

FRÉDÉRIC DESSBERG

The French in the Spanish Civil War: fight against fascism and defence of the fatherland

In spite of the non-intervention decision taken in Paris, the French volunteers were the greatest number among the foreign fighters involved in the Spanish Civil War. The French military and diplomatic archives, even if it does not appear so often in the bulk of studies dedicated to them, show their ideological motivation against „fascism” but also a patriotic one. The fight against the Spanish military rebellion could be taken up with the idea of defence of the French republican and democratic model. This paper describes the experience of the French volunteers (mostly workers) from the point of view of their individual commitments in July 1936. It analyses their role and their action inside the International Brigades. At last, it is about the returns to France, through the prism of the French political and military authorities.

Keywords: French volunteers, French communist party, French-Spanish border, political commissioners.

MARIUSZ WOŁOS

Participation of citizens of the Soviet Union in the Civil War in Spain in the years 1936–1939

The participation of the USSR’s citizens in Spanish Civil War was significant. Four thousand people were sent to support the Peoples Front government, including about 1000 civilian specialists and several hundred of secret service agents. Pilots and tankers formed the most numerous group of military advisers. The elite of the Red Army was sent to Spain. Majority of them consisted of relatively young men, born at the turn of 19 and 20 centuries. Joseph Stalin regarded the Civil War in Spain as a firing range for the Soviet military equipment and specialists. Moscow also took care for promoting communism and internationalism by sending journalists, writers and cameramen to Spain. The losses during the conflict were painful, but did not undoubtedly undermine the military capabilities of the Soviet Union. It is estimated that during the conflict, 198 advisers and military specialists were killed, including at least 93 pilots.

Keywords: Civil War in Spain, Soviet Union, Stalinism, participation of Soviet citizens in the Civil War in Spain.

JACEK PIETRZAK

Polish participants of the Spanish Civil War

Polish volunteers played relatively important role during the Spanish Civil War. Majority of them fought in the Republican Army (ca. 4500–5000 among ca. 35 000 soldiers of the international brigades). Most of volunteers (ca. 75%) were Polish economic emigrants who lived mainly in France and many of them were members or followers of the French Communist Party. About 600–800 volunteers (another sources suggest 1200) came directly from Poland, ca. 80% of them were active communists. Most of Polish volunteers joined 13th International Brigade („Dąbrowski Brigade”) which took part in most of crucial military operations and suffered heavy losses (ca. 30–40%). A few tens of Poles fought in the National Army (F. Franco’s army). Most of them were professional soldiers of Spanish Foreign Legion who enlisted that military unit before the war, so their engagement was not of an ideological character. Author tried to give a comprehensive picture of Polish participants of the Spanish Civil War fighting on both sides of the conflict. Character and battles of „Dąbrowski Brigade” and other „Polish” units of the Republican Army as well as biographies of more important commanders were examined. Life and activity of Republican volunteers during the Second World War and in post-war Poland were analysed, including their changing role in Polish communist system.

Keywords: Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), Polish participants of the Spanish Civil War, International Brigades, communism, Poland 20th c.

HANNA MARCZEWSKA-ZAGDAŃSKA

Americans in Spanish Civil War (1936–1938)

The fate of Americans participating in the Spanish Civil War (2800 soldiers) was presented in the article basing on the method of case study. The Neutrality Act and official law banned departures for Spain, but the American volunteers got there illegally to join the Battallion Lincoln or Battalion Washington, which belonged to the XV International Brigade. It was

usually named The Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The group of American volunteers was diversified because of different social status, level of education and national roots. There were commanders ideologically educated in Moscow (R.H. Merriman), Communist instructors (S. Nelson) as well as young people looking for adventures and susceptible to propaganda. There were teachers, artists, journalists (J.Ph. Lardner), writers (Ph.L. Detro) actors (A. Bessie), farmers, workers (D.M. Reiss) and unemployed. There were the White Men and Afroamericans (O. Law), men and women, American citizens of Slavic (M. Markovics) and Jewish origin (M. Wolff). Pilots (A. Baumler, F. Tinker, J. Allison) formed another group among the volunteers as well as doctors and nurses. In Spain, after inadequate training they were immediately sent to the front, where many people were shot (800 died), or wounded, or taken prisoners or deserted (Ph. Crane, B. Abramofsky). The ones who survived, were brought back home with minimal assistance of the F.D. Roosevelt administration. Their post-war lives were also complex and dramatic because of political circumstances (period of Maccathysm).

Keywords: Civil War in Spain 1936–1939, The USA Neutrality Acts, XV International Brigade.

DARIUSZ JEZIORNY

Participation of volunteers from Great Britain in the Spanish Civil War

Writing about the volunteers participating in struggles of the Spanish Civil War, one reservation is necessary. Namely only persons coming from the British Isles were taken into account, not from other parts of the Empire. Historians established that some 2400–2500 combatants from the United Kingdom went to Spain and only about 30 served in the rebels camp. That means that the unequivocal majority supported pro-governmental forces, particularly International Brigades. Text bring up the problems of the way of reaching Spain, motivations of decisions to fight, formed troops and their participation in military fights, social composition of recruits, most important functions taken up in Spain, treatment by the authorities and finally post-war careers of combatants. The questions of the British voluntaries' significance in the Spanish Civil War will be also justified.

Keywords: The British in Spain, the International Brigades, Spanish Civil War (1936–1939).

PIOTR BEDNARZ

Swiss volunteers in the International Brigades in Spain (1936–1939)

The outbreak of the Spanish Civil War met with a great public response in Switzerland. In the summer of 1936 the volunteers from this country started arriving into International Brigades. They was coming mostly from the workers' milieus of industrialized cantons such as Zurich or Basel, also from french-speaking cantons where the ideology of socialism was very popular. In total, about 800 Swiss volunteers fought in Spain. The Swiss considered their participation in the war as a defense against fascism not only in Iberian Peninsula but also indirectly in their own country where the fascist ideology was spreading too. The vast majority of the Swiss fought on the front line, so the losses in this national group were very high (about a quarter). Unfriendly attitude of the swiss authorities to the communism and the prohibition of foreign military service were the basis of the punishment by prison and deprivation of public rights of the volunteers after their return to homeland.

Keywords: Spanish Civil War, Swiss volunteers, International Brigades.

KATARZYNA JEDYNAKIEWICZ-MRÓZ

„Fighters for freedom” and „adventurers” – the Germans in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)

The article presents the genesis, forms and implications of the involvement of the persons of German nationality in the Spanish Civil War. The mentioned problems were showed from the perspective of the activity of two German groups – the supporters of general Franco (Legion Condor and war correspondents from the Third Reich) and the adherents of the Popular Front (anti-Nazi emigrants from Germany). The activity of each group was subjected with the use of the following research questions: the motives of the participation in the Spanish Civil War, the forms and the specific features of their commitment (voluntaries), the nature of the relations with the ordinary Spanish people and with the Spanish authorities (in the case of Nazis with the Nationalists, in case of anti-Nazis with the Republicans). In the last part of the article the assessment of the Germans' involvement in the Spanish Civil War was presented, as well as the post-war years of participants.

Keywords: Germans in the Spanish Civil War, Legion Condor, German anti-Nazi emigrants.

BARTOSZ KACZOROWSKI

Viriatos. Portuguese soldiers of General Franco

Article analyzes the participation of the Portuguese volunteers in the National Army (Ejército Nacional) during the Civil War in Spain. Contrary to the popular belief, so called Legion Viriatos was never created; this name was used to describe all the Portuguese who decided to fight on general Franco's side. Causes of their participation, their actions during the war and the attitude of António de Oliveira Salazar's government to the question of volunteers in Spain were also presented in the article.

Keywords: Salazar, Franco, Civil War in Spain, Portugal, Estado Novo, Viriatos.

XAVIER MORENO JULIA

Italians in Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)

80 years after the beginning of Spanish Civil War (1936) we can not forget the involvement of Italians because this was the most important foreign contingent of combatants (as numerous as the Moroccans). In this study we analyse some elements in order to understand the importance of Italian participation in the War. Firstly, what historiography said about it. Secondly, the size of intervention on the side of General Franco (men, desertions, the particular case of Littorio Division, casualties, military material sent, sanitary action and Spanish debt) and on the side of the Peoples Front (the Italian Battalion converted into the Garibaldi Battalion and finally the Garibaldi Brigade). And thirdly, participation in fights: on one hand, fighting for Franco (70 000 – 80 000 men fighting in very complex and changing military structures) and on the other, for the Republican side (3400 men in the International Brigades). The most important military operations of the War were mentioned in which the Italians took part.

Keywords: Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), Italian participation, Italians on the Nationalist side, Italians on the Republican side.

BARTOSZ KACZOROWSKI

„Half moon and rosary”. Moroccans in the ranks of Ejército Nacional

Article analyzes the participation of the Moroccan soldiers in the National Army (Ejército Nacional) during the Civil War in Spain. Their support was crucial not only for the conquest of the territory of the Spanish Protectorate but it also enabled to seize foodholds on the continent. Causes of the support given by the Moroccans to the nationalist Spain, their actions on the battlefields and finally the consequences of their participation in the war were also described.

Keywords: Morocco, Spanish Civil War, Ben Mizzian, islam, Franco.