

Facial Wounds in Madrid Frontline during Spanish Civil War (1936-39). How Did They Manage?

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Abstract

Spanish Civil War started in July 1936 as a military movement against the second republican government. Soon these troops took the western part of the country as well as the south of Spain. The advancement was very fast but when they reached Madrid, the capital of the country, they found an intense resistance and the frontline was stuck in the western part of the city (the university) till the end of the war in 1939. In this scenario, two long years of trench useless fights produced many injured soldiers due snipers bullets. Most of these wounds were produced in the head and neck area and, though they weren't mortal, severe injuries onset. In this case, these patients were treated by Dr. Martin Sanchez, a dentist with a strong surgical training who precisely photographed and draw all cases before and after initial in situ management and secondary reconstruction with local and regional flaps. His tribute has been published in a book edited by the Spanish Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (SECOM) in 2013. This lecture will show the main military and health aspects of the war and will focus on these maxillofacial injuries and how they were managed. The Spanish Civil War was the training ground for the new weapons and military techniques that later were used in the devastating Second World War.