

*Desperta ferro!* Wargaming Guides series, no. 1

# CATALONIA STANDS ALONE

1713-1714: THE CATALANS' WAR



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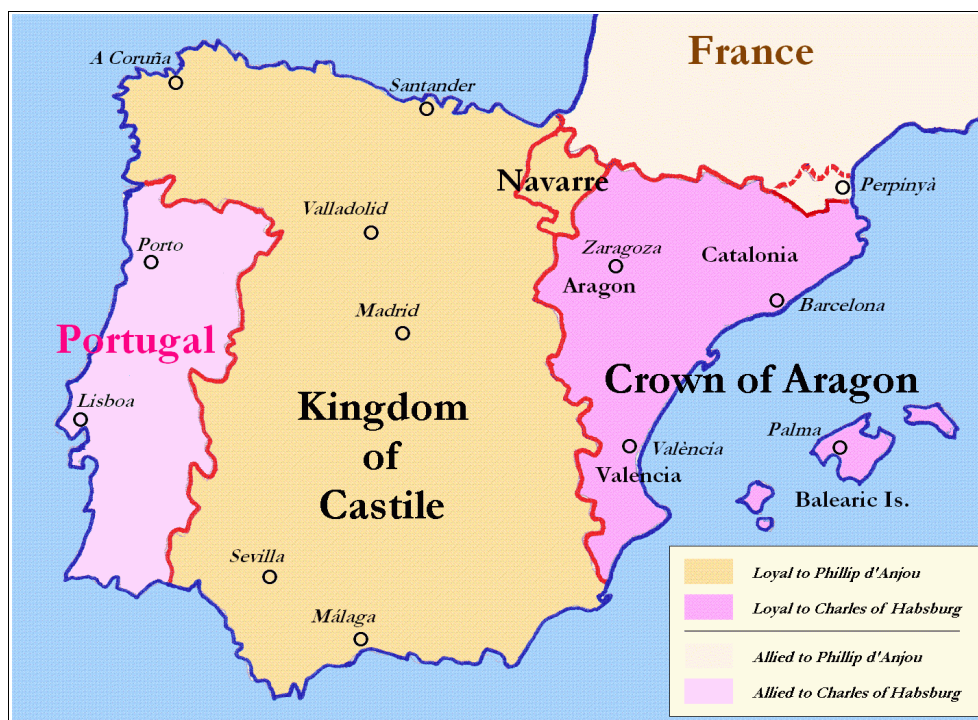
1<sup>st</sup> edition, September 2008

# FOREWORD

It may seem paradoxical that, when examining the War of Spanish Succession (WSS), the least well known armies in this conflict are in fact the Spanish ones. However it is true that the main information sources available for this war have only sketchy information about orders of battle, uniforms and flags of the Spanish forces of Phillip d'Anjou, for example, when these troops in fact bore the heaviest part of the Two Crowns fighting in the Iberian Peninsula.

If little is known about Phillip d'Anjou's armies, those of his opponent, Archduke Charles Habsburg are even more of a mystery. So much of their story has been forgotten over time and so deeply ignored were they by later historians, that Spanish Bourbon apologists even took advantage of this ignorance to attempt to present the war as a Spanish national struggle against a *foreign* invasion led by Archduke Charles.

Avoiding these (intentional) misinterpretations, we would like this document to be the first of a whole series aimed at providing War of Spanish Succession wargamers a comprehensive guide on uniformology, vexillology and basic painting of some of the most obscure armies involved in this early pan-european war; those from Spain. In particular the most commonly ignored ones; the Austro-Catalan, or Spanish armies of Archduke Charles.



The purpose of this first volume, entitled *Catalonia Stands Alone*, is to describe the military units raised by the Catalan Authorities during the last stages of that war. Not only those fielded in support of the claims of Archduke Charles, but also those raised in defence of their soil and the Constitutions of Catalonia –the set of laws and particular institutions embodying what nowadays would be called the *sovereignty* of each of the Crown of Aragon States inside the Spanish Empire.

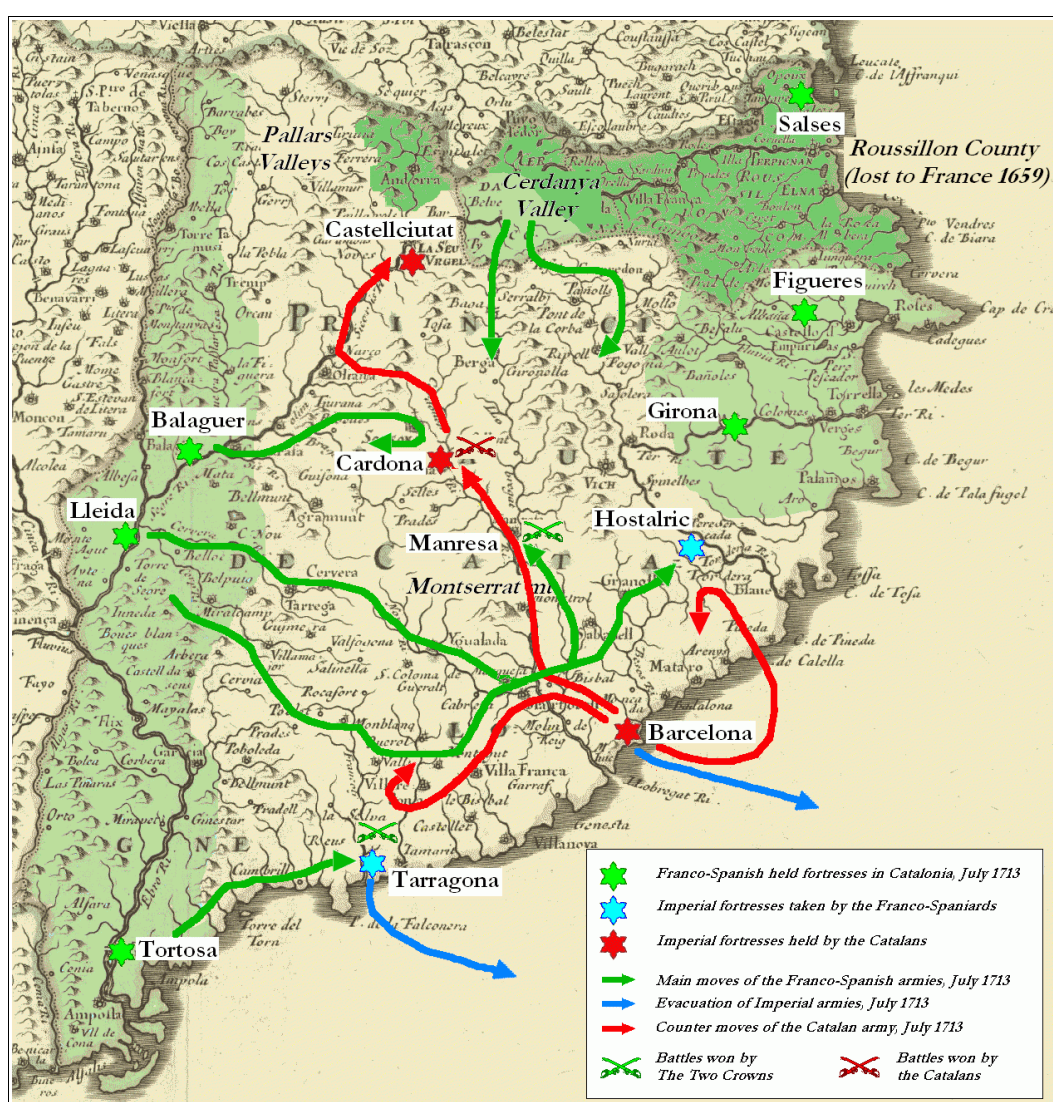
Although presented as accurately and conscientiously as possible by the simple hobbyist the author is, this document does not pretend to be any sort of exhaustive historical essay. It has been compiled, with a non-professional rigour, from several more technical sources, as well as the wise advice and criticisms of a handful of researchers and fellow hobbyists. The few times that, after having failed to find an answer among these sources, the author has decided to insert a conclusion of his own, it has been appropriately marked as “speculative”. It is ultimately recommended that the reader who wishes increase further their knowledge of the Catalan involvement in the War of Spanish Succession, beyond this guide, start with the original sources listed in *Chapter IX, Bibliography*.



# INTRODUCTION

Even though in this guide there will be some reference to the military contribution of the Principality of Catalonia to the cause of the Habsburg Archduke Charles in the 1705-1713 period, its main thrust is to examine the solitary, titanic Catalan war effort between 1713-1714, after the Peace of Utrecht had been signed. This treaty heralded the disintegration of the Allied Coalition as Great Britain, The United Provinces of the Netherlands and, eventually, the Holy Roman Empire (Austria Hungary) made peace with France, so leaving the Catalans hopelessly alone to face the joint Armies of Louis XIV and Phillip d'Anjou.

In an unprecedented gesture, on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1713, the same day that the Imperial Army was being embarked back to Naples, the Catalan Parliament Deputies (*Junta de Braços*) declared formally "War At All Costs" (*Guerra a Ultrança*) and put the country on a war footing, in a desperate response to the imminent invasion by the Two Crowns armies. On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of that same month when the battle of Tarragona took place, Catalonia was plunged into a living hell of fire and death that would last for 14 long months.



Far from the image often shown by the official historiography in modern Spain i.e. the pacification of an unruly province infested with brigandage, the campaign of 1713-1714 was a true war of defence. It was formally declared by Catalonian Authorities and intelligently planned and executed

by the Catalan War Board (*Junta de Guerra*) with a small\* but well equipped army. The force available included regular line infantry, artillery, heavy cavalry and a handful of warships, as well as a number of valuable, fierce urban and rural militias.

In spite of being effectively a forgotten sideshow (for in fact, there *had been* a peace treaty, and for most of the world the war had actually finished), the ferocious and unequal war of 1713-1714 will mark forever the spirit of the Catalonia, even more than the brutal repression immediately following the military defeat. Nowadays, 300 years later, we the Catalans still commemorate our National Day each September 11<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of that fateful day of 1714 when the last bastion of Barcelona fell; and along with it, most of the pride and self-confidence of an old nation.

## ORGANIZATION

Once the war had been formally declared, the *Junta de Braços* reorganized itself in different specific committees, assuming *de facto* all the powers of government of the Principality, although always in the name of **King Charles III of Aragon** (that is, Archduke Charles Habsburg). Among these committees there was the *Junta de Guerra*, in charge of leading the Catalan war effort. Their first resolution was the appointment of General Antonio Villarroel as Commander in Chief (*General en Xefe*), supplying his senior subordinates with the nominations as Battle Generals (*Generals de Batalla*, *Generalfeldmarschall*) Joan B. Basset, Bartolomé Ortega and Gaspar de Zúñiga, (all of them former distinguished soldiers in the Army of Archduke Charles), as well as confirming in his appointment as General, Rafael Nebot.

By July 1713, when Stahremberg commenced the Imperial evacuation of Catalonia, only two complete infantry regiments stayed to remain at the disposal of Catalonian Authorities; those were the ones raised by the *Diputació General* and the Barcelona town Council. Besides these there was also one cavalry squadron and three mountain fusiliers regiments. All together these represented a force totalling not more than 2,000 men. The Catalan *Junta de Guerra* quickly started to expand this tiny core force. Five new regiments were established in a few weeks, whose ranks were filled up with a first conscription as well as with Imperial soldiers who had refused to be evacuated. In a similar way, there were also four new cavalry regiments, three or four mountain fusiliers regiments and one artillery regiment created.

At first the Catalan *Junta de Guerra* intended to group the former Imperial soldiers according to their nationalities; most of the Austro-German and Hungarian infantrymen were assigned to the *Sant Narcís* Regiment, while an independent Hussar Squadron was created with about a hundred ex-Imperial cavalrymen. However this procedure soon became unsustainable as the need for replacements for the increasing numbers of casualties in every unit could be fulfilled only by conscripted Catalan subjects.

Additionally the Catalonian Authorities had at their disposal a similar number of volunteer combatants in a multitude of *Miquelets* and *Sometents* or rural Militia units, irregular cavalry squadrons and *Coronela* (urban Militias organized and maintained by the towns' professional Guilds). After a first conscription and the recruitment of about 1,500 Imperial soldiers, that core force was quickly expanded up to five times the initial numbers. In the meantime, the Army of Phillip d'Anjou started the occupying the country from the south, under command of the Duke of Populi.

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\*"Small" hardly describes the situation, the army raised by the Catalans in 1713 was indeed minute in comparison with the joint Franco-Spanish forces occupying Catalonia: according to Prof. F. X. Hernández in his book *Els Exèrcits de Catalunya 1713-1714*, there were some 10.000 regular soldiers and 7.000 militiamen, facing 78.000 Spaniards and French under command of Populi and Berwick.

# I – LINE INFANTRY

The Line Infantry (*Infanteria Reglada*) is considered to include all those units either directly raised by the *Junta de Guerra* or under the concession of a license or comission (*patent*), which also shared an internal organization as specified by Archduke Charles' 1706 Ordnances, were formed of professional soldiers, were trained for maneuvering and fighting in formation and uniformed and equipped according to a common pattern. Equipment, weapons and salaries could be provided by the *Junta de Guerra* itself or the comission owner, who could be the *Diputació General*, the Council of Barcelona town or even an individual (often, a lord or knight belonging to the Military Arm of the *Junta de Braços*).

As previously mentioned, the new regiments were likely to be organized, following Archduke Charles' 1706 Ordnances, into a single battalion divided into up to 11 companies, with a theoretical full strength of 1,000 men. Every regiment should have had one grenadier company, although it



seems that at least a couple of regiments had two. Although most of the new units probably never acheived their full theoretical strength, it has been estimated that many managed to maintain a strength of 50-75% all through the campaign.

**Uniforms:** Units were dressed, equipped and armed following typical trends in armies of the period. Some Allied examples were taken as a model; the Imperial Army for internal organisation and the English for a number of technical solutions and equipment. Some elements were Catalan features, such as frontal cartridge pouches. The Line Infantry's main weapon was a musket with bayonet, supplemented with a sword; no records exist about the use of pikes by any unit. Grenadiers wore a saber as secondary weapon. Blue was the chosen colour for most of the regiments, with different colour facings for every unit.

**Grenadiers:** the most distinctive features in their uniform and equipment was their grenadier cap (with a lower frontal plate than the Spanish one) and the ubiquitous grenade bag, as shown in the image. It seems that in some units grenadiers wore shoulder laces –following Spanish trends too.

**Drummers'** coats and facings were in the same colour as the rank and file, being distinguished by various pipings.

**Officers** wore a yellow sash around the waist as a symbol of rank and their hats were decorated by red plumes.



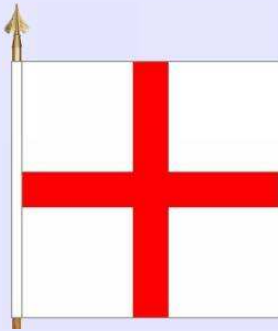
## Painting Guides

As you will see all through this booklet, an indicative palette of colours has been attached to the uniform description of each unit listed in the volume. These colour palettes are always shown in a 2-columns table form; the one at the left, labelled as “uniform description”, lists the main uniform elements and their colours, while the second one presents a list of paint colour suggestions for each element, even those indicated as uncertain or speculative by a question mark.

These paint suggestions are primarily intended for base coating; appropriate shadowing and highlighting can be added according to personal tastes. Colour palettes have been based on the Vallejo Acrylics catalogue *Model Color* range, however, hobbyists preferring other paint brands will easily define their own palettes with the help of appropriate conversion tables. One such table can be found at Vallejo Acrylics' website. Another useful tool is the *Color Match* online colour charts converter, which is able to cross references between most known brands, such as Andrea, Coat D'Arms, GW Citadel, Humbrol, Vallejo, etc. (cf. *Chapter IX, Bibliography*)



# 1 – Regiment de la Diputació General



**Regimental Flag**  
 Recreated according to  
 Hernández & Riart

On a white field, a red  
 Saint George Cross

Raised in 1705, by the *Diputació General*, a permanent committee of the Catalan Parliament also known as *Generalitat*.

Formerly part of the Austro-Catalan Army of Archduke Charles, this was one of the only two Regiments still remaining in Catalonia after the Austrian retreat in 1713, thus becoming the core nucleus of the Catalans' own army hurriedly raised to face the invasion.

It numbered some 600 men (all Catalans) in 8 companies. During the 1713-1714 campaign, one of these companies garrisoned Cardona, other four stayed at Castellciutat (close to the Pyrenean valley of Cerdanya, under French occupation) and the remainder defended Barcelona, incurring heavy losses.

The 1705 uniform at first followed the same pattern as in Charles II times (1665-1700), with a pearl grey coat that in 1706 switched to blue.



**First Uniform  
 1705-1706**



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat and  
 Grenadier cap piping**

Uniform Description		Painting Suggestions
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Stockings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Buttons	Golden	996 Gold
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Gaiters	unknown, likely white if worn	



**1706-1714 Uniform**

**Colonels**

1705-1707:  
 Manuel de Pinós

1707-1710:  
 Climent de Solanell

1710-1711:  
 Pere Muntaner †

1711-1714:  
 Francesc Sans Miquel



**Grenadier cap**

## 2 – Regiment de la Ciutat de Barcelona

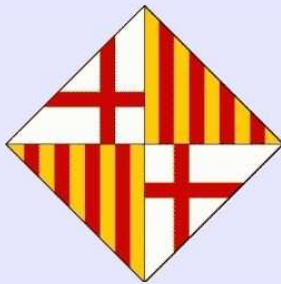


**1706-1714 Uniform**

Raised in 1706, by the Barcelona Municipality or *Consell de Cent* (=Council of The Hundred) as a contribution to the Army of Archduke Charles, under the name of *El Rey* (=King's Own). This was the other one of the two Imperial regiments which remained in Catalonia after the Austrian retreat in 1713, thus contributing immensely to the Catalans' final war effort.

It numbered some 600 men in 8 companies, 100% Catalans. During the 1713-1714 campaign, one of these companies helped garrisoning Cardona, while the rest of the Regiment stayed at Barcelona, being decimated in the final assault ordered by Berwick in September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1714.

Uniform was kept as the same pattern as in King Charles II times, a red coat with yellow facings, as well as matching trousers and stockings.



*The Arms of Barcelona lie at the root of this town's popular nickname, "Cap i Casal", which means Head (of Catalonia) & Household (of the Crown of Aragon)*



**Grenadier cap**

<b>Uniform Description</b>		<b>Painting Suggestions</b>
Coat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Facings	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Waistcoat	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Stockings	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Buttons	Red	908 Carmine Red
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters		White (when worn)

### Colonels

1706-1713:  
Jaume de Cordelles

1713-1714:  
Francesc Aspre †

August 1714:  
Jordi de la Bastida †



### Regimental Flag

*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

On a light blue field, the full Coat of Arms of Barcelona



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat and Grenadier cap piping**

# 3 - Regiment de la Immaculada Concepció



**Regimental Flag**  
 Recreated according to  
 Hernández & Riart

Obverse: The Virgin of Immaculada Concepció, on unknown background

Reverse: unknown



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**

Raised in July 1713, this unit was also known as *Regiment Villarroel*, for it enjoyed the confidence of the Army Commander-in-Chief, General Antonio Villarroel.

It numbered about 700 men in maybe 8 or 9 companies of fusiliers, as well as two of grenadiers -instead of just the usual one.

One company of grenadiers and another one of fusiliers were sent to Cardona fortress at the very start of the campaign, while the rest of the Regiment stayed at Barcelona, therefore being involved in most of the attacks, counterattacks and *sorties* of that town's long siege.

As a result, according Prof. F. X. Hernández, the unit suffered at least 400 casualties during the campaign.



**First Uniform 1713**

Uniform Description		Painting Suggestions
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Stockings	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Buttons	Red?	908 Carmine Red
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



**1714 Uniform**

**Colonels**

1713-1714:  
 Gregorio de Saavedra

July 1714:  
 Pau de Thoar



**Grenadier cap**



## 4 – Regiment de Santa Eulàlia



**First Uniform 1713**

Raised in July 1713, this Regiment formed at first of volunteers from the Kingdoms of Navarre and Castile, former soldiers in the Army of Archduke Charles who had refused to be evacuated to Naples. Later it had to be made up to strength with Catalan recruits.

This unit enjoyed excellent officers and, at its maximum strength, it should have had about 500 soldiers. It seems that it too had two grenadiers companies like Regiment de la Immaculada Concepció.

The *Santa Eulàlia* Regiment spent the whole campaign inside the walls of Barcelona, being therefore involved in most of major attacks and counterattacks during the town's siege.



**1714 Uniform**

Uniform Description	Painting Suggestions	
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Waistcoat	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Stockings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Buttons	Yellow?	915 Deep Yellow
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



**Grenadier cap**

### Colonels

1713-1714:  
José Iñiguez Abarca,  
marqués de Las Navas †

1714:  
Antonio del Castillo



### Regimental Flag

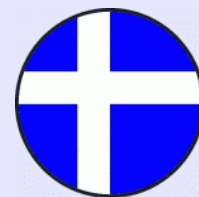
*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: Saint Eulàlia, on  
unknown background

Reverse: unknown



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**

# 5 - Regiment Nostra Senyora dels Desemparats



## Regimental Flag

Recreated according to  
*Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: The Virgin of Desemparats, on unknown background

Reverse: unknown

Raised in July 1713, the majority of the rank and file soldiers of this unit were Valencians belonging to the former *Ahumada* Regiment, although it also had a foreign component –nearly one hundred Neapolitans who had refused to be transported back home with the rest of Archduke Charles' Army. Its total strength has been estimated at about 300 soldiers.

This unit was also charged with the defence of Barcelona from the start of the 1713-1714 campaign, therefore being involved in most of the events of that long siege. On August 14<sup>th</sup> 1714, Colonel Torres was severely wounded while commanding the Regiment at Santa Clara bastion. The fierce counterattack he was leading did however prevent the success of a major assault ordered by Marshall Berwick. He was then replaced by his second in command, Joan Antoni Corradó, who died during the final assault on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

At first, Neapolitan soldiers of this unit were provided no equipment, so they had to wear their old Imperial Army regiments' white or pearl grey uniforms.



**First Uniform 1713**



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**

## Uniform Description      Painting Suggestions

Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Orange	911 Light Orange
Waistcoat	White	951 White
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	White	951 White
Stockings	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Buttons	Orange?	911 Light Orange
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



**1714 Uniform**

## Colonels

1713-1714:  
Josep Vicent Torres

August 1714:  
Joan Antoni Corradó †



**Grenadier cap**

# 6 – Regiment de Sant Narcís



**First Uniform 1713**

Raised in July 1713, this Regiment was also known as *Infanteria Alemanyà* (=German Infantry), as the initial recruits were volunteers from Austria, Hungary and Italy. These were some of the former soldiers in the Imperial Army who refused to be evacuated to Naples. By the end of the campaign, however, this distinction was barely evident, as replacements for their heavy losses were mainly Catalan and Aragonese soldiers.

This unit strength has been estimated at about 500 soldiers.

This Regiment spent the whole campaign inside the walls of Barcelona, being therefore involved in most of the major attacks and counterattacks during the town's siege.



**1714 Uniform**

Uniform Description	Painting Suggestions	
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	White	951 White
Waistcoat	White	951 White
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	White	951 White
Stockings	White	951 White
Buttons	White?	951 White
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



**Grenadier cap**

**Colonels**

1713-1714:  
Joan de Linàs



**Regimental Flag**

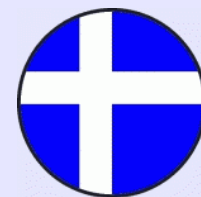
*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: Saint Narcissus,  
on unknown background

Reverse: unknown



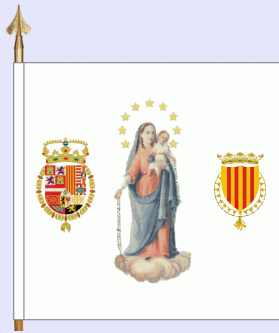
**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**



# 7 - Regiment Nostra Senyora del Roser



**Regimental Flag**  
 Recreated according to  
 Hernández & Riart

Obverse: The Virgin of  
 Roser, on unknown  
 background

Reverse: unknown



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**

Although officially formed in 1713, the history of this unit should be traced back to 1705, when the Austro-Catalan Army of Archduke Charles was raised. It was then decided to build a Royal bodyguard Regiment, *Reales Guardias Catalanas*, or Royal Catalan Guards. As such, this Regiment fought in the battles of Almenar (1710), Monte Torro (1710) and Brihuega-Villaviciosa (1710).

In 1713, most of the troops and Catalan officers of the *Reales Guardias Catalanas* rejected the chance to be evacuated to Naples, choosing instead to stay and defend their homeland. These men formed the *Nostra Senyora del Roser* Regiment, which kept most of the elements of the original Royal bodyguard uniform. It probably never attained full strength, remaining most of the time at about 300 men.

During the 1713-1714 campaign, this hardened unit stayed in Barcelona, distinguishing itself several more times.



**1705-1714 Uniform**  
 According to Rubio & Riart

Uniform Description		Painting Suggestions
Coat	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Stockings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Buttons	Red?	908 Carmine Red
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	White?	951 White
Hat Lace	Yellow?	915 Deep Yellow
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



*Arms of the Crown of  
 Aragon, and the  
 Principality of  
 Catalonia*

**Colonels**

1705-1707:  
 Antoni de Peguera †

1707-1709:  
 Heinrich von Hessen -Darmstadt

1709-1713: ?

1713-1714:  
 Josep Bellver i Balaguer

1714:  
 Gregorio de Saavedra †



**Grenadier cap**

## 8 – Regiment Busquets



### Uniform

Unknown

(probably non-existent)

Francesc Busquets aka *Mitjans*, who was a Colonel in Archduke Charles' Army from 1710, obtained a warrant in 1713 to raise a line infantry regiment in the central countryside of Catalonia. The plan was for this unit to harry the Barcelona besiegers' lines from the rear, along with several others assembled around Montserrat Range -mostly *Miquelets* or Mountain Fusiliers units, as well as some Line Cavalry.

It was expected that this mobile expeditionary force actions could, if not damage the invading Army, at least be able to weaken the siege and break the blockade. In spite of some successes (battle of Talamanca, August 13<sup>th</sup> 1714), the expeditionary force could never succeed in its mission, being therefore constrained to *guerrilla* actions in Central Catalonia.

As a consequence, Busquets' unit could never be formally confirmed as a Line Regiment, given ordnance flags nor assigned any budget or equipment by the Catalan *Junta de Guerra*.

Nevertheless, it shouldn't be completely discounted for this Regiment to have used some kind of uniforms, for these could have been supplied by the grant owner himself, Colonel F. Busquets. In this case, most probably coats would have been blue, as usual for other regiments. Facings would have been in a colour easy to find, like red or yellow for example.

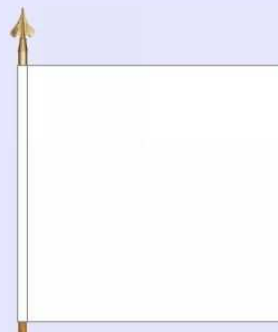


### Grenadier cap

Unknown

### Colonels

1713-1714:  
Francesc Busquets i  
Mitjans



### Regimental flag

Unknown

Likely non-official,  
improvised flags only  
(either the Black Flag or Saint  
George Cross, cf. Chapter VI)



### Drummer

Unknown

# 9 - Regiment de Mallorca



**Regimental Flag**  
*Speculative design*

Obverse: The Virgin of Lluç, on unknown background

Reverse: unknown

Partly raised in July 1713 in Barcelona, with the purpose of reinforcing the local garrison in Majorca island with fresh troops. Depending on sources, some 430 to 540 men were enlisted, mainly Catalan volunteers but also Spanish and French deserters who had changed sides. They all were equipped and uniformed before being sent to Majorca. These newly formed troop had their baptism of fire even before their departure for Majorca, during the few months they had to spend inside the Barcelona city walls while the unit was being completed.

Colonel Joan Antoni Corradó, who was responsible for the recruitment for this unit, was simultaneously –according to several sources– the commander of an obscure, unknown unit called *Regiment dels Set Dolors*. It is therefore uncertain whether these were actually two different names for the same regiment. In any case, it is certain that Colonel Corradó did not sail for Majorca with the new unit, but was assigned to *Nostra Senyora dels Desemparats* Regiment as a second in command.



**1713-1715 Uniform**



**Drummer**  
*Unknown*

Uniform Description		Painting Suggestions
Coat	White	951 White
Facings	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Waistcoat	White	951 White
Neckcloth	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Trousers	White	951 White
Stockings	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Buttons	Blue?	809 Royal Blue
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White (when worn)	



*Arms of the Ancient Kingdom of Majorca, one of the Crown of Aragon States*

**Colonels**

while in Barcelona:  
Joan A. Corradó

once in Majorca  
(1714-1715):  
?



**Grenadier cap**  
*Speculative*



## II – DRAGOONS & CUIRASSIERS

In the decades before the outbreak of the War of Spanish Succession, the military doctrine started a drastic renewal regarding the use of cavalry. The increase of firearms, thanks to the adoption of socket bayonets, forced the reconsideration of the role of mounted units. The first attempt to counter improved muskets was by supplying the riders with pistols. This proved less than appropriate: shooting and reloading the weapon with your horse in motion is not at all easy or effective.

In our opinion, the English army earns the merit of having made the cavalry return to its origins: a fierce charge with thrusting weapons. This tactics was widely used at the peninsular scenarios of the War of Spanish Succession; and the most spectacular example of this is the appalling, dramatic and decisive Allied cavalry charge led by Stanhope in the battle of Almenar (1710), that destroyed the Two Crowns left wing and provoked the rout of the entire army of Phillip d'Anjou.

Most suitable for this role were the cuirassiers units, riding stout horses, with a heavy straight sword as a main weapon and pistol guns as secondary weapons. On the other hand, the idea of using the mobility offered by horses led to another trend that would eventually cristallize in the dragoons units, a highly versatile troop class, capable to perform as riding infantry and armed as such, as well as to participate in conventional cavalry charges or countercharges.

The 1713-1714 Catalan Army was not unaware to these general trends, and organized several regiments of both dragoons and cuirassiers. It seems, however, that the distinction was only honorific, for there is evidence of identical equipment and armament for both cavalry classes. Every cavalryman was armed with a carbine, a straight sword or saber, and two pistols held in side holsters. According Prof. F. X. Hernández, carbines were carried hanging from a hook of a shoulder belt, although it is still uncertain if were also fitted in any kind of carbine shoes or sockets. It is likely that carbines were rifle barreled, if obtained from English stocks, but not so probable when home made. If such, these smoothbore carbines would have *pany a la catalana* (=Catalan or *miquelet* locks, sometimes also known as “Spanish locks”) as well as a lesser calibre than their English counterparts.

According to F. Castellvi memories, a Catalan cavalry regiment –either cuirassiers or dragoons– was organized into ten companies of 47 men each. It matches partially with Archduke Charles' 1706 Ordnances, that explicitly states this composition for cuirassiers units –although not for dragoons, which regiments were expected to be of ten 50-men companies.

**Uniforms:** most Catalan cavalry units were uniformed in white or red, with their horses saddlecloth in matching colours. Cuirassiers were never issued cuirasses. Tricorne was the usual cavalryman headgear except for dragoons' grenadiers, who wore a cap identical to infantry grenadiers. It is unknown if cavalry musicians (drummers for dragoons, trumpeters for cuirassiers) were dressed in the same colors than the rest of their unit –as in Infantry– or in reversed colours –as in Artillery.



# 1 - Regiment Nebot



## Regimental Standard

*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

Reverse: unknown

This unit was raised in 1705 by Rafael Nebot as a Dragoon\* Regiment for the Army under Archduke Charles. The Regiment was involved in many of the Allied actions during most of 1705 and 1706 in Catalonia and Valencia. Following this campaign, Rafael Nebot was promoted to *General de Batalla* in 1706. The regiment served with distinction until the Imperial retreat in 1713.

In 1713, the Regiment Nebot's strength was approximately 240 men. When ordered to retreat from their homeland, nearly half the soldiers chose to remain and defend their homes along with the regimental Commander. The Regiment became the only Cavalry unit available to the Catalan *Junta de Guerra* after the Austrian retreat and the nucleus of the Catalan Cavalry from that point forward.

In 13<sup>th</sup> July 1713, the Nebot Dragoons engaged Phillip d'Anjou's vanguard in an attempt to prevent them from taking Tarragona City. They suffered heavy losses and failed to stop the enemy. Following this defeat, the Regiment was never able to recruit additional soldiers above the minimum strength for the duration of the war.



**1705-1714 Uniform**



*Arms of Charles Habsburg as King Charles III, as represented in a relief at the Virgin of Lluc Sanctuary (Majorca)*

## Uniform Description

Coat	White
Facings	Blue
Waistcoat	Red *
Neckcloth	White
Trousers	Elk
Boots	Black
Buttons	Silver
Hat	Black
Hat Border	-
Hat Lace	-
Saddlecloth	Blue, bordered in White

## Painting Suggestions

951 White
809 Royal Blue
908 Carmine Red
951 White
929 Light Brown
950 Black
790 Silver
950 Black
-
-
809 Royal Blue, 951 White

\* Before 1713, waistcoats were blue

## Colonels

1705-1713:  
Rafael Nebot

1713-1714  
?

\* According to Mr. A. Kuhn in his booklet *Die Regimenter König Carl III – Die Habsburg-Spanische Armee 1704-1713*, the unit was instead raised as a Cuirassier Regiment.

## 2 - Regiment de la Fe

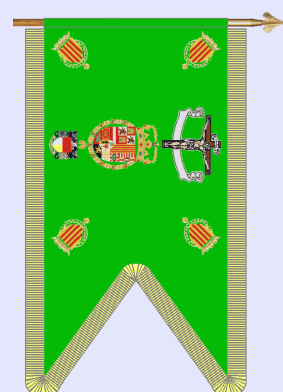


**1713-1714 Uniform**

Formed July 1713 and heavily armed as a Dragoons unit by Sebastià Dalmau, on the basis of a Cavalry squadron raised by himself in 1706. A veteran commander in Archduke Charles' Army, Dalmau had performed brilliantly at Monte Torrero (1710) in front of his Squadron.

Dalmau's Regiment was a powerful unit, close to full strength (between 500 and 750 men in 10 companies), plentiful of veterans.

This unit was very active, engaging bravely the French cavalry at Caldes d'Estrac battle (August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1713) and being thoroughly involved in several actions as the expedition to the Pyrenean valleys of Pallars and Cerdanya, or the raid on Salou depots (January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1714), as well as the defence of Barcelona walls.



### **Regimental Guidon**

*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: On a green background, an image of Jesus Christ over the Royal Coat of Arms; under it, the Colonel's Coat of Arms. At the corners, the Arms of Catalonia

Motto: *Pro Lege, Patria et Rege*

Reverse: The Virgin of Immaculada Concepció on a green background

### **Uniform Description**

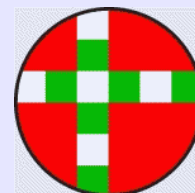
### **Painting Suggestions**

Coat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Facings	Green	942 Light Green
Waistcoat	Red *	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Boots	Black	950 Black
Buttons	Silver	790 Silver
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Saddlecloth	Red, bordered in White	908 Carmine Red, 951 White

\* In February 1714, waistcoats turned to yellow

### **Colonels**

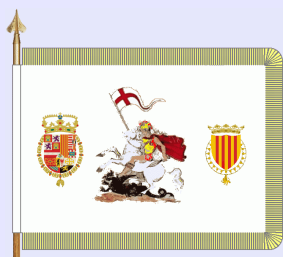
1713-1714:  
Sebastià Dalmau



**Drummer coat piping**



### 3 - Regiment de Sant Jordi



**Regimental Standard**

*Recreated according to  
Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: Saint George, on an unknown background

Reverse: unknown

Raised July 1713 as a Cuirassier Regiment, although equipped ad armed as Dragoons. Its real strength is still uncertain, but it is known to have been divided into 10 companies, and to have had 250 horses.

It seems that this Regiment was later reinforced with 2 Hussar companies –formed by former Imperial soldiers who had chosen not to be embarked. These were dressed in a typically Hussar fashion –white *dolmans* (short jackets) with red facings, red Hungarian style trousers and a low busby with a red cloth bag hanging to the rear.

Although several companies were sent for duty in the Catalonian hinterland, most of the Regiment spent their time in the defence of Barcelona city.



**1713-1714 Uniform**

**Uniform Description**

**Painting Suggestions**

Coat	White	951 White
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Red *	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Elk	929 Light Brown
Boots	Black	950 Black
Buttons	Red?	908 Carmine Red
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Saddlecloth	Red, bordered in White	908 Carmine Red, 951 White

*\* Until August 1713, waistcoats were white*

**Colonels**

1713:  
Francesc de Solà, Military Deputy of the *Diputació General*, or *Generalitat*

1713-1714:  
Antoni Berenguer

## 4 - Regiment de Sant Miquel



**Uniform until late 1713**

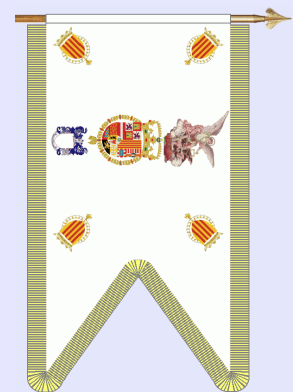
Raised August 1713 as a Dragoon-Cuirassier unit, its ranks were filled with Aragonese cavalymen up to nearly full strength –some 500 men in 12 companies.

These troopers were hardened veterans, mostly proceeding from the former Aragon Cavalry Regiment.

This powerful unit performed most of its duties in the countryside around Barcelona, as well as inside the city walls. Its troopers distinguished themselves in several *sorties* against the besiegers' perimeter, some of which nearly suicidal.

Aragonese soldiers behave with remarkable bravery all through the campaign, sharing fate with their Catalan comrades of arms until the end.

Until October 1713, the uniform of this unit was a red coat with white facings, white waistcoat, and elk trousers –maybe inherited from a former unit.



### Regimental Guidon

*Recreated according to Hernández & Riart*

Obverse: On an unknown background, Saint Michael over the Royal Coat of Arms, on unknown background; under it, the Colonel's Coat of Arms. At the corners, the Arms of Catalonia

Reverse: unknown

### Uniform Description

### Painting Suggestions

Coat	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	Elk	929 Light Brown
Boots	Black	950 Black
Buttons	Red?	908 Carmine Red
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Saddlecloth	Red, bordered in Yellow	908 Carmine Red, 915 Deep Yellow

### Colonels

1713-1714:  
Pere Vinyals

July 1714:  
Juan Espiagua †

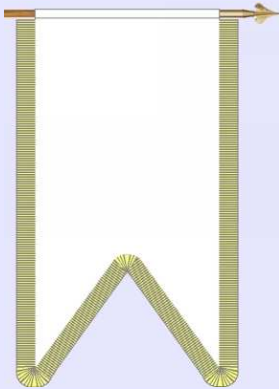


**Grenadier cap**



**Late 1713-1714 Uniform**

# 5 - Regiment de Sant Jaume



**Regimental Guidon**  
*Unknown*

*(Likely, an image of Saint James along with the Royal Coat of Arms)*

In spite of being intensively involved in several raids, *sorties* and even a ranged battle, little information is known about this Cavalry regiment, apart from its formation date (August 1713) and its approximate strength –about 300 men.

This unit was created inside Barcelona, but during the autumn of 1713 it traveled to the pyrenean stronghold of Castellciutat, where it remained until the surrender of this fortress. Then, the Regiment moved to Cardona castle, displaying an incessant, excellent activity until the fortress capitulation on September 18<sup>th</sup> 1714.

*Sant Jaume* horsemen were involved in a number of heavy fightings in the central countryside of Catalonia, including the battles of Balsareny (January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1714), Talamanca (August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1714) and the August 22-30<sup>th</sup> attempts to break the Barcelona siege from the rear.



**Uniform**  
*Unknown*

*hypothetically red*

### Uniform Description

- Coat
- Facings
- Waistcoat
- Neckcloth
- Trousers
- Boots
- Buttons
- Hat
- Hat Border
- Hat Lace
- Saddlecloth

### Painting Suggestions

### Colonels

1713-1714  
Antoni de Desvalls,  
marquès de Poal

# III – MOUNTAIN FUSILIERS

The Mountain Fusiliers corps (*Fusellers de muntanya*) was a type of light infantry specific to Catalonia and other territories of the Crown of Aragon. They were nicknamed *Miquelets* in honor of one of their first and most famous captains, Miquelot de Prats. The first documentation concerning the *Miquelets* comes from the so-called Reapers' War (*Guerra dels Segadors*, 1640-1652), when Catalonia first raised arms against Spain and created an independent republic under French tutelage. During that war the *Diputació General* raised a number of militias to fight against the Spaniards and give support to their own regular forces. Later, the numerous local partisan units which fought against the French annexation of Roussillon during the decades following the Peace of the Pyrenees (1659) would receive the same name.

*Miquelets* were not an irregular formation in the Catalonian military establishment, but regular units formed by professional soldiers. There were many other volunteer militia units who also received the name of *Miquelets* because of their extensive use of partisan tactics. Partisan warfare is a distinctive attribute of Catalan Mountain Fusiliers which distinguishes them from other foreign *Jaeger*-type, light infantry units. Mountain Fusiliers claimed to be the heirs of the well-known, nearly mythical Medieval Almughavars, keeping a strong *esprit de corps* on the basis of this feature.

A Mountain Fusiliers Regiment was typically organized in 8 companies of 60 men each, for a total regimental strength of approximately 480 men. These regiments had no Ordnance flags, although it is uncertain whether improvised flags were carried or not. A *Miquelets* unit typically had half the soldiers armed with conventional muskets –with either flintlocks or the Catalan *miquelet* mechanism, while the other half brandished the *escopeta*. This was a weapon a little shorter than a musket (about 1.40m), with a lesser calibre and always with the *miquelet* lock. The *escopeta* was extensively used for sharpshooting. It seems that musket armed fusiliers were also provided with bayonets. *Miquelets* were also known for carrying and using a variety of secondary weapons, typically two pistols and a dagger, although the individual use of swords was also common. *Miquelets* units did not employ drummers, but horn blowers instead. The horn blowers usually used seashells as horns in the tradition of Medieval Almughavars.

Their uniforms usually consisted of a brown or blue coat with different colored facings depending on the unit. They wore wide-legged trousers giving them an old-fashioned appearance, and a particular kind of gaiters called *calcilles*, made of leather or some tough fabric. It was usual for them to wear a strong, light-weight footwear made with braided esparto fibers, known as *espartenyas*. Horn blowers wore a blue plume on their hat. In this table and drawing below you will find the most common features of Mountain Fusilier units' uniforms as described by F. Castellví, who was a contemporary Catalan military chronicler exiled to Vienna after the war. The description of each individual regiment includes their special items, and colours when known.

Standard Uniform Description		Painting Suggestions
Coat *	Earth Brown	983 Flat Earth
Facings	Different for each unit	-
Waistcoat	Red	908 Carmine Red
Neckcloth	-	-
Trousers	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Stockings	-	-
Buttons	Black	950 Black
Hat	Black?	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters	White or Leather Brown	

\* It was a common practice for *Miquelets* (still followed today in Catalonian rural areas) to wear the coat hanging on a shoulder, as shown in this booklet drawings.



**Standard Uniform**



# 1 - Regiment de l'Àngel Custodi



## Uniform

## Colonels

1713-1714:  
Manuel Moliner †

May 1714:  
Blai Ferrer

This unit was also known as the *Regiment of Sant Miquel*, and probably dates back to 1708, when it was raised under the command of Manuel Moliner, who had been a Colonel in the Musketeers in Archduke Carles' Army since 1705.

During the July 1713 Austrian withdrawal, this Regiment occupied positions near the Hostalric fortress. Here, the regiment was the center piece for the reorganization of Catalan forces in the face of imminent invasion. Its actual strength was approximately 500 men.

In November of 1713, the regiment was incorporated into the defense of Barcelona. It participated in numerous *sorties* from Barcelona against the besieging forces.

## Uniform Characteristics

## Painting Suggestions

Coat	Earth Brown, Purple Red	983 Flat Earth, 926 Red
Facings	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Stockings	Blue	809 Royal Blue

*Until January 1714, the regiment coats were blue with yellow facings*

# 2 - Regiment Torres

This unit probably dates back to 1710, when it is documented that Segimon Torres is appointed as Colonel of a regiment of fusiliers. The Regiment refused to be disbanded at the time of Imperial withdrawal, choosing instead to stay and fight. They used the fortress of Cardona as headquarters throughout the campaign, being involved in the victorious battle of Talamanca (August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1714).

Their uniforms main features are still unknown.

## Colonels

1710-1714:  
Segimon Torres

### 3 - Regiment de Sant Ramon de Penyafort

The origin of this Regiment can be traced back to the *Esquadra Nova* (=New Squad) of Vic town, a unit formed in 1710 by Colonel Ermengol Amill.

When the Imperial withdrawal started in July 1713, the *Esquadra Nova* occupied positions near Hostalric fortress near the Barcelona-Girona road, close to the *Àngel Custodi* Regiment. In October 1713, the unit was reorganized, taking then the name of *Sant Ramon de Penyafort*.

This regiment was very active in the Catalan hinterland and distinguished itself in a number of combats: Salou (2<sup>nd</sup> January 1714), Sant Iscle (30<sup>th</sup> January), Montesquiu (20<sup>th</sup> March), Manresa (4-9<sup>th</sup> May), Sant Celoni (21<sup>st</sup> July) and Talamanca (13<sup>th</sup> August).

In September 1714, the regiment withdrew to Cardona fortress, capitulating on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1714.



**Uniform**

**Colonels**

1713-1714:  
Ermengol Amill

Uniform Characteristics		Painting Suggestions
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Yellow?	915 Deep Yellow
Trousers	Red	908 Carmine Red
Stockings	Brown	983 Flat Earth

*Until 1714, this unit trousers were light blue*

### 4 - Regiment de la Ribera d'Ebre

Dating prior to 1713, this Regiment was reorganized in August 1713, at the Ebro riverland, although the newly reorganized unit did not spend too much time in this part of the country which was totally occupied by forces of Phillip d'Anjou, rushing instead to Barcelona.

The only certain features of their uniforms were the ubiquitous brown or purple red coats, apparently with red facings.

**Colonels**

1710-1714:  
Anton Paperoles †

## 5 - Regiment de Sant Vicenç Ferrer



### Uniform

### Colonels

1713-1714:  
Joan Vila i Ferrer

February 1714:  
Josep Ortiz †

This regiment was created inside Barcelona the autumn of 1713, with voluntary *Miquelets* and veterans from the former *Vila i Ferrer* Regiment, created in 1710. The regiment distinguished itself in the defense of the City, participating in several *sorties* and merciless attacks on the enemy siege batteries.

On the 14th August, the Regiment's quick counter-assault was key to sweep the attackers from the walls of Santa Clara bastion.

It is uncertain whether the horn blowers of this regiment wore blue feathers on their hats, as was prescribed for other Regiments.

### Uniform Characteristics

Coat	Blue
Facings	Red
Stockings	Blue

### Painting Suggestions

809 Royal Blue
908 Carmine Red
809 Royal Blue

*In August 1714, they were delivered brown replacement coats, so in the last stage of the campaign it would be a mixed pattern of coats without uniformity*

## 6 - Regiment Muñoz

This regiment probably existed before 1713, but was reorganized towards August in Barcelona. This unit was essentially involved in the defense of Barcelona during the 14 long months of siege.

The uniform of this regiment is not well documented. In any case it seems that uniformity was not enforced to any degree during the siege.

### Colonels

171?-1714:  
Antoni Muñoz

### Uniform Characteristics

Coat	Earth Brown, Purple Red
Facings	Yellow?
Waistcoat	Red or White
Trousers	Several colours
Stockings	Several colours

### Painting Suggestions

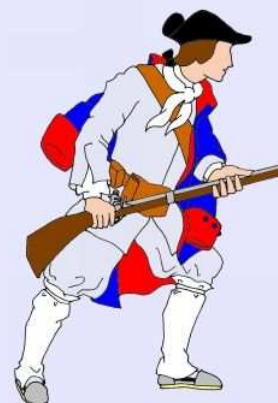
983 Flat Earth, 926 Red
915 Deep Yellow
908 Carmine Red, 951 White
-
-

## 7 - Regiment Molins

This unit was also created towards the autumn of 1713, participating in a number of actions around the Catalan hinterland, having Cardona fortress as their initial headquarters. In approximately March of 1714, the unit traveled to Penedès county to instigate a popular uprising against the French and Spanish occupiers from the stronghold of Sant Martí Sarroca.

This regiment had a very high degree of uniformity in comparison to other Mountain Fusiliers units, and it is well documented.

Documentation exists which show that this regiment's horn blowers wore a red *épaulette* or lace on their right shoulder.



**Uniform**

### Colonels

1713-1714:  
Jaume Molins

Uniform Characteristics		Painting Suggestions
Coat	Blue	809 Royal Blue
Facings	Red?	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Natural *	918 Ivory
Trousers	Natural	918 Ivory
Stockings	Natural	918 Ivory
Gaiters	White (when worn)	

\* The so-called "Natural" colour should be interpreted as an untinged cloth shade, just the same way as in French uniforms. An ivory colour has been suggested for painting, but an alternative interpretation of such a shade could also be a very light grey



# IV – ARTILLERY



**Regimental Flag**  
*Unknown*

The Artillery Corps was organized in a single Regiment under direct command of General Basset, even though Colonel Lieutenant was Francesc Rodolí. After a first conscription the Regiment overcame the 300 men, organized in 5 companies of 60 men each.

In October 1713, the Regiment was reinforced with an additional company proceeding from Majorca, under command of captain Joan Saurina. According to the Crown of Aragon Archive, as quoted by Prof. F. X. Hernández, this reinforcement company consisted of 53 men.

Towards July 1714, this unit was notably reinforced again with 200 supplementary artillerymen from the fleet, which had been immobilized inside the harbour by the French fleet blockade.



**Uniform**



**Drummer**



**Drummer coat piping**

<b>Uniform Description</b>		<b>Painting Suggestions</b>
Coat	White	951 White
Facings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Waistcoat	Yellow	915 Deep Yellow
Neckcloth	White	951 White
Trousers	White	951 White
Stockings	Red	908 Carmine Red
Buttons	Silver	997 Silver
Hat	Black	950 Black
Hat Border	-	-
Hat Lace	-	-
Gaiters		White (when worn)

**Higher Command**

1713-1714:  
General Joan B. Basset

**Lieutenant Colonel**

1713-1714:  
Francesc Rodolí

# V – VOLUNTEER UNITS & MILITIA

Catalan Volunteer and Militia forces in the War of the Spanish Succession can be roughly divided into three major categories: A) Volunteer Regiments, apparently organized like Line Infantry; B) Town Civic Militias organized by the Guilds, also following Line Infantry organization patterns, and C) Volunteer *Miquelets* and *Sometents*, usually forming small company-sized units called *partides* and most likely equipped and armed in the same way as Mountain Fusiliers.

## 1 – Regiment de Voluntaris d'Aragó



**Uniform**  
*Speculative*

Little is known about this obscure unit, even its real nature. Some authors believe it to have been a regular Infantry Regiment, while others consider it to be closer to an irregular Mountain Fusilier unit.

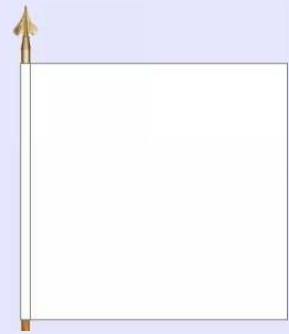
Although the Catalan *Junta de Guerra* never assigned a budget, ordered supplies or assigned commissions to any such unit, it is known that a number of wounded soldiers who attended Barcelona Hospitals during the siege were identified as belonging to a so-called *Aragon Volunteers Regiment*; therefore, it is likely that an irregular volunteer infantry unit actually existed, whose strength has been estimated at about 2 companies.

No definite information is known about any uniform for this unit. Following the Registers of Barcelona Hospitals, most Aragonese soldiers were dressed in blue coats with blue or white waistcoats and trousers. According to Hospital Registers, many of this unit soldiers didn't wear shoes, but *espartenyas* or *abarcas* instead.

**Colonels**  
?

**1<sup>st</sup> Coy. Captain**  
Francisco Besabés

**2<sup>nd</sup> Coy. Captain**  
Antoni Badia



**Regimental Flag**  
*Unknown*



*Arms of the Ancient Kingdom of Aragon –another constituent State of the Crown of Aragon, alongside with Catalonia–, as depicted in 1630 at the Salón de los Reinos, Buen Retiro Palace (Madrid)*

## 2 – Coronela de Barcelona

*Coronela* (pl. *Coroneles*) was the name given to the Civic Militias that existed in every major Catalan city, organized and maintained by the different professional Guilds in the town.

The *Coronela* of the City of Barcelona was first regulated in 1395, receiving its final structure and name in 1544. It was an amazingly powerful unit, compared to Regular infantry regiments, for it consisted of 6 battalions with up to 9 companies each, grenadiers included. Its total strength has been calculated at about 4,000 men. As a result of this significant strength, the *Coronela* became increasingly decisive in the defence of the Capital City of Catalonia as the Regular infantry units were being exhausted or employed in expeditions outside the city walls.

Traditionally, the *Conseller en Cap* (=Mayor) of the City was also the unit Colonel, as well as the Honorary Captain of its 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Company.



### Colonel's Flag

Recreated according to  
*Hernández & Riart*

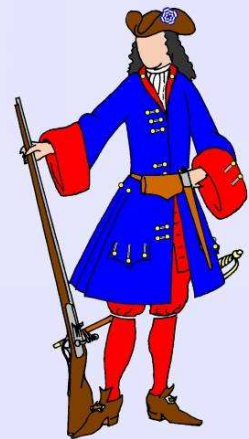
Obverse: The full Coat of Arms of Barcelona, on unknown background

Reverse: unknown

## The *Coronela* uniforms

Until the publication in 2007 of Prof. F. X. Hernández & F. Riart's book "*Els Exèrcits de Catalunya 1713-1714*", it was generally accepted that the whole *Coronela* Regiment shared a common uniform for all of its Battalions, basically described as a blue coat with red facings, with red waistcoat, trousers and stockings. Thanks to their research, we now know that the Barcelona *Coronela* had a more complex history, with different uniforms for each Battalion in 1706, and a progressive evolution towards the traditionally known blue uniform in 1710-1712, when the Companies were allowed to decide their own. This might seem quite an odd decision, but it should be noted that the *Coroneles* were organized on a Guild basis, each Company corresponding to a Guild, which was responsible for maintaining it and filling its ranks.

As of September 2008, no other details can be given on this subject until further research by Prof. Hernández and his collaborators bears new fruit –predictably within late 2008 or early 2009. In the meantime, this Painting Guide will continue to show the Silversmiths Company uniform as being the whole regiment's own, just as it was generally accepted until now.



### Silversmiths Coy. Uniform

### Colonels

1713:  
*Conseller en Cap*  
Manuel Flix

1714:  
*Conseller en Cap*  
Rafael Casanova



### Silversmiths Coy. Cockade

### 3 – Irregular *Miquelets* units

Certainly, it would be unfair not to record in this booklet the veritable constellation of little units, company-sized many of them, directly involved in this campaign's major battles, either within Barcelona itself or in the central countryside of Catalonia, or the countless deadly *guerrilla* actions all around the invaded Principality. However, the lack of knowledge of their equipment, weaponry or uniforms (if any) prevents us doing any more for the majority of these than just providing a list. How they were dressed or equipped is left to the reader's imagination.

#### General Moragues' forces

A distinguished officer under Charles Habsburg, General Josep Moragues was the commander of the strategic Pyrenean fortress of Castellciutat. At first, judging any resistance to the Two Crowns forces to be useless, he surrendered the fortress in September 1713 under *parole* of freedom for himself and his men.



After repeatedly hearing of reported nonobservances over some months (for example, some of his former officers and soldiers were arrested while trying to join other loyalist garrisons, in spite that the *parole* explicitly included freedom for them to do so; even Moragues himself was disturbed several times by Spanish officers), Moragues decided it was enough and raised a fusilier force of about 400 men that then failed in an attempt to recapture Castellciutat.

In spite of this initial failure, General Moragues was the main protagonist in several heroic episodes. These included the audacious liberation of his wife who had been arrested by the Spaniards; managing in the end to expel Phillip d'Anjou's troops from the northwestern valleys of the Pyrenees (Pallars county) before joining Colonel Antoni Llorós' forces at Cerdanya valley and marching to the northeastern counties of Ripollès and Osona, where an additional force of 400 men was raised; and fighting ceaselessly against the Two Crowns forces until the capitulation of the Cardona fortress (September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1714), under the terms of which the forces under Moragues also surrendered. The conditions of the *parole* given to General Moragues after Cardona were again not observed, and a few months afterwards he was arrested at Barcelona while trying to embark for Naples and executed. His severed head was exposed inside an iron cage at the gates of Barcelona for over 12 years, as a public punishment for the Catalans. Ironically, this punishment transformed General Moragues into a Catalan national hero, one of the most representative symbols of personal sacrifice in the defence of Catalan liberty.

Colonel Llorós had obtained a grant for his troops to become a Regiment, and both Moragues and Llorós enjoyed enough personal wealth to provide for their maintenance and equipment, so it is likely that they ordered uniforms for their forces, but nothing is known yet about this subject.

#### Colonel Vidal's forces

A former Colonel under Charles Habsburg, Antoni Vidal was commissioned in October 1713 in southern Catalonia with a *partida* of 100 fusiliers, with the mission to open a rear front for the enemy forces. With the Prades Range as headquarters, Colonel Vidal's forces soon grew strong enough to perform major actions such as the liberation of the towns of Tivissa and Montblanc, and successfully engaging Spanish forces at Juncosa del Montmell (April 4<sup>th</sup> 1714) and Porrera (about April 15<sup>th</sup> 1714). Colonel Vidal was killed during an assault on the Falset fortress in August 30<sup>th</sup> 1714, and his demoralized troops surrendered some weeks afterwards.

Joan Barceló aka *Carrasclat* was a captain in Colonel Vidal's forces, who at first accepted the surrender, going afterwards into a completely civilian life until an incident with a Spanish officer. After that, *Carrasclat* organized a serious uprising in southern Catalonia that lasted until 1720. He afterwards entered Austrian service, fighting for the Emperor until his death at the Breisach fortress in 1743. *Carrasclat* is another Catalan national hero, quite popular in southern Catalonia.



# VI – CATALAN MILITARY FLAGS



**Modern flag of the  
Aragonese town of  
Huesca**

Prior to the outbreak of the War of Succession, flags of Spanish units (still named *Tercios*) had little, if any, standardised design. According to the reputed Spanish vexillologist Sergio Camero, Colonel's flags had to be red with the Cross of Burgundy (also red, in theory), while Battalion flag designs depended entirely on their commanders' personal tastes. Complex geometrical multi-coloured patterns were quite common by the end of the XVII<sup>th</sup> century.

It might be thought that Archduke Charles' Spanish flags would follow the same pattern as that under his predecessor Charles II, but it must be pointed out that by the time he made his first effective claims and military moves for the throne(s) of Spain, Phillip had already taken control of it and its armies. Thus Charles had to raise entirely new regiments, with no previously existing flags nor history –apart from the Catalan regiments, who were traditionally raised on the initiative of the Catalonian Authorities rather than the King's own, therefore keeping their own St. George flags.

## Infantry Colonel's Flags



**Colonel's Flag  
obverse**

*Recreated according to the  
1706 Charles III Ordinance*

Once enthroned as King Charles III of Aragon, Charles Habsburg published an Ordnance book at Barcelona on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1706 regulating, among several other aspects, the colours and motifs of his Spanish Army units' flags. In its 24<sup>th</sup> Art. the Ordnance above states literally "*...que todos los Estandartes Coroneles hayan de ser blancos, con la imagen de Nuestra Señora de la Conzepcion (sic) Nuestra Abogada, y las otras Banderas, ô, Estandartes hayan de ser de el Color que gustare el Coronel y assimismo las mantillas de los timbales*". That is, Colonel's flags were to be white with an image of the Virgin Mary, while commanders were allowed to decide the Battalion flag motifs and colours.

According to Hernández & Riart, it would be usual to represent the Royal Arms, as well as those of the Kingdom the unit belonged to, either at each side of the Virgin Mary or at the flag corners.

Nothing was explicitly stated in the 1706 Ordnance about flag reverses, but they are also likely to have been white, with the King's full Coat of Arms, or again those of the Kingdom the unit belonged to.



**Colonel's Flag  
reverse**

*Speculative, likely design*

Also, no references were made to the Cross of Burgundy, so that, following the reputed vexillologist Mr. Luis Sorando's remarks, it has been judged wiser to simply show plain white flags, even though Crosses of Burgundy could have seemed indissociable from any Spanish military flag between the XVI<sup>th</sup> and XIX<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In fact, it shouldn't be completely discounted that during at least a part of period 1705-1713, Austro-Catalan flags carried a Burgundy Cross, but no source of information or preserved relic has been found other than the 1706 Ordnance book.

Even less is known, if such is possible, about specifically Catalan flags of 1713-1714. Historians and chronicle writers on Catalan involvement in the War of the Spanish Succession have never agreed about the final destiny of the flags and standards surrendered to Phillip d'Anjou's forces after the fall of Barcelona in September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1714. All of them agree that, a few days after the capitulation, Marshall Berwick ordered the flags to be collected and sent to King Phillip as trophies.

Little is known about what actually happened afterwards: some sources –and Catalan tradition– state that Phillip V rejected the trophies and ordered them all to be sent back to Barcelona and publicly burnt, while others point out that the captured flags still might be kept hidden in some store of the Military Museum in Madrid.

It is likely that in 1713-1714 Catalan Colonel's flags still followed the general design established in Archduke Charles' 1706 Ordnance book, for Catalonian Authorities had always preferred to act on behalf of King Charles III, in whose name the Principality was ruled and the war conducted.

However, if the War of Succession had been, in its earlier stages, a real struggle for supremacy in the Peninsula between the Crown of Aragon States and the Kingdom of Castile (a kind of internal struggle that could have justified a widespread use of Burgundy Crosses by both sides), by 1713 the overall situation had changed enough to be reflected even in flag design and usage. By 1713 Catalonia was no longer fighting to prevail, but to survive. The by now Emperor Charles VI had already given up his claims to the Spanish throne(s) –although not yet to Catalonia.

Therefore, it can be deduced that in 1713-1714 Catalan flags could hardly include symbols no longer considered as their own, but instead those of the enemy.

In the end, it seems that the most probable option is that older units would keep their old pre-1713 flags with the Spanish full Royal Coat of Arms, while newly raised units would simply show the Crown of Aragon Royal Coat of Arms –either in its older full form, as shown in the center right image, or in its modern, simple form, as shown in the drawing below right under the “National Coat of Arms” label.

It is agreed that Infantry flags would be about 2m x 2m in size.

## Infantry Regimental Flags

According to F. Castellví, each Regiment carried three flags. That is, besides the Colonel's, each unit had two supplementary flags, which in this booklet are referred to as *Regimental flags* instead of the more appropriate *Battalion flag* term, thus keeping in mind the single-battalion size of Catalan Regiments.

Similarly to the Colonel's, Regimental Flags bore on their obverse an image of the unit's patron or patroness (either a saint or an avatar of the Virgin Mary) flanked by the Royal and Principality arms. Reverses are not known with certainty, but are quite likely to have followed the 1706-1713 practice of showing the coat of arms of the Kingdom the unit belonged to. Therefore, all of the Catalan Regiments would have shown the National Coat of Arms on the reverse of their Regimental flags.

Most of the background colours of these flags are still unknown, except for a few, as are shown in this booklet. However, in the author's opinion, it is a strong hypothesis that the flag backgrounds were in the same colour as the uniform facings, following English and some German States practice, unless further details are revealed in future research.



**Colonel's Flag  
obverse**

*Alternative design recreated according to the 1706 Charles III Ordnance*



**Colonel's Flag  
reverse**

*Speculative design based on the XVI century full Coat of Arms of the Crown of Aragon*



**Regimental Flag  
reverse**

*Speculative design showing the National Coat of Arms, as used by the Military Arm of Catalonia*

# Cavalry Standards and Guidons

Catalan cavalry units carried swallow-tailed standards similar to those employed by the Imperial Army and were also similar in size (about 1.50m wide x 2.50m long). However, unlike Austrian dragoons, Catalan cavalry flags could be in colours other than red, as previously shown for the *La Fe* Regiment (cf. page 17). According to Prof. F. X. Hernández & F. Riart, the swallow-tailed design would have coexisted along with square or rectangular guidon designs in the style of Spanish or English cavalry, as for the *Nebot* and *Sant Jordi* Regiments. Exact sizes and background colors are still unknown but, taking the *La Fe* standard as a basis, it would seem appropriate to suppose them to be the same colour as the uniform facings.

In January 2008, the *Museu Nacional d'Història de Catalunya* unveiled the existence of a surviving Catalan flag dating back to the mid XVII<sup>th</sup> or early XVIII<sup>th</sup> centuries. It measures 1.44m wide x 1.77m long and is made of linen taffeta painted on both sides. More detailed study is needed before making any conclusion as to its origin, but this relic gives a good idea of the general appearance of irregular *Miquelets* or cavalry flags.



## Outstanding Flags



### The Santa Eulàlia flag of Barcelona

Modern times reconstruction kept by the Barcelona Municipality

Motto: *Veni Vidi Vici*



### Obverse

Recreated according to Hernández & Riart

Saint Eulàlia Patroness of Barcelona, flanked by the archiepiscopal seal (a Saint John Cross) and the City Coat of Arms

Motto: *In Hoc Signo Vincit*

Although not directly related to any military unit, some civic, corporate or even improvised flags acquired an outstanding role in the development of war for their highly symbolic value, making them capable of galvanizing both troops and the population in desperate circumstances. So powerful was the symbolism where these unique flags were employed that, three centuries afterwards, some of them have become nearly mythical in the collective conscience of Catalans.

Maybe the most well known of all is the **Santa Eulàlia flag** of Barcelona City. Its existence can be traced back to the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, when in the Crown of Aragon the use of flags by Civic Militias, or *Coroneles* was first regulated. This unique flag was used for the highest level civic and religious events in Barcelona social life, as well as leading the City *Coronela* in times of war since at least the mid XVI<sup>th</sup> century.

Latest research has pointed out that two versions of *Santa Eulàlia* flag are likely to have existed simultaneously: a large, square version measuring approx. 2m x 2m, which would be used primarily for ceremonial purposes; and a smaller, rectangular one, intended for use in military campaigns, presumably alongside the Colonel's flag of the town *Coronela*.

The *Santa Eulàlia* flag was publicly hoisted for war only under extreme situations, being used under such conditions during the 1641 and 1706 battles of Montjuïc with complete success. This outstanding relic was also used as a last resort during the September 11<sup>th</sup> 1714 final assault, being hoisted by the City Mayor Rafael Casanova to lead a fierce Catalan counterattack that allowed the City defenders to partially repulse the besiegers' first assault wave.

After the capitulation on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the *Santa Eulàlia* flag was surrendered, along with all of the surviving Catalan military flags, to the Duke of Berwick, who delivered them to King Phillip V. Their final destiny is still a complete mystery today.



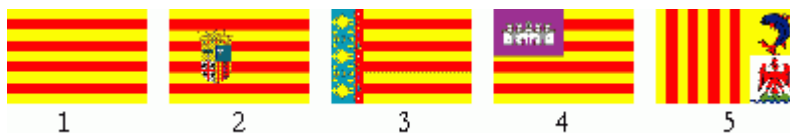
*Public burning of surrendered Catalan flags*

**Black flags** had a long tradition as the opposite to the white flag of surrender, so symbolizing that no quarter would be given nor asked for. This was another powerful device used by Catalans throughout the war, showing a shivering symbolism of defiance and supreme sacrifice.

The precedent for such a flag can be traced back to the *Reapers' War* (1640-1652) as attested by Catalan folklore, but the first evidence of its real employment is not found until July 29<sup>th</sup> 1713, when the Black Flag was defiantly hoisted by Barcelona defenders in response to the besiegers' demands for surrender, with a motto inscribed on it: *Viurem lliures o Morirem* (=Shall We Live Free or Shall We Die).

According to some sources, similar improvised flags were often employed by *Miquelets* units, particularly those with headquarters at the fortress of Cardona, although this should be considered no more than a likely hypothesis, that cannot be confirmed at present.

It is worth saying a few words on **La Quatribarrada**\* flag, in order to confirm the unlikelihood of its eventual employment during the War of the Spanish Succession by any Catalan or Austro-Catalan military unit. Nowadays considered the National Catalan symbol and under several variants adopted as the flag of Catalonia & Roussillon <sup>(1)</sup>, Aragon <sup>(2)</sup>, Valencia <sup>(3)</sup> and the Balearic Islands <sup>(4)</sup>, as well as Provence <sup>(5)</sup> in France, this flag actually was the Royal Standard of the Crown of Aragon, so its use was strictly associated with the King himself, or his estates, fortresses, fleets and armies. After the extinction of the Royal House of Barcelona and the dynastic alliance between Aragon and Castile, it gradually ceased to be used –except for coronations and similar high ceremonial within the territory of the Crown of Aragon.



Therefore, any hypothesis of Catalan or Austro-Catalan military units fielding this flag should be discarded, beyond eventual ceremonies in the presence of King Charles III. Even the possibility of the Royal Catalan Guards having fielded some variant of the *Quatribarrada* flag continues to be quite an unlikely hypothesis.

\* Literally, “the four bars’ one”



**Reverse**

*Recreated according to Hernández & Riart*

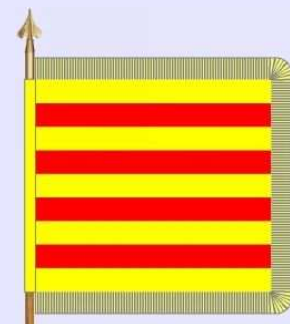
A chalice in an oval escutcheon, flanked by the archiepiscopal seal and the City Coat of Arms

Motto: *Exurge Deus, Judica Causam Tuam*



**The Black Flag**

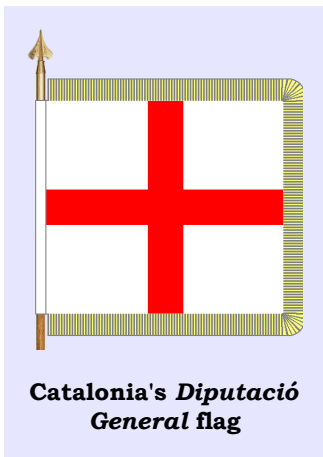
*Speculative design*



**Kings of Aragon  
Royal Standard  
since 1241**

Earlier forms showed a varying number of red bars; standardized to four at the date above





A more popularly known flag all around the territories of the Crown of Aragon was the **Saint George cross**, after King Peter II created the Military Order of *Sant Jordi d'Alfama* (1201).

Later, his son King James I, who had been brought up by the Templar Knights at Monzón castle, adopted a Saint George livery for his royal guard, so that the red cross device gradually became associated with the Military Arm of the Kingdom. By the XIV<sup>th</sup> century, the Saint George Cross had already become a people's own symbol, as attested by its spontaneous use by the Almughavar Companies in their campaigns around Sicily, Anatolia and Greece.

The Catalonian *Generalitat* or *Diputació General* officially adopted the Saint George flag as its own in 1359, thus being continuously used by this representative Institution –and the troops it eventually raised– until its abolition after the defeat of 1714.

## Flag Plates for Wargaming

Along with this booklet and within the zipped file containing it, readers will also find a collection of A4 size plates including most of the military flags discussed in this chapter, in the form of separate GIF files. These image files contain Colonel's and Regimental flags, guidons and standards for most of the Line Infantry and Cavalry Regiments listed in the booklet, which have

been drawn and coloured according to the text –i.e. white Colonel's flags and Regimental flags in the facing colour.

**WARGAMING FLAGS**

This collection of flags has been elaborated as an attachment to the booklet "Catalonia Stands Alone: 1713-1714 The Catalans' War", and consists of a total of 2 illustrated sheets, which are solidary and indissociable from the mentioned booklet, and have been distributed completely for free. Neither the booklet nor these flag sheets should be traded or sold by their own. Please report any sale attempt to its author, Lluís Vilalta at [webmestre@wargames.cat](mailto:webmestre@wargames.cat).

Flags represented in the images below are about 120 points high x 150 points large, or 30mm x 64mm, having been dimensioned for 25/28mm, slightly oversized. To fit them into another scale, or to your personal tastes, simply resize them.

**LINE INFANTRY**

Colonel flag	Regimental flag
I - Regiment de la Diputació General	Red cross on white field
II - Regiment de la Ciutat de Barcelona	Blue field with white cross and red saltire
III - Regiment de la Immaculada Concepció	Red field with white cross and yellow saltire
IV - Regiment de Santa Eulàlia	Yellow field with red cross and white saltire
V - Regiment de N.S. dels Desemparats	Yellow field with red cross and white saltire

www.wargames.cat  
Catalonia Stands Alone: 1713-1714 The Catalans' War  
Sheet 1 / 2

Sheet 2 / 2  
Sheet 3 / 3

This collection of flags is primarily intended for wargaming purposes, so have appropriately been shown as two-sided. They have been scaled for use with 25/28mm miniatures, in order to give the images an optimal resolution, but plates can be easily resized if needed, to fit other popular gaming scales.

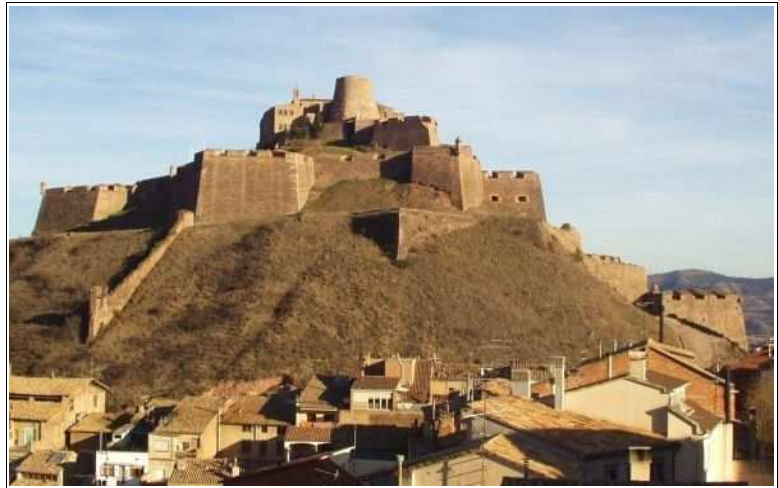
The collection also includes some of the outstanding flags discussed in this Chapter, so that the wargamer has a number of them available for whatever purpose or 'what-if' scenario he might imagine.

## VII – WARGAMING THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign for the subjugation of Catalonia –that would eventually put to an end the War of Spanish Succession in the Peninsula– lasted since July 1713 until September 1714, and had two main episodes in time, marked by the signature of the **Peace of Rastatt** between France and the Holy Roman Empire, in April 1714.

### First stage: the invaders, overwhelmed

The initial stage can be marked by the failure of the invading armies to subdue all of the Catalan strongholds nor, at least, to stabilize siege lines around them. Thanks to this, these powerful fortresses (mainly Barcelona, but also Cardona and Castellciutat as well) allowed the Catalans to successfully counter the enemy effort for controlling the hinterland. Under capable commanders such as Antoni Desvalls and Josep Moragues, these strongholds performed as headquarters for relatively large infantry and cavalry forces that continuously threatened the Spanish supply lines and offered support to wandering irregular *Miquelets* units.



*Cardona fortress*

The surrender of Castellciutat in September 1713 had little influence on this situation, as a few months later the whole pyrenean countryside around Castellciutat came under control of General Moragues' forces.

Therefore, in spite of their significant superiority, the Spanish Army was barely capable of controlling the territory beyond their actual encampments, and gradually had to spread nearly half of its total strength (some 40,000 men) in local garrisons and small detachments, which were often overwhelmed by the *Miquelets'* ferocious *coups de main*. Due to this, the siege lines around Barcelona could never be completed or made impenetrable –instead they became dangerously insecure. As a result, Catalan forces enjoyed great freedom of movement all around the countryside. In the end, the Catalans were eventually capable to launch from Barcelona a couple of expeditionary forces through the siege lines into the rear of Spanish occupied areas. These expeditions had usually the double mission of promoting local uprisings or assembling dispersed *guerrilla* units, besides of attempting to seize local stocks of weaponry and horses left behind by the Allied forces. In the end, the Catalans even managed to recapture a few lesser strongholds –such as Sant Martí Sarroca castle, a medieval fortress on a huge rock, strategically close to the main Barcelona-Tarragona road.

This first stage of the campaign is plentiful of nearly every kind of fightings for the control of the Catalonian hinterland: from the pure guerrilla war through local uprisings, sieges, ambushes, cavalry squadrons clashes in broken terrain and even a few open field infantry battles –in a relatively reduced dimension, if compared to those battles of previous years all over Europe. No doubt wargamers will find in this first stage of the 1713-1714 Catalonian War a parallel and an exciting source of inspiration in later events happened a hundred years later –the Peninsula campaigns of the Napoleonic Wars.

### Second stage: the defenders' isolation

The second stage of the campaign was marked by the full intervention of France, after the pacification of the European fronts following the Peace of Rastatt (April 1714). Until then, the

Catalans had been able to take advantage of their little but active fleet, that had managed to achieve superiority over the Spanish Navy in the Balearic Sea, and by this to keep an open supply line with Majorca and Naples –still in Imperial hands.

This relatively comfortable situation reversed dramatically when the French Navy entered in strength in the campaign after the Peace of Rastatt. The powerful French battleships easily overawed those of the Catalans, cutting off the supply line with the Empire and blocking their ports.



*The siege of Barcelona*

Besides, Louis XIV offered to his grandson some 30,000 additional French troops under command of Marshall Berwick, who was quickly commissioned by Phillip d'Anjou to replace the Duke of Populi as Commander in Chief of the joint Two Crowns forces in Catalonia.

During July 1714, Berwick's army was finally able to complete the siege around Barcelona and a few days afterwards a heavy duel of artilleries started along the whole perimeter of Barcelona walls. At that stage of war, there were about 39,000 French and Spanish soldiers besieging Barcelona, defended by no more than 10,000 Catalans –a high proportion of them belonging to the *Coronela* urban militia, for the regular infantry units had become nearly exhausted.

After the siege lines were completed, the Catalans had to face an increasingly effective series of assaults, which were fiercely rejected with the stubborn determination of despair –although at the cost of an unacceptable amount of losses for both sides.

Perhaps one of the bloodiest episodes in that long siege was the series of assaults launched since August 12<sup>th</sup> until August 14<sup>th</sup>, known as **the battle for Santa Clara bastion**.

## The battle for Santa Clara bastion (August 1714)

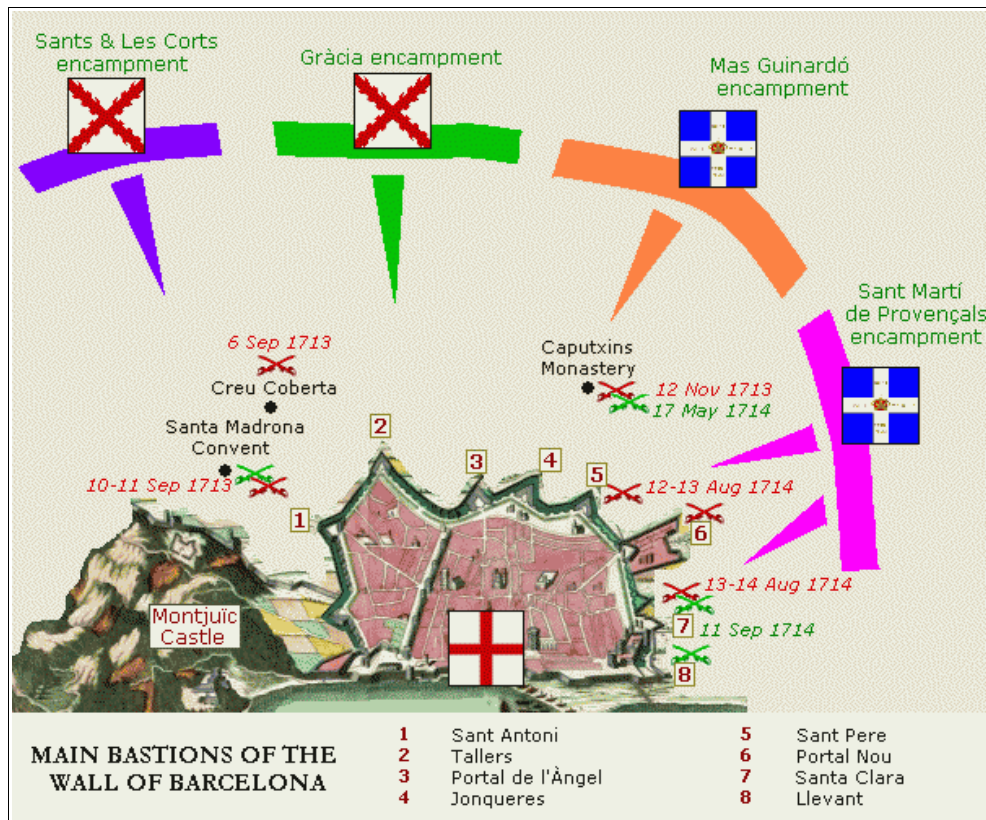
On August 12<sup>th</sup> 1714 at dawn, some 16,000 French and Spanish troops assaulted the walls of Barcelona at different points, although only two sectors were key to them –so a strong contingent of sappers and grenadiers was in front of these two sectors: The first one was the *Portal Nou* bastion [6], defended by the Taylors' and Jar Potters' companies of the *Coronela* militia regiment, which were not able to hold the position but managed to prevent any further advance of the assaulters into the town until the arrival of reinforcements. These consisted of the *Roser* and *Santa Eulàlia* Infantry Regiments, besides of two independant *Miquelets* companies, that launched an energetic counterattack *à la baionette* along the walls and recaptured the bastion. At the same time, a second Two Crowns contingent assaulted the *Santa Clara* bastion [7], defended by the Cotton Dealers', Swordsmiths' and Lawyer Students' companies of the *Coronela*, which managed to hold the position. The Catalans suffered 78 dead and 118 injured, while the attackers had 900 total casualties.

The Santa Clara bastion was severely damaged during the battle, so Marshall Berwick ordered a second, massive assault on that point the next day, to be carried by 8,200 soldiers against the decimated forces of the *Diputació General* Infantry Regiment and the Carpenters' and the Kitchen Potters' companies of the *Coronela*, which were nearly overrun. A flying column formed by two companies of *Roser* and *Concepció* Infantry Regiments and a grenadiers company of *Santa Eulàlia* Regiment hurried to frontally countercharge the assaulters, while troops belonging to the *Desemparats* and *Muñoz* Regiments attacked them from the sides. Further attacks and counterattacks followed until the next day, when the bastion was finally recaptured by the Catalans, at a terrifying cost: 800 dead and 900 injured, while the attackers suffered 529 dead and 1,036 injured.

After a 3 days' long battle, the assault had been repulsed, but the path to the Two Crowns victory



had already been settled by Marshall Berwick, who thereafter planned a further exploit on the weaknesses of Barcelona walls, to be executed almost a month later. At about 4:30h AM of **September 11<sup>th</sup> 1714**, nearly 26,000 French and Spanish soldiers attacked simultaneously the exhausted city, in a new massive assault with the Santa Clara bastion as main target again. Some 4,000 Spaniards including the *Reales Guardias Valonas* bodyguard Regiment tried in vain to capture the *Portal Nou* bastion, while 12,000 French troops successfully rushed onto *Santa Clara* as well as *Llevant* bastion [8]. Among these, some of the most renowned units were the *Anjou* and *La Couronne* regiments. After the fall of these weakened walls, a ferocious and bloody fighting spread out in the following hours from bastion to bastion, from street to street. The desperate battle of that single day resulted in 3,000 Catalan and 6,000 enemy casualties. After a short respite at about 3:00h PM, the surviving Catalonian Authorities agreed the capitulation of the City.



## The battle of Talamanca (August 1714)

Although this second stage of war had Barcelona town as its main battlefield, it also was plentiful of open range battles, as the Catalan commanders in the hinterland assembled forces and probed once and once again the weakest points in the besiegers' lines, in an attempt to break the isolation of their Capital City. One of such open range battles happened almost simultaneously with the assault on Santa Clara bastion, at the little village of Talamanca close to Manresa.

The commander of Cardona fortress, Colonel Manuel Desvalls, had assembled the largest force he could and started marching towards Barcelona. His troops numbered some 4,000 or 5,000 men, including regular infantry, *Miquelets*, *Sometents* (=rural militia), regular and irregular cavalry, and even a company of Hungarian hussars.

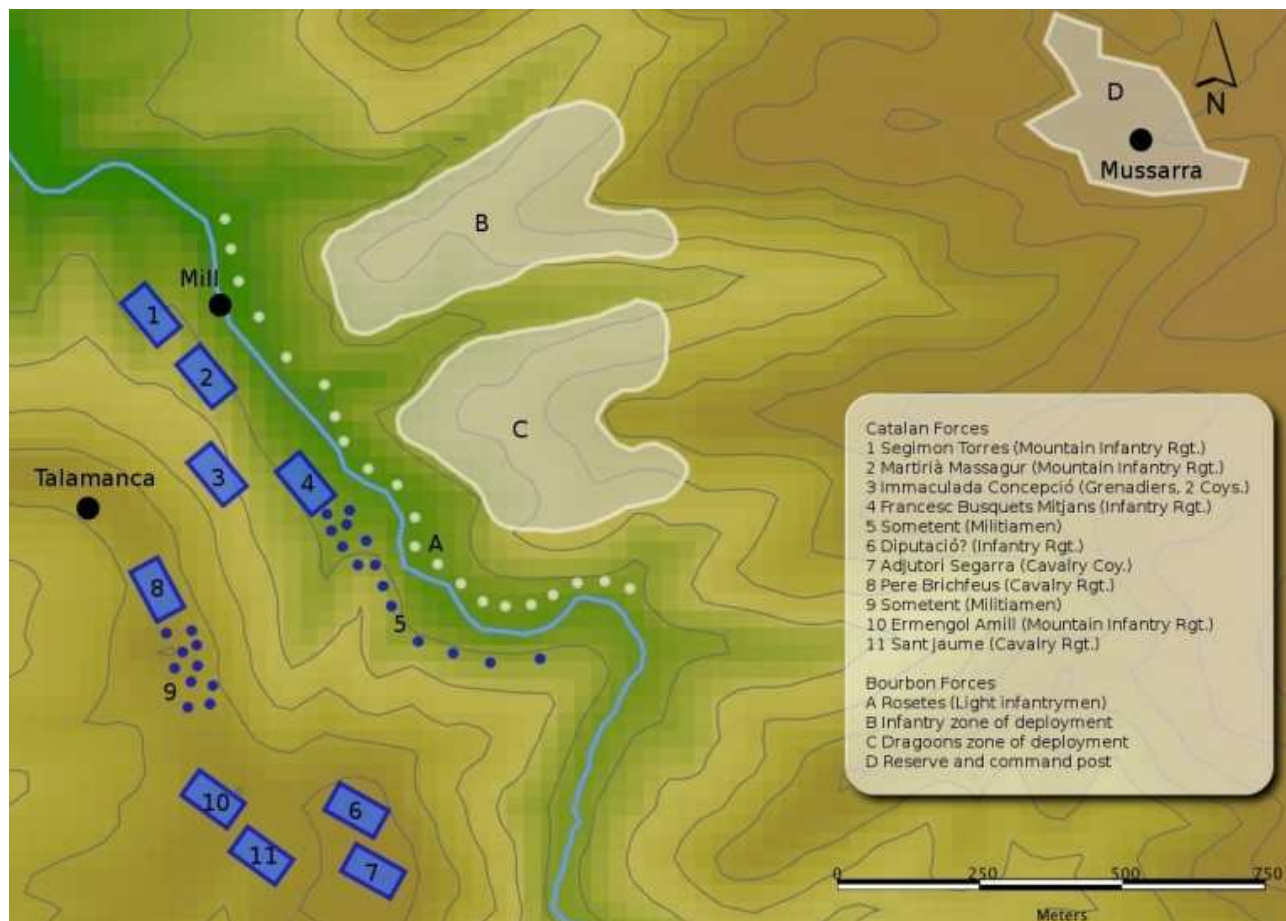
Although his column intentionally avoided every main route in their way, they were finally detected at no more than 40 km away from Barcelona, and a Spanish force tried to stop them in a hilly area crossed by a narrow, nearly draught stream. This area is nowadays occupied by a proportion of pinewood forest, but it was densely cultivated at that time –probably vineyards. It is also likely that there could be a narrow, humid forest all long the stream banks. It is certain that the mill on the river side, next to the Catalans' left wing, already existed by 1714.



Little is known yet about this battle, except for the chronicle written by Colonel Desvalls for the Catalonian Authorities, which includes an accurate OOB of the Catalan forces. About their enemies, Colonel Desvalls couldn't give such an accurate list, although his chronicle specifies that the Spanish forces consisted of three columns under command of González, Montemar and Vallejo, consisting of 1,500 dragoons and a higher number of infantry troops. According to the young historian Xavier Rubio (member of a Catalan University team that has recently started some researching on the field), both González and Montemar were brigade generals, so it could be guessed that each one was in command of a 2-regiments column. This would allow us to estimate an average force of 3,000 infantry troops for the Spaniards.

Early in the morning of that August 13<sup>th</sup> 1714, both forces deployed at each side of the stream. As the exact OOB of the Spanish force is still unknown to us, we can only show a generic deployment for each Spanish wing –shown on the map as lighter shade areas. According to Manuel Desvalls chronicle, both forces' light troops spent the first two hours firing at each other, until the Catalan *Miquelets* charged across the stream and disbanded the Spanish light infantry. This action was followed by a general infantry charge all along the line, supported by the hussars, along with a flanking action performed by the Catalan cavalry. The Spanish right wing managed to resist the attack and tried a countercharge, but were stopped by a dense firing. Afraid of the Catalan flanking action, their infantry withdrew to a higher position close to Mussarra farmhouse. Running short of ammunition, the Catalans held the position and stopped fighting.

The next day in the morning, the Spaniards tried to withdraw the battlefield, but the Catalans were already aware and almost immediately pursued and engaged them. The Spanish column was disbanded after having taken some 600 casualties. The Catalans suffered 10 dead and a still unknown number of injured.



Much information is yet to be known about this obscured, silenced theatre of war, as you can easily see. However, it is quite likely that in next months or years an increasingly higher amount of unveilings will quickly expand our knowledge on it. Studies and unveilings about War of Spanish Succession can be traced at [www.11setembre1714.org](http://www.11setembre1714.org), as well as [www.polemos.org](http://www.polemos.org) --an academic website dealing with this matter (cf. *Chapter IX, Bibliography*).

## VIII – EPILOGUE



*“...by which most vile and detestable Counsels, Her Sacred Majesty, ...contrary to Her solemn and repeated Assurances, was prevailed on to abandon a distressed People, drawn in and engaged by Her own Invitation into an open War with the Duke of Anjou, for the Preservation of the Liberties of Europe, and the Commerce of Great Britain; and the Persons, Estates, Dignities, Rights, Liberties, and Privileges, of the Catalans, were given up, as a Sacrifice to the implacable Resentment of their enraged and powerful Enemy; and the Honour of the British Nation, always renowned for the Love of Liberty, and for giving Protection to the Assertors of it, was most basely prostituted; and a free and generous People, the faithful and useful Allies of this Kingdom, were betrayed, in the most unparalleled Manner, into irrevocable Slavery; and in Consequence... the most execrable Hostilities, Burnings, and Plunderings, were committed upon them throughout their whole Province, without sparing the Effusion of innocent Blood, and without the Distinction of Age or Sex; and that unfortunate People were afterwards forced to undergo the utmost Miseries of a Siege, in their Capital City of Barcelona; during which, great Multitudes of them perished by Famine and the Sword, many of them have since been executed; and great Numbers of the Nobility of Catalonia, who, for their Constancy and Bravery in Defence of their Liberties, and for their Services in Conjunction with Her Majesty and Her Allies, had, in all Honour, Justice, and Conscience, the highest Claim to Her Majesty's Protection, are now dispersed in Dungeons throughout the Spanish Dominions; and not only the Catalan Liberties extirpated, but, by those wicked Counsels..., Catalonia itself is almost become desolate...”*

Extracted from the *Journal of the House of Lords: volume 20: 1714-1717*, pp. 136-144

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# X - PICTURES

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- p. 39: *Historia del memorable sitio y bloqueo de Barcelona*, drawing by Mateu Bruguera (1820-1882).

# XI – ABOUT THIS BOOKLET



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## Greetings

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## Help us to keep standing

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Colonel flag



1 - Regiment de la  
Diputació General

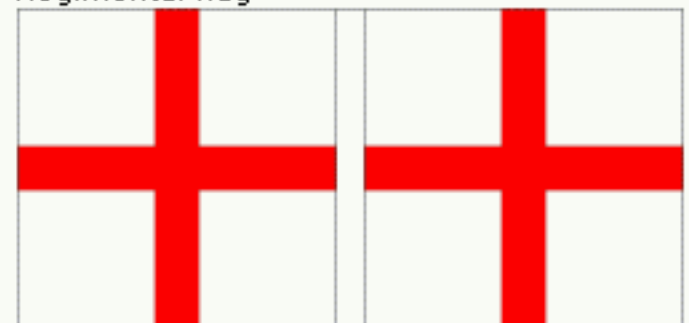
2 - Regiment de la  
Ciutat de Barcelona

3 - Regiment de la  
Immaculada Concepció

4 - Regiment de  
Santa Eulàlia

5 - Regiment de N.S.  
dels Desemparats

Regimental flag





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## Colonel flag



## Regimental flag



6 - Regiment de Sant Narcís

7 - Regiment de N.S. del Roser

8 - Regiment Busquets  
(speculative)

9 - Regiment de Mallorca  
(speculative)

Coronela Militia of Barcelona

Volunteer Regiment of Aragon  
(speculative)

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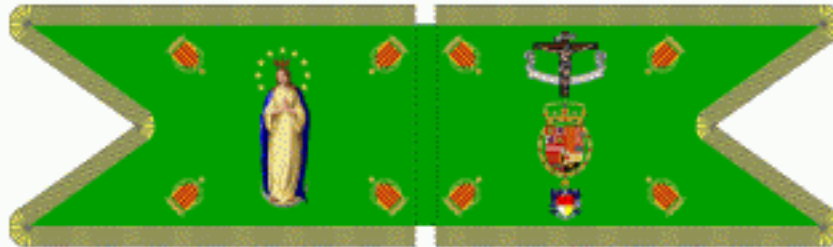
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1 - Regiment Nebot



2 - Regiment de la Fe



3 - Regiment de Sant Jordi



4 - Regiment de Sant Miquel



5 - Regiment de Sant Jaume (speculative)



## MISCELLANEOUS & SPECULATIVE FLAGS

Alternative Colonel Flag



Alternative Colonel Flag

