



# Madrid 1937: Letters of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade From the Spanish Civil War

By Cary Nelson, Jefferson Hendricks

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**Madrid 1937: Letters of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade From the Spanish Civil War** By Cary Nelson, Jefferson Hendricks **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2281611 in Books
- Published on: 1996-03-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x 1.31" w x 5.98" l, 2.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 624 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### From Library Journal

The Spanish Civil War (1936-39) was a bloody dress rehearsal for World War II, but few Americans realized it at the time. Over 2800 Americans volunteered to fight for Spain's democratically elected government against the Fascists, who were supported by German and Italian troops, planes, and tanks. The Americans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade came from all social classes and occupations. Few had any military skills and training, but all possessed a desire to fight the rising tide of Fascism. The editors, both college professors, have collected hundreds of letters from the American veterans and their families. Organized chronologically by subject, these letters reveal the American volunteers to be idealistic about politics and naive about war. Covering training, battles, and hardships, the letters reveal the volunteers' patriotic fervor, hope, fatigue, despair, and friendships, as well as the numbing fear of artillery and air attack and the chilling terror of close combat. Historically concise and humanly real, this book is a superb companion to Peter Wyden's *The Passionate War* (1983). For the general reader and history buff.

*Col. William D. Bushnell, USMC (ret.), Brunswick, Me.*

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#### Review

""Madrid 1937 is a crowning achievement. Not only are the letters living documents, palimpsests of flesh and blood and spirit, they are tender and wild flowers awakening our sense to the past and also to the present."

- "The Nation, 11/4/96

"The Lincoln Brigade was the only American Fighting force in this century made up entirely of volunteers... These letters from survivors and non-survivors reveal the fears and frustrations and hardships, the surprises, the ironies and the heroics, of any military front... What makes these letters special is that they were all written by men and women who had freely chosen to risk their lives in a cause they believed was worth it."

-Ring Lardner, Jr.

"These letters are the real thing: heroism and idealism from the folks who volunteered to fight Hitler and Mussolini before it was popular to do so."

-Pete Seeger

"The[se] letters are poignant, powerful, unforgettable."

-Howard Zinn

"We usually talk about war from the standpoint of Generals, but as these letters written from the field by Lincoln Brigade members show, the words of ordinary people who were actually involved are much more meaningful--both emotionally and historically."

-Stephen Jay Gould

#### From the Back Cover

These letters will lift your spirit and break your heart. They will take you back to a time when 2,800 Americans took up arms and confronted Hitler's Condor Legion, Mussolini's Black Shirts, and Franco's fascist cavalry on the battlefields of Spain. Here are the actual letters that Abraham Lincoln Brigade members wrote home from 1936 to 1939. Here are accounts of their combat experiences, the love letters they wrote under fire, tales of the friendships they formed among themselves and with their Spanish comrades, and their reports of history's first saturation bombing of civilian targets in Madrid and Barcelona. It was the eve of World War II, and these men and women saw clearly the danger the world was facing. Now, both those who died and those who lived tell us their stories for the first time.

## Users Review

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#### **Elvira Eberhardt:**

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#### **Michael Stricklin:**

Why? Because this Madrid 1937: Letters of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade From the Spanish Civil War is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

#### **Curtis Hernandez:**

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