character of Clarence Kailin and others from Wisconsin who volunteered in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade are the qualities which we all can take pride in and celebrate in this Congress.

MONUMENTAL!

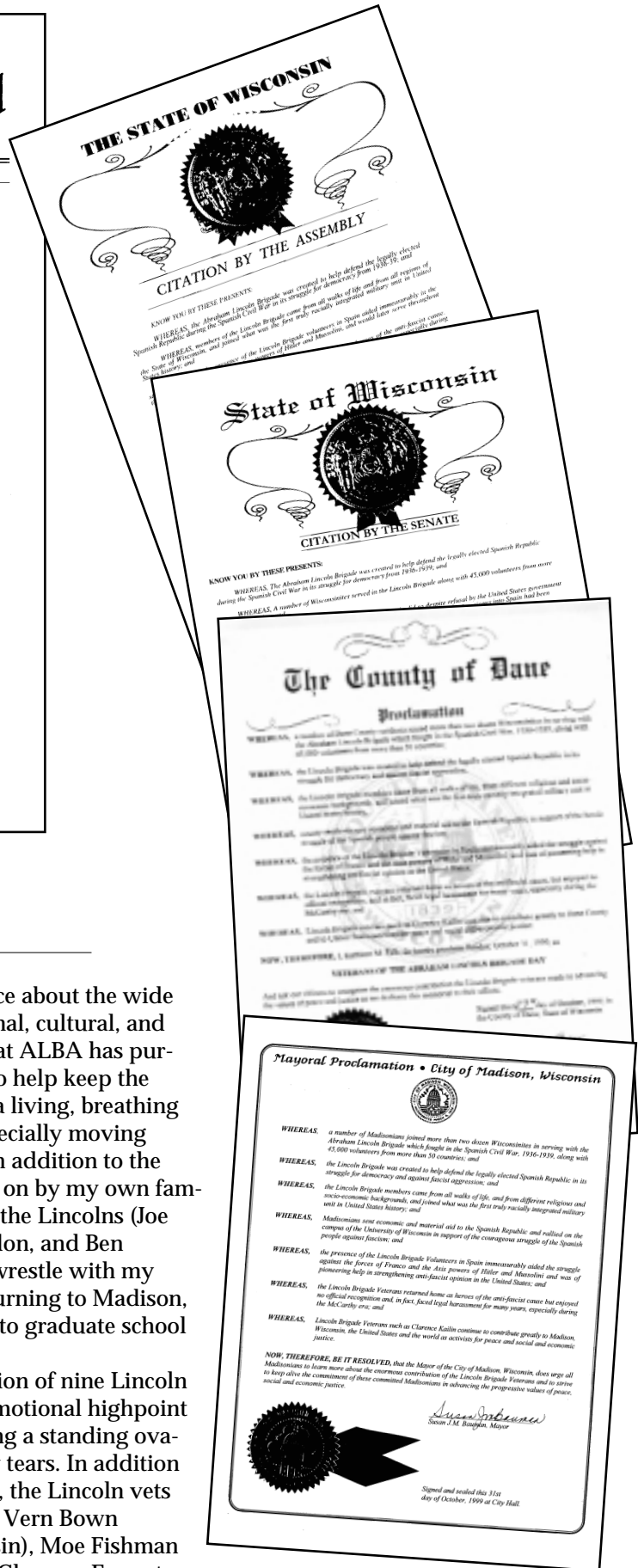
Continued from page 13

into the Congressional Record, extolling the Lincolns and calling upon the Federal government to grant them full veterans benefits. U.S. Senator Russell Feingold (D-Wisconsin) sent a congratulatory certificate that lauded the Lincoln volunteers both for their courage in the 1930s and for their fierce commitment to the political good fight at home. Fred Risser, President of the Wisconsin State Senate, read a proclamation. And David Newby, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, eloquently represented the "new voices" that are re-energizing today's labor movement. "We owe these people a great deal," Newby said. "We owe them first for being part of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade but also for their continuing struggle."

I spoke briefly on behalf of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives,

telling the audience about the wide range of educational, cultural, and scholarly work that ALBA has pursued in its effort to help keep the Lincoln tradition a living, breathing one. It was an especially moving moment for me. In addition to the emotions brought on by my own family connections to the Lincolns (Joe Gordon, Leo Gordon, and Ben Barsky), I had to wrestle with my feelings about returning to Madison, where I had gone to graduate school during the 1970s.

The introduction of nine Lincoln vets proved the emotional highpoint of the day, bringing a standing ovation and not a few tears. In addition to Clarence Kailin, the Lincoln vets honored included Vern Bown (Minong, Wisconsin), Moe Fishman (New York City), Clarence Forrester (Minneapolis), Carl Geiser (Corvallis,





Oregon), Charles Hall (Chicago), Art Harrison (Michigan City, Indiana), Dr. Aaron Hilkevich (Chicago), and Bay Area Post Commander David Smith (Oakland).

Moe Fishman, National Treasurer of VALB, spoke for many when he wondered aloud how the history of this century might have been different if the U.S. and other nations had given aid to the embattled Spanish Republic. "Can you imagine not having to go through World War II? Unfortunately we were not listened to and the holocaust of World War II ensued." Clarence Forrester said simply and powerfully, "There's nothing that can give me more pride than saying that I'm a Lincoln vet."

Clarence Kailin completed the speeches with a forceful reminder of the Lincolns' deep connections to the larger social movements of the day, both before going to Spain and in the decades after. Memorials like the one in Madison, he reminded us, were part of the ongoing work of preserving historical memory in an era and society that find it convenient to forget the truth.

Finally, the speeches all done, the nine Lincoln vets crowded around the memorial, unfurling their famous navy blue banner. With a flourish, Clarence Kailin removed the bright red tarp to reveal a handsome granite monument, including a bronze memorial plaque listing the 26 Wisconsinites who were part of the Lincoln Brigade.

The plaque was designed and cast by David Ryan of Oakland, California, who also created the memorial in Seattle. Among those listed were two vets who never returned. John W. Cookson, an instructor at the University of Wisconsin who had commanded the Lincoln Transmissions, was killed during the last days of the war near Marsa. Clyde C. Lenway, a writer from Milwaukee, had been among the first group of 96 American volunteers who shipped out



PHOTO DAN CZITROM

to Spain in December 1936.

Located at an entrance to the popular James Madison Park, the memorial is sure to be seen by thousands of people in the years to come.

Lincoln Veteran Elias Schultz Sculptor of Seattle Monument



The Abraham Lincoln Brigade memorial plaque in Seattle is an interpretation of the International Brigade insignia cast from the wood sculpture by Lincoln veteran Elias (Dutch) Schultz. Schultz studied his craft in London, Brienz, the Tyrol and Florence, was a pupil of Jacques Lipshitz and worked with Everett Du Penn.

Reproductions in cast and polished bronze may be ordered currently at a price of \$2,000. They are 18-1/2" x 20," and may be mounted or set in stone, wood or other material. One casting is now available. Lead-time for new orders is one month.

For information about this or other work by Elias :
phone 206 726-6564
FAX to 206-726-6564
E-mail to: martha@halcyon.com

The October 31 ceremonies received extensive coverage in the local media, including news stories in two newspapers and a feature aired over the NBC-TV affiliate. And Clarence Kailin deservedly was seen and heard everywhere. "We'll tell people they shouldn't see this as a memorial to old soldiers," he told one reporter. "They should see it as a reminder that the struggle we joined in Spain, the struggle for economic and social justice, goes on. We're still a part of it." ❏

The Soldier and the Snow

by Miguel Hernández (tr. by Martín Espada)

1999 marks the 60th anniversary of Franco's lethal incarceration of Miguel Hernández, the shepherd-poet, causing his death by tuberculosis three years later at the age of thirty-two.

Martín Espada, a widely published poet, teaches in the English Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His presentation of his poem *The Carpenter Swam to Spain*, about Lincoln veteran Abe Osheroff, was a feature of this year's east coast ALBA-VALB annual affair.

December has frozen its double-edged breath
and puffs it out from the frostbitten skies,
like a dry flame growing in trickles,
like a vast ruin falling upon the soldiers.

Snow is the solitude of a mournful gallop
wherever a horse stamps down hoofprints.
Snow is sifted fingernails, demolished claws,
celestial evil, absolute disdain.

It bites, cuts, pierces, an enormous falling ax,
ax of bitter and delicate marble.
Descending, it scatters like a shredded embrace
of cliffs and wings, solitude and snow.

This attack cut from the core of winter,
raw hunger tired of hunger and cold,
menaces the naked with eternal spite,
white, lethal, ravenous, so silent, dark.

It wants to quench the forges, all hate, bonfires,
wants to blind the seas, entomb all kinds of love,
raises slow bright barriers,
silent statues, shards of assaulting glass.

May the heart of wool burst, gushing
from so many warehouses and textile mills
to cover the bodies that burn the morning
with their voices, gaze, feet and rifles.

Clothing for the bodies that could go naked,
dressed in frost and ice,
in gaunt stone against the hard pecking,
the pale biting, the pale flight.

Clothing for the bodies that silently repel
the whitest attack with the reddest bones.
Because these soldiers have solar bones,
they are bonfires with footprints, with eyes.

The cold rushes in, death sheds its petals,
a soundless roar—I can hear it—raining down.
Red life on the white snow, reddens
the warm snow, sows fire in the snow.

So completely are they crystalline rock
that only fire, only the flame can define them,
and they fight on with snowcapped cheekbones, and mouths,
and everything they attack turns into a memory of ash.

I'm in Madrid

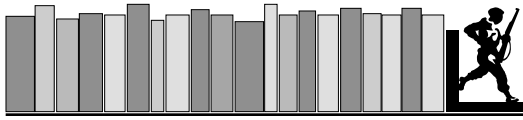
I'm in Madrid, by New York artist Ken Aptekar, was recently purchased by the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri for its permanent collection. The 1999 painting, which will soon go on view, was inspired by a passage in veteran Harry Fisher's recent book, *Comrades: Tales of a Brigadista in the Spanish Civil War*. Artist Ken Aptekar was struck by Fisher's candor about his ambivalence toward fighting in the war, and moved by his actions. The 60" by 60" painting is covered with glass sandblasted with the following text:



I'm in Madrid to see paintings and my friend Harry Fisher comes to mind. In 1937 he sailed to France, then climbed the Pyrenees to Spain. It wasn't paintings that drew him there. He went to fight fascism with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. In *Comrades: Tales of a Brigadista in the Spanish Civil War*, Harry writes that after a few months, "I began thinking that I was in the wrong place. I wanted to do my share to try to stop the fascists, but in reality I knew I was more of a pacifist than a soldier. I couldn't kill, and I didn't want to be killed. I couldn't stand to see so much suffering and to feel so much fear. I made up my mind that if I lived through this day, I would get out of the war—even desert if I had to. I listened to the wails of the wounded. I listened to cries for water. The sun beating down on me was torture, like being in a hot oven. So I won't be a hero, I thought. Some people might call me a coward. But what the hell do they know about war?" Harry stayed for a year and a half, through all the major battles.



Harry Fisher during the Spanish Civil War and at a VALB event 1997.



ALBA BOOKS, VIDEOS AND POSTERS

BOOKS ABOUT THE LINCOLN BRIGADE

Madrid 1937 — Letters from the Spanish Civil War ed. by Nelson & Hendricks	(cloth)	\$35
Another Hill by Milton Wolff	(cloth)	\$25
Our Fight— Writings by veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade: Spain 1936-1939 ed. by Alvah Bessie & Albert Prago	(pbk)	\$15
The Anti-Warrior by Milton Felsen	(pbk)	\$15
Trees Become Torches, Selected Poems by Edwin Rolfe	(pbk)	\$10
Collected Poems of Edwin Rolfe From Mississippi to Madrid	(pbk)	\$21
by James Yates	(pbk)	\$15
Spain, the Unfinished Revolution by Arthur Landis	(cloth)	\$25
Prisoners of the Good Fight by Carl Geiser	(pbk)	\$15
Spain's Cause Was Mine by Hank Rubin(new)	(cloth)	\$29
Comrades by Harry Fisher (new)	(cloth)	\$25
	(ppb)	\$12
Odyssey of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade by Peter Carroll	(pbk)	\$15
Remembering Spain: Hemingway's VALB Eulogy by Ernest Hemingway, Cary Nelson and Milton Wolff (audio tape & pamphlet)		\$15
Prison of Women by Tomasa Cuevas		\$15
EXHIBIT CATALOGS		
The Aura of the Cause, a photo album ed. by Cary Nelson	(pbk)	\$25
Shouts from the Wall, a poster album ed. by Cary Nelson	(pbk)	\$16
VIDEOS		
The Good Fight a film by Sills/Dore/Bruckner	(VCR)	\$35
Forever Activists a film by Judith Montell	(VCR)	\$35

You Are History, You Are Legend
a film by Judith Montell (VCR) \$25

POSTERS

Two Spanish Civil War posters (*Madrid Lion* and *Victoria*) are available at \$10 plus postage, and thanks to Eva and Mark Fasanella, copies of five of Ralph Fasanella's posters (\$20 each, plus postage). They are: *Subway Riders* (1960); *Family Supper* (1972); *The Great Strike, Lawrence, 1912* (1978); *The Daily News Strike* (1993); *South Bronx Rebirth* (1995).

These books and tapes are available at the indicated prices from:

Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

799 Broadway, R. 227

New York, NY 10003-5552

Tel: (212) 674-5552

Shipping cost: \$2 per copy of book, album or tape.
Make checks payable to ALBA.

An invitation for posterity

The Volunteer invites our readers to consider making a bequest to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives.

ALBA is a non-profit tax-exempt organization. Contributions and bequests provide donors with significant advantages in planning their estates and donations.

For more information, contact

Diane Fraher

executive secretary

VALB/ALBA

799 Broadway, Rm. 277

New York, NY 10003

Telephone:

212-598-0968

E-mail:

amerinda@spacelab.net

George Watt Memorial Prize

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) is pleased to announce the continuing annual competition for the ALBA George Watt Memorial prizes for the best college student essays about the Spanish Civil War, the anti-fascist political or cultural struggles of the 1920's and 1930's, or the lifetime histories and contributions of the Americans who served beside the Spanish Republic from 1937-1938. Two prizes of \$500 each will be awarded each year — one to the best undergraduate paper and one to the best graduate student paper written on one or more of the above topics. Papers will be judged on the basis of originality, effectiveness of

argument, and quality of writing. The paper must have been written to fulfill an undergraduate or graduate course or degree requirement. Submissions are encouraged from U.S. and international contestants.

The deadline for receipt of essays is April 1, 2000. Essays written either during the year of submission or during the previous calendar year are eligible for the competition. Essays must be at least 5,000 words long to be considered for the prize. The award winners will be announced each Spring. The Executive Committee of ALBA appoints the judges for the contest.

The prizes honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln Brigade veteran George Watt (1914- 1994), not only for his own long anti-fascist record but also as a symbol of the many American men and women who risked, and sometimes lost, their lives in this struggle. Watt himself was a veteran of Spain who then served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. An effective voice for a variety of social causes in his lifetime. Watt was also a driving force behind ALBA.

Applicants should email entries to Eunice Lipton:
eunicelipton@earthlink.net

ALBA'S TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

SHOUTS FROM THE WALL

Dallas

Nov. 8, 1999—Feb. 21, 2000
DeGolyar Library
Southern Methodist University
6404 Hilltop Lane
Dallas, TX

Carbondale

March 15, 2000-May 15, 2000
The University Museum
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL

Riverside

March 15, 2001-April 30, 2001
Sweeney Art Gallery
University of California, Riverside

THE AURA OF THE CAUSE

Bel Air

January 9, 2000-March 12, 2000
University of Judaism
15600 Mulholland Drive
Bel Air, California
For further information, call Shelly
Lavender 310 476-9777

ALBA's photographic exhibit, *The Aura of the Cause*, has been shown at the Puffin Room in New York City, the University of California-San Diego, the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, FL, the Fonda Del Sol Visual Center in Washington, DC, and the University of Illinois. This exhibit, curated by Professor

Cary Nelson of the University of Illinois, consists of hundreds of photographs revealing the Abraham Lincoln Brigaders, other international volunteers and their Spanish comrades in training and at rest, among the Spanish villages, and in battle.

For further information about *The Aura of the Cause* exhibit, and its companion exhibit *Shouts From The Wall*, posters from the Spanish Civil War, contact ALBA's executive secretary, Diane Fraher, 212-598-0968. Both exhibits are available for museum and art gallery showings.

BRING THESE EXHIBITS TO YOUR LOCALITY

Contact Diane Fraher, ALBA executive secretary: 212-598-0968; Fax: 212-529-4603



Clement L. Markert (1917-1999)

Clement Markert, veteran of the Lincoln Brigade and longtime member of the ALBA Board of Governors, made his mark as a world-class geneticist and biologist but it was his service in Spain that uniquely shaped his distinguished academic career. He died at a hospice near his home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on October 1.

As a brilliant undergraduate at the University of Colorado, the 20-year old Markert and his roommate Allan Merrick left the Boulder campus in 1937 to fight against Franco in Spain. They rode freight trains to New York, stowed away on a merchant ship, made contact with the International Brigades in Paris, and then proceeded over the Pyrenees to enlist with the Lincolns.

Arriving in Spain just before the Retreats in 1938, Markert served as a scout during the dangerous time of encirclement. He attributed his survival to the mountaineering skills he had learned as a youth in the Colorado Rockies. His friend Merrick was not so lucky.

After returning home, Markert faced a public inquiry before the Colorado Board of Trustees before being allowed to complete his college studies. He boldly defended his decision to go to Spain. In an oral history he made in 1980 for ALBA, Markert recalled saying: "You have made a very fine university here, and...I'm actually your best product. I rank number one among the students....To expel me from the university would be the most devastating self-criticism that you could possibly engage in." They voted unanimously to reinstate him. He went on to graduate studies in zoology at UCLA.

When World War II began, he tried to enlist in the Army Air Corps, only to be turned down because of his service in Spain. He enlisted in the merchant marines.

After the war, he earned his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and became an assistant professor at the University of Michigan. In 1954, Markert and two colleagues refused to testify before a subcommittee of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The university president suspended all three, though Markert alone was reinstated. In 1991, an annual lecture series devoted to free speech was named in their honor. "They'll have to think about and squirm about it at least once a year," Markert remarked.

Markert eventually moved on to Yale University, where he continued his work on enzymes and served as Chair of the Department of Biology.

"Gentlemen," said Markert, "I know very well that there is a blacklist at NIH, because I am on it."

He was also elected to the American Academy of Sciences, perhaps the most prestigious scientific society in this country, and served on its governing council. During one meeting, his colleagues discussed the possible existence of a blacklist at the National Institute of Health. "Gentlemen," said Markert, "I know very well that there is a blacklist at NIH, because I am on it." He remembered that he could have heard a pin drop. The discussion led to the abolition of that blacklist.

Facing mandatory retirement at Yale, Markert moved to North Carolina State University, where his research dealt with animal husbandry. More recently, he and his wife, Margaret, returned to Colorado.

He is known today as the "father" of isoenzymes, an entire field of biochemical research. Yet his political commitments remained intact. "He was just a good citizen antifascist," said his wife. ▀

Herbert Kline (1909-1999)

Herbert Kline, lifelong advocate of social theater and film and a celebrated filmmaker of the Spanish Civil War, died February 5 in Los Angeles.

Herb had everything you would want in a man, understanding and generosity. A native of Davenport, Iowa, he grew to manhood in the Great Depression. He responded to the crisis less with anger and frustration than with idealism and hope. Like other intellectuals, he joined in progressive causes dedicated to humanism and democracy.

He joined the staff of *LEFT* magazine, which circulated internationally. He wrote an interracial play, *John Henry*, which he took to Broadway, where it had several public readings but was never staged. He became editor of *New Theatre Magazine* and widened the magazine's readership with playwriting contests.

When the fascist revolt against the Spanish Republic began in 1936, Herb volunteered to represent *New Masses* and *Our Fight* in Spain. He also became the American Voice on Madrid Radio beamed across the world. At a Bon Voyage farewell he quoted Abraham Lincoln: "This is a struggle to give everyone a fair and equal start in the race of life." As Robert Colodny once noted: The conflict was "the problem of land, of the peasant and landowner—the oldest story in recorded history. The pattern of the struggle is always the same, only the name of the oppressor changes." This is the theme of Herb's classic film, *Heart Of Spain*. (His other film on Spain *Return to Life* remains popular on college campuses.)

Today it is Chiapas as Herb foretold in his movie, *Forgotten Village* (Mexico). And other social films included *Lights Out In Europe* which brought an invitation from FDR for a private showing and discussion. There followed the prize winning



Added to Memory's Roster



Walls of Fire and *The Challenge of Modern Art* and, with Orson Wells, *Acting . . . Lee Strasberg*. He never finished *Stanislavsky*.

All of this and more in spite of McCarthy's blacklisting. ❏

Bob Steck

Rafael Alberti 1906-1999

Rafael Alberti, the last member of the group of Spanish poets called the "Generación de 1927," died on October 28 in his home outside Cadiz, at the age of 96. He was a contemporary of the internationally renowned Federico García Lorca, Luís Buñuel and Pablo Ruiz Picasso. An activist poet from very early on and member of the Communist Party, during the Spanish Civil War, he joined the Alianza de Escritores Antifascistas and was one of the driving forces behind the publication "El mono azul" (The Blue Overalls). He was the leader of the Batallón de Talento, part of the Quinto Regimiento. After the defeat of the Second Spanish Republic, he sought exile in Argentina and then in Italy. Returning to Spain following the death of Franco, he was elected member of Parliament for the CP along with Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria. Friend of the International Brigades from the very beginning, he wrote the wartime poem "Las Brigadas Internacionales" which the "brigadista" Michael Economides recited in the Palacio de Deportes of Madrid during the Homenaje. Alberti was also an accomplished artist. He painted the Dove of Peace in red, yellow and purple, which was made into a print especially for the "brigadistas" as a souvenir of their visit to Spain in 1996. Those interested in more information can consult the articles which have appeared in the Madrid newspaper *El País* on the web at www.elpais.es ❏



PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK

Harry Wallach anti-fascist baker

Harry Wallach 1912-1999

Harry Wallach was an anti-fascist, a baker and a cello player. He was 24 when he joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and was wounded in the battle of Jarama, which he recalled in an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1987: "I had crawled to within grenade-throwing distance of a machine gun. I went to get a grenade, scrunching up my shoulder, when I got hit. It was like a sledgehammer. It picked me up in the air and threw me on my back. The bullet went in my chest and took out my right lung. I figured I was going to die."

Taken for dead, he was covered with a sheet and placed with other dead bodies. Fortunately, when an orderly removed his sheet, Wallach managed to roll his eyes. The stunned orderly shrieked, "Hey, doc! This stiff's alive!"

After the war Wallach worked as a baker and eventually owned several bakeries in the Philadelphia area. He had a keen ear for music, and on his 50th birthday his family presented him with a cello. He became an accomplished musician and played

with the Oiney Symphony Orchestra until his death.

Besides his wife, Mr. Wallach is survived by daughters Rosalyn Baker, Carolyn Weiss and Sandra Campione; a brother; three sisters; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. ❏



PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK

Sophie Kaplan Smith

Sophie Kaplan Smith 1911-1999

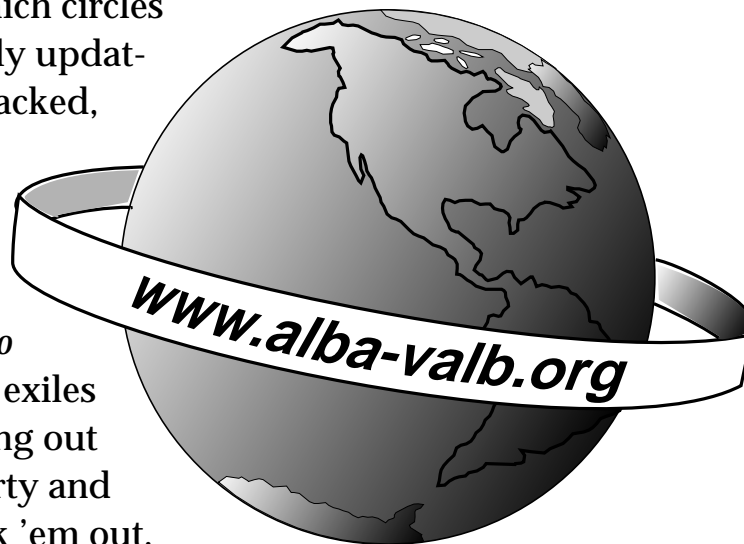
Sophie Smith, wife of Bay Area Post Commander David Smith, died of lung cancer in September. She was a lifelong activist and a popular community organizer in Queens, New York, and in Vermont, before moving to California five years ago. As a member of the Post executive committee, she brought great energy, wisdom, and humor, and Sophie exerted considerable influence among the younger activists. ❏

Other Recent Deaths

Sol Newman
Tuz Mende

See you on the web

ALBA's own website (the address of which circles the globe on the right) is being constantly updated: with ALBA activities and projects tracked, back issues of *The Volunteer* soon being added to the site; and links to related websites kept current. Here we wish to call readers' attention to **www.ateneo.uam.mx** — the website of the *Ateneo España de Mexico*, originally founded by exiles from Republican Spain, and now carrying out a variety of programs in support of liberty and justice, both in Mexico and Spain. Check 'em out.



Join us in a cause that will never die

Over two decades ago four veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade—Bill Susman, Leonard Lamb, Oscar Hunter and Morris Brier — created a new organization: ALBA, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, bringing in a group of scholars interested in the Spanish Civil War and the International Brigades.

From the outset, one of ALBA's main tasks was to help manage and expand the Spanish Civil War archive housed at Brandies University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Explicit in this undertaking were the educational goals of preserving, disseminating and transmitting to future generations the history and lessons of the Spanish Civil War and of the International Brigades.

To carry out these goals ALBA, in collaboration with VALB, publishes *The Volunteer*. ALBA also collaborates on the production of books, films and videos, maintains a website at www.alba-valb.org, helps send exhibitions of photographs, documents and artwork throughout the United States and Canada, and organizes conferences and seminars on the Spanish Civil War and on the role of the International Brigades in that conflict, and afterward. ALBA has established the George Watt Memorial prizes for the best

college and graduate school essays on these subjects, and has designed a widely-used Spanish Civil War high school and college curriculum.

In the coming months and years ALBA will greatly expand its activity. To do so effectively ALBA must have your support. Please fill out the coupon below, enclose a \$25 check (or larger amount) made out to ALBA and send it to us. It will

insure that those of you who are not veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, or family members of a veteran, will continue to receive *The Volunteer*, and will enjoy other benefits of Associate status.

Fill out this coupon and send it to the address indicated below.

- Yes, I wish to become an ALBA Associate, and I enclose a check for \$25 made out to ALBA. Please send me *The Volunteer*.**
- I would also like to receive a list of books, pamphlets and videos available at discount.**
- would like to have ALBA's poster exhibit, *Shouts from the Wall*, in my locality. Please send information.**
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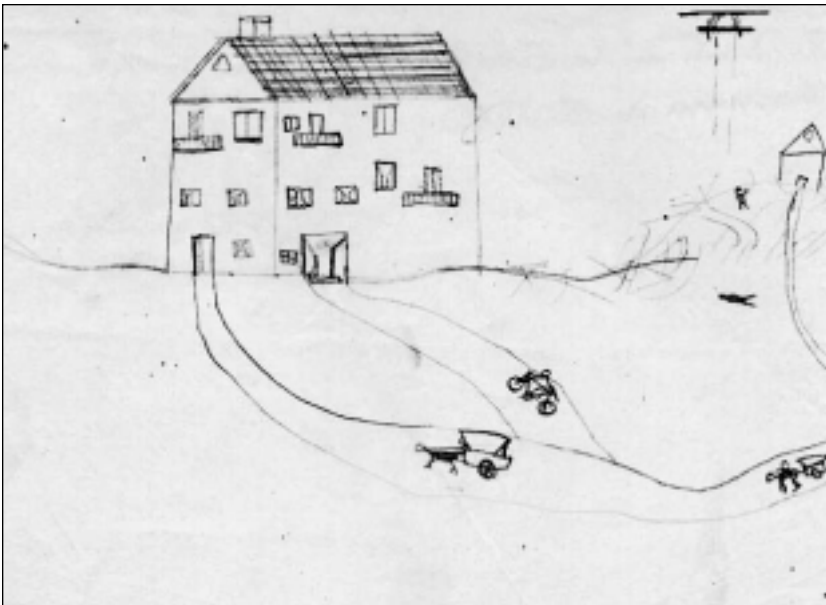
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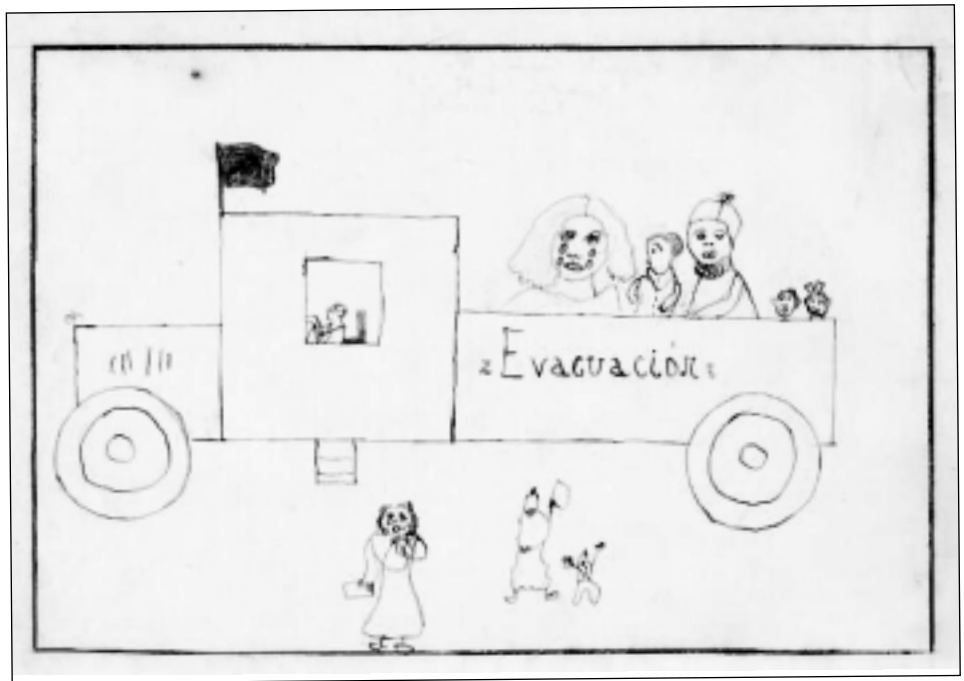
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 Created by Peter Glazer and Bruce Barthol
 Featuring Members of the San Francisco Mime Troupe,
 Plus other "Stars" to Be Announced
San Francisco Bay Area: February 29, 2000
New York: April 30, 2000
 A Millennial Tribute to Our Vets! Join Us!



New ALBA Exhibit Receives Grant from Puffin Foundation

*They Still Draw
Pictures:*
A 1938 Exhibit,
Revived and
Expanded.
See page 7 for full
story



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