



“...and that government of the people,
by the people, and for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.”
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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Argentina and the Spanish Civil War

By Jerónimo Boragina
(Translated by Tony Geist)

For the last several years a group of historians called "History from Below" has been meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, near Buenos Aires. We believe that history must be understood from a position counter to the story told by the elite and those who hold power. That is, history in which the people, workers, and society in general are the creators and participants in social change, not merely observers.

The Credicorp Bank recently offered us support and space to organize an event concerning the Spanish Civil War. We were already aware of Spanish exile groups in Mar del Plata, and our fascination with the International Brigades led us to organize a series of lectures and discussions that took place on four successive Fridays in the month of March 2004. Over 50 people attended each session.

Argentinean volunteers recall the importance of international solidarity, telling tales of ships from different countries arriving in Spain laden with food, medicine, clothing, etc. Argentina was the second most active country per capita to send aid to the Spanish Republic. Campaigns, events, parties, donation of a day's wages (workers donated one day's work to feed a Spanish miliciano) were among the many expressions of support from the Argentinean people to Spain. The Centro Republicano Español, created in 1931, was responsible for the

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Benicàssim Honors Brigades with New Plaque

By Guillermo Casañ

Last July 23 a plaque was unveiled in Benicàssim's cemetery in honor of the "Internationales" buried there. The ceremony was organized by the "Associació González Chermá" and

volunteers and relatives have visited it in the recent past: brigadistas like Ernst Kuntschic, Gerhard Hoffmann, Len Levenson (with Robert Coale); medical personnel like doctor Josep M. Massons and nurses Josephine Hill, Pilar Pitarch,

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the townhall. About 50 people, young and old, attended the event, surrounded by republican flags. Among them was Rosa Langer, daughter of French brigadist Marcel Langer. As a continuation of the homage, a talk titled "Benicàssim, Images from the I.B. Hospital" was given by Guillermo Casañ at Villa Elisa, a place which holds a plaque in honor of the I.B. hospital. The plaque was unveiled during the 1986 homage.

The hospital in this Mediterranean village was one of the biggest I.B. hospitals. Many vol-

Encarna Mus, Mercedes Ferrara, Carolina Klein and Rosita Cremón; and relatives of Dr. Gunter Bodek and Dr. Desider Tallenberg, both directors of the hospital. Along with these visits, lectures have been organized. Austrian vet Hans Landauer, for example, has given talks on I.B. history in prestigious centers of the area.

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