

Memoranda 1942: A very trying year for me personally. The Bucknill C'tee was an obvious political move to make me the scapegoat for the PRINCE OF WALES disaster, the C'tee confined their attention entirely to the material side & made a bloomer over application of Job 74 [test section of battleship] results to P. of W. Wake-Walker admitted in talk that they had been told to confine their remarks to P of W & ship construction. An eye-opener that a Judge of the High Court could be so influenced. When the 1st report failed to put the blame on me entirely, the C'tee faded out. I think it wise to let it alone until everybody can take a calmer view & then protest, it will most likely bob up again in the Naval debate [in Parliament]. Then Fraser went at which I was not sorry, he being too much for gold lace & weak on labour & sticking up to 1st L. & Staff, but instead of Simeon [Deputy Controller] Wake-Walker was appointed. He went off at once at half-cock & got Bath (& me) upset. Much too impetuous. I get on better with him now I am in London. It has again been a difficult year satisfying demands for staff. The ships have had a better year. INDOM. took a hammering well, as did EDINBURGH & TRINIDAD tho' finally lost. Shipyard managements show war weariness & the old men are feeling the strain.



Foreign warships transferred to Spain during the Spanish Civil War

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Motor Torpedo Boats

In 1936-37 Germany transferred five ex-Kriegsmarine S-boats (S1-S5) to Nationalist Spain. FALANGE (ex-S2) and REQUETÉ (LT-11, ex-S4) were transported on the merchant vessel UHLENFELS, leaving Bremenhaven on 10 November 1936, arriving in Ferrol four days later. BADAJOZ (LT-12, ex-S1) and TOLEDO (LT-14, ex-S5) were transported on merchant vessel ILMAR, leaving Kiel on 4 February 1937, arriving in Cádiz six days later. OVIEDO (LT-13, ex-S3) was transported on merchant vessel HANSA KENDELFELS from Hamburg on 26 February 1937, arriving in Cádiz on 3 March. FALANGE was lost by fire in Malaga on 18 June 1937, and not given an LT number.¹

¹ Private Correspondence, Villegas (*Instituto de Historia y Cultura Naval Fundación Alvargonzález*) to Author, 14 Mar 2017. R Chesneau (ed), 1980, *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946*, Conway Maritime Press, London, pp248, 404. PF Núñez, JMM Gómez & JM Carlés, 2014, *Buques de la*

In 1937, Italy transferred four motor torpedo boats to the Nationalist Navy. NÁPOLES (LT-17, ex-MAS100) and SICILIA (LT-18, ex-MAS223) of World War 1 vintage were transported to Cádiz on board the Italian cruiser MUZIO ATTENDOLO in January 1937, arriving on 5 February. They were followed by the newer CÁNDIDO PÉREZ (LT-19 ex-MAS435) and JAVIER QUIROGA (ex-MAS437) on 10 March 1937. QUIROGA was not allocated an LT number, as she was lost in collision with CÁNDIDO PÉREZ off Gibraltar on 7 May 1937.²

Finally, the Soviet Union transferred four G5 class motor torpedo boats to the Spanish Republican Navy in May 1937. Two were transported on board the Spanish Republican armed merchant vessel SANTO TOMÉ from Odessa, arriving in Cartagena in May 1937. In the following weeks the second two were transported on the Spanish Republican armed merchant vessel merchant ALDECOA. Named DAR 11, DAR 21, DAR 31 and DAR 41 in Republican service, DAR 31 was heavily damaged by aircraft on 5 November 1937 and became a total loss, while DAR 41 was sunk by aircraft near Barcelona on 30 July 1939. DAR 11 and DAR 21 were subsequently renamed LT-15 and LT-16 respectively in 1941.³

None of these transfers contravened the restrictions on disposing of vessels of war in such a manner that they may become a vessel of war in a foreign navy. The 1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement contained no restrictions on the exporting of second-hand warships, and the German and Soviet transfers pre-dated both the 1937 Anglo-German Naval Agreement and the Anglo-Soviet Naval Agreement. For Italy, even though the transfer of NÁPOLES and SICILIA was apparently agreed on 30 December 1936,⁴ the actual transfers occurred between the expiry of the Washington Naval Treaty on 31 December 1936, and the Italian accession to the 1936 London Naval Treaty on 2 December 1938, during which period Italy was technically not bound by any naval limitation treaty.

Submarines and Destroyers

On 20 April 1937, the Italians secretly supplied two near-new submarines EVANGELISTA TORRICELLI and ARCHIMEDE to the Nationalists which were renamed GENERAL MOLA and GENERAL

Armada Española Historiales (1700-2014), Instituto de Historia y Cultura Naval Fundación Alvagonzález, Gijón, pp126, 281, 540, 635-636, 742.

² Villegas to Author, 14 Mar 2017. Chesneau, pp311-312, 404. Núñez et al, pp384-385. I MAS e le Motosiluranti Italiane, 1995, Spanish Navy, *Warships*, 122, p40.

³ Villegas to Author, 14 Mar 2017. Chesneau, p404. Núñez et al, pp231-232. Note that Chesneau incorrectly refers to these vessels as *DAR 1-4*, rather than *DAR 11-41*.

⁴ Núñez et al, pp506, 719.

SANJURO respectively. Four further submarines – FERRARIS, GALILEI, IRIDE and ONICE – were also temporarily transferred in August 1937. Although they were renamed MOLA II, SANJURJO II, GENERAL LOPEZ and AGUILAR TABLADA respectively, and flew the Spanish flag, all four retained their Italian crews. The four temporarily transferred submarines operated from the base of Soller in the Balearic Islands until December 1937, after which they returned to Italy.⁵

In 1937, the Italians proceeded to supply four old destroyers of World War One Vintage to the Nationalists. AQUILA and FALCO were provided on 10 October 1937, being renamed MELILLA and CEUTA respectively, while GUGLIELMO PEPE and ALESSANDRO POERIO were provided on 28 November 1937 being renamed TERUEL and HUESCA respectively. TERUEL and HUESCA were formally transferred to the Spanish Navy in June 1938, and MELILLA and CEUTA on 6 January 1939.⁶

As for the Motor Torpedo Boats, all of these submarines and destroyers were physically transferred from Italy to Spain during the period when Italy was not bound by either the Washington or 1936 London Naval Treaties, although a tenuous case could be made that the official transfer date of MELILLA and CEUTA represented a technical breach of the 1936 London Naval Treaty.



The Spanish Nationalist submarine GENERAL SANJURJO formerly the Italian submarine ARCHIMEDE, with a surfaced displacement of just under 1,000 tons she was launched on 19 March 1934 she was transferred to the Nationalist Spanish in 1936. [open source]

⁵ Núñez et al, pp319-321. Chesneau, p403. V Turon, 1984, Chronology of Submarine Operations during the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39, *Warships Supplement*, 77, p30. It is noteworthy that the normally comprehensive Núñez et al makes no mention of the four submarines temporarily transferred.

⁶ Núñez et al, pp196, 359, 488, 738. Gardiner, pp265-266.