



Research Article

THE "TRANSFORMADOS" IN GUARDIA CIVIL

English translation with AI assistance (DeepL)

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THE "TRANSFORMADOS" IN GUARDIA CIVIL

Summary: 1. INTRODUCTION. 2. SPAIN, 2 APRIL 1939. 2.1. The Reserve Corps. 2.2. Provisional Officers. 3. THE TRANSFORMATION. 4. ENROLMENT IN THE GUARDIA CIVIL. 4.1. 1st Intake. 4.2. 2nd Intake. 4.3. 3rd Intake. 4.4. 4th Intake. 4.5. 5th Intake. 5. CONCLUSION.

Summary: Throughout the history of the Guardia Civil, the recruitment of officers has always posed a problem. Various factors and circumstances hindered the transfer of junior officers from the Infantry and Cavalry branches to the Guardia Civil. This reality, which was ever-present¹, became particularly worrying at the end of the Spanish Civil War since, logically, the Army's interests prioritised filling its own ranks over meeting the needs of the Civil Guard. On the other hand, the foreseeable future of a new Spain, with no foreseeable conflicts (at least in 1939), promised a smooth career path for those young officers; by contrast, the Guardia Civil offered nothing but hardships and risks, which became apparent almost immediately during the first clashes with groups of former Republican fighters, whether they remained on Spanish territory or carried out raids from France—commonly known as ‘the maquis’.

Once the decision had been taken to convert them into ‘regular’ or ‘professional’ officers, thousands of junior officers who made up the Reserve and Provisional ranks—at least until the first lieutenants trained at the General Academy graduated—passed through the Conversion Academies.

In any case, the focus of our research is on those who, against all odds, chose to join the Guardia Civil and, through their decision, ensured continuity in the chain of command. Had the Corps relied solely on those promoted from within, it would later have faced serious difficulties in filling positions of greater responsibility.

Resumen: A lo largo de la historia de la Guardia Civil, la recluta de oficiales siempre supuso un problema. Diferentes condicionantes y circunstancias dificultaron el pase de subalternos desde las armas de Infantería y Caballería hacia el Cuerpo. Esta realidad, siempre presente², se hizo especialmente preocupante al acabar la Guerra Civil española

¹ So much so that, practically from the Corps' inception, the criteria for proportionality in the allocation of posts for junior officers – between those coming from the Army and those promoted from within – varied, in an effort to fill the posts. The need to fill vacancies led to the creation of the Getafe College (following the closure of the General Academy in its early years) and the Special Academy in 1907 (which would not begin operations until 1927). Gistau Ferrando (*Of Guardia Civil: history of this institution*) puts the number of unfilled vacancies for the rank of lieutenant at just over 100 in 1905. Turning now to the period covered by this study, the Act of 25 November 1944 stated: “*Since the publication of the Act of 15 March 1940, which organised the new Corps of Guardia Civil, there have been many vacancies that have not been filled despite repeated advertisements*”. Obviously, the results were not as desired, as a new Act, that of 13 July 1950, acknowledged that: “*The Act of 25 November 1944, which laid down rules for filling officer vacancies in the Guardia Civil Corps, has failed to meet, in numerical terms, its essential requirements for officers from the Army*”.

² Tal es así que, prácticamente desde la creación del Cuerpo, fueron variando los criterios de proporcionalidad en el reparto de las plazas para oficiales subalternos, entre procedentes del Ejército y los de promoción interna, tratando de completar las plantillas. La necesidad de cubrir las vacantes conllevó la creación del Colegio de Getafe (al cerrar la Academia General, en su primera época) y la Academia Especial en 1907 (que no comenzaría su actividad hasta 1927). Gistau Ferrando (*La Guardia Civil: historia de esta institución*) cifra, para 1905, en algo más de 100 las vacantes sin cubrir en el empleo de teniente. Ya centrados en la época en la que se enmarca este estudio, la Ley de 25 de noviembre de 1944 recogía: “*Desde la publicación de la Ley de quince de marzo de mil novecientos cuarenta, que organiza el nuevo Cuerpo de la Guardia Civil son muchas las vacantes que no han podido cubrirse a pesar de su anuncio reiterado*”. Obviamente, los resultados no fueron los deseados, pues una nueva Ley, la de 13 de julio de 1950, reconocía que: “*La Ley de veinticinco de noviembre de mil novecientos cuarenta y cuatro, por la que se dictaron*

pues, lógicamente, los intereses del Ejército priorizaban la cobertura de sus plantillas antes que atender las necesidades de la Benemérita. Por otro lado, el horizonte presumible de una nueva España, sin conflictos previsibles (al menos en 1939), adivinaban una carrera sin sobresaltos para aquellos jóvenes oficiales; por el contrario, la Guardia Civil sólo ofrecía sinsabores y riesgos, casi inmediatamente puestos de manifiesto ante los primeros enfrentamientos con las partidas de antiguos combatientes republicanos, se mantuviesen en el territorio español o realizasen incursiones desde Francia, popularmente conocidas como “el maquis”.

Adoptada la decisión de transformarlos en “efectivos” o “profesionales”, miles de subalternos que engrosaban la Escala de Complemento y la de Provisionales, al menos hasta que egresasen los primeros tenientes que se formarían en la General, fueron pasando por las Academias de Transformación.

En cualquier caso, el objeto de nuestra investigación se centra en aquellos que, con todo en contra, optaron por ingresar en la Guardia Civil y permitir, con su decisión, mantener la continuidad en la cadena de mando. De haber contado sólo con los que procedían de la promoción interna, el Cuerpo habría tenido que afrontar, más adelante, serias dificultades para cubrir los puestos de mayor responsabilidad.

Keywords: "transformados" officers, provisional second lieutenants, supplementary scale, Guardia Civil.

Palabras clave: Oficiales transformados, alféreces provisionales, escala de complemento, Guardia Civil.

ABBREVIATIONS

AGM: General Military Academy

BOE: Official State Gazette

BOJDNE: Official Gazette of the Spanish National Defence Council

CFHGC: Centre de Photographie Historique de la Guardia Civil

D: Decree

DOME: Official Journal of the Ministry of the Army

FET-JONS: Traditionalist Spanish Falange and the National Syndicalist Offensive Committees

GM: Madrid Gazette

IMEC: Military Training for the Reserve Corps

IPS: Higher Pre-military Training

L: Law

O: Order

RD: Royal Decree

SEFOCUMA: Management Training Service

normas para cubrir las vacantes de Oficiales en el Cuerpo de la Guardia Civil, no ha logrado satisfacer, numéricamente, sus imprescindibles necesidades de Oficiales procedentes del Ejército”.

1. INTRODUCTION

Despite being a group of undoubted importance in the history of the Spanish military, there are no specific studies on the "transformados", let alone on those who pursued their careers in the Guardia Civil. These young men, initially regarded almost as *substitutes* for officers, helped to consolidate the foundations of the post-war army's hierarchical structure; yet we find scarcely any specific references to them in articles or books whose main focus lies elsewhere. Apart from brief notes in Colonel Isabel Sánchez's book (three pages out of a volume of over 1,900), a couple of isolated articles in the **Revista de Historia Militar**, or comments in a monograph on the Training Centre, no further information has been found; and, in any case, as regards Guardia Civil, only the content of this monograph is relevant.

The methodology, which is fundamentally exploratory and document-based, has relied on searching for information in a multitude of official gazettes and journals, particularly those published between 1936 and 1947, but extending to more recent periods such as the 1980s. To supplement this and, above all, to verify some of the data obtained, a large number of service records and files held in the Corps' Historical Archive were examined.

As a result of all this, this study will explore the origins of the "transformados" officers, the regulatory framework and the training process for their conversion into permanent officers and, with regard to the Civil Guard, the arrival, development and mark left by those who chose to serve in the Corps.

It may come as a surprise to learn how some of those 'officers of circumstance' came to occupy the most senior positions in the chain of command of the Guardia Civil – and not just on an ad hoc basis, but for an entire decade, perhaps the most significant in contemporary Spanish history.

It would have been very rewarding to explore the professional and even personal aspects of some of these officers in greater depth, but this is a challenge that may, perhaps, be addressed in a future book.

2. SPAIN, 2 APRIL 1939

With the war over, the command structures of the Army and of Guardia Civil found themselves in a critical situation, particularly with regard to junior officers, among whom the greatest number of casualties on the battlefield had been recorded. Furthermore, not all second lieutenants, lieutenants and, to a large extent, captains would find a place in the Spanish Army that emerged on 1 April 1939: those who had either fought on the Republican side or were simply declared disloyal following the relevant proceedings would be discharged.

The meagre number of these junior officers made it impossible to meet even the most basic requirements for rebuilding a devastated army—an army which, moreover, was being reoriented in an attempt to prevent any future deviations, should an undesirable situation such as that experienced during the previous three years arise again.

To overcome the continuous losses during the conflict, extensive use was made of two distinctive schemes. One of these, which had existed previously and which, with various adaptations over time, remains in operation today, was the Reserve Cadre. The other, created in the midst of the war and which gradually faded away after its conclusion, was the Provisional Cadre.

As far as the Guardia Civil is concerned, we can consider that the situation was even more serious; not so much because of the casualties suffered – which, although also considerable, were in much smaller numbers than in the Army – but because of its endemic shortage of personnel.

There were several attempts to stimulate young officers' interest in joining the force, but none came even close to meeting the expectations that had been raised. The Guardia Civil was also hampered by the fact that it could not draw on personnel from that Provisional Rank, whilst the newly created Armed and Traffic Police were permitted access to its members; indeed, they could do so at the rank of second lieutenant, something somewhat more difficult for the Guardia Civil to accept.

2.1. THE SUPPLEMENTARY RANK

We must go back to the Spain of Alfonso XIII to find the origins of the Complementary Officers. The first clear regulatory reference appears in a Royal Decree of 1918³, with a specific section entitled 'COMPLEMENTARY OFFICERS', which set out the lengthy process involved in attaining the first officer's post, and which required candidates to progress through the ranks of corporal and sergeant. Among the requirements to be met by those who were to form this corps, it is worth noting that "*certain training requirements shall be demanded for admission*".

Naturally, the Civil War was a peculiar period during which Reserve Officers continued to render important services. Incidentally, although it has occasionally been reported that the well-known Decree 94⁴ regulated this role, this is not strictly the case. The error may stem from the wording of Article 1, section A):

"Hold an academic or professional qualification, understood to mean at least a Baccalaureate, including, by way of example, those of Teacher, Technical Expert, Quantity Surveyor, etc., and those from the various State degree courses".

However, the interpretation to be made of this provision takes two relevant aspects into account. Firstly, it refers only to personnel already in service who, although at a basic level, have already received military training; and, secondly, they will not be performing duties related to their area of academic expertise, but rather, simply because of the status of 'officers' they are to acquire, it is necessary to require an appropriate level of education. Therefore, this new Provisional Rank is in no way intended to replace the Reserve Rank. In fact, as throughout the conflict, personnel will continue to join or be promoted within

³ Royal Decree of 7 March 1918, on *the Principles for the Reorganisation of the Army* (GM No. 69, 10 March 1918), subsequently confirmed by Law of 29 June 1918 (GM No. 181, 30 June 1918).

⁴ Decree No. 94 of 4 September 1936, *laying down rules for granting the rank of Second Lieutenant to members of the Non-Commissioned Officers' Corps, enlisted ranks and privates of the Infantry and Artillery Regiments, and members of the militarised militias serving in the ranks* (BOJDNE No. 17, 7 September 1936).

it. Sometimes, under truly striking, almost far-fetched circumstances, as we can see in the case of Andrés Hernández Roldán:

“Pursuant to Article 444 and Rule 5.a of Article 449 of the current Conscription Act, the post of Reserve Ensign is hereby granted to retired Infantry Non-Commissioned Officer Mr Andrés Hernández Roldán, who is currently serving in the 27th Algiers Infantry Regiment”⁵.

Over time, the requirements and duties would be defined in more detail, in accordance with various regulations, notably those of 1940⁶ (Higher Pre-military Training, IPS, with the University Militia), those of 1968⁷ (Service for the Training of Command Staff and Specialists in the Reserve and Naval Reserve), those of 1971⁸ (Military Training for the Reserve, IMEC), the 1984 programme⁹ (Service for the Training of Command Staff and Specialists, for both the Reserve and Naval Reserve ranks), the 1989 programme¹⁰ (Service for the Training of Command Staff, SEFOCUMA) and the 1999 programme¹¹ (Reserve Military Personnel).

It is worth noting that this form of Reserve service was not limited to officers; there was also a branch for non-commissioned officers.

2.2. PROVISIONAL OFFICERS

As we have already mentioned, Decree 94 established this Provisional Officers' Rank. The military authorities soon realised the need to maintain their command structure with the widest possible coverage; indeed, the decree was signed as early as 4 September, on the understanding that, prior to its publication, the necessary studies had been carried out, the options assessed and the corresponding proposal submitted.

In any case, the circumstances surrounding this cadre changed over time. Whilst in September 1936 it was envisaged that only non-commissioned officers, enlisted men and soldiers *'present in the ranks'* would be promoted to the rank of officer, the passage of time and the loss of personnel in combat eventually made it necessary to extend the offer to other sources, ranging from members of militias belonging to organisations such as the *requetés* or Falangists, to ordinary civilians.

It is worth noting that the integration of personnel with lower ranks into the respective provisional ranks (as was the case with *'Complemento'*, there was also a *'Provisional Sergeants'* category here) should not be confused with the concept of *'provisional promotion'*. This consisted of granting the duties and exercise of command

⁵ Order of 23 October 1936 (BOE No. 14, 28 October 1936).

⁶ Decree of 8 August 1940, *amending the legislation in force on conscription* (BOE No. 235, dated 22 August 1940). Details regarding the University Militia, linked to the Reserve Corps and the Spanish Falange, are set out in Decree D of 22 February 1941, *on the Organisation of the University Militia* (BOE No. 64, dated 5 March 1941).

⁷ Act 55/1968 of 27 July on *General Provisions for Military Service* (BOE No. 181, 29 July 1968).

⁸ Decree 3048/1971, of 2 December, *on the Reserve Ranks of the Armed Forces* (BOE No. 304, 21 December 1971).

⁹ Act 19/1984 of 8 June on *Military Service* (Official State Gazette No. 140 of 12 June 1984).

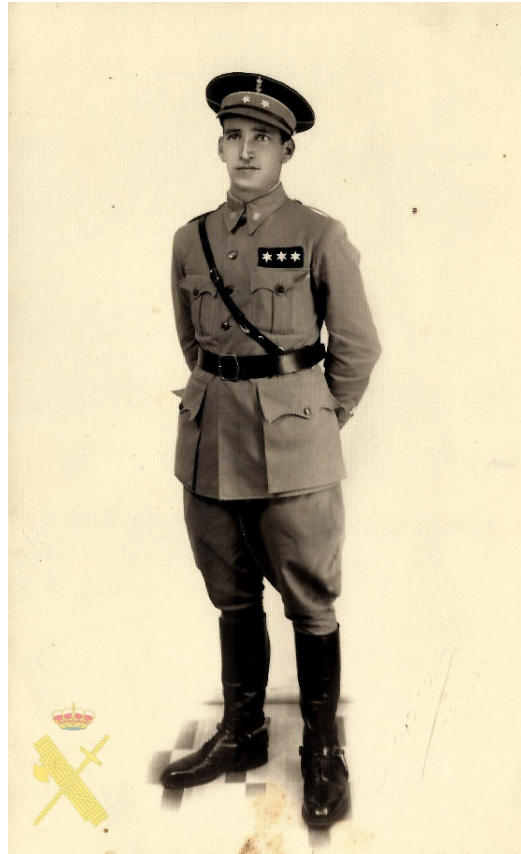
¹⁰ Act 17/1989 of 19 July, *regulating the status of professional military personnel* (Official State Gazette No. 172, 20 July 1989).

¹¹ Law 17/1999 of 18 May on *the Status of Armed Forces Personnel* (BOE No. 119, 19 May 1999).

at a higher level than that held, but without this entitling the holder, for example, to receive the emoluments of the post occupied; by contrast, in the Provisional Pay Scale, *‘During the time they hold this post of Ensign, they shall receive the salary corresponding to that post’*.

Figure 1

The authorisation of officers for higher posts occurred on both sides during the Civil War. In this case, Lieutenant Juan Aranguren da Ponte, son of General Aranguren, wears the stars of his actual rank on his headgear, but the breast ribbon identifies him as a commissioned captain. (CFHGC Reference 02 - MDGGC - 414). (1936)



On the part of the Republican government, which reacted much later, Provisional Officers were also created, in addition to Field Officers, Auxiliary Officers and those of the Popular Militias.

3. THE TRANSFORMATION

The provisional nature of those officers' status in the midst of the war had always been made sufficiently clear from the outset, with phrases such as *‘the measures proposed are only of a provisional nature’* or *‘when the National Government deems it appropriate, the Commanders and Officers thus promoted shall cease to perform their duties and shall return to the posts they hold in their own right’*.

Once the war was over, those provisional officers—who, in quite a few cases, had risen to the rank of captain—were retained whilst the situation was being reorganised, staffing levels stabilised and the normal conduct of the Army's activities ensured.

In September 1940¹² the General Military Academy (AGM) was re-established, but, naturally, and although the duration of training was shortened for the first two intakes, it was clear that it would still take several years before the first lieutenants graduated from it. Since the end of the war, various measures had been adopted, such as the reorganisation of the Army¹³, the reinstatement of military personnel, the reorganisation of the Reserve Officer Corps, etc.¹⁴. As a further step towards restoring the rhythm of military routine, a decision was taken to transfer provisional or reserve officers to the Active Officer Corps (also known as permanent officers).

However, even before the reorganisation of the Army, the future of those officers who, throughout the conflict, had been swelling the ranks of those scales had been addressed. As early as June 1939, given the need to fill command posts, particularly at lower ranks, it was proposed 'by law of urgent necessity' that the initial appointments should be made from among those¹⁵. In a new decree¹⁶, the posts to be filled by the new officers—who would soon become known as 'transformados' officers, according to the official designation¹⁷—were determined.

It was obvious that the measure was merely a temporary solution to bridge the gap until the first officers from the General Staff began their service; this was not because, as we have seen, there was a firm intention not to perpetuate the procedure, but because there was a need for constant regulation to overcome obstacles, or to establish the appropriate organisation of the Scale to be phased out and its conversion into permanent officers. Thus, the academic requirements and the promotion system would vary. Whilst, in the first and second intakes, cadets graduated as lieutenants and were not subject to any conditions for the future, the military authorities, convinced that it remained necessary to expand the intake, were forced to lower the bar, albeit subjecting future military careers to certain conditions¹⁸. Thus, we see that, in the 3rd to 5th intakes, whilst maintaining the

¹² Act of 27 September 1940 (BOE No. 286, 12 October 1940).

¹³ Law of 22 September 1939 (BOE No. 1, 1 October 1939).

¹⁴ The last two as Decree of 22 September 1939 (BOE No. 1, dated 1 October 1939).

¹⁵ Decree of 4 June 1939, stipulating that vacancies arising in the rank of Junior Officers as a result of the staff adjustments inherent in the reorganisation of the Army shall be filled by personnel from the Scale of Provisional and Reserve Officers, and regulating the manner and conditions of their admission (Official State Gazette No. 156, 5 June 1939), implemented by the Order of 9 August 1939, for the implementation of the Decree of 4 June last (Official State Gazette No. 156) concerning the conversion of provisional and reserve officers into professional officers. (Official State Gazette No. 225, 13 August 1939).

¹⁶ Order of 2 September 1939, laying down rules for the admission to the active ranks of the Army of provisional and reserve Captains, Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants, and Cadets from the Military Academies (BOE No. 1, 1 October 1939).

¹⁷ "... the first and second intakes of the Officer Conversion Academies shall form a single cohort, to be known as the first cohort of "transformados" officers". Order of 28 March 1944 (DOME No. 75, dated 30 March 1944).

¹⁸ For example, exemption from the requirement to hold a baccalaureate is granted to candidates who are serving brigadiers or sergeants. All members of the new intake will graduate as second lieutenants and will not attain the rank of lieutenant until they have completed twenty-four inspections. Order of 5 November 1942 (DOME No. 250, dated 6 November 1942). Incidentally, when comparing the date of this Order, which convenes the 3rd Intake, one might interpret this as a dating error, given that Note 13 refers to the 1st and 2nd Intakes, yet it was promulgated two years later. Not only is there no error, but it also allows us to reaffirm our comment on the ongoing need to regulate and reorganise the Service: over the years, it was

same duration of training as the previous ones, their members will enter professional service as second lieutenants, but will no longer face any restrictions in the future. It is striking that, in the following two intakes, there were also many candidates who did not meet the requirements set in the previous ones. These last two intakes, who will be trained at the Villaverde Academy, will graduate after just eight months of training; however, in order to be promoted to captain, they will have to complete a further one-year academic period.

It appears that little time was spent when making this decision on calculating the number of posts that could actually be filled; apparently, the authorities were confident that there would be no need for many of them, and that it would only affect *‘those essential for conversion to professional status’*. The reality is that more than 15,000 reserve and provisional officers became permanent officers after completing their training at the various Transformation Academies¹⁹. The process brought all cadets together²⁰ by providing them with professional and standardised military training, regardless of their role or background; at the same time, the transformation went beyond simply confirming their status as permanent officers, as for many it involved a change of branch or corps, as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1

Origins and possible final assignments of provisional and reserve officers. (Compiled by the author)

INITIAL POSITION	FULL NAME	ORIGIN	ENTERS
Provisional Captain	Enrique Rodríguez Ajuria	Infantry	Engineers
Provisional Lieutenant	Juan José Cavero Salve	Cavalry	Infantry
Provisional Lieutenant	Alfonso Bernal Garrido	Infantry	Engineers
Reserve Captain	Felipe Machado del Hoyo	Infantry	Artillery
Second Lieutenant (Reserve)	Roberto Escribano Ortega	Legal	Cavalry
Alf. Reserve	Nicanor Álvarez Rodríguez	Infantry	Artillery

Among the officers who will be entering the Transformation Academies, we will also find some who can trace their origins to the Traditionalist Spanish Falange and the National Syndicalist Offensive Committees (FET and JONS). This is a rather peculiar matter which causes a great deal of confusion, and therefore warrants more in-depth study. For example, officers with this designation include those who had previously held such ranks and who, at the outbreak of the Civil War, found themselves in various situations (retired, removed from service, etc.²¹), but we also find civilians who, upon

necessary to redefine previous decrees and orders to make the new provisions that were emerging comprehensible or enforceable.

¹⁹ In addition to those already mentioned for the Army, the Navy will have its own at the San Fernando Naval Academy and the Air Force will have the León Transformation Academy.

²⁰ Those undergoing training whilst at the Academies were designated "Officer Cadets". Or, as of 5 November 1942, as we have just seen.

²¹ Such is the case of retired Lieutenant Manuel Rodríguez García of the Guardia Civil, whose appointment as an officer in the Militias of the FET de las JONS is confirmed, according to the Official Order of 12 September 1938 (BOE No. 82, dated 20 September 1938).

joining the Militias of this organisation—regardless of the training they had received—were recognised as holding various officer ranks (we even find Militia captains). Once these ranks had been confirmed and, of course, the entrance examinations had been passed, they were admitted to the Transformation Academies.

In these circumstances, following the publication of the syllabuses and the appointment of the directors of each Academy, the process began with the admission of the first candidates²². The knowledge tests comprised two sections, common to all branches of the armed forces; the first, the humanities, covered Grammar, Geography of Spain, World History and History of Spain; the second, the sciences, covered Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Physics and Chemistry. Those who passed²³ joined their respective Academies: Artillery, in Segovia; Engineers, in Burgos; Quartermaster Corps, in Ávila; Cavalry, in Valladolid; and, as regards the Infantry, given that the number of cadets would exceed the capacity of the academy in Zaragoza—particularly bearing in mind that work was already underway to reopen the General Military Academy, and that space would need to be made available for the First Intake of the Third Era—a new academy was also established in Guadalajara²⁴.

The training plans envisaged a 18-month stay at the Academy, with the exception of cadets who had already undertaken studies at the Special Academies before the outbreak of the War: those who had completed at least one course would graduate after six months in Zaragoza or Guadalajara.

In July 1941, the First Transformation Intake received their commissions, and from that point onwards, intakes followed one after another until, in 1948, new calls for applications ceased, as the first lieutenants of the AGM had already been appointed and the classrooms were filled by members of subsequent intakes.

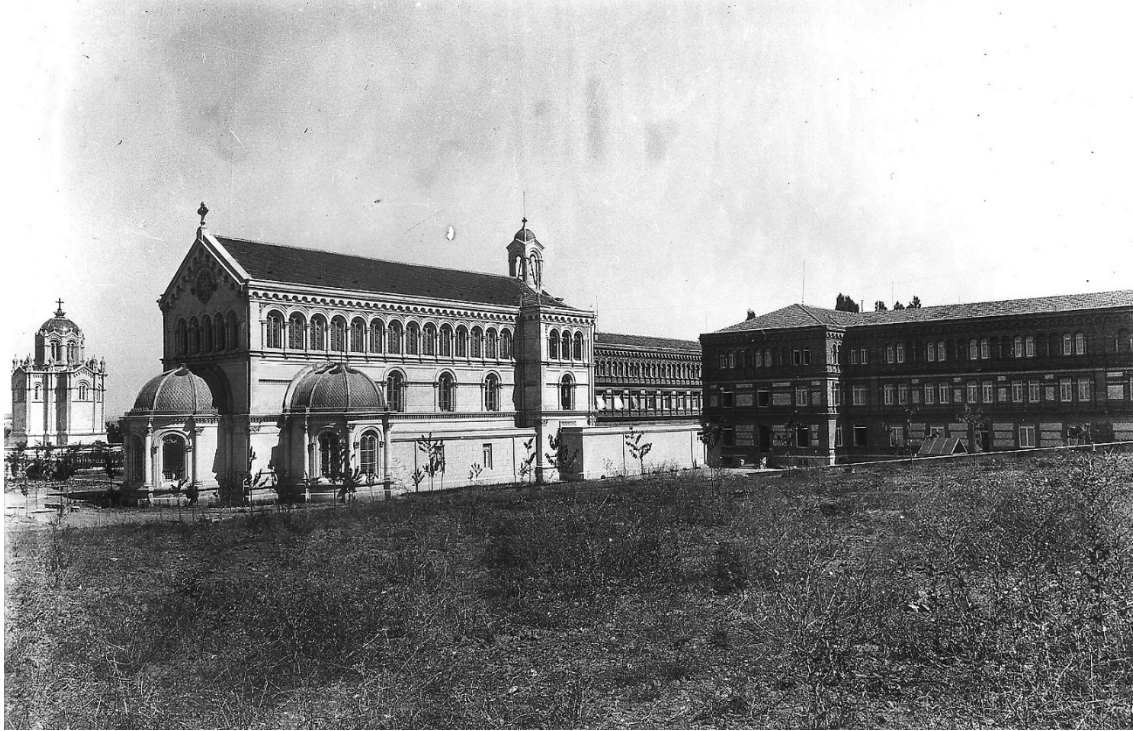
²² Official Order of 2 January 1940 (*DOMÉ* No. 2, dated 4 January 1940).

²³ Strictly speaking, no examinations were held for that first intake; instead, a selection was made from among the applicants on the basis of prior qualifications, merits recognised during the conflict and length of service in various posts: we emphasise, 'in various posts', that is to say, holding the rank of major was not a priority.

²⁴ Or of 14 November 1939 (*DOMÉ* No. 40, dated 18/11/1939).

Figure 2

Adoratrices School in Guadalajara. Between 1940 and 1948, it became the Transformation and Infantry Academy. ('Tomás Camarillo' Photographic Collection. Guadalajara Centre for Photography and Historical Images. Provincial Council. Record CAM-1502). (c. 1930)



During this period, the general trend was that there was no general trend. As we have seen, the first two intakes entered active service as lieutenants, whilst the subsequent ones did so as second lieutenants; in the specific case of the 6th and 7th intakes, they were required to complete their training in order to be promoted to captain.

4. ENTRY INTO THE GUARDIA CIVIL

Throughout the history of the Guardia Civil, up until the creation of the Special Academy (in its second phase²⁵), a shortage of officers was a constant issue. The numerous attempts to resolve the problem, despite proposing different solutions, succeeded in improving the situation on only a few occasions. Although this is not the place to go into greater detail, we may note that one of the causes—at least to a large extent—was the slowness with which promotions took place within the Corps, which discouraged young Army officers; and, due to this very same slow process, officers drawn from the ranks themselves only attained junior posts, and at an advanced age.

²⁵ Although with a different structure and intake, a Special Academy of Guardia Civil did exist in the first third of the 20th century. Established by Act in 1907, it did not become operational until 1927, before ceasing operations in May 1932, following a request submitted by the Director-General to the Minister of War, Manuel Azaña: insurmountable organisational problems led to this drastic measure.

As yet another attempt to improve staffing levels, a new Act was enacted in 1944²⁶, the outcome of which was uncertain, although, on the whole, it did alleviate the situation.

The preamble could not have been clearer, beginning with a forceful acknowledgement of the failure of previous attempts:

“Since the publication of the Act of 15 March 1940, which organised the new Corps of Guardia Civil, there have been many vacancies that have remained unfilled despite repeated advertisements.”

It also highlighted where the main problem lay at that time. The integration of the Carabineros had led to the creation of the Border Tercios, with the logical intention of maintaining their service, but now adding the need to seal off the border against incursions by exiled Republicans who, together with the guerrilla groups within the territory, came to be known as the maquis. These duties were likely to be the most thankless and least desirable. Consequently, the new Act stipulated that, for these units, *“their Commanders and Captains, who must primarily possess the qualifications of soldiers specialising in mountain troop command, shall be from the Infantry”*.

In view of this, Article 1 could only be worded as follows:

“The junior officer ranks of the Guardia Civil Corps shall be filled by officers drawn from the non-commissioned officer ranks of the Guardia Civil Corps and by those who, belonging to the Army’s Infantry and Cavalry branches and having graduated from the Officer Conversion Academies and those of their respective branches, voluntarily wish to transfer to the Guardia Civil, whereupon they shall be enrolled, whilst being discharged from their original branches.”

Although the traditional offer aimed at officers from the Army’s branches was maintained, as regards those trained at the Special Academies, the truth is that subsequent recruitment drives would only include "transformados" fr²⁷. The fact is that this reference to “Special Academies” leaves the door open for the future, given that, at the time the Act was enacted, there were no junior officers from such a background, and there would not be any until the first intake of the AGM had completed its training.

4.1. FIRST RECRUITMENT ROUND

The first of these recruitment rounds was published the following month²⁸, offering 25 places with a single restriction: only those born after 1915 were eligible to apply. It can be said that it was a resounding success, as all places were filled²⁹ and some of the applicants had to wait for the next round. In any case, one of those initially selected did not complete the induction process; in fact, he did not even appear on the rank list.

²⁶ Order of 25 November 1944, *laying down regulations for filling officer vacancies in the Guardia Civil Corps*. (Official State Gazette No. 332, 27 November 1944).

²⁷ Although the term might be interpreted as undervaluing those first lieutenants, the fact is that it was the official designation. The Order of 28 March 1944 (*DOME* No. 75, 30 March 1944) states, in Article 1: *“... a single intake, to be known as the First Intake of "transformados" officers”*.

²⁸ Order of 30 December 1944 (*DOME* No. 1, 1 January 1945).

²⁹ Order of 28 March 1945 (*DOME* No. 74, dated 3 April 1945).

Table 2

Members of the First Intake for entry into the Guardia Civil, from the Transformation Academies. (Compiled by the author)

ADMITTED	FULL NAME	POSITION ACHIEVED
1 April 1945	Salvador Bujanda González	Major General
1 April 1945	Francisco García Laclaustra	Major General
1 April 1945	Miguel Luengo Tejero	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Manuel Vicente Hernández	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Guillermo Gutiérrez García	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Manuel Prieto López	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Juan Atarés Peña	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Aurelio Herrero Miguel	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Antonio Hermosilla Bernardín	Major General
1 April 1945	Rafael Girón Lozano	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Diego Daza Ramírez	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	Rafael Serrano Valls	Brigadier General
1 April 1945	José Sánchez Alcaide	Colonel
1 April 1945	Miguel Martínez Bajatierra	Colonel
	Enrique Eady García Hidalgo	Not listed
1 April 1945	Julio Olarte Galarreta	Colonel
1 April 1945	Enrique Nieto Tejedor	Colonel
1 April 1945	Luis Rodríguez-Varo Guzmán	Colonel
1 April 1945	Heliodoro Jiménez Sánchez	Colonel
1 April 1945	José María Elena González	Retired (Captain)
		1959
1 April 1945	Manuel González López	Colonel
1 April 1945	Juan Antonio Castaño Calvo	Colonel
1 April 1945	Julián Moreno Gómez	Colonel
1 April 1945	Cesáreo Muñoz Paniagua	Colonel
1 April 1945	Clemente Antuña Claros	Colonel

Among the members of that first intake of "transformados" who joined the Guardia Civil are some illustrious names, such as those who served as deputy directors-general between 1974 and 1983.

Salvador Bujanda González, promoted to Brigadier on 12 September 1969, held command of the 2nd Zone in Seville, the 6th Zone in León and the 4th Zone in Barcelona; and, having been promoted to Major General, served as Deputy Director-General of the Civil Guard between 25 January 1974 and 26 July 1979.

He was succeeded by Francisco García Laclaustra, from 30 July 1979 to 9 September 1981. During his time as a Brigadier General, having been promoted on 9 October 1969, he had commanded the 5th Zone in Zaragoza and served as Inspector of Training for the Corps.

Figure 3

Visit by Lieutenant General José Miguel Vega Rodríguez, Director-General of the Guardia Civil, to the Training Centre. To his left is Major General Salvador Bujanda González, Deputy Director of the Corps, and to his right, standing slightly behind, is Brigadier General Francisco García Laclaustra, then Inspector of Training, who would later succeed Bujanda as Deputy Director. Both held the top two positions in the ranks of "transformados" transferred to the Guardia Civil.

(CFHGC Reference 05 - GCROC - 32344). (1974)



Rounding off the trio was Antonio Hermosilla Bernardín, a brigadier since 6 June 1975, who was assigned command of the Headquarters for Equipment and Maintenance until 3 December of that year, when he took command of the 3rd Zone in Valencia; after a period in charge of the 5th Zone, he returned to command the 3rd Zone. Promoted to Major General on 2 October 1981, he succeeded Laclaustra until 8 August 1983, when he was transferred to the 'Army or Corps Assignment' group.

That first cohort of "transformados" held the highest ranks within the Corps' hierarchy for a decade (1974–1984). A total of 12 of its members—50 per cent, if we take into account that one of the 25 did not complete the integration process—reached the rank of general.

But that decade was no ordinary decade. Within that timeframe, Spain underwent a transformation and played a leading role in a period that has been taken as a benchmark by many other countries: the Transition. Coping with those changes was not easy ... or perhaps it was: we must not forget that, early in their careers, those officers had been at the forefront of a unique process – the process of transformation; in a way, adapting to

new approaches was part of their DNA. During their tenure, they ensured that the Guardia Civil also played its part in that Transition.

However, these were not easy times. The scourge of ETA was ever-present and on the rise during those years, particularly in the early 1980s. They had to attend countless funerals and, whilst comforting the families of the murdered officers, they had to maintain their composure and avoid reactions which, whilst understandable, would have done nothing to help in the fight against the terrorist group.

The leading role played by those early "transformados" in the fight against ETA was epitomised by Juan Atarés Peña, the only general in the force to be assassinated by the 'Nafarroa' commando on 23 December 1985, whilst he was walking in a park near his home in Pamplona.

Regrettably, whilst it was already hard enough to endure the scourge of the ETA terrorist group, it was not the only one using terrorism as a means to attack the structure of the State. The FRAP was founded in 1973 and remained active until 1978. GRAPO emerged in 1975, carrying out particularly significant attacks during those years; although its activity waned, it continued until 2006. Although it had been advocating its positions for years prior, in 1976 the MPAIAC joined this list of criminal organisations by carrying out its first attack, against the Galerías Preciados shopping centre in Las Palmas; in 1979, it renounced the use of arms. And, before concluding this section, we must also mention another terrorist group that emerged during this same period; TERRA LLIURE began its activities in 1978 and continued until 1990. In short, in addition to ETA, the Guardia Civil of that era had to contend simultaneously with four other terrorist organisations.

4.2. SECOND RECRUITMENT ROUND

On this occasion, although the recruitment drive was not fully completed, 23,³⁰ s of the 25 advertised vacancies³¹ were filled, with an age limit set at 1,916. As was customary, those joining the Corps were required to undertake a three-month induction course and complete a further four months' practical training, two on the coast and two in rural areas.

³⁰ Order of 16 July 1945 (*DOME* No. 160, dated 20 July 1945).

³¹ Or of 15 September 1945 (*DOME* No. 208, dated 16/09/1945).

Table 3

Members of the Second Intake for entry into the Guardia Civil, from the Transformation Academies. (Compiled by the author)

ENROLLED	FULL NAME	POSITION ACHIEVED
1 October 1945	Pedro Martos Carricondo	Signed: AS 1947. (Lt)
1 October 1945	Francisco Morales Rodríguez	Signed AS 1947. (Lt)
1 October 1945	Ángel Ruiz Ayucar	Colonel
1 October 1945	Jaime Gullón Campoamor	Resigned 1946 (Lieutenant)
1 October 1945	Francisco J. Díez-Ticio Embarba	Colonel
1 October 1945	Ángel Pérez Macías	Colonel
1 October 1945	Guillermo Caldera del Pino	Colonel
1 October 1945	Francisco Alcalá Ramos	Colonel
1 October 1945	José Galán Patau	Colonel
1 October 1945	Antonio Laso Arroyo	Colonel
1 October 1945	José Aguilar Jiménez	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 October 1945	Mauro Alonso de Armiño Díez	Brigadier General
1 October 1945	Antonio Álvarez Castillo	Retired 1964 (Colonel)
1 October 1945	Eduardo Haro Vázquez	Colonel
1 October 1945	Francisco Jiménez Sánchez	Colonel
1 October 1945	Francisco Parra Marín	Colonel
1 October 1945	Francisco Fernández Herrero	Colonel
1 October 1945	Sergio Gallego Ronquillo	Colonel
1 October 1945	José Cruz Aldea	Colonel
1 October 1945	Francisco Jiménez Reina	Colonel
1 October 1945	Baldomero Domínguez Bueno	Colonel
1 October 1945	Florencio Pérez Pérez	Colonel
1 October 1945	Julio Valcárcel de las Casas	Not included

Unfortunately, this intake soon suffered its first casualties in the line of duty. In a cruel twist of fate, the number 1 and number 2, just a month and a few days apart and in neighbouring provinces, lost their lives in clashes with the *maquis*, in incidents that were virtually identical. Whilst Pedro Martos lost his life in Almería on 24 June 1947, Francisco Morales died in Granada on 30 July.

On 22 June 1947, at a roadblock on the road from Almería to Níjar, a shootout took place in which a guard was killed; hours later, a corporal died as a result of his injuries. On the 23rd, once a cordon had been set up in the capital to apprehend those who had managed to escape, another exchange of fire took place between members of 'El Cuco's' group and the Guardia Civil under the command of Lieutenant Martos. In the skirmish, he was wounded and, after being taken to hospital, died the following day.

Figure 4

Sixth Section of the Second Transformation Class at the Guadalajara Academy. In the second row, fourth from the left, is Pedro Martos Carricondo, the first Transformation Officer to join the Guardia Civil and die in the line of duty. (Source: Army Museum / Virtual Defence Library. Inventory No.: MUE-120459). (1942–43)



On 30 July, having received intelligence that a group of *maquis* might be hiding at Cortijo Maldonado, near Motril, Lieutenant Morales led an operation to try to apprehend the fugitives. Whilst attempting to enter the property, he was shot; he repelled the attack, killing his assailant. He was taken to Motril and subsequently to the military hospital in Granada, where he died a few hours later.

Figure 5

Second Section of the 2nd Transformation Intake at the Guadalajara Academy. Francisco Morales Rodríguez (seated, 3rd from the left) was the second of the officers to be killed in the line of duty. (Source: Army Museum / Virtual Defence Library. Inventory No.: MUE-120459). (1942–43)



Ángel Ruiz Ayúcar, number 3 in the intake, who rose to the rank of colonel, was the 6th Director of the Special Academy when it was still housed in the General Directorate building. Ruiz Ayúcar is one of those officers whose Service Record contains a curious peculiarity: he was promoted to honorary Brigadier General... on two occasions!³², a situation we see repeated in the case of Francisco Alcalá Ramos. And continuing on the subject of the general officer corps, with the first intake having filled almost all the general officer posts, it was only able to place one of its own at the very top of the hierarchy: Mauro Alonso de Armiño Díez. After being promoted to Brigadier on 1 March 1980, he was assigned to the Inspectorate of Education on the 21st, leaving the post on 15 June 1982 upon transfer to the 'Arms or Corps Assignment' group upon reaching the statutory retirement age.

Furthermore, we see that in the column for rank attained, José Aguilar Jiménez appears with the entry 'Colonel (2nd Group)'. This is because his promotion to that rank came whilst he was already in the 2nd Group, to which officers were transferred upon reaching the statutory age. We shall continue to see this same format for other officers.

Finally, we shall devote a few lines to Julio Valcárcel de las Casas, whose career history is particularly unusual. If we look at some details in the table, we shall see that, ,

³² The first by Royal Decree 1196/1987, of 21 September (*BOE* No. 237, dated 3 October 1987) and the second by Royal Decree 1459/1988, of 25 November (*BOE* No. 293, dated 7 December 1988).

he was indeed selected to join the Guardia Civil, although the process was not completed. Whilst in the previous intake, Eady García-Hidalgo's failure to join was due to a personal decision, in this case his withdrawal occurred when it was discovered that, at that time, he was not yet a full lieutenant; and it would be some time before he became one, as his promotion would not be published until March 1947³³, after completing the required 18 months as a second lieutenant. He would eventually join the Armed and Traffic Police Corps.

4.3. THIRD RECRUITMENT ROUND

Whilst we mentioned earlier that the outcome of this new approach to filling vacancies with "transformados" officers would be uncertain, we might question that view in light of the results of the 1st and 2nd Recruitment Rounds. However, in this 3rd round, the ghosts of the past would return and, once again, recruitment problems would become apparent.

Encouraged by the success of the previous calls and pressed by the vacancies that were arising without internal promotion being able to fill them, the Directorate-General published the third call offering fifty posts³⁴, for which, logically, the upper age limit was extended to those born in 1917. It was clear from the outset that the vacancies would not be filled. So much so that an extension to the call for applications was even published³⁵ so that those still at the Academy, bearing in mind their imminent graduation, could apply. Once again, only 23 names appeared on the admission list³⁶. However, this figure was increased slightly, thanks to concessions granted to allow two further candidates to be included on the final list: José del Amo Sociats³⁷ and Julio Ortega de Miguel³⁸. In any case, the final result was worse than the initial figure, as three of those originally published withdrew before completing the process of joining the Guardia Civil; in fact, they did not even appear on the relevant ranking list.

³³ Or of 27 February 1947 (*DOMÉ* No. 51, 2 March 1947).

³⁴ Or of 6 July 1946 (*DOMÉ* No. 154, dated 9 July 1946).

³⁵ Or of 20 July 1946 (*DOMÉ* No. 165, dated 23 July 1946).

³⁶ Or of 5 September 1946 (*BOE* No. 252, dated 9 September 1946).

³⁷ Or of 1 October 1946 (*BOE* No. 284, dated 11 October 1946).

³⁸ Or of 20 September 1946 (*BOE* No. 266, dated 23 September 1946).

Table 4

Members of the Third Intake for entry into the Guardia Civil, from the Transformation Academies. (Compiled by the author)

ADMITTED		FULL NAME	POSITION ACHIEVED
1946	1 October	José del Amo Sociats	Colonel
1946	1 October	Juan Alcoba Muñoz	Colonel (2nd Group)
1946	1 October	Francisco Romero Solano	Retired 1971 (Lieutenant)
1946	1 October	Félix Fuertes Veiga	Colonel
1946	1 October	Ángel García Suárez	Colonel
1946	1 October	Antonio Glaria Iguacen	Colonel
1946	1 October	Manuel Cavero Agorreta	Colonel
1946	1 October	Mariano de Santos González	Colonel
1946	1 October	Antonio Gómez Nieves	Colonel
1946	1 October	Juan Torres Rodríguez	Left the service in 1951 (Lieutenant)
1946	1 October	Julio Ortega de Miguel	Colonel
1946	1 October	Isabelino Cáceres Ruiz	Brigadier General
1946	1 October	Justo García Gamarra	Colonel
1946	1 October	Juan Antonio Fajardo Quero	Brigadier General
1946	1 October	Manuel Pérez Ortiz	Colonel (2nd Group)
1946	1 October	Fernando Bouso Martín-Urda	Colonel
1946	1 October	José Cid Rodríguez José Sánchez Ocaña	Not assigned Colonel (2nd Group)
1946	1 October	Camilo Pajuelo Arteaga	Brigadier General
1946	1 October	Basilio Gómez Sanz	Resigned 1950 (Lieutenant)
1946	1 October	Vicente Romero Bernardo Alfredo Toledo Gete	Not commissioned Colonel
1946	1 October	César Pérez Blasco	Colonel
		Federico Carbonero Alonso	Not listed

1 1946	October	Enrique Tomé Marín	Left the service in 1967 (Captain)
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Unfortunately, we once again see the disheartening note ‘Did not complete training’: doubts about pursuing a career in the Guardia Civil continued to weigh heavily on their minds.

The quota of generals from this intake was filled by Isabelino Cáceres Ruiz, Juan Antonio Fajardo Quero and Camilo Pajuelo Arteaga. The first, during the two and a half years he served as Brigadier General, between 1 March 1980 and 1982, held command of three Zones: the 4th Zone in Barcelona, from 21 March to 22 December 1980; the 5th Zone in Logroño until 6 July 1981; and, once again, the 4th Zone until his retirement from active service. As a point of interest, it is worth noting that, whilst serving as a provisional second lieutenant, he was posted to the Armed and Traffic Police Corps³⁹.

Fajardo Quero remained an active General between 19 May 1980 and 9 July 1982, heading the Equipment and Maintenance Directorate. Pajuelo Arteaga, promoted on 4 December 1980, was Head of the 4th Zone in Barcelona from the 22nd of that month until 6 July 1981, when he moved to the 2nd Zone in Seville. On 3 August of the following year, he was transferred to the ‘Armed Forces or Corps Posting’ group.

4.4. FOURTH RECRUITMENT ROUND

Following the disappointment of the previous round, the notice published in March 1947 did not specify the number of posts, merely announcing a ‘*competition to fill vacancies for lieutenants in the Guardia Civil*’⁴⁰. And this caution proved justified, as when the list of successful candidates was published, only eleven were included⁴¹.

Table 5

Members of the Fourth Intake for entry into the Guardia Civil, from the Transformation Academies. (Compiled by the author)

ADMITTED	FULL NAME	POSITION ACHIEVED
1 May 1947	Jesús Ferrer Serrano	Colonel
1 May 1947	Manuel Cervantes Collantes	Brigadier General
1 May 1947	Enrique Cacenave Acosta	Colonel
1 May 1947	Luis Pérez Pardiñas	Retired 1963 (Lieutenant)
1 May 1947	Miguel Oliete Mañas	Lieutenant Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	Pedro Galtier Montero	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	Francisco Zájara Maya	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	Juan Antonio Núñez García	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	Serafín López Díaz	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	Saturnino Estévez Rodríguez	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 May 1947	José Ginel García	Colonel (2nd Group)

³⁹ Or of 26 March 1941 (*BOE* No. 87, dated 28 March 1941).

⁴⁰ Or of 8 March 1947 (*DOE* No. 58, dated 11 March 1947).

⁴¹ Or of 21 April 1947 (*DOE* No. 91, dated 24 April 1947).

A notable figure in this intake is Jesús Ferrer Serrano, whose remarkable career began in 1937⁴², when he completed his training as a provisional sergeant and was posted to the Tercio Santiago; it continued in 1938⁴³, with his promotion to provisional second lieutenant; and culminated in 1939⁴⁴ with his appointment as a lieutenant in that rank. Some time later, after completing his studies at the Academy of Advanced Training, he became a permanent officer and joined the Guardia Civil.

Despite being a small intake, it also included a general: Manuel Cervantes Collantes. Between 9 June (he had been promoted on 24 May) 1980 and 22 December of the same year, he commanded the Madrid Zone, and subsequently the 6th Zone in León, from where he would move to the 'Armed Forces or Corps Assignment' group, having reached the required age on 1 September 1982.

4.5. FIFTH CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The General Directorate remained concerned about the lack of interest shown by potential candidates. Publishing a new call for applications brought with it that strange sense of hope and caution. Once again, they avoided specifying a precise number of places⁴⁵. And, once again, as had already happened with the 3rd call, this call was extended⁴⁶. The rate at which applications were coming in must have been more than worrying, to the extent that this extension took into account those who '*having obtained the post of full lieutenant, numerous junior officers in the period immediately following the most recently mentioned call*'.

It is worth pausing here to highlight a point that is, to say the least, curious. In December of the previous year—that is, in 1946—the First Intake of the AGM would have graduated, but none of its members showed any interest in the Guardia Civil; consequently, the 4th Call for Applications—the woefully meagre 4th Call for Applications—consisted solely of "transformados." On this occasion, when the extension of the call-up refers to "*numerous junior officers*", it is referring to the Second Intake from Zaragoza⁴⁷, some of whose members—eight to be exact—did indeed join the Corps.

As regards age, the scheme excluded those born on or before 31 December 1917.

Table 6

Members of the Fifth Intake for entry into the Guardia Civil, from the Conversion Academies and the AGM (in blue). (Compiled by the author)

ADMITTED	FULL NAME	POSITION HELD
1 April 1948	Diego González Valverde	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	José Francés y Arias Argüello	Colonel
1 April 1948	Ramón Borbolla Noriega	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Rafael Conesa Bensi	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Joaquín Vázquez García	Colonel (2nd Group)

⁴² Or of 11 August 1937 (*BOE* No. 295, dated 11 August 1937).

⁴³ Or of 21 January 1938 (*BOE* No. 460, dated 24 January 1938).

⁴⁴ Or of 22 June 1939 (*BOE* No. 181, dated 30 June 1939).

⁴⁵ Or of 8 November 1947 (*DOME* No. 256, dated 13 November 1947).

⁴⁶ Or of 18 February 1948 (*DOME* No. 42, dated 20 February 1948).

⁴⁷ Or of 15 December 1947 (*DOME* No. 289, dated 24 December 1947).

1 April 1948	Miguel Gemar Caro	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	José María Bajos Ayala	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Marino Losa Martín	Retired 1971 (Lt Col.)
1 April 1948	Joaquín Andrés Andrés	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Augusto Casquero Izquierdo	Retired 1977 (Colonel)
1 April 1948	Antonio Cuadri Cano	Colonel
1 April 1948	José Moreno Antequera	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	José Álvarez Arce	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Gregorio Fernández Torija	Colonel
1 April 1948	Martín Zabala Sáenz	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Sergio García Muñoz	Colonel
1 April 1948	José Tirado Urdiales	Retired 1974 (Lt Col.)
1 April 1948	Francisco Alonso Casado	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Francisco Javier Cereceda Colado	Major General
1 April 1948	Manuel de la Puente Llorente	Colonel
1 April 1948	Ginés López del Castillo Saavedra	Colonel (2nd Group)
1 April 1948	Buenaventura López Ruano	Brigadier General
1 April 1948	Alejandro de la Mata García de la Rosa	Brigadier General
1 April 1948	José Chápuli Pérez	Colonel

As with all intakes, this one also has certain distinctive features that set it apart – two, to be precise. The first concerns two of its members, José Francés y Arias-Argüello and Francisco Alonso Casado, who combined the two training systems; having been "transformados," they completed their training as members of the first and second intakes, respectively, of the General Military Academy. We must clarify a comment made earlier: we had stated that no member of the First Intake of the AGM had applied in the previous intake, but we now see that Arias-Argüello appears as a student from that intake. This is explained by the fact that he completed his training as a member of the second intake; his inclusion in the previous intake took place later, once his seniority had been recognised. What is beyond doubt is his unwavering determination to pursue a military career, for, in addition to undertaking the conversion courses and his time at the AGM, as early as 1941 he had sat the competitive examination to enter the Naval Academy in Marín⁴⁸.

The second point concerns the fact that, for the first (and only) time, we must include cavalry officers amongst those transferring to the Guardia Civil: Joaquín Andrés Andrés, Augusto Casquero Izquierdo, Antonio Cuadri Cano and Gregorio Fernández Torija. Incidentally, Cuadri Cano and Fernández Torija took advantage of the extension to the application deadline, which, as we have already seen, was introduced with recent graduates from Zaragoza in mind rather than "transformados," just as Moreno Antequera and García Muñoz, from the Infantry, did; all of them had been promoted just a few days before the extension was published.

In line with previous comments regarding generals, this intake will include three, all of whom are from Zaragoza, and one of them, Cereceda Colado, would take up the post of Deputy Director-General. Promoted to Major General on 8 August 1983, he took over from Hermosilla Bernardín on that day and, as one of the most prominent figures to have held the post, remained in the role until 28 October 1986. He had been promoted to general on 20 June 1981 and appointed commander of the 5th Zone in Logroño on 6 July;

⁴⁸ Or of 14 August 1941 (*BOE* No. 229, dated 17 August 1941).

on 24 July of the following year, he took command of the Materiel and Maintenance Directorate and, from there, moved to the Deputy Directorate.

López Ruano commanded the 3rd Zone in Valencia from 22 October 1981 (he had been a general since the 2nd) until 19 December 1983, when he moved to the 'Armed Forces or Corps Assignment' group.

De la Mata was promoted to General on 24 July 1982 and took charge of the 2nd Zone in Seville on 9 August, a post he left on 7 January 1985 upon reaching the statutory age for retirement from active service.

5. CONCLUSION

1986 would mark the end of the period that Bujanda González, as the most senior member of the 1st Intake, had begun on 1 April 1945. Curiously, 41 years later, it was a member of that very same intake who, upon transferring to the Active Reserve, became the last "transformado." Antonio Hermosilla Bernardín transferred to that status on 4 December 1984⁴⁹.

Figure 6

Major-General Antonio Hermosilla Bernardín, Deputy Director-General of the Corps, inspects the formation at the Segovia barracks, as part of the ceremonies organised to mark the presentation of the general's sash to Buenaventura López Ruano. (CFHGC Reference 02 - CGC - SG - 477). (1981)



⁴⁹ Royal Decree 2167/1984, of 5 December 1984 (BOE No. 292, dated 6 December 1984).

In total, 101 officers who had been "transformados" joined the Guardia Civil. If we take the 1950 rank structure as a reference—by which time all of them had already joined, but none had yet been promoted to captain—we can see that they accounted for just 11.48 per cent⁵⁰ of the junior officers. However, between 1974 and 1981, they dominated the Corps' senior leadership, which had no active generals other than those of this unique background. It is perhaps worth recalling that, at that time, there were only nine of them.

If we extend the timeframe to the moment when Herмосilla stepped down from his post as Deputy Director, the period will have seen a number of significant milestones in the history of the Corps, such as:

- 1975 – Reorganisation of the Guardia Civil.
- 1977 – The requirement to sit tests to secure a permanent post in the Guardia Civil was abolished (although, it is true, some regional commands continued to hold them).
- 1977 – The Police Dog Training School was expanded with the first training programme for drug detection dogs (explosives detection dogs would follow in 1979).
- 1978 – The COS units were established, following a brief trial period.
- 1978 – The Public Prosecutor's Academy is established in Sabadell (B).
- 1978.— The UAR is established.
- 1978.— The GEI is established. Some time later, it will change its name to UEL.
- 1979 – The GAR is established.
- 1979 – The DECEDEX was established. Since 1973, personnel had been trained to tackle the challenges posed by the fight against ETA's activities. The first EDEX units had been formed in 1978.
- 1979 – First Investigation and Report Teams.
- 1981 – The first 334 Renault 4s were acquired.
- 1981 – The GEAS emerged from the simple diving units.
- 1981 – The Special Academy moved to Aranjuez.
- 1981 – The creation of the Auxiliary Guards of Guardia Civil is approved; they will begin service the following year.
- 1981 – First IT Training Centre.
- 1982.- The Education Inspectorate is elevated to the status of a Directorate.
- 1982 – The Renault 4s begin to cement their legendary status: a further 584 vehicles are added to those from the previous year.
- 1982 – The Canine Service is reorganised, with a headquarters overseeing various groups and detachments, as well as the School itself.
- 1982 – Creation of the Judicial Police within the Guardia Civil.
- 1983.—Officers of the Guardia Civil are now eligible to undertake the General Staff course.
- Between 1974 and 1984, the UHEL expanded from 4 aircraft to 17.
- Between 1981 and 1983, the Mountain units were strengthened and reorganised, reaching a total of 4 Sections, 10 Groups and 13 Teams.

⁵⁰ That year, there were 851 lieutenants in the general rank structure, plus 3 from ranks that were due to be phased out (2 from the Rural and Mobile ranks and 1 from the Coast and Borders rank). Of the 101, we have subtracted 3: the two who died in the line of duty in 1947 and Gullón Campoamor, who requested discharge shortly after joining the service in 1946.

- Etc.

Naturally, as they held the highest posts within the structure of the Guardia Civil, many of the "transformados" assumed significant responsibilities, both within the Corps (Ángel Ruíz Ayúcar, 6th Director of the Special Academy) and outside it (Mauro Alonso de Armiño Díez, Representative of the Ministry of the Interior on the Permanent Higher Commission on Remuneration of the General Staff).

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