

When the 50 ME Commando was formed in Egypt August 1940, there were 63 Spaniards in the ranks. All had fought in the Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War and had been recruited by the French Army in refugee camps located in the South of France during 1939.

Subsequently they were sent to the Middle East as part of French Foreign Legion, or *11eme Bataillon de Marche*, stationed in French mandated Syria and Lebanon.

After the German occupation of France, these Spaniards boarded three lorries and made their way to Palestine and then Egypt to join the British Army and specifically the 50 ME Commando.

Around half were taken PoW in Crete.

In late 1941 those who escaped were recruited to D Squadron of 1 SAS along with other ex-50 ME Commandos.

Around mid-1943, eight of these Spaniards are listed as having been incorporated in to 361 Company Pioneer Corps.

The Spanish members of 50th Middle East Commandos, and their fate on 31 May 1941 in Crete, were:

Date Joined	Service no.	Name	Crete 31 May 1941
23/08/40	6100501	Alorcon Gomez C	POW
23/08/40	6100502	Asenjo A	POW
23/08/40	6100503	Albadalejo Alejandro	POW
23/08/40	6100504	Alvarez Jose	POW
23/08/40	6100505	Barroso Manuel	POW
23/08/40	6100506	Bardenas R	Escaped
23/08/40	6100507	Castellano	POW
23/08/40	6100508	Delgado A	Escaped
23/08/40	6100509	Diaz J	POW
23/08/40	6100510	Esteve Fernando	Escaped
23/08/40	6100511	Franco Tomas	POW
23/08/40	6100512	Fajardo Joaquin	POW
23/08/40	6100513	Fraile Guerra T	POW
23/08/40	6100514	Fernandez Caballero J	Escaped
23/08/40	6100515	Garcia Juan	POW
23/08/40	6100516	Gomez Serafin	POW
23/08/40	6100517	Galarreta Manzanos L	POW
23/08/40	6100518	Galera E	POW
11/09/40	6100519	Garcia A	Escaped

23/08/40	6100520	Heras Braulio	POW
23/08/40	6100521	Jorda Francisco	POW
23/08/40	6100522	Lloret Carlos	POW
23/08/40	6100523	Leon J	Not in Crete (Hospital)
23/08/40	6100524	Lumbrera(s) Francisco	POW
23/08/40	6100525	Luque Tirado A	Not in Crete
23/08/40	6100526	Mena Juan	POW
23/08/40	6100527	Mena J	Not in Crete
23/08/40	6100528	Marin Basilio	POW
11/09/40	6100529	Marino Angel	POW
23/08/40	6100530	Navarrete Francisco	POW
23/08/40	6100531	Postillo R	POW
23/08/40	6100532	Pinera (?) L	Escaped
23/08/40	6100533	Redondo J	Escaped
23/08/40	6100534	Sanchez Manuel	POW
23/08/40	6100535	Surera M	Escaped
23/08/40	6100536	Santiago B	Not in Crete
23/08/40	6100537	Tavio (?) E	Not in Crete (Cyprus)
23/08/40	6100538	Torrалbo Miguel	POW
23/08/40	6100539	Trancho Bartolomeu Moises	Escaped
23/08/40	6100540	Trill Jaime	POW
23/08/40	6100541	Valero Gimenez A	Escaped
23/08/40	6100542	Vargas Crespo A	Not in Crete (Hospital)
23/08/40	6100543	Villanova Jose	Escaped
11/09/40	6100544	Arcos L	Not in Crete (Hospital)
11/09/40	6100545	Blasco Vicente	POW
11/09/40	6100546	Cervantes Santiago	POW
11/09/40	6100547	Martinez M	Escaped
11/09/40	6100548	Martinez Francisco	Escaped
11/09/40	6100549	Martinez B	Escaped
11/09/40	6100550	Garcia A	Escaped
13/10/40	6100551	Bravo Jose	POW
13/10/40	6100552	Balardi Justo	Not in Crete
13/10/40	6100553	Carmona Miguel	POW
13/10/40	6100554	Cleto Sanchez (?)	POW
13/10/40	6100555	Geronimo J	Reported Missing but escaped

11/10/40	6100556	Garrigos G	Escaped
11/10/40	6100557	Hidalgo Jose	POW
11/10/40	6100558	Lillo Julian	POW
11/10/40	6100559	Martinez Francisco	POW
13/10/40	6100560	Mercado J	Escaped
13/10/40	6100561	Martinez Aurelio	POW
13/10/40	6100562	Martinez Pereira Francisco	POW
13/10/40	6100563	Rodriguez J	Not in Crete