

Projects + Documents File

Administrative Matters: Personnel

Blickstein M,  
David

*Spain*

DAVID BLICKENSTAFF was born in 1915 in a town near Pasadena, California. He is the son of Lyn and Mary Blickenstaff of India, where Mr. Blickenstaff, Sr., is in charge of finances for the United Board of Missions. David received his early academic training at the Woodstock School in India and came to America for his college training. He is a graduate of Manchester College in Indiana and took up graduate work at Northwestern and Chicago Universities in the field of International Relations. He is a member of the Church of the Brethren.

In November 1937 he was sent by the American Friends Service Committee as a delegate from the Brethren Service Committee to work in the Quaker Relief program in Spain. His headquarters were in Bilbao back of the Nationalist lines where he worked until the end of the Spanish Civil War, returning to the United States in July 1939.

In 1940-41 David Blickenstaff was a delegate of the American Friends Service Committee in unoccupied France where he was concerned principally with the work for refugees. In France he married Janine Ybargoyen, daughter of the Uruguayan Consul in Marseille.

From June to October 1942 David directed the work of the Brethren Service Committee's Civilian Public Service Camp in Puerto Rico.

In November 1942 he and his wife, Janine, sailed for Europe as delegates of the Brethren Service Committee to the American Friends Service Committee in unoccupied France. Before they reached their destination in Southern France it was taken over by the Germans and in January 1943 the Blickenstaffs arrived in Madrid to organize the office of the Representation in Spain of American Relief Organizations. (See attached General Relief Bulletins #8 and #11 for a discussion of the program in Spain.)

Both David and Janine Blickenstaff speak French and Spanish fluently and some German.