

# 78th anniversary of the Battle of Jarama

It is that time of the year again when we commemorate the brave volunteers at Jarama, where thousands of Spanish and International AntiFascist defended the freedom of Spain and the rest of the world. In previous editions of the Memorial March to Jarama we have remembered the volunteers from the XI International Brigade (2011), the XII IB (2014), the XIV IB (2013) and the XV IB (2012) and we followed specific itineraries related to each of these Brigades.

This year we will follow a route that links the places where both the XI and the XV saw action. This will allow us to understand better the joint fight that these units undertook against the Fascist columns, and to value their contribution to the fight of the Spanish people. As in previous years, we will have numerous friends attending the March from Ireland and Great Britain, as well as comrades from Germany, France, Italy and other countries. We are very thankful to each and all of them for contributing to keep the memory and the legacy of the International Brigades alive.

Today this Battle, and the Fight against Fascism that took place 78 years ago stands as an example to workers throughout the world that it is our duty to understand, value and imitate. Today, like yesterday, workers are threatened by the same enemies: those capitalists who own vast riches and impose the tyranny of their interests and those of the market upon the working class. The economic crisis, created and provoked by them, has been the perfect excuse to impose draconian measures which specially affect young workers, women and unemployed older citizens. There is no option but to react against this to stop this offensive through group mobilisation and the joint effort of popular organizations.

The Spanish Popular Front, despite its shortcomings, was a tool that allowed the workers to face up to Capitalism and Fascism in those years. The 35,000 young volunteers who came to Spain showed the path of unity in the struggle of workers across the world.

Today we need to gather the same unity of the workers at a national and international level. May this Memorial March, which gathers together so many friends of the Volunteers for Liberty, serve as a symbol and beacon of hope to reach the necessary unity.

## Programme

### **Friday 20 February. Homage in Tarancón to the Scottish volunteers.**

**10:45** Bus leaves from Hotel Agumar (Paseo de la Reina Cristina, 7) for Tarancón.

**12:00** Ceremony to honour the Scottish and other volunteers buried in Tarancón, held at the local Cemetery.

**19:00** Presentation of the 8th Memorial March to Jarama, and Award Ceremony for the Third Annual Essay Competition for second level Students in Ireland about the International Brigades, held at the Ateneo cultural institution (Calle Prado, 21).

### **Saturday 21 February. Jarama Memorial March**

**8:45** Buses depart from Hotel Agumar (Paseo de la Reina Cristina, 7) for the starting point of the Memorial March in Jarama Valley.

**9:30** Memorial March begins at the car park in Restaurante El Alto (Km. 5 of road M-311, road from Arganda bridge to Chinchón)

**13:00** Ceremony of homage to the AntiFascist volunteers who fought at the Battle of Jarama. Held at km. 5 of road M-302, road from San Martín de la Vega bridge to Morata de Tajuña.

**14:30** Fraternity meal at Mesón El Cid, in Morata de Tajuña.

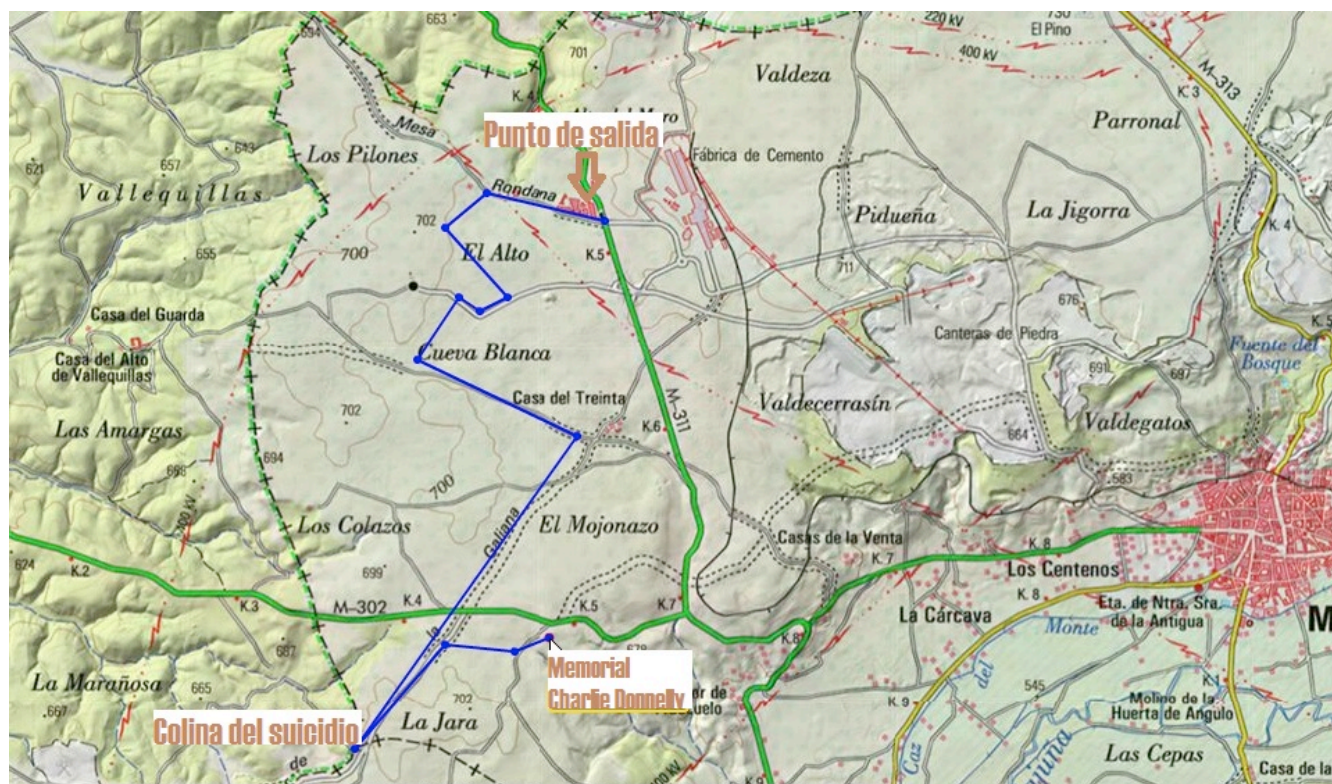
**18:00** Return to Hotel Agumar.

## Sunday 22 February. Homage to the International Brigades in the University City in Madrid

**11:00** Memorial walk from Moncloa to the Monument to the International Brigades in the University City.

**12:30** Ceremony of homage to the International Brigades at the Monument

### Itinerary of the 8th Memorial March to Jarama



This year our Memorial March to Jarama will cover the grounds from where the XI IB (Edgar André, Thälmann and Commune de Paris Battalions) fought to the area defended by the XV IB (Dimitrov, Six Février, British and Lincoln Battalions).

The third offensive attempt by Franco's Army to take Madrid (after having failed in the 3 previous months) started on February 6, 1937 with an advance along the course of the Jarama river. On the 11th and 12th February the 3 columns led by Barrón, Sáenz de Buruaga and Asensio Cabanillas crossed the river and tried to advance on Arganda and Morata. Throughout these days, and the crucial days after, the advance was stopped by the courage of thousands of young fighters who faced the Fascists along the Valley of Jarama and its adjoining hills, from Arganda to Titulcia.

Amongst the thousands of Spanish and International AntiFascist fighters, this year we have chosen to highlight the International volunteers from the XI and XV Brigades, which comprised of French, German, Austrian, Scandinavian, Belgian, Italian, Eastern European, British, Irish, North American, Spanish and volunteers from other nations.

We will be guided by David Lorient, who will explain the general development of the Battle and the specific details of the combats that took place in each stop along our March.

The International Brigades Musical Group will sing 3 songs: at the start of the March, they will perform the XI Brigade theme, Thälmann Column (in German and Spanish); at the stopping point next to Suicide Hill, we will hear them sing Jarama Valley (in English and Spanish) and at the end of the March they will sing the International Brigades Anthem (in German and Spanish). This is the second time the Group is performing and we hope that they succeed in gaining new members.

This year's edition of the March will not conclude, as in previous editions, next to the Monument to the International Brigades by Chirino. Instead, we will end at the small memorial to Charlie Donnelly, located at the beginning of the path to Valgrande. We will arrive there around 12:30 and at 13:00 will commence the closing act

of the March, which will last half an hour. We will be placing a plaque dedicated to this Irish poet in the Lincoln Battalion who, together with 125 comrades, gave his life defending Freedom in the attack of February 27, 1937.

After this ceremony, the buses will drive those people who have reserved a place at the Mesón El Cid, where we will hold our Fraternity Meal. After lunch, there will be a number of musical performances and the intervention of our comrades from different organizations. There will be an opportunity to visit the Museum of the Battle of Jarama.

At 18:00, the buses will collect everybody and will drive us back to Hotel Agumar in Madrid.

## Attending the 8th Memorial March to Jarama

Please note that **attendance is FREE and open to everybody** who wants to join. You are welcome to join us with your private vehicle at the Restaurant El Alto or book a place in the buses that AABI is fleet. All you have to pay is your transportation and lunch (15 euros each).

### Buses and Lunch

Buses will depart **Hotel Agumar** (Paseo de María Cristina, 13. Metro stop Atocha Renfe) at **8:50 am** and will be leaving Mesón El Cid at 18:00, arriving back at Hotel Agumar at around 18:30.

Booking a seat on the bus costs **15 euros**, which you can pay to one of our volunteers on the bus.

Lunch costs **15 euros** at Mesón El Cid, although you can bring your own packed lunch and eat elsewhere if you wish.

People attending the March in their own vehicles can book lunch through AABI.

Please note that to book a seat on the bus and/or a place at Mesón El Cid, it is **essential** to put your name down in the list by writing to us at [marchajarama2015@gmail.com](mailto:marchajarama2015@gmail.com), specifying the number of people interested in booking either a seat on the bus or Lunch, or both.

Please note the deadline to register is **Tuesday 17 February**. We ask you to please notify in case of cancellation as soon as possible. Take into account that this event gathers a few hundred people and organization is crucial.

## Attending the Homage to the Scottish Brigaders in Tarancón

You are cordially invited to join us in the Homage to the International Brigades in Tarancón. AABI will fleet a bus.

### Friday 20 February. Homage in Tarancón to the Scottish volunteers.

**10:45** Bus leaves from Hotel Agumar (Paseo de la Reina Cristina, 7) for Tarancón.

**12:00** Ceremony to honour the Scottish and other volunteers buried in Tarancón, held at the local Cemetery.

**14:00** Tapas lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to Madrid.

**16:00-16:30** Back in Madrid at Hotel Agumar.

Please note that **attendance is FREE and open to everybody** who wants to join. All you have to pay is your transportation (between 15 and 20 euros, depending on number of people attending, and payable upon boarding the bus) and your tapas lunch at the restaurant in Tarancón.

Please note that to book a seat on the bus it is **essential** to put your name down in the list by writing to us at [marchajarama2015@gmail.com](mailto:marchajarama2015@gmail.com)