

The British Archives of the International Brigade to Spain 1936-1939

Marx Memorial Library, London

The International Brigade of volunteers who set out to halt the advance of fascism during the Civil War in Spain, has become a legend. Contemporary source material documenting this event in depth is difficult to locate. The archive maintained at the Marx Memorial Library, however, contains a wealth of unpublished and authoritative correspondence, together with official and clandestine reports, newspaper despatches, pamphlets, propaganda and journals, making it a uniquely comprehensive resource. It provides a wealth of material for students of politics, sociology and history of this critical period of the 20th century. The complete archive with index is now available to researchers everywhere, on microfiche from IDC Publishers.

The International Brigade

The international Brigade to Spain was formed as a truly volunteer army, made up of committed socialists, communists and others, determined to take a stand against fascism. The volunteers came from many nations, with large contingents from the U.S.A., Canada and Great Britain.

In the words of the poet C. Day Lewis: *"It was not fraud or foolishness, Glory, revenge or pay; We came here because our open eyes could see no other way."* (Overtures to Death, 1938)

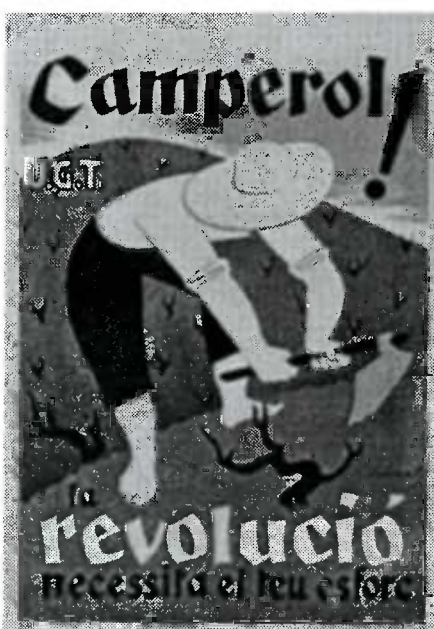
The memory of the Brigaders, the documentation of their exploits and of the political struggle that began long before the outbreak of the Civil War and continued until the death of Franco has been faithfully maintained in the London Archive.

Content of the archive

The archive has not been a static collection, but has consistently grown over the past fifty years through gifts of correspondence, pamphlets, documents, photographs and other material and ephemera by former Brigaders. It now comprises many thousands of items, all meticulously catalogued, indexed and cross-referenced, representing a truly comprehensive resource for research.

Journal runs

There are complete runs of the journal "Volunteer for Liberty", "Spain at War", and "Voice of Spain". All are fully indexed by article, subject and author. There are also English



translations of the "Spanish Worker's Bulletin", and other journals, including those published by the North American Committee for aid to Spain and the "Left Review". A complete file of despatches to the London Communist paper "The Daily Worker" present an alternative viewpoint to the many press cuttings from the Establishment Press in Britain and other countries.

Pamphlets and manuscript material

There are many hundreds of contemporary pamphlets, published by both sides in the conflict, including items by the underground movement in Germany, and correspondence and documents reporting the progress of the war and the political front in many countries, in particular Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Most items are in English, with English translations of material in other languages.

The church

The catholic church was in an ambivalent position during the Civil War; material from "The Catholic Truth Society" reflects the view from the fascist side, while grim newspaper articles and poignant personal letters reveal a different perspective. Indeed, the turmoil created in the church world-wide is well documented.

Post Civil War material

The contents of the archive do not relate only to the civil war itself; there is much previously unpublished correspondence and documents covering resistance within Spain to Franco's rule, and material from such organizations as the American Quakers, Masons, Amnesty in Spain and the Red Cross, extending almost to the present day.

Personal documents, photographs, ephemera

The special fascination of the archive material is in the mass of personal letters and documents. These present a view of events not found in official reports. Over 1,000 previously unpublished photographs show Brigaders from many nations, and document their experiences. These, like the correspondence, are comprehensively indexed by name, place and subject. Other material includes post cards, souvenirs and a considerable philatelic collection.

Indexing and arrangement of the material

The archive material has restricted access; it is kept in numbered boxes and filed according to its content. Each document is numbered, and each box has a comprehensive, cross-referenced index, making it possible to locate material on a specific person, place or event with ease.

The microfiche edition reproduces the material with the contents page filmed before each "box" grouping. Additionally, the complete set of indexes to all the over 25,000 document pages is reproduced on the introductory microfiche.

A printed copy of the index is also provided with the microfiche.



Price and other information

Scope	Approx. 25,000 document pages (correspondence, journal runs, articles, press cuttings, photographs, ephemera, and other documents)
Number of microfiche	390
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm
Film type	Positive silver halide
Reduction ratio	Varies according to the size of the original
Internal finding aids	Eye legible headers giving box number of the material on every fiche. Indexes reproduced on the introductory microfiche
External finding aids	140 page printed index and guide to the archive
Storage	The microfiche are supplied in two sturdy ring binders
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Order nr.	IBS-1



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