

MEN AT WAR

1914-1945

54

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Corporal, Nationalist Infantry



NATIONALIST ARMY:

- 1: Alférez (2nd lieutenant), Tiradores de Ifni
- 2: Capitán, Moroccan Regular Infantry
- 3: Soldado, Grupo de Regulares de Ceuta no.3

REPUBLICAN ARMY:

- 4: Capitán, infantry





NATIONALIST ARMY:

1: Cabo (corporal), infantry

2: Falangist militiaman, 1937

3: Navarrese requeté, 1936

Background: Colours of Regimiento de Infanteria 'San Marcial' No. 22

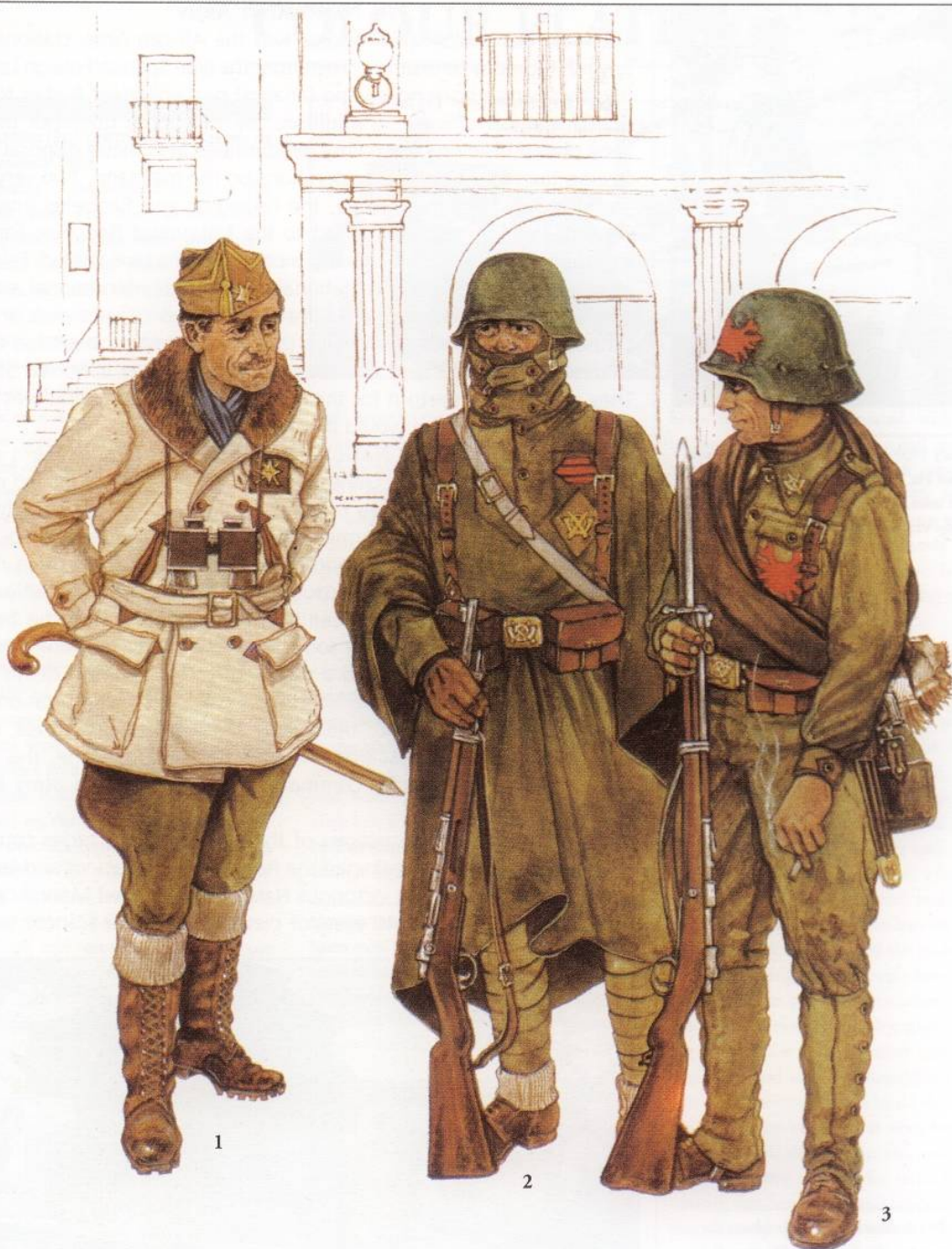
NATIONALIST ARMY:

1: Sargento porta-guión, 2a Bandera, Spanish Foreign Legion, 1936-37

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REPUBLICAN ARMY:

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2: Brigada (senior NCO)

3: Capitán, Ejército Nacionalista Vasco

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4: Soldado, Grupo de Regulares de Alhucemas no.5



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THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

By the spring of 1936 it was becoming increasingly evident that Spain was heading for an armed clash between the left wing coalition government and the forces of the extreme right. A clique of high-ranking right-wing army officers calling themselves the Union Militar Española (UME) planned a coup and counted on the support of anti-Communist, Catholic and traditionalist elements of all classes of society. The Basques supported the Loyalists (Republicans) hoping thereby to achieve a measure of autonomy; their example was followed by the Catalans, who were the most left-wing people of the peninsula. In both Madrid and Barcelona, insurgent officers and troops were ruthlessly dealt with.

Escaping by plane – piloted by an Englishman, Captain Bebb – General Francisco Franco y Bahamonde, a leading member of the UME, reached Spanish Morocco on 19 July and proclaimed the Revolution. It

General Franco inspects a guard of honour at Burgos in October 1936, following his appointment to the supreme command of the insurgents. Franco had enjoyed rapid promotion, founding his reputation for professional competence and personal coolness under fire in the savage Moroccan campaigns of the early 1920s.



was the beginning of a civil war which was to last two years and nine months, a war remembered for its appalling ferocity and for the fanatical, crusader-like belief on both sides.

It is a common, but erroneous, belief that the Spanish Army joined solidly with the insurgents. Although the troops of the African Army were almost unanimous in supporting General Franco, this was far from being the case in metropolitan Spain. Loyalties and ideals caused men of similar rank, from general to private soldier, to oppose each other. On 17 July the officer corps totalled 8,500. By the 19th, some 3,500 had been killed or imprisoned by the Loyalists (Republicans), 2,000 had declared for the government, 3,000 for the insurgents (Nationalists). Throughout the army some 33,000 men stood by the government while 23,600 went over to the Nationalists. The para-military Guardia Civil, Asaltos and Carabineros, were also split.



Navarrese Carlist troops marching to the Bilbao front. The officer wears a sidecap and overalls of some kind, with the brass grenades of the artillery branch pinned to the collar points. The men wear red Carlist berets and light khaki clothing. In the right foreground are two sergeants, both wearing conventional Nationalist Army rank devices on their berets, and small Sacred Heart badges on the left breast.

THE REPUBLICAN ARMY

Apart from support from the army and the para-militaries, Republicans could also muster groups of armed militia from Trotskyists, Anarchists and Communists trained in urban and guerrilla terrorist tactics. In spite of internal warring factions, they were all eventually reorganised into a single body known as the Ejército Popular Republicana (People's Republican Army). Foreign aid for the Republicans came principally from Russia, Mexico and left-wing France who sent not just arms and armour but senior serving officers. The ranks of fighters were swelled by the mass of non-Spanish sympathisers who flocked into Spain from almost every country in Europe and the United States as soon as fighting broke out and formed the 'International Brigades'.

For the Republicans, the senior professional officers, Generals Miaja, Rojo and Sarabia, were towers of strength. They were supported from the non-professional ranks by Enrique Lister, a dedicated Communist, 'El Campesino' a teenage terrorist, and José Modesto, an ex Spanish Foreign Legion sergeant. In spite of their courage and dedication to the cause, their lack of training combined with the general inefficiency of battalion and company commanders could be said to be the cause of the Republican defeat.



Republican prisoners being marched in by Nationalist infantry in the Somosierra sector. The Republicans wear civilian clothing, the Nationalists sidecap and khaki overalls.



February 1939 – footsore and burdened with salvaged kit, Republican soldiers reach the border town of Le Perthus in their retreat from the victorious Nationalists.

THE NATIONALIST ARMY

The main Nationalist striking force was the African Army stationed in Spanish Morocco consisting of men from the élite Spanish Foreign Legion (mostly Spanish born right-wing fanatics) plus volunteer Berber forces led by Spanish officers. In addition, the Moroccan governor of the zone placed his own para-military gendarmerie at Franco's disposal thus freeing the regular army for operations on the mainland. Two very different groups of armed militia, the Falangists and Requetés (militant wing of the Carlists), also rallied to the Nationalist flag. Neo-Fascist, inclined to anti-clericalism and anti-monarchist, the blue-shirted Falange movement was dedicated to national, rather than international, socialism. Unlike the Falangists, the ultra-traditionalist Carlists were ardent Catholics. Their horror of anything that smacked of socialism led them to detest both Hitler and Mussolini as much as they abhorred Stalin. They demanded in return for their support, 'absolute guarantees that the planned new State would be anti-democratic'.

Foreign aid to the Nationalists came principally from Nazi Germany and fascist Italy. Generally speaking Mussolini supplied men, while the Germans supplied material and specialists, particularly the tanks and aircraft which formed the legendary Condor Legion. Undoubtedly the technical superiority of German equipment in most fields made a significant, though not decisive, contribution to Franco's victory. More significantly the Nationalists had the better leaders. Franco himself was a sound strategist and tactician. General Mola might well have proved a rival but for his untimely death in a flying accident in the summer of 1937. Other outstanding Nationalist generals included Yagué of the Spanish Foreign Legion, Varela, who was once a bugler, Moscardo, hero of the Alcazar siege, the fire-eater Aranda, and Davila, commander of the northern army after Mola's death.

The non-intervention policies of the western democracies coupled with internal divisions weakened the Republican movement and led inevitably to its defeat. The victorious Nationalists entered Madrid on 27 March 1939, leading to 40 years of dictatorship under Franco.

The dominant tank throughout the war was the Russian T-26, one of many variations of a basic Vickers design to see service around the world between the World Wars. A bounty was offered by the Nationalists for every T-26 captured. This one bears the red-yellow-red Nationalist flag on the hull side.



COLOUR PLATES

A

A1: ALFEREZ (2ND LIEUTENANT), TIRADORES DE INF, CAMPAIGN DRESS

The junior commissioned ranks in the Spanish Army were open to some long-serving native NCOs; hence this second lieutenant's advanced years. His red *turbuch* was regulation for native officers. It bears the branch badge of this class of Moroccan infantry – a five-point star in gold above a silver crescent – and the single six-point gold star of this rank below it. The rank is repeated on the left breast of the loose, lentil-coloured *candora*, worn by officers and men alike. It is worn here over a shirt and breeches of light, sandy-souled cloth, with brown leather equipment including the holster of the Astra automatic. The buckled leggings were regulation for native officers.

A2: CAPITÁN, MOROCCAN REGULAR INFANTRY, SUMMER SERVICE DRESS

Officers of the *Tropas Regulares de Marruecos* wore this smart lentil-coloured uniform with a red-crowned cap piped gold with a gold chinstrap and cloth-covered peak. Ranking appeared on a *galleta* (biscuit) on the left breast, in the colour of the unit: see caption A3 below. It was also worn on the tunic sleeves. First and second lieutenants and captains wore one, two and three six-pointed gold stars above the Polish cuff, more senior ranks wore eight-pointed stars on the cuff itself. The branch badge of the *Regulares*, a numbered crescent in silver superimposed on crossed gold rifles, was worn on the cap crown. The Spanish officers of Moorish units wore a bright azure cloak lined white, which can be seen rolled on this officer's cante. The insignia on the upper left sleeve is the badge of the *Cuerpo de Ejército Marroquí* – a green shield with a red six-point Moroccan star above a white crescent; and the gold letters, C, E, M.

A3: SOLDADO, GRUPO DE REGULARES DE CEUTA No. 3, SUMMER DRESS

At the outbreak of the war the Moroccan regular troops comprised five *grupos* (roughly, regiments) each made up of sev-



A Government gun-crew photographed during the siege of Huesca. They wear the distinctive Spanish steel helmet. The rest of their clothing is motley in the extreme.

eral *tabores* (roughly, half-battalions) including an integral cavalry *tabor*. The soldiers wore sashes in distinctive colours, which were repeated in the rank *galleta* of the officers. These were: Tetuán no. 1 (red), Melilla No. 2 (blue), Ceuta No. 3 (green), Larache No. 4 (dark blue) and Alhucemas No. 5 (dark red). During the war five more *grupos* were raised, and the colour-coding system broke down. These later units were Xauen no. 6, Llano Amarillo no. 7, Rif no. 8, Arcila no. 9 and Bab-Tazza no. 10. The typical summer campaign dress was a pale shirt and baggy trousers, a small white turban, puttees and white canvas shoes – *alpargatas* – with hemp soles. Puttees could be khaki, blue or sandy yellow. This soldier has regulation issue infantry equipment with a

Moorish infantry, photographed in northern Spain early in the war. They wear the small white turban, lentil-coloured cotton uniforms with brass collar badges, and brown leather equipment of the type normally worn by troops of the African Army.



brass buckle-plate decorated with the infantry branch badge – crossed musket and sword with a bugle-horn superimposed. The rifle is the '1916 Short' Mauser. Tied to the shoulder brace with a strip of rag is the most commonly used grenade of the war, the Lafitte bomb. Rising behind this soldier is the flag of the *2a Tabor, Grupo de Ceuta No. 3*.

A4: CAPITÁN DE REPUBLICAN INFANTRY, SERVICE DRESS

The flat-crowned peaked cap and single-breasted service tunic of the Spanish Army were worn by officers of both sides, with differences of detail. The khaki cloth used by the Nationalists being greener in tone. The Republicans wore the cap with a red star outlined gold on the crown, a branch badge in the centre of the band, and ranking in the form of horizontal bars on each side of this. Both sides used the traditional branch badges: gold bugle-horn and crossed musket and sword for infantry, silver crossed lances for cavalry, gold bursting grenade for artillery, silver castle for engineers, and so forth. Republican officers wore the tunic over a khaki shirt and tie. Republican ranking was worn beneath the star on the sleeves: one, two and three thin bars above the cuff for second lieutenants, first lieutenants and captains, and one, two and three thick bars on the cuff itself for majors, lieutenant-colonels and colonels. The normal tunic had plain shoulder-straps, pleated patch breast pockets with three-point flaps, unpleated bellows skirt pockets with straight flaps, and brown leather buttons in an imitation 'woven' style. Flared khaki breeches were

normal, though often replaced by brown corduroy breeches. The high-lacing boots were very widely worn by Republican personnel. Both armies used Sam Browne belts and Astra or Star automatics.

B: NATIONALIST ARMY

B1: CABO (CORPORAL), NATIONALIST INFANTRY, SERVICE DRESS

This corporal wears regulation service dress in the greenish khaki of the Nationalist Army. His cap is piped in the infantry branch colour, red, with a red tassel; a pointed rank device is worn on the front. Branch badges are worn on the collar of the thigh-length tunic; and the red ranking of this grade stretches from cuff to elbow. Buttons and leather equipment are brown. The *granadero* trousers are flared at the thigh and tight at the calf, with buttons down the outside and a 'spat' foot. The haversack is in plain canvas, and the weapon a 'Short 1916' Mauser.

B2: FALANGIST MILITIAMAN, 1937

The Falangist militias were territorially raised, and it was some months before their enthusiasm could be channelled into an orderly contribution to the Nationalist cause, under central control. In 1936 their uniforms varied widely. Common features were a black or dark blue cap piped white or red, a blue shirt, and the red yoke-and-arrows insignia of the Falange. In the early days they wore their own system of ranking. In 1937 Army ranking was introduced. One feature which remained constant was the red yoke-and-arrows breast badge, which was retained throughout the war. Our illustration shows a Falangist in 1937 after a degree of rationalisation had taken place. The blue cap is piped red; the earlier blue shirt, is now replaced by a khaki one, but blue collars, shoulder-straps and even pocket-flaps were often retained. The rest is Army issue, though various puttee colours were worn according to availability. The white chevrons on cap and sleeve indicate a frontline combatant of the Falange.

B3: NAVARRESE REQUETÉ, 1936

The *requetés*, the Carlist militia of the monarchist party, were even less uniformly dressed than the Falangists. A red beret

was often the only common denominator in a mass of civilian items, but this beret was almost universal. This *requeté* is surprisingly complete in his dress and equipment, wearing jacket and trousers of Army issue and regulation equipment. The short blouse started to replace the thigh-length tunic early in the war as campaign dress throughout the Army. It is worn here with the sleeve badge of the *Cuerpo Ejército de Navarra*. On the left breast are two other cloth insignia; the 'detente', or Sacred Heart emblem, which was widely worn by devout Catholics (particularly Carlists), and the Cross of Burgundy, emblem of the monarchist cause. The blanket and sandals are typical of the region. In the background, an officer in shirt-sleeve order carries the colour of *Regimiento de Infantería 'San Marcial' no. 22*. The devices varied, but the red and gold tricolour ground was common to all Nationalist forces.

C: NATIONALIST ARMY

C1: SARGENTO PORTA-GUIÓN, 2A BANDERA, SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION; SUMMER CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1936-37

Each *bandera* – roughly, battalion – of the *Tercio* (Spanish Foreign Legion) had its own banner; in all, 18 *banderas* saw service during the war. That of the *2a Bandera*, carried by this sergeant in typical summer campaign uniform, bears a black double-headed eagle crowned and taloned gold, with a central gold shield bearing the Legion's badge: crossed musket, crossbow and halberd. The distinctive grey-green uniform of the Legion appeared in two weights for winter and summer: the hot weather dress comprised a shirt with rolled sleeves, the usual *granadero* trousers, and white canvas *alpargatas*. The cape was piped red, and differed from that of the rest of the Army in bearing the Legion's branch badge on the front, so ranking was worn on the right side. The Legion badge was also worn in embroidered form on each shoulder-strap of the shirt, by all ranks. Leather equipment was always black, and often of an outmoded pattern. Officers of the *Tercio* wore grey-green shirts with ranking on a black *galleta* and the Legion badge on the shoulder-straps; the cap bore the normal infantry ranking and piping.

Grey-green breeches were worn with black jackboots, black Sam Brownes, and white gloves – often, even in battle. Gold chevrons trimmed red, as worn by this NCO, indicated wounds in action; they were worn on the left arm by all ranks

C2: LEGIONARIO DE 1A CLASE, SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION, WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS 1938

Prior to 1938 the *Tercio* had worn tunics similar to those of the rest of the Army, but in that year the uniform illustrated was used. A short tunic was worn with straight trousers, tucked into high-lacing black boots. The colour remained grey-green and insignia were not affected. The large chevron of Private 1st Class was worn on both sleeves. The rifle is the 7.92-mm 'Standard Model' Mauser.

C3: TENIENTE (1ST LIEUTENANT), INFANTRY, SUMMER CAMPAIGN DRESS

The cap bears red and gold piping and tassel and the two stars of this rank on the front. The light sandy-coloured shirt is worn with rolled sleeves and open neck, and the only insignia is the *galleta* in branch colour above the left pocket, with repeated rank stars. The Sam Browne was worn with either one crossed or two vertical braces, and in shirt-sleeve order was buttoned under the belt-loops of the flared greenish-khaki breeches. Brown jackboots, leggings, ankle-boots, khaki puttees, and sometimes white oversocks, seem to have been worn at whim. A popular if unofficial item was the *sahariana* jacket, copied from Italian officers of the CTV (see Plate E). It is thrown over this officer's shoulders, and bears the *galleta* and the sleeve patch of the *Cuerpo Ejército de Galicia*. The weapon is the Star RU 1935 9-mm sub-machine gun; this saw service but was never standard issue.

D: NATIONALIST ARMY

D1: GENERAL DE BRIGADA (BRIGADIER GENERAL), WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS

The field service cap of generals was piped with gold in a distinctive arrangement, as here, and had a gold tassel. On the front is the ranking – a crossed sword and baton with a four-point star superimposed. This is repeated on the black patch of a senior commander on the left breast of the cold-weather jacket. The jacket is

one of several very similar patterns collectively known as the '*canadiense*', much favoured by senior officers. The breeches of the normal service uniform are tucked into high-laced boots and thick socks.

D2: CABO (CORPORAL), NATIONALIST INFANTRY, WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS

The large, loose cape for winter campaign wear was used very widely by both Republicans and Nationalists; it differed in a score of details from batch to batch, but the one illustrated is typical. The shoulders and neck have been doubled for extra protection, and a large vandyked flap allows the neck to be buttoned over the face from either side. Sometimes the cape was worn over, sometimes under the leather equipment; here the corporal has buckled his belt, shoulder-braces and haversack strap over it. Puttees and ankle-boots with white socks here replace the shaped overall-trousers. The helmet was by no means a universal issue, but it was worn by both sides. Of Spanish design, it is based upon the traditional German design of World War I. It has a deep domed skull, a steeply-flared brim and neck-guard, and a shallow step over the ears. It was usually painted a dark greenish grey. The rifle is the 'Standard Model' Mauser. On the breast of the cape appear a stylised version of corporal's ranking in infantry red, and the branch badge sewn onto a khaki patch.

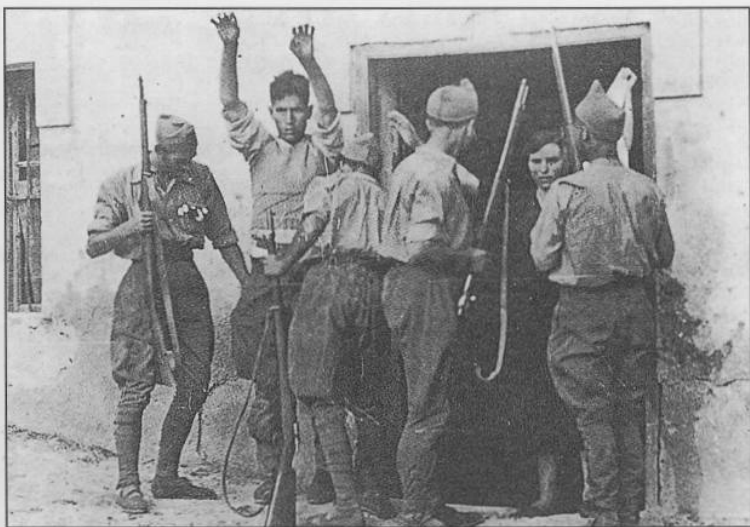
D3: SOLDADO, NATIONALIST INFANTRY, WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS

The blouse bears the branch badge on the collar points, and is worn over a brown sweater. The trousers, leather equipment, Mauser and helmet are all standard issue. It was normal for Spanish soldiers of both sides to make a horse-shoe roll of their blanket or cape. A large cloth-covered canteen is worn on the hip, its base fastening into a metal pot and its neck covered by a metal cup, both painted dull green. It is supported by a black strap.

E: NATIONALIST FORCES

E1: STAFF CAPTAIN, DIVISION 'LITTORIO', ITALIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS, 1937

The first Italian volunteers were from the MVSN 'Blackshirt' militias, and served in the Foreign Legion. As more arrived they



Nationalist infantry in typical summer combat dress search a farmhouse. Note the mixture of puttees and granadero trousers.

formed their own units, or *Banderas*. By 1937 an autonomous corps was in existence: the *Cuerpo de Tropas Voluntarias*, CTV. It was made up of four weak divisions and an autonomous combat group. The 'Dio lo vuole', 'Fiamme Nere', and 'Penne Nere' divisions and the group (later, division) 'XXIII di Marzo' were manned by Blackshirts, and the 'Voluntarii Littorio' division by Italian Army personnel. In 1938 the last two formations were amalgamated into a mixed MVSN-Army division named 'Littorio d'Assalto'. The cap is the Italian *bustina*, with the three gold stars of this rank on the front flap. The jacket is the *sahariana*, which first became popular among Italian officers in Ethiopia. The staff status is indicated by the white collar points edged gold. Rank stars appear on the left breast, and the divisional insignia on the left sleeve. The breeches and boots are normal Italian Army issue. Italian officers wore diverse uniforms of Italian, Spanish, winter and summer origin, in various combinations. The Sam Browne supports the small Beretta holster.

E2: VOLUNTEER, DIVISION 'XXIII DI MARZO', CTV, SUMMER 1937

This private of the Blackshirt infantry volunteers wears what is effectively the Italian Army's tropical uniform, with

minor distinctions. The Italian M1933 helmet increasingly replaced the Adrian model worn at the beginning of Italian intervention. The shirt is peculiar to the CTV – a light grey-green pullover type with a zipped neck. The double black 'flames' and silver fasces of the MVSN appear on each collar point, and the divisional insignia on the left sleeve. The grey-green leather equipment is of Italian design involving a strap around the neck to support frontal belt pouches, and the rifle is the 1891 Mannlicher Carcano.

E3: LEUTNANT, LEGION CONDOR TANK COMPANIES, IN VEHICLE OVERALLS

A rather exotic outfit, of mixed German/Spanish origin. The dark blue cap is piped in Spanish fashion in German Panzer pink branch colour, with gold rank stars but no tassel. The overall has the ranking repeated on a pink *galleta* on the left breast, and is worn with German light khaki shirt, black marching boots and brown field service belt.

E4: ALFEREZ (2ND LIEUTENANT), SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION TANK COMPANIES, 1938-39

The tank commander wears a black beret with single gold rank star; a blouse in the Legion's grey-green, with rank star on a black *galleta*; and black leather equipment. The Spanish tank troops' badge of a

stylised Renault tank seems to have been worn on the right breast by some tank officers of both sides. An unofficial variation was apparently worn: a skull and crossbones badge in silver or white. Nationalist Army tank companies wore a variety of uniforms. Overalls appeared in dark blue, light khaki or dark brown: the black beret was common, and the black *galleta* was standard. The tank is a German Panzerkampfwagen I Ausf.A, finished in the dark Panzer grey and earth brown shadow camouflage used by the German Army during the mid-1930s. The white '513' is a vehicle number; the red and yellow tricolour flashes are the Nationalist recognition marking. The halved red and white diamond is a tactical marking of some kind. The white insignia next to the driver's hatch is the badge of the *Tercio* tank companies, the crossed musket, crossbow and halberd.

E5: UNTEROFFIZIER (NCO), LEGION CONDOR TANK COMPANIES

The service uniform of the Condor Legion was this khaki tunic and trousers, light khaki shirt, and black leather equipment. The tank companies wore a black Spanish beret. Officially the ranking was repeated on this: vertical gold bars on a Panzer pink backing, exactly like the horizontal presentation on the breast. Photos show silver metal beret badges – the Panzer skull and crossbones over a silver swastika. Officers' ranking was worn on the tunic either as individual stars with branch-colour backing, or on a *galleta* of branch colour in the Nationalist manner.

F: REPUBLICAN FORCES

F1: ANARCHIST MILITIAMAN, 1936

The popular *militas* came from numerous political and trade union organisations. They wore civilian clothing and carried whatever arms and equipment they could lay their hands on. The almost universal garment was the dungaree overall, usually dark blue, which became the trademark of the workers in arms. This anarchist wears the halved black and red scarf of the *Federación Anarquista Ibérica*. He has acquired a set of infantry equipment and a 'Short 1916' Mauser rifle.

F2: CABO (CORPORAL), GUARDIA DE ASALTO, 1937

Large numbers of security police sided with the Republic, and played an active role as they were one of the few sources of trained and armed men. They also played an important part in the internal fighting against the anarchists in Barcelona. Abandoning their dark blue service dress early on, they adopted the light blue-grey overalls illustrated. This figure retains his dark blue peaked cap with the silver badge of the corps – a crown above an ornate escutcheon charged 'GS' – with white piping, black peak and strap, and the red chevron of corporal's rank, which is repeated on the breast. He wears outmoded leather equipment, and carries a 'Short 1916' Mauser.

F3: MILICIANA, 1936

Women fought alongside men in the popular militias, and our figure represents one of the hundreds of Madrid factory-girls who took their places at the barricades. She wears the ubiquitous overalls, adorned with roughly-stitched initials indicating her particular affiliation. The *espadrilles* are typical. Her hat is an Army cap modified in a common way: the red piping and tassel are removed, the points pushed inwards and sewn across to give a rounder top line, and a red star is roughly stitched to the front. Her weapon and equipment are of cavalry origin: the 1895 carbine, and the belt with single front pouch and silver buckle-plate were standard issue to that branch.

G: REPUBLICAN ARMY

G1: GENERAL MIAJA, SERVICE DRESS

This figure shows Miaja in normal service uniform for a general. Minor details such as pockets, the use of breeches or trousers, and so forth, naturally varied. The khaki cap bears the red star above the special generals' cap badge in gold – a crowned escutcheon flanked by scrolled pillars. The peak bore gold braid of various widths for field officers and generals. The tunic collar bears the generals' crossed baton and sword. On the sleeves above the cuff are two types of ranking. From October 1936 to February 1937, and after October 1938, all grades of general in the Republican Army were amalgamated into a single rank – general. The insignia was as shown: three red stars

around the crossed baton and sword. The actual level of command was indicated by the stars below this; in this case, the four of an army commander. This separation of rank and function stemmed from the irregular militia backgrounds of some senior commanders; non-regular officers were not allowed to rise above lieutenant colonel, but some natural talents of this rank in fact commanded divisions and corps. One three-point star indicated command of a brigade, two a division, three a corps and four an army.

G2: TENIENTE CORONEL (LIEUTENANT COLONEL) VLADIMIR COPIC, COMMANDING XVTH INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE

This uniform is typical of the campaign dress of Republican officers. The khaki peaked cap has the narrow gold peak braid of a field officer; the Republic's red star trimmed gold; and the infantry branch badge flanked by the two thick horizontal stripes of his rank. Various privately acquired leather jackets and coats were much in evidence, and on every type of coat, jacket and blouse apart from the service dress tunic the ranking was worn on a breast patch, usually of khaki cloth. The red star appeared on this above the ranking, and below these, where appropriate, three-pointed 'command stars' – here, the single star of a brigade commander. Choice and arrangement of such accessories as boots, belts and sidearms were a matter for the individual in the Republican Army.

G3: CABO (CORPORAL), INFANTRY, SERVICE DRESS

A composite figure believed to show the official uniform authorised in October 1936. To what extent this was actually issued is unclear; parts were observed, but it is unlikely that the whole outfit was supplied in significant numbers. The cap is a khaki cloth version of the *pasamontaña*, which was a popular Republican headgear. Its classic version was a wool balaclava with a peak, which could be worn rolled into a sort of peaked cap-comforter of the outline illustrated here. The tunic has no skirt pockets, and a buttoned cuff tab on each sleeve. The figure wears laced and buckled boots with ankle-flaps and straight trousers. Standard belt and pouches are worn with an infantry buckle-

plate, but without the shoulder-braces. The weapon is the 'Mexicanski', the most common rifle among many different types acquired by the Republic; it is a Russian Moisin-Nagant supplied via Mexico. Note the archaic socket bayonet, worn fixed at all times but sometimes reversed. In the background is the Russian T-26 tank, most numerous of the types used by the Republic, and most effective on either side; the Nationalists offered large bounties for captured ones, and formed whole companies of them. Turret markings in the Republican tank companies were restrained, seldom going beyond a simple number. The commander wears the typical nondescript clothing of most Republican personnel. His shirt has a tank badge on the right breast and rank patch on the left. A khaki beret was very widely worn in the Republican Army, and not infrequently in the Nationalist forces as well.



H1: INFANTRYMAN, WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS

A composite figure assembled from many typical features. One can only generalise when discussing Republican combat troops, whose equipment came from many different Spanish and overseas sources, and who never achieved any real uniformity of clothing. The headgear is the woollen *pasamontaña*, pulled down to protect the face. The khaki greatcoat was much more common on the Republican than the Nationalist side, which seems to have favoured the cape. Republican stocks came from many sources, and many were of French origin. In the absence of coats, rough ponchos or capes were made from

blankets or canvas. Khaki trousers or corduroys were worn either loose, or with puttees, with ankle- or high-laced boots, or even with sandals. Rolled blankets of civilian origin were common. Standard infantry equipment is worn here, with two noteworthy additions. The tin plate slung from the belt was very common in the Republic, and served as a mess-tin. The grey or khaki Adrian helmet was imported from France in large numbers at the beginning of the war, and was by far the most common helmet used by the Republic – although helmets were by no means a universal issue at all. Some Spanish helmets were used towards the end, but most seem to have been captured from Nationalist stocks. Sometimes a red star was painted on the front.

H2: BRIGADA (SENIOR NCO), INFANTRY, CAMPAIGN DRESS

The khaki beret was widely worn; here it bears a typical rank patch, with the two red bars below a red star of the senior NCO rank. This is repeated on a chest patch on the khaki tunic, which in various slightly differing forms was the commonest type of jacket in the Republican Army; it appeared in cloth of many shades, in leather, with zips and plastic or leather buttons, with or without branch insignia on the collar, and in various civilian materials and patterns. Trousers were as heterogeneous; cloth of khaki or brown shades, flared or straight in cut, of corduroy, of light striped ticking – all were to be seen in the ranks. The high-laced boots were common. Shirts and sweaters of every colour and type were worn indiscriminately. Many old French Army uni-

forms were acquired and worn complete or in part. The overalls never entirely disappeared, and were worn in various light grey, green and khaki shades. A floppy khaki cotton sun-hat of army origin was seen on both sides during summer fighting. The oval metal canteen carried on this NCO's belt was sometimes, but not often, observed covered in khaki felt. The weapon is interesting; never a regular issue, it was occasionally seen in the hands of junior leaders or security forces. It is the Astra Model 902, a 7.63-mm selective-fire copy of the 1932 Mauser 'broom-handle' pistol, with a wooden holster-stock. The fixed magazine required an extra cut-out in the rear face of the holster-stock, covered with a leather stall.

H3: CAPITÁN, EJÉRCITO NACIONALISTA VASCO, CAMPAIGN DRESS

The *gudaris* or Basque soldiers who supported the Republic served in their own autonomous units; they were an important source of spirited manpower, numbering some 25,000 in November 1936. Uniforms were minimal, but the common feature was the black Basque beret. Ranking generally followed Nationalist Army practice, with officers' stars worn, as here, on beret and breast, and NCO's distinctions similar to the pointed patches worn by Nationalists. The leather jacket was very common among Basque officers. Trousers of white and grey or blue ticking were apparently much in evidence in Basque units.

H4: SOLDADO, GRUPO DE REGULARES DE ALHUCEMAS No. 5, WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS

In winter the Moorish troops of the Nationalist Army were usually issued a tunic in greenish khaki. The baggy sand-coloured trousers, khaki puttees and white canvas boots seem to have been retained. Overgarments varied, but the native cape-coat was not uncommon. Some Moors retained the *tarbuch*, others wore woollen *pasamontañas*. Note the red cord decoration on the loose, hooded jellabah. This cording extended around the edge of the hood down the front, down the outside of the loose sleeves, and around the edges of the split at elbow level which allowed free movement. It also edged the patch bearing the unit number and crescent in white.



Civilians greeting Nationalist tank crews with the Fascist salute. The vehicles are German PzKpfw I tanks, crewed either by Condor Legion or Nationalist personnel.