

1921

1946

# *Alexander Berkman Aid Fund*

25th ANNIVERSARY

Campaign for Funds for Political Refugees



*Alexander Berkman*

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ALEXANDER BERKMAN AID FUND  
2422 NORTH HALSTED STREET  
CHICAGO 14, ILLINOIS

DEDICATED

To All Fighters

uncompromising in their belief  
that freedom of thought  
of conscience  
is fundamental  
to a more wholesome humanity

# Alexander Berkman

*A Biographical Sketch*

By IRVING S. ABRAMS

Henrick Ibsen in a letter to George Brandes, speaking of Russia, said "Look at the love of liberty she engenders." Out of that country, engendered with a love of liberty, came Alexander Berkman. Born in Kovno, November 18, 1870, he came in contact with the Nihilist movement in his early youth. He remembered his Uncle Maxim who had been sentenced to death in the struggle against the Czar, and he was imbued with the spirit of liberty when he landed upon American soil. In 1888 he was active in the Anarchist movement in New York, and participated in the arrangements for the first Haymarket Memorial meeting.

Handicapped by the lack of knowledge of the English language, he planned to return to Russia, where he felt he would have a better opportunity to carry on propaganda for his ideals. However, a turn of events changed the entire course of his life. In May, 1892, the workers of the Carnegie Steel Co. at Homestead, Pennsylvania went on strike. The Company hired sluggers and with the aid of Pinkerton Detective Agency attempted to break the strike by slaughtering the workers on the picket line.

## TYRANTS MUST DIE

John Most, in his paper had preached the doctrine of "Propaganda der Tat," or action by deed, if necessary to remove a tyrant in the struggle against the capitalists. Berkman was then greatly under the influence of the teachings of John Most, and conceived a plan to eliminate Henry Clay Frick, who was the acting head of the steel mills, in order to focus the spotlight on Andrew Carnegie, who was then posing as a philanthropist and sympathetic to labor.

On July 23, 1892, Alexander Berkman, then in his twenty-first year, went to Homestead and shot Frick, but did not succeed in killing him. He was arrested, convicted in a mock trial, at which he refused to participate, and sentenced to serve twenty-one years in the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania for the assault on Frick; an additional year was imposed in the Alleghany Workhouse for carrying concealed weapons.



He was liberated on May 18, 1906, after serving fourteen years in the Penitentiary and one year in the Alleghany Workhouse. In his book *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist* he gives us a rich descriptive picture of his years of imprisonment.

Upon his release from prison, he joined Emma Goldman in the publication of *Mother Earth*. However, he was very restless and showed the effects of his confinement. His book *Prison Memoirs* was not completed until 1912. After finishing this work, he went on a lecture tour, but could not continue, and the tour was abandoned. During 1914 he worked strenuously in behalf of the Caplan-Schmidt defense; he organized the International Workers Defense League and made a tour in behalf of these comrades and organized local branches of the League in many cities. Later he returned to San Francisco and began publishing *The Blast*.

### **BOMB EXPLODES IN SAN FRANCISCO**

On Saturday, July 22, 1916, a bomb exploded in the Preparedness Parade in San Francisco. This resulted in the arrest of Thomas J. Mooney, Warren K. Billings and others. Berkman devoted all his efforts in their behalf, organizing labor groups for their defense. As a result of his writings and activities, *Blast* was suppressed, its office raided and Berkman returned to New York.

In the meantime the United States had been drawn into World War No. 1 and Berkman, in conjunction with Emma Goldman and others organized the No-conscription League and spoke against the war. On June 15, 1916 he was arrested and charged with Anti-War Efforts and after a lengthy trial in which he acted as his own attorney, he was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of ten thousand dollars. The judge also recommended his deportation after the expiration of the prison term. In the meantime, the State of California had seen fit to indict Berkman for murder in connection with the Mooney case, and attempted to extradite him to California for trial, and again various labor groups had to be approached to bring pressure against the extradition, which would have meant his life.

### **DEFENDS OCTOBER REVOLUTION**

While at liberty on bail, pending an appeal on the Federal Sentence, the October Revolution took place in Russia and Berkman and Emma Goldman spoke throughout the country, defending the Bolsheviki and glorifying the Revolution.

In the end of September, 1919, Berkman was released from Atlanta Penitentiary where he spent most of his time in solitary confinement for protesting against the brutalities practiced on other inmates. The maltreatment he received resulted in undermining his health. The deportation proceedings

were pending and Berkman was released on bail. Although the war had ended in 1919, the government of the United States insisted on ridding itself of Berkman, and on December 21, 1920, he was put on board ship for deportation to Russia.

Alexander Berkman remained in Russia for about two years and his disillusionment and opposition to the so-called "Dictatorship of the Proletariat" is best told in his books *The Kronstadt Rebellion* and *The Bolshevik Myth* published after he had left Russia.

It is doubtful if Berkman would have been given permission to leave Russia; in fact he was planning to escape from the "Worker's Paradise." However, the Bolsheviks were attempting to bring about a revolution in Germany, and in 1922 the Anarcho-Syndicalists held a conference in Berlin to organize the International Anarcho-Syndicalist Congress. The conference sent word to the Bolsheviks that the presence of Berkman and Goldman was necessary for the success of the Congress, and they were permitted to depart from Russia.

Emma Goldman, in her book, *Living My Life*, gives a complete and comprehensive review of the cupidity and treachery of the Bolshevik rulers, who after having given Berkman and Goldman leave to depart, attempted to betray them into the hands of other governments.

#### ORGANIZES DEFENSE FUND FOR RUSSIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

While in Berlin, Berkman organized the Russian Political Prisoners Defense Fund, which was named in his honor and which is commemorating its twenty-fifth year of existence. When he left Berlin, Berkman went to France where he devoted the remainder of his life to help the political prisoners languishing in the jails of Russia. During this period he wrote the book *Now and After, The A B C of Communist Anarchism*.

Alexander Berkman found his health failing and in order not to become a burden upon his comrades, decided to end the struggle, and on the 28th day of June, 1936, his comrades received the tragic message that Alexander Berkman had ended his life.

To honor and respect his life and work, and comprehend his sincerity and simplicity, it is necessary to review his writings; this cannot be done within the limited scope of this biographical sketch. It is in his memory that we carry on the work that he started and which is needed today more urgently than ever before.

# *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Alexander Berkman Fund*

*OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKINGMEN'S ASSOCIATION (IWMA)*

By B. YELENSKY

The Russian Revolution of 1917 released all political prisoners from Czarist prisons and exile. The various Anarchist-Red Cross organizations which had been organized by Russian Revolutionary immigrants in Europe and United States for the purpose of moral and material help to those who were suffering in Czarist exile and prisons were disbanded. Many of these Red Cross workers returned to their Russian motherland to participate in the building of the new, free society. But the months of freedom in Russia proved to be short-lived. Freedom disappeared with the victory of the Bolsheviki Revolution of November 7, 1917.

Once they captured the power of the State the Bolsheviks immediately instituted a reign of terror against all revolutionists whose thinking did not coincide with the official view of the government. Prisons again were filled with revolutionists, socialists, anarchists, workers and peasants. Additions to Czarist jails and new concentration camps had to be constructed to hold the victims of the new Russian State.

Freedom proved to be merely a propaganda catch-phrase used by the Bolsheviks to attain power. Freedom and the Bolsheviki Revolution became antithetic and it was necessary to once again organize a Red Cross to help men and women who believed that freedom is and must be a cardinal and fundamental practice of the Revolution.



However, it is not the purpose of this article to relate the story of the Bolshevik terror in Russia. Much has been written about it.\* This article desires merely to give the history of the reorganization of the Anarchist Red Cross.

As early as 1918 relief and aid groups for imprisoned anarchists were organized in Russia. In Moscow, in 1919, the Black Cross was organized to help imprisoned anarchists. The All-Russian Red Cross was reorganized in 1919 to help political prisoners of all revolutionary groups incarcerated in Bolshevik prisons. Heading this organization was Mme Peshkova, the ex-wife of Maxim Gorky.

Because Russia in those days was isolated from the world around her, it was impossible for the aid societies to seek assistance from the world outside of "liberated" Russia. The first opportunity to tell the world of the new prevailing oppression was made possible when delegates from European labor unions visited Moscow for the convention of the Profintern in 1921. By the winter of 1921 Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman had left Russia. They had seen the "Revolution" at work. It was a far-cry of what they had believed it would be. No sooner had they arrived at Stockholm, Sweden, than Berkman issued a clarion call to all Anarchist groups and organizations in Europe and the United States to organize the Red Cross to raise funds for the relief and aid of imprisoned and exiled anarchists in the Soviet fatherland. This appeal, twenty-five years ago, was the nucleus for the present organization known as The Alexander Berkman Fund for Imprisoned Anarchist and Anarcho-Syndicalists in Russia.

In 1922 anarchists deported from Russia began to arrive in Berlin. These men and women became the spearhead for the drive to aid their imprisoned comrades in Russia. Uniting with the Left Socialists and the Maximilists these comrades organized the United Committee for the Defense of Imprisoned Revolutionists in Russia and functioned as such up to December 1926. In that year the International Workingmen's Association (IWMA) decided to organize through its secretariat The Relief Fund for Imprisoned and Exiled Anarchists and Anarcho-syndicalists in Russia. This Fund became the rallying point for aid to imprisoned comrades.

During the notorious Palmer raids era comrades in the United States had organized the Defense Committee and Aid Fund for Political Prisoners in United States. While working in behalf of the political prisoners in U. S. the comrades received Alexander Berkman's appeal for aid to the imprisoned revolutionists in Russia. To help their comrades in Russia this committee immediately organized in New York the Anarchist Red Cross and

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\**Letters From Russian Prison*. Published for the International Committee for Political Prisoners by Albert & Charles Boni, New York (1925); *The Guillotine At Work: Twenty Years of Terror in Russia (Data and Documents)* by G. P. Maximov. Published by the Chicago Section, Alexander Berkman Fund (1940).

affiliated themselves with the Fund in Berlin. The Anarchist Red Cross continued to function up to 1929.

Also supporting the Fund were: the Radical Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Free Society Group, Toronto, Canada; International Committee for the Aid of Russian Political Prisoners, Cleveland, Ohio; Italian Groups and L'Adunata; Libertarian Group, Los Angeles, California; San Francisco Group, Jewish Groups from St. Louis, Detroit and Los Angeles.

In 1923 the Free Society Group was organized in Chicago. For two years this group worked in co-operation with the Russian Social Democrat Group to collect funds for Russian political prisoners. However, in 1925 the group began to work independently. They had contacted the IWMA in Berlin and had received the names and addresses of imprisoned and exiled comrades in Russia. Correspondence between the imprisoned comrades and the group was initiated and soon thereafter the Group began to send aid: food, clothing, literature and money to the victims of Bolsheviki terror.

At the suggestion of the Secretariat of the IWMA to a few comrades in Chicago, a section of the Fund was organized in Chicago in 1932. The Section has worked closely with the Free Society Group ever since it was organized.

When Hitler became entrenched in Germany the Fund established headquarters first in Holland and later in Paris, France. Meanwhile the Bolsheviks were making it harder and harder for the political prisoners to have contacts with the outside world and as the bloody purges of so-called counter-revolutionists increased in tempo, the Stalin regime began an intensive persecution of any political prisoner who had contact with the world outside the Bolsheviki paradise. Contact with political prisoners in Russia was broken and still remains broken up to this day. What has happened to our comrades who were languishing in Bolsheviki prisons? Thus far we have no definite answer. We can only suspect that either they perished from hunger and cold or were executed during those mass purges.

Alexander Berkman suggested, in 1935, to the Chicago section of the fund that a booklet on the plight of Russian political prisoners be published to acquaint the American public with the plight of men and women in Russia who dared to differ with the powers-that-be. Chicago accepted the suggestion, even though, it did not find its work completed until 1940. However, instead of a booklet, it published a 624 page book *The Guillotine at Work: Twenty Years Terror in Russia (Material nad Documents)*. This book is a monument to the victims of Bolsheviki terror as well as a source book for future historians of the Russian Revolution.

In 1936, when all connections with the Russian political prisoners were broken, the Chicago section decided to give its work more of an international character. During the Spanish Civil War it energetically aided the



anti-fascists, especially the CNT and FAI. With the defeat of the Spanish Loyalists the Chicago section began to aid the Spanish comrades in France, Africa, Central and South America. Intermittently the Chicago section has sent large sums of money to the Anti-Fascist Solidarity, a group which has as its purpose the aid of the Spanish revolutionists.

With the occupation of France by Hitler our Spanish, Russian and especially Jewish comrades were in extreme danger. For the Spanish and Russian comrades there was the threat of either concentration camps or slave labor; for the Jewish comrades there was either a living hell or death. The Chicago section gave financial help to these comrades.

The liberation of North Africa by the Allies made possible renewal of contacts with the Spanish comrades and aid was readily forthcoming to them from the Chicago Section.

With the liberation of France and especially the complete destruction of the Nazi armies, the activities of the Chicago Section expanded to include the aid of comrades in such countries as Italy, France, Poland, Holland and at present even with Germany. Special attention is being given by the Fund to the Spanish comrades who are languishing in camps, sanitariums and hospitals in France. Following the example of the Chicago Fund are the Jewish Federation, the Mohegan group, Los Angeles Group, the Detroit Group and the "Why? Group."

Since VE day these various groups have sent to these comrades thousands of packages of food, clothing and medicine as well as money.

The Alexander Berkman Aid Fund expresses its gratitude for the co-operation of the various organizations who have helped in this most noteworthy work.

*It is impossible within the space of this pamphlet, to print the many hundreds of letters of acknowledgement received. We have selected only those which carry a message to you and indicate the spirit and work of our comrades in Europe and the importance of the continued assistance to be rendered to them.*

*We have tried to group these letters and found it rather difficult, but have co-ordinated them according to the countries from which we received them.*

*You will note a group from Paris, another from various cities in France, cities in Italy, also Africa, Poland and Mexico. We particularly call your attention to the letter from Camp Masseube, France, and the picture showing a group of our Spanish comrades, some without hands and others without feet.*

*We are sure that a perusal of the letters will tell the story much better than it is possible for us to do.*

## LETTERS FROM CAMP MASSEUBE

Masseube, Gers, France

We, the 53 invalids of the Spanish Civil War, called an assembly and elected a Committee to distribute with equity everything we receive. As soon as something arrives, we divide it in small lots so that everyone of us receives an equal part; we pay attention to the petitions and needs of our comrades. We have receipts for everything any one of us has received.

We are in contact with representatives of the S.I.A. in the district of Seine, France, and with comrade Eva Schwartz who represents your Com-

mittee in France. They are informed about everything we receive.

I am sending you emotional greetings from each one of the comrades who is compelled to live the hardships of a refugee; a life that is more tormenting on account of the wounds we received during the fight against Fascism. Your gesture of solidarity reaches the heart of each one of us because we see that far away from our country there are human beings who do not forget us and who think and feel as we do.

Pujols Lorenzo,  
Secretary of the Local  
Federation of Libertarian  
Movement in Masseube, Gers.





**THEY FOUGHT THE FIGHT.** Despite physical handicaps these veterans of the CNT-FAI who saw action during the Spanish events and are now living in the Masseube camp in France still are firm in their belief that the world will yet see the brotherhood of man. It is to such men and women that the Alexander Berkman Aid Fund gives a helping hand.



Masseube, France

Nov. 12, 1946.

I received your letter written on October 28, 1946, in which you inform us that the Alexander Berkman Committee sent us four big C.A.R.E.\* packages. So far we have not received them, but we have already written to the C.A.R.E. office in Paris, inquiring about it. We are very glad to hear from you that you ordered us ten more packages; as soon as we receive them, we will let you know.

About two months ago all the very sick comrades and the elderly ones who lived in this camp were taken to the hospitals and rest places of this province. There they are getting the necessary care, with exception of food, which is lacking in France. At the same time I want to tell you that all these comrades, although they are in different hospitals, are receiving their share of whatever you send. We have a responsible committee that distributes everything equally.

What concerns stockings, I can tell you this: there are only three women who belong to our Local Federation. However, there are women, the wives and daughters of our comrades, who are not members of the organization, but who help us fight for the same cause, and the stockings will be well received. I also want to tell you that in the packages you sent us previously there were women clothing and stockings. We gave a small lot to every wife and child of our comrades, and the rest of the clothing and stockings we sent to the Departmental Committee of S.I.A. in Gers in order to distribute the rest among the more needy. We did that only with women and children clothing, not with men's ware because we did not have enough for the needy. There are several comrades who do not have overcoats and

shoes. If you want to comment about the distribution, we are willing to listen.

Friendly greeting to all the comrades who help us.

E. Fernandez Negrete,  
Delegate of the Local  
Federation of the Spanish  
Libertarian Movement.

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## LETTERS FROM FRANCE

Paris, 8-8-46

Dear Comrades

We received your package of food in the best of order, and thank you heartily for it. It was a great help to us, for out here in France particularly in Paris, even potatoes are a luxury, not mentioning milk. Bread is rationed and difficult to procure. We are using most of the food you sent us for our sick son, who needs it so badly. Best greetings to all the comrades.

Wolf Teitelbaum.

Paris

Dear Comrades and Friends:

I am writing this to let you know that I received the treasured package you sent me. After my experiences in the concentration camp, it is heartening that there are still somewhere in the world friends who think of you. Be well and continue your good work.

Charles Fiber.

Paris, France

March 11, 1946

Dear Friends:

We received this week the package sent by you and can advise you that it came in good shape. We thank you a million times. We have no good news to communicate to you. Michelle is back in the hospital and her condition is far from favorable. I am greatly disturbed about her condition although the doctor is giving us much encouragement for her recovery. I hope that my next letter will contain better news.

With best wishes,

M. Friedman.

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\* Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc.

Paris, France,

April 15, 1946

I received your last food package. It came intact. I received everything that was on the list. My daughter and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts because having in mind the conditions we have to live in, it is of very great help to us. My daughter appreciates very much the chocolate and salami, neither of them is obtainable in France.

Emilienne Morin  
(Widow of Durruti)

Paris, France

March 24, 1946

It is the second package I have received from you. I wanted to write you in Jewish, but I am very tired and have no strength. A friend of mine is writing you. A thousand thanks for the food.

Mme. Anna Schwartzbard.

Brunoy, France  
8-23-46

Dear Comrade Yelensky:

A few days ago we received another package from you and send our sincerest thanks to you. Comrade Dubinsky informed us that he sent my address to you for this purpose.

Since we are receiving packages from time to time, from personal friends in America, and since we are attempting to get along without outside help, we suggest that you discontinue the sending of packages to us.

We appreciate what you have done and will not hesitate to turn to you for help should our present condition deteriorate and make outside help necessary.

N. L.

P. S. I am taking the liberty of submitting the address of a party who is in terrible need. She is the widow of a Comrade, a contemporary of

"Terips Ninverus." Her name and address is as follows:

She personally approached me about it and she is over eighty years old.

Charente, France

We are already old people and had many disillusionments but an example of international solidarity renews our hopes. It is needless to inform you that your package was of great assistance to us.

E. Charriaud.

Montbard, France

Dear Comrades:

I want to inform you that I received your package of foodstuffs and send my sincere thanks to all of you. As a result of the war, we have a scarcity of foods and textiles and housing accommodations.

I assume that you are aware of the death of V. N. Volin in 1945 and of E. A. Yudin who lost his life in a German Concentration Camp. Regards to all.

M. P. Vorobeieff.

Antibes, France

I have improved considerably since I was brought back from Buchenwald Camp, but am still confined to bed and unable to get around on my feet. I hope to be admitted to the hospital of Antibes soon. Your parcels are very helpful.

L. Allende.

Antibes, France  
9-16-46

I received the package you sent me July 25. I am enclosing a photo taken by the American soldiers, when they arrived in Germany. At that time I was very ill and in need of medical and hospital treatment. As you will see from the recent picture, I have improved greatly and on my way to recovery. Thanks to your fraternal help, but the road is very slow and painful. Thanks for everything you have done for me.

L. Allende.



Vesinet, France  
July 7, 1946

Your gesture of solidarity will improve our spirit to continue to fight against Franco and Falange. First in Spain, then in the concentration camps of Vichy, and lately in the French maquis, but always against the same enemy—Fascism!

Jose Martinez.

#### LETTERS FROM SANITARIUMS

Sanitarium D, La Tronche,  
Isere, France

July 17, 1946

Thanks for the food parcel, and please give my regards to all the comrades in U. S. for their solidarity. Thank them.

Alexandro Perez.

Sanitarium Joffe,  
Champrosy par Draveil  
France

July 31, 1946

Million thanks for the package; it was of great help. I hope that everyone of you are in good health, as for me—I am in the same condition, that is to say, I am sick.

Tomas Samper.

Sanitarium, LaGuiche, France

Our friends asked me to write in their behalf acknowledging and thanking you for the packages which arrived in August. Our Comrade Raphael Fernandez had already passed away when his package arrived and I was authorized to receive same. In the name of the Comrades, I thank you for your kind help.

Lluís Arle.

Bordeaux, France  
April 12, 1946

This is to notify you that the package with food came in good condition. It came on time because our son, Miguel Jimenez Ascaso, was sick; the food will help him to improve. My wife and I thank you very much for the sentiment of solidarity you showed; we are not going to forget it as long as

we live. We express our thanks with tears in our eyes, and we think that only the parents who had sick children and were unable to supply the most elementary needs will understand us.

Miguel Jimenez Herrero.

#### LETTERS FROM ITALY

Brindisi, Italy

Dear Comrade Yelensky:

Received your package of clothing. I have no words to thank you. We have divided the clothes between three families that needed the articles very much.

About twenty days ago the comrade that I gave the package, sent to me through Comrade Berneri, passed away. He left a wife and two small children in very destitute condition. If you or your committee can send some clothes and food to this family, they will be very grateful to you, because they are in dire circumstances.

We are organizing an Anarchist Group in Brindisi, and if you have books and newspapers printed in Italian language, you could be of great help to us, by sending same to us.

I thank you in my name and in the name of all the comrades for all that you have done for us. "Viva L'Anarchia."

E. Cosimi.

Naples, Italy

Dear Comrade:

This is to acknowledge receipt of two packages. We are deeply grateful to your committee which is doing so much to alleviate our hardships against which we are compelled to struggle daily.

I know that we have received other packages, but I had to be away from home for some time and requested the other comrades to advise you which I hope has been done.

Now that the transportation has become a little improved, you will be able to send directly to the enclosed address. We have divided all goods received to the most needy comrades in Naples and vicinity.

We thank you very much and hope you will accept our deep gratitude.

Giovanna Berneri.



Naples, Italy

Dear Comrades:

Every now and then we receive your bundles. Yesterday received two packages and some others not long ago, which I acknowledged and which were distributed in accordance with our best judgment.

Of course we are grateful for your continued solidarity. Believe me, your work helps to lessen some of the misery surrounding us. Since you are sending packages to the addresses which I sent you, you have lessened my work along that line and I can devote myself more fully to the work of our propaganda of which there is a very great need. After twenty years of fascism we must rebuild and reconstruct anew and the task is very difficult. We need a lot of help. Thanking you again, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

Giovanna Berneri.

Verona, Italy

Dear Comrades:

Today, after seven months of my liberation, I received your bundle of clothes. It came just in time and I want to express my deepest appreciation for your solidarity and comradely approach.

L. De Luisi.

Cesena, Italy

Received your package you sent through G. Berneri in Naples. It contained food that for us is a rarity, something we haven't had for a long, long time. Thank you very much.

Fraternally yours,

Pio Turrone.

#### TYPICAL LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lodz, Poland

Aug. 17, 1946

You can imagine how much appreciated was your parcel.

Rosloniec.

Lodz, Poland

July 11, 1946

Your package produced real enjoyment; it shows that the solidarity among humans has not disappeared.

Hitler was unable to destroy everything.

Fr. Lanieczka.

Lodz, Poland

April 26, 1946

Dear Comrades:

You are hereby informed that we have received the second package, and it is needless to tell you how much we appreciate your assistance. The condition of our comrades arriving here from Soviet Russia is very depressing, and the packages are of great help to them.

With comradely greetings,

Joseph Bluestein.

Oran, Algeria,

North Africa

April 23, 1946

Sincere thanks for the package. It came just in time, three weeks after my little daughter, Natasha, was born. Here the economic reconversion goes very slowly and the life today is harsh, that is why your package brought such a joy to the mother and everybody. Besides, your gesture makes evident the spirit that exists among our people.

Alex Eichenbaum Volin.

Paris,

August 20, 1946

Worthy Comrades:

Received your life-saving food package. Accept our thanks for your helpful hand in our trying days.

Comradely yours,

I. Konstantin.

Paris, France

I received your package that contained a shirt, pants, socks, pajamas, sugar, milk, coffee, tea, soup, sardines, etc. Thanks very much. It is very difficult here and your gifts are of great help.

Natasha Voline.

Mexico City, Mexico

I received your money order and there is only one thing I would like to do. It is to meet you personally and embrace you all for the good work you are doing.

Bruno Llado.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST SOLIDARITY (S.I.A.)

Rue Oberkampf, 111

de la Douane, 6

Paris

Paris, November 13, 1946

Alexander Berkman Fund  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Comrades:

We are sending you an itemized list which describes the type of help you have been giving the Spanish refugees and which was distributed to them through the S.I.A. The S.I.A., as you well know, is made up of anarchists and Spanish libertarians exiled in France.

Fifty per cent of the Spanish refugees in France belong to the S.I.A. Notwithstanding the fact that the organization is responsible for the care of 70 percent of its members the S.I.A. does not receive any government or semi-official aid. The reason for this lack of help is because the organization is the spiritual child of our beloved CNT-FAI and hence its orientation is anti-government.

The aid for the Spanish refugees which comes from foreign countries is distributed by the psuedo-Republican government and the distribution is made not according to need but rather in accordance to the political influence of the refugee. This explains why your help, though very valuable, is far from sufficient in answering the needs of our refugee comrades.

It must also be remembered that our comrades were compelled to move many times since the Spanish events which has resulted in the loss of much of their personal belongings, that the majority of us have lived in exile for almost ten years and in comparison with other workers have been often forced to work under disadvantageous conditions, and also that we do not expect any government help whatsoever even in the most dire cases, such as for invalids, the wounded and old age.

Your brotherly hand has helped us materially but more than materially it has aided us spiritually for it has displayed that international solidarity still lives.

We want to express to you our most profound gratitude and fraternal greetings.

With anarchist salutations to all our comrades in the United States and Mexico,

Yours for Solidarity,

International Anti-Fascist Solidarity  
E. Franco  
Secretary, Paris Region.

(Organizational seal)

# Activity Report

## Alexander Berkman Aid Fund

### PARIS SECTION

Many packages of food and clothing have been shipped to France on the request of the Paris Section of the Alexander Berkman Aid Fund. This help was sent by the A. Berkman Aid Fund (Chicago Section), and the Libertarian Refugee Fund which was organized by the Jewish Anarchist Federation of the United States and is composed of the New York, Los Angeles, and Detroit groups, as well as Mexican and English comrades.

Most of the parcels were sent directly to the needy comrades of the Masseube, France camp and to comrades in sanitariums, hospitals and to comrades in need. Besides these parcels, 231 packages were received directly by the Paris Section of the A. Berkman Aid Fund and they were distributed in conjunction with the Paris S.I.A. among the more needy of our comrades.

Our committee, organized through the initiative of the A. Berkman Aid Fund in Chicago, is made up of the most responsible comrades who were willing to do the work. Immediately they started the distribution of the aid that came from Chicago.

Soon thereafter lists of needy comrades were compiled and were forwarded to Chicago. These names were added to the lists which the Chicago comrades already had. When other American comrades in New York, Detroit and especially Los Angeles came to our aid we were able to help many more needy comrades.

Jewish comrades who were able to escape and survive Hitler's inferno, Spanish and other comrades who returned from concentration camps, hospitals and sanitariums were able to receive our help. Through the S.I.A. in Paris we obtained the addresses of many unfortunate comrades, many of them invalids as a result of their participation in the Spanish Revolution, and food and clothing were forthcoming as a result of our joint efforts.



American comrades responded immediately to our appeal and we want to tell you that our comrades in the Messeube camp were deeply moved by the speed and quality of the help they received. This action of solidarity from comrades across the ocean raised their spirits.

Notwithstanding the continuous aid from our American comrades, aid is still greatly needed.

Reaction still reigns in Spain and many of our comrades cross the border to France paying no heed to the danger of crossing the border without proper identification. Almost daily young people, proud and courageous fighters, come to France. They are penniless. They need food, shelter and clothing. We believe our efforts to help them must be continued.

We hope the day is not too far off when Spain will be victorious in the Social Revolution and we will be able to say that in our most difficult days our American comrades greeted us with necessary help and solidarity.

In the name of all these comrades we thank the friends of the Alexander Berkman Aid Fund (Chicago Section), the Libertarian Fund of New York, Los Angeles and Detroit, the comrades in Mexico, London, Costa Rico and other countries for all they have done to date and for what they will continue to do in the future to aid us.

With friendly greetings,

Alexander Berkman Aid Fund  
Paris Section

November 1946

# ALEXANDER BERKMAN AID FUND

## PARIS SECTION

### Financial Report

#### *Income*

Group of Jewish comrades .....	2000 francs
Alexander Berkman Fund	
Chicago Section .....	53760 francs
P. Gherom .....	7500 francs
E. Sh. ....	495 francs
Miscellaneous collections .....	4345 francs
	<hr/>
	68100 francs

#### *Disbursement*

##### Custom duties:

packages received from America .....	5016 francs
Sending packages to Provinces .....	2212 francs

##### Financial help to comrades:

Spanish comrades .....	23950 francs
Jewish comrades .....	9000 francs
Russian comrades .....	7000 francs
German comrades .....	5000 francs
French comrades .....	2000 francs
Italian comrades .....	2000 francs
Miscellaneous .....	1304 francs

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Total .....	57482 francs
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Income .....	68100 francs
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Disbursements .....	57482 francs
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On hand Nov. 15, 1946 ....	10618 francs
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# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Of the 1945-46 A. Berkman Aid Fund Drive

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Mohegan Group .....	\$ 500.00	Printing & Postage .....	\$115.60
Russian Group .....	631.52	Miscellaneous .....	5.19
I. L. G. W. Unions .....	125.00		
I. W. W. & Locals .....	204.50		\$120.79
W. C. Branches .....	168.00		
F. A. S. Subscribers .....	406.25	Receipts .....	\$3,613.57
Free Society &		Disbursements .....	120.79
Luce Groups, Chicago .....	1,513.80		
Spanish Groups .....	64.50	On hand .....	\$3,492.78
Total .....	\$3,613.57		

## GENERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

From December 1, 1945—November 6, 1946

### RECEIPTS

Balance from previous report	\$ 248.99
Returned money from	
Mexico and Italy .....	50.00
From 1945-46 Drive .....	3,492.78
Miscellaneous .....	9.80
Total .....	\$3,801.57

### DISBURSEMENTS

(*) 352 Parcels to France	\$2,534.69
76 Parcels to Italy .....	576.80
13 Parcels to Poland...	90.32
12 Parcels to Germany	112.88
2 Parcels to Africa....	14.90
455 Parcels (**) Total	\$3,329.59
Printing and Postage .....	33.87
To Mexico .....	25.25
Miscellaneous .....	5.86
Total Disbursements....	\$3,394.57
Balance Nov. 6, 1946 .....	\$ 407.00

(\*) Food, Clothing and Medicine.

(\*\*) In the 455 Parcels are 62 C. A. R. E. parcels.

Control Committee

Sam Kagan  
A. Tiberi  
Olga Maximoff

# *A Gift for the Refugees---*

## *AN APPEAL*

It is hardly necessary to inform you that our comrades are grateful for the assistance we have given them and the numerous letters, some of which were translated from French, Spanish, Italian and Yiddish, and are printed in this report, speak more eloquently than we can express. These letters bring home to us the present plight of all the people in Europe, the quickening of the heartbeats, by the realization that we haven't forgotten them, and a re-kindling of their faith and hope.

After reading the many letters contained herein and our financial report, you will be compelled to admit that we did a splendid job, considering the limited funds and the technical and physical difficulties in carrying on relief activities without paying salaries or compensation to any of our people for the tremendous sacrifices of time and energy in doing the work.

None of those who do the work desire any thanks or special recognition for their work, but are happy in the fact that they are helping in the physical and mental rehabilitation of our comrades, and encourage them to continue the liberation struggle in Europe.

The requests for assistance are increasing almost daily and we must send as much as possible of clothing and food during the coming months and thereby save many lives as well as saving many from malnutrition and resulting in physical deterioration.

It is therefore imperative that we operate upon a larger budget for the coming year, and request that you or your organization make your contribution a little more liberal than the past years and that we receive same at the earliest possible date.

Thanking you in advance for your contribution, we remain,

Fraternally yours,

ALEXANDER BERKMAN AID FUND.

IRVING ABRAMS, *Chairman*

B. YELENSKY, *Secretary*





**LIBERATED!** Out of the Schandelac Mecklinburg, Germany Concentration camp came these comrades in May, 1945 after the Allied Forces entered Germany. They need medical care, nutritious food, clothing. They receive help regularly from the Alexander Berkman Aid Fund. Will you do your part? Clip the subscription blank from the last page of this pamphlet and send it with your contribution immediately to the A. Berkman Aid Fund. Let your conscience be your guide!

Alexander Berkman Aid Fund  
2422 North Halsted Street  
Chicago 14, Illinois

Here is my donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Alexander Berkman Aid Fund.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ Zone\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_

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