

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

7. Catalan gas mask. "F.A.P." type produced by "La Protectora" located in Roses de Llobregat (= Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Barcelona). Extremely scarce. Author's collection. In Sant Feliu de Llobregat, fuses¹ were also produced for the "Comitè d'Indústries de Guerra de Catalunya" (War Industries Commission).²



"In the First World War the feared artillery and devastating machine guns may have caused more casualties, but for many soldiers the most detested weapon was – gas".³ Twenty years later, the use of poison gas in the SCW was a very real fear. As a result both soldiers and civilians were issued with gas masks. But poison gas was not used, at least at a large scale.

- Why wasn't poison gas used? Before you answer, read C. N. Trueman, "Poison Gas And World War Two", historylearningsite.co.uk. *The History Learning Site*, 6 Mar 2015. 16 Aug 2016. Accessed August 30, 2016.

¹ Espoletes, "f. [DE] [LC] Aparell que es col·loca a l'ogiva d'un projectil, a la boca d'una bomba, d'una granada, etc., i serveix per a fer esclatar la càrrega", DIEC2.

² F. J. de Madariaga Fernández, *Las industrias de guerra de Cataluña durante la Guerra Civil*, tesi doctoral dirigida per J. Sánchez Cervelló, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, 2003, p. 705. "Del pintallavis a la bala", M. Montserrat Besses (dir.) and M. Sansa, TV3 documentary, 2007.

³ J. Hughes-Wilson, *A History of the First World War in 100 objects*, London, Cassell, 2014, page 166.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
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8. Spanish canteen. Aluminium body. Missing cover. Author's collection. On 1 August 1926 the Ministry of War introduced a new set of field equipment and uniforms. The "cantimplora" (canteen) was "La determinada por real orden circular de 27 de julio de 1914 (C. L. núm. 130), de aluminio con funda de fieltro al tono del uniforme".⁴ Water was as important as ammunition: "Those who live a comparatively fixed life can hardly weigh aright the importance of a good canteen".⁵ The aluminium canteen with a felt cover was still in use in 1936. The brief inscription provides this Republican piece of valuable information:

A. L. L. [soldier's initials]

141 Brigada Mixta [141st Mixed Brigade]⁶

562 (?) Batallón

Ametralladoras [562? Machine Gun Battalion]

(Lerida) [Lleida]

[drawing of a Maxim's machine gun model 1910]

(Alcarraz) [(Alcarràs -Segrià-)]

⁴ *Diario Oficial del Ministerio de Guerra*, 1 de agosto de 1926, tomo III, p. 384.

⁵ Ph. Reade, *History of the Military Canteen*, Published by authority of the Hon., the Secretary of War, Chicago, C. J. Burroughs, 1901, page 3.

⁶ <http://www.sbhac.net/Republica/Fuerzas/EPR/EprL/BM141.htm>. Accessed August 31, 2016.



Institut
La Garrotxa

Subject: Social Science (History)

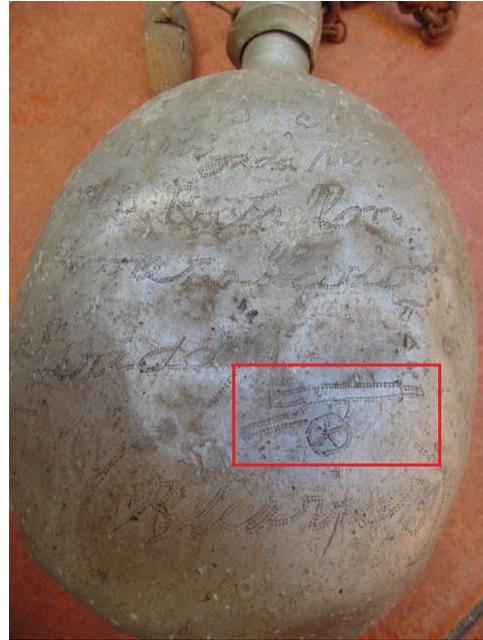
A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects

Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat

AICLE / CLIL

Level: 2n de
Batxillerat

Timing: 12
sessions



Russian Maxim M1910⁷

- What was a Mixed Brigade?

- If you want to learn more about the 141st Mixed Brigade (1937-1939), visit <http://www.sbhac.net/Republica/Fuerzas/EPR/EprL/BM141.htm> (Accessed August 31, 2016). A good summer read: Carlos Engel, *Historia de las brigadas mixtas del Ejército Popular de la República*, Madrid, Almena, 1999.

⁷ <http://world.guns.ru/machine/rus/maxim-m1910-30-e.html>. Accessed August 31, 2016.



Institut
La Garrotxa

Subject: Social Science (History)

A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects

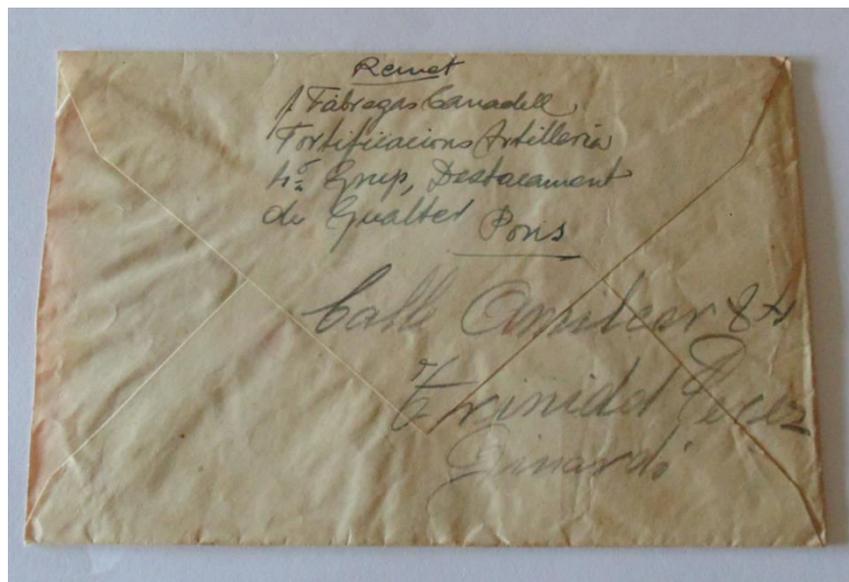
Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat

AICLE / CLIL

Level: 2n de
Batxillerat

Timing: 12
sessions

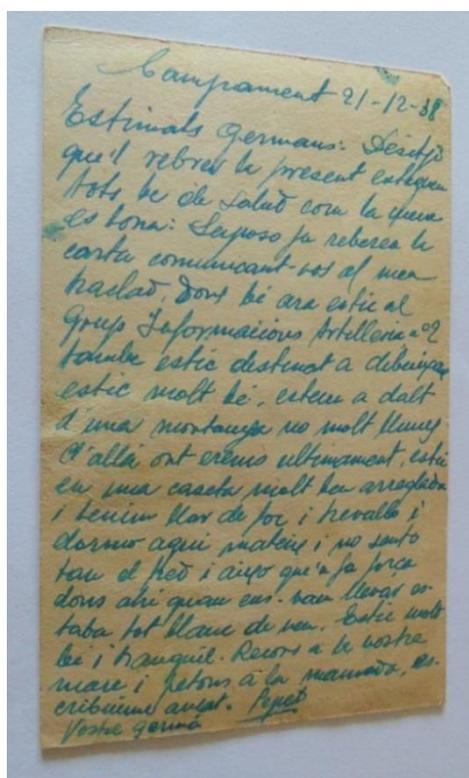
9. Personal letter. J. Fàbregas Canadell, conscript⁸, "Fortificacions Artilleria 4 Grup, Destacament de Gualter, Pons [Ponts]". Letter to his family and drawings for his nephews, August 1, 1938. Author's collection.



⁸ Recluta, quinto.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

Postcard. International Red Aid, Catalan Section. J. Fàbregas Canadell, December 21, 1938. The International Red Aid ("Socors Roig Internacional", or SRI) offered humanitarian relief: "The Communist International had founded SRI in 1922 as an 'international political Red Cross' to aid political prisoners".⁹



⁹ R. Rhodes, *Hell and Good Company: The Spanish Civil War and the World It Made*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2015, page 34.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

"Letters were a particular source of comfort to conscripts and the Republican military postal service handled a very large volume of mail. In the central zone, 3,190,524 letters were sent and 2,914,139 received just in September 1937. The role of the letters was crucial in maintaining contact with friends and family, and ties with a distant pre-war world. An example of a letter is one sent by a woman to her conscript grandson. The writing is shaky and full of grammatical and spelling errors. However, her communication is good: 'You are strong and I know that you will fight energetically, so young and with so much courage.' There is also an indirect reference to her prayers: 'Every morning I say something so that you escape wounds and death'. One sister wrote to her brother hoping that they would 'all be together' soon in Madrid. She also closed her correspondence on a note she hoped her brother would approve: 'Long live the CNT and the FAI, long live the UGT.' In another letter, 'D. Tortosa' of the 147th Mixed Brigade wrote to Manuel Garrido Garrido in Vallada (Valencia) to thank him for recent news: 'how happy I am to hear of the village's progress', he exclaimed. Finally, even in a letter branded as 'exemplary' with regards to its anti-fascism by the censorship services, the two parents, Manuel and Manuela Hernández, who wrote to their son, Salvador, in May 1938 urged him to write home frequently because they 'suffer[ed] his absence':

[A]lways write to your parents. It is a great joy that you grant us. You know that, but do not forget it. We are not interested in military campaign actions. Nor are we interested in the places in which they take place. We will win the ultimate battles; but we are very interested in your health and your fate. That is why we want you to write to us like you have up until now. And you will do so because you have been, you are, and always will be a good son."¹⁰

- In groups, have students analyse a letter (primary source) from an American volunteer:

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/scw/letters.htm>. Accessed August 30, 2016.

¹⁰ J. Matthews, *Reluctant Warriors: Republican Popular Army and Nationalist Army Conscripts in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012, page 115.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

Have students imagine they are alive during the SCW and a family member has been recruited as a soldier. How important would it be to receive a letter? What would those left at home hope to hear about?

10. Passive Defence armband, Barcelona. Author's collection. The "Defensa Passiva" aimed to protect civilians during bombings. Civilians took refuge in air raid shelters and underground stations. From 16 to 18 March 1938, Barcelona was bombed by the Italian "Aviazione Legionaria" from Mallorca. The bombers dropped 44 tons of bombs and around 1,000 people were killed and at least 2,000 wounded.¹¹

A few months later, John Langdon-Davies (1897-1971), a British journalist, published a book on the effects of airstrikes on the civilian population in Barcelona: ***Air Raid: The Technique of Silent Approach, High Explosive, Panic*** (1938) (author's collection). As a war correspondent, he was present in Barcelona at the time (see, for example, Marià Manent, *El vel de Maia*). He founded the Foster Parents' Scheme for refugee children in Spain: the origin of the nowadays Plan International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) which promotes the safeguarding of children. Langdon-Davies determined that the raids constituted a deliberate terror experiment, the Italian and German trademark for a future war against the UK.

"At eight minutes past ten on the evening of March 16th, 1938, the sirens of Barcelona sounded an alarm. Between that hour and 3.19 p.m., March 18th, there were thirteen air-raids which produced destruction in every district of Barcelona and in the surrounding towns.

The total casualties were about 3,000 killed, 5,000 hospital cases, and roughly 20,000 minor injuries [Footnote: Private estimate of a member of the government]. As mere casualties the numbers are not impressive for a city of more than a million and a half. They are childish compared with those of a three-days' major offensive during the Great War. Yet from the point of view of the Art of War the operation

¹¹ A. Beevor, *The Battle for Spain: The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939*, London, Penguin Books, 2006, page 333.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

was the most satisfactory and potentially important since the beginning of hostilities. *Its interest lies not in the number of people that were killed, but in what happened to those left alive.*

The lessons to be learned are most important in the field of psychology. The object of the manoeuvre was itself psychological. The aim was not casualties, but the creation of panic. The technique employed was designed to nullify existing Defence measures against panic. It succeeded."

John Langdon-Davies, *Air Raid: The Technique of Silent Approach, High Explosive, Panic*, London, George Routledge & Sons, Ltd, 1938, pages 14 and 15.

Alan Warren's *Porta de la Historia* blog (pdlhistoria.wordpress.com):

"Between 13th February 1937 and 25th January 1939 Barcelona suffered 385 bombing raids with 2,750 dead, over 7,000 wounded and over 1,800 buildings damaged. In a speech in June 1940, Churchill acknowledged the bravery of the people of Barcelona during this time. It was a taste of things to come in World War Two. The results of the bombings were analysed by experts in London to prepare for the future bombing of London under the innocuous title, 'The Barcelona Effect'.¹²

Winston Churchill, "Their Finest Hour", June 18, 1940, House of Commons. This famous speech was delivered after the Dunkirk evacuation (between 26 May and 4 June 1940) and the Fall of France (25 June 1940). Britain was alone fighting the Nazis.

"I do not at all underrate the severity of the ordeal which lies before us; but I believe our countrymen will show themselves capable of standing up to it, like the

¹² Porta de la Historia's blog, "Barcelona. Daily Life and the Bombings. 1936 to 1939", Sunday 27th March. 2011: <https://pdlhistoria.wordpress.com/barcelona/>. Accessed August 31, 2016. See also J. M. Solé i Sabaté and J. Villarroya, *España en llamas: la Guerra Civil desde el aire*, Madrid, Temas de Hoy, 2003.

 Institut La Garrotxa	Subject: Social Science (History)	Level: 2n de Batxillerat
	A History of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) in 30 Objects Author: Ricard Expósito i Amagat AICLE / CLIL	Timing: 12 sessions

brave men of Barcelona, and will be able to stand up to it, and carry on in spite of it, at least as well as any other people in the world”¹³

- What was the most (in)famous bombing in the SCW? What do you know about it?



¹³ <https://www.winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1940-the-finest-hour/their-finest-hour>. Accessed August 31, 2016.



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