

“...and that government of the people,
by the people, and for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.”
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Volunteer

JOURNAL OF THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

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From War Hero to Blacklist

THE LONELY ODYSSEY OF A LINCOLN VET

By Peter Carroll

Ever since Bill Clinton awarded posthumous Congressional Medals of Honor to seven African American heroes of World War II, including Staff Sergeant Edward Carter, Jr., the administration could take credit for correcting the racial injustice that had deprived black soldiers of equal treatment in the war against fascism. But what the public—and the president—did not know was that the celebrated Sgt. Carter had been twice victimized: Once because of racial discrimination in the Army and a second time because of the color of his politics. Carter had dared to fight in the Spanish Civil War.

Last year, Carter's family allowed me to examine a suitcase full of documents that tell the story of his long, lonely, and ultimately futile effort to overcome the stigma of having served in Spain. Then, this past Memorial Day, the release of Carter's FBI and military intelligence files prompted U.S. News and World Report to put Carter's picture on the cover with the caption: "Sgt. Eddie Carter was a hero. But when he came home, the Army accused him of treachery. It was a lie—one that took 50 years to expose."

Carter's problems began in September 1949, when he learned that the Army had rejected his application for reenlistment. He then journeyed to Washington, D.C. to

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An Exercise in Democracy

by Abe Smorodin for the staff VALB

After much discussion, the staff of VALB decided to submit a resolution on the NATO/Clinton bombings in Yugoslavia to its membership. We had previously agreed in the interest of unity to take no position on this issue, but the long and proud history of our organization on matters of war and peace made it an impossible position to maintain.

Therefore the following resolution was adopted and forwarded to our membership:

Be it resolved that VALB consistent with its record of support for peace through the years hereby resolves that: We call upon our government to stop the bombing of Yugoslavia now being conducted by NATO/U.S. forces and call on all parties to begin negotiations.

Here are the results:

140 Vets received the resolution

60 voted yes

14 voted no

1 checked *both* boxes

With the Pros and Cons came many comments reflecting how deeply our comrades had thought about the complexity of the situation in the Balkans. Despite the cessation of the bombing, we urge all Vets, particularly those who did not respond to write to us and in general stay in touch with our office.

A Salud to all our supporters! ■

Marv Gettleman is no longer a member of The Volunteer's editorial board. He wishes to thank the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade for the opportunity to assist them during the last two and a half years in upholding the ideals of antifascist internationalism they exemplified not only when they bravely volunteered to fight in Spain against Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, but also in their ongoing struggles over the last six decades. Salud! to them and to their indelible legacy. ■

Letters to ALBA

From: Kol Ze'ev Jerusalem

My uncle-Henech Blankrot was a Jewish volunteer of the Polish Brigade during the Spanish Civil War. He was born in Kalisz, Poland in 1907. I know that he was killed in Zaragoza, Spain. Does anyone know if there is a Jewish cemetery there? Or, even if there was one main cemetery of fallen soldiers that may have included Jewish soldiers? I was just told that he may have been killed in a military vehicle accident.

Leon Blankrot

leon-b@netvision.net.il

Maale Adumim, Israel

Dear Sir,

I had an uncle who was a volunteer in Spain during the Civil War. His name was Maximilian Friedmann and he came from Rumania. We think that he died in a concentration camp in France. Would you know how I could find out what happened to him?

Thank you!

Carin Negoianu

nirac@earthlink.net

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799 Broadway, Rm 227

New York, NY 10003

(212) 674-5552

Editorial Board

Richard Bermack • Peter Carroll
Leonard Levenson • Fraser Ottanelli
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Madison Plans Monument

Lincoln Vet Clarence Kailin has succeeded in gaining approval from the Madison City Parks Commission for the construction of a monument to honor Wisconsinites who served in the International Brigades. "When I heard that Seattle had erected a memorial," Kailin told a local reporter, "I thought, it's time to do something in Madison. This is a progressive city. It only seemed right."

Kailin and the Parks Commission have agreed to a site near the city's old Gates of Heaven synagogue in James Madison Park. The project has won endorsement from numerous local and state leaders, including Madison's U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Madison Mayor Sue Bauman.

Supporters of the memorial still need to raise about \$10,000 to complete construction that will include a flagstone walkway and an inscribed monument. Contributors should mail checks to Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (VALB), c/o Clarence Kailin, 501 Evergreen Ave., Madison WI 53704.

"I've waited a long time to see some recognition for all the vets from Wisconsin," Kailin added. "But, more than that, I want to see a monument to the struggle for economic and social justice that our fight was part of. I want to see a monument because that's a struggle just as important today as it was in 1937 and 1938." ■

Chicago Shouts From the Wall Reception Featuring Studs Terkel

The Chicago opening of the *Shouts From the Wall* poster show featured a star-studded reception on Saturday, August 14 at the Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library, 400 South State Street. The opening reception was co-sponsored by the Chicago Public Library, Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade, the Instituto Cervantes, the Center for New Deal Studies,



Roosevelt University and the Mary and Leigh Block Museum.

Studs Terkel highlighted the program. Other speakers included Congressman Danny Davis, 7th C.D.; Jamie O'Reilly and Michael Smith with music from their acclaimed revue, *Pasiones: Songs of the Spanish Civil War*; and Peter Glazer who presented *Spain in the Heart*, poetry readings from the war.

Upcoming Chicago Events

Pasiones: Songs of Spanish Civil War, Sept 16, 5:30 p.m.

Film: *The Good Fight*, Sept 22, 7 p.m.

Painting and Writing While Bombs Are Falling: Art and Literature During the Spanish Civil War, by Prof. Cary Nelson, Sept 25, 2 p.m.

Film series Sept 28- Nov 30 including *The Good Fight*, and *You are History You are Legend*.

For Information:

Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade
5320 N. Sheridan Road, #1902
Chicago, IL 60640
773-769-2665 ■

Grave Marker Sought for Eddie Balchowsky

Polly Connelly, retired UAW organizer, discovered that Lincoln vet Eddie Balchowsky is buried in a markerless grave in Forest Home Cemetery. Connelly is working with Chicago Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade member Jeff Bech, a relative of Balchowsky's, to get a proper grave marker.

Any one wishing to donate or help with this cause can contact Jeff Bech through CFLB. ■

ALBA in Chicago



The cast of Peter Glazer's *Heart of Spain* with Lincoln vets (seated, left to right) John Rossen, Carl Geiser, Charles Hall, Max Shufer, and Bob Steck.

San Pedro Prison Vets Reunion a Big Success

Sixty years ago, on April 22, 1939, 71 American prisoners of war marched across the International Bridge from Spain to freedom in France, after having been held as prisoners of war in the concentration camp of San Pedro Cardena for over a year. Only eight of that group survive, and four of them—Carl Geiser, Charles Hall, Max Shufer, and Bob Steck met in Chicago. The reunion included events by the Chicago Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, such as a reading of Peter Glazer's *Heart of Spain*.

Heart of Spain

Readings of the musical play were performed at Northwestern University's Struble Theater. Written by Peter Glazer with original compositions by Eric Peltoniemi, the play

combines original text with poetry, music and stories of the Spanish Civil War. Glazer is interested in continuing to develop *Heart of Spain* and eventually would like to put on a full-scale production. But for now he said he is happy with the students' work and with the musical as a staged reading.

The production opened the week-end of April 17-18.

How does art relate to history?

Glazer also produced a symposium dealing with the relationship between art and history. Are artistic and cultural presentations created during the times more authentic than the traditional historical narrative?

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Lincoln Brigade Commander Milt Wolff and Ernest Hemingway, 1938

Milt Wolff Speaks at Hemingway Centennial

Oak Park, a near-west suburb of Chicago, was a beehive of activity in mid-July during a week long celebration of the Centennial of the birth of Ernest Hemingway. Milt Wolff, last Commander of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion addressed a standing room only gathering at the Oak Park Library. Other speakers included Brian Peterlinz, Chicago teacher and Co-chair of the Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade, and Lincoln veteran Charles Hall. The audience was composed of all ages, which indicated the intense interest in the legacy of the International Brigades and for the role of Hemingway and other journalists. Joe Powers Sr, an Oak Park resident, told the story of Thane Summers, a family friend of the Hemingway's, and a graduate of Oak Park River-Forest High School. Summers volunteered for the Lincoln Battalion while a student at the University of Washington and was killed in Spain in March, 1938. Efforts are underway to find an appropriate form of commemoration, such as a Tradition of Excellence award in his honor, at the high school.

The following day, at a literary conference, "I Knew Papa: Friends and Family Remembrances," Wolff stressed the importance of Hemingway's support and writings for the cause of democratic Spain. ■

New York Events

PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK



Consul General of Spain Addresses ALBA-VALB Annual Celebration

Consul General of Spain Emilio Cassinello passed on special words of thanks to the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade at the ALBA-VALB annual celebration in New York, on April 25, 1999, printed below.

“There was a time—too long a time—in which in Spain there was darkness at noon. For almost half of the past hundred years of this 20th century, democracy was seen as a sickness by those who believed that they had won a sad and long civil war, not knowing that a civil war is never ever won. It is always lost, and lost it is by all: by those who proclaim themselves the victors and, obviously, by those who are the victims.

Precisely just the first day of this month—the past first of April—a sad anniversary has gone by practically

unnoticed: the 60th anniversary of the so called victory, the victory of a fascist takeover of the Spanish people’s destinies by a military coup, and the conversion—in medieval fashion—of the citizens into subjects.

On the very same first days of April, throughout four decades, an unrelenting celebration went on in the streets and avenues of the Spanish cities, a perverse celebration of the loss of freedom, of the disappearance of the free spirit, a painful reminder of the impossibility of challenging the official truth, however spiteful or ludicrous it might be.

So, we have rightfully ignored a date that reminds us of the sinking of

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PHOTO ERIC LEVENSEN



PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK

The annual reunion of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in New York included a performance by folk singer **Odetta** (top-right), a speech by **Consul General of Spain Emilio Cassinello** (top-left with Bill Van Felix to his right), and a reading of poetry by **Martin Espada** including a poem about Abe Osheroff (Espada above with Osheroff), and a speech by **Congressman Jerold Nadler**. The winners of the **Watt Awards** were also announced—see story page 17.



The Amigos from Spain at the New York annual event.

Consul General, NY

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civilized coexistence in Spain. A date to be deliberately forgotten because we, the new Spaniards, have a clear, a very clear conscience, that upon the remnants and salvages of a civil disaster, upon the wreck of a civil war, nobody can construct anything meaningful. Upon a collective defeat nobody can build a future. Something afresh had to be reinvented. Thus, for very practical reasons, nobody in this new, contemporary, modern Spain, has been willing to even remember what is better forgotten: the shame of the tragedy, the ruthlessness, the injustice, the death, the cruelty, the misery, all have to be forgotten; the oppression, the lunacy of many a human soul, are not to be remembered.

Those painful memories have to be forgotten. But we have to distinguish between memories and lessons. In today's Spain, for our own collective health, the lessons of those years have to be kept alive, retrieved and preserved. And so it will be. Yet, after 20 years of democracy, and already in the threshold of the 21st century, one can also assert that memories have fulfilled their sociopolitical role—including their therapeutic function.

Thus, the Spanish people have come to the conclusion that we can

call it quits with our strenuous, stressful, tiring past. We better do it, if only for what John Elliot advises us Spaniards, pointing out that we have had a sickly tendency to dwell on historical catastrophes, warning us—the same Elliot—that “the obstinacy of remembering the defeats of the past, can upset the future.” It is obvious that we have good, practical reasons to lay away, for good, the “narcissism of disaster,” as Juan Marichal put it.

But there are other memories of those fateful years that also count as critical lessons, and that not only deserve to be kept and remembered, but must also be honored. Those are the memories that have to do with commitment and conviction, with bravery, with integrity and resolve.

In today's Spain, for our own collective health, the lessons of those years have to be kept alive, retrieved and preserved.

Those are images that are still imprinted in our eyes and minds as acts of compassion, care and love. I am referring to the presence, on Spanish soil, of the International Brigades, and, more specifically, of the Lincoln Battalion. Some may say, patronizingly and condescendingly, that back in the 30's you were young and impulsive, as if you needed to be excused and justified for something you did

that was weird and exotic. But we know better.

You were there, in Spanish lands, out of conviction, out of the explicit belief in human dignity: because freedom of spirit and solidarity overcame self-interest, because for you (as I have just read in a moving obituary of a Lincoln Brigade member), “legitimate anger was a form of love.” And I can assure you (and it is all too painfully obvious) that those attitudes and that resolve of the men and women of the Lincoln Brigade, are an extremely rare thing in the history of mankind, whether past or present.

For that, all Spaniards of goodwill, all of Spain, owes you a permanent debt of gratitude. You kept us company in difficult times; you sacrificed your lives; you came to our rescue. It is not only a mystical debt, it is a real credit you have in the balance sheet of our recent history. You were offered Spanish citizenship—it was the least we could do. And just last month, the General Archive on the Civil War, being set up in Salamanca, has included a prominent and specific chapter on the International Brigades.

Allow me, at this point, to share with you an autobiographical footnote, for—as it is important for today's and future Spaniards to have the “orderly rescue of the memory”—I have myself a personal debt with you.

I was born just 10 days before the outbreak of the war, in July 1936, in a small town of La Mancha, not far away from Albacete. Subsequently I

lived in exile, in Mexico, for 17 years, being part of the painful exodus that was provoked by the civil war. And I have heard my father and my father's friends tell, once and again, episodes of the dark years, in which ever so often the lightning of your extreme bravery shed some brightness. You were part of those stories and that history.

Thus, my imagination and my reasoning owes you some of the first

serious thoughts of a young adolescent, pondering what values in life were worth fighting for, what was human decency about -and how fundamental sanity lay in simply being true to one's ideals. And then something that may seem again anecdotal but not for me: I also still cherish at heart the moving memories of listening to an old worn record, smuggled into Spain, with spirited, popular, mil-

teed individual rights under the rule of law, with freedom of speech and full, unrestricted public liberties.

Less than a year away from the 21st century, under a mature Constitution, we have reasons to believe—and we should act on such a belief and hope—that our children, and our grandchildren, and their sons and daughters, will have—as we do today—the same reasons to celebrate

Chicago: Art and War

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Such issues were hotly debated at “The Aesthetic and the Authentic in Representations of the Spanish Civil War.” Contributor and producer of many VALB events, Glazer contrasted Lincoln vet Chuck Hall's personal reflections on the war with film clips from Joris Ivens' 1937 documentary *The Spanish Earth*, and then slides of poster, photographs, and art images from the war, followed by a 1942 recording of the song “El Quinto Regimiento” and a passage from Edwin Rolfe's 1948 poem “Elegia.”

Art as a Weapon

ALBA Historian Peter Carroll described how during the Spanish Civil War art and culture were an integral part of the struggle. Films, posters, photography, and poems documented the horrors of fascism, including the first aerial bombings to terrorize civilian populations.

A panel including Dr. Scott Curtis, Assistant Professor of Radio/-Television/Film at Northwestern; Laura Labauve-Maher a Lecturer in Hispanic Studies, David Mickenberg, director of Northwestern's Block Museum; and Dr. Michael Sherry, Professor of History at Northwestern discussed how the denial of the Spanish Civil War's significant place in the standard histories of World War II give added importance to stories, images, and artifacts for understanding the War.

About 50 people attended the event. Graduate students and faculty joined in discussion with veterans of the San Pedro prison, and CFLB members. Even organizer Glazer was particularly proud of this synthesis of academia and living history. “Scholarship can often be far too isolated from its foundations, its substance, its sources, its inspirations, its players--and in that sense, we are also lucky and perhaps somewhat chastened to have our witnessing of history here today,” he stated. ■



PHOTO THE SOSSENKOS

Lincoln Vets Moe Fishman (left) and George Sossenکو (right) at a reception in the home of Consul General Emilio Cassinello

itant songs, in one of which you gave your mailing address —your paradero—”en el frente de Gandesa, primera línea de fuego.”

Times have changed—radically changed—and thanks to the imagination and efforts of today's Spaniards, the past has gone by and the wounds have all but healed, the scars becoming practically invisible. Today, on the footsteps of the 20th Anniversary of the Spanish democratic Constitution, we, all contemporary Spaniards—and you, our friends—have cause for celebration. Because, in just two decades, things have taken a turn for the better, much better. Not only can we be proud to be the eighth country in the world by industrial GDP and a founder of the euro; not only are we the eleventh country in the world in terms of UNDP general well-being indicators; but, above all we can celebrate that we live in a free, open society, in a democratic country with guaran-

for years and years to come. To close these words let me sum up stating the obvious. The war is over. It has already been over for decades. A new Spain is on its feet.

But you, men and women from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade—our lasting friends—you are not the past, you are not only legend, you are not only memories: you belong to our civilized future. That is why a long letter of gratitude is still being written by the Spanish people, by all the Spaniards of goodwill, to those of you who came from afar to help us in those fateful years. A letter that no longer has to be addressed to any war front, any fire line. A letter that is still flowing because our debt is a standing debt of love, that has no expiration date and that cannot be canceled. As the old Spanish saying goes, love can only be repaid with love. And that, takes forever.

You will always have our gratitude and our hearts.” ■

The Basque Country: *The end of a cycle*

By Kati Gutierrez

The “Basque problem” remains one of the greatest challenges that confronts Spanish democracy, and in our Pais Vasco (the Basque Country) things are still far from running smoothly. Our situation reflects a long history of failure. During the 19th century, our people failed in its fight for liberties and universal civil rights, and the liberal revolution had barely started then. “Ideas without acts and acts without ideas.” That was our history according to Karl Marx.

Not until the second Republic of 1931 did the ideas of nationality and liberalism again have a chance. But as we all know, the democratic revolution became a civil war, and we lost. After the civil war, the clock was set back. Under Franco, the highly centralized and dictatorial state ignored our traditional rights (the “Fueros”) and undertook, among other things, the repression of our national language.

In this atmosphere of national oppression, ETA (Basque Land and Freedom) was born. Initially, it was widely acclaimed as a revolutionary group, finding its justification in the resistance to Franco’s dictatorship. But subsequently ETA became a drawback for the fragile Spanish democracy. It was only after Franco’s death that ETA’s terrorism became most active, gradually increasing its activities, and refusing to admit that the dictatorship was over and that we have a democratic state. ETA’s strategy of provoking a Coup d’Etat that would open the eyes of the Basque working class and would drag them into the fight, was in the end destined to fail.

Actually they have failed before the supreme Court of History. ETA has wasted more than two decades of its militants and of our collective dignity. One of the biggest problems of Basque society today is the reconciliation of the victims and executioners. There are many justifications for ETA’s violence: it is a just cause, our rights have been suppressed, one thousand reasons. But, still, ETA has

killed, often in cold blood, other human beings for the crime of not thinking exactly like them.

There is no political ideal, not even a democratic one, that justifies the death penalty, much less without the rights of trial and due process. Two years ago the Basque people and all of Spain took to the streets by the millions to ask that ETA not kill the young Basque council member from the PP (Popular Party) who they had kidnapped. Two days later he was found in a hole assassinated with a shot in the back of his neck, and a true popular uprising took place to protest the crime.

The ETA side has its own dramas. The policy of previous governments have dispersed 600 ETA prisoners in Spanish prisons. This policy was

a political agreement –the so-called El Pacto de Lizarra—that is satisfactory to ETA too.

But the pact is not acceptable to the two strongest parties in the country, the PP and PSOE (Socialist party). These two parties rejected the agreement for two reasons. One problem is territorial and reflects the claim as one of the most sacred aspirations of Basque nationalism that Navarra be integrated in the Basque country together with the three French-Basque territories. Yet most people in those territories do not vote nationalist; instead they vote for parties that do not agree with that philosophy.

The other point of conflict is whether Spain will accept whatever decision the Basque population makes

Initially, it was widely acclaimed as a revolutionary group, finding its justification in the resistance to Franco's dictatorship. But subsequently ETA became a drawback for the fragile Spanish democracy.

approved by all the political parties, including the PNV (Basque Nationalist Party). The objective of placing the prisoners in different prisons all over Spain was to break their relation with ETA. Many people and political parties disagree with this policy. In addition, there is the horror of the antiterrorist-terrorism by the organization GAL (Antiterrorist Groups of Liberation) created in the early 80’s with the support of high members of government, which caused numerous casualties in the ETA entourage and seriously weakened the foundations of the new Spanish democracy.

The Basque country, Euskadi o Euskalerrria (we cannot even agree on a name) is now immersed in a process that some call a peace process and others of democratic normalization. More than a year ago ETA declared a cease fire. Now, most political and social nationalist forces have reached

unilaterally. In all the elections so far the population of the current autonomous government have voted roughly 50-50 for and against nationalism (in all its varieties, moderate or otherwise). In the case of secession, that support would fall dramatically. As for France, prospects for nationalism are far dimmer.

Probably the time has come for Basque nationalism to harvest the fruits of its success in having resisted uniformity, centralism, and dictatorship; accomplished the survival of its ancestral language; given cohesion to a small country; and obtained one of

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Kati Gutierrez is a high school history teacher and member of the Basque Parliament, representing Izquierda Unida (United Left). Translation provided by Professor Jose Maria Garcia of Bilbao and Victoria Parraga, ALBA Associate.

A Plaque on a Wall in Florence

by Fraser Ottanelli

For the students of my Florida State University overseas program on fascism in Florence, Italy, it was the perfect historical link. Located in the city's medieval heart, on the side of the building opposite the classroom in which I taught, was a plaque marking the spot where Alessandro Sinigaglia, one of the city's most revered antifascist resistance leaders, had been gunned down in February 1944 by Italian fascists working for the Nazis.

As an educator I cannot often bridge the physical distance between the classroom and the locale of pertinent historical events. Sinigaglia's story was the exception. His militant opposition to fascism, from youthful activities in his native Florence, the Garibaldi Battalion of the International brigades during the Spanish Civil War and his martyrdom, provided a unique personal history. The students, from various universities in the United States, were brought home to the complex experiences and the price paid by a generation of antifascists. In addition, Sinigaglia's background makes him stand out among the mem-

As an educator I cannot often bridge the physical distance between the classroom and the locale of pertinent historical events.

bers of the Italian resistance: his father, David, was an Italian Jew and his mother, Mary White, was an African-American from St. Louis who had come to Florence to work as a maid for a wealthy family in one of the villas on the northern slopes of the city.

While I know that there is more to identity than genetic makeup, nevertheless, as an Italian American, I claim Sinigaglia as "one of our own." Now, with material drawn from various archives in Italy and in Moscow, here briefly is Sinigaglia's story.



Alessandro Sinigaglia wearing the uniform of the Spanish Republican navy standing between Giuliano Pajetta (r), political commissar of the XIIth, XIIIth and XVth brigades, and an unidentified member of the International Brigades. Photograph courtesy of Istituto storico della Resistenza in Toscana

A faded photographic portrait taken during the Spanish civil war provides some indication of Sinigaglia's background. Recalling his bravery and resolve, one of his comrades described him as "of medium height, strong, with a dark complexion, an open and intelligent expression, with eyes and cheekbones resembling those of a Mongolian." Born in 1902, Sinigaglia matured in the strong Socialist and Communist culture of Florence's working class neighborhoods. We learn from his file in the archives of the Italian police that at the age of eighteen he joined the Arditi del Popolo, a paramilitary organization, composed mostly of Communists, to resist the bloody Fascist offensive waged at the end of

1922 against workingclass organizations and activists in the period previous to Mussolini's rise to power. Following the Fascist victory, Sinigaglia became one of the leaders of the city's Communist underground organization. Eventually, however, his activities brought him to the attention of the infamous OVRA, a special branch of the Italian police in charge of repressing antifascist activities. Returning from a meeting, late one night in March 1928, Sinigaglia found three policemen waiting for him in

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Fraser Ottanelli, vice-chair of ALBA, teaches U.S. history at the University of South Florida and is writing a history of Italian Americans.

Sinigaglia

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front of his apartment building. Surprisingly, they did not recognize him and he was able to flee. Through the Party's underground network, Sinigaglia illegally crossed the border into France and eventually made it to the Soviet Union. In Moscow he attended the prestigious Lenin School, married a Russian who worked for the Comintern and had a child.

By 1935 Sinigaglia was once again involved in clandestine operations as a member of the Italian Communist party's underground in Switzerland. There he learned of the outbreak of war in Spain and was among the first of the international volunteers to rush in defense of the Republic in August of 1936. In Spain Sinigaglia displayed unique military and political skills. Shortly after arrival, in light of his earlier experience as a submariner in the Italian navy, he was assigned to the Republican cruiser *Mendes Nuñez*. His personnel record in the archives of the International Brigades in Moscow contains several reports he prepared for Luigi Longo (Gallo), Inspector General of the International Brigades, on the morale and overall preparedness of the Republican fleet.

Eventually he was assigned as liaison officer between the Spanish Republican navy and Soviet military advisers. However, his most important job during the war was to supervise the clearing of the mines that the fascist forces repeatedly placed along the

Spanish republicans and members of the International brigades, Sinigaglia crossed the border to France and was interned in the infamous Vernet concentration camp.

In 1941, following the German and Italian occupation of France, the Vichy authorities handed him over to Mussolini's police together with most of the other Italian volunteers, who were then sentenced to four years of internal exile on the island of Ventotene. This policy of bringing Italian volunteers back to Italy and confining them in the same place was to backfire against the Fascists.

In the summer of 1943 the King's decision to depose Mussolini led to the release of political prisoners. Drawing on their military experience, the Italian veterans of the International Brigades provided the core around which the armed resistance movement was established. Upon his release Sinigaglia returned to Florence and was at the head of the Communist party's military organization where he played a central role in organizing and leading the urban partisan organization, the GAP (Groups of patriotic action). Totalling between 20 and 30 members, the GAP were divided into small cells, unconnected to each other, so that in the case of capture the entire organization would not be jeopardized.

During the winter of 1943 and 1944, the GAP carried out scores of daring attacks against Nazi and

Basque

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the most advanced autonomous self-governments in the world. We have our own parliament, the Basque government collects all taxes, has its own police force, and complete autonomy in education, public works etc. But it is time to get rid of some ideological "isms"—its ethnicism, its "ancestral voices," its "nation" above the rights and the will of its citizens to the point of justifying any human rights violation for the sake of that nation.

The Basque Country is now at a crucial point. It can be the time to establish by consensus among us Basques a political framework in which we can live in our diversity, in which the reconciliation and healing of wounds can take place. But also it can be the time for the sordid and fanatic fights in a battlefield ever more divided in two irreconcilable fronts.

Obviously we are for the first alternative, but we must admit that it is not going to be easy. ■

A marked man, he was targeted by the "four saints," a group of Italian fascists under the command of the Nazi S.S. After a long manhunt they found Sinigaglia in a restaurant in the center of Florence dining with another Italian Spanish Civil War vet. His comrade was immediately captured and later executed together with 65 partisans. Sinigaglia overcame his attackers and fled. However, he got no farther than a few hundred yards before he was tracked down, wounded and then killed while lying on the sidewalk. In his honor, the 22nd Garibaldi partisan Brigade took the name of Brigata Sinigaglia, and he was posthumously awarded the Silver Medal for valor, Italy's second highest military award.

As for my students I hope that standing on the spot where "this guy whose mother was from St. Louis" was killed helped them better understand the internationalist character of the struggle against oppression. ■

Drawing on their military experience, the Italian veterans of the International Brigades provided the core around which the armed resistance movement was established.

access channels to the port of Barcelona. According to his personnel record, in the performance of this task he displayed great personal courage and technical expertise, repeatedly placing himself in harm's way and devising new techniques to neutralize explosive devices of varied types.

Following the defeat of the Republic, together with thousands of

Fascist troops and installations. Their most spectacular feats were blowing up the headquarters of the Fascist party and executions of the city's chief of police and a prominent member of Mussolini's government. Sinigaglia carried out the dangerous task of maintaining contacts between the leadership of the Communist party and the partisan units.

Blacklisted

Continued from page 1

plead his case with the Adjutant General, but his request for an interview was denied. He appealed for assistance to the legal department of the NAACP, but they declined to help because his case involved civil liberties not civil rights.

Carter took his case to the American Civil Liberties Union, which agreed to make a private inquiry to the White House. In 1950, one of President Truman's personal advisors reported that the Carter case was officially closed. No charges were ever filed; Carter was never allowed to learn what he had been accused of doing.

The release of Carter's FBI files this year clarified his problem. As U.S. News reported, there were two grounds for questioning the Sergeant's loyalty in 1943. First, "Subject reportedly was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, having served for two and a half years [sic] with said Brigade in Spain." Second, "Potentially adverse—Subject is seemingly potentially capable of having connections with subversive activities due to the fact that he spent his early years (until 1938) in the Orient and has a speaking knowledge of Hindustani and Mandarin Chinese."

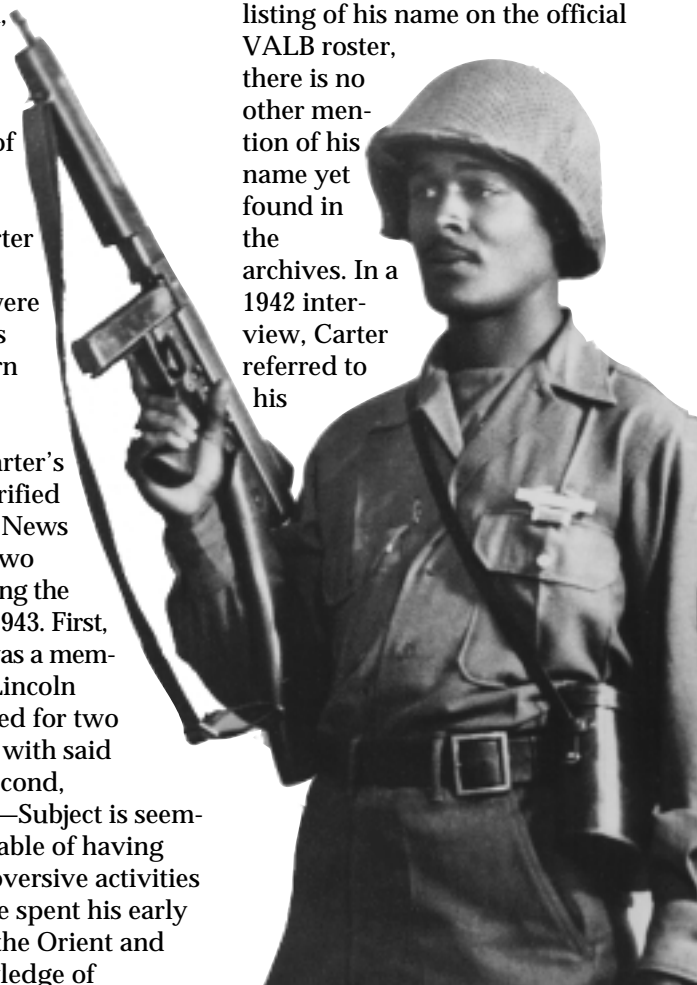
Although the story in U.S. News depicted Carter as a political naïve, he certainly knew that in going to Spain, he had violated State Department rules. Other Lincoln vets were treated by the Army as "premature antifascists"—a euphemism for "communist"—and were denied officer promotions and overseas service.

The Road to Spain

Carter's odyssey began when he followed his father's missionary call to India and China in the 1920s and '30s.

As a teenager in Shanghai, he studied the military arts at a Chinese academy and had volunteered to fight against the Japanese invaders of China between 1931 and 1935. From China, he had returned home to Los Angeles and soon afterward went to Spain. His family believes he joined the International Brigades as a professional soldier to fight the good fight.

Evidence of Carter's service in Spain remains sketchy. Aside from the listing of his name on the official VALB roster, there is no other mention of his name yet found in the archives. In a 1942 interview, Carter referred to his



arrested in France. Thus his service in Spain probably lasted only a few months. We have not yet found information about which units he served with and no surviving Lincoln veteran can remember him in Spain.

By 1939 Carter was back in Los Angeles, where he married and had the first of his two sons. When World War II began, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. His service in the segregated army was limited to menial assignments. After his unit was shipped overseas, he repeatedly volunteered for a combat assignment. His application was finally accepted in 1945.

Downgraded to a private, he got his chance to fight in March 1945. When the tank he was riding on came under fire from a farmhouse in Germany, Carter led a three-man squad to locate the enemy. Almost immediately Carter's two comrades were shot. He was left in an exposed position, targeted by heavy machine gun fire. Five times he was shot, yet he used his marksman skills to take out an unknown number of German soldiers.

Finally, the Germans sent eight soldiers to capture him. Carter killed six of them and captured the other two. Carter, bleeding from wounds, walked across a German field with his bayonet stuck against the neck of one German, his rifle pointing at the back of the other. Carter was recommended for the Medal of Honor; he got the DSC instead.

After the war, Carter returned to Los Angeles, trying unsuccessfully to start a small business. He also assumed

The Germans sent eight soldiers to capture him. Carter killed six of them and took the other two prisoners.... Carter was recommended for the Medal of Honor; he got the DSC instead.

frozen feet in Spain, suggesting that he had participated in action around Teruel during the winter of 1938. In 1946, he told another interviewer for People's World, a west coast communist newspaper, that when the fascists broke through the Republican lines in March 1938, he had retreated all the way to the French border and been

leadership of a local black business association, aimed at ending racial discrimination.

Ebony magazine featured Carter

Continued on page 12

Peter Carroll, chair of ALBA, is the author of *The Odyssey of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade*.

Blacklisted

Continued from page 11

with six other African American DSC winners. The article quoted him saying that black soldiers in World War II proved that racial cooperation was possible. He also said the army might benefit from some improvement—"about 99 percent improvement."

In 1947, Carter accepted recognition from a local group of the American Youth For Democracy and attended their "Welcome Home Joe" party. Other guests included Hollywood celebrities, such as Ingrid Bergman, and political radicals, including Lincoln vet and screenwriter Alvah Bessie (soon to achieve notoriety as one of the Hollywood Ten) and Paul Robeson. Carter's attendance at this event is verified by the report of an FBI informant.

By 1947, Carter decided to reenlist in the army. The military overlooked his alleged offenses and assigned him as a weapons instructor in a newly created National Guard unit for black soldiers. But when the Guard published their roster of instructors, Carter's name was missing, foreshadowing his future problems.

Carter served well during the next two years, receiving no warnings about impending problems. One day before his reenlistment was expected, the army instead gave him an honorable discharge. His papers were stamped

cle about black DSC winners in 1950—asking where are they now?—Carter could barely respond. He finally sent a lame response that his work was "confidential." The accompanying photograph shows the despair that clouded his life.

When further appeals to the government brought no response, Carter's anger turned to bitterness and depression. He began to drink heavily, neglected his appearance, and became a problem for his family. In 1958, a friendly physician wrote once more to the ACLU, pleading for a reopening of Carter's case in hope that the restoration of his military career would restore his self-respect. The ACLU could offer no hope.

In 1963, at the age of 46, Staff Sergeant Edward Carter, Jr. was dead in Los Angeles. No obituary appeared in the newspapers; only his family visited the grave.

And there the Carter case rested until President Clinton moved in 1996 to amend the errors of military justice for African Americans. The White House ceremony blazed Carter's name on front pages; World War II comrades came forward to recall his heroism and mourn his early death.

Only his family knew what the government had done to this proud veteran of two wars. "We need to end

We need to end the hurt, to show the American people just what the army did to Edward Carter. We wish to restore his dignity.

"Not permitted to reenlist without approval of the adjutant general."

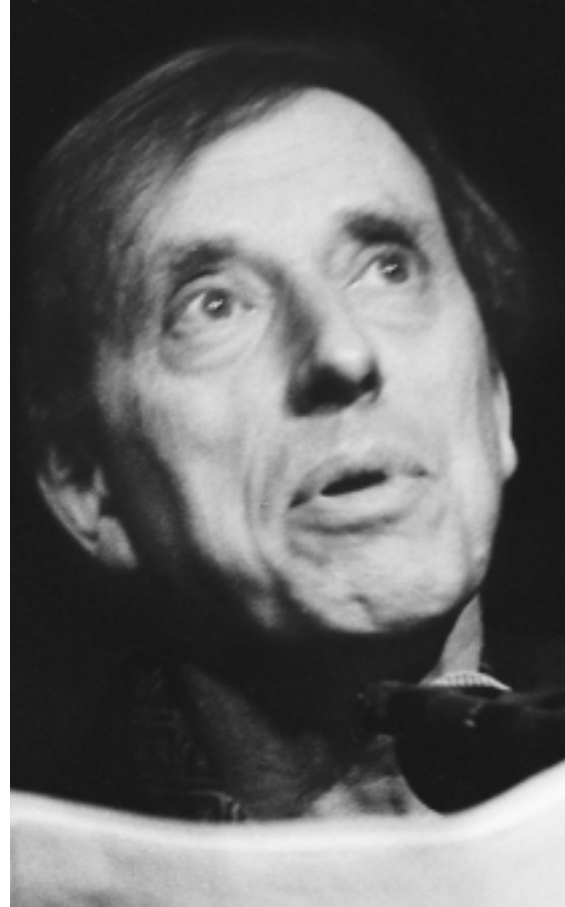
When neither a personal appearance nor the NAACP nor the ACLU could persuade the army to reverse its decision, Carter's life turned sour. Letters to his attorneys reveal a frustrated and angry man. He even sent his DSC to a lawyer with the request that he return it to the White House.

When Ebony magazine prepared to publish a sequel to the earlier arti-

cle about black DSC winners in 1950—asking where are they now?—Carter could barely respond. He finally sent a lame response that his work was "confidential." The accompanying photograph shows the despair that clouded his life.

Veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, who won many medals for courage during World War II and who shared with Carter the honor of being called "premature antifascists," welcome him into their ranks. ■

Sweet



Invited to speak at the annual VALB reunion in Oakland, California on February 28, 1999, the writer Ariel Dorfman began by describing the impact of the Lincoln Brigade on his imagination when, as a 9-year old boy, he was taken by his father to Spain for the first time. As a young man in the early 1970s, Dorfman held a government position in the leftist regime of Salvador Allende in Chile. He was nearly killed and then forced into exile when General Augusto Pinochet, with the aid of the U.S. CIA, toppled the government in September 1973. Now, as the legal system of post-Franco Spain attempts to bring Pinochet to justice for crimes against humanity, Dorfman turned to the question: Why Spain?

Circles by Ariel Dorfman



My love affair with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and in fact my debt to its Veterans, started many years ago, when I was nine years old. It started the day I stood on the frontier of Spain in October of 1951, the year I visited Europe for the first time.

My Argentine father, a former communist and still very much a man of the left—like many of his generation who had España en el corazón, Spain in their hearts—my father had sworn that he would never step on Spanish soil until Franco was gone or dead. But we swear many things in life and life makes demands of us that are not

always heroic or definitive; life has a way of confronting us with that Primo Levi called the grey zones. My father was working at the time at the United Nations in New York and he had professional business to conduct in Madrid and Barcelona and so we came to the frontier of the country he had never wanted to visit in his life even though it had been at the center of that life and on his mind ever since its struggle against fascism in the thirties had inspired him and countless millions around the world.

What I remember above all was

that frontier. We had been travelling from France and, because the tracks were narrow-gauge on the Spanish side, it was necessary to descend in Irun, I believe it was, and change trains. My father took me by the hand and walked me to the very edge of Spanish territory. He crouched down to my height, so he could look me in the eyes and told me that this was the place where the Republic had been betrayed. Here, he said, right here, the weapons that the Republic had paid for had been blocked by the French, with the acquiescence of the English and the Americans. Proclaiming their neutrality, these countries, future allies against Germany, had conspired to starve the Republic, not realizing that they were, in fact, encouraging

where the Spanish were betrayed...

For me, in 1951, the existence of the Lincoln Brigades did not work merely as a legendary story of heroism, of men and women willing to give their lives for the cause of democracy while their governments stood by and watched the Republic bleed to death. Though born in Buenos Aires, I was then a little yankee boy who thought of himself as an American or perhaps it would be more adequate to amend that to read: from the North, an American from the North. I refused to speak Spanish, sang the Star Spangled Banner with fervor and swore that New York was the best city in the best country in the world.

Like any little patriot, I was

A sweet way for the pendulum of history to swing back, for a balance to be restored to the cosmos: that the Madrid which the Veterans defended in the battle of Jarama, that the Spain they had to leave against their will, be the final prison for General Pinochet or, at least, the place where his trial will take place.

the appeasing of Hitler and Mussolini. Did I know Hitler and Mussolini?

I nodded my head solemnly.

Hitler's aircraft, my father said, Mussolini's ground troops were engaged on the side of Franco. And I knew who Franco was because he was the hijo de puta who governed this land and whose name I shouldn't mention while we were in Spain. Even then, as a child, I was being trained, as my own children would be many years later in Chile, to hide my thoughts from the men in power, to hide what our family really thought about Franco.

Franco, my father twisted the word in his mouth as if it hurt him merely to say it. Here is where the Second World War began, my father went on. Never forget that here is

always looking for a reason to justify my love of my adopted homeland. And yet, I was also the son of a father persecuted by McCarthy, a witch-hunt that would eventually lead us to abandon the United States a few years later and head for Chile. At nine years of age, I was living an irreconcilable contradiction: the country I considered my own was trying to exile my father and might perhaps even kill him. The fact that the very United States that was hounding my family and so many of my family's left wing gringo friends had also produced the Lincoln Brigades, was a source of comfort to me and also one of the first profoundly political lessons I received in my life.

It confirmed me in something I

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PHOTOS RICHARD BERNACK

Poet Philip Levine (left) and Bill Sennett at the ALBA Bill Sennett lecture, "The Spanish Civil War in Poetry." Approximately 150 people attended the event co-sponsored by the Bancroft Library, University of California, April 1999.

ALBA Lecture Series



Gabriel Jackson presenting the second annual Bill Susman lecture at the Juan Carlos I Center, New York University, April 1999.

Sweet Circles

Continued from page 13

knew but could barely articulate at the time: there were two Americas, one personified by the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover and Joe McCarthy, an America that segregated Negroes and meddled in foreign lands, while the other one, the other America was made up of citizens who were willing to risk their lives for freedom wherever it was threatened, an America that came to be represented more and more in my imagination by the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. That was the America that I could belong to: if they could defy their government in the name of the permanent values that America should really stand for, so could I. If they defined their loyalty to humanity above their loyalty to the short term interests of the United States, so could I.

The men and women of the Lincoln Brigade could not know that, many years after they had left Madrid,

they would rescue a small nine year old boy from confusion and push him toward political maturity, they could not have anticipated that their own existence would help him to realize that there was another deeper and more decent America to which he could pledge allegiance.

It is proof how, beyond their wartime exploits and their service to the Republic, the example of the Veterans, their mere presence, can influence history in many strange and secret ways. Never underestimate how an exemplary life can persist in the imagination of others, how it can inspire beyond death.

How does my story intersect with the dictator of my country who, in a London mansion and under the watchful eye of Scotland yard, still awaits possible extradition to Spain?

First let's establish the Spanish connection.

This is the man who has pronounced Franco to be his hero (though Napoleon is a close second), who sees

himself as continuing the Caudillo's special mixture of repressively conservative Catholicism with a modernizing capitalist mentality, our general Pinochet considers himself to have saved Chile from becoming a second Cuba and indeed, in his vanity, has declared that, like Franco, he saved the world itself from communism. And just as Franco rose against the freely elected authorities of Spain, Pinochet overthrew the democratic government of Salvador Allende, betraying the President who had named him Commander in Chief of the Chilean Army.

And Allende's political creed and service to his people and the oppressed of the world had been forged in the wake of Spain's struggle. Indeed, he came to prominence in 1938 as the youngest Minister of the Popular Front government of Pedro Aguirre Cerda, modeled on the coalition that was fighting for its life in Spain at that very moment...

Continued on page 15

Nor does the Spanish connection with Chile cease there: later, when Allende became a perennial candidate for president, his marches were always punctuated by the songs of the Spanish Civil War. We thought of ourselves often, in Chile, as repeating the Spanish experience, but this time with a happy ending.

While our adversaries used Spain as a warning, reminding us that what had happened there could happen in Chile. And, in 1973, it did. The coup came, the massacres came, the persecution came. And then, *si España estuvo en el corazón para la generación de mi padre*, if Spain lived on in the hearts of my father's generation, Chile found its way into the heart of my generation across the planet during the seventies and eighties.

Allende's democratic road to socialism created the hope that there was an alternative not only to capitalist development—or should I say misdevelopment—but also an alternative to stalinist models of society, a project that was crushed in part by U.S. intervention just as the search for socialism with the human face was destroyed in Prague by Soviet tanks in more or less the same years. And our defeat in Chile, as the Republic's defeat in Spain, ushered in long years of repression around the world, concentration camps and torture, censorship and exile, disappearances and executions.

The fact that it should be Spain that is demanding General Pinochet's extradition, that it is post-Franco Spain that is willing to judge those crimes that our own Chile, because of understandable flaws and weaknesses in our transition to democracy, has not and probably will not be able to carry out, is a cause of great satisfaction to those who struggle for human rights all over the world but must be particularly satisfying to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who watched Francisco Franco die in his bed without ever having been held accountable. The fact that [Pinochet]

the ideological heir to Franco, who went to the Caudillo's funeral and then had to leave hurriedly before Juan Carlos was crowned, the fact that the Franco of our times is under arrest because a Spanish judge decided to charge him with the murder of Spanish citizens and international terrorism and crimes against humanity, has to have brought many smiles to our Veterans who have, unfortunately, seen far too many disasters all over the world following the fall of the Republic...

A sweet way for the pendulum of history to swing back, for a balance to be restored to the cosmos: that the Madrid which the Veterans defended in the battle of Jarama, that the Spain



Ariel Dorfman with Bay Area post commander David Smith

they had to leave against their will, be the final prison for General Pinochet or, at least, the place where his trial will take place...

This does not attenuate the need of the people of the United States to address the crimes committed in foreign lands in their name. There are two Americas, the America that helped to overthrow democracy in Chile and the America that fought that intervention. The America of Nixon and the America of the Lincoln Brigade. And the America of the Lincoln Brigade still has unfinished business at home, right here in the United States.

It is not enough for Pinochet to be tried for his crimes against humanity.

Humanity—the humanity of the United States public—must also demand that the America that put Pinochet in power and sustained him there for many years, open its files, let the world know what those files hide about the dictator's human rights violations and, even more important, the U.S. government must be pressured to ask for the extradition of General Pinochet to the United States to face trial for the murder of Allende's Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his American assistant, Ronnie Moffett. If the U.S. is really interested in fighting international terrorism... All [President Clinton] has to do is instruct his Attorney General to demand General Pinochet's extradition.

Then the circle would be truly complete. Think of the day when the Veterans who are left, the Veterans who crossed the Atlantic to die and live for Spain, the veterans who fought their own government over Vietnam and Nicaragua, the Veterans who gave me hope as a child on that frontier in Spain and inspired me as an adolescent and later as a revolutionary in Chile and even later as a wandering bilingual exile for years and years, think of

those Veterans filing into a courtroom in Washington D.C. and seeing the self-proclaimed heir to Franco stand accused of crimes against humanity.

Then the circle that started in the States and wove through Spain would be truly complete, would be incredibly sweet. In a sense, the Brigadistas would finally have come home.

Ariel Dorfman's complete speech, including his memory of first learning of the Lincoln Brigade from his father, is available as a CD recording for \$16.50 (including postage). Make checks payable to VALB, P.O. Box 884354, San Francisco, CA 94188.

PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK

Bay Area News

by Dave Smith

WOW—It was an awesome sight, the 10x14 foot cabin, built in 1906, hanging from a crane 40 feet above the ground. Bill Bailey's former home was placed on a flat bed truck and hauled from Telegraph Hill to a temporary storage site in San Francisco.

Both local newspapers, the Chronicle and the Examiner, covered the event, referring to Bailey as "the legendary waterfront labor leader." The VALB cottage committee got the support of San Francisco Mayor Willy Brown and help from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Bailey's former neighbor, Peter Dwarres, recalled his memories of the former ILWU officer: "He was rugged, one of a kind, individualistic, a socialist, and a very fine gentleman. He



PHOTO: HON BROWN

Bill Bailey's Cottage Seeks New Site

gave the neighborhood character."

Since 1997 our Vets committee has been involved with plans for the cottage. Without going into many details, there is now a question about the final resting place of Bill's house. A proposal to move the cottage to a

nearby site has been sent to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for their approval. ▀

Dave Smith is the VALB Commander of the Bay Area Post

A Legacy of Hannah Olson Creighton

The obituary of VALB Associate Hannah Creighton appeared in the Winter 98/99 issue of The Volunteer. Since then, Gene Coyle, Hannah's wid-

ower, and Dean Slocum organized an eye clinic in Ciudadela Guillermo Manuel Ungo, El Salvador in Hannah's honor. Twenty-two volunteers from the

Pacific University's Los Amigos optometry organization brought 10,000 pairs of donated prescription glasses, 450 reading glasses, medications, and examining equipment to El Salvador. The clinic was held in a school room in Marin, California's sister city. In five days the clinic treated 2000 patients.

Most of the patients only needed reading glasses. To test the strength, patients were given a needle and thread and then tried on different glasses until they could thread the needle without difficulty.

After the traveling eye clinic left, the school building was renamed and dedicated to Hannah. The Bay Area post is proud of the contributions made by Hannah and the dedication of the clinic. It is another milestone in the contributions of the Vets and their associates to the cause of humanity. ▀



Dean Slocum (left) and Gene Coyle

George Watt Awards

ALBA's annual George Watt Awards are given to students for the best papers on the Spanish Civil War. The awards include a \$500 cash prize. This year's winners are Yossef C. Blum of Yeshiva University, New York, for an essay on Dr. Edward Barsky, and Catherine Wigginton, Cole College, Iowa, for an essay on Salaria Kee. Summaries of the award winning essays are printed below.

Dr. Edward Barsky by Yossef C. Blum

Dr. Edward Barsky, a world-renowned surgeon who devoted his great talents to helping the Spanish Republic and the Spanish refugees, was an extraordinary individual. After graduating from Columbia University of Physicians and Surgeons in 1919, he became a top surgeon at Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan. His medical expertise was well established, and many regarded him as one of the ablest sur-



geons in the East. Yet, he did not limit his application of the medical model to individual cases; he sought to aid human beings on a grander, more global scale.

Dr. Barsky helped form the American Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy, a relief group that succeeded in raising over \$1,000,000, an extraordinary sum for that time. Although he also was in charge of putting together a group of doctors and nurses to assist the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain, it came as quite a surprise to him when he was called upon to lead the medical effort in Spain.

Risking his life on a daily basis, Dr. Barsky described his work in Spain as "a forbidding workload under formidable conditions." Despite all the

various problems, Dr. Barsky invented several innovative surgical procedures that virtually revolutionized the practice of war medicine.

After the war Dr. Barsky devoted countless years to helping Spanish refugees. In 1941, he helped found the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee (JAFRC), an organization devoted to improving the horrendous health and living conditions of the refugees. While this organization was initially successful, the JAFRC was one of the first organizations to be attacked by HUAC. Presented with an order to produce the JAFRC's records, Dr. Barsky led the committee's refusal and was subsequently charged with contempt.

Throughout the trial, the three years of appeals, and his jail sentence of five months, Dr. Barsky received wide support from many who felt he had simply done nothing wrong; his primary goal had been to save thousands of innocent lives.

Of Dr. Barsky's sacrifice, Ernest Hemingway said, "Eddie is a Saint. That's where we put our saints in this country, in jail." ■

Salaria Kee by Catherine Wigginton

They were there in Spain 1937-1938, American Negroes. History has recorded it. Before that time, the leading ambassadors of the Negro in Europe were jazz-band musicians, concert artists, dancers, or other performers. But these Negroes in Spain were fighters—voluntary fighters—which is where history turned another page.

Salaria Kee was one of the 2,800 Americans who traveled to Spain in 1937 to volunteer for the Second Spanish Republic. Sixty women and ninety African-Americans were



included in that group. Kee was the only African-American woman.

Kee arrived with the Second American Medical Unit in Spain on April 3, 1937. Her group set up a base hospital in Villa Paz, near Madrid, and hospital beds immediately filled with hundreds of wounded soldiers. The medical site lacked both sufficient skilled labor and many resources, but Kee did not mind. Under these circumstances the American doctors and nurses had to work quickly and effectively. Hence, leadership and respect were given based on merit alone. Kee's superior nursing skills resulted in her appointment as head nurse of two wards in the hospital.

Five months into her service, Kee met and fell in love with Pat O'Reilly, a wounded Irish International brigader. The two married on October 2, 1937. Four months later, in February 1938, the medical unit received orders to move to the front, but in March a bomb dropped by fascist planes over her field hospital converted her into the patient, no longer capable of military service. Kee spent the next several months in America fundraising for the war effort, until the civil war ended in 1939.

Although after the Spanish Civil War Kee fell out of political activity, she had established herself in history. Not only had she made a difference in her own life by putting herself in a situation where she experienced equality, but she had also been a participant in one of the greatest struggles of the twentieth century. ■



Spain's Women Prisoners Speak

Prison of Women, Testimonies of War and Resistance in Spain, 1939-1975
by Tomasa Cuevas. Translated and edited by Mary E. Giles.
Albany State University of New York Press, 1998

by Shirley Mangini

In 1989, Mary Giles, a Professor of Humanities at California State University, Sacramento, was in Madrid researching documents from the Spanish Inquisition when she came upon a book of prison testimonies by women from the Spanish Civil War, *Carcel de mujeres 1939-1945* (Barcelona: Sirocco, 1985) compiled by Tomasa Cuevas. Giles later found that Cuevas had published two other volumes: *Carcel de Mujeres* (1985) and *Mujeres de la resistencia* (1986). She began corresponding with Tomasa and they agreed on a translation.

When they met to work five years later, Giles was overwhelmingly impressed by this tiny spirited woman who had endured years of torture and imprisonment, and in

world the opportunity to read these moving and tragic stories of solidarity and survival. In addition, while in all three volumes Cuevas de-emphasizes the importance of her own testimonies, Giles reorders her intermittently rendered life story and brings it to the foreground. What we have is both a tribute to Tomasa and well-edited narrative of the life of a woman who never wavered in her pursuit of a free Spain.

Cuevas describes her early years as the daughter of a chronically-ill mother and a handicapped father who had to abandon her education to help her sick mother, thereby learning only elementary skills. At the age of nine she was working, and shortly thereafter began delivering messages for the Communist Party, though she later joined the JSU (the unified socialist and communist youth organization). Her first arrest came in 1934, to be followed by others after the war when she worked with the resistance until she finally fled to France in 1953.

Cuevas tells many stories about her plight that are similar to those of



husband was away on dangerous missions and her daughter was cared for by family members.

Yet her narrative is not a plaint or an apology, nor does it reveal any bitterness. It merely describes the life of an indomitable crusader whose exemplary life of commitment makes her a heroine of quixotic stature. Despite the limitations of her writing skills and her meager financial resources, Cuevas did not hesitate to subsidize her travels and the publication of the transcribed testimonies. She was convinced her goal was worth every ounce of strength and every last peseta to bring the voices of her cellmates to print. She was right.

The book describes the peregrinations of the women from prison to prison, the hunger, the torture, the illnesses caused by the abominable

They lost their voices, their freedom, their health, their families and their country. Fortunately, many of the survivors never relinquished their ideals and persevered and because of Tomasa Cuevas, who has acted as a medium for those silenced women, we are able to read their stories today.

her waning years still had the sense of commitment and the energy required to travel around Spain with a tape recorder in search of her lost cellmates.

Mary Giles has accomplished a laudable feat. By selecting testimonies from the three books (largely the first two), editing and translating them, she has given the English-speaking

her prisonmates. Her life is the portrait of a woman of exceptional will power who, though severely injured while tortured, never revealed the whereabouts of her comrades. Tomasa married another resistance member, had a child and endured countless emotional and physical hardships as an underground activist. She describes the pain of being alone for years at a time, while her

For information about purchasing this book see page 21

conditions and the humiliations inflicted on them by righteous prison guards, often merciless nuns. It offers some of the most dramatic stories repeatedly told by women who were incarcerated during the regime: that of Matilde Landa, who helped many women elude the death sentence and whose own mysterious death haunted her cellmates, and that of the "13 roses," 13 teenage girls who perished before a firing squad and whose "crime" had been to collect money for the Loyalists. It provides the testimony of "Rosaria la Dinamitera," the young miliciana who lost her hand, making bombs in the first days of the war. We read of the escape of several young women from the Le Corts Prison in Barcelona and Blas Rojo's eerie memories about life on death row and the horrific sounds of men being tortured and killed.

Prison of Women is a major contribution to literature on prison life during the Franco Regime, especially to the small body of work about the women who suffered in myriad ways at the hands of Franco's inquisitors. They were women who had transgressed and were to be "reformed." They lost their voices, their freedom, their health, their families and their country. Fortunately, many of the survivors never relinquished their ideals and persevered and because of Tomasa Cuevas, who has acted as a medium for those silenced women, we are able to read their stories today. ■

Shirley Mangini, ALBA Board member, is a professor of Spanish Literature at California State University, Long Beach, and the author of *Memories of Resistance: Women's Voices from the Spanish Civil War*.

Official Web Site of the Pilots Association of the Spanish Republic

from: Henri San Benito
ADAR (Asociación de aviadores de la Republica Española)

I have the pleasure of announcing the new incorporation on the web of the Official Web Site of the Pilots Association of the Spanish Republic "ADAR."

http://members.xoom.com/ADAR_ES/Index.htm

I invite you to communicate with us via Email

Salud

Henri San Benito

adar_es@xoommail.com

ALBA'S TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

SHOUTS FROM THE WALL

Chicago

August 14 — October 17
Chicago Public Library
400 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 747-4876, TDD (312) 747-4969

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

THE AURA OF THE CAUSE

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.

Boston

Sept. 1-30, 1999
Goffman Gallery
University of Massachusetts
Boston, MA

Eugene

October 10-Nov. 20, 1999
Cultural Forum, University of Oregon
1585 East 13th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403
For additional information, contact
Jessie Johnson, Visual Arts Coordinator:
541-346-0007.

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



Added to Memory's Roster



PHOTO RICHARD BERMACK

Ruth Davidow

If there were Forever Activist Awards, Ruth Davidow would get the Red Star. After serving as a nurse in the Spanish Civil War, she used her medical skill to serve the disadvantaged as a public health nurse. In 1960 she journeyed to Cuba, joining the Public Health Organization in Havana, where she worked for two years. In 1965 she participated in the civil rights movement in Mississippi, working with the Medical Committee for Human Rights, during "Freedom Summer." When Native Americans occupied Alcatraz Island, they asked Ruth to run the health care services. She was one of the few non-Native Americans allowed on the island. She celebrated her 85th birthday at the Third International Women's Conference in Beijing, where she was a delegate. A key subject in several documentaries including, *The Good Fight*, *Their Cause was Liberty*, and the Academy Award nominee, *Forever Activists*, Davidow became a film

"You don't have to be a VIP—because I never was—and you don't have to be the smartest or the most successful. All you need is a great commitment to the life you're living and the community you're in, and the rest of it is joy."

Ruth Davidow

maker herself, producing 21 films, on subjects from health care to political activism. She was born in Russia in 1911, and immigrated to the United States when she was three. She graduated from Brooklyn Jewish Hospital with a degree in nursing in 1936. After the civil war she married fellow Lincoln Vet Fred Keller. Davidow died on June 28.

Grigore Naum

Grigore Naum (Naum Rotstein) was born in 1911 in Baltzi, Bassarabia. He joined the youth movement and organized anti-Nazi demonstrations for which he was arrested and expelled from engineering school.

When Naum joined the International Brigades he delivered the design of a new weapon, invented by his older brother, to Russian military specialists in Spain. The weapon became known as "The Katiousha." Tragically, his brother would be arrested and shot in Russia by Stalin, after inquiring about his own design.

Grigore was wounded in battle, but was rescued by the bravery of his comrades. When the Republicans were forced to withdraw into France, he was sent by the French to Gurs prison camp and later to Djelfa in French Sahara along with other Romanians. When the camp was liberated in 1942 the Romanian group joined the fight on the Russian front.

For his activity during the WWII he was decorated as a war veteran by the Romanian and European Community. After the war Naum became a manager of a Pharmaceutical Company. In 1992 he joined his family in San Francisco and became active in the environmental movement.

François Mazou

François Mazou, French IB veteran died at the end of July in Pau. As commissar in the 6th of February Battalion, part of the original 15th Brigade, he was wounded and left for dead at Morata de Tajula. Wounded again in the Ebro campaign, he later commanded the IB hospital in Figueras. He was instrumental in aiding Spanish refugees in the Gurs concentration camp, and participated in the French resistance on both sides of the Pyrenees.

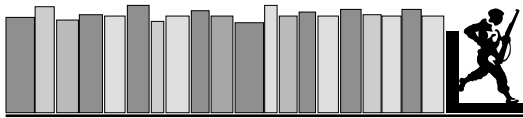
Active in IB veterans affairs, he helped with the restoration of the forgotten IB section of the local cemetery of Morata.

Sid Levine

Sid Levine, one of the original contingent of volunteers who named themselves the Lincoln Battalion, died in California last July. Known for his courage and skill with heavy machine guns, he became company commander at Brunete. In 1938 he was assigned to political work in France, but when he learned of the fascist advances that spring, he left his job and returned to action in Spain. Many vets remember his heroism during the battalion's last actions.

Anthony De Maio

Obituary next issue



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

Trees Become Torches, Selected Poems

by Edwin Rolfe (pbk) \$10

Collected Poems of Edwin Rolfe (pbk) \$21

From Mississippi to Madrid

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 Thomas Cuevas \$10

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:

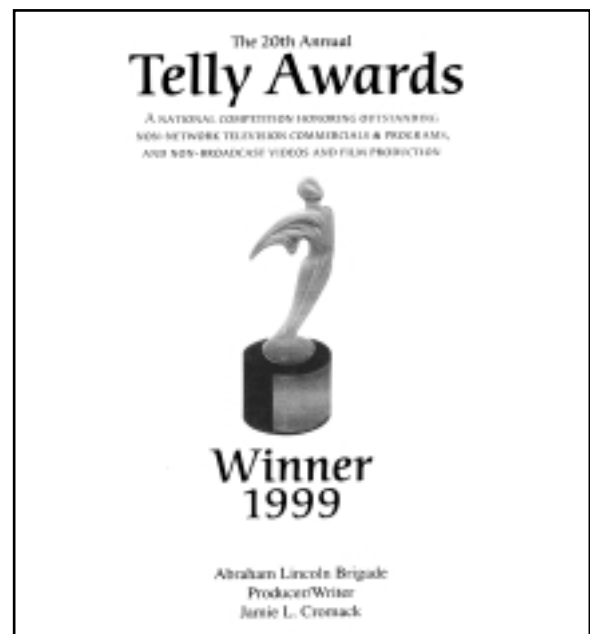
Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade

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.

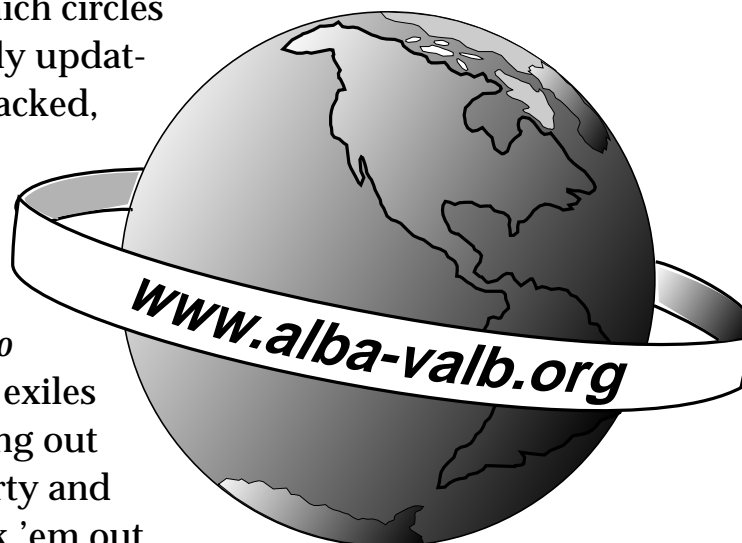


Lincoln Brigade Video Wins Prize

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a video produced last year by Jamie L. Cromack of Phoenix, Arizona, and broadcast on the High School Channel, has won a Telly Award from the Center for Creativity. The 25-minute production includes footage of the Spanish Civil War provided by ALBA and interviews with vets David Smith and Robert Steck as well as ALBA's Peter Carroll. Copies of the video are available for \$15. Checks should be made out to ALBA and sent to : **ALBA, Box 1571, Tucker, GA 30085**

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.
- ☐ I would like to have ALBA's poster exhibit, *Shouts from the Wall*, in my locality. Please send information.
- ☐ I would like to have ALBA's photo exhibit, *The Aura of the Cause*, in my locality. Please send information.

Name _____

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I enclose an additional donation of _____. I wish ☐ do not wish ☐
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Please mail to: ALBA, 799 Broadway, Room 227, New York, NY 10003



Contributions



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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

Letters

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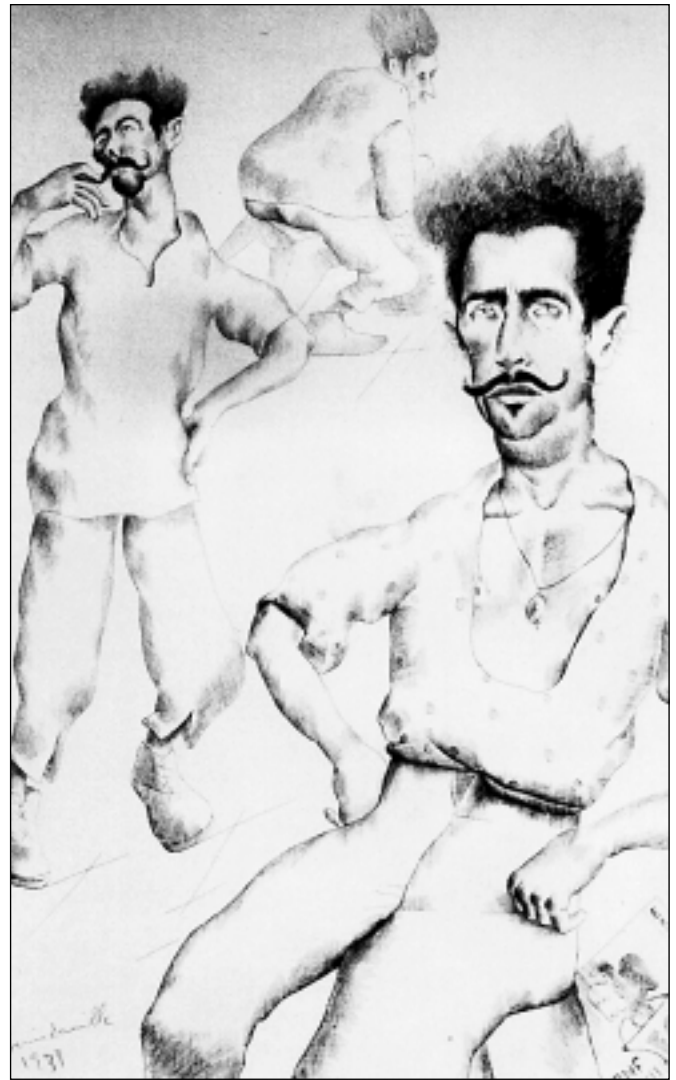
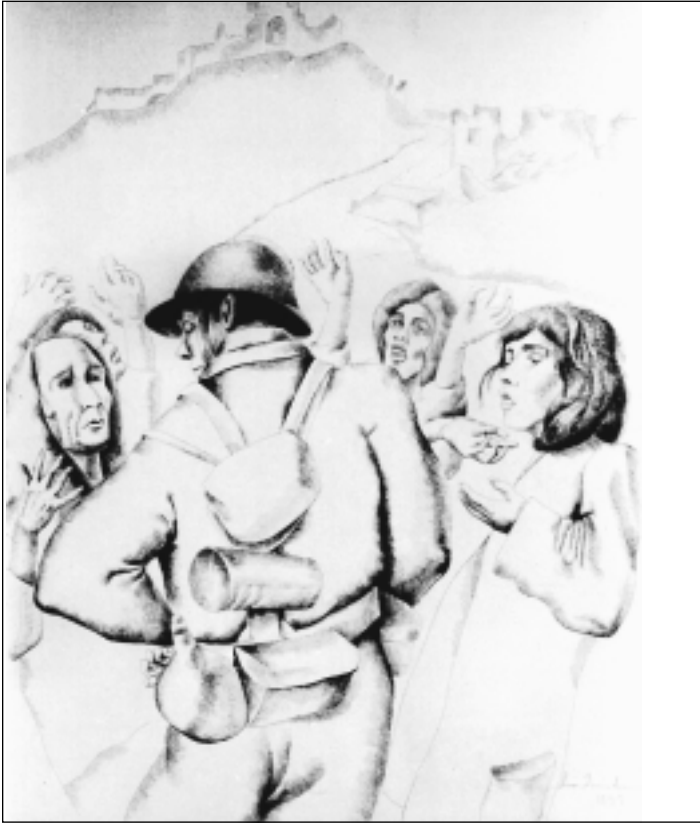
Dear Veterans,

My name is Margarita Cortes. I am a graduate student in Germany. In the last couple years I have been doing research about the Spanish Civil War. Last year when I wrote a research paper about the origin of the communist party in Spain, I got more and more fascinated with the International Brigades and especially with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. I just could not stop reading about the brave Americans who left everything behind them to fight against fascism, while the "great powers" were too afraid to intervene. What surprised me was that every time I started talking about Americans in the Spanish Civil War with other students or some professors at my school, all you would hear was Hemingway. Nobody seemed to know much about those Americans that actually fought in this war. This is one of the reasons why I have decided to write my masters-thesis about the ALB. Another reason is that I am originally from Spain and I feel incredibly thankful for what those young Americans did for my country.

Thank you, danke, muchisimas gracias no se os olvidara, no luchasteis en vano

Margarita Cortes

Luis Quintanilla Drawings of the Spanish Civil War



REPRODUCTIONS COURTESY OF PAUL QUINTANILLA AND THE GODWIN-TERNBACH MUSEUM

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65-30 Kissena Boulevard
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ph: 718 997-4747 for hours

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Gallery Talk, The War Art of Luis Quintanilla by
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***ALBA associates and friends are encouraged to
visit the gallery and attend the lecture.***

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