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Panorama Cándido

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PANORAMA CANDIDO

An artist of the Triple Alliance War

Cándido López fought as a soldier in the Triple Alliance War.

During the war, he also took sketches.

This exhibition presents his paintings and their scenes in the context of a fierce war.

EN 1

Towards the great conflict



1863

The White Party governed **Uruguay**. It had a defensive pact with the government of Paraguay.

The Colorado Party started a rebellion, which was supported by both governments of **Argentina and Brazil**.



Uruguayan **Civil War**



1864

Brazil invaded Uruguay to reinforce the victory of the *colorados*.

In order to aid the White Party, **Paraguay declared war to Brazil**.



1865

Paraguay asked Argentina permission to march through its territory to get to Uruguay. **Argentina refused**.



Paraguay then attacked the Corrientes province.



Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay -where the *colorados* had taken power-, agreed on an **alliance against Paraguay**.

Ten thousand soldiers marched to the front.

And so began the most terrible war in the region.

A glade across the Santa Lucía River, November 25th, 1865.

Corrientes Province.

Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

A large-scale bloodshed

The Triple Alliance War -known as the Paraguay War in Argentina- was fought between November 1864 and March 1870.



The first stage went until April 1866.

The Paraguayans took over the Brazilian Mato Grosso and invaded both Corrientes and Río Grande do Sul, where they were defeated.



The second stage lasted until September 1866.

The allied troops entered Paraguay.



Several deadly battles were fought, but no side could prevail.

The third stage carried on until January 1869.

After a long reorganization, the allies brought down the Paraguayan defenses and took the capital of the country, Asunción.



The fourth stage ended in March 1870.

The last phase consisted in the persecution of the Paraguayan president, Francisco Solano López, who led the resistance until he was killed.

Thousands of soldiers, of both sides, died in the battlefields or afterwards due to the wounds. Diseases caused countless deaths.

Paraguay was ravaged. The economy was ruined. Sixty percent of its population died because of the war.

EN 2

“Map of the current war theater”, 1865

Corrientes was the main war theater during the first stage of war. The second stage developed in Paraguay, in the north bank of Paraná River and around the Humaitá fortress (in the upper part of the map). All the scenarios painted by Cándido López are depicted in this map.

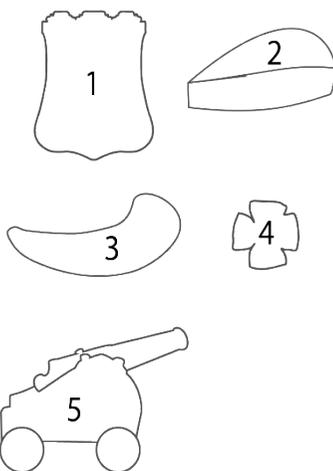
After the war, the national borders of the region were redrawn. Paraguay lost the territories that were legally disputed with both Argentina and Brazil. Some of them, like Formosa (shown as part of the "Gran Chaco" on the map), were not under the control of any country, they were territories of different independent indigenous peoples.

Lithographic print on paper by J. Pelvilain. Map reviewed and approved in 1865 by geographer engineer Francisco Rave, former chief of the Topographic Department of Corrientes Province. MHN Collection.

EN 3

1. Brazilian hussar sabretache

Sabretaches were flat bags for carrying documents. They were worn hanged to the belt of cavalry officers. This one belonged to a Brazilian cavalry corp.



The Empire of Brazil had an immense regional power and the largest population, 10 million habitants, when Argentina had 1.700.000; Paraguay, 450.000; and Uruguay, 250.000. About 140.000 Brazilians fought throughout the war. And the naval squad of the Empire was decisive during the war.

But the Empire had a hard time building its army. Many national guards from the upper classes sent slaves to replace them. There were also units called "Volunteers of the Motherland", composed by men of popular sectors who were looking for salaries and land promises.

Sabretache with leather outer flap and metal trim. It has two metallic appliqués: a Brazilian imperial crown and the monogram of emperor Pedro II. MHN Collection.

2. Kepi of Juan Bautista Charlone

The uniforms and headcovers, such as this Kepi, were different in every military corp. This was used by the Italians who formed a "Military Legion" in the Argentine army.

The Argentinian military forces were divided in two branches. On one hand was the Army. It was composed by voluntary soldiers or men enrolled by force, as punishment for crime or by arbitrariness of the authorities. The National Guard, on the other hand, was the citizen militia. Service was an obligation for every citizen, but those who had resources, hired "personeros" to replaced them. In 1865 Argentina armed nearly 25.000 men, from which about 70% were national guards.

In some provinces, many men disagreed going to war, and the enrollment was violent. There were soldiers who were forced to march chained so that they would not desert.

Kepi of the Italian Legion. Cap with a leather visor of woolen cloth and knots of metallic thread cord. MHN Collection.

3. Drinking horn of the “Allied Arms”

Ox horns were used to carry liquids. This one has engraved the national emblems of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay.

In May 1865, the three countries signed the Triple Alliance Treaty, in which was stated that the war was done against the Paraguay government and not against its people. The allied countries compromised that none would lay down arms until victory. In this negotiation, Brazil and Argentina designed the map of the territories that each would get after the war. The treaty was kept secret for a year, but when it became public many people denounced it as a plan of conquest.

Ox horn closed with a wooden top. It bears the legend: “Tuyubue, November 16th, 1867. N Z”. On the backside it has engraved a female figure sitting while holding a cup and a bottle. MHN Collection.

4. Ribbon given by Francisco Solano López to the Paraguayan Ladies Commission

This ribbon was an award for a group of women from the elite for their patriotism. They donated goods, money and jewels for war expenses.

The female effort was crucial to Paraguay during the war. It covered a wide range of duties: support, supply, land labor, and care for the wounded and sick. Many women accompanied the army and they even had their own camp. There were women who asked to fight alongside men, but López rejected the idea.

Hand-sewn silk ribbon. MHN Collection.

5. Signal mortar

This tiny mortar was used as a device for sending messages remotely. It has traces of being exposed to heat, soot and dust.

When the war began, many of the weaponry used by soldiers was old and with low precision. Throughout the conflict, the armies acquired modern rifles. The artillery was also modernized. All of this contributed to the increase of the mortality, as had happened shortly before in the Crimean War and the North American Civil War.

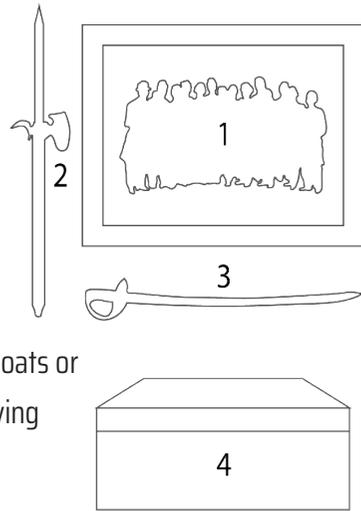
Other technical innovations incorporated were the telegraph, railroads, armored ships, trenches and hot air balloons for surveillance.

Signal mortar of metal. MHN Collection.

1. Portrait of the Sapper Corps officers

The sappers acted as engineers in the army. They dig and built trenches, mounted defenses and opened and blocked roads.

The war took place in an unstable, swampy terrain, crossed by rivers and streams. The “Pontoneros” built bridges made out of wood, often supported by boats or floats, so that the troops could keep moving forward.



Fifteen Argentine sapper officers posed for this portrait. The only one without a mustache is Carlos Pellegrini, who would become president in 1890.

Painting on cardboard, based on a photograph. MHN Collection.

2. Bayonet ax of the “Pontonero” Sappers

This bayonet ax, both weapon and tool, belonged to Colonel Charlone. He was the leader of the “Italian Legion”. Charlone and most of the Legion were killed in the deadly Battle of Curupaytí.

Soldiers of Italian origin participated in the conflicts of the Plata River since the siege of Montevideo in the 1840s, when they fought under the

command of Giuseppe Garibaldi against the troops of Juan Manuel de Rosas.

In the Triple Alliance War, the Legion was absorbed by the Argentine army, as well as other foreign units such as the "Paraguayan Legion", composed by opponents of López.

Bayonet ax made out of ferrous metal. It has an engraved inscription: "J. R. Charlone Compañía del Paraguay". MHN Collection.

3. Saber used in the Curupaytí assault

The militarization of the Paraguayan population was a state affair for many years. At the beginning of the war, Solano López engaged the well-trained army in performing a quick offensive to achieve victory. But the strategy failed and the allied forces invaded Paraguay. When López lost the prepared troops, he then made an approach to seek peace, but there was no agreement.

While the negotiations were taking place, López ordered the reinforcement of Curupaytí. The English engineer George Thompson, under the service of Paraguay, commanded the construction of a long-fortified line in just a few days.

When the allies tried to take over Curupaytí on September 22 1866, they suffered their worst defeat. More than 2000 Argentines died under

Paraguayan fire. Among the victims were Francisco, son of Argentine Vice President Marcos Paz, and "Dominguito", son of Sarmiento. As well as Manuel Roseti, owner of this saber, although it was not him but General Paunero, who actually used it in combat.

Curupaytí was a great setback for the allies, who took more than a year to resume the offensive. In the meanwhile, the Argentines had to withdraw part of their troops in order to face a rebellion of the Federal party in several of the provinces. From then on, the Argentine participation diminished.

Saber made in France. The blade is made out of single-edged steel up to its lower third.

It has engraved the inscription "Lieutenant Colonel" on one side, and "Manuel Roseti" on the other. The handle is made out of nacre and wire, and shows the Argentine emblem. MHN Collection.

4. Elisa Lynch's chest

This chest belonged to Elisa Lynch. This Irish woman started a relation with Francisco Solano López in Paris. They were criticized because she separated from her former husband.

When López became president, she acted as the First Lady of Paraguay. During the war, she was called "marshal" and wore military uniforms.

She joined López in the front and dedicated herself to the care of the injured.

In the last stage of the war, she marched in the long retreat to the north, until López was killed, along with their eldest son, “Panchito”, by the Brazilian troops. She was respected for being an English subject, and went into exile in Europe.

Trousseau chest made out of coniferous wood covered with golden leather. The inside is covered with red velvet. On the cover, it bears the following inscription: “E.A.L. Qu / Folkestone / 1850”, which refers to the date and place of the marriage of Elisa Lynch with Xavier de Quatrefages, a French military doctor. MHN Collection.

Elisa Lynch Image: Biblioteca Digital da Fundação Biblioteca Nacional, Brazil.

EN 5

Panorama Cándido

In his canvases, Cándido López intended to record a faithful testimony of the events that took place in the war between 1865 and 1866. He called his work “historical paintings”.

Following the tradition of war painting, he portrayed the encounters of the first stage of the conflict, such as the allied victory of Yatay and the

siege of Uruguayana. Cándido also painted the battles of the second stage of war, such as the allied victory in Tuyutí -the biggest combat in South American history-; Estero Bellaco; and Boquerón, a Paraguayan victory.

Mainly, Cándido depicted less epic aspects of the conflict. In a war, battles are intense but they do not last long. Other scenarios of day-to-day military life were animated by López. Such as the routine of military camps, the refuges for eating meals and drinking mate; for resting; for music; for games; for training; for caring the wounded and bury the dead.

He also painted the troops movements. Soldiers make their way across raw nature turned by Cándido into landscapes. Hundreds of men on foot and horseback. Loaded mules and oxen pulling carts. Bridges, rafts, and boats to cross the water. Forests, rivers, shores and estuaries. Long days on the road. He painted with a panoramic point of view. The armies, on the march, in camps, and battles. Welcome to walk along through Cándido's gaze.

EN 6

Cándido López (1840-1902)

When the war against Paraguay started, López enrolled himself as a voluntary soldier. Before then he was a painter and took

daguerreotypes, one of the techniques that anticipated modern photography.

During the war, Cándido draw and document scenes that later transformed into paintings. He usually used two sheets of his workbook to get to a landscape format.

In the Curupaytí battle, a grenade wounded his skilled right hand. When he lost it, he abandoned the conflict.

He labored as a rural worker to support his family. Little by little, he trained his left hand, and, few years later, he made paintings after his sketches.

Twenty years after the beginning of the war, in 1885, he managed to exhibit most of his paintings in a quite successful personal exhibition. Thanks to his perseverance, the paintings were acquired by the Argentine State.

EN 7 **Army Camps**

Top, from left to right

- Argentine camp in Uruguayana, September 22nd, 1865. Province of Río Grande, Empire of Brazil. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

- Argentine camp in the mounts of the Paraná River's coast, in front of Itapirú, April 12th, 1866. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Camp in Uruguayana, September 8th, 1865. Province of Rio Grande, Empire of Brazil. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Argentine camp on the other side of the San Lorenzo River, December 2nd, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

Bottom, from left to right.

- Argentine camp in Empedrado, December 11th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Artillery camp of the Baron of Porto Alegre army corps, below Itapirú, August 13th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Argentine camp next to Uruguayana, September 14th, 1865. Province of Río Grande, Empire of Brazil. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

- El naranjal, headquarters of the General in chief of the allied army in Ensenaditas camp, March 7th, 1866. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

EN 8

Various topics

Up, from left to right.

- Trenched field of Paso de la Patria, April 27th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Itapirú and Paso de la Patria seen from Corrales, April 7th, 1866. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Brazilian blood hospital and Argentine sick patients in the entrenched field of Paso de la Patria, July 17th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

Bottom, from left to right.

- Uruguayana surrender, September 18th, 1865. Province of Río Grande, Empire of Brazil. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

- Burned Paraguayan army camp under the command of General Resquin, found on the other side of the Santa Lucía River. November 22nd, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- The 1st and 2nd corps of the Argentine army during mass on the Batel shores, November 12th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

EN 9 Passages

Up, from left to right.

- The 1st Corps of the Argentine Army passing through Corrientes River, on June 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1865. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López in 1899. MHN Collection.
- Riachuelo Passage, December 23rd, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Itapirú, April 19th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- The 1st Argentine Army Corps passing through Corrientes River on November 5th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas.

Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

- Arrival of the allied army at the Itapirú fortress, April 18th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

Bottom, from left to right.

- Argentine troops boarding in Paso de los Libres, August 23rd, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- San Joaquín stream passage, August 16th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Santa Lucía River passage, November 21st, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Camp on the march, November 16th, 1865. Batel River passage, Corrientes Province. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Ayuí River passage through the Paso de Ayala, August 13th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

Up, from left to right.

- Boquerón attack seen from Potrero Piris. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López in 1897. MHN Collection.
- Tuyutí battle, May 24th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Tuyutí battle, May 24th, 1866. 4th and 6th line divisions beginning the battle. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Episode of the 2nd Buenos Aires division in the Tuyutí battle, on May 24th, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

Bottom, from left to right.

- Yatay battle, August 17th, 1865. Province of Corrientes. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.
- Ambush on the vanguard of the allied army on May 2nd, 1866 in Estero Bellaco. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

- Episode of the 1st Argentine Cavalry Line, in Estero Bellaco, on May 2nd, 1866. Republic of Paraguay. Oil on canvas. Painted by Cándido López between 1876 and 1885. MHN Collection.

EN 11

Portrait of Lieutenant Cándido López

Cándido López was born in Buenos Aires. When the war broke out in April 1865, he was currently living in San Nicolás de los Arroyos. He worked making portraits by painting and by daguerreotype throughout towns in the north of the province. He joined the first battalion of that city National Guard.

Cándido fought in Yatay and participated in the surrender of Uruguayana. Also, in the battles of Estero Bellaco, Tuyutí, Yataity Corá, Boquerón and Curupaytí. He returned after this deadly combat for his injury, but the battalion continued fighting until the end of the war.

Photograph taken at Bizioli Bros in the last decades of XIXth Century. MHN Collection.

Pennant with the inscription “In 3 months in Asunción”

After Paraguay's declaration of war to Argentina and the invasion of Corrientes, President Bartolomé Mitre declared a state of siege and ordered the National Guard to be mobilized. That day, he announced in a speech to the crowd in the streets, with confidence: "in twenty-four

hours in the barracks, in fifteen days in the field, in three months in Asunción". Students made this flag with his phrase as slogan.

In Buenos Aires enthusiasm raised for the war and many men volunteered. The province contributed with almost half of the Argentine troops that marched to the front.

Silk taffeta pennant, 1865. MHN Collection.

Pennant of the battalion of San Nicolás

Cándido López was one of the volunteer soldiers who joined the San Nicolás National Guard Battalion. This pennant made of silk belonged to that unit.

On one side, has the inscription "May 20, 1865" embroidered with silk thread between ornamentation of leaves. On the other side, embroidered with metallic threads, it is written, with missing parts, "BATALLON Sn NICOLAS 1865. GIFT OF THE...". MHN Collection.

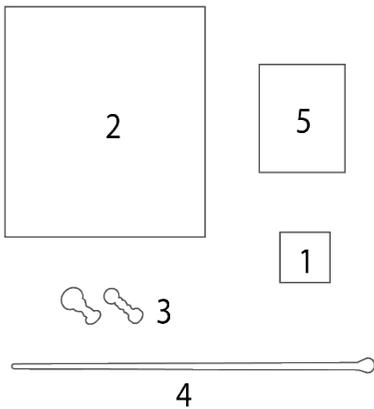
EN 12

The leaders

Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay were republics. Their presidents, Bartolomé Mitre, Venancio Flores and Francisco Solano López, led their armies throughout the war. On the other hand, Brazil was a constitutional monarchy. Its Emperor, Pedro II, led the armies for only a

brief period of time. Most of the war was commanded by other Brazilian generals.

Mitre was commander in chief of the allied forces throughout the first stages of the conflict. At the beginning of 1868, the Brazilian Marquis of Caxías, responsible for taking Asunción, replaced Mitre on his position. During the last stage of the war, Count D'Eu, Pedro II son in law, was the commander in chief. He was blamed for the brutality performed against the last Paraguayan defenses.



1. Portrait of Francisco Solano López

Francisco Solano López succeeded his father in the presidency of Paraguay in 1862. The country had a highly centralized and militarized government, and there were no opposition parties. Unlike its neighboring countries, Paraguay did not suffer civil wars in the previous decades. It had a prosperous

peasant economy. The State action promoted modernization. Paraguay had the first railroad in South America and most of its population was literate.

López spoke Guaraní and enjoyed great popularity among the majority of Paraguayans, who followed him in the war and in his decision not to surrender. In the final stage of the conflict, López accused his own collaborators and relatives of conspiracy, and had many of them executed.

Oil on canvas. Anonymous author. MHN Collection.

2. Portrait of General Bartolomé Mitre, General Venancio Flores and Mariscal Manuel Osório

Flores led the Uruguayan Colorado party, which was close to the *porteños* liberals under Mitre's leadership. Mitre helped Flores to organize the rebellion to seized power against the White Party in Uruguay that precipitated the war with Paraguay.

Flores participated in the war until the Curupaytí battle. He was assassinated in Montevideo in 1868, during an uprising of the White party.

Osório, native of Rio Grande do Sul, was the Brazilian commander with the best relationship with the other allies. He stood out during the war and was very popular within his soldiers. It was said between them that he was invulnerable to the enemy's bullets.

Tribute from the Military Encyclopedia to the Armies of the Triple Alliance, 1895. Lithograph on paper. Drawing by F. Fortuny. MHN Collection.

3. Stamps used in the war by General Bartolomé Mitre

The Triple Alliance agreed that Mitre, president of Argentina, would command the joint armies since the war had started in Corrientes province.

The relation between Mitre and the Brazilian commanders was quite strained. Mitre retained the military command until the beginning of 1868, when Argentine Vice President Marcos Paz, who had ruled during Mitre's absence, passed away.

The setbacks of the war discredited Mitre. His candidate to succeed him in the presidency, Rufino de Elizalde, lost the elections to Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, who was supported by many of the officers of the Paraguayan front. He continued active in politics, but his leadership faded away.

The first seal is made out of silver and wood. The second one, of bronze and wood. MHN Collection.

4. Walking cane given to General Justo José de Urquiza by General Bartolomé Mitre

Mitre and Urquiza were the leading figures in the Argentine political scenario before the war. Mitre, president since 1862, sought to unify the country under the command of Buenos Aires, favoring the liberal groups to remove the federalist ones from the provinces. The resistance of La Rioja province was harshly repressed by the National army. Entre Ríos, where Urquiza continued to rule, was the only province in which National forces did not intervene.

When the conflict with Paraguay began, Mitre's followers thought that the war would strengthen his leadership in the country, but they were proved wrong. The national union did not suffer from the war, but both Mitre and Urquiza got out damaged in their credibility.

This cane belonged to the governors of Buenos Aires during the time in which the province stayed separated from the rest of the country, until it was reincorporated by the San José de Flores pact, in 1859. Mitre gave the cane to Urquiza as a souvenir of this agreement. It is made out of cane covered with tortoiseshell. It has a chiseled gold cuff. It says, "Governor of the State of Buenos Ayres". MHN Collection.

5. Portrait of Justo José de Urquiza

Urquiza was governor of the Entre Ríos province and the main reference of the Argentine federalism. Many people believed that he would oppose the war, because of the Argentine federalists' friendship with the Uruguayan Whites, as well as to confront Mitre.

Solano López hoped that the Paraguayan invasion would trigger a federal uprising in Argentina. But Urquiza remained faithful to the union and to the National State.

In 1866 there were federal uprisings that offered him the command of the party, but he did not support them. During the conflict, Urquiza made good profit by supplying cattle to the allied forces. Discredited, he was assassinated in 1870 by some of his former followers.

Lithograph by Rod Kratzentein, 1852. MHN Collection.

EN 13

War Opponents

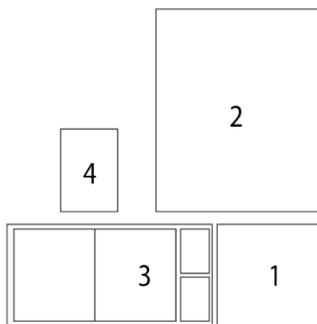
The war triggered different kind of oppositions in the countries involved. In Argentina they were of three types. At the beginning of the conflict, there was resistance from many men to military recruitment. Some of them, defected. In Entre Ríos there were two large disbands of troops who refused to go to war.

Once the Paraguayan invasion of Corrientes was defeated, the press increased its opposition to the war. Many newspapers argued that no longer there were reasons to continue fighting.

The news of Curupaytí's defeat triggered a federal uprising in Cuyo and La Rioja against Mitre's policy. The rebellion was repressed with troops sent from the battlefield in Paraguay.

1. Manifiesto of General Urquiza to his troops

At the beginning of the war, Urquiza gathered the militias from Entre Ríos in the Basualdo camp. But in July 1865, when he went to meet Mitre, the militias disbanded shouting 'long live Urquiza' and 'death to Mitre'.



Urquiza restored his troops and released this manifesto appealing to the "honor of Entre Ríos" and to the "united Argentine people" in order to fight "under the same flag". He also lent money in advance to its militiamen.

But since the Paraguayan troops had already left Corrientes, most soldiers thought that the war had become unnecessary. Some of them even stated that they were willing to fight against Buenos Aires or Brazil, but that they would not Paraguay. In the new camp of Toledo, the disbandment happened again: hundreds of soldiers deserted massively.

Print, October 1865. MHN Collection.

2. Portrait of Carlos Guido y Spano

The main newspaper against the war in Argentina was *La América*. It appeared in Buenos Aires in 1866. Through it, writers such as Olegario Andrade, Agustín de Vedia, and Carlos Guido y Spano, stood out for Paraguay and harshly criticized Mitre. They accused him of abandoning the National interest in benefit of Brazil, which they considered as an enemy. The newspaper was closed by Mitre's government.

Guido y Spano published a pamphlet criticizing the war, and he was sent to prison. After the war, he wrote "Nenia", a poem that lamented Paraguay's ruin.

Lithograph by De Carvalho, F.B. Printed by Stiller and Laas Union Lithograph, 1884. MHN Collection.

3. Letter from Juan Bautista Alberdi to Gregorio Benites and portraits of them both

Alberdi was the main intellectual figure against the war. From Europe, where he was settled, he wrote in the newspaper *La América* and in other publications. He denounced Mitre for accepting gold from Brazil. He suspected that this was a mean to divide Argentina. Mitre pointed him out as a traitor.

Alberdi also sought international support for the Paraguayan cause. He also maintained an epistolary relationship with his friend Gregorio

Benites, secretary to the Paraguayan legation in France during the conflict.

In this letter dated at the end of 1865, Alberdi suggests taking precautions before signing a peace agreement, and also advises making propaganda for Paraguay in Chile, Bolivia, and Peru.

Handwritten letter from Alberdi to Benites. November 20th, 1865 (copy, the original is in the museum's Archive). MHN Collection.

Portraits of Alberdi and Benites in the format of “carte de visite”. Both photographs were taken in Paris in 1870. The one of Benites has a dedication on the reverse “To my excellent friend Dr. Don J.B. Alberdi”. MHN Collection.

4. Portrait of General Juan de Dios Videla and Felipe Varela

In November 1866, the Mendoza National Guard was about to go as reinforcement to Paraguay. But this order was unpopular and led to a rebellion of the federals, who took power there and, soon after, in San Juan and in San Luis.

One of the leaders of the movement was Juan de Dios Videla, from Mendoza. Soon the federal leader of Catamarca, Felipe Varela, joined and marched over La Rioja, gathering an important force.

Varela declared his friendship with Paraguay and claimed total opposition to Mitre. But the troops sent from the battlefield in Paraguay and from Santiago del Estero, a province allied to Mitre, defeated the federal rebellion. After that, Varela and Videla went into exile.

Painted photograph, taken in Chile. MHN Collection.

EN 14

***Cry, cry, urutaú in the palms of the yatay;
the Paraguay where I was born, as well as you, exist no longer!***

Fragment of "Nenia"

by Carlos Guido y Spano

EN 15

The impact of modern photography

The Triple Alliance war was the first armed conflict photographed in South America. Photography introduced new ways of communicating what was happening and allowed to show the consequences of the war in an unprecedented way.

Humaitá Port, Ruins of the Temple. Around 1880.

Ruins of the Church of Humaitá. Around 1880.

Interior of the Church of Humaitá after the bombing. 1868. MHN Collection.

The table on the chandelier

This table was built with the lower part of a chandelier taken from the remains of the church of Humaitá. Before it was golden leafed. Both parts are made out of cedar wood. It was acquired by the museum in 1901.

EN 16

Destruction

Located in a shore of the Paraguay River, the Humaitá fortress blocked access to get to Asunción. It was the axis of the Paraguayan defense. Only after two years of fighting in its surroundings, the allied forces managed to surround Humaitá, both by land and water, and destroyed it in July 1868. After this, the Paraguayan resistance continued for two more years.

The images of the Humaitá church damaged by the allied bombs became a symbol of the destruction of Paraguay in the conflict.

EN 17

War veterans at the National Museum of History

After the end of the war, the majority of the Argentine soldiers who were still at the frontline returned to their home provinces. Some of them stayed in Paraguay as part of the allied occupation troops that remained there for years. Those who returned had trouble reintegrating the society they had left for so long.

Adolfo Carranza, the first director of this Museum, summoned veterans from Paraguay to guard the exhibitions. The presence of these soldiers was seen as honorable and at the same time, they were considered living history. In this photograph, five of them pose at the front entrance of the museum, in 1911.

Several veterans and their relatives donated to the Museum objects related to the conflict. In 1954, President Juan Domingo Perón gave back to Paraguay the personal objects of Solano López taken as trophies that were in the Museum's collection.

Photograph of former soldiers and guardians González, Almada, Gómez, Escobar and Chiappini (from left to right). MHN Collection.

Due to conservation matters, the photographs and documents in this exhibition are copies. The original ones belong to the Museum's collection. The portrait of General Juan de Dios Videla and Felipe Varela is enlarged to twice its original size.

To learn more about the work of Cándido López:

<https://museohistoriconacional.cultura.gob.ar/>