

IRUN IN RUINS! ONE MORE TIME

8 January 2010 Suncoast Skirmishers Game Day

Actually this time Irun didn't wind up in all that bad shape. Not even a shoot out over the church. But by the end of the day...well, lets get there first.

This game was based on the old Irun format. Four bandera of assorted "Rebel", "Nationalist," or "Traditionalista" troops, reasonably well equipped, and supported by a medium artillery battery advancing on Irun. In defense were two "Bandera" of local militia defending the approaches nearest the town and the International Bridge to France, another "Columna" of reinforcements complete with a machinegun detachment from a loyal regiment of the Peninsular Army holding a walled villa southeast of town.

In addition there were 2 Basque, 3 Anarchist, and 4 Communist "Columna" seeking stolen cars to travel to Irun.

The crowd had thinned out a bit by the time the afternoon session started. Rick Cundiff wanted to try the game. So at the risk of being compromised as "umpire" I stepped in to run the Nationalists.



Irun Militia Man the Barricades

To get things started we diced to see how far onto the board my troops could move, the Republicans on the scene at the start having been deployed and partially entrenched.

I sent the Falange down the main road covered by the battery on a hill overlooking the approach. They were slow off the mark. But the Guardia Civil took a couple of moves onto the board just to the south of the lazy Falangists. And next in order were the Carlist Requetes and finally, on the road to the fortified villa were the soldiers of the Tercio Espagnol-the dread Spanish "Foreign Legion."



A Bandera of the Tercio attacks Republican Outpost

Having launched the attack I was relieved of command by David Glenn, whose rather interesting 10mm Rouark's Drift had, much to my surprise, failed to draw a quorum. He proceeded with the Tercio attack on the outpost. Initially the attack was with the MG company and squad automatic weapons alone. And while that might have gone well with unsupported militia, the Peninsular Army MMG company inflicted moderate casualties. Eventually the remnants of the defenders, who had been unable to engage deployed troops behind the walls fled the villa. But between the losses they had taken, and those received pursuing beyond the villa, the Tercio suffered over 50% casualties and had to regroup.

The Carlists had moved out smartly, and quickly closed on a ruined church near the villa. This position was partly screened by woods which enabled the Carlists to get their MG company in action before pressing into the open.



Carlist Requetes deploy at woods edge before attacking the ruined church

The Carlist attack was strangely better organized than that of the Army of Africa Veterans. Also, the defenders, after taking losses from the MMG company, showed no stomach for close combat (Rick rolled a couple of ones.)

By now a Bandera of Basque Gudari had arrived in Irun and deployed in a reserve position in buildings to await orders. At the same time the Rojo et Negro Bandera of Anarchists drove up. They were flagged down by messengers from the Irun Commandant and told to deploy facing the ruined church which was being occupied by Requetes. Orders to Anarchists have a way of being discussed rather than obeyed. However, in this case the dice went for the Republicans and the Rojo et Negro (red and black-not to be confused with Stendahl's novel of the same name) deployed to face the oncoming Requetes.

Meanwhile the medium battery had the range of the barricades defended by one of the Bandera of Irun militia and were pounding them. But casualties were surprisingly light. The Falange, having finally advanced, were approaching the barricades by the north road.



Defenders of the ruined church fall back as reinforcements arrive by truck



**Gardia Civil Advance on empty breastworks as Requetes seize the ruined church
The Falange Bandera advances on the north road**



Rojo et Negro Bandera confront the Carlist Requetes



Falange and Irun Militia charge each other-A close win for the Falange



Carlists carry hill with the bayonet-but go below 50% strength



Republican reinforcements fail to recapture the barricades

At that point the Nationalists had driven practically to the walls of Irun. But the Republicans still had intact units as well as reinforcements (including a Basque Bandera and the great Rosa Luxembourgos) trying to hitch a ride. And both the Carlists and the Tercio were under strength and unable to continue attacking. I ruled it a marginal Traditionalista victory. Irun was not in fact in ruins, but the road from the south was subject to small arms fire and all the outworks had been carried.