

**THE ANARCHIST  
RESISTANCE  
TO FRANCO**

**Biographical notes  
By Antonio Tellez**

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# AMNESIA

Whose are the faces in this pamphlet? Are they those of men of action, fighting for freedom? Or, according to the forces of Franco, of bandits? Many of them are Catalans, all without accounts in the Bank of Catalonia. All died in the Catalan country. All resisted to the last. They would now be in their seventies or eighties. The last of them fell in 1963.

It is not important if one thinks libertarian communism is viable or not, nor that any other utopia is viable or not. It is not important whether things have changed, nor that we live or might have lived in a different world. It is not important that we may think ourselves more clever than they. What is important is the attempt to wipe out from memory the generosity of spirit and physical courage of these combatants and to convert the absence of this resistance into normality. These men of the Catalan past are hardly spoken about. Those who refused to accept defeat are forgotten. They refused to accept a reality which to which they were always opposed.

Not even a miserable piece of stone is dedicated to their memory for fear of rippling a placid existence or putting in danger the little piece of democracy so painfully acquired. This is the revenge of those who never had the guts to be courageous.

*Francesc Torres*



# HERE WE WOULD CALL IT OBLIVION

The artist, Francesc Torres, who collected the pictures of Anarchist fighters against post-war Francoism, for exhibition in Barcelona thought of the process by which its protagonists were overlooked by history as Amnesia. But this word does not apply in an English-speaking country where it would be better described as Oblivion. The Spanish Civil War and the story of the anarcho-syndicalist revolution are greatly distorted insofar as they have ever been mentioned in official histories. But the post-civil-war Resistance were not wiped from memory as in Spain. Like Franco's post-war genocide of a million, which gave rise to it, they were deliberately obscured both while and after it happened.

Until Miguel Garcia Garcia, after twenty years in prison, began his propaganda campaign in Britain, it was unknown here, save for a select few who knew many of those concerned. The work of Tellez and of Garcia have brought it to limited attention, but only to those, (always excepting the political police), who do not rely on bourgeois academics for their knowledge of history.

Here we commemorate a few of the second wave of resistance to Franco, of that resistance which seemed to be crushed in the fifties. Another part of the post-war wave of resistance was told in the KSL pamphlet, also by Tellez, in "The Unsung Struggle" series, the story of Cerrada's attempted assassination of Franco from the air. In this series we also included "Spain 1962" dealing with the third wave of resistance before the regime collapsed.

The reader may ask about the absence of women fighters in this account. Theirs is a different story, but no less inspiring and even in Spain consigned to oblivion rather than subject to amnesia. In the post-war resistance it led to prison, exile, poverty and humiliations, though seldom to death by the firing squad or garrotte, but was bitterly fought and like all workers' and most of all women workers'

struggles, is ignored by professional historians lest it upset the notion of 'great men' who give the labels to history but never influence it. Soon we shall be able to tell this story. It is the function of the Kate Sharpley Library to rescue and preserve these pages of working-class and anarchist history.

# Introduction to the Spanish Edition

This pamphlet is an initiative of Virus Editorial (Barcelona), originally conceived as a back-up to the exhibition of Francesc Torres under the title of "Amnesia/Memory" which was on display at the Santa Monica Art Centre at Barcelona from October to November 1991.

Virus Editorial (Barcelona) is a recently created independent collective set up with the intention of publishing work by authors and of subjects not generally included in the catalogues of commercial publishers. We want to make these works accessible to a wide public audience. It is the aim of Virus Editorial to contribute, along with other similar projects, to making culture a right and not a commercial product.

We want to rescue from what is forgotten those personalities of our recent history, those which were characterised by fighting for a more just and free society. The experiences, mistakes, ideals and weaknesses of those who generously gave their lives for the cause of freedom should be, as a minimum, a basis for our thought and reflection.

As a way of reflecting on and remembering this, it seemed interesting to us to take a page from our recent past of which so little is known. The forgotten past, to which thousands of people have been subjected, those who carried on the struggle against Francoism to the bitter end, being robbed of the dream of a free society, is not a result of indifference, but rather the fear that it might be known, and might in consequence act upon it.

The work of Antonio Tellez came into our hands: Sabate: Urban Guerrilla in Spain (1945-1960), published originally in France by Belibaste-La Hormiga in 1972, and afterwards by Plaza & Janes in Spain in 1978. (*Translated by Stuart Christie, and published by Rupert Hart-Davis, reprinted by Cienfuegos Press, reprinted in paperback by Elephant Editions - KSL*). This work takes as its theme the life of Francisco Sabate, better known as 'El Quico', and tells the story

from a real life perspective of human and political experience, with its achievements and mistakes, which was the fight of the maquis against Francoism. Beginning from the fact that the important thing about history is macro-history, not the great events of personalities, but the everyday man and woman who make things happen, Tellez attempts to rescue from nothingness a generation lost in the darkness of forty years of Francoism.

The news about Francesc Torres' exhibition, based on the Resistance, under the title "AmnesiaMemory" which took place in Barcelona, fitted in with our aims - to remember and to fight against amnesia, intentional forgetfulness or not. We thought the setting of the exhibition gave us the opportunity of publishing our project and financing the re-publication of "Sabate". The reaction of Francesc Torres to our idea was very positive. This pamphlet was not intended as a catalogue to the exhibiton, but it reproduces a number of photographs from it, which are used as its artistic base, accompanied by a short biographical account of each person. As an introduction to the photographic collection we include a foreword written by Antonio Tellez.

***The Virus Collective***



# Foreword

On 18th July 1936 the Spanish army rose up against the Republic, reacting to the elections of 14th April. The Spanish people en masse took to the streets with nothing more than their bare hands and wrenched the guns from the defeated militarists in over half the country. All the nations of the world, except Mexico, washed their hands of the tragedy of a whole nation, which was the first in Europe to oppose the overwhelming rising tide of fascism.

On the 28th January 1939, after thirty months of desperate fighting, troops of the 105 Moroccan division, Tabores de Regulares de Ceuta, and the Navarrese forces entered Barcelona in the early hours of the morning,

On 19th February the Spanish civil war was practically over due to the occupation of Catalonia by the nationalist forces, aided in their demented bestiality by those of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

The Francoist victory was completed with the entry into Madrid on the 28th March 1939 by the rebel troops.

On the 1st April a despatch announced: "The nationalist forces have completed their final objectives. The war is over."

With the defeat of the Republican army and the enemy victory, the clandestine struggle against the new regime was immediately undertaken, and was to be paid for by the loss of the lives of thousands and thousands of new fighters. Particularly was this so amongst those who took to the hills or who in the cities re-formed those organisations drained by the war and by the incessant repression the rebels had already taken in the occupied zones. Now, the rebels victorious, execution squads would be busy for years all over Spain. From the cities emerged the action groups made up of idealists who refused to bow their heads and whose generous spirits were cut down by the victors who had neither honour nor conscience.

The activities of the Iberian Federation of Libertarian Youth (FIJL), the National Confederation of Labour (CNT) and the Iberian Anarchist Federation (FAI) were going to write, with their own blood, new pages in the history of Spain.

Any small selection of names among hundred of thousands of

victims is arbitrary. All could be mentioned but materially it is impossible. With the presentation of some names, with their physical image, we would like to remember all those who fell in the struggle against tyranny, in defence of Freedom.

**Antonio Tellez**

**Note (KSL)**

*Many of the people mentioned here are Catalans and Catalan names are given, here as in the original. The best known, if at all, are usually (in Spanish and in English) called the Sabater brothers, but the correct version is the Catalan Sabate.*

*The use of nicknames is not as frivolous as would be the normal case in English, and was frequent among Catalans in the Resistance, and persists in anarchist circles in Barcelona..*

*It is regretted that we cannot reproduce the exact Spanish and Catalan orthography, both with accents and the 'tilde'.*

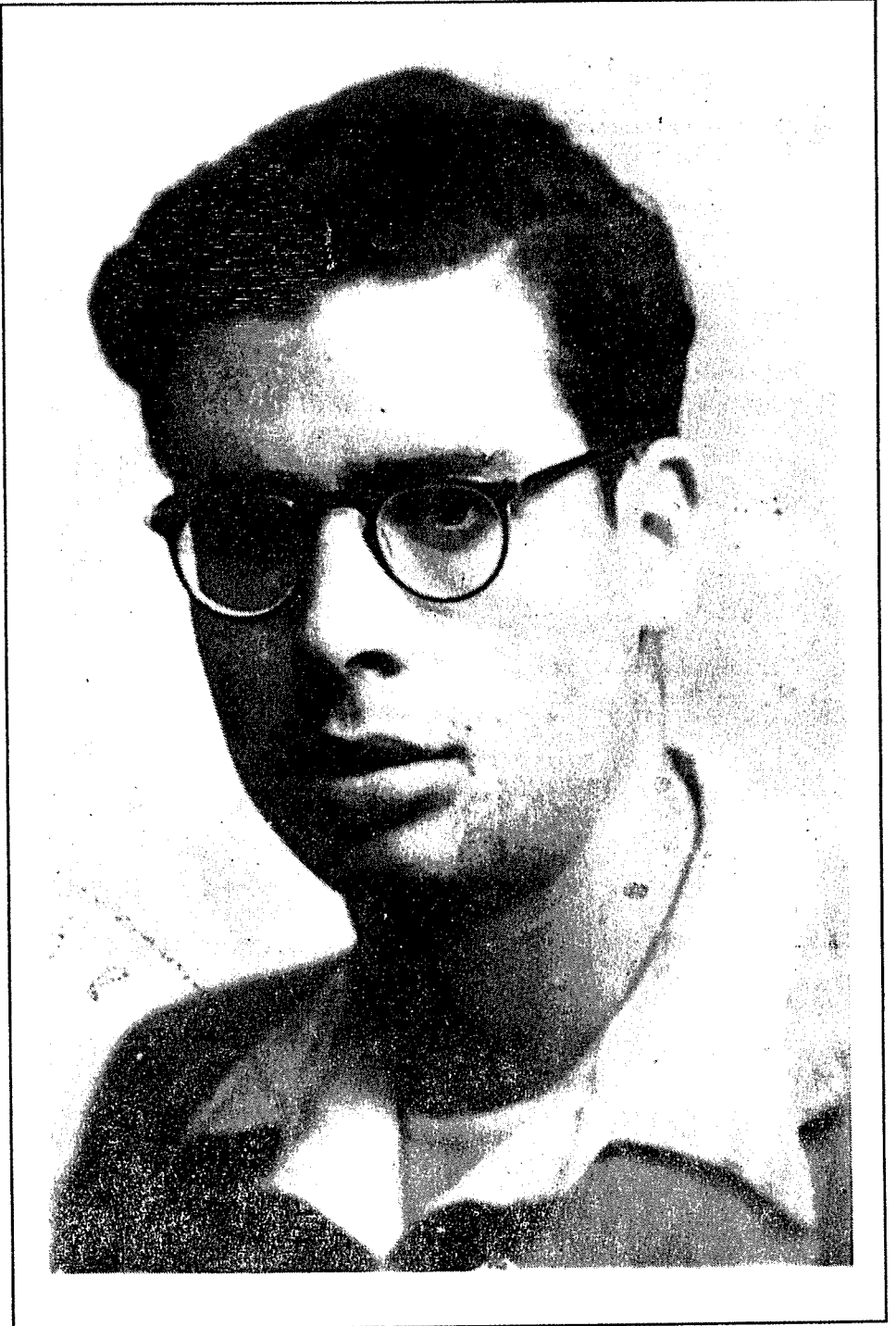


*Facsimile of the cover of the Spanish edition published by Virus, October '91*

# **RAUL CARBALLEIRA LACUNZA**

**1917-1948**

Raul Carballeira Lacunza was born on the 28th February 1917 in the City of Juarez Buenos Aires province (The Argentine). Drawn by the revolutionary struggle in Spain he arrived as a stowaway in Barcelona at the end of 1937. Despite being a convinced anti-militarist, in April 1938 he joined the 26th Division,. Exiled in France, after passing through French concentration camps, he became a member of the First National Committee of the FIJL in France, whose founding congress took place in Toulouse 1945. In 1946, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, he lost his life at Montjuich, in a police ambush. He was 31.



# **JAIME PARES ADAN** **"El Abisinio"**

**1910-1946**

Jaime Pares Adan ("The Abyssinian") was born in 1910. From his youth he belonged to the Confederal Organisation (the CNT) and by 1926 he already formed part of the defence groups. During the civil war he fought in the Durruti Column and later was a bodyguard for Eugenio Vallejo Isla, a member of the Secretariat for Armaments in Catalonia. Exiled in France, he fought against the Nazis until the liberation. Subsequently he joined the anti-Francoist struggle in Spain, together with Francisco Sabate ("el Quico"). On the 9th May he was shot down while entering his house in Barcelona. The police were waiting for him.

He was 36.



# ENRIQUE MARTINEZ MARIN "Quique"

**1927-1949**

Enrique Martinez Marin ("Quique") was born in Barcelona on the 14th April 1927.

He belonged to the Young Libertarians of Carmelo and was the delegate for this neighbourhood to the Local Federation (of the FIJL). He was arrested on the 8th August 1947 but was released on the 25th March 1948. He died on the 26th August in a Guardia Civil ambush on the French frontier. He was buried in the cemetery of Espolla (Gerona). He was 22.

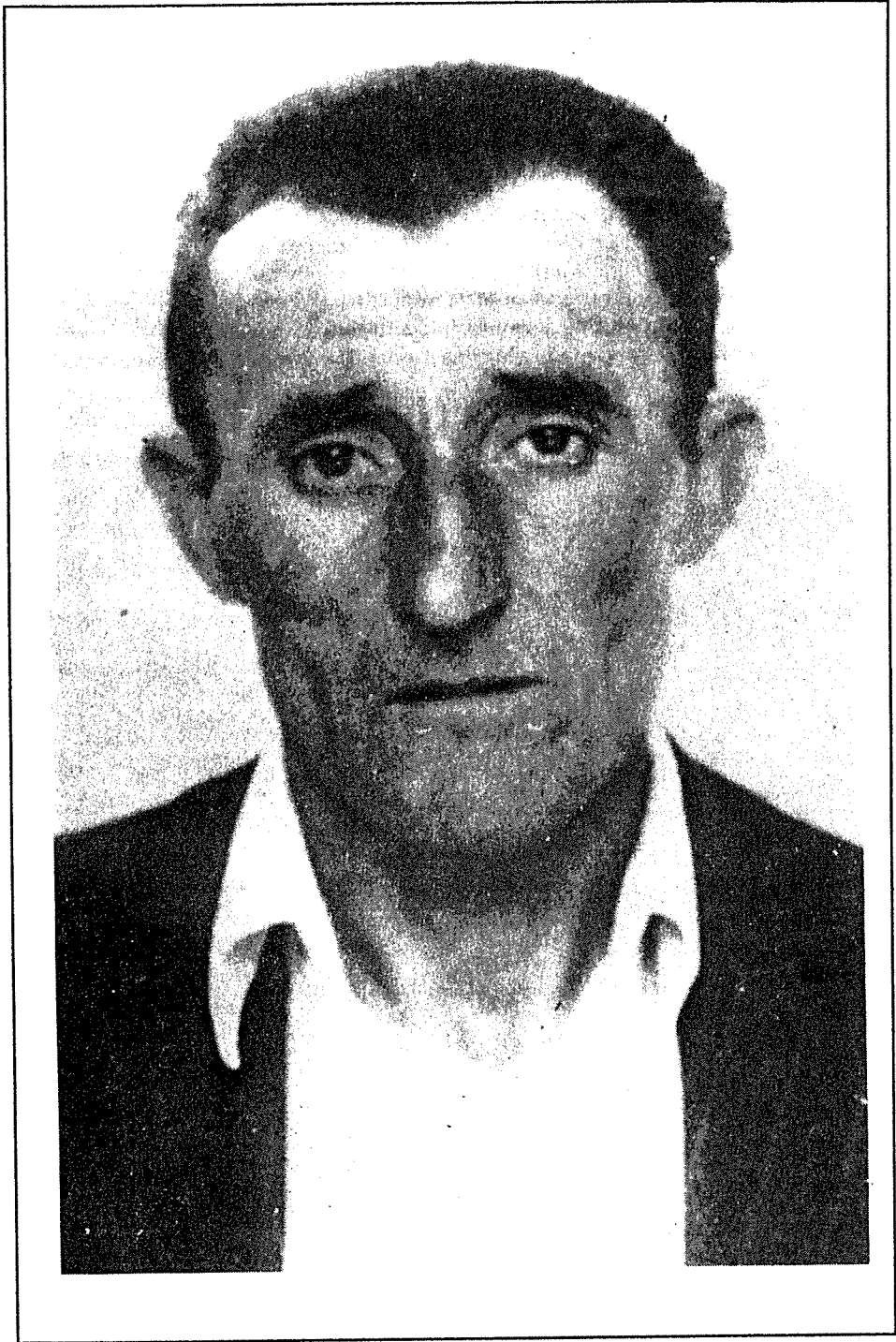




# FRANCISCO DENIS DIEZ "Catala"

**1898 - 1949**

Francisco Denis Diez ("Catala") was born in Leon in 1898. During the civil war he was a commissar for his battalion, the 121st mixed brigade. An accomplished guide, from 1943 he undertook between France and Spain, courier missions for the Libertarian Movement, without ever suffering the slightest mishap. After innumerable such journeys he crossed into Spain on the 19th May 1949, He was arrested close to Gironella while on his way to Manresa. On the 3rd June 1949 in order to avoid being tortured during questioning, he took a cyanide capsule he had hidden in a button on his clothes. He was older than many partisans being then 51.



# JOSE LOPEZ PENEDO

## **1915-1950**

Jose Lopez Penedo was born in Paredes de la Ciudad, in Orense province, on the 13th July 1915. On the 9th March 1949 he was surrounded by the police at 40 calle General Sanjurjo, in Terrasa, where he was spending the night. In the shoot-out with the law officers, who suffered losses, he was hit by a bullet which went through his lung. He was arrested. Tried on the 26th November by a Military Court he was condemned to death. He was shot in Barcelona on the 4th February 1950. He left a wife and two daughters. He was 34



# WENCESLAO JIMENEZ ORIVE "Wences"

**1922-1950**

Wenceslao Jimenez Orive ("Wences") was born in Gijon (Asturias) on the 28th January 1922. He was the oldest of four brothers.

His father was a railway worker, ticket collector and a CNT activist. At the beginning of August, while he was working on the Zaragoza-Canfranc line, he was arrested on the train in the town of Jaca, and later shot with two other anti-fascists on the outskirts

"Wences" started as an activist in the Young Socialists, but when he met Ignacio Zubizarreta Aspas he became interested in anarchist ideas. In 1946 he was arrested and brutally tortured. After three months he was released on bail and then he joined Jose Lluís Facerias's guerilla group. In 1949 "Wences" formed his own action group with his childhood friends from Zaragoza. After undertaking various actions in Barcelona, the whole group moved to Madrid in order to organise an attempt on the life of Franco. When they were on the point of carrying it out, unforeseen problems cropped up and they had to abandon the idea for the time being. The group went to France. Meanwhile, in Spain, a huge number of other activists were being shot down in the streets of Barcelona, among whom were close friends of "Wences". The group of 'Los manos' left for Barcelona in December 1949 with the intention of investigating what had happened. However, traitors had penetrated his group as well. On the 9th January 1950 "Wences" was shot down in the street without any warning, Seriously injured, he had just enough strength left to take the cyanide capsule, which he always carried with him, so as not to fall into the hands of the police alive. He was 28.



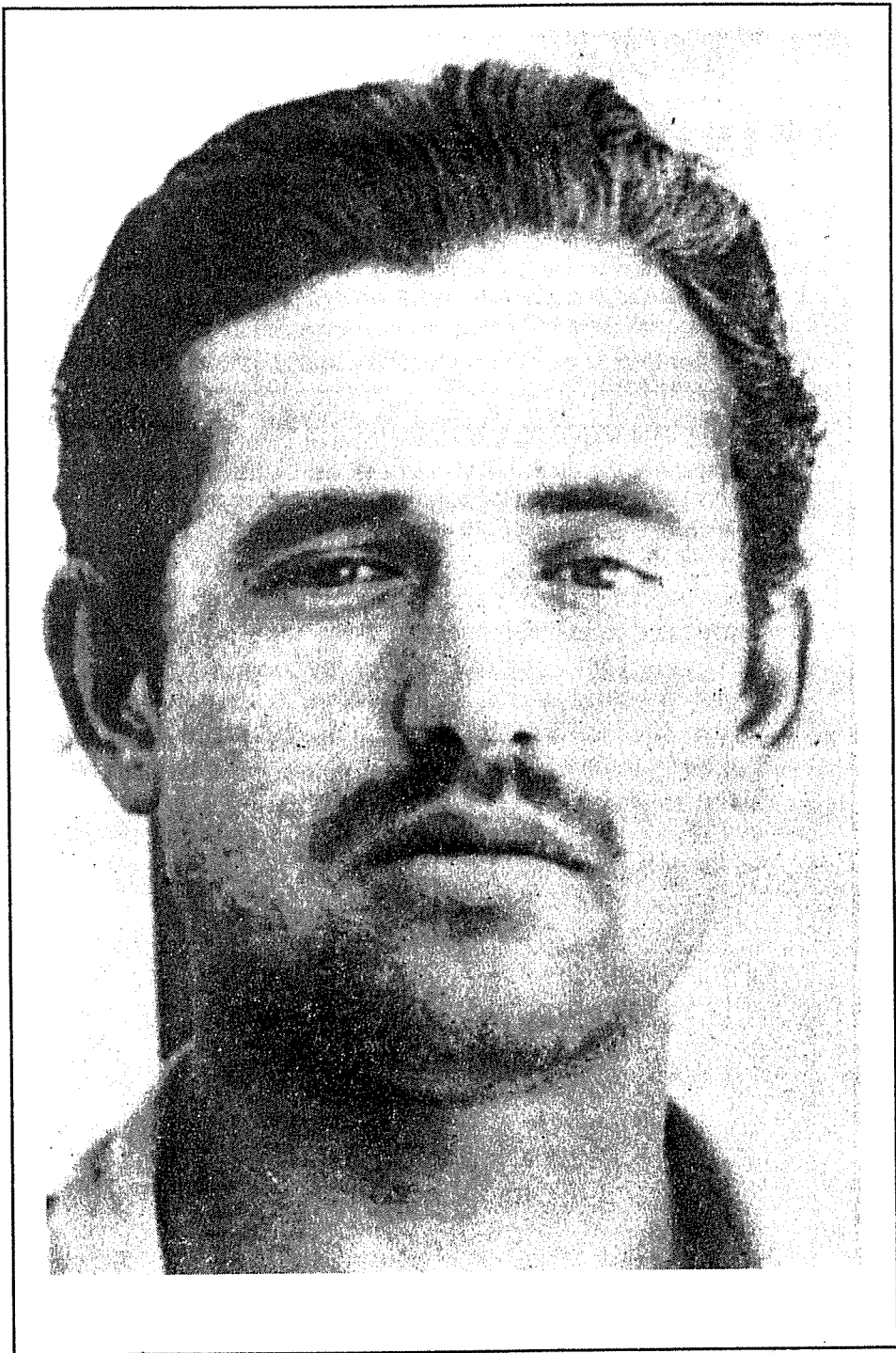
# MANUEL SABATE LLOPART

**1927-1949**

Manuel Sabate Llopart was born in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat in 1927. In 1946 he crossed into France to reunite with his brothers Jose and Francisco ("el Quico"), but they never wanted their youngest brother to go on their risky actions against the Francoist regime. In September 1949, making the most of the fact that "el Quico" was in a French jail, and Jose, his eldest brother, with an action group in Spain, he joined the group led by Ramon Villa Capdevila ("Caraquemada") This group fell into an ambush and had to separate. Manolo was captured.

In a summary military trial he was condemned to death and shot in the Campo de la Bota on the 24th February 1950. The execution of Manolo was pure murder. They killed him because his name was Sabate. and to avenge themselves for the activities of his two brothers. He was 23.





# JOSE SABATE LLOPART

**1910-1949**

Jose Sabate Llopart was born in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat in 1910. After the crushing of the Francoist-military uprising in his neighbourhood and in Barcelona, he went off to the Aragon front with the Young Eagles column, which was organised by Juan Garcia Oliver. He fought in different units until the end of the war, where he was stranded in the central zone. He was taken prisoner in Alicante. He was released on bail in 1948 and crossed into France so as to fight at the side of his brother "El Quico", and the two of them became the nightmare of the forces of repression in Catalonia.

On the 17th October 1949 the police were waiting for him at a rendezvous in calle Trafalgar. He had been betrayed. It wasn't the first time that he had fallen into a trap, but this time there was no way out. In a rapid escape he killed a policeman, but was seriously injured and was caught. When they were taking him to the Municipal Hospital in calle Sepulveda, Jose Sabate died. He was 39.



# **RAMON GONZALEZ SANMARTI** **“El Nano”**

**1920-1949**

Ramon Gonzalez Sanmarti (“el Nano”) was born in Granollera (Barcelona) on the 26th May 1920. During the civil war, he fought in the “Red and Black column” and in the 26th Division (“Durruti column”). At the outbreak of the Second World War he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion, but had to be “repatriated”, being discharged in Morocco due to bad health. In 1946 he joined the libertarian action groups which were fighting in Spain against the Francoist regime. On the 13th June 1948 in a shoot-out with the police he fell dead with a bullet in his forehead on the corner of calle Tallers and Valdoncella. He was 28.



# JOSE LLUIS FACERIAS "Face"

**1920-1957**

Jose Lluís Facerías was born in Barcelona on the 6th January 1920. When the military revolt took place in July 1936, "Face" was already affiliated to the National Confederation of Labour (CNT) and to the Libertarian Youth. He fought on the Aragon front throughout the war in the Ascaso column (28th Division) and in other units. In the last battles in Catalonia he was taken prisoner and "Face" was in various concentration camps and work gangs. When he was released at the end of 1945 he joined, in Barcelona, the industrial network of the Graphic Arts of the clandestine CNT (an underground union) although in fact he was working as a waiter.

In April 1946 "Face" was nominated for the post of Defence Secretary of the Regional Committee of Catalonia and the Balearics of the Federation of Libertarian Youth of Iberia (FIJL).

On 17th August 1946 "Face" was arrested with almost all of the members of the Regional Committee along with other CNT activists: a total of 39 comrades ended up in jail. He came out of prison in July 1947.

Meanwhile the Libertarian Resistance Movement (MLR) had been created which was intended to be the armed wing of Spanish anarcho-syndicalism. "Face" joined this organisation but it had only an ephemeral life and was dissolved in February 1948. "Face" continued the armed struggle against Francoism until his dying breath. On Friday 30th August 1957 at 10.45 a.m, "Face" had a rendezvous in the Sant Andreu district. The person whom he was going to meet sent Franco's gunmen to it, and Jose Lluís Facerías was riddled with bullets without being able to make the slightest move in his defence. He was 37.



# FRANCISCO SABATE LLOPART "El Quico"

## 1915-1960

Francisco Sabate Llopart ("El Quico") was born in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat on the 30th March 1910. Two of his brothers also died in combat against Franco: Jose, 28, and Manuel, 23.

Francisco, at 17, already belonged to an action group "Los Novatos" ("The Apprentices") of the Iberian Anarchist Federation (FAI). His group participated in the insurreccional movement of the 8th December 1933 and helped to put down the military rebellion in July 1936. In 1935 he refused military service and from that moment began his life of underground struggle outside the law. "El Quico" went off to the Aragon front with the "Young Eagles Column". When the war ended he was in the 216th Division ("Durruti Column") that crossed the French border. He spent time in French concentration camps and fought in the resistance against the Nazis. In 1945, Sabate renewed the struggle in Spain against the fascist regime. This struggle against tyranny lasted fifteen years and can be summed up in a few words: "El Quico" became Public Enemy No. 1 and was a permanent nightmare of the authorities.

On 30th December 1959 he crossed the French-Spanish border for the last time, and on the 5th January 1960 was killed in Sant Celoni by the Somaten (a Catalan fascist variety of Home Guard) and the Civil Guard, after a series of slip-ups which seem more like a Hollywood movie than real life. Four of his companions who accompanied him on this trip all perished in the undertaking. They were Antonio Miracle Guitart, 29; Rogelio Madrigal Torres, 27; Francisco Conesa Alcaraz, 39; and Martin Ruiz Montoya, 20. "El Quico" was 45.





# **RAMON VILA CAPDEVILA "Caraquemada" (Burntface)**

**1918-1963**

Ramon Vila Capdevila ("Caraquemada") was born in Peguera, near Berga, on the 2nd April 1918. From an early age he was a member of the CNT. He participated in the Figola uprising (1932). In April 1936 he was arrested in Castellon de la Plana after an intense shoot-out with the police in which his cousin Ramon Rives Capdevila and a policeman died and another was wounded. Ramon got out of prison on the 18th July 1936 when the military uprising against the Republic took place.

When Catalonia fell he went to France and was interned. In 1940 he escaped from the concentration camp at Argeles-sur-Mer in order to organise, with other companions, mobile armed action groups against Francoism. He fought in the maquis against the Nazis, and after the liberation of France renewed the struggle in Spain, specialising in acts of sabotage against the Francoist economy.

His last action was undertaken in August 1963 against electricity pylons, and on 7th of August, two members of the Guardia Civil, who were laying an ambush, fired on Ramon at 1 o'clock in the morning, close to the Balsereny Castle, a judicial area of Manresa. The last guerrilla did not die at once. His murderers let him bleed to death without giving him the slightest help. He lay in agony throughout the night. He was 45.



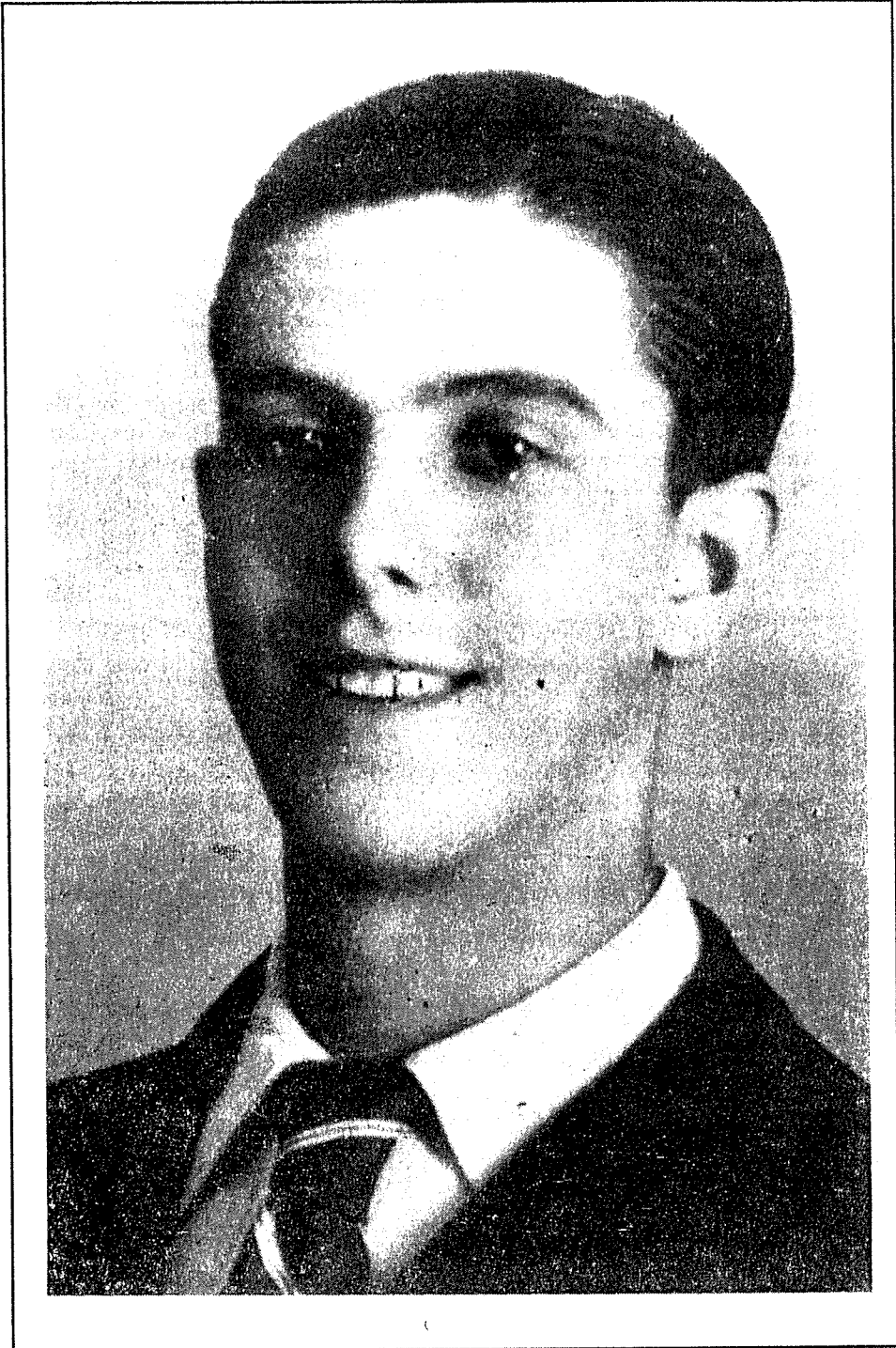
# JOSE PEREZ MONTES "Pepin"

**1915-1947**

Jose Perez Montes ("Pepin") was born in Santander on the 2nd October 1915. From his youth he frequented the Santander Workers Centre. He was an excellent orator and a fearsome debater, a born agitator and was outstanding during the days leading up to the insurreccional movement of the 16th October 1934.

In 1936 he left for the front with the first confederal column. Afterwards he was a member of the Libertarian Youth Committee of Santander. In 1937 he joined a combat unit again. The demands of the Organisation took him yet again to the rear where he was a member first of the Local Federation, then of the Regional Committee and finally of the International Committee (Euzkadi-Asturias) of the FIJL.

In exile he was in French concentration camps. Afterwards, he had various responsibilities, amongst which was being a member of the Committee of Relations of the FAI (1945). In 1946 he joined the clandestine organisation in Spain and was a member of the Peninsular Committee of the FAI which had its base in Valencia. In October 1947, while en route to France on a mission for the Organisation; he disappeared at the frontier. Some days later he was found drowned close to the mouth of the Bidasoa. He had been robbed and they had left only the rubber seal of the Peninsular Committee of the FAI in his pocket. He was 32.



# **DIEGO FRANCO CAZORLA** **“Amador Franco”**

## **1920-1947**

Diego Franco Cazorla (“Amador Franco”) was born in Barcelona on the 14th April 1920 and at 13 joined the Libertarian Youth of Terrassa, a neighbourhood of L’Hospitalet del, Llobregat. At 16 he was fighting in the Red and Black Column. In 1937 he was the Propaganda Secretary of the Libertarian Youth of Catalonia. After the military defeat and being forced to go through the French concentration camps, and once France was liberated, he made various trips to Spain in order to contribute to the resurgence of the Peninsular Libertarian Movement,.

In 1947 he was arrested in Irun, and later condemned to death by a Military Tribunal. He was shot in a Basque prison in Ondarreta on the 2nd May 1947. He was 27.



# CELEDONIO GARCIA CASINO "Celes"

**1922-1949**

Celedonio Garcia Casino ("Celes") was born in Barcelona on the 25th December 1922. When not yet 17 he was arrested on the 24th June 1939, and accused of being associated with a Young Libertarian group, having illegal propaganda and possession of guns. He was paroled on 23rd November 1945 and immediately joined the Young Libertarians of Gracias, and afterwards the Young Libertarians of Carmelo., He attended some of the sessions of the second congress of the Federation of Young Libertarians of Iberia (FIJL) which took place in Toulouse in March 1946. He belonged to the Libertarian Resistance Movement (MLR), an organisation of armed struggle against the Francoists which had a short life. In 1947 he attended the second congress of the Libertarian Movement in Exile, which was also held in Toulouse.

He died on the 26th August 1949 in a Guardia Civil ambush on the French frontier, He was buried in the cemetery of Espolla (Gerona). He was 27.





# CESAR SABORIT CARRALERO

**1915-1951**

Cesar Saborit Carralero was born in San Martin (Sagrera) on the 10th February 1915. From a lad he joined the Libertarian Youth. In July 1936 he took part in the street fighting in Barcelona against the fascists-military and afterwards left for the front with the Durruti Column. When the war finished he was arrested and put in prison. As soon as he was released he joined the clandestine struggle. In 1949 he was Secretary for the Building Syndicate and later was a member of the Catalonia Regional Committee of the CNT. He frequently worked with the libertarian action groups. Around mid-day on the 19th July 1931 he was murdered by the police, on the Santa Coloma-Meridiana trolley-bus, opposite No.145 of calle San Andres. When he died, his wife Magdalena Roig and his son Cesar, born in 1942, were in France. He was 36.



# FRANCISCO MARTINEZ MARQUEZ "Paco"

**1922 - 1949**

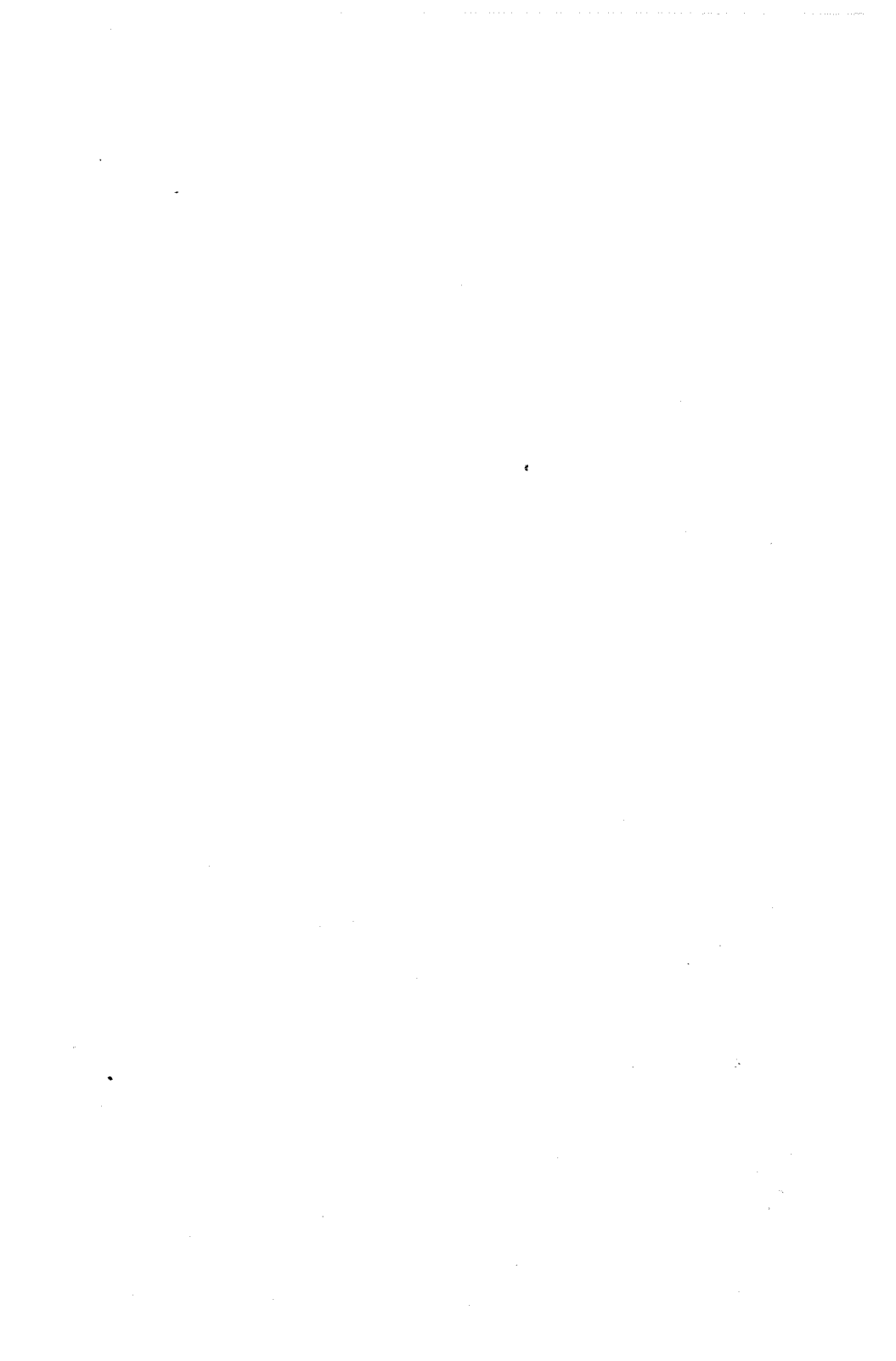
Francisco Martinez Marquez ("Paco") was a member in March 1946 of the National Committee of the Iberian Federation of Libertarian Youth (FIJL) in France. In July 1947 he attended as a delegate of the organisation in exile, a Regional National Plenum of the FIJL which took place in Madrid.

In 1948 he joined the libertarian movement in Spain. He was delegated to Defence in exile and actively took part in the activities of the anarcho-syndicalist action groups. On the 15th May he participated in the placing of bombs in the Peruvian and Brazilian consulates in Barcelona.

Around 7.20 pm on the 21st October 1949, Paco was shot down on the junction of calles Rosellon and Dos de Mayo, in front of the Damm brewery, in the neighbourhood where he had spent his childhood. He was 27.

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# The background of Antonio Tellez Sola

Antonio Tellez Sola, author of several books about the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist struggle against the Francoist regime, was born in Tarragona on the 18th January 1921. This pamphlet is based on his research.

His first real contact with social struggles was during the revolution of the Asturian miners in October 1934. He was living with his family in Soto de Rey, near Oviedo, where his father had taken up work on the railway. Having lived this experience of libertarian communism, it left an indelible impression on him. In the Asturian Commune the communards abolished money, organised free distribution of goods and supplies, and burned property records etc. during the bloody combat against the forces of the government in Madrid.

When the military uprising took pace in 18th July 1936, Antonio Tellez was living in Catalonia, in the city of Lleida, where the strength of the people defeated the military.

It was then that he joined the ranks of the Libertarian Youth. He lived through the horrors of the civil war and the successive evacuations of the cities of Lleida, Tarragona and Barcelona. When the last battles of the war were taking place, and the republic defeated, he went to France on 19th February and was interned for a year in the concentration camp of Septfonds (Tarn and Garona).

In February 1940 he was hired to work on the construction of a cement factory in Lanomezan (High Pyrenees). When France signed the armistice in September he took refuge in Cantaus-Touzaguet, a small village in the same area, where he worked for a farmer, in order to escape from another internment. After two months he was arrested by gendarmes for not having his papers in order, and was taken to the concentration camp of Argeles-sur-Mer (Eastern Pyrenees). Five months later he enrolled in the 121st Company of Foreign Workers (militarised) and was sent to work in Mende (Lozere).

Due to his rebelliousness he was punished by the commander of the company and sent to work in an antimony mine in Collet de Deze, in the same area. Six weeks later, the directors of the mine reported him to the Germans for being "undisciplined" and they took him off to work on

the Mediterranean coastal fortifications in Agde. After a couple of months, together with a friend, he sabotaged the Perpignan-Beziers railway line and disappeared.

He ended up in Saint Afrique (Aveyron) where he worked as an auxiliary in a hospital for Soviet wounded. Once more he decided to escape when he received official notice to go and work in Germany. He first found refuge working on the construction of a military camp in La Cavalerie, in the same area from which he had to escape when it was discovered, through arrests, of his participation in the escape of Soviet prisoners working there, who then joined the maquis. This time, tired of so many escapes, he joined a Spanish guerrilla group from Decazeville (Aveyron) and fought with them in the liberation of south-east France (9th Brigade of the French Interior Forces).

On the 15th October 1944 he crossed the Spanish frontier as part of the vanguard of the operation "Reconquest of Spain" organised by the communists, which had as its objective the creation of a bridgehead in the Vall d'Aran. The invasion failed, after the battle of Salardu, and he returned to France to reside in Toulouse (Alto Gerona), where all the Spanish anti-fascist organisations had their principal committees, amongst which were those of the CNT-AIT-FIJL.

He was given the mission of gathering together the arms dispersed throughout France left over from the world war, which would be later used for many years by anarchist groups in their struggle against the Francoist regime. He also undertook courier missions between France and Spain, and formed part of the Second National Committee of the FIJL, which was set up after the war, from which he resigned in April 1946 to return to Spain.

The object of his return was to try to make contact with the guerrilla groups who were fighting in the mountains of Spain, abandoned by everybody. Tellez then undertook as far as possible to spread the word about their desperate fight, totally ignored on the other side of the Pyrenees. After covering the whole of Spain, he returned to Toulouse at the end of three months.

In those days in Toulouse he became friends with Francisco Sabate Llopart, Jose Lluís Facerias, Ramon Gonzalez Sanmarti, Raul Carballeira Lacunza, Diego Franco Cazorla (Amador Franco), Jaime Pares Adan (El Abisinio), Julio Rodriguez Fernandez (El Cubano), Ignacio Zubizarreta Aspas and dozens of activists who lost their lives in the anti-Francoist struggle and whose lives he later records in his books

At the end of 1946 he left Toulouse for Paris, where he worked on



the tasks of organisation and, collaborating with publications like CNT, Solidaridad Obrera, Ruta and Atalaya, especially as an illustrator. A struggle between factions devoured the movement in exile, with fatal consequences. Disillusioned with the scene, he left active work to devote himself to writing about the struggle: Sabate: Urban Guerrilla has been published in English; Facerias has been translated but is as yet unpublished; he has also written on The Guerrillas in Galicia yet to be translated, as well as Ponzan and Ramiro.

In June 1978, from being 'stateless' he officially regained his nationality and went to Spain for the first time on a Spanish passport. Antonio Tellez worked for Agence France Presse (AFP) for 26 years, until he retired in 1986.



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