Crowds of French patriots line the Champs Elysees to view Free French tanks and half tracks of General Leclerc’s 2nd Armored Division passes through the Arc du Triomphe, after Paris was liberated on August 26, 1944.

Photo: Jack Downey, U.S. Office of War Information, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-fsac-1a55001
Dear Friends,

It was thrilling to receive such positive responses to our September issue, featuring Pablo Iglesias, the 36-year-old political scientist who may well be Spain’s next Prime Minister. (Even Pablo himself took to Twitter to say how honored he was to be on our cover.) Events in Spain continue to develop in an exciting direction; PODEMOS is now leading in the national polls.

You may have noticed that the magazine you are holding, like the September issue, features a color cover. Over the past year we have been working to improve The Volunteer’s visual identity to be as compelling as its content. This is part of our effort to reach out to younger generations of readers, activists, and ALBA supporters. The creativity and commitment with which the generations who have been hardest hit by the economic crisis—people who are now in their 20s and 30s—are taking to the streets, the media, and politics is a source of hope and inspiration. When they learn about the Lincoln Brigade they immediately get it. That’s really no surprise: today’s young activists are as internationalist as the volunteers were, whether their concern is climate change, economic inequality, or human rights.

You’ve heard our slogan: Know History to Change History. This month we are particularly proud to feature two exclusive excerpts from new books dealing with the connection between the Spanish Civil War and the fight against the Nazis. In the middle of this issue you will find eight pages from a wonderful new graphic novel about the Spanishists who fought fascism in World War II by the prize-winning artist Paco Roca, who worked on this project with ALBA board member Bob Coale. We are also honored to present you with a section of Paul Preston’s new biography of Santiago Carrillo, which will be published in the U.S. next month.

October and November were a whirlwind of ALBA activity. ALBA’s Human Rights Film Festival in New York attracted hundreds of visitors, many of whom were new to the organization. Our Bay Area reunion drew a higher turnout than previous years and the stack of Pete Seeger’s CD Songs of the Spanish Civil War, in a new release with liner notes by ALBA Peter Glazer, sold out in minutes. The day after the reunion, Marina spent a lovely and inspiring day with Lincoln veteran Del Berg in his California home. In late October, we had the opportunity to present our newly developed high school curriculum to the heads of Social Studies departments in the country’s eighth largest school district in Florida. In November we held no fewer than three teacher institutes in New Jersey, Illinois, and New York. Attendance broke last year’s record numbers.

That we can do so much is thanks to you. We don’t need to tell you how important your donations are to keep our small but ambitious organization afloat. And we also rely on you to spread the word about ALBA and the Lincoln Brigade, about our Human Rights Award winners and our high school curriculum. When you read your issue of The Volunteer, pass it on to a young person. Forward our emails or share them on Facebook. If you know high school teachers, or have school-aged children, point them to our new teachers’ website (resources.alba-valb.org). The Lincoln’s story is too important. We cannot allow it to be forgotten.

Salud,

Sebastián Faber  
Chair of the Board of Governors

Marina Garde  
Executive Director

“AT ALBA,” said Executive Director Marina Garde in her opening remarks, “I believe that awareness is the first step to effect change: You need to know history to change history. With your support, we draw on the history of the Left to offer alternative perspectives and open the landscape of possibilities to younger generations.”

Focusing on the political legacy of the Lincoln Brigade, ALBA once again acknowledged the work of the Equal Justice Initiative, whose ground-breaking efforts on behalf of incarcerated youth and death row inmates were recognized when the 2014 ALBA/Puffin Human Rights Activism Award was granted to EJI founder and director Bryan Stevenson. Peter Carroll placed the award in the context of the Brigade’s insistence on racial equality, both on the battlefields of Spain and in the postwar years on the American home front. Excerpts from Stevenson’s speech in New York last May were presented on video, and one of his staff attorneys, Alison Mollman, spoke about the EJI’s work in the effort to bring justice to young prisoners facing lifetime sentences and for wrongfully convicted adults, as well as EJI’s expanding educational programs.

This 78th Anniversary event also featured the Spanish Civil War songs made famous by their troubadour, the late Pete Seeger, who sang for the Lincoln veterans more than any other performer. UC/Berkeley professor and ALBA Board member Peter Glazer spoke about Seeger’s influence on the Left and announced that Seeger’s famous albums, along with other recordings of Spanish Civil War, have been released by the Smithsonian Institute. Glazer is the author of the CD’s new liner notes.

In Seeger’s absence, bas player and vocalist Bartholomew brought together a quintet of superb musicians—soprano Velina Brown, pianist Randy Craig, guitarist Barrett Nelson, and fiddler Tony Marcus—who touched the audience with familiar songs, as well as Bartholomew’s haunting melodies, “Tears of Ashes.” Lin- cal singer Barbara Dane joined the band for the dramatic finale, “Viva La Quince Brigade,” as did ALBA Board Chair and trumpeter Sebastián Faber.

In the end, as ever, it was the music that energized the audience and brought the memories back to life.
Documentary filmmakers almost always aim to denounce the unacceptable. The dozen films featured in ALBA’s fourth annual Human Rights Film Festival, *Impugning Impunity*, brilliantly continue that pattern.

This year’s selection covered an extraordinary range of regions and topics. A Quiet Inquisition, by Alessandra Zekka and Holen Sabrina, focuses on patients and physicians currently living in hospitals in Nicaragua, where the law prohibits abortion without any exceptions. The film provides a moving portrait of an inexplicable and incomprehensible situation. For Daniel Ortega’s government, 12 and 13-year-old girls with failed at-home abortions and in danger of dying do not constitute reasons for medical intervention, and neither do rape victims or challenging clinical cases. Health professionals are forced to choose: they either obey the law or abide by their ethics.

Another gem is Alfonso Domingo and Jordi Torrent’s *Invisible Heroes*, a dynamic and effective montage of archival materials that tells the story of the black members of the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War.
The prize-winning 1971 provides a startling portrait of the civilians who uncovered Hoover’s secret FBI.

Watt Awards: Minnesota Volunteers and “Conflict Archeology”  
By Gina Herrmann

ALBA essay prize winners bring fresh research to the issues of the Spanish Civil War.

In the undergraduate category, Fletcher Warren, a student at Bethel University in St. Paul, wrote about the 60 Minnesotans who volunteered to fight fascism in Spain. His essay explores the lives of three men in particular: Benjamin Gardner, Clarence Forester, and Gerald Zlotovick.

The graduate winner is Ashley Ellington, a Master’s candidate in History at Georgia Southern University. Ellington writes about “conflict archeology,” focusing on the excavations of the remains of Republicans found in mass graves from the era of Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship. While Ellington covers the various polemics about contemporaneous excavations, she moves into terrain that is normally not connected to the disenfranchisement of Republican victims: the uncovering of assassinations in archaeological sites of the Civil War, including the battle for Madrid. Ellington shows how archeologists in Spain conduct battlefield surveys and carry out conservation work that seeks to understand “the complexities of entire landscapes altered by war.” The essay concludes with a look at a third area of interest to archeologists in Spain: the labor camp. Ellington discusses what kinds of artifacts have been uncovered in the Francoist labor camps that held Republican soldiers and civilian captives.

Three artifacts, mainly tin cans and materials to relieve boredom (like inkwells and dominos) help researchers piece together conditions of everyday life in the camps—at least before the prisoners were sent off to forced labor battalions or shot by firing squad.

The annual George Watt Memo-rial Essay Prize award excellence in student writing about any aspect of the Spanish Civil War, the global political or cultural struggles against fascism in the 1920s and 1930s, or the lifetime histories and contributions of the Americans who fought in support of the Spanish Republic. The award—given to an undergraduate and graduate paper—was established 13 years ago to honor the memory of Lincoln vet George Watt (1914-1994), a social worker, writer, and lifelong activist central to the creation of ALBA.

This year’s jury, consisting of Josh Gorde (Claremont Graduate University), Monika Cantero (Drew University), and Gina Herrmann (University of Oregon) received 20 essays; seven essays from graduate students and 13 from undergraduates. As in past years, the jury was pleased to find submissions from the U.S. and abroad, and remarked on the high quality of research coming from Spain. Among the undergraduate essays, students addressed a variety of themes that speak to ALBA’s mission and Watt’s legacy, including studies on poetry written by political prisoners during the Franco dictatorship, the political commitments of Picasso, British diplomatic responses to the civil war, and the exile of Spanish children during the conflict. Among the graduate submissions, topics included a study about what motivated men and women to enlist in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the Francoist blockade of the Basque region, and counterrevolutionary discourse during the Second Republic and the Civil War.

Gina Herrmann teaches at the University of Oregon and is a member of ALBA’s board.

The film 1971, the winner of ALBA’s first Harry Randall Prize, provides a startling and entertaining portrait of the anti-Vietnam War civilians who managed to break into an FBI office and uncover illegal operations that violated the rights of ordinary U.S. citizens. The movie is based on Betty Medsger’s recent book, The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret FBI, which was the subject of this year’s ALBA/Bill Susman Lecture. (See The Volunteer, September 2014.)

Another film with great emotional impact is Bastards: Outcasts in Morocco, by Deborah Perkin, which exposes the shameful situation of single mothers and their children in Morocco who are denied basic rights.

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You attended your first ALBA institute in 2008. What did you get out of it?

I didn’t know much about American involvement in the Spanish Civil War, or the international involvement on both the Republican and Fascist sides. It was a boiling point, especially with the breakdown of the League of Nations. It told Hitler he could do what he wanted.

How many institutes have you attended?

I have attended three institutes. I also developed a lesson plan around Paul Robeson that was well received by teachers and has also worked well with students. The new Florida state social studies standards require a listening component to the primary sources and so I use a song from Robeson when I get to the Spanish Civil War.

How do you integrate the Spanish Civil War into your curriculum?

I do a single day on it, which is a lot in the AP World History curriculum. I developed a Documents Based Question (DBQ) at the teaching institute that I use in class. Students are doing DBQs at a very high level by the time we get to the Spanish Civil War. They have no trouble identifying the point of view in any primary source, which is a key part of the DBQ section on the AP exam. But the way Spain is taught, students had not learned about the Spanish Republicans back into history. The evidence gathered can speak for a people who were mostly erased from both the official history and memory of the Spanish Civil War.

The Franco regime focused on memorializing the fallen from the Nationalist side of the conflict, while modern research almost exclusively focuses on the Span-ish Republicans. The problem facing archeologists and historians now is how to combine their findings to present a history that represents both sides of the conflict. The excavations and exhumations are helping to fix this by recovering the remains of Spanish Republicans and evidence of their fight against Franco. However, the decision of how much history to include is being left in the hands of institutional memory and government agencies for the most part. Only time will tell how the people of Spain deal with this issue, though as this paper suggests, they have started to address this old wound.

This paper was originally written for ”Seminar in Archaeology: Conflict Archaeol-ogy” while pursuing a Master of Arts in His- tory while pursuing a Master of Arts in His- tory at Columbiana State University.

ALBA Institute Draws Record Numbers

Teachers Appreciate New Resource Website

At the 2013 Dr. Gregory P. Domin Graduate Research Conference at Columbus State University.
The Spaniards Who Helped Liberate Paris

By Sebastián Faber

Graphic Novelist Paco Roca worked with ALBA’s Bob Coale to chronicle the odyssey of “La Nueve,” the company of Spanish Republicans who fought the Nazis with General LeClerc.

Postwar France was built on the proud notion that the whole country had bravely resisted the German occupation. As late as the 1960s, Tony Judt wrote, “any questioning of the myth of a heroic, nationwide resistance was still off limits—in historiography as in national life.” What this myth obscured was not only the extent of French collaboration with the Nazis, it also erased the key role played in the resistance and liberation by non-French volunteers—particularly Spaniards. Thousands of the half million Spanish Republicans who had poured across the Pyrenees in 1938 and 1939 continued their fight against fascism in anti-Nazi guerrilla groups (the maquis) and in General Charles De Gaulle’s Free French Forces. After their liberation from concentration camps in North Africa, hundreds joined the newly created LeClerc Division, in the well-founded belief—and implicit promise—that a defeat of Nazi Germany would lead to a defeat of Franco. It was a promise that the political situation in 1945, with the incipient cold war, did not allow to be fulfilled.

The company of LeClerc’s armored infantry with the largest contingent of Spanish was the Ninth. Even non-Spanish-speakers, referred to it as “la Nueve” not the French “la Neuvième.” The half-tracks of this company—guided by an Armenian volunteer on a motorbike—were the first to enter occupied Paris on August 24, 1944. The Spaniards had named their vehicles for the most famous members of the company, who disappeared in combat in December 1944. Some claim he was killed, and others that he deserted the French army to participate in the underground against Franco.

What sets Sucess apart is not just Roca’s superior drawing and storytelling, his eye for detail and anecdote, and his graphic ingenuity (with the present-day frame drawn in gray tones and the flashbacks in color), but also the high level of historical accuracy. Here Roca acknowledges the crucial assistance of the Paris-based historian Robert S. Coale, who is a long-time ALBA board member. Bob Coale’s own book on one of the members of “La Nueve,” which he has spent over a decade writing, is scheduled to be published next year.

The excerpt published here is from one of the novel’s last sections, starting with the last-minute decision to enter Paris rather than continuing east. We also meet Larry Cane, a veteran of the armed forces, who was afraid it would turn into a long and costly battle, like Warsaw.

Interested in purchasing a copy of Sucess del azar? More information at alba volunteer.org

Paco Roca’s Los surcos del azar (The Furrows of Chance), which came out to critical acclaim in Spain in 2013, now tells this story for the first time as a 300-page graphic novel. Roca, who was born in Valencia in 1969, is one of Spain’s foremost graphic artists; his 2007 novel Arrugas (Wrinkles) won the National Comics Award. Los Sueros took him four years to write. Set in present-day France, it features a Spanish writer named Paco who tracks down Miguel Campos, aka Miguel Ruiz, a surviving veteran of “La Nueve.” After some coaxing, Miguel tells Paco his story through long flashbacks. Miguel’s character is based on one of the most famous members of the company, who disappeared in combat in December 1944. Some claim he was killed, and others that he deserted the French army to participate in the underground against Franco.
AND WHAT DID LECLERC THINK OF ALL THIS?

THE RADIO HAD ANNOUNCED A NEW UPRISING IN PARIS AND THE NEWS WAS CONFUSING.

DE GAULLE INSISTED THE ALLIES HAD TO ENTER PARIS TO AVOID A MASSACRE.

SO ON THE 22ND, THE ALLIES AGREED TO THE LIBERATION OF PARIS.

I’VE HEARD THAT ONE OF DE GAULLE’S ULTERIOR MOTIVES WAS THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE COMMUNISTS, WHO MADE UP THE MAJORITY OF THE UPRISING, TO ROB HIM OF THE GLORY OF LIBERATION.

BUT THEY WEREN’T CONVINCED. THEY DIDN’T SEEM CONCERNED ABOUT THE UPRISING, BUT IN THE END HE CONVINCED THEM FOR STRATEGIC REASONS.

PARIS HAS MORE THAN TWELVE HEAVY BRIDGES THAT COULD ALLOW TROOPS TOADVANCE QUICKLY.

THE NINTH ADVANCED QUICKLY. WE COVERED 200 KILOMETERS IN ONE SINGLE DAY.

A WHOLE LOT FOR AN ARMORED DIVISION LIKE OURS, AND UNDER HEAVY RAIN, TOO.

AND THAT’S HOW WE FINALLY ARRIVE AT THE HISTORIC DAY, AUGUST 24, 1944.

IS THAT A LOT?

THE MORNING WAS OVERCAST. THOUGH IT WASN’T RAINING, WE WERE STILL SOAKED AND DIRTY.

IF WE’D KNOWN WE WERE ABOUT TO BECOME PART OF HISTORY, WE WOULD’VE PUT ON CLEAN CLOTHES.

AND WHAT DID LECLERC THINK OF ALL THIS?

“THE BOSS” WAS FURIOUS.

THE NINTH ADVANCED QUICKLY, WE COVERED 200 KILOMETERS IN ONE SINGLE DAY.

A WHOLE LOT FOR AN ARMORED DIVISION LIKE OURS, AND UNDER HEAVY RAIN, TOO.

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IF WE’D KNOWN WE WERE ABOUT TO BECOME PART OF HISTORY, WE WOULD’VE PUT ON CLEAN CLOTHES.
Lieutenant Granell...

WHERE IS DRONNE?

He's coming up with the rest of the company, General, sir.

Coming from where?

From Fresnes.

How was the road?

Clear up to where we were?

Yes, sir. We learned to nurse our fuel supplies over the Tunisian campaign.

So you have enough fuel to make it to Paris?

Yes, sir. We're so close...

If we enter Paris, France will finally be liberated.

WE'RE SO CLOSE...

A-are you Spanish?

Yes.

Hey, hey!

Hey, hey!

Yes.

American?
...THE HALF-TRACK "GUADALAJARA" FOLLOWED THAT ARMENIAN GUY ON HIS RICKETY MOTORCYCLE. WE FOLLOWED BEHIND, THE STREETS WERE SILENT AND DESERTED. UNTIL WE GOT TO THE PORTE D'ITALIE... WHICH WAS WHERE THE GUADALAJARA HAD STOPPED.

WHAT'S GOING ON, DE POSSESSE? AS SOON AS THEY DISCOVERED WE ARE THE FRENCH ARMY, THEY RUSHED INTO THE STREET, AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ADVANCE.

YOU'RE THE FIRST FRENCH SOLDIER I GET TO KISS! MWAH! MWAH!

I WAS A BRIGADER! A LINCOLN BRIGADER IN SPAIN, COMRADES! REALLY? WHERE?

I Fought WITH THE FIFTEENTH BRIGADE IN TERUEL.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC!

THIS TIME WE SHALL TRIUMPH!

AND WHAT DO WE DO ONCE WE'VE ENTERED PARIS?

THEY ARE TOO FEW OF US TO TAKE THE CITY.

YOU HEARD WHAT THE GENERAL SAID, OUR MISSION IS TO BOLSTER THE RESISTANCE.

WHAT'S GOING ON, DE POSSESSE?

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC! THIS TIME WE SHALL TRIUMPH!

REALLY? WHERE?

A LINCOLN BRIGADER IN SPAIN, COMRADES!

I Fought WITH THE FIFTEENTH BRIGADE IN TERUEL.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC!

THIS TIME WE SHALL TRIUMPH!
LET’S GET MOVING. WE CAN’T SIT AROUND HERE

MAKE WAY! THIS IS DANGEROUS, THERE MIGHT BE SNIPERS.

WE’VE GOT TO GET GOING. IF THERE ARE ANY GERMANS AROUND HERE THIS WILL BE A MASSACRE.

MADAM, PLEASE GET OFF MY JEEP.

DIKRAN, TAKE US TO CITY HALL, BUT AVOID WIDE STREETS.

Preston’s revealing exposé of Carrillo’s ruthless rise to power within the Party—a career strewn with lies, crimes, and betrayals—destroyed the positive image that Carrillo had managed to build in the wake of the democratic Transition, and to maintain until his death in 2012, at 97. I spoke with Preston in the summer of last year, as he was correcting the final proofs for the Spanish edition.

Is your critique of Carrillo particularly harsh because it’s coming from the Left?

“There will be people on the right who say: Even left-wing historian Paul Preston criticizes Carrillo. I knew him and liked him but I ended up indignantly concluding that he undermined the struggle against Franco. By imposing unrealistic strategies, and destroying those who criticized him, he squandered the efforts and sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of people who suffered under and against the dictatorship.”

How do you explain the transformation of his image over the past quarter century?

“He left politics in 1985, but he lived for another 27 years—years that were used to build up an image of him as an utterly wonderful character who always had the national interest at heart. It is true that Carrillo played a very important role in the transition to democracy, by presenting the Communist Party as extremely moderate. And clearly, Carrillo’s role during the night of the February, 1981 military coup is commendable. His own explanation of what he did—one of the three people in parliament who did not hide under their desks when Tejero and the others started shooting—is one of the few moments where I find him credible. He said he was sure he was going to die, and he did not want people to say that the leader of the Communist Party died as a coward. If I am going to be shot, he thought, I might as well be shot sitting up rather than lying down.”

“Mind-Boggling Lies: Paul Preston on Santiago Carrillo
By Sebastiaan Faber

Paul Preston’s new biography of Santiago Carrillo, the legendary Spanish Communist leader, stirred up serious controversy when it came out in Spain last year.

“But what that positive image of Carrillo as some sort of national treasure hides, is the viciousness with which he rose to power and the dirty tricks he did on comrades. And the lies are just mind-boggling. As you read the material you can’t help thinking, Oh, for God’s sake! Let me give you an example. Carrillo’s great obsession in exile was the Huelga Nacional Pacífica, the pacific national strike, or HNP. He stuck to this against everybody’s advise, especially that of Claudín and Semprún, and he did so with great damage to the militants in Franco Spain. Well, in an interview with Rosa Montero from the late 70s, he actually says: We wouldn’t have insisted so much on the HNP if it hadn’t been for Claudín—when in fact he got rid of Claudín for criticizing it!”

Is your critique of Carrillo a critique of the Left in general?

“A good part of my book is how Stalinist practice ended up undermining the Communist Party. But that doesn’t mean that I would remotely draw the conclusion that the Left as a whole was corrupt or flawed. I still believe that, overall, the Communist policy during the Civil War was the only sensible one. And Carrillo during the war actually does a very good job as a leader as the United Socialist Youth (JSU), which is what provides the bulk of the rank and file of the Republican forces.”

“You yourself lived part of this history.

“The reason I was able to finish this book in relatively quick time is because in a sense it’s a book I’ve been thinking about for 40 years. I worked as an interpreter for the Junta Democrática in the late 70s, I knew Carrillo and knew a lot of the protagonists quite well. My role was what they would call a tonto útil, a useful fellow traveler. The people I was closest to at that time all have ended up hating Carrillo’s guts. Everybody turned on him, because he had already turned on everyone else.”
The Politics of Spanish Resistance: 1944

By Paul Preston

Through the Val d’Aran. In his efforts such as the failed attempt to invade in Spain—and to strategic mistakes real conditions in the country led to in Spain but its lack of awareness of led by Secretary General Dolores in the Téribul prison. Photo courtesy of Elvira Gómez Urresti.

In Oran, chicanery by Spanish dock-workers and truck drivers saw weapons, food, and medical supplies diverted from the deliveries to the Allied forces there. Munio’s mission was to make contact with the guerrillas in groupings in southern Spain to link up with those who had been fighting there since the end of the Civil War. These were the so-called hiidos, Republicans separated from their units during the Civil War who took to the hills rather than surrender. According to Carrillo’s memoirs, he planned to lead these groups himself. The implication is that, at the age of thirty, he had rediscovered the hot-headed temerity of his youth.

His idea was totally unrealistic and typical of what was to be his hallmark, his triumphalist rhetoric. It is true that, within a few months of the end of the Civil War, there was a significant number of guerrilla groups in rural and especially mountainous areas. There it was easier to hide, to avoid the patrols of the Civil Guard and even to find the wherewithal to live, if not with the help of sympathetic peasants, at least by means of hunting and collecting wild fruit. As in other twentieth-century guerrilla wars, the principal activity of the hiidos was defensive, their initial objective simply survival. Unlike their Chinese and Cuban counterparts, the Spanish guerrillas had little possibility of establishing liberated zones that might have served as bases for the future struggle against the regime. The only places sufficiently remote from the forces of repression to permit any possibility of establishing autonomous revolutionary communities were in the same table of the peninsula. Moreover, the depressed circumstances of the defeated Spanish left between 1939 and 1944 were hardly propitious for a revolutionary war. The repression, hunger, families destroyed by death and exile, and above all, the intense weariness left by the titanic struggles of the Civil War ensured that there would be no popular uprising in support of the hiidos, who were condemned to a hard and solitary existence.

Occasionally they were able to emerge from their defensive positions. Attacks were carried out against Civil Guard barracks, local Falangist offices, and Francist town halls. It is absurd to suggest, as Enrique Líster himself did, that official party history was still being done in 1969, that the guerrillas had sufficient troops to prevent Franco entering World II on the Axis side. Nevertheless, the activities of the hiidos were a constant irritation for the regime. In so far as the controlled press mentioned their activities it was to denounce them as acts of banditry and looting. However, in some rural areas, the activity of the hiidos served to raise the specter of briefly raising the morale of the defeated population until the savage reprisals of the fascist regime took their toll on popular support.

Carrillo’s ephoric idea of using units from North Africa to link up with the existing guerrilla groups and start off a national uprising was utterly unrealistic. To go into Spain, he needed authorization and, initially, he was out of contact with the main PCE leadership centers in both Latin America and Mexico. However, via Russian representatives in Algeria, he managed to inform Dolores Ibárruri—the Party’s Secretary General—of his plan. She approved of the spirit behind it but was told that she would have to consult with Moscow. In fact, the invasion did not begin until October 19 and his claim makes no sense other than as part of a retrospective fabrication of an heroic role for himself. Indeed, his ostensibly cordial correspondence with Monzón both before and after the invasion suggested that he also believed firmly in the Junta Suprema. In his memoirs and in reports to Pasionaria in 1945, Carrillo alleged that the Junta Suprema’s orders were the only basis for the over-optimistic and inad- equately prepared operation. It is true that, in late August 1944, Monzón had sent the delegation in France an order for an invasion, albeit without specifying where it should take place. Fused with the suc- cess of Spanish guerrillas against German units and understanding the considerable social support enjoyed by Franco, the PCE felt confident in its strength and in Moscow received the idea enthusiastically. On September 20, Pasionaria herself had published a declaration hailing the guerrilla as the way to spark an uprising in Spain. Given his own contact with her, it is impossible that Carrillo could have been unaware of her enthusiasm for the guerrilla war which, in any case, coincided with his own. Unsur prisly, when Carmen de Pedro and Manuel Azaçarte went to Paris in early September to discuss Monzón’s order with the leaders of the French Communist Party, André Marty and Jacques Duclos, no objections had been raised.

Carrillo’s later claim that he learned of the invasion only after it had started is false. Once Monzón’s submarines in France had decided on the venture, it was organized virtually as a conventional mili- tary operation with little by way of securi- ty. Its preparation was an open secret, with recruiting broadcasts by Radio Toulouse and Radio Pirenaica from Moscow. Before leaving for the south of France, Carrillo’s staff had been informed of what was imminent by its own agents as well as by the Communist press and broadcast about the “reconquest of Spain.”

Manuel Azaçarte wrote later that, when Monzón met in the south of France, “his intentions towards Monzón were malicious. He wanted to ensure at all costs that Monzón’s indisputable achieve- ments were not allowed to be attributed to himself. In fact, far from opposing Monzón’s illusion that an incursion of guerrillas would trigger a popular insur- rence, Monzón shared it. Indeed, he hoped to take some, if not all, of the credit […] Monzón was far from the Union’s negative and even, the PCE’s greatest asset, its thousands of battle-hardened maquisards, in a conven- tional military conflict, was far more than the regime was ready to risk. After all, with the Germans facing defeat, it was an attractive option. Carrillo, as his account of his preparations in Alger- ia suggests, may have also favored a strat- egy of starting a guerrilla war by sending small groups into Spain over a long period. Nevertheless, the phase of the origins of the Val d’Aran operation dramatically exaggerates the differences between Monzón’s supposed out-of-control Monzón. As Pasionaria’s response to Carrillo’s own plans for a smaller-scale invasion from the south had indicated, the operation was approved by the PCE leadership in Moscow as well as by the delegation in France […] Carrillo’s statement “only in order to be unmasked” was un- stood only in terms of his own ambiguous ambition.
Monzón was far from alone in his readiness to risk the PCE’s greatest asset, its thousands of battle-hardened maquisards, in a conventional military confrontation with Franco’s force.

The detailed military planning of the invasion was the work of the Spanish heroes of the French resistance, Luis Fernández de Monzón and Vicente López Tovar. Beginning on October 19, 1944, approximately 5,000 men of the invading army began to enter Spanish territory through the Pyrenees with the principal attack focused on the Val d’Aran. Snow-covered for most of the year and spanned by an area of sheepfolds and woodcutters, a place barely appropriate as the base or focus of a possible approach to the Franco-Spanish military structure set up by the Commu-
nist leaders of the maquis, the invasion was essentially improvised. It disregarded the obvious fact that a conventional military incursion played into the hands of Franco’s huge land forces. Nonetheless, over the next three weeks, the invaders chalked up huge land forces. Nonetheless, over the next three weeks, the invaders chalked up

Monzón’s faults, ranging from underesti-
mation of the invasion had been defective and ensured that he was aware of what was happening in France. Monzón’s clandestine broadsheet, La Residencia, published a message that the invasion was the work of the Spanish he-

The invaders’ hopes of triggering off a result of the fighting in the valley was relatively small, fewer than thirty. Never-
theless, at the end of the month, Carrillo dispatched a report to Pasionaria in which he claimed to have prevented the capture of 1,000 men of the invading forces. He went on to give an entirely mendacious account of the Val d’Aran episode in which he claimed that the guerrilla leaders had not wanted to take part and did so out of reluctant obedience to Monzón. He praised himself for avoiding a bloodbath. Because of Monzón’s poor preparation of the invasion, he claimed, three valuable months had been lost that could have been used to prepare a nationwide insurrection within Spain. He then accused Monzón of running the interior delegation in a tyran-

The information gathered was distorted and used to compile various reports accusing the Party in the interior. Accordingly, he repeated that, if Monzón declined to come to France, he would be separated from the organization and the necessary measures would be taken. […] Monzón finally set off for France accompanied by Pilar Soler. En route, he was obliged by illness to delay in Barcelona, where he was arrested on June 8, 1945 by the Francoist police as part of an operation that had been long in the making. With characteristic malice, Carrillo later suggested that Monzón had engineered his own detention in order to avoid having to explain the invasion. This was nonsense but may have reflected Carrillo’s concern that Monzón had turned himself in to avoid being murdered. Cer-

Having had no reply from Monzón, Carrillo sent a cable to Moncada, reiterat-

From February in Latin America […] The condemnation of Monzón, the only significant leader who had stayed behind, followed automatically the gradual elimination of those who had kept the PCE alive in France helped mitigate their own discom-
fort from the ever greater flight to Europe. In their eyes, those who had been in the German camps and in the guerrilla war were suspect. […] On February 6, 1945, Carrillo dispatched a report to Pasionaria in which malice and invention sat side by side. He described the PCE’s situation in such wildly optimistic terms as to make it seem that the overthrow of the regime was imminent. By implication, if this had not happened, it was Monzón’s fault for failing to link up the many groups all over Spain.
In 1932, French writer and intellectual André Malraux, hoping to offer his recent losses in the book market, traveled to Cambodia to steal some bas-reliefs from the ancient Khmer temple Banteay Srei. He was eventually caught and spent a year in jail. Years later, Malraux wrote a book about the experiences and the injustices he faced. In 1936 he would become involved in the Spanish Civil War, where he also told a story about his efforts, writing a novel, directing a movie, and making himself famous in many circles. The history of the Spanish Civil War has quite a few characters and adventurers who at some level, like Malraux, fit this description: Ernest Hemingway, Martha Gellhorn, his blonde mistress, who Hemingway once abandoned in such a way that, “she does not remember crying.” His close friend and fellow artist John Keidie Jacobs wrote a book about the struggles he faced. In 1936, he arrived in Spain in early March. Jacobs served on the Jarama Front, at Fuentes de Ebro, Teruel, and the Retreats. His roles were varied and included those of虱子, staff artist, and topographer. In the end, his true role was simply to continue running away from the encircling enemy armies during the Retreats of March 1938. His close friend and fellow artist Doug taco elected to stay with him. They were both swept up by the advancing Nationalists and neither was ever heard from again.

Veteran Arthur Lands authored an article on Jacobs that was published in The Volunteer and is reproduced in this new book. He concluded the article by noted the following: “These few paragraphs, plus the accompanying artwork falls far short of being the story of Deyo Jacobs. His background data, the miles from which he came is missing.”

In The Stranger in the Attic, John Keidie Jacobs, Edward’s older brother, provides the previously missing story behind the story, using a framework based on letters John Jacobs found in the attic of his family’s home. These letters, written by and to Edward, include those from his friends and family beginning during his childhood in upstate New York and continuing until shortly before his death. John Jacobs does an exceptional job interweaving family history and the letters.

After graduating from high school, Edward enrolled in the Art Students League in Manhattan. He grew into a talented artist who signed his work Deyo. Jacobs’s letters from New York deal with diverse subjects, including learning about art, life, and making a living during the Great Depression. In 1935, he and Doug Taylor rode the rails to Salt Lake City. The same year he joined the Communist Party. Edward Jacobs volunteered when the Spanish Civil War broke out and the Communist Party began to recruit volunteers for the International Brigades. He arrived in Spain in early March 1937. Jacobs served on the Jarama Front, at Fuentes de Ebro, Teruel, and the Retreats. His roles were varied and included those of虱子, staff artist, and topographer. In the end, his true role was simply to continue running away from the encircling enemy armies during the Retreats of March 1938.

The Stranger in the Attic is a powerful addition to the growing library on Spanish Civil War volunteers. It is both a celebration of life and a poignant reflection of an older brother lost in a foreign war and the subsequent impact on his family.

In her memoirs of her experiences as a Basque refugee of the Spanish Civil War, Arantza Cazalis Shuey presents the reader with a wrenching and nostalgia-provoking episode of Basque history: the la siishe de la guerre (war) (children). This is the story of the Gernika generation—some 25,000 Basque children who escaped war-torn Spain in the late 1930s.

Memories of Basque Exile


Chronologically divided into nine chapters, Cazalis’s saga recounts her journey from Spain to the United States, via France and the Caribbean. The memoir opens with a detailed description of her native Erma, the industrial Basque town which like the neighboring Eibar, was deeply impacted by the armed conflict. Through photographs, letters, and eyewitness accounts, the author offers a vivid portrait of the idiosyncrasies of the Basque people, their language and their way of life.

Life in Erma changed drastically with Franco’s coup. Arantza’s world crumbled in 1936 when her region became a stage for resistance against the rebel troops. Within a year, Arantza, now on a French train returning to Spain, had crossed northern Spain and France seeking refuge and mourning the loss of her mother, killed by a bomb in Car- ranza. Shortly after her mother’s death, the 9-year-old Arantza lost her older brother Imanol, although she was, by this point, already so traumatized by the war that, “[she does not remember crying].”

When World War II broke out in 1939, Arantza’s family was able to obtain visas for Trujillo’s Dominican Republic and left Bordeaux aboard the ship La Salle, disembarking on Caribbean soil on December 21, 1939. Arantza portrays the embodiment of “her new culture” (the rich gastronomy, sensual landscape and traditions of the Dominican Republic) as her family moved from town to town. When the Guatemalan Presidentiframe src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/..." width="640" height="360"></iframe>view the rental list of the rural town Constanza to begin farming, supported by the plot of tillable land that the government granted to refugee families.

The chapters that focus on the life of Basque exiles living under the Trujillo regime represent a fascinating and, at times, still unstudied snapshot of the Republic exiled story. This memoir tells the previously explored geographic destination in Basque children’s exile as well as the larger cultural, linguistic, and social implications of Basque-Caribbean transnationalism. Once in the rural town Constanza, an Andean mountain region whose institutions reflect the repression of Trujillo’s regime, the new family’s hauzet (Basque word for the traditional farm) becomes a collage of Basque and Caribbean styles of farming, gardening, and urban traditions. While the conventional Basque repertoire of house animals is increased, the idiosyncrasies of the Basque people, their language and their way of life.

At the end of World War II, the family moved again "with the hope of finding a boat that would take us to Mexico. Crossing the Caribbean would not prove easy; the war had frozen all maritime activities. Just as the family was
about to lose hope of leaving the island, they managed to fly to Cuba and from there, to travel to their final destination in a fishing boat.

Aranita was 16 years old when she saw Mexico City for the first time. Her memoir closes with her arrival in Idaho to a fishing boat.

The fund is intended to support ALBA’s Teaching Institutes.

To learn more about a gift in your will, contact executive director Paul MacEachron at Azaila, Spain, Oct. ‘37. ALBA...
ALBA’s executive director, Marina Garde, visited with Del Berg and his wife June last October. On the cusp of his 99th birthday, Del continues in good health and spirits.

Photo Rodolfo Graziano.