

The Volunteer

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

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

JOURNAL OF THE VETERANS OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

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Spring 2000



A Monument in B.C., page 12

Vets and supporters at the unveiling of the IB monument in British Columbia, Canada, (l-r) Tom Kozar, Rosaleen Ross, Joe Barrett, Dave Smith, Jack Harman, and Arne Knutsen.

The Judge Who Indicted Pinochet to Speak at NY Vets Event April 28, 30, page 4

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We Must Remember! Honors Fighting Spirit at Bay Area Vets Reunion

Peter Glazer's sensational theatrical presentation "We Must Remember!" which headlines the annual New York reunion on April 30, left a crowd of 900 spectators simultaneously cheering and weeping at the show's premier performance before Bay Area veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on February 27. Based on the writings of Spanish Civil War participants and observers, together with the war's legendary songs, as well as new

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We Must Remember! New York April 30





Sgt. Edward Carter Honored in Sacramento

The only Lincoln vet to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor, Sgt. Edward A. Carter, Jr., received special recognition last February when the California Military

Museum in Sacramento unveiled a special exhibit as part of the celebration of Black History Month.

Carter's heroic exploits occurred in 1945 in Germany, but because of the army's discriminatory policies toward African American soldiers, he received only the Distinguished Service Cross. In 1997, President Bill Clinton moved to remedy that injustice by awarding Carter the Medal of Honor. Carter died in Los Angeles in 1963 at the age of 47.

Besides the racial prejudice he faced in the army, Carter's service in Spain had made him suspect to military intelligence officers because of the Lincoln Brigade's ties to the Communist Party. Indeed, in 1949, the army rejected his request for reenlistment. That blacklisting, part of the Truman era witchhunting, abruptly ended his military career.

Carter's daughter-in-law, Allene Carter, has led a long crusade to have his military record corrected.

Join the Discussion Online

During the past few months, ALBA's on-line discussion group has had a 20% increase in membership, predominantly due to the interest of Europeans who subscribed to the site. The work of the ALBA members present at the Madrid Forum on the International Brigades last November has encouraged many newcomers to participate in the list.

There are currently 190 members, with new sign-ups every week. This list is the only predominately English language discussion group on the subject, although we do accept and encourage contributions in other languages, mainly Spanish and French. By far the largest proportion of members are in the United States, although the European contingent currently represents 25%, with Spain the largest contributor, followed closely by the United Kingdom. The "postings," or contributions, are circulated as far and wide as Australia, New Zealand and Finland and as close to "home" as Mexico and Canada.

The information circulated is on a variety of subjects, from requests for details on specific battles or volunteers to questions or comments concerning interpretations of the Civil War and/or works of famous historians. One member recently went to the trouble of sharing his extensive bibliography with list members. There was even a recent exchange on the battle-worthiness of the Mosin-Nagant rifle, used by many Republican army units, including the XVth Brigade.

There are a few rules governing the use of the discussion site: messages must be signed by the sender and must relate to some aspect of the Spanish Civil War or to the history or legacy of the International Brigades. All messages are previewed by the list moderator to ensure that they abide by these guidelines. Members may join or leave the mailing list at their convenience. The names of members, available only to the list moderators, are kept strictly confidential.

To participate, simply send a blank e-mail message to: **join-alba@forums.nyu.edu**. A password will be assigned to enable you to read archived messages. Questions can be directed to the list moderator via e-mail at: **owner-alba@forums.nyu.edu**.

Selected correspondence from the list is reprinted in the Volunteer as Letters to ALBA. See page 3.

The Volunteer

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Letters to ALBA

Dear brothers:

I am a Puertorican studying the Spanish Civil War for the last four years, as part of a doctoral thesis. In the book "Un mexicano en la Guerra Civil Española" ("A mexican in the Spanish Civil War") by Néstor Sánchez Hernández, I found a photo where the author mentioned that the Lincoln Brigade was composed of americans, cubans and puertoricans. In another book, "Voluntarios americanos en la Guerra Civil Española" ("American volunteers in the Spanish Civil War"), by Cecil Eby, on page 57, the author mentions that more than a dozen puertoricans were members of the Cubans Column, "Antonio Guiteras," of the Lincoln Brigade. On page 45 of the last book, the author mentions that all members of the Brigades gave their names, nationalities, photos, and filled out a questionnaire in Albacete, Spain.

I understand that for all puertoricans it must be an honor to know the names, particularities and participations of their brothers in the Spanish Civil War, and if possible the photos of them.

ateneoespmex@netservice.com.mx
José Alejandro Ortiz Carrión

Response from Christopher Brooks, ALBA Biographical Dictionary. The following is a list of volunteers identified as Puerto Ricans:

k-Bauza, Ulyses
k-Carbonell Cuevas, Pablo
Carbonell, Fernando
k-Carbonell Cuevas, Jorge
Carbonell, Victor A.
Cofresi, Manuel
Colon Velez, Baudilio
Cuesta Enamorado, Jose
k-Delgado Delgado,
Carmelo
Delgado, Emilio
k-Falu, Natividad
Garcia, Angel Ocasio
Gotay, Ruben (Montalro)
Gravel, Fernandez (uncon-
firmed)
Iduarte, Andre
Lopez, Jules Herman
k-Martinez, Felipe
Moll Gonzalez, Fernando
Moll Gonzalez, Francisco

Pacheo Padre, Antonio
Queipo Sanchez, Pablo
(Puerto Rican?)
Rivera, Ferdinand
Sanchez Vasquez, Adolfo
Seno Martinez, Pedro
Urbina, Cesar
Usera, Vincent (born in
Puerto Rico)
Yepes Manuel, Victor

I hope this information will be helpful. I am looking for additional information on all of these volunteers. The material will appear in the ALBA Biographical Dictionary,
Christopher Brooks
Brooksarp@cs.com

Brigadier News

By Moe Fishman

With the dwindling number of International Brigade veterans all over the world causing diminished capacity to function, several organizations have sprung up consisting of friends (and relatives) of the I.B. There are currently such organizations in England, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Russia and France. We are all aware of the Association of Amigos de Brigados International/Friends of the International Brigade (AABI) in Spain. Ana Perez, its president, writes that she is in touch with all of these associations. It occurs to the writer that friends and relatives of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade should form similar organizations in this country and become ALBA "associates." With our membership down and posts of veterans down to just the New York and Bay Area (San Francisco), the infusion of friends and relatives would give us a "shot in the arm."

This from **Bobby Hall** in Chicago: "Last night the Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade co-sponsored a program at the University of Chicago on the occasion of African-American History Month. The main topic was Langston Hughes and his experiences in Spain. It was attended by a mix of about half students and half community old-timers. There was a lively exchange. We reached some international students and we sold some books."

John Kailin of Madison, Wisconsin, tells me that as a result of large public participation in the successful effort to erect the monument in that city, such a "friends and relatives" organization is being formed. Would like to hear of interest in such a project in your area. For more information on how to become an ALBA "associate" drop us a note at 799 Broadway or look us up on the web at <http://www.alba-valb.org>

While waiting to get into the current Woody Allen movie, I wandered into the film *My Dog Skip*. Imagine my surprise! The father of the young hero of the film (actor Kevin Bacon) had lost a leg in the Spanish Civil War. Later in the film someone says, "He should have gotten a medal." How about that!

On December 9, 1999, in New York, our comrade **Martin Balter** calls me all excited: "Moe you have to watch Bill Beutel, the commentator on Channel 7, ABC, tomorrow night at 6 p.m. It's going to be about me and the war in Spain." I called a number of people even though I was a bit skeptical, I admit. Sure enough, toward the end of the news report, on comes Marty being interviewed on why he volunteered to fight Franco and what he did there, interspersed with shots of the war. Later he told me how it happened. Seems there is a young lady who lives in a house down the street from him in the Bronx. He got to talking to her and

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Spanish Judge in Pinochet Case Headlines April Events

By Peter Carroll

Baltasar Garzón, the fiercely independent Spanish magistrate who defied his own conservative government to bring criminal charges against former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, will present the third annual ALBA-Bill Susman Lecture on Friday, April 28, at New York University's Law School, a program co-sponsored by NYU's King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center. In his first public visit to the United States, Señor Garzón will also appear at the ALBA-VALB reunion at the Borough of Manhattan Community College on Sunday, April 30.

"We are all eager to meet Señor Garzón and to encourage his efforts," remarked VALB national officer Abe Smorodin.

The 43-year old Spanish judge captured international attention in October 1998 when his criminal investigations of human rights violations led him to issue an arrest warrant for Pinochet while the former head of state was visiting England for medical treatment.

Charging the ex-dictator with crimes against humanity, including genocide and terrorism, and involvement in the deaths of over 4000 people, Garzón requested the English government to extradite Pinochet to Madrid for further interrogation and trial. The request startled many legal experts by claiming that new international human rights treaties no longer give government leaders immunity from charges involving violations of human rights.

The government of Chile, in which Pinochet enjoys legal protection as a senator for life, immediately challenged Garzón's claims. Two weeks after receiving Garzón's warrant, Britain's High Court ruled that Pinochet was immune from arrest as a head of state at the time the alleged crimes were committed, but insisted that the dictator remain in custody pending further appeals. Meanwhile,

Spain's conservative government, led by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, disavowed Garzón's proceedings, though Aznar explained to the government of Chile that he lacked the legal power to block the arrest warrant.

When Garzón's appeal moved to Britain's highest court, however, the Law Lords of the House of Lords overturned the initial judgment, ruling in November 1998 that Pinochet was not immune from international law. Then, two weeks later, the Law Lords set aside their own ruling, acknowledging that their initial decision had been "tainted by the possible bias of one of its judges" who had an indirect relation with Amnesty International, an organization eager to see Pinochet brought to trial.

While Pinochet remained under house arrest near London, the Law Lords reconsidered the case in March 1999, finally concluding that Pinochet does not enjoy immunity for his crimes against humanity, but the same court substantially reduced the number of crimes for which he could be charged. This decision, perhaps the most momentous in international criminal law since World War II, established a clear and potentially wide ranging precedent that heads of states can be held accountable for their actions while in office and despite any immunity they obtain from their own state.

As the British government proceeded slowly and reluctantly toward extraditing Pinochet to Spain, the general appealed the decision, arguing that medical problems made any legal proceedings against him unfair. An examination by British doctors supported Pinochet's claims to incompetence. Although other countries, including France, Belgium, and Switzerland, joined Spain in challenging that report, the British government finally freed Pinochet from house arrest in March 2000 and permitted him to return to Chile. There, human

rights groups have vowed to continue the case against the former dictator.

In approving the release of Pinochet, Britain's Home Secretary Jack Straw nevertheless acknowledged the triumph of Judge Garzón's legal principles. "It is established beyond question the principle that those who commit human rights abuses in one country cannot assume they are safe elsewhere." This precedent has already led to formal proceedings against Hisene Habre, former president of Chad, now living in Senegal, on charges of torture.

"The real reason for doing this is not vengeance," observed Reed Brody of the advocacy group Human Rights Watch. Rather, he said, it warns "people who are there in power now, who haven't yet committed these crimes, 'Watch Out! Don't count on getting away with this.'"

Judge Garzón's involvement in the Pinochet case began in 1996 when he opened a criminal investigation of the disappearance of several Spanish citizens in Argentina during a period of military rule between 1976 and 1983. His research led him to conclude that the Geneva Conventions and other international law offer no sanctuary for criminals accused of serious crimes against humanity and that time limits in such cases do not exist. He soon issued charges against more than 100 Argentine military and police officials and issued international arrest warrants against 11 senior military officers. One Argentine captain, Adolfo Scilingo, now imprisoned for participating in mass executions and torture, offered evidence of an elaborate network of international cooperation in such crimes, involving officials of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, and Paraguay, known as Operation Condor.

Although Judge Garzón's assiduous investigations have drawn criticism

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Bay Area Reunion

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PHOTOS BY RICHARD BERMACK



Surviving Bay Area vets take the stage

music and poetry, the program traced the bold and passionate story of political activism from the 1930s to last year's demonstrations against the World Trade Organization in Seattle.

Members of the vigorous San Francisco Mime Troupe, led by musical director Bruce Barthol, brought a gripping energy to their roles and made music that pulsed through the excited audience. Barthol is bringing a contingent to New York in April, where they will share billing with veteran performers Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Tao Rodriguez-Seeger.



Spanish Brigadista Julia Tello (l), who fought with the Thaelman Battalion, attended with her daughter, Bay Area Associate Victoria Parraga.

Spanish Judge Baltazar Garzon will also appear.

The stage show stresses the links between events of the past and the liv-

ing popular memory, a theme that resonated all day as the northern California activist community paid homage to the 17 vets who attended the affair. David Smith, Bay Area Post leader, and Peter Carroll, chair of ALBA, acted as masters of ceremony and reminded the enthusiastic audience of the connections between past and present. A letter from the Spanish film actor Antonio Banderas, which endorsed the vets' efforts to raise money for political causes, served to evoke the Lincoln Brigade's tradition of supporting anti-fascist peoples around the world.

Smith and Carroll explained that this year the local post will support at least four major projects: the needy veterans of the International Brigades living in eastern Europe; the Soler Pediatric Hospital in Havana, Cuba, which has an international reputation for its treatment of ailing children; the School of the Americas Watch, which has organized protest demonstrations at Fort Benning, Georgia, seeking to close the military base's program of instructing Latin American military police in the art of violent interrogations; and Global Exchange, one of the organizations involved in protesting the WTO.

The Bay Area Post acknowledged the death of four members last year, nurse Ruth Davidow, vets Sid Levine

and Richard Cloke, and Sophie Smith. The 17 living veterans, including visitors Maurice Constant from Toronto and Julia Tello, who as a 16-year-old militia volunteer fought with the Thaelman battalion, drew a thunderous ovation. The veterans also toasted Treasurer Esther "Hon" Brown, who is



Esther "Hon" Brown retires as Bay Area Post treasurer.

stepping down from the world of high finance, with a bouquet of flowers.

Then, as a solo trumpet played the soft slow melody of "Venga Jaleo," a woman's voice began to speak the famous lines of John Sayles: "One of the major obstacles in the way of human progress, of human under-

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The Boys of Williamsburg

By Abe Smorodin

There are shelves above my desk in the office at 799 Broadway that have accumulated all the detritus of 30 years of VALB activities. It was an eyesore so I decided to go through all that junk, discard what wasn't needed and find a proper place for usable material. And that is where I found the accompanying picture.

The aging process sharpens one's long-term memory. And as I looked at that picture, in my mind's eye, next to the Stone brothers, to Eli Biegelman, and Jerry Weinberg, I saw the others: Saullie Wellman, Lou Gordon, Joe and Leo Gordon. We were the Boys of Williamsburg; no, we were the Young Communists of Williamsburg. I wish I had the talent of a novelist so I could adequately tell their stories.

Our hangout was the Y.C.L. club in a loft on Tompkins Avenue. In this period of rampant unemployment, it served as a second home for us. Our evenings were usually filled with animated discussions of world events; the evils of social democracy or those "Bucharinite traitors" on trial in the U.S.S.R. Those were the days.

There was a wrestling mat that was mostly used by the Gordon brothers, Joe and Leo. They went at it with such gusto, so ferocious, it was painful to watch. A few years later Leo Gordon and a Finnish machine-gun unit were surrounded in the hills above Caspe in the Aragon. As a runner for the Mac-Paps, I was given the message that the Battalion was retreating and that we should get out quickly. I couldn't get to Leo and his comrades in time, and since then I've been haunted by that memory. Joe Gordon survived Spain. During World War II he was a seaman on a merchant ship. A Nazi U-boat torpedoed his ship on the perilous Murmansk run and all hands were lost.

Back to the Tompkins Avenue clubhouse. Tuesdays were sacrosanct. That's when our weekly YCL meet-



Hy Stone, Eli Biegelman, Joe Stone, Jerry Weinberg, and Sam Stone

ings were held. No excuses accepted. Well, one Tuesday, being passionate music lovers, Lou Gordon and I went to Lewisohn stadium to hear the N.Y. Philharmonic and—no kidding—we were expelled from the League. But at the next executive committee meeting I had some appropriate quotes from Lenin and our membership was restored!

In the early 1930s there was a Soviet novel called *The Little Golden Calf* by Ilf and Petrov. It is long out of print. It is and remains one of the funniest books I ever read. Jack Freeman and I read passages from it, almost at random, and we'd laugh until our guts hurt. Jack was killed during a quiet day at the front. And he wasn't even reaching for a butterfly.

Now, the three Stone brothers. Look again at the picture. As far as I know it is the only image that we have of them together.

Brunete was the first large-scale offensive the Republic could wage. The Ejercito Popular had been built up to an effective fighting force. The Madrid front had been stabilized and Brunete was the place where the

Republic thought, vainly, that the siege could be lifted. Casualties were enormous; within a few hours both Joe and Sam Stone were killed. Our commissar Steve Nelson had to physically restrain Hy from dashing towards the Fascist lines. Shortly thereafter Hy was sent home.

Jerry Weinberg was my best friend. My son is named for him. We were rabid Dodger fans, though rooting for a perennial last place team was no fun. We'd go to Ebbetts Field, not far from Jerry's house, and watch our team, usually lose. There is something to be said for nostalgia. Jerry made it through Spain. Comes World War II, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he was a tail-gunner on a B-17. The squadron was based in England, from where it took part in one of the great air-raids over Ploesti, Rumania, the Nazi's major source of oil. Jerry's plane was hit and crippled but was able to land safely in neutral Turkey. This meant that under the Geneva Convention he was entitled to internment and all the perks that went with

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Bay Area Reunion

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standing, is cynicism.” And then a second woman’s voice responds: “What about the guys in the Lincoln Brigade?”

And so the program raced forward, blending the words of authors like Alvah Bessie, Edwin Rolfe, and Pablo Neruda with powerful renditions of “Freiheit,” “Jarama Valley,” and “Los Cuatro Generales.” The stunning contemporary poetry of Michele Gibbs, daughter of a vet, read by actress Velina Brown, fused magically with an improvised jazz melody, while Michael Sullivan’s reading of Ramon Durem’s poem “Award—To the FBI Man Who Has Followed Me For Twenty Five Years” left the audience in stitches. Bruce Barthol’s balladic “Taste of Ashes” now must take its place among the classic songs inspired by the Spanish Civil War.

Backing the stage performance were computerized projections of black and white photographs that were compiled by filmmaker Judy Montell (*Forever Activists*) and photographer Richard Bermack. Here the language of war and parades meshed with strong visual images. And the litany of celebrated vets, the living and the dead—Milton Wolff, Gabby

Rosenstein, Archie Brown, Abe Osheroff, for instance—was matched by stunning photographic displays.

When the show ended one hour later, there was hardly a dry eye in Oakland’s Calvin Simmons Theater. “Come back next year,” cried David Smith to the cheering crowd. “Come back fighting,” added Peter Carroll.

The consensus of the Bay Area Post: “The best program ever!”

Get ready in New York. April 30, 2 p.m. Borough of Manhattan Community College. For ticket information: 212-674-5552. ■

Williamsburg

Continued from page 6

his rank. Jerry was a staff sergeant. That did not suit Jerry, the valorous anti-fascist, so he left the safety of the camp and hiked across North Africa until he reached some British outfits chasing Rommel. Jerry was returned to his squadron, and on the very next mission his plane was shot down over France. There were no survivors.

So Sherman was right: “War is Hell.” I wish *The Volunteer* would more often reflect the reality of that terrible experience while reaffirming

Garzón/Justice

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from the governments of those countries, he has emerged with a reputation as an incorruptible, principled magistrate. During the 1980s, he exposed the quasi-official actions of Spain’s police “death squads” that operated against Basque nationalists. His inquiries resulted in the conviction of former Socialist Interior Minister Jose Barrionuevo for attacks on Basque separatists. Yet Garzón has also investigated criminal activities involving the Basque separatist organization ETA.

His appearance at the ALBA-VALB affairs will focus on the significance of the Pinochet case for limiting the abuses of power in the future. Admission to the ALBA-Bill Susman Lecture is free, thanks to the generous support of our benefactors. This year’s lecture is made possible by grants from the Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain’s Ministry of Culture and United States Universities and the Boehm Foundation and by the ALBA-Bill Susman Lecture endowment created in 1998. ■

Judge Baltazar Garzón will present the ALBA-Bill Susman Lecture on Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tishman Auditorium, 40 Washington Square South, New York.

the absolute need for “The Good Fight.” We have monuments to our dead in Seattle and in Madison, but let us also remember that for each comrade that we lost there is a name, a face and countless stories.

Forgive the excessive “I’s” in this article. A member of the editorial board of *The Volunteer* urged me to overcome my old Bolshevik ways and drop the “we” and the “us” and make my account more personal. ■

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New Spanish Civil War Photos Attributed To Robert Capa

By Robert Coale

The Historical Archive of the Spanish Communist Party in Madrid is about to publish a selection of 100 outstanding yet little

known photographs of the Civil War, a small portion of their stock of over 1,680 black and white negatives from the period, including 120 depicting the International Brigades. Over the past year there have been several articles in the Spanish press about the photographs and their possible connection to Robert Capa. Most journalists even go as far as attributing them undoubtedly to the famous war photographer. While the latter claim is a leap of faith, Capa biographer Richard Whelan concedes in his introduction to a recent photo catalogue, *Heart of Spain*, that some of the contents of the archive could well have been made by that photographer.

Domingo Malagón, the first director of the archive upon the legalization of the Spanish Communist Party in 1977, who, incidentally, was himself wounded in the defense of Madrid in 1936, can supply only sketchy information about the origins of the negatives. "One day, in the late 1970's, a comrade came to the office and gave me the negatives, but never explained how he got them." Vicky Ramos, present archival director and editor of the upcoming book, refrains from affirming they are the work of Robert Capa. In fact, there is no absolute way to prove such a claim, but she does like to leave a nagging doubt floating in the air. She presents you with the circumstantial evidence, then you are left to make your own conclusions while examining a collection of exceptional photographs.

Here are the facts: the photos were taken with a Leica camera. The negatives are 35 mm in unnumbered strips of six frames each. In many cases, the shots correspond to places, times, subject matter, and even angle of identified Robert Capa prints. Since there are documented cases of Capa carrying more than one camera while in Spain, could these be negatives from rolls of film that never reached his

Paris laboratory? Possibly.

There are also subjective elements to consider: who else but Capa had the special gift of taking such unique photographs, which capture both the historical and the human element in one frame? Of course, not all of the photographs are masterpieces of photo-journalism. That one magic image is not easy to capture. Interestingly, the study of the series of negatives reveals the work of an expert photographer and his trial and error process of looking for that special shot.

The photograph of the soldier in the tank is the most difficult to date. It is most likely early in the war because the soldier is wearing blue overalls instead of a military uniform, but later than October 1936, when Russian material, such as this T-4 tank, began arriving in Republican Spain. The smiling worker-turned-tank-driver contrasts with the monstrous cannon and steel hull encompassing him.

The photograph on page 8 with the soldiers standing at attention has been mistakenly identified as a photograph of the Despedida. Upon close examination, however, certain elements reveal it dates from before the spring of 1937, when the Popular Army was formed and the closed fist Popular Front salute was replaced by the traditional military one.

Furthermore, the IBers in the foreground are using the French military style “present arms,” which corresponds to the early days of the war when each unit adopted the drill manual most familiar to its officers and men. The flag in the middle includes a French inscription “... to the 10th Battalion of the International Brigade.” The fact that the Brigade is referred to in the singular would seem to indicate an early date. One last but exceptional detail is the figure standing just behind the civilian wearing a tie in the middleground. It is André Marty, complete with beret and clenched fist. This is evidently a photograph taken on the occasion of an official International Brigade celebration some time in late winter of 1936 or early spring of 1937. In addition, the civilians attending the ceremony in the top right corner are also making

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the clenched fist salute, meaning the I.B. band opposite them is most likely playing “The International”.

The photograph of the soldiers carrying a banner is from a series taken in Madrid in November or December of 1936 during a parade on the centrally located Genova Street organized to rally support for the continued defense of the city. The banner is a call for the madrileños to join the famous Quinto Regimiento. Of special note are the youthful smiles of the soldiers in the foreground, the tricolor republican armband worn by the sixth man, and the fact that the majority of the soldiers further down the line carry no rifles, a haunting reminder of the shortage of weapons for the defenders of the capital.

Finally, the photograph of the soldiers in the snow, my personal favorite. Obviously taken during the Teruel battles, it uniquely illustrates both the sufferings and the lightheartedness of the troops. The snow covered landscape and the heavy clothing poignantly testify to the brutal weather conditions. However the smiles of the cooking detail as they ingeniously slide the pot along the frozen rails portrays like nothing else the human side of the moment. The combination of these two elements makes the difference between an average photograph of frozen soldiers and a magic one that says much more.

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Isn't that exactly what Robert Capa conveyed over and over again in his Spanish Civil War photographs and what subsequently led to his international acclaim?

Barring an unforeseen discovery, we will never know with certainty who took these remarkable war photographs, but in the end it does not really matter. They were taken during tragic times and, thanks to the efforts of nameless Spaniards, have survived as visual testimony of those years to help us better understand the struggle of the Second Spanish Republic.

In closing I wish to thank Vicky Ramos for granting special permission to reproduce the photographs for this article. ■

Robert Coale is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

Brigadier News

Continued from page 3

interested her in the Spanish Civil War. So much so that she insisted to her partner—they are a unit of news people on ABC—that if he didn't do a segment on Marty and the SCW, she would quit her job. He humored her. Marty gave him a tape of a Canadian Broadcasting System program on the war produced a few years back. He used it for background and sold it to the powers that be on the program. It ran for two minutes, 18 seconds, and was quite impressive. Way to go Marty!

In February, our comrade **Milt Felsen** addressed a meeting of alumni of Brandeis University living in southwestern Florida. His subject was the SCW and the I.B. 200 attended. A number of copies of his book, *The Anti-Warrior*, were sold.

From the **British I.B. Association** newsletter: "A critical situation developed on the Cordoba front in December, 1936. Number 1 company of the British Battalion, being formed up at Madrigueras, was sent on Christmas day, 1936, to stop the fascist offensive. In the fighting at Lopera, 19 gave their lives, among them Ralph Fox, John Cornford and Edmund Burke. A ceremony honoring all fallen was held on March 3 at the Marx Memorial Hall. The Marx Memorial Library with the I.B. Archives is now open after extensive modernization."

Juan Maria Gomez Ortiz is a friend of the Lincoln

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

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Democratic Socialists Honor Lincoln Vet

Saul Wellman, veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, life-long trade unionist, Purple Heart recipient in World War II, and McCarthy-era Chairman of the

Michigan Communist Party, was one of two people honored at the Second Annual Frederick Douglass/Eugene Debs Award Dinner sponsored by the Democratic Socialists of America and held last October in Detroit.

"I have always had a feeling I was never alone no matter where I was," said Wellman, in receiving the award. "I was part of a great movement that would move us closer to a world where the exploitation of man by man would be eliminated—the movement for socialism."

Bill Fletcher, Jr., assistant to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, also spoke during the ceremony, as did Horace Small, national director of the DSA. The recurrent theme of their speeches was the need for renewed unity of the left, signs of which are discernible in revitalized social movements.

Brigade living in Barcelona. **Harry Fisher's** book *Comrades* so inspired him that he is seeking a Spanish publisher. He also took the initiative to go to Madrigueras, the Spanish town where Harry trained, and read three chapters of Harry's book in Spanish to about 100 of the inhabitants. Gomez writes: "One woman remembered you perfectly. She said she was part of the group who presented you the banner that read: 'Bienvenidos Camaradas Brigadistas.' Her name is Caridad Serrano and I gave her your address for her to write you. An old man said that he knew who the family was that 'adopted' you. They all applauded with energy for a long while after I finished." Harry Fisher and his family are planning to visit Madrigueras in May.

For three years the A.A.B.I (Amigos) in Spain initiated campaigns to help some of the vets and widows in **Bulgaria and Romania** who are in dire straits. They are currently running a fund-raising dinner in Madrid for this purpose. The Bay Area and New York Posts have contributed from funds raised at our annual affairs in solidarity with these comrades and will do so again this year. ■

Arkie Ace

Frank Tinker Inducted Into Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame

By John Carver Edwards

The exploits of the American airmen who flew combat for the Spanish Republican Air Force are less well known than those of their fellow volunteers. Perhaps this oversight is due to their limited numbers and, in some cases, possibly to the mercenary nature of their commitment. But the fact remains that most of these men acquitted themselves with distinction, and a select few outclassed their fascist adversaries. Outstanding among these was Frank Tinker, who recorded eight aerial victories in Spain in 1937. His contribution received official recognition on November 4, 1999, when he was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame in Little Rock.

Born in Louisiana on July 14, 1909, Frank Glasgow Tinker, Jr. never regarded the Bayou State as his rightful home. When his family moved to Arkansas early in his life, the boy began his journey through adolescence and young manhood in perfectly normal fashion. He pursued a Huck Finn lifestyle during his free hours: hunting, fishing, exploring the woods and wetlands in the area.

At 17 Tinker joined the navy. He won an appointment to the Naval Academy in 1929. After graduation and subsequent flight instruction at Pensacola, he was assigned to the new cruiser San Francisco and piloted Vought O2U float planes from the warship's catapults. Unfortunately, Tinker's seafaring career was short-lived, as the navy revoked his commission after back-to-back brawls in Long Beach and Honolulu. He quickly found himself aboard a Standard Oil tanker plying the coastal waters of the United States. Bored and frustrated, 3rd Mate Tinker endured his lot until Spain's newly declared civil war offered him a rare opportunity.

In Mexico City, the Arkansan signed a contract with the Spanish



Photo courtesy of Allen Herr Collection

Embassy to fly for the embattled Republic. This new recruit was to receive \$1,500 per month with a bonus of \$1,000 for every fascist airplane shot down.

Tinker arrived in Spain in the first week of January 1937. At first the Republican Air Ministry assigned him to a Breguet XIX bomber outfit. The next month, realizing his potential, the Ministry sent him to a newly-formed fighter squadron under the command of Captain Andreas Garcia LaCalle, one of the Republic's top aces, with 11 victories to his credit.

During his seven months in Spain Tinker served with LaCalle's airmen in the battles of Jarama and Guadalajara, as well as in numerous aerial engagements over the Madrid front. On March 14, while piloting a Russian Polikarpov I-15 Chato pursuit (CA-056) out of Guadalajara, Tinker destroyed a Fiat during a two-hour flight. Within a week's time, while flying bomber escort, he flamed a similar Italian fighter. On patrol over the Teruel front on April 17, he bagged a condor Legion Heinkel He.51. His next victories occurred after his assignment to the soviet la Escuadrillas de Moscas (I-16s) commanded by Captain Ivan A. Lakeev.

On June 2, while flying bomber escort near Segovia, he downed a Fiat. Two weeks later he destroyed a CR32 in his Mosca fighter (CM-023). On July 12, he became the first American combat flyer to down a German Messerschmitt BF 109. He notched his next "kill" five days later when he brought down a second BF 109. His last victory took place near Brunete on July 18, when he downed a Fiat.

During the Brunete battle many of Tinker's old Russian squadron mates were rotated home. With so few veteran combat flyers to lead the inexperienced Soviet replacements, Tinker agreed to command a squadron. He faced no language barrier aloft as the Polikarpovs lacked radio communications and messages were conveyed by hand signals.

In "Night Before Battle," a celebrated short story of the Spanish Civil War, Ernest Hemingway fictionalized Frank Tinker. "Papa" and Tinker had become friends during Tinker's time in Madrid when they realized that they had hunted and fished over much of the same ground in Arkansas.

But finally the strain of daytime bomber escort duty and nocturnal

Continued on page 17

Canadians Unveil “The

Sixty-one years to the day after they returned from the battlefields of Spain, the Canadian volunteers of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigades received public acknowledgment of their valor and sacrifice with a new bronze monument that was unveiled in Victoria, British Columbia, on February 12, 2000.

The unveiling of the “Spirit of the Republic”—a statue that symbolizes the defense of Spain’s democratic government against the fascist coup d’etat led by Franco and underwritten by Hitler and Mussolini—fulfilled a three year effort to honor the Canadian volunteers. The BC Monument Committee worked with the Association of Veterans and Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion and a broad cross-section of individuals, unions, the legal profession, organizations, and members of the provincial New Democratic Party government to raise money and obtain an appropriate site for the monument. It all came together in a wonderful ceremony on the grounds of the legislature in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia.

The ceremonies began when 11 veterans of the International Brigades and their families and friends met with the premier of the province, the Honourable Dan Miller, and then



Jack Harman, sculptor of “The Spirit of the Republic”



Stan Giles, Dr. Reg Saxton, Salman Salzman, Sean McEwen, Tom Kozar, Rosaleene Ross, Joe Barrett, Dave Smith, Jack Harman, Arne Knutsen.

embarked on a parade, reminiscent of the march of the International Brigades down the Diagonal in Barcelona in October 1938, to the monument site. The group proceeded through the main floor of the Parliament Building and then outside to the site at Confederation Plaza.

The contingent included veterans of the MacKenzie Papineau Battalion, the Lincoln, British, and Danish Battalions, and a veteran of the Spanish Republican Army, who arrived at the shrouded monument to the cheers and applause of an enthusiastic crowd of some 250 people. The color party placed the flags at the site as a backdrop behind the speakers’ rostrum.

As Joe Barrett, one of the co-chairs of the Monument Committee, welcomed the veterans, cheers for the “Volunteers for Liberty” echoed around the prestigious site, located on the legislative precinct.

Barrett then introduced Monument Committee Co-chair Tom Kozar, the son of an IB volunteer. In his remarks, Kozar referred to his father, John

Kozar, who had served with the Lincoln Brigade, his two uncles, Bruce and Jim Ewen, who had served with the MacKenzie Papineau Battalion, and his mother, Jean Ewen, who had served with Dr. Norman Bethune in the Chinese war against Japan

Kozar paid homage to the veterans of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion and the International Brigades, observing that their participation in the last great cause was no longer unnoticed or unmarked. The new monument will stand as a reminder to us all of their selfless determination to fight and defend the ideals embodied in the Spanish Republic.

Barrett also read a letter from Canada’s vice-regal head of state, Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, who expressed regret at being unable to attend the ceremony. It was noted that Ms. Clarkson had given a personal financial donation to the Monument Committee in the early stages of the project.

The next speaker, the Honourable Dan Miller, Premier of the Province of

Spirit of the Republic"

BC, noted that the tribute was long overdue, expressing pleasure at the assistance given to the Monument Committee by the government in providing the site on the Parliament Building grounds.

A letter from His Excellency Jose Cuenca, the Spanish Ambassador in Ottawa, congratulated those responsible for the monument. Señor Joaquim Ayala, speaking on behalf of the Spanish government, expressed his appreciation to the veterans for their efforts in defending the Republic against Franco's insurrection. Ayala told the crowd that he and his wife were particularly honored to attend the ceremony because members of



The Spirit of the Republic

their families had fought along with the International Brigades in the struggle to defeat fascism.

The next speaker, Svend Robinson, federal member of Parliament from the New Democratic Party, brought greetings, congratulations, and thanks from the caucus of Canada's social democratic party. Mr. Robinson vowed that the New Democratic Party will continue to push for full recognition of Canadian volunteers by the government of Canada.

Jack Harman, the sculptor who created the bronze statue "Spirit of the Republic," injected some humor in the proceedings by suggesting that in taking the commission he had spent more

time in the last six months with the woman shrouded in the flag than with his wife.

Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour, speaking on behalf of more than 400,000 unionized workers in the province, gave thanks and appreciation to the veterans for their selfless sacrifice to defend democracy. He concluded his remarks by reading the poem "To the International Brigades" by the recently deceased Spanish poet Rafael Alberti.

The next speaker was George Heyman, president of the BC Government and Service Employees Union. The BCGEU, more than any other organization, put its resources



George Heyman, President of the B.C. Government and Service Employees Union



Joe Barrett, Master of Ceremonies, co-chair of Monument Committee

behind the Monument Committee to ensure the project's success. Heyman said that the monument will be a historical testament to the volunteers who fought for liberty and democracy in the Spanish Civil War.

Bob Reed, an American member of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, represented the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and reminded the crowd of the two U.S. monuments that were recently dedicated at the University of Washington in Seattle and in Madison, Wisconsin.

Joe Barrett then brought news from Jules Pavio, President of the

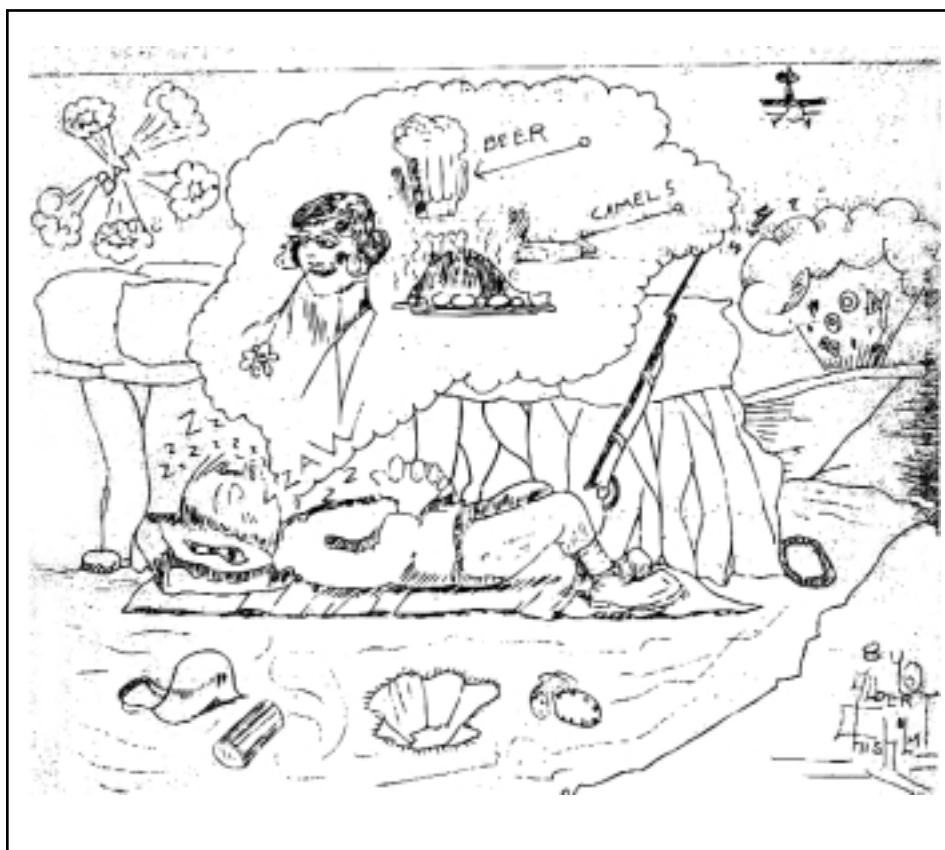
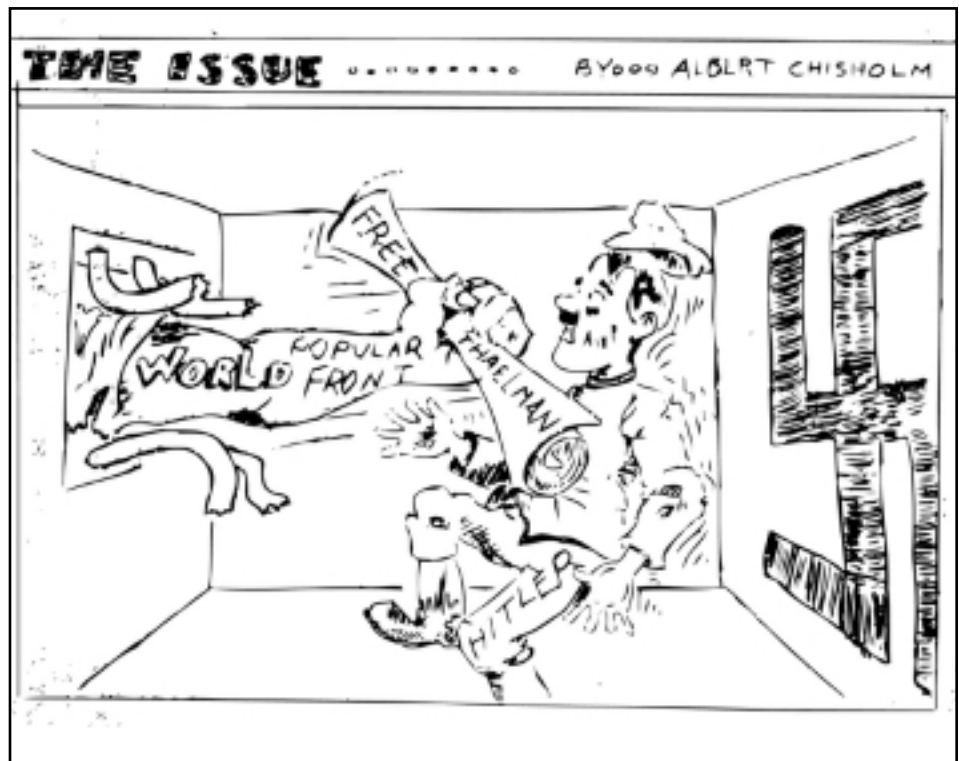
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The Political Cartoons of Albert Chisholm

From the Archives

Albert Chisholm, a native of Washington state, was the last surviving African American vet when he died two years ago in Seattle. As a teenager, he became one of the first black members of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union and returned to that line of work after his service in Spain.

Recently, however, while reading microfilm copies of the "Moscow Archives," ALBA archivist Victor Berch discovered another dimension of Chisholm's career. Prior to going to Spain, Chisholm had drawn political cartoons for an African American newspaper in Seattle, the *Northwest*



Enterprise. After reaching Spain in 1937, the 22-year-old volunteer gladly contributed his work to the International Brigades newsletter, *Our Fight*.

Now, for the first time, we publish two examples of Chisholm's cartoons, which appeared in October and November 1937. For the time, they were considered politically correct. One cartoon suggests that the fist of the Popular Front would make Hitler shake in his boots. But the anti-fascist's dream of beer, meat, Camel cigarettes and a beautiful woman evokes a world of simpler pleasures. What would the surgeon-general say today?

Canada

Continued from page 13

Veterans and Friends of the MacKenzie Papineau Battalion, that the pending national monument in Ottawa at the newly constructed national war museum is expected to be unveiled within a year.

The last speaker, on behalf of the BC Mac-Paps, was Rosaleene Ross. She served with the British Medical Unit in Spain, married a Mac-Pap, and returned to make a new home in Canada in 1939. She underlined the point that it will always be necessary to confront fascism whenever it arises

and that if she had to make the decision to defend the Republic again, she would make the same decision she did some 60 years ago. Ross, along with five other volunteers, also served on the BC Monument Committee.



Vets march on B.C. capitol

CCNY Faculty Backs Vets Medal

On March 16, 2000, a unanimous vote of the City College Faculty Senate approved the following resolution:

"Whereas, the City College of New York has a long tradition not only of preparing students for careers and professions, but also of instilling civic consciousness and cosmopolitan values, and

Whereas, between 1936 and 1938 well over 30 students and staff (see attached list), acting out of altruistic motives, placed their lives and welfare in jeopardy to fight fascism in Spain, and

Whereas, on their return, many of these volunteers, despite being subjected to harassment, intimidation, and sometimes outright persecution, largely continued to commit themselves to important social causes and issues, including labor unionization, civil rights, and campaigns for peace, and

Whereas, it is important that the College continue to recognize and honor its alumni, especially those who succeed not just in the professions or business but also in articulating and struggling for fundamental values like justice, opportunity, and equality, and

Whereas, College alumni (Sandi Cooper, Class of 1957, Bob Nelson,

Class of 1971, Bonnie Nelson, Class of 1972, Renate Bridenthal, Class of 1960, George F. Nelson, Class of 1940, John Fisher, Class of 1966, Anne Friedman, Class of 1971, John Lee Simon, M. Ed., 1969, Elizabeth Starcevic, Class of 1963, Marv Gettleman, Class of 1957, Irwin Loewenthal, Class of 1952) likewise support recognition of the veterans and their efforts, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the City College of New York requests that the City College veterans of the Spanish Civil War be awarded a Presidential Medal at Commencement 2000 to recognize and honor their experience and to commemorate their association with the College, and

Be it further resolved that although the Medal will honor all the veterans, the actual recipient of the medal awarded at Commencement 2000 shall be a City College alumnus or former student selected by the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade."

According to CCNY procedures, the Chair of the Faculty Senate will send this resolution to the President (who was there for the vote) communicating the Senate's desires. The President will then decide whether to approve the Senate's request.

The day's ceremonies climaxed when the premier and three of the veterans pulled the strings to release the ribbons and free the huge republican flag that was lifted off the sculpture. The "Spirit of the Republic" was gradually revealed to the anticipating crowd. The sun broke through the thin clouds, casting a shine off the sculpture's newly cast bronze. Applause broke out and the monument to the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion was complete.

To the sound of many cameras clicking and whirring, veterans and guests joined together in front of the monument. Tears in a few eyes signalled the wonderful approval and appreciation for the monument that marks British Columbian and Canadian volunteers' participation, alongside volunteers from 52 other countries, in the Last Great Cause.

Veterans who attended the Victoria ceremony were: Bob Reed, Brooke Carmichael, and Bob Ingalls from Seattle; Dave Smith from the San Francisco Bay Area; Domingo Hernandez from Toronto, Ont; Stan Giles, Arne Knutsen, Frank McElgunn, and Rosaleene Ross from Vancouver, BC; Reg Saxton from England; and Salman Saltzman from Israel. ▀

To Federico Garcia Lorca and Langston Hughes: Spain is Burning

By Cranston Knight

I

In all the poetry
that you both wrote
about the countryside
and the peasants working
in your writings

about the cafes
and boulevards

you captured Spain
and the Spanish heart
and in the echoing of your words
you spoke of changing times

times changing

and the changing times
took the Republic's cloak
from her shoulders
stole her pride
stripped her of her identity
and flung her into the streets

homeless
she weeps
by guitar light

the countryside weeps
the peasants weep
the cafes are empty
the bombs are falling
on MADRID

and as the people rush
push and pull one another
both of you captured in your work
humans transformed
into screams and sorrow

(no one is a coward
when bombs are falling)
Spain is burning

II

Federico you wrote
when the flames
first began to lick at
the hems of the rising curtain
on the theater that would
become a civil war
and you Langston wrote
as the curtain was consumed
in an inferno

both of you captured in verse
in poetic language
the tragedy of chaos

the bells toll
in the background
of your works
while the choir in
soft verse repeat

Spain is burning
burning Spain
Spain is burning
burning Spain
Spain is burning
burning Spain

Spain Burns

and the
fires continued
for three
long fiery years.

Cranston Knight is a doctoral student in history at Loyola University. He is the editor of *Tour of Duty*, an anthology of short stories and poetry of Vietnam Veterans. He is a member of the Chicago Friends of the Lincoln Brigade.

Swiss Government Refuses to Grant Amnesty to "Brigadistas"

By Robert Coale

A bill aimed at granting official amnesty to International Brigade veterans and former World War II Resistance fighters from Switzerland has been rejected. The bill was sponsored by socialist MP Nils de Dardel. Swiss "brigadistas" were often in worse straits than other volunteers from western democratic nations due to their country's strict interpretation of "neutrality."

Upon return from Spain, as early as 1937, Swiss volunteers were tried by military tribunals for fighting to defend democracy in Spain. Their crime was "undermining the national defense of Switzerland." Many served prison sentences, still others were exiled from their homes to distant regions of the country where they had no family contacts and often did not even speak the local language. The same treatment was given to those who fought to liberate neighboring France from its German invaders a few years later.

In recent years, members of the Swiss parliament have honored both "brigadistas" and resistance members in official declarations, stating that time and history have vindicated them morally and politically. Nevertheless, the Association of Support for Swiss Veterans of the International Brigades has been striving for an official legal declaration of amnesty for the twenty-some surviving volunteers who fought in Spain as well as for the families of departed veterans.

Upon hearing of the refusal, Jean-Claude Lefort, CP member of the French Parliament and co-chairman of the French Association of Friends of Combatants in Republican Spain, made an official declaration in the Assemblée Nationale on March 8 condemning the Swiss government's attitude. Lefort is currently at the forefront of a national petition drive to press the neighboring government to reverse its decision. Text of the speech follows:

"I am outraged, concerned and saddened by the news I have just

learned. The Swiss government and the Federal Council have rejected a bill presented by the left to grant amnesty to Swiss volunteers who defended the Spanish Republic in its struggle against the Franquist rebellion sponsored by Hitler and Mussolini. . . .

"The Swiss government has just committed a veritable affront to history at a time when events we are all too well aware of are occurring in Austria.

"I must vigorously protest this decision. Furthermore, I call upon the French authorities and the public at large to react firmly against the decision and against those who have taken it. Mr. Dardel, socialist member of the Swiss Federal Council, has put it very well: 'Switzerland only questions its policy during the Second World War if it is forced to do so through international opinion, as occurred in 1996 when pressured by the Jewish World Congress concerning holocaust victims' funds in Swiss banks.'

"We wholeheartedly support the Swiss left in its struggle on behalf of the "brigadistas." We call on all democratically minded people to react against the government and the Federal Council of Switzerland. They have obviously not yet accepted the idea put forth by a famous native of Geneva, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, when he stated: 'Anything which is untrue and which attacks justice in any way is simply a false illusion.'"

Readers of *The Volunteer* can make their voices heard by participating in the petition drive sponsored by the French association, ACER. Write a letter to the President of Switzerland protesting the decision and urging him to intervene on behalf of the "brigadistas." Send your letter to: Amicale des Combattants en Espagne Republicaine, 16 Villa Compoint, Paris 75017 France.

Despite this unfortunate development, all is not lost in Switzerland. On May 12 the Association of Support for

Swiss Veterans of the International Brigades will be unveiling its first monument in Geneva. The sculpture is the work of Spanish artist Manuel Torres and the project received official financial support from the local council.

For more information, a recent publication on Swiss volunteers, in French, is : P. Bavaud and J.M. Beguin, *Les oubliés, Trois Suisses de la guerre d'Espagne*. Yens s/Morges: Editions Cabedita, 1998. ISBN 2-88295-219-8. ■

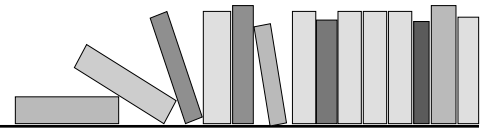
Tinker

Continued from page 11

fascist raids on his airstrip frayed Tinker's nerves. One evening, after a day of missions totaling more than five hours of flying, he notified the Air Ministry of his intention to resign. Upon his arrival in New York City, Tinker's passport was confiscated by the State Department.

A prisoner in his own country, he returned to Arkansas and wrote a book of his wartime experiences entitled *Some Still Live*, which was later published in the United States, England, and Sweden. Selections from his memoir were also serialized in *The Saturday Evening Post*. With this testament behind him, Tinker became bored and wanted to return to Spain. His way was blocked, however, because of his earlier violation of U.S. neutrality laws. Later he briefly considered a stint with the Flying Tigers in China, but instead succumbed to depression and alcoholism. On June 13, 1939, he committed suicide. The question as to what this remarkable man and gifted flyer might otherwise have become in life is etched forever on his tombstone in DeWitt, Arkansas, which asks: "Quien Sabe?" ■

John Carver Edwards is the Special Projects Archivist at the University of Georgia Libraries



The Irish and the Spanish Civil War 1936-39: Crusades in Conflict

By Robert A. Stradling. Manchester University Press (distributed in USA by St. Martin's), 1999.

By Manus O'Riordan

How does one review a book when the subject matter turns out to be not at all what it seems? Robert A. Stradling's subtitle, *Crusades in Conflict*, is very misleading. The Spanish Civil War, he argues, was not a conflict between fascism and democracy, but between Catholicism and Communism.

Crusades in Conflict is an uneven account of Irish participation throughout the Spanish conflict. Most of the book is devoted to the 700 Irishmen who followed the Irish-fascist leader O'Duffy to Spain and then left after five months with just a handful of casualties. In contrast, the story and the whole-hearted commitment and sacrifice of the 200 Irishmen who left their country to defend the Spanish Republic against fascism is relegated to little more than "appendix" status.

Stradling's slant is apparent, starting from his dedication: "For the Fallen: Tom Hyde, Middleton-Jarama; Gabriel Lee, Tralee-Jarama; and Mick Kelly, Ballinasloe-Brunete; and all those Irishmen who died for their ideals in Spain." Which ideals? Of the three men he honors two, Hyde and Lee, fought on the fascist side. The inclusion of Mick Kelly is a patronizing and nauseating attempt by Stradling to minimize his own pro-fascist bias. And surely the Lincoln Vets will be outraged by Stradling's inclusion of their comrade Kelly alongside their common foes. While there are a few brief references to Kelly in Stradling's text, there is nothing about

the circumstances surrounding his death, despite Paul Burns' powerfully written eyewitness account, reprinted by the Lincoln vets in their 1987 book *Our Fight*.

Only regarding Blueshirt Tom Hyde, who was killed in a military fiasco caused by his own side, does any human personality emerge. And that is because Tom Hyde's nephew and namesake provided his uncle's journal to Stradling. But nephew Tom knew of the conflicts of the situation in Spain, so much so that he asked me to convey his hearty congratulations to my father and his fellow International Brigadistas when the Spanish Parliament unanimously granted them Spanish citizenship. "A well deserved honour!" said Tom Hyde's nephew.

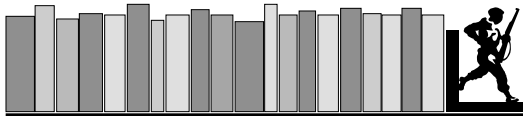
Though Stradling protects many a character witness on the fascist side, he freely commits character assassination of anti-fascists. Specifically, he sets aside the requirements of serious research and accepts hearsay as fact. For instance, Stradling chooses to rely on the racial stereotyping of the flight-of-fancy fictional account in William Herrick's novel *Hermanos* and ignores the significant amount of documentation available on the Irish anti-fascist volunteers.

Stradling's bias appears clearly in his failure to mention the reasons for the repatriation of anti-fascist volunteer Michael Lehane after the battle of Brunete. By this omission, Stradling implies that Lehane was sent home because he lacked "resolution in combat." If he had bothered to check the International Brigade Archives in London, Stradling easily would have discovered that Lehane had been wounded in combat. Lehane recovered and re-enlisted. Wounded again in July 1938, he was carried to safety by my father, Michael O'Riordan, who was wounded in battle the next day.

Lehane's anti-fascist struggle continued until March 1943, when he was killed by a Nazi torpedo while serving in the Norwegian Merchant Navy. So much for Stradling's suggestion of Lehane's lack of "resolution in combat."

Another insult is Stradling's misinterpretations of my own material. In my published writings I described Irish comrade Jim Haughey's faith in Catholicism as "poignant," a statement Stradling translates into "pathetic." He also omits an important letter I wrote to Carl Geiser, which later appeared in print, where I further described Haughey's steadfast bravery as a prisoner: "Haughey had been thoroughly educated by his experience and was so convinced of the justice of that cause (the Spanish Civil War) that he courageously stood up as a 'rojo' before his fascist captors and endured an almost fatal beating from a pick axe." And like his fellow Irishman Michael Lehane, Haughey continued to prove his anti-fascist valour after the end of the Spanish Civil War. In June 1941 he volunteered for the Canadian Air Force and was killed in a plane crash two years later. His name is engraved in Canada's World War II Book of Remembrance.

Stradling's account of the Irish in the Spanish Civil War pays tribute to those Irishmen who were on the side of Franco, plain and simple. The final verdict, however, lies with the Spanish people themselves, who compelled the Spanish Parliament unanimously to confer the right of Spanish citizenship on the International Brigadistas for coming to the defense of Spain's democratic institutions. The obvious cannot be ignored by Stradling or any of his supporters, past and present, and that is, thankfully, our saving grace. ■



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	(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	(cloth)	\$29
	(pbk)	\$15
Comrades by Harry Fisher	(cloth)	\$25
	(pbk)	\$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		
Shouts from the Wall, a poster album ed. by Cary Nelson	(pbk)	\$16
The Aura of the Cause, a photo album ed. by Cary Nelson	(pbk)	\$25
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 are available (\$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.

We Cannot Park on Both Sides

In England, the Reading International Brigades Memorial Committee has published *We Cannot Park on Both Sides*, an account of Reading's volunteers in the Spanish Civil War.

At least five Reading men served with the British Battalion, with other volunteers serving in medical units. Three men were killed.

The book features background details on the volunteers, accounts of fund raising and support in Reading, and first-hand accounts of Jarama, Brunete and the Ebro, as well as an account from inside a POW camp. The text includes letters and material from the local press.

If you would like details, please contact me:
Mike Cooper at coopmik1@hotmail.com



John L. Simon

Reflecting on his years in the International Brigades half a century later, John Leopold Simon wrote a simple testimonial: "Spain constituted a moment in the life of an intellectual when the sempiternal struggle between thought and action enjoyed a respite. Reflection and volition came to an accord; there was one place in the world to be, one side on one battlefield. Rarely had the issues been so clear or the assemblage of volunteers so universal. I have never found since what I had there: a purpose that I had been seeking . . . Spain gave to me, not I to Spain."

He was born in Philadelphia in 1913, graduating from Gratz High School in 1930 and from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933. He entered Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College the following year, but left in his third year—in February 1937—to join the International Brigades. It was not until he arrived in Spain that he announced his medical training, but he was not, after all a doctor. He was but a 24-year-old medical student. So he was assigned to be a first-aid man on the front lines.

There he would remain for much of the war. As Edwin Rolfe would write in *The Lincoln Battalion (1939)*, Simon "had been a front-line doctor, with the rank of captain, for a longer period than any other medical man in Spain. The men respected him for his courage and competence under fire." That was where, for all practical purposes, he completed his medical training. After some months of treating major and minor wounds with bullets whistling over his head, he was granted an honorary medical degree by his Spanish comrades. And so he was "Doc Simon" to all the American volunteers, those whose lives he saved and those who were beyond saving.

Simon kept a series of detailed medical diaries in Spain. They range from prosaic lists of people he treated

to riveting passages of wartime reporting. Here are some of the entries from the Ebro campaign of 1938:

July 28: At night we all stopped; everybody went to sleep. All of sudden shots, panic—no one knows yet what happened. Wounded were Lt. Eladio Paula, commander of 4th Co., Milton Robertson, first aid man of same, some others light, and a Spanish boy of whom I didn't know till next morning (who died). Peace again. Morning we moved on—and then they let me know about the wounded Spanish fellow. We tended to him—Vallbrena and I—I caught up with the battalion. More moving. Positions taken near Vilella. In the afternoon, many wounded. No way to get them out, except sending them by stretcher bearers toward Fatarella. A truck brought food in the afternoon, evacuating wounded, but failed to return at night. Wounded in a little grove, covered by trees. About thirty at once, lying on hay. Including Capt. Lamb, commander of 1st Co . . . Work all night trying to get them out. Mendelsohn shot in head; will die, probably. Milton Gale wounded in abdomen—in agony; sent him toward Fatarella by stretcher. A little sleep in post of command on hay; when I woke up it was light, tho not yet sunrise. Ghastly. Many wounded still left up on the hill with Gayle . . .

July 29: . . . the picture, day before yesterday in the afternoon, of the wounded lying under the fig tree, looking up hungrily at the ripe figs overhead, far out of reach. As if they symbolized a united free Spain, to these hungry, thirsty, wounded men . . . These were the worst days for evacuation that I have ever experienced, except for the retreat in March. The afternoon and evening of the 27th I had about 30 wounded with no way of evacuating. Plane overhead. No house. Some food, water. But had to put them in hay to free stretchers for more wounded. Schutt tried vainly to ride on a mule to get out. José Martinez García, a chunk of his arm



Dr. John Simon in uniform, Spain

torn out by shrapnel, managed to ride; we were able to give him morphine first, but with difficulty because of danger of using flashlights. Gale called for morphine for ages before we were able to give it to him. There was panic when the bullets whizzed nearby . . . There was a fascist attack all along the line with artillery. We thought hell had broken loose.

When Simon returned to the U.S. late in 1938 he took up his formal medical training again, receiving his M.D. degree in 1940. He interned in neurology at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, then became a resident in psychiatry at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital. A residency in neurology followed at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital in 1943 and a residency in psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital in 1944. From 1944 to 1954 he taught both neurology and psychiatry at New York University Hospital, meanwhile maintaining a private psychiatric practice. He published widely in scientific journals for 30 years.

Continued on page 21

Added to Memory's Roster

Meanwhile he was writing extensively in his personal journals about a subject he was passionately interested in for much of his adult life—the relationship between Marxism and psychoanalysis. Like many progressive analysts, he believed psychoanalysis could never cure its patients unless it addressed the social sources of illness. For Simon that meant addressing the class structure and its attendant inequities. In the late 1940s he wrote and edited *Psychiatric Newsletter* to help those in psychiatry contribute toward the working class struggle against capitalism. The newsletter attracted the attention of the FBI, which kept a file on it and conducted surveillance of Simon.

The next few years saw him active in the struggle to aid those of his Lincoln Battalion comrades and others who were victims of the McCarthy-era witch hunts. In 1952 he was Chairman of the Committee to Defend Lincoln Veterans. Some of our readers may remember receiving letters about imprisoned Lincoln vet Steve Nelson co-signed by John Simon and Moe Fishman. That year he was also listed as a sponsor on the stationary of the Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. Simon's archives include carbon copies of the letters he sent about these and other causes, among them those of staff physicians being fired for political reasons. There is also one original letter, returned because the federal prison authorities refused to deliver it: a birthday greeting to John Gates.

A few years later Simon headed south, first to East Louisiana State Hospital in Jackson, Louisiana (1956-1958), and then to the State Psychiatric Hospital in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico (1958-1964). While in Puerto Rico Simon was repeatedly struck by the legal impediments to delivering medical care. His response was to earn a law degree by studying at night; he received his L.L.B. from the University of Puerto Rico in 1972. He also taught at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan from 1958-1959 and again from

1961 to 1974 before returning to private practice in New York City. His medical/legal publications in these years often took up social issues, including his long essay on "The Virginity Cult in the Civil and Criminal Law of Puerto Rico."

Like so many civil war veterans, Simon lived his life on the left, championing progressive movements in his chosen career. He died on December 20, 1999. At the time of his death he was working on an autobiography. He is survived by his former wife, Ruth B. Simon, by his wife Myrtle, and by six children—three daughters and three sons. Two of Simon's sons were named after vets who lost their lives in Spain, British commissar Wally Tapsall and American commander Bob Merriman. Simon had 13 grandchildren.

—Cary Nelson

SAM WALTERS

Sam Walters and I had something in common, besides fighting against fascism in Spain. We both spent most of our youth in orphan homes. Sam had an older brother, Al, whom he always tried to emulate. When Al told Sam that he was joining the International Brigades in Spain, Sam decided that he would go too. Sam, Al and I left the United States on February 20, 1937, on the *Ile de France*. Some weeks later, after spending time in France and then making our way over the Pyrenees, we found ourselves in Spain. Sadly, Al was killed early on, in a battle at the Aragon when the Lincolns captured Quinto. I remember how devastated Sam was when he learned of his brother's death. Sam himself was wounded in the next battle at Belchite.

Several things stand out in my mind about Sam in Spain. Sam was a machine gunner, but he always had his camera with him, even in battle. I remember the dramatic picture he took of the burial of Jack Shirai, with a group of downcast American comrades looking on. I remember the 9th of July at Mosquito Ridge, when com-

pany commander Paul Burns was badly wounded. While at his machine gun position, Sam saw that Paul was unable to move because of his wound. The enemy machine gun and rifle fire was very heavy, but Sam crawled about 30 yards over to Paul and got him to safety. And I remember Sam on the first day of the Brunete offensive, July 6th, feeding his machine gun as the Americans began their attack on the fascist position at Villanueva de la Canada. Sam saw Oliver Law, our black commander, wave the Americans over the top, with Law's runner Jerry Weinberg near him. Sam



Sam Walters manning a machine gun at Brunete, July 1937

grabbed his camera just for an instant and got a snapshot of Commander Law leading a predominantly white battalion into battle—the first time such an event ever took place in American history. Sam rushed back to his machine gun, not realizing what an important moment of history he had captured. Law lived that day, but was killed three days later, the same day that Sam saved Paul Burns' life. Sam's photo of the first black commander leading white American

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Added to Memory's Roster



Walters

Continued from page 21

troops lives on. (Amazingly, it was 55 years later that Sam's comrade, Tibby Brooks, came across those precious negatives and had them developed.)

When Sam returned to the States, he joined the VALB and spent decades as an activist. He worked for civil rights and protested the war in Vietnam. Together with Tibby, he was especially active in the attempt to get a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Sam worked with the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and was arrested many times at demonstrations. Once, while spending eight hours in jail in

Washington, D.C. with dozens of young activists, he organized a jail-house teach-in, telling them about the Spanish Civil War and the Lincoln Brigade. The young people were fascinated and asked many questions. Surprisingly, the guards in the jail, most of them black, also showed tremendous interest, took part in the discussions, and also asked many questions.

About a year ago, Tibby noticed that Sam was beginning to lose weight. Together they visited dozens of doctors and clinics, but no one seemed to know what was wrong. Finally, Tibby took Sam to Cuba. There they learned that Sam had a very rare disease and that there was

no cure for it. Sam died in Cuba and will be greatly missed.

—Harry Fisher

Other Recent Deaths

Arthur Munday

Sam Schiff

ALBA'S TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

SHOUTS FROM THE WALL

Carbondale

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

Medford

October 12-Dec 10, 2000
Tufts University Gallery
Aidekman Art Center
40 R Talbot Ave
Medford, MA 02155
617 627-3505

Riverside, California

March 15, 2001-April 30, 2001
Sweeney Art Gallery
University of California
Riverside CA 92521
For information contact
Katherine Warren 909-787-3755

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 of the Lincoln Brigaders, other international volunteers and their Spanish comrades, in training and at rest, among the Spanish villages, and in battle.

Detroit

April 1-May 31, 2000
David Adamany Library
Wayne State University
Anthony Wayne Drive
Detroit, MI 48202
313 577-6138

Medford

October 12-Dec 10, 2000
Tufts University Gallery
Aidekman Art Center
40 R Talbot Ave
Medford, MA 02155
617 627-3505

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



Contributions



■ Mark Alper in memory of Arthur Munday, \$50 ■ Murray Berg in memory of Bob Taylor, \$50 ■ Michael & Lena Baum in memory of Dave Reiss, \$25 ■ Tibby Brooks in memory of Sam Walters, \$200 ■ Norah Chase in memory of Sam Schiff, \$40 ■ Roz Hendrickson, \$10 ■ Faye and Hy Hollander in memory of Harry Wilkes, \$25 ■ Jiri Horsky in memory of Sam Walters, \$25 ■ Edith Howard Newman in memory of Jack Shulman, \$50 ■ Dr. Milton Ingerman in memory of Mannie Lanser, \$100 ■ Leslie Kish in memory of Clement Markert, \$100 ■ Dr. Louis Kroll in memory of Zachary Stadt, \$50 ■ Marta LaRock in memory of Arthur Munday, \$50 ■ Jane Larson in memory of Walter Togwel (British veteran), \$50 ■ Matti Mattson, \$25 ■ Nancy Mikelsons in memory of Rose and Bill Rubin and in honor of Dr. Edward Barsky, \$100 ■ Mo Mishida, \$25 ■ Alan Jay Rom in memory of Sam Schiff, \$100 ■ Esther and Phillip Rom in memory of Sam Schiff, \$25 ■ Rose Silverman & sons in memory of Max Silverman, \$25 ■ Kate Simon in memory of John L. Simon, M.D., \$25 ■ Martin Sramek, \$50 ■ Peter Stone, \$25 ■ Edna and Lou Zucker in memory of Danny Haskell, \$50 ■

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 Brandeis 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.

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The Civil War in Spain

A View from the Ranks

Photographs by Sam Walters

These photos are from Walters' memorial/exhibit at the Brecht Forum. Many of these photos, taken during the Spanish Civil War, had been badly damaged. They were restored by Diane Greene Lent.

Sam Walters, *see page 21*



ALBA-VALB NY
Events April 28, 30

see page 4

B.C. Monument

see page 12

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