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Bulletin of the Kate Sharpley Library

Number 68 **50 pence or one dollar** **Oct. 2011**

The Political Soviet Grinding Machine by Emma Goldman

Fifteen years have passed since comrade A Chapiro [Schapiro], my old pal Alexander Berkman, now gone from me, and myself came out of Soviet Russia to give to the thinking world the disclosures of the political grinding machine we found there. It was only after a long conflict that we decided to do so. For well we knew the price we will have to pay for speaking openly about the terrible political persecutions that was a daily affair in the so called Socialist Republic. The price we paid for our determination was high enough, but was nothing compared to the avalanche of abuse and vilification hurled against me, when my first ten articles about Soviet Russia appeared in the public press. Since I foresaw as much, I was not very shocked over the fact that my own comrades misunderstood what I had to say and the motive which induced me to appear in the NEW YORK WORLD. Much less did I care for the poison that oozed out against me from the Communists in Russia, America, and other countries.

Even while yet in Russia we protested against the grinding mill as we saw it in its sinister force. For myself I can say, and I can say the same for my comrade Alexander Berkman, we lost no opportunity to go from Bolshevist leader to leader; to plead for the unfortunate victims of the Cheka. Invariably we were told "wait till all our fronts are liquidated and you will see that the greatest political freedom will be established in Soviet Russia." This assurance was repeated time on end so convincingly that we began to wonder whether we had understood the effect of Revolution on the rights of the individual as far as political opinion was concerned. We decided to wait. But weeks and months passed and there was no letup in the relentless extermination of all people who dared disagree even in the least with the methods of the Communist State. It was only after the massacre of Kronstadt, that we, our comrades Alexander Berkman and Alexander Chapiro [Schapiro] felt that we had no right to wait any longer, that it became imperative for us old revolutionists to cry the truth from the very housetops. Nevertheless we waited until the fronts were liquidated, though it was bitter hard to keep silent after 400 politicals were forcibly removed from the Boutirka prison and sent to remote places. When Fanny Baron and Tcherny [Lev Cherny] were murdered. At last the holy day arrived, the fronts were liquidated But the political grinding mill ground on, thousands being crushed by its wheels.

It was then that we came to the conclusion that the Soviet promise reiterated to us again and again, was like all promises coming from the Kremlin - an empty shell. We therefore came to the conclusion that we owed it to our suffering comrades, to all revolutionary political victims as well as to the workers and peasants of Russia, to go abroad and place our findings before the world. From that time on and until 1930, comrade Berkman worked incessantly for the political prisoners and on raising funds to keep them alive in their dreadful living tomb. After that, comrade [Rudolf] Rocker, [Senya] Fleschin, Mollie Alperine [Steimer], Dobinski [Jacques Doubinsky] and many other faithful comrades kept up the work which our beloved Alexander was forced to discontinue. I can say that until this day the devoted efforts to bring our hapless comrades in Soviet Russia some cheer and a few comforts have never ceased, which merely goes to prove what devotion, love and solidarity can do.

In justice to the heads of the Soviet Government be it said that there was still a semblance of fair play while Lenin was alive. True, it was he who issued the slogan that Anarcho-syndicalists and Anarchists are but like the petit bourgeoisie, and that they should be exterminated. Nevertheless it is true that his political victims were sentenced for a definite period and were left with the hope that they would be set free when their sentence expired. Since the advent of Stalin, that bit of hope, hope so essential to people in prison for an idea, and so necessary for the continuation of their morale has been abolished.

Stalin, true to the meaning of his name, could not bear to think, that people given 5 or ten years, should be left with the expectation that they would one day see freedom again. Under his iron rule, people whose sentence expires are re-sentenced and shipped to another concentration camp. Thus we have today numerous comrades who have been shoved from exile to exile since 15 years. And there is no end in sight. But why should we be surprised at the relentless grinding mill Stalin has inaugurated for such opponents as Anarchists and Social Revolutionists? Stalin has proven that he is as cruel with his former comrades as with the rest who dare doubt his wisdom. The latest purge, quite equal to the purge of Hitler ([handwritten addition in margin] and the latest victim arrested and perhaps exiled, Zensl Muehsam) should

Inside: The Iron Column – Facerías – Mat Kavanagh

prove to all who are still capable of thinking, that Stalin is determined to exterminate everybody who has looked into his cards. We need not hope, therefore, that our Anarchist comrades or any of the Left wing Revolutionaries will be spared.

I am writing this from Barcelona, the seat of the Spanish Revolution. If ever I believed, even for a moment in the explanation of Soviet leaders that political freedom is impossible during a revolutionary period, my stay in Spain has completely cured me of it! Spain too is in the clutches of a blood stained civil war, she is surrounded by enemies within and without. No, not merely by fascist enemies. But by all sorts of social exponants, who are more bitterly opposed to Anarcho-syndicalism and Anarchism under the name of CNT and FAI, than they are to fascism. Yet in spite of the danger lurking in every corner of every city, to the Spanish Revolution, inspite of the imperative necessity to concentrate all the forces on winning the antifascist war, it is yet amazing to find more political freedom than ever was dreamt of by Lenin and his comrades.

If anything, the CNT-FAI, the most powerful party in Catalonia, is going to the opposite extreme. Republicans, socialists, Communists, Trotzkists, in fact everybody daily marches through the streets heavily armed and their banners flying. They have taken possession of the most elaborate houses of the former bourgeoisie. They merrily publish their papers and hold huge meetings, Yet the CNT-FAI has never once even suggested that their allies are taking too much advantage of the tolerance of the Anarchists in Catalonia. In other words our comrades are demonstrating that they would rather prefer to give their associates the same right to liberty as they take for themselves than to establish a dictatorship and a political grinding machine that would crush all their opponents.

Yes, 15 years have passed. According to the glad tidings from Russia one hears over the Radio, in the Communist press and on every occasion: "Life is joyful and splendid" in the Socialist Republic. Did not Stalin issue this slogan and has it not been reechoed over and over again. "Life is joyful and splendid". Not for the tens of thousands of political victims in prison and in concentration camps. Anarchists, Socialists, Communists, Intellectuals, masses of the workers and tens of thousands of the peasantry know nothing of the new joy and splendour proclaimed by the Torquemada on the Communist throne. Their lives, if they are still alive, continues hopeless, drab, a daily purgatory without end.

The more reason for us, comrades, and for all who are sincere Libertarians, to continue the work for the political prisoners in the Soviet Union. I do not appeal to the Libertarians who shout themselves hoarse against fascism or against the political abuses in their own countries and yet remain silent in the face of the continued persecution and extermination of true Revolutionaries in Russia. Their senses have become blunted. They therefore do not hear the voice that rises to the very heavens from the hearts and the stifled throats of the victims of the political grinding machine. They do not realise that their silence is a sign of consent, and that they are therefore responsable for Stalins acts. They are a hopeless lot. But the Libertarians, who oppose every dictatorship and fascism, no matter under what flag, they must continue to rouse human interest and sympathy in the tragic fate of the political prisoners in Russia.

[Handwritten]

Barcelona Dec 9/36 Emma Goldman

[Typed article with handwritten corrections from Folder 18, G.P. Maksimov (Maximoff) papers, International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam. This is an unused appendix for *The Guillotine at Work* and previously unpublished.]

The story of the Iron Column by Abel Paz published: a personal view

"The Story of the Iron Column: Militant Anarchism in the Spanish Civil War" by Abel Paz is out now. I know for certain. I have a copy. After five years of working and worrying at it, I can't really review it. But I can't help saying a few things.

I expected to just feel relief when I got it. I do, but stronger than that is familiarity. Inevitable, really, when you've read the text several times and then gone over the final layout. Each time I remember thinking "This is a great book". So thanks to everyone who helped make it happen. It's a good little book, 260 pages before you get to the bibliography and the done-by-a-human index. Printed on acid-free recycled paper with union labour, which is what you want.

This is not just a book about the Iron Column. Paz is determined to put their actions in context (locally, nationally, internationally) which lights up all the conflicts and debates of the Spanish Revolution and Civil War. What principles, what tactics will get us to a free society? Hopefully people will think about that when they read the book as well as trying to understand the history of the Spanish Civil War. But I guess I should wait and see what other people make of it. Tell us if you can think of how to get it widely reviewed!

The Story of the Iron Column: Militant Anarchism in the Spanish Civil War by Abel Paz. Co-published by AK Press and the Kate Sharpley Library ISBN 9781849350648 £13/$18.95
www.akpress.org/2011/items/storyoftheironcolumn

Credit: This issue put together in October 2011. Thanks to all who helped!

Matt Kavanagh letter to Tom Keell

210 West Rd
Southend-on-Sea
Jan.29/36

Dear Tom

Many thanks for letter & especially for "Bulletin" which will come in very usefull. I did not know Barr had written to you (I have seen him since) He wrote to me asking me to write, & I have no file of "Freedom" by me, only my memory to relie on, I wrote to you if you let me have some-thing to work on, I have told Barr, that its almost certain they will turn my article down, for one of the most important events in the history was the war, & your attitude on it. Talk about Hamlet with the Prince left out, & Freedom with T.H.K. left out. Barr knew nothing about that quarrel, he was abroad in the army at that time.

When my article is read before the Edit. Comm. G Cores will go stark raving mad, I would give a lot to be there, I have not had a really decent row for a long time.

E. Goldman came last Sun, & they had the biggest crowd in the Labour Hall in years, as the brunt of the work fell on me, I as quite proud. I worked for a return visit & succeeded, I want her back early in Feb while their interest is still warm, I sold myself twice as many tickets as all the others together did, I sent your friend Sweetlove 5/- worth. Took 2 for himself and Mrs. S-, but he had put E G up for the night, she's a celebrity. He wouldn't give a poor comrade a tanner for his doss.

Barr tells me he is disappointed over S. Wales he was expecting to book up a number of lectures there for the Labour College, but they will not give more than 10/- a lecture, & he will not agree so that is off for the present.

I have been tonight to see a man connected with the "Little Theatre" movement, & he has promised me he will do all he can, to get her dramatic lectures & that we may be able next time she comes here, to get to stay over & lecture Sun. & Mon. I have worked hard in this town its time it showed some results.

I do not get to London much now, as I am getting the old man now, I have been laid up with congestion of the lungs, & as I am all alone in one room, it was a bit rough, & put a stop to my open-air meetings. I hear Cores & Humphries are at logger-heads all the time. G.C. is just where he was in 1912, he still wants to be editor, and there are several others who want to be, & not one of them would turn out to sell the paper, that beneath their dignity. Barr is a level headed man & a good worker but he some job as sect. of the Freedom Group.

I am glad you are keeping well, & hope to see you early in the summer, all being well when I go to see Janet Grove.

Yours Fraternally,
M. Kavanagh

Notes on names

Thomas H. Keell (1866-1938) had been editor of "Freedom" from 1913 until 1927. As the paper begin to financially flounder he moved Freedom Press and "Freedom" from London to Whiteway Colony near Stroud in Gloucestershire. Between 1928 and 1932 he published "Freedom Bulletin" on an irregular basis.

Ralph Barr was a London based anarcho-syndicalist. At the time this letter was written he was secretary of "The Emma Goldman Lecture Committee". In early 1937 he would become a member of the CNT-FAI London Bureau set up by Emma Goldman on her return from Spain. On the 17th July 1938 he spoke with Emma Goldman, Tom Brown and Mat Kavanagh at a mass meeting in Hyde Park to commemorate the Second Anniversary of "the Revolutionary Struggle In Spain". Later he appears to have stolen money collected for Spanish refugees – an incident which Ethel Mannin wrote about in the short story "Downfall of a Comrade" published in her collection "No More Mimosa" London: Jarrolds, 1943.

George Cores (1869-1949) had a history of clashing with Keell over what he, and others, felt was Keell's proprietary attitude towards "Freedom". They had criticized Keell's move to Whiteway feeling he had failed to consult the movement in his decision. As a consequence Cores was part of the group that produced the London based newspaper "Freedom" (1930-36).

Emma Goldman (1869-1940) At the time of Kavanagh's letter Goldman was based in London. In terms of her talk at Southend Goldman obviously was pleased with the result.Writing to Alexander Berkman on 22nd January 1936 she said "the League of Youth for whom I lectured insisted on two more lectures" comparing this with a lukewarm response in Plymouth and elsewhere.

Tom Sweetlove was involved in the Anarchist Eductaion League in 1913-14, and later in support for Russian anarchist prisoners and exiles. A collection of his poems is in the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

John Humphrey eventually became the editor of "Freedom" (1930-36). He wrote numerous pamphlets including "The Colour Bar" London: International League of Peoples, nd; "Fascism" London: Italian League for the Rights of Man, nd and "A Letter to Youth" nd (1936?)

Facerías : Urban Guerrilla Warfare (1939-1957) ; The Libertarian Movement's Struggle Against Francoism in Spain and in Exile by Antonio Téllez Solà [Book Review]

Facerías "was a steadfast champion of an essentially anarchist-inspired labour movement like the CNT of Spain; an organisation that might offer the proletariat guidance rather than content itself with being a tiny minority in opposition to or critical of reformist and authoritarian activity. He wanted an anarchism that might be at once the head and the arm of the proletariat rather than some sort of laboratory for doctrine or the monopoly of philosophers. … As far as he was concerned, moral solidarity, whilst undoubtedly necessary, had to be matched by material action; and if help was not forthcoming through lawful means, they should resort to unlawful means, to expropriation." (p303, p305).

This is an important book, but not an easy one to read. It's tragic on many different levels. It is not a complete history of the anarchist resistance to Francoism, but it is much more than a biography of Facerías alone. The context of defeat and exile is laid out, as are the fates of other Barcelona anarchist militants. Death is everywhere.

"October 1949 proved to be a tragic month for the urban action groups in Catalonia. Within a few days many of the comrades, and some of the most battle-hardened comrades at that, lost their lives. The list included Luciano Alpuente (Enrique Madurga Herrero), José Sabaté Llopart (*El Quico*'s older brother), Julio Rodríguez Fernández (*El Cubano*), Juan Serrano (aka *Antonio García García*), Arquímedes Serrano Ovejas, Víctor Espallargas, José Luis Barrao and Francisco Martínez Márquez. Many others were captured and subsequently executed, like José Pérez Pedrero (*Tragapanes*), Pedro Adrover Font (*El Yayo*), José Pons Argilés, Santiago Amir Gruañas and Ginés Urrea Piña." (p221)

It is also a very angry book. Téllez is some impartial chronicler. He had played a part in the resistance himself. These are not merely names, but dead comrades he is commemorating.

It's not only the murderous Francoist repression that angers Téllez. The failings of the Spanish libertarian movement in exile are laid bare. The difference between the needs of clandestine action in Spain and legalised existence in France was never addressed: "the incompatibility between lashing out at and attacking the state and its institutions and the holding of regulation meetings with the Interior Ministry" (p73); "an organisational structure that delivered nothing but catastrophe after catastrophe." (p176). Defeats and killings did not lead to any improvements: "Losses in Spain were at that point still propaganda fodder, a good excuse for letting loose a lyricism that was, most often, out of place and in poor taste." (p158). Practical help was not what it could have been. In 1951 Facerías was in touch with comrades who raised a huge subscription to support the underground CNT press. "However, it all went awry due to meddling by the Inter-Continental Secretariat which came up with the inspired notion of insisting that the sum raised be handed over to it without further ado. The Paris comrades who had publicly committed themselves – without going into details – to handing over all the money to the 'Support the Underground CNT Press' project refused to back down despite pressures brought to bear by the organisation at the instigation of the top committee. But given the impossibility of implementing the plan or of going into the detail of it (in that that would render its implementation impossible) they spent most of the funds on printing equipment that was then handed over to the Inter-Continental Secretariat which, needless to say, had no notion of what to do with the equipment delivered, since its sole concern had been to take delivery of the cash instead. Once again, the virus of centralism stupidly destroyed one of the best ideas ever generated in the exile community." (p263).

The continued indifference of the exiled bureaucrats eventually looks more than carelessness. The ultimate problem, in Facerías' own words, is that "Victim is heaped upon victim, due to people some of whom are worthless while others prioritise their craving for prominence or the conveniences of the payroll [a reference to paid positions with the Organisation] over the interests of the organisation. There has not even been any attempt made to neutralise the impact of the police apparatus deployed by Francoism at our headquarters, quite apart from the vice tightening upon us more and more each day thanks to the support of its counterpart agencies in the host countries." (p289, Report of 9 December 1951).

Finally, Facerías is not just cut off from the organisation, but also from natural allies like Francisco Sabaté. "He tried to contact Sabaté and failed because Sabaté systematically refused to talk to him. The ripples from their fall-out in Barcelona in 1956 were still being felt. Yet had these two men talked and come to some agreement perhaps both their tragic fates might have been avoided. But then, if ifs were ands, this might have been a very different book." (p340).

Facerías was ambushed and shot down by the police in Barcelona in August 1957. While the Francoist press celebrated, the libertarian journal *Atalaya* protested the silence of the exiles, and in effect provided his epitaph:

"Having been murdered in circumstances in which there is every evidence to suggest that he had been denounced from France, [Facerías] has been defamed in the crudest way by the Francoist police and press. And there was a moral obligation to clear a man, and what a man he was, from whose curriculum vitae our

newspapers have highlighted, say, his attacks upon the consular offices in Barcelona of countries sponsoring Franco's candidacy for membership of the UNO, the attack on the regime's bigwigs at a victory parade and various attack on local police and Falangist premises, of such defamation.

"Let it be noted that we take exception, if only so that the future historian may have – if he wishes to reconstruct the truth – a reference which, added to his having been arrested in 1946 for subversive activity and for holding organisational office, confirms that José Lluís Facerías was not the vulgar brigand portrayed by Franco's hacks, but, like Buenaventura Durruti, and authentic anarcho-syndicalist fighter." (p353-4).

Comrades who want to learn about the anarchist resistance to Francoism, should read and re-read this book.

Facerías : Urban Guerrilla Warfare (1939-1957) ; The Libertarian Movement's Struggle Against Francoism in Spain and in Exile by Antonio Téllez Solà, translated by Paul Sharkey.
Christiebooks, 2011. 9781873976494 £18

History of a Guerilla Band: The three Jubiles brothers

The three Jubiles brothers took to the hills in late March 1939 and marauded through the hills around Villaviciosa, Almodóvar and Hornachuelos, before settling in the Montoro highlands.

The Bujalance district of Córdoba province, where the CNT predominated, happened by a freak to escape the army's Rising on 18 July 1936. In Bujalance the Civil Guard confined itself to staying in barracks and never lifted a finger, in spite of pressures from local rightists doubtless afraid of the power of the anarcho-syndicalist labour organisation. In the end, on 25 July, the Civil Guard placed itself at the disposition of the Popular Front. The garrison was shipped out to Jaén or to Madrid, except for one sergeant and two Guards accused of having implemented the *ley de fugas* (shooting 'escaping' prisoners) in the Cañetejo ravine back in December 1933; these were executed in Cañetejo on 25 July.

From the very outset, a Popular Front was established: it was made up of nine members, three of them from the CNT: these were Francisco Garcia Cabello (aka *El Niño del Aceite)* who had been sentenced to death following the revolutionary events of December 1933, Bartolomé Parrodo Serrano and Ildefonso Coca Chocero (aka *El Viejo).*

Among the best known CNT militants in Bujalance, we might mention the brothers Francisco, Juan and Sebastián Rodríguez Muñoz, known collectively *as Los Jubiles*, organisers of the confederal militias and of the 38th Division's 88th Mixed Brigade, of which Francisco was the commander and with which many of Córdoba's anarchists served during the civil war. Another anarchist who saw to the co-ordination of the CNT militias from Castro and Bujalance was Alfonso Nieves Nuñez, who was of Argentinean extraction: then there were the brothers Manuel and Luis Ramón Haro Manzano: Germinal García (the son of *El Niño del Aceite*), Manuel Haro Aguilar, Tomás Martínez Fresco, Francisco Pozuelo Minaya, Antonio Suárez Moreno (*Pañete*) Cristobal Nieto Reyes, Pedro Buenosvinos Galiano, Manuel Borrego Belmonte, Antonio Alharilla Morales *(Pavano),* Antonio Cantanero Pérez (*El Reondo)*, Antonio Jiménez Venzalà *(El Joyito)* and Antonio Cantanero Aragón *(Peñalver).*

Spared the upheaval of the battlefront for five months, Bujalance carried out yearned-for libertarian changes. […]

In addition to the Popular and Labour Front Committee which set up shop in the town hall with three CNT members, two socialists, one Communist and one Izquierda Republicana representative, a Defence Committee was established to oversee everything relating to weaponry and warfare and it comprised of three CNT members.

Likewise established were a Supplies Committee and an Agricultural Committee, each of them made up of CNT militants plus one Central Committee representative, likewise a CNT member. A so-called Labour Management Committee operated inside the (La Armonía) One Big Workers' Union and its function was to supply labour to the farms and industries.

Solidaridad Obrera of 2 October 1936 carried an interview that Francisco Cabello *El Niño del Aceite* gave to the paper's Bujalance reporter Antonio Vidal on 25 September 1936, detailing the libertarian achievements in the town.

In December 1936, Francoist forces launched a big push aimed at investing all the provincial towns that had remained in the hands of the Republic.

On 18 December, Bujalance came under heavy air raids from Francoist planes. All day long squadrons of three aircraft arrived to bomb Bujalance to pieces and this was repeated the following day, so it was determined that the population should be evacuated. By 20 December very few people were left in Bujalance. In the first air raid alone on 14 December, 100 people perished and 200 buildings were demolished.

Francoist forces attacked the town from the East and North to cut its communications and outflanking the existing fortifications located south and west of the town: the anarcho-syndicalist militias withdrew in the direction of Villa del Rio and Montor, as did the civilian evacuees. By 21 December, Francoist forces had complete control of Bujalance.

Without dwelling overmuch upon the civil war, let us just state that on 28 March 1939 the last remaining village in the north of Córdoba fell to the Francoists. Many fighters fled into the highlands above Córdoba.

These first fugitives absorbed escapers from the jails, deserters from the Disciplinary Labour Battalions, concentration camps and defectors from the Francoist ranks, runaway recruits and others fleeing from conscription.

The three *Jubiles* brothers took to the hills in late March 1939 and marauded through the hills above Villaviciosa, Almodóvar and Hornachuelos, and then settled in the Montoro highlands. *Los Jubiles* took to the sierra from Villanueva de Córdoba, where many troops had retreated to at that point and carried off a substantial armoury into the mountains, including mortars. The first engagement by the band of which we have knowledge came in the Montoro district on the road from Villa del Rio to Cardeña. Civil Guard Antonio Guerrero and trooper Gonzalo Vázquez perished in the skirmish.

On 8 July 1940, in a gunfight in Obejo, landlord Antonio Pedilla Olivares and Falangists Edmundo Cano Juárez, Pedro González Herruzo and Juan Herrera Herruzo were killed. On the guerrilla side, *El Aceituno,* a native of Marmolejo (Jaén) was wounded and died later of his injuries. His corpse was discovered on 21 July on a nearby farm, La Dehesa de la Abuela, in La Candelera.

On 26 September 1940, part of the *Los Jubiles* band sustained a further loss: in the Alcaracejos district they ran across, and as evening fell, engaged the Civil Guard and guerrilla Alfonso García Gavilán from Bujalance (a war-time commander) lost his life.

In 1941 guerrilla Francisco Parrado too was killed in the Montoro district as a result of information given and on 4 March 1941 Manuel Alcalá Rodríguez (a 54 year old collier) and Francisco Cobos Benitez (36) died on the Cañete bridge near Bujalance in an ambush laid by the Civil Guard undercover of the dark.

The presence of Foreign Legion troops and Regulares in the hunt for the guerrillas, a very common phenomenon in 1940, faded as the Civil Guard took over after 1941. Another ambush claimed the life of Eugenio *(El Moreno)* who had only recently joined the guerrillas after his work as a liaison had been discovered, and Francisco Cabello Milla *(Paco Simón),* brother-in-law to the *Jubiles,* was arrested. He was taken to the prison in Jaén and shot there.

On dates unknown, Felipe García Flores, Manuel Martínez, Manuel Alcaraz and his two sons Antonio Vanzalá Soriano and Bartolomé *El Chivito* lost their lives. The *Los Jubiles* band was wiped out at dawn on 6 January 1944 in the Mojapié farmhouse in the Montoro district.

One survivor from the *Los Jubiles band* was José Moreno Salazar *El Quincallero who* was only 16 in 1940. He had initially been a courier for the band and later, when his cover was blown, joined the band proper on 16 December 1942.

About twenty fugitives served with *Los Jubiles* at one time or another, not to mention their connections with the bands of Perico *El Manco,* Adamuz and *El Portugués* from Marmoloejo. In addition to the three Jubiles brothers, the core of the band was made up of Tomás Martinez Luque, Antonio Castilla Bigotín, Manuel Jiménez *El Gato,* and the brothers Alcalá Cabanilla. In its last year it was joined by survivor José Moreno Salazar, Miguel Morales and Francisco Jiménez *El Churro.* Another survivor from the band was Cristobal Nieto.

Antonio Téllez.

Polémica (Barcelona), no. 70, January 2000

Ángel Artigot Dead

Comrade Ángel Artigot Puerto, native of Gea de Albarracin (Teruel) has died in Teruel at the age of 93. A long-time and enthusiastic militant from his adolescent years back in the shopworkers' sector in 1930s Valencia, he joined the Iron Column as it marched towards the Teruel front and after a number of adventures finished up a prisoner in Valencia as the civil war drew to its end. He passed through a number of prison camps, from the Basque Country to Andalusia, surviving due to a specially strong personality that captivated people regardless of their ideological persuasions. Back in Teruel after the war ended, he carried the stigma of being labelled a "red", having to deal with all manner of reprisals, but surviving through a number of hospitality ventures thanks to his own strong character, determination, self-control and his faithful, long-suffering partner, Librada.

An example to many, he always remained faithful to his ideals and on retirement left his last fully functioning and successful establishment to those upon he had always looked as comrades rather as mere staff. He retained his full mental faculties right to his final years, albeit that there was some physical deterioration and made a strong impression on all who were fortunate enough to know him, friends or otherwise.

May the earth lie lightly upon you, comrade Ángel.

by Teruel CNT

From *cnt,* No 377, April 2011

"The Story of the Iron Column" by Abel Paz

has just been printed as a Kate Sharpley Library-AK Press co-publication. This has been a long while coming, and we hope to have a review for the next issue. See a personal response on page 2. More details on our website.

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