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The Volunteer

ORGAN OF
VETERANS OF THE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

— "AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE
PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE
EARTH."
Abraham Lincoln

3650 Emerald, Apt. E-4 Torrance, CA 90503

THE TWO EXTREMES OF SPANISH TERRORISM!

By Leonard Lamb

Terrorism, as a political weapon, has plagued Spain in greater measure than any other country in Europe. Last year terrorism accounted for 88 deaths. This year, as of the 27th October, the death toll has reached 115, with threats of more to come.

Slightly more than half the total has been attributed to ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty); an unspecified number are said to be the work of GRAPO (October Antifascist Resistance Group). The Far Right and the police are responsible for the rest. The difficulty in determining how many were killed by the Far Right or the police lies in the lack of official identification. The latter's killings are listed as bare statistics with no organizational acknowledgement. They do, however, show up in the totals. ETA and GRAPO rarely miss the opportunity to advertise their "accomplishments."

ETA was founded in 1959 and described itself as a Marxist-Leninist organization. Its stated purpose was retaliation for the terror ordered as special punishment by Franco because of the strong fight the Basques waged in defense of the Republic during the 1936-1939 Civil War.

The majority of the Basques, essentially conservative by tradition, were not attracted in great numbers to ETA. They did not approve of its methods; nor did its political program reflect their aspirations. ETA was on the scene as a result of the times and therefore tolerated. Although not openly embraced, neither was it repudiated. Nevertheless, because it was active in the struggle against Francoism, ETA enjoyed a degree of influence and protection in the Basque country. ETA has been underground since its beginning.

GRAPO did not appear until the death of Franco. An organization of the extreme Left, it has been described as Maoist in ideology and infiltrated and influenced by the right. Its sporadic operations occur mainly in the Madrid area.

The profound change in the political situation brought about by Franco's death called for new assessments of policy and direction. The life of the nation was in the process of change, yet ETA's post-Franco activity remained unaltered. The former guerilla-like, retaliatory strikes against the regime were now directed at provoking the army into confrontation with a democratically oriented population. Under the new circumstances, ETA's as well as GRAPO's assassinations and kidnappings became an embarrassment to the forces for democracy, placing its progress in jeopardy.

Their tactic was to goad the old line generals and subordinate officers trained in the Franco tradition to move against the interim government. As a group, the officers were, and many still are, apprehensive of the change to democratic rule. The diversification inherent in democracy was regarded as alien and abhorrent. They were eventually persuaded to an uneasy



neutrality only because of institutional loyalty to the King. Even though the king, unlike themselves, faced away from Francoism.

It was this instability in the restive ranks of the old line officers that the Extreme Left and the Far Right sought to trigger into action.

A takeover by the army would assure the Right the reinstitution of a regime like Franco's. A return to repression is believed necessary by the Extreme Left to ignite a general uprising which it would then convert to its own purposes.

The strategy of provocation was the ground upon which the aims of both Extremes met. For ETA and GRAPO the means were assassination, kidnapping and bombing. The targets remained the same — the armed forces hierarchy and important civic and public officials. The Far Right, on the side of the army, sought instead to provoke the democratic forces to the kind of violence which would serve as the excuse for military intervention in the name of restored order.

The gunning down of the five lawyers in the Atocha headquarters of the Workers' Commission was such an attempt. The

This book is the result of enormous labor. It is the culling of more than 300 interviews taped in the twilight of the Franco era between June 1973 and May 1975: 90% of them in Spain, the rest in France. The interviews are presented chronologically, within the framework of the course of the war, and are interspersed with Fraser's commentaries that identify the speakers and the events they are describing.

These are impassioned accounts. They spring from Spanish roots. The indigenous nature of the Spanish struggle and its complexity come home to the reader with full force. Every political outlook is represented. Participants describe their loyalties, and the background against which these were formed and their evolution in the course of the war. It is noteworthy that while Republicans, despite major political differences, remained steadfast in their support of the aims of the war, many of the ideologists who joined Franco in the belief that the war aimed for a community of all Spaniards, experienced disillusionment: they saw the calculated slaughter of tens of thousands of Republicans and non-political day laborers, workers and intellectuals and the festivities of the rich as they made excursions, loaded with churros and coffee, to witness the executions: they grew to understand that carnage was the device whereby Franco was forming his social base.

I think that only a minority of the Internationals who volunteered knew the indigenous roots of the conflict. Correctly enough, we saw the fight as part of the international struggle against fascism. Indeed, what determined our defeat was the various forms of international help that Franco received in German and Italian arms and men and in English, French and American non-intervention and neutrality. But the complexities that lay behind the uniqueness of the Spanish resistance were for the most part unknown to the volunteers. Among the virtues of Fraser's book is that the tenacity of the Spaniards and the elan with which thousands of them were imbued are removed from the sphere of generalities and placed firmly among specifics.

In each camp, tremendous conflicts existed. The church, the influence of religion, the small landholders of the Aragon, Navarre and Valencia, the day laborers of Andalusia and Extremadura, the various political parties, the anti-state bias of the anarchists who were the leaders of so large a section of the working class, the differences in the labor movement and between the working class political parties, the everyday life in both the fascist and Republican zones, the transition from original elation to war weariness — these are the specifics which form the complex picture Fraser depicts.

In this limited space, it is of course impossible to cite every episode. I am impelled to give the following two:

Pages 205 through 209 are devoted to first hand accounts of the famous incident where Miguel de Unamuno was abused. Felisa Unamuno, his daughter, was one of those interviewed.

Unamuno, world famous as a Catholic intellectual, philosopher and literary figure, had sided with Franco, and was rector of the University of Salamanca. As he witnessed the murders of one intellectual figure after another, his belief that Franco had risen to "defend an honorable republic," and to save "western civilization, the Christian civilization which is threatened," was shaken, and he said to his daughter, "The reds are the colour of blood, they say; but these people here are the colour of pus — and I don't know which is worse." He had been to see Franco and protested the assassinations and executions but to no avail.

On October 12, 1936, at a commemoration of the Day of the Race, retorting to slighting remarks that a speaker had made about Catalans and Basques, Unamuno, himself a Basque, said, "There is hatred but no compassion." To conquer was not to convert. There was hatred of intelligence....

At this point, General Millan Astray, who had founded the Foreign Legion and who was literally half a man, with one arm, one leg and one eye, shouted:

"Death to intellectuals! Long live death!"

Others took up the shout, "Death to the treacherous intelli-

gentsia!" Millan Astray's bodyguard aimed his submachine gun at Unamuno. But the Franco's wife, also on the platform, stood up, gestured to the legionary to deflect his gun, took Unamuno by the arm and gestured her guard to surround them. People were shouting "Rojo! Cabron!" Franco's wife sent Unamuno home in her car. Later that day Unamuno went to the casino and was met with the same cries. For the next two and a half months until he died, Unamuno remained at home. Both his sons who were in Madrid, when they heard of his death, held the nationalists responsible, and they volunteered for the Republican army. One of them was wounded, losing an eye almost as soon as he reached the front.

The second episode, the last one in the book, on page 512, is the account of Lt. Juan Crespo, a monarchist student who had led Moorish troops, grown disillusioned as the war progressed, and been wounded. A year after the end of the war, he was in Madrid for his final medical. He was in line to get a pension that would have made him comfortable for life. He sat down in a cafe and had a one legged bootblack shine his shoes. They got to talking. "Well, lieutenant," the bootblack said, "I see you've been wounded in the leg. I lost mine in a tank battle in this zone." "And what compensation are you getting for your wound?" Crespo asked. "None," replied the republican, "They give us who fought on this side, nothing at all —"

In disgust, Crespo refused to report for his medical, and was never admitted to the Disabled Corps. His later life was spent in poverty. "What else could I do? If the regime was going to excommunicate one half of Spain for having fought on the other side, how were we ever going to heal our wounds?"

It is significant that the interviews end on this note. How sensible were those forces on the left who, instead of living in the past, understood, with the death of Franco, the need of reconciliation!

Where I find myself in disagreement with Fraser is in his interpretation of some of the events. In my opinion the centralizing policy — building a regular army, subordinating all production to and coordinating social change with the immediate need to win the war — was a correct policy on the part of the government. I believe that this policy could have been fought for in a better way than it was and that more unity could have been achieved. But I do not believe that the revolution was sacrificed to the war.

I think it would be a mistake to emphasize what disagreements there will be with Fraser's interpretation. The audiences before whom we find ourselves speaking are often interested not only in Spanish history but also in the tortuous course that every fight to achieve a just society encounters. The questions this book raises are legitimate, and matters for patient discussion. This book lends itself to such discussion. It would be a major error for any one of us to see only our differences with Mr. Fraser, and to neglect the openings to the understanding of the need for change and the complexity of the processes of change with which his impassioned accounts confront the reader and the student of history.

*VALB Guest Lecturers. Continued
from page 10*

is veterans, have a difficult yet exciting and rewarding experience ahead.

Gerassi is the son of a Sephardic Jew who was part of Negrin's cabinet at one time, was the last military defender of Barcelona and for the last weeks of the war had the rank of general during the retreats.

Professor Gerassi teaches regularly at Queens College of the City University of N.Y. where in February, 1980 he will be offering two sections of a course on the Spanish civil war, one at the undergraduate and one at the graduate level. A format will be adopted similar to that used in Bard.

A.P.

POST REPORTS

FLORIDA

First... had an informal luncheon meeting at Abe Skolnick's place...

Florida International University (Center for Labor Research and Studies) is sponsoring "The Spanish Civil War — a retrospective evening, Dec. 8, 1979" — See "To Die in Madrid" and "Hear Veterans of the Spanish Civil War..." All of this is the work of Peggy Wilson of the University who is the daughter of Gibbons (Joe?), a vet who was with the Mac-Paps.

The Florida Post *does* have the missing copy of "Dreams and Nightmares" — will mail shortly.

SALUD!

Irving Gold
Florida Post

NEW YORK

New York Post elections results: seven members to be elected to the National Board. 108 voting of 170 ballots mailed..
Winners: *

Jack Bjose	51	Vaughn Love	40
Carl Geiser	83*	John Martinez	68*
Danny Groden	67*	Al Prago	70*
John Kublick	26	Bill Sussman	61*
Felix Dusman	35	Hy Wallich	46
Lenny Lamb	68*	Irv Weisman	69*

RESULTS OF POST ELECTIONS:

Commander	Milt Wolff
Adjutant	Al Stanley
Executive Sec.	Ed Bender
Recording Sec.	Frieda Wolff
Treasurer	Stan Junas
Historian	Don McLeod

SAN FRANCISCO

Members at large on executive committee: Marion Wachtel, Walter Schuetrum, Mildred Thayer.

Members elected as representatives to National Board: Marian Wachtel, Don McLeod, Ed Bender.

Resolution directed to the National Board: 1) "VRC is a national issue... approved by the National Conference... should take on a national character and should be supported by all posts of the VALB." 2) "... we... undertake the responsibility to initiate the campaign on the West Coast and also raise funds for it providing that we get agreement of the L.A. and Seattle posts to participate. Milt has communicated with L.A. 3) ... recommend that some National Board meetings be held on West Coast so that we don't have to bear the entire burden of travel expenses.

Also: We've secured GOODMAN'S (instead of the Blue Dolphin as previously announced), for our 43rd Anniversary Dinner. The date is Saturday, Feb. 2, 1980 — 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. GOODMAN'S, Jack London Square, Oakland, California.

Tickets can be obtained from Marian Bender (531-1921, 1321 Glenfield, Oakland - 94602.

Milt Wolff, Commander
Ed Bender, Exec. Sec.

LOS ANGELES

Excerpts from a letter by Fred Keller, newly elected Post Commander, L.A. Post, to Bob Steck of the Administration Committee of the National Board, VALB.

"... Let me know what is required or helpful from the Post to the N.B. I'll try to conform, and while you're at it, what can we expect from the N.B.? Tell us what you think our membership should know and act upon. (Oscar Hunter will reply.)

Here in L.A. it is my opinion that we are on a positive track; learning to live together with respect for each other and creating an atmosphere wherein every veteran should want to participate... To this end I'm enclosing recent releases.

To celebrate and welcome newly elected officers, we held a party recently — swimming, pot-luck, drinks and NO BUSI-NESS, about which Gabby wrote: 'Now is the time to come together in the show of unity that every vet wants.'

Peter Wyden will be attending tonight's meeting (Friday, November 30). Pete Smith met with Wyden before he left N.Y. for L.A. He is the Author of the *Bay of Pigs*, a Book of the Month Club selection. He is presently at work on a book about Spain and the Lincoln Brigade already contracted for by Simon and Schuster.

The proposed agenda for tonight's regular post meeting, as sent out by Gabby to all Vets and associates, is the following: 1) Discussion to enlarge our distress fund for Vets welfare. 2) Campaign for Vets Rights. 3) Recommendations to enlarge exec. bd. 4) Discuss planned affair "Salute to the VALB" by community celebrities and leaders. 5) Finances.

Salud!

Fred Keller

Post Commander

CRACKER BARREL, CONTINUED.

from page 12

been cancelled because he had served Spain's legitimate government... Shortly before he died, he wrote that: "The struggle of the Spanish people changed me from an adventurer to a zealous partisan. I think now that I understand what patriotism really is. I am proud to think that I have done my little bit."

I would also like at this time to thank our editor, Manny Harriman, for having faced up squarely to the problem of the proper ownership of our archives. Five years is indeed sufficient time for anything. And, since only a *national membership referendum* can make policy for the VALB — and that's a fact — I, too, call for that referendum, *now!*

And finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to Leonard Lamb for what I consider to be the finest series of articles on post-Franco Spain in America today. I deem it, too, that our N.B. should find some way to guarantee that these articles reach a wider audience than our slim readership.

Salud,

Art Landis

"THE HEINKELS HAVE GOTTEN TIRED PLAYING, AND ARE DIVING FOR THE GROUND AS FAST AS THEY CAN GET CLEAR."



American fliers with the LaCalle Squadron, Republic Air Corps. Standing: Tinker, a mechanic, Gil Castenda, Captain LaCalle, and Velasco. Seated: Bastodo, Whitey Dahl, Chang Selles,

SPANISH TERRORISM: CONTINUED

results, however, were the opposite of what was anticipated. The viciousness of the crime elicited a deep anger and resulted in a tidal wave of revulsion and sympathy. The response was an awesome display of disciplined silence by the tens of thousands along the route of the public funeral.

The important political events in which the electorate participated, such as the referendum for the new Constitution, the Basque Autonomy Statutes and the national elections, show striking similarities in the positions taken by the Far Right and the terrorist Left. While the democratic forces were bending every effort to build a proper foundation for the new regime, the political extremes were working toward an opposite goal.

Accion Popular, Blas Pinar's falangists and ETA campaigned for a "NO" vote to the Constitution. ETA's influence in the Basque country generated sufficient pressure to bring the PNV (Basque Nationalist Party) to faltering indecision; and in the last moments before the balloting, to call for abstention. This was the same party that had earlier taken a strong stand against ETA terrorism.

By the time of the March 3, 1979 national elections ETA had gained sufficient support to be represented by an above ground, legal party, Herri Batasuna (Union of the People), and succeeded in electing four deputies to the Cortes on a separatist program. But the issue — autonomy versus independence — split ETA into the economic-political and political-military wings. The political (economic-political) branch renounced the use of terrorism and accepted Basque autonomy as a "beginning toward self determination." The separatist military section declared its determination to continue its terrorism. According to ETA spokesmen targets still are the hierarchy of the armed forces — the army, the civil guard and the paramilitary police.

Here, again, the positions of the terrorists and the Right coincided. Both called for rejection of the autonomy statutes, although for different reasons.

It was during the autonomy campaign that the deepest crisis between the army and the government occurred. Tensions of a like kind had been weathered before, but now the relations between the military and the civilian authorities were strained to a greater degree than at any other time since the death of Franco.

The point of near rupture in the uneasy truce between the generals and the administration was occasioned by the assassination of the Military Governor of Guipuzcoa, Brig. Gen. Lorenzo Gonzales-Valles Sanchez. Right wing newspapers charged the murder a "failure of government" while the liberal "El Diario 16" called the killing a clear challenge to Premier Adolfo Suarez and the King.

The military, both active and retired, were more outspoken. The attacks were strong and bitter and had the ring of traditional army "pronunciamientos." This time, Lt. Gen. Manuel Guitierrez Mellado, the Deputy Premier was unable to intervene for Suarez as he had in the past. The full depth of the crisis was apparent when Premier Suarez was compelled to cancel his trip to the United States and Latin America because of "internal problems."

If the conduct of the separatist military ETA during the 25 October referendum is any indication, new targets have been extended to include ordinary citizens. Herri Batasuna poll watchers were instructed to note the names of voters suspected of supporting autonomy. And just two days after the Basque home rule referendum was overwhelmingly approved, German Gonzales, a young member of the PSOE (Socialist Workers Party) was shot to death. He was said to have campaigned vigorously for the Basque autonomy statutes.

On 12 November, the military ETA took responsibility for the kidnapping of Javier Ruperez, a member of the House of Deputies and the foreign affairs secretary of the Union of the Democratic Center (UCD). Ruperez, a close confidant and adviser to Premier Suarez, strongly opposes Spain's entry into NATO.

The slaying of German Gonzales resulted in the first large public demonstration against the ETA terrorists. In addition, more than 250,000 workers mounted a general strike to protest the killing.

Until the new Basque police force, allowed under self rule, is recruited and trained, the 22,000 Madrid assigned force will remain. Meanwhile terrorism continues to be one of the major concerns of Spaniards generally. Democracy is still not so secure that the generals are its obedient servants instead of a source of concern. Considering the provocativeness of the military ETA's attacks, it is a hopeful sign that, so far, it has been possible to contain the generals' restiveness.

ADDENDUM: The Struggle Continues by leonard lamb

Under the leadership of the Workers' Commissions, 400,000 workers and their friends jammed into the Casa de Campo amphitheater on October 14 to protest the labor statutes proposed by the Adolfo Suarez minority government.

One hundred thousand were delegates elected from the work places in the cities and farming areas from all regions of Spain. The meeting, which held fast despite a pouring rain, climaxed the round of discussions in the factories and the fields that took place over a number of months.

With inflation expected to reach 18% by the end of the year, and with 1.1 million unemployed, a rate close to 10%, the trade unionists are making demands that require a different approach to the labor statutes than advanced by the corporations and the government.

In the face of the sharpening economic crisis, the workers are demanding equal sacrifices from all sectors of the population. While they have constantly reiterated that they are willing to assume their share of the burden, the demands include full recognition of trade union rights and freedoms under the statute, as well as an economy planned to increase jobs by 300,000 annually, and the extension of unemployment insurance to 400,000 workers at present not covered.

They are also proposing that the fiscal policy permit the development of small and medium sized businesses, farms and cattle ranches.

At the same time, the workers are seeking to strengthen the unity of action among the most representative of the trade unions, which include the CCOO, UGT and the smaller federations such as the USO and ELA-STV.

To assure a proper balance in planning, the workers are demanding to be part of the negotiations in formulating the labor statutes.

With the multinationals such as Ford, General Motors, Westinghouse Electric and Sterling Drugs investing huge sums, in addition to the establishment of branches of the Bank of America, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb, Citibank and Chase Manhattan, the Spanish government is looking forward to a new period of industrial expansion.

However, the labor laws the government is seeking to enact will benefit the employers at labor's expense while creating the economic incentives to encourage greater foreign and multinational investment. The new economic policies the employers and corporations are advocating are a system of collective bargaining and strike regulation that would limit the rights of the labor force.

Marcellino Camacho, head of the Workers' Commissions, in addressing the rally cautioned: "We cannot forget, not for one moment, that we are making the transition from fascism to freedom, with the old apparatus of the state, with terrorism born under the dictatorship and exacerbated now...and that the ultraright tries to use it for its own purposes to destabilize democracy...."

The next issue will include a statement by Gina Medem on Jewish Vets of the S.C.W., translated by Sylvia Acker. Gina Medem was a correspondent for both *Freiheit* and the *New Masses* in Spain, 1936-1939.

A LEGEND BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE THE MAN BEHIND IT

N. Y. Daily News
6/13/79.

PETE HAMILL



The disease is terrible, a nihilism of the body, and it came into John Wayne years ago, knocking him down, receded, waited, hoarding its destructive energy, and then moved again, in a remorseless cavalry charge of rioting cells, until at last it killed him.

He was not the first to die of the disease: he will not be the last. But the very best that can be said about the man is that he faced that disease with grace.

We should be clear, however, that it is not the man who is being memorialized today; it is the legend. And the legend is a fiction.

To begin with, John Wayne was not a hero. He was an actor who played heroes: that shadowy brigade of soldiers and cowboys who were invented by writers such as Dudley Nichols and such directors as John Ford, Howard Hawks and Raoul Walsh. In his way, Wayne was a marvelous movie actor: he had a great walk, a face that evoked a tough, crinkly-eyed integrity, a drawling Western baritone untouched by the accents of Europe. He looked good throwing a punch (although any decent fighter would have stepped inside one of those roundhouses and flattened him); he seemed very real with a rifle in his hand.

But all of that was his equipment as an actor. He was not a hero. There are more heroes in any firehouse in New York than John Wayne ever dreamed of playing. Every day they risk their lives plunging into smoke and fire, saving human beings from death; nobody shouts "Cut" when the fire rages out of control. Those men are heroes: cops are heroes, private citizens can be heroes. And in John Wayne's lifetime there was one very large public argument that produced a lot of heroes and many of them died a long time ago, when they were young.

THAT ARGUMENT WAS CALLED World War II. In that war, men left their families behind; they lied about their age; they begged to be given guns. In that war, 407,316 Americans were killed and 670,846 were wounded. The almanac says that, 16,353,659 Americans served in all branches of the armed services. John Wayne was not one of them.

When the American part of the war started, John Wayne was thirty-four years old, a middle-level star in the wake of John Ford's "Stagecoach." When John Wayne was making that movie in 1938, my man, Curley Mende, was in Spain. Curley Mende was a tough Jewish kid off the streets of Brownsville, and he went to Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to kill fascists. To this day he carries a foot-long scar down his back, a souvenir of the battle of the Jarama; when that war was over, and Hitler, Franco and Mussolini had won their victory over the Spanish Republic, Curley Mende came home. And when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, he went down to the recruiting line, ready to do it all over again. On that line he did not bump into John Wayne.

Other movie start went to that war. Jimmy Stewart was 33 when he enlisted in March, 1941 — before Pearl Harbor — as a \$21-a-month private: he spent 23 months overseas, flew twenty combat missions; rose in the ranks to a full colonel; and came home with the Distinguished Flying Cross with three clusters. Clark Gable was 41, earning \$357,000 a year, and went in as an enlisted man. He, too, became an officer, saw combat and won medals. They served in an army that was made up of Jews, blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and Italian-Americans and a whole lot of other Americans who did not exist in the movie world that featured John Wayne.

Those people went off and fought the last "popular" war while John Wayne stayed home, making "Flying Tigers" and

"The Fighting Seabees" and "Back to Bataan." It's still not clear why he did el ducko; he was clearly entitled to a deferment, because of his four children, but others waived the deferment. In Hollywood they say that Wayne wanted to be an officer, was told he had to start as an enlisted man — and passed.

NONE OF THIS WOULD MATTER, of course, if John Wayne had just gone ahead and acted in his amiable, well-photographed fictions, and kept his mouth shut. But as he got older, as the memory of the real faded, and a lot of real heroes were buried in Arlington, or stashed in the gloomy wards of the VA hospitals, John Wayne started to make the worst mistake any actor can make: he confused his life with the parts he played.

And suddenly, no longer in danger from live ammunition, he started beating his breast for "real" American values, as if he had the exclusive definition of patriotism. It was as if a black man from Ded-Stuy or Alabama who protested the continued racism of the society was not as "American" as this rich, isolated movie star. It was as if my man, Curly Mende, who left a piece of himself on the battlefields of Spain, as not as American as John Wayne, simply because Curly Mende thought socialism would make America a more just country.

"If you play my favorite tune," Wayne once told a band leader, "everybody will have to stand up."

By then, of course, Wayne's contemporaries had stood up at Anzio, Omaha Beach, Tarawa, Monte Cassino, Guadalcanal, Bastogne, the real Iwo Jima and a thousand other places, and they didn't need the national anthem to make them do it. When the war was over, Wayne set himself up as a hanging judge. With Adolph Menzor, Ward Bond and a few others, he set up something called the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals. They were going to root out "communism" in the movie business. At last, Wayne had found an enemy he could fight. And in those bullying years of the blacklist, he and his friends helped destroy lives and careers.

AND YET. . . . AND YET, their remains something extraordinarily appealing about the legend. Forget the man; the legend did have the authenticity of great popular art. The world is complex, ambiguous, more gray than black or white. But "John Wayne" came to mean something else. In a beautiful piece, written after Wayne first got sick, Joan Didion remembered first seeing him, when she was eight years old, in a movie called "War of the Wildcats." In the film he promised the Girl that he would build her a house "at the bend in the river where the cottonwoods grow." Didion wrote, ". . . In a world we understood to be characterized by venality and doubt and paralyzing ambiguities, he suggested another world, one which may or may not have existed ever but in any case existed no more: a place where a man could move free, could make his own code and live by it; a world in which, if a man did what he had to do, he could one day take the girl and go riding through the draw and find himself home free, not in a hospital with something going wrong inside, not in a high bed with the flowers and the drugs and the forced smiles, but there at the bend in the bright river, the cottonwoods shimmering in the early morning sun."

That was the legend in its purest form. We should grant the man the grace of his dying, separate the facts from the legend, and clearly mourn the legend. In a way, that's all there ever was. . .

ATTENTION!

Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 15th. To all Post Commanders planning dinners, assign someone now to cover same-- and with pics. More. Unless familial problems, or close personal friendships obtain, let each post be responsible for its own obits. Example: George Foucek is a well known vet from the S.F. Bay area. (Died in October). And how's about Jack Cooper from Florida? Let's get with it comrades. . . .

By Isadore Tiven and Stephen Zak

This article is written by two Lincoln vets, who visited Spain as part of a Canadian group of forty-eight.

It all started when we were invited by the Mac-Paps to a "Reunion in Spain 1979." There were six Americans in the group. Twenty-five of the Canadians were veterans of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion who, with the authors, made a total of twenty-seven veterans of the International Brigade. The tour was under the leadership of Ross Russell of Toronto, and we think he did a good job especially when you consider that he had to deal with a large group of highly individualistic personalities.

The Mac-Paps returned to Spain after an absence of 40 years and if our reception by the Spanish people proved anything, it was that Thomas Wolfe was wrong and that you "can go home again." It was a triumphant return and a vindication that Canadian history will not be able to neglect any longer.

The forthcoming visit of the Mac-Paps had caught the interest of the Canadian public. Articles on the visit appeared in newspapers such as the Globe and Mail (Canada's equivalent to the New York Times), the Toronto Star and others. Even the return of the group on September 10th and a short stopover in Montreal was newsworthy enough to warrant an article in the Montreal Star.

Of the non-vets in the group, there were wives, friends, a Canadian free-lance writer, Eva Drobot, who had written a beautiful article on the Mac-Paps called "The Men in the \$3.00 Suits," a camera crew with equipment loaned by the Canadian National Film Board to film the reunion in Spain — the film to be produced by Bill Brennan and to be directed by Prof. Maurice Constant. (Brennan was the producer of "The Last Cause, and Constant has directed a number of films for the Canadian National Film Board.) Both these guys are vets of the Mac-Pap Battalion. To round out the group picture, there were four non-vet Americans — Pearl Tivin, Rhoda Zak, Joel Tivin, the 17-year-old grandson of the Tivins and Ruby Hynes, whose brother Harry was killed at Brunete.

What we thought would be a nice vacation interlude in Spain turned out to be one of the most dynamic and inspiring events in our lives. Beginning in Toronto on August 26th, the group was ushered into the airport VIP room, and Canadian Broadcast Company conducted a number of interviews with the Mac-Pap vets. Imagine an American network getting excited by a proposed visit of Lincolns to Spain. The interviews appeared in Canadian newspapers as well as on television.

We had no sooner arrived in Madrid than we were invited to a reception at the headquarters of the Partido Comunista Espana. We were received by Marcus Ana on behalf of the Central Committee. It was a very moving and soul-stirring meeting. Marcus Ana is an old friend of the Mac-Paps, having come to Canada on several occasions to help in the work of the Canadian Committee for a Democratic Spain. Translating was Gloria Montero, who was the leading figure in the work of CCDS. She has returned to Spain and is now living in Barcelona. Many of the Mac-Paps were near tears when Marcus Ana praised and thanked "Los Canadienses" for what they had done for Spain. In return, the Mac-Paps presented a plaque which shows the emblem of the International Brigades imposed on a red background of the Canadian maple leaf. After accepting the plaque, Marcus asked all Brigadistas to sign on the back of the plaque. The authors, not being Canadian, hesitated but were expressly asked to sign, and that is how two Americans got into a largely Canadian show.

The next day's schedule included a bus tour of Madrid in the morning and a visit to the Jarama front in the afternoon. A Spanish comrade who had been in the thick of Jarama went over the main points of the Jarama scene. Little was changed at Jarama. Old gun emplacements and some old trenches made the war real again. It should be pointed out at this point that everything we did, inside or outside on this trip, was put on film.

The following day we visited the Brunete battle area. For some reason, possibly the road, we could not approach from the riverbed side of Mosquito Hill. Jules Paivio gave a resume of the

Brunete offensive. In the evening there was a reception at Socialist Party headquarters, followed immediately by a visit to the Ex-Presos. The latter reception was most enthusiastic, so much so that we barely made it back to the hotel to eat our dinner.

It should be noted that on every visit to an organization or governmental body throughout the whole trip, the Mac-Paps presented their hosts with one of the plaques. The presentation speech was made by a different Mac-Pap on each occasion. The democratic spirit prevailed in the Mac-Paps. Questions arising on the trip were resolved by committee decisions.

We left Madrid on Thursday morning, heading for Albacete. Of course, we had to stop in Toledo for several hours. Albacete was prepared for us and there was a reception for us by the Municipal Council of Albacete. There were articles and interviews in the newspapers with headings such as "Veteranos de las Brigadas Internacionales en Nuestra Ciudad" and "Cuarenta y Ocho Ex-Brigadistas Canadienses Han Visitado Provincial Council." Albacete has changed tremendously. It is probably five times larger than when it was the headquarters of the International Brigades. It is modern with new high-rise apartment buildings. The old Albacete is mostly gone but its revolutionary spirit is still as of old.

On the last day of August, we visited Tarazona and Madrigueras and were given warm welcomes by the mayor and deputies. On Saturday, September 1st, we left Albacete and arrived at Teruel in the early afternoon. There was no official schedule so we had a free afternoon for a change.

During the night, one of the Mac-Paps, George Foucek, of Toronto, died. He had been warned by his doctor not to make this trip but he insisted on going. Teruel was the high point in his life. He had fought there valiantly and was looking forward to the next day visit of the battlefield. After a memorial service, he was buried, with his family's approval, in a cemetery close to his comrades who had fallen there some forty-one years ago.

A few days later, George Solomon had to resort to the use of a wheel chair. Because of a bad leg, he was also advised not to take this trip. But everyone in the group was eager to help him.

The next day's tour of the battlefield was conducted by Lionel Edwards, who had been the Mac-Pap commander there so many years ago. Teruel took very little notice of Los Canadienses. As four young comrades, who conducted us on a walking tour of Teruel, explained, "Teruel was a sort of right-wing town." One reason was that after Franco retook Teruel, every male suspected of working class sympathies was butchered in the center of town. The young comrades pointed to the spot where it took place. The fascists had a formal ball that evening.

On our way to Barcelona, there was a stop at Gandesa and a view of the historic Ebro River. Barcelona was again a round of receptions by the city and provincial governments. There was a visit to a coastal town where the mayor was not only a Catholic priest but a Communist as well. At a meeting with the Ex-Presos here, as well as in Madrid, the Canadians presented the organization with \$500 each to carry on their work to achieve legality. In Barcelona, as in Madrid, many comrades in various organizations (when they found that we too were Lincolns) would ask about El Lobo. From the expression on their faces, one could gather that Milt Wolf could be mayor in either city he chose.

Departing Barcelona and heading back to Madrid, there were stops and movie shooting at Fuentes del Ebro and Belchite. The latter town has been rebuilt on another site. The ruins are just as they were some forty years back. Franco wanted the ruins left as they were as an object lesson to the Spanish people if they opposed him. After a night stop outside of Zaragoza, we were back in Madrid on Saturday, September 8th.

That evening we were invited guests at the Canadian Embassy. It was an elaborate affair and the high point of our whole trip. Santiago Carrillo was one of the invited guests. He made a short talk praising the Canadians and thanking them for their help to the Spanish people. Could one imagine the English IBers coming to this country — the British embassy hosting a party for them — and inviting Gus Hall as a guest speaker? But down to realities, and departure the next day for Montreal.



The Mac-Paps return to Spain! Twenty-five Canadians and two Americans tour the battlefields of the Lincoln Brigade. . .

As we were leaving, we were told in the lobby by a leading comrade that it was almost certain that in the next few days the Ex-Presos would be granted legal status by the Suarez government. He also hinted that there was a possibility of a reunion of the entire International Brigades in Spain some time in 1980. The Mac-Paps, on return home, were eager to force the Canadian government to rescind the Foreign Enlistment Act still on the books which could mean a prison term for each of

them plus a \$2,000 fine. They will also try to get recognition from their government as veterans with all the attendant rights that go with it.

A last word on the Ex-Presos. For them the war exists in their broken bodies and lives. They do not seek revenge — only recognition of the horror of the Franco dictatorship. We have an obligation to help them and never forget them.

October 5, 1979

CCNY TO HONOR LINCOLNS KILLED IN SPAIN

Relatives of the 12 Lincolns killed in Spain, distinguished sponsors and committee members, CCNY faculty, will attend a beautiful ceremony and reception in Lincoln Corridor, Shepherd Hall of City College of the University of New York on April 13.

The program, including the unveiling of a plaque, and the announcement of the scholarship fund created to preserve, in perpetuity, the memory of the heroic dead, will include the following speakers:

Greetings by Acting President Alice Chandler
Dr. Irving Adler - Chair
Hemingway tape (excerpt)
Prof. Robert Colodny (for VALB)
Joseph P. Lash (class of 1931)
Prof. Kenneth Clark
Abraham H. Raskin (class of 1931)

Following the national anthem, the invocation will be led by Rabbi Robert S. Gordis '26 and the program will conclude with a benediction by Rev. Donald S. Harrington.

On the backdrop screen there will be projected Picasso's Guernica. The Music Department will present songs of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

Lincoln vets who are among the fifty sponsors are: John Gates '34, Leonard Levinson '33, Albert Prago '34, Randall B. Smith, and George Watt.

Once again our very special thanks to Dr. Adler who initiated and was largely responsible for carrying out the entire project — with some assistance from Sophie and David Smith, Pete Smith and Al Prago.

Elinor Langer, who is writing a definitive biography of the American radical novelist and journalist, Josephine Herbst (1892-1969) seeks our help. Herbst was in Spain between April and June, 1937 and spent a good deal of time with the Lincolns at Jarama and on leave in Madrid. If any vet recalls anything whatsoever, please write to:

Elinor Langer 1633 SE 44th Ave. Portland, Oregon 97215

THREE I.B.'ERS ON SPANISH TV BY AL PRAGO

On Saturday night, November 24, I had the honor of appearing in Madrid, along with seven other panelists, on Spanish national television. The subject matter of the four-hour program, called *La Clave*, was "The Foreigners in the Spanish Civil War." Four panelists had fought on the side of the republic and two with the Franco forces; the other two were an American historian whose sympathies are clearly Republican and who has written extensively on the war, and a Spanish rightist who has authored two books about the "foreigners."

The discussion, and arguments, centered around the number of participants on both sides, the difference in material, the motivations, and the ideals of the participants, the roles of the democracies, the Soviet Union and the Axis powers, and the overriding moral as well as political issues. The battle of statistics was begun by the Italian fascist veteran who "explained" the defeat at Guadalajara on these factors: the Republicans had more tanks (Russian, he added), the Italians lacked anti-tank guns and in general did not have as much equipment; the weather was bad preventing the Italians from using their air force, the Italians were not as experienced or as well trained as the Republicans. That set of colossal lies and inanities started the ball rolling. Once the rightists had raised the relatively insignificant matter of statistics, and they continued to do so throughout the evening, we were compelled to respond.

Early in the debate I attempted to move from discussing numbers and rehashing battles. For example, I stressed that intellectuals of international fame, writers, artists, scientists, musicians — and I named a dozen or so — sided with the Republic and that there was not one of comparable intellectual stature who supported Franco. The rightists made no attempt to refute my assertion.

On the issue of foreign intervention — who called whom for help, who helped, when and how — Colonel Salas Larrazabal, presently in the army and a military historian and lecturer, a member of the *Requetes* during the war — followed the Hitlerian tactic of voicing the most outrageous large-scale lies: there were 61,000 brigaders, we had just as many planes as did the Francoists; Hitler and Mussolini had nothing to do with the rebellion conspiracy; the planes of the Condor legion were only commercial aircraft albeit easily converted into bombers; only one bomb was exploded in Guernica, and so on and on sickeningly. Jose Luis Infiesta, the writer of books about the "foreigners," was the even-handed "impartial" commentator. He contended that as many Spaniards or more favored the Francoists as supported the Republicans, that if it is true that the Barcelona citizens gave an emotional, fond farewell to the brigaders, it is also true that they cheered the Italian fascists marching into Barcelona, and similar "objective" observations.

We reacted vigorously, yet calmly and, I believe, effectively. The passions of the war lay dormant, close to surfacing, but the oratory was dispassionate with the exception of the Italian fascist, Renzo Lodoli.

The pro-Republican participants were: Artur London, a Czech volunteer now in exile in Paris. He fought in the French resistance, was in a Nazi concentration camp, has written a book on Spain and also the much-talked-about and astounding "The Confession." Henri Rol-Tanguy, a French veteran who fought in the French resistance and was given the honor in 1944 of leading the first tank — on which he placed a Spanish Republican flag — into Paris. Professor Prados — in exile during most of the Franco dictatorship — this Spanish academician served in a headquarters unit of the I.B. acting as a sort of liaison between the Republican high command and the I.B., Professor Gabriel Jackson and Professor Albert Prago.

For the first time in some forty years, the Spanish people could see and hear pro-Republican antifascist ex-combatants and historians present views different than and in contradiction to the barrage of myths and propaganda they had been accustomed to.

The format of the program was at once confining and genuinely flexible. The moderator introduced each of the panelists; then an hour-long film, Andre Malraux's touching *The Hope* (Sierra en Teruel) was screened; for about one hour a free-wheeling discussion and argument followed; and finally in

the remaining forty minutes phone inquiries directed to particular panelists from viewers all over the country were answered. I am informed that an unusual number of phone calls poured in.

London talked about the hardships endured by the volunteers trying to reach Spain and contrasted that with the ease with which the Nazis and fascists were flown into Spain. Jackson spoke of the role of the Soviet Union in sending aid to the Republic, of the 60,000 Moors who were brought from Africa along with the Tercio, and Prados described the bombing in Barcelona. Among other matters that we touched on were the despicable role of the signatories to the non-intervention pact, the infamous neutrality law of the U.S.A., the materiel sent to Franco from private American industrial giants, and that the war in Spain was not only a civil war but one of foreign intervention, a point hotly contested by the three opponents. They disputed everything, as may be expected. One of us noted that the battles in Spain heralded World War II and I think the Italian *may* have been embarrassed to be criticized sharply for lamenting the defeat of Hitler and Mussolini.

A telephone caller inquired what would have happened if there had been no foreign intervention. The colonel had argued that Spain would have been better off if there had been none; and I had agreed for there would have been no need for the I.B. if there had not been any Italian and German invaders to start with. Jackson, replying to the phone inquiry, said that the war would have been over in three weeks, or less, with a Republican victory, which was immediately refuted by the military historian.

After the initial exhilaration of the program wore off, some of us had some ambivalent feelings about the success of the program, success from our point of view. We felt that the moderator had favored, perhaps inadvertently, the rightists. For example, he allowed the military historian time to rebut each and every one of us. Mrs. Lise London (who was Marty's secretary in Albacete for a time) told us that the interpreter translating simultaneously from the Italian gave the fascist much more than an even break. And we lamented, in the post mortem that followed, the missed opportunities to convey this or that piece of wisdom. We were assuaged, however, by some calls from friends. The international news editor of *Mundo Obrero* called to congratulate London, assured him that he and the other four had done well indeed, and that the overall impact of the program was extremely favorable.

To the national board of VALB I am going to propose that we purchase a copy of the tape (at least the audio portion) to be made available for our membership and friends and more importantly for our archives at Brandeis University.

Readers of the Volunteer know that the democratic process in Spain has a great deal to overcome. Yet there are features that surpass our vaunted democracy. Would it not be a major advance if there could be open debates with representatives of the left, of minorities, of diverse factions in the unions — on *prime time, national hookup, almost every week?*

ALERTA!

Attention! The Volunteer, in an effort to acquaint friends and other interested people in the affairs of Spain and the VALB, is now open to subscriptions. History teachers, Spanish Civil War buffs, writers and students, generally, will welcome this policy.

The subscription rate is ten dollars per year, \$10.00. All vets are urged to solicit same to both defray our expenses and to pass the word. . . .

Money from Vets and friends coming in, \$520.00 has been collected. Each issue costs \$500.00. We are still far behind the needed goal of \$2000 for the four issues a year. We have been operating on borrowed money. Please send your donation to Volunteer, 3650 Emerald, Apt. E4, Torrance, CA 90503.

MONEY COLLECTED

Helen Freeman	10	\$
Bernard Volkas	20	
Loraine and Norman Perlman	25	
Gus Heisler	10	

STEVE NELSON:

TWO DELAYED OBITS VISITING DOUG ROACH'S GRAVE SITE 40 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

Doug Roach, a black comrade, came to Jarama to fight with the Lincoln battalion against fascism. That is where I first met Doug, who was a member of the Tom Mooney machine gun company and went through the early battles on Jarama. Later he fought with the Lincolns at Brunete.

After his return home he became active in the Friends of the VALB and continued to urge American support to the Loyalist cause, in the course of which he contracted pneumonia and dies in the Mt. Sinai hospital in N.Y.C.

The vets were shocked that Doug, who had the body of a wrestler and weight lifter, in the prime of his life, in his mid-twenties, died so suddenly.

Recently while Moe Fishman and Bobby visited the Cape, we talked about the fact that Doug went to Spain from Provincetown, and we decided to visit Doug's family and his grave site. Along with Margaret and my neighbor D. Pearl, we visited Mrs. Roach, Doug's sister-in-law.

The Roaches were one of the earliest black families in Provincetown, settling there before the Civil War. The family still lives in the neat white Cape Cod house on one of the main streets in town.

Mrs. Roach, Doug's brother's wife, a most friendly woman, apologized that Doug's brother was out walking and could not be with us. She brought out a large box of clippings and pictures about Doug, from the local and state papers, that Doug was in Spain fighting fascism, against Hitler, about his role as an athlete on the Provincetown high school team. She then lead us, back of the house, on their property, within sight of the road, to the monument for Doug. The inscription reads: "He died that democracy shall live." (Enclosed is the picture of Moe, Mrs. Roach and myself.)

Doug was the only one who went to Spain from Cape Cod. Before Mike Ehrenberg passed away, we took many friends to visit Doug's grave and pay our respects to his memory. Most impressive is that 40 years later the local people still remember him.



Steve, Moe, and Doug Roach's sister-in-law.
The headstone is on family property.

DENNIS JORDAN

Over the years, since Spain, many vets, especially the onew who fought at Jarama and Brunete, have asked me what happened to Dennis Jordan, who was my assistant political commissar at the time. I note that a question to the same effect was asked in the last issue of the Volunteer. The sad

story is that Dennis passed away three years ago in Long Island, N.Y.

Dennis was a most unusual and fine comrade. Perhaps I knew him best, as he was my assistant and we were very close. He was a devoted antifascist and most considerate person; he had guts and was devoted to the men in the battalion.

When he returned, he became active in the unemployed movement, and was jailed for 16 months before he had a chance to recover from the dysentery he had contracted in Spain. After release from prison, he became despondent and dropped out of any activity of any sort.

I was told about his death by a family member, two years after he had died. I felt terrible at the passing of this fine comrade and I am sure that those who knew him feel as I do.

Obits are being prepared for the following comrades, and will appear in the next issue of *The Volunteer*:

For Jerry Cook, October 30, 1979.

For Jack Hoshoooley, August, 1979.

For George Foucek, August 31, 1979, on a visit to the battle-field at Teruel, Spain.

DEYO JACOBS — A REPLY

Dear Mr. Landis,

About the most moving thing that has ever happened to me was to receive your beautiful piece, "Deyo Jacobs — March 1938; A Delayed Obit." I had been in correspondence with Carl Geiser of Smitttown, New York, and he very kindly forwarded it to me.

Deyo Jacobs was my brother and this was the first time our family had any clear intimation of how he died. The great pity is that our parents never knew. Just recently I made copies of Deyo's letters from Spain and my parents' desperate attempts to find out what had happened to him. It was a nightmare time for all of us. At the end of your piece you observe that his background, the milieu from which he came is missing. Perhaps I can supply some of that.

His full name was Edward Deyo Jacobs and we called him "Eddie." He grew up on a farm near New Paltz, New York, where his mother's family (the Deyo family) settled somewhat prior to 1690. His father came from further upstate, Delhi, New York, where his father was a lawyer and Congressman and had fought long and hard in the Civil War as a cavalry officer, ending up as a brigadier general. As a boy, Eddie was as intense as you suggest and was really at war — sort of a holy war — with the conservative, rural community where he grew up.

He drew from an early age. You mention his maps. One of the first things he drew were marvelous maps of lost treasure islands which were aged by crumpling and coats of shellac. Like his parents (his father worshipped Thoreau, Bobbie Burns, and *Don Quixote*, and his mother taught English and wrote poetry) he was a thoroughgoing romantic. His parents supported him both in his art and his political commitments.

The great transformation came when he went to New York and discovered that there were other people pretty much like him. He went to the Art Students' League, studied with Benton and George Grosz, and discovered radical politics. As you observe he was very much in the tradition of John Reed and populist radicalism.

Recently while reading his letters from this period and from Spain, my sister and I wept to realize how little we had known him. He seemed so wise and loving in his letters, whereas we, being 3 and 5 years younger than he, were both somewhat frightened by his tempestuous feelings and sorely pained by his conflicts and suffering.

It has seemed to me that this period, say 1936 to the outbreak of World War II, was crucial to the character and development of America and I would like to do an exhibition (exhibitions

Continued page 11

PUES VAMOS A BAILAR POR PETERAS Y...

¡ESO!

BALDOMERO
VENDEDOR DE
MUNDO OBRERO

U. GARCÍA

"BALDOMERO, MI ARMA DA ME ER MUNDO OBRERO;"

"HOMBRE, MI AMIGO DE PIYO "EL VIGUELA"!"

¡GRRI! HACE
CUATRO HORAS NO
SACUDO A NADIE
¡TENGO HAM-
BRE YA DE
FOLKLORE!

¡CLARO, YA
HEMOS HECHO
LA DIGESTIÓN!
¡MIRA CUA-
DANO A LA
VISTA!

By VICTOR A. BERCH, Special Collections Librarian

As the librarian in charge of what I feel is one of the most significant collections in this country dealing with the Spanish Civil War, I am frequently asked by those with a vested interest, namely, the Veterans themselves, "Is your collection used at all?" One can naturally understand this inquisitiveness. For it is somewhat satisfying to the spirit to imagine that the historical events which one helped to shape are being sifted through, written about or researched on a continuing basis. It is with a certain amount of pride that I can respond in the affirmative to the above question. This pride stems from my own personal involvement in developing the collection to a point where it is now an in-depth research collection to be used by all who so desire. Perhaps it was and continues to be a labor of love that spurs me on.

As I stated above, I expressed a certain amount of pride in the role that I played in the development of the Brandeis Collection, but in all sincerity, the major portion of the credit as to why the Brandeis Collection is so significant must go to those veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who have unselfishly given of their memorabilia, their time and above all their interest and support.

At Bard College, in New York State, John Gerassi, author and former news correspondent turned professor, has been conducting a course on the Spanish Civil War. Four veterans have appeared as guest lecturers: Morris Brier, Lenny Lamb, Maurv Colow and Al Prago.

Each of them led a discussion on a Monday night, following the showing of a film — on the war — to an audience that consisted of local townspeople, coming from as far as 30 miles away, along with college students. The consensus is that “*Dreams and Nightmares*” was the most moving of the four films screened.

The following morning the guest lecturer had the pleasure of addressing and answering questions from a very well-read group of about 30 students who evidenced considerable interest in the subject matter. Of the dozen or more books read by the class, the most influential have been Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, Bookchin's *Spanish Anarchism*, and Morrow's *Revolution and Counterrevolution*. Thomas' work was viewed dimly, Jackson's fine book had limited impact, Brennan's *Spanish Labyrinth* was highly regarded. Guest lecturers, that

NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The January issue of Esquire will have an excerpt of Harrison Salisbury's forthcoming book which includes a portion of George Watt. . . . WQED used its Grant for a mini-series broadcast initiated by Bob Colodny. . . . Did you know that Professor John Gerassi of Bard is the son of the last military governor in Barcelona, '39? Tony Beamud heard from ADAR who are looking for our participation. . . . Tom Kozar, son of John Kozar of VALB is making "incredible progress" in reconstructing the story of his father. He also had two uncles in the Mac-Paps and his mother was a nurse with Bethune in China. . . . John Tisa winter vacationing in Florida. . . . Walter Schuetrum just back from the GDR where he visited with the Thaelman vets. . . . George Cullinan is working on a film script of the ALG. . . . The PSUC is building archives in Barcelona. Do you have anything they can use, particularly in Catalan? . . . Tom Entwistle is arranging ground tours in Spain — two weeks for \$600 includes transportation, hotels, some meals etc. . . . PFTF has a copy of Hemingway's "The Dead Sleep Cold in Spain Tonight" in tape form, in Hemingway's voice as made at a Vets dinner way back when — You can get a copy for the cost of the tape. Contact Pete Smith, 148 E. 30th St., NYC 10016, 685-227, area code 212. . . .

Pete Smith and Bob Steck were invited to a breakfast meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Irving Adler and a representative of City College to set the date and program for the plaque presenta-

tion, middle of April, '80. There's \$31,000 in the fund so far. . . . As an addendum to the good Gerassi mention above, the Professor has also invited Moishe Briar, Maury Collow, Leonard Lamb, Al Prago, Bill Sussman and others to speak in his classes at Bard. He will be teaching at Queens next year, where he plans to include the Spanish Civil War in an undergraduate class as well as a graduate class. . . . On behalf of the National Board Oscar Hunter and Bob Steck sent a mailgram greeting the Mac-Paps at their annual affair and supporting their efforts for the "simple dignity of recognition," and noted our mutual fight for Veterans Rights.

. . . . Sophie and Dave Smith are in love with their new Huskie. . . . Carl Geiser is basking in the Caribbean sun this week having inherited two cut-rate plane tickets. . . . Geiser has forwarded three polished chapters to agent for presentation to publishers. Moe and Bob met with Vic Rabinowitz and arranged to channel tax-free contributions. . . . Maury Colow has eagerly and enthusiastically undertaken chairmanship of the new Speakers Bureau. . . . Steck and Smith have enlisted the support of a number of young friends of the Vets to organize a "poetry reading session" at St. Clements Church in January. . . . Vince Lowsowsky showed the SEVEREID FILM and spoke at Nazarus College in Rochester. . . .

Pete Smith (?)

Deyo Jacobs: continued

are my business at the moment) that would use my brother as a focal point. It would be a biography in terms of the time and experience he lived through. I have a great many of his drawings and paintings and they are very powerful stuff, if sometimes not fully realized.

I don't have any clear idea yet of exactly what the scenario for this exhibition would be — how much would be personal and how much the larger scene. But I do have — or think I have — an idea of what it would mean to an audience who is largely unaware of what the war in Spain was and meant.

Perhaps the point is that truth without passion or commitment is socially and politically meaningless.

At one point in his letters, Eddie questions whether being a revolutionary artist, rather than a revolutionary activist bearing the brunt of the battle, is not some sort of a cop out. He says that being a revolutionary artist is like having a wet dream — an orgasm without physical contact. (His phraseology is better but that's the idea.)

In any case, although I have limited time and energy beyond my job at this time, I hope to start doing some thinking and research about this exhibit idea. I want to do it for personal reasons, but I also think it would make a timely and useful statement for this time.

However that may be, this is written to express my profound gratitude and indebtedness to you for your lovely evocation of the brother I loved and suffered with and my admiration for your ability to evoke a time and an experience in a manner quite worthy, in my admittedly subjective view, of Leo Tolstoy. Just beautiful. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

John Jacobs
7704 Tauxemont Rd.
Alexandria, Va. 22308

THE VOLUNTEER. From p. 8

Lillian and Henry Rubin	15
Ray Marantz	10
Irving Rappaport	15
Frank Brown	20
J. Jacobs	30

A point: The new VOLUNTEER is the organ of all our membership. Let's keep it that way. Again, we truly need your help.

A SALUTE TO DAVE REIN

September 12, 1979

National Emergency Civil Liberties Comm.

175 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.T. 10010

Attention: Ms. Edith Tiger

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the organization of Americans who volunteered to fight for the legally elected Spanish Republic, against the uprising led by Franco and aided by Hitler and Mussolini, wish to pay their respects to a gallant fighter for democracy, David Rein.

We know of Mr. Rein as a civil libertarian, fighting against attacks on the Constitution over a number of years. Our association became a close one when he undertook to aid the Veterans of the Lincoln Brigade in our fight against the McCarran Act at the behest of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee to whom we had applied for assistance.

It was Dave Rein who devoted time and energy to the preparation of our case heard before the United States Court of Appeal and later the Supreme Court.

His clear, analytical attack on the unconstitutionality of the McCarran Act, along with his painstaking research in this defense of democratic rights for all Americans, played a major part in our final victory.

We, who had the honor to work with him, knew Dave Rein as a warm and considerate human being who could and did participate in the give and take of some heated discussions without becoming impatient with us.

Our country has lost a valiant fighter for democracy with the death of Dave Rein. We honor him.

We offer sincere condolences to his family.

To a man who fought the good fight side by side with us, we join in saying: SALUD! DAVE REIN.

Steve Nelson
National Commander
Oscar Hunter
Corresponding Secretary

THE CRACKER BARREL — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

To the Editor:

As we walked into the luxurious lobby of the Palace Hotel in Madrid, I was moved by a rush of sad memories. I remarked to Al Prago, my traveling companion about a visit to Bob Dolodny at the Palace in 1937 when it was a hospital and of the nauseating stench of gangrene and death that permeated the corridors then. Days later, Al and I combined reminiscences and recalled other memories evoked by our visit to the battle areas around Madrid, Brunete, Morata and Villanueva de la Canada. The experience of being in Spain again after 40 some years was for us both emotional and satisfying. Several days later I returned again to the battle areas. My guide and companion was Gervasio Puerto, one of the members and organizers of "ex-presos," the organization of former Spanish political prisoners. Gervasio, who is also a photographer gave me a large recent photo of La Pasionaria which I will give to the post here in New York. I spent most of my time in Madrid with Gervasio and met several times with some of the members of "ex-presos."

Both Al and I were also interviewed by Mundo Obrero. This was instigated by the interest surrounding ASI's scheduled appearance on a Spanish National Television program called "La Clave" (The Key) along with several other panelists on the topic of volunteers and foreigners in the Civil War. (For details, see the article written by Al in this issue.) The first interview with Mundo Obrero ran almost a full page and dealt extensively with the reasons why we went to Spain, our experiences there and the problems that we encountered upon our return home. Subsequently, I was interviewed a second time by Mundo Obrero. This time the discussion centered on my reactions to the television show as well as some additional personal reflections and observations regarding the war and its sequels. Also included in the paper were pictures of Al and myself, photos of Lincoln Vets in the hospital at Benicasim and of Vets parading in protest to the war in Vietnam (1969). At the time of the interviews, we brought out the effort being made by the Vets to preserve our history and to present an accurate version of that history to the American people. (Al was able to meet with Juana Dona and is still trying to get her to publish her book in English.)

All in all, it was a remarkable, fascinating trip, one of the highpoints of a lifetime that has left me enriched. A more detailed report concerning our trip and experiences will be made at a future meeting of the New York post of the V.A.L.B.

by Lester Gittelson

Dear Manny:

This is my second try at responding to Sid Kaufman's idea for a reunion of the (repatriated all-purpose) 35th Battery. My first letter was returned! This was when you were in the hospital.

Congratulations on a job well done. Your Volunteer is a fine publication. The Cracker Barrel is like the proper seasoning

that goes into the making of a good stew.

SID! Nice to hear from you. Your idea is an excellent one. Many possibilities in lots of ways.

About myself, 69, retired on S.S., and enjoying it. I tried to make it to the last two vets affairs, but my arthritic knees got in the way — maybe next year. I have two good things going for me — a sense of humor and my cane. I come on like a character out of Stevenson's *Treasure Island*.

Just finished reading Al Prago's "Jews in the I.B." It's a timely, noble piece of work. I recommend it to all as a "must read."

Salud you all,

Gus Heisler

P.S. I enclose a check for ten shekels for the Volunteer.

Dear Manny:

I love you, too, though what I have done to be loved I do not know. Write about Spain? We have not been there since 1976; many others have, since. THEY should be doing the writing, no? Ring Lardner Jr. has a contract with a big company to do a film about us in Spain. What has happened to it I do not know — since I read the first draft two years ago. It is a good subject — why they won't do it? YOU know why and I know why and it can be said in a sentence or two. A big HOT writer tried to sell the bad novel called THEY SHALL NOT PASS; he sold a screenplay on it; silence. You want news about me? Just recuperating from third hernia repair in 13 months. One for Ripley. Will have a new novel out in AUGUST 1980, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, title: ONE FOR MY BABY.

Hasta pronto, y gracias y con amor como siempre.

Alvah Bessie

Dear Comrades:

I found the article "Whitey Dahl: A Mac-Pap Visit," by Carl Geiser and Bob Steck, to be a very heartwarming experience. It proved again to me that that bitter struggle for the Popular Front of the Spanish Republic consistently brought out the best in its defenders; touched them indelibly and marked them forever as true fighters for humanity.

I am reminded, for example, of the love of Lieutenant Frank G. Tinker for Spain. He was our number-one ace, with eight downed fascist aircraft to his credit. No communist, Lt. Tinker, upon his return to the U.S., had his passport seized and was then denied reenlistment in either the U.S. Army Airforce or Navy. *Within a year he had taken his own life.* . . . And Major Frank I. Lord, a top American ace of World War I: He had shot down *twenty-two* German planes. Lord, having flown many bomber missions for the Republic, received notice in a Paris hospital that his commission as a Major in the U.S. Airforce had

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