



Spanish Anti-Fascist War 1936 – 1939



International Brigadistas Volunteers in Spain

2006 will be the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1936 - 1939 Spanish Civil War.

Approximately 275 Irish Volunteers, 77 originating from the north of Ireland. They came from all sections of the community to fight against the rising tide of Fascism sweeping Europe. Around 22 of the Northern Irish Brigadistas fell in the conflict.

Many countries have now erected monuments in tribute to their citizens who joined the International Brigades. Currently there is no memorial anywhere in the North to those who took part in this extraordinary episode in world history.

A number of individuals and organisations have come together with the aim of erecting a memorial and creating an historical archive to commemorate those from the north of Ireland who volunteered to fight with the ordinary people of Spain against Franco and his Fascist allies; Hitler and Mussolini.

The 15th International Brigade “La Quince Brigada” left us the legacy:

The Irish section of the International Brigades comprised of volunteers from trade union and working class backgrounds. The volunteers all shared a hatred of fascism, combined with the willingness and determination to do something about it. The Spanish Anti-Fascist War was a defining moment for opponents of Fascism, and its advocacy of intolerance and injustice. The unity of Catholic, Protestant & Dissenter was achieved within its ranks.

2006 - Spanish Anti-Fascist War 1936/39 - 70th Anniversary

The International Brigadistas were volunteers who travelled to Spain to defend the legitimately Elected Spanish Republic - Government and fight the “Nationalist” forces led by General Franco, helped by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, in the Spanish Civil War between 1936/39.

Approximately 55,000 anti-fascist men and women from 53 countries (275 from Ireland - 77 from the North) enrolled in the Brigades. Of these over 10,000 died and 8,000 were badly wounded in the conflict.

In that fight they suffered the added wound of having the vast majority of public opinion opposed to them at that time, whipped up by the hysteria of the establishment and the press.

Their participation was based on their beliefs and opposition to Franco and his fascist allies. On their return some were interned, others deported or imprisoned and many more shunned by society.

A number of individuals and organisations, from the Arts community, Academia and Trade Union movement, have come together to form the *International Brigade Commemoration Committee (IBCC)*. Our objective is to erect a fitting memorial to the Volunteers from the North of Ireland who fought and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against Fascism in Spain.

The Committee also intend publishing a commemorative booklet and organise a series of events to raise awareness of these men and their cause, which is still hugely relevant today.

We are seeking both moral & financial support from the Trade Union movement & Community Sector. Our only source of income is from Affiliations & Donations - **Please support us.**

**Affiliation: Individual - £10 Waged; £1 Unwaged
Trade Union Rates - Contact the Membership Secretary @ the address below**

**Please make cheques payable to:
International Brigades Commemoration Committee - (IBCC)**

Name:

Trade Union/Organisation:

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**Please return this form to:
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