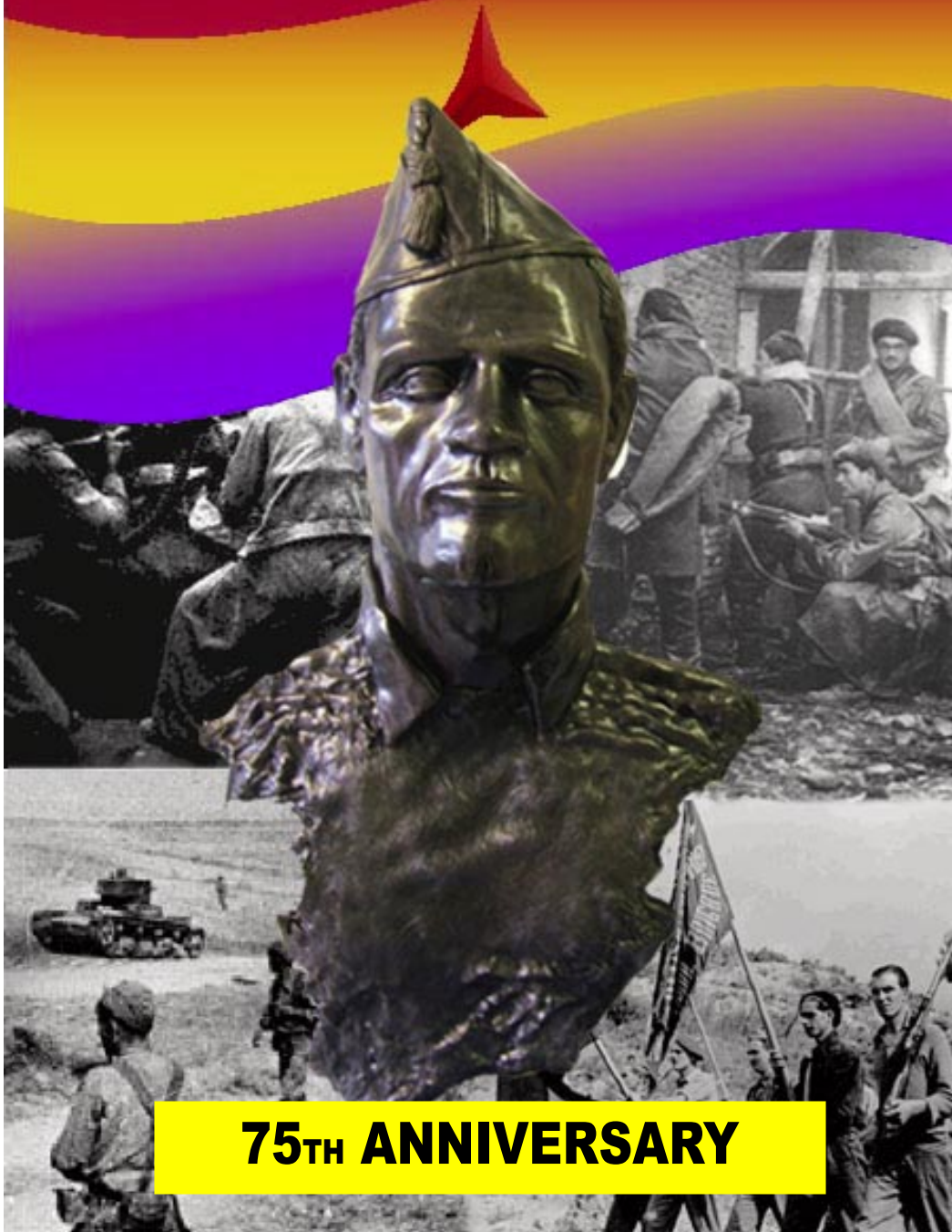


**INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE**  
**SPANISH CIVIL WAR 1936–1939**



**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



## **Clarion Cyclists-Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the International Brigade and the fight against Fascism**

***Belfast: Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September***

There are historical reasons why the Clarion cyclists of 2011 should visit the Memorial to the Brigadiers in Belfast. One of them is that Fred McMahon, one of the first local men to volunteer for Spain is recorded as being a member:

“There was the Clarion Cycling Club. I was a member. We used to go to meetings in country towns. It wasn't just a cycling club, it was also a socialist propaganda organisation as well. We had about 20-30 members and 90% of them socialists..”

McMahon talked of going to meetings in Dromore but one he missed, because he was a Prisoner of War in Spain, was the meeting on November 4th 1936 organised by the Clarion Cycling Club (Belfast Section). The local paper reported that the Town Hall was packed to hear Bob Fairleigh, a local activist call on the audience to assist the Spanish people in their fight to defend democracy.

Join us and bring your bike as we welcome the Clarion Cyclists who are coming from Scotland, through Ireland, and going onto Wales & England. The Clarion cyclists will be coming through Belfast on their way to the International Brigade Memorial Trust A.G.M. and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street in London on the 2nd of October. Join them at any stage of their cycle ride.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>:** Meet them off the ferry in Larne, at approximately 12.30pm as they cycle to Belfast, or join them at IBCC Memorial, Writers' Square, Lower Donegall St. at 5.30pm as they cycle to meet the Lord Mayor of Belfast as he formally welcomes them to the City at 6.00pm at Belfast City Hall. This will be followed by a social event in the Duke of York at 7.30pm, light refreshments.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The Lord Mayor of Belfast will lay a wreath at the International Brigade Memorial, in Writer's Square at 9.30am. The cyclists will depart for Dundalk/Dublin shortly after this event.

The National Clarion Cycling Club was formed in 1895 with the aims of combining the pleasures of cycling with the message of Socialism. Many of the Clarion Cyclists fought in Spain, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in that conflict, their bodies still lie in Spanish soil.



**For further details contact:**

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