

MV. JOSE OSCAR QUIÑONERO MARTINEZ
32 RATH MINES ROAD LOWER (RATH 6)



“All the best”

By María Quiñonero

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OSCAR QUIÑONERO MARTINEZ
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What is my work focused on?

My work focuses on trying to find connections between Spain and Ireland, from a more general perspective to more personal things, like my family. I talk about the Spanish Army because one of the easiest first connections was this, with the Spanish ships that sunk in Ireland. There was also an important connection with my city. I continued looking for connections and linked it to the Spanish Civil War, because the museum in my city was very important in the history of the Spanish Civil War, so I decided to look for more information about it.

This also allowed me to find more connections, such as my great-grandfather who participated in the war. In 2026, I visited Dublin with my family, and we visited the Immigration Museum(EPIC). I found it a very interesting movement and it had information I could research for this project, for example with my family and finally the title of my work is because of a part of my family history, my father lived in Ireland, and there is a letter in which my grandfather wishes my father all the best in Spanish.

Spanish Army

- The original name was “Gran y Felicisima Armada” which means “Great and most fortunate Navy”. It was sent by King Felipe II to overthrow Queen Isabel I.
- The Armada was defeated and many thousands of men died and a lot of ships sank.
- The Spanish fleet was fortified by 130 ships and there were 30.000 men in them.



- In 1588, The Spanish Armada failed their mission, and they had to come back to Spain by sailing around the coasts of Ireland. The weather was terrible and the maps were wrong, 26 ships sank on the Irish rocks. Most of them sank in Sligo, Donegal and Mayo. Thousands of sailors died in the water and one of the most known ships was “La Girona” which sank near the Giant’s Causeway. Those who survived had a very difficult time, some of them helped Irish people, but many of them were killed or captured by the English Army.



(July - October 1588)



-  Route of the Armada
-  Site of battle
-  English Lands
-  Netherlands Lands
-  Spanish Lands
-  Shipwrecks



Elizabeth I of England



Philip II of Spain



Cannons

In my city, Toledo, there is one of the original cannons left from the ships that did not sink in Ireland. In the Ejercito (army) museum.

This bronze cannon was part of the armament of the ships. It is a very rare object because most of the Armada's cannons are at the bottom of the sea in Ireland .

It is called a “media culebrina” and it is broken in two parts. It was used on a ship of the Armada Invencible in 1588. This makes it very special because it really took part in that important historical event. Today, people can visit the museum to see the cannon and learn more about history.



Army Museum & Spanish Civil War.

The army museum is located in the Alcázar, which currently is a library. During the Spanish Civil War, a very important battle took place there. I think the Alcázar is one of the perfect places for this museum because it has a long military history. In this building happened a very important battle during the Spanish civil war

My great grandfather (Jose Martinez Marchal) was involved in the Spanish Civil war, he fought on the republican side, the one that lost. To find out more information I decided to ask some questions to my paternal grandmother about our family history.

First question: Where did the Civil War catch your father?

“Well, I don’t remember, because I think my father was caught doing the military and from there he went to war. My father commented that he was in many battles, but I remember that he especially mentioned three: Barcelona, Teruel and Alicante. The end of the War caught him in Alicante, because he said that once it was over he went to bathe on the beach and was about to drown. Some colleagues had to get in to help him. He continually said that what the war did not achieve, the waves almost achieved.

About the battle of Teruel he said that they had to get into the river to cross it and that they were very cold with all their uniforms wet. I think that’s where they shot him in the leg,... he had a scar.”

Second Question: Do you know if he ever told you if he had killed anyone in the war?

“My father said that he fired shots at the front, but that he never took aim and that he didn't know if he had killed anyone. I think it was worse in town. There was a lot of hate. Those on one side killed those on the other side, shootings at night, the worst.

Even once the war was over, we found out that one night they took him among several people and put him in a room to give him a very bad beating that almost killed him.

My father didn't go into those labyrinths, but there were shootings in the gutters. They killed the town priest

During the war he also said that they gave him some cigarettes, which they called Caldo de Gallina, and that once he took a drag on one and he didn't like it at all. He said that he took his share anyway and then gave it to his friends.”

Post- war

Last Question: Do your first memories have anything related with the Civil War?

“The only thing I remember is what my mother said about ration cards. Apparently they gave us bread, which our parents didn't eat and they gave it to us. They made black bread, with carob flour, which apparently made my mother feel very bad, and she almost died.

The truth is that, living in a farmhouse, we had a goat and my father worked the fields... I don't remember being hungry, if my parents were, they didn't say it. In the town everyone worked in the fields, and when there was the most work it was in winter, in the olive campaigns. In my town there were so many olives that in the past there were four oil factories or oil mills: Toribio, Carrasco and Elosua. In Elosua, the guards were my aunt Villa and her husband, uncle Paco.”

Me and my family tried to find photos of my great grandfather while we has in war, but we could not find any. Although we have find some interesting photos.



**My
grandfather,
Olayo
Quinonero,
doing the
military**



**My dad
maternal
grandfather,
Bartolome
Quinonero**



The boy on the left is my great grandfather, Jose Martinez Marchal, the one who fought in war.



My great grandmother Encarna, and my great grandfather Jose.

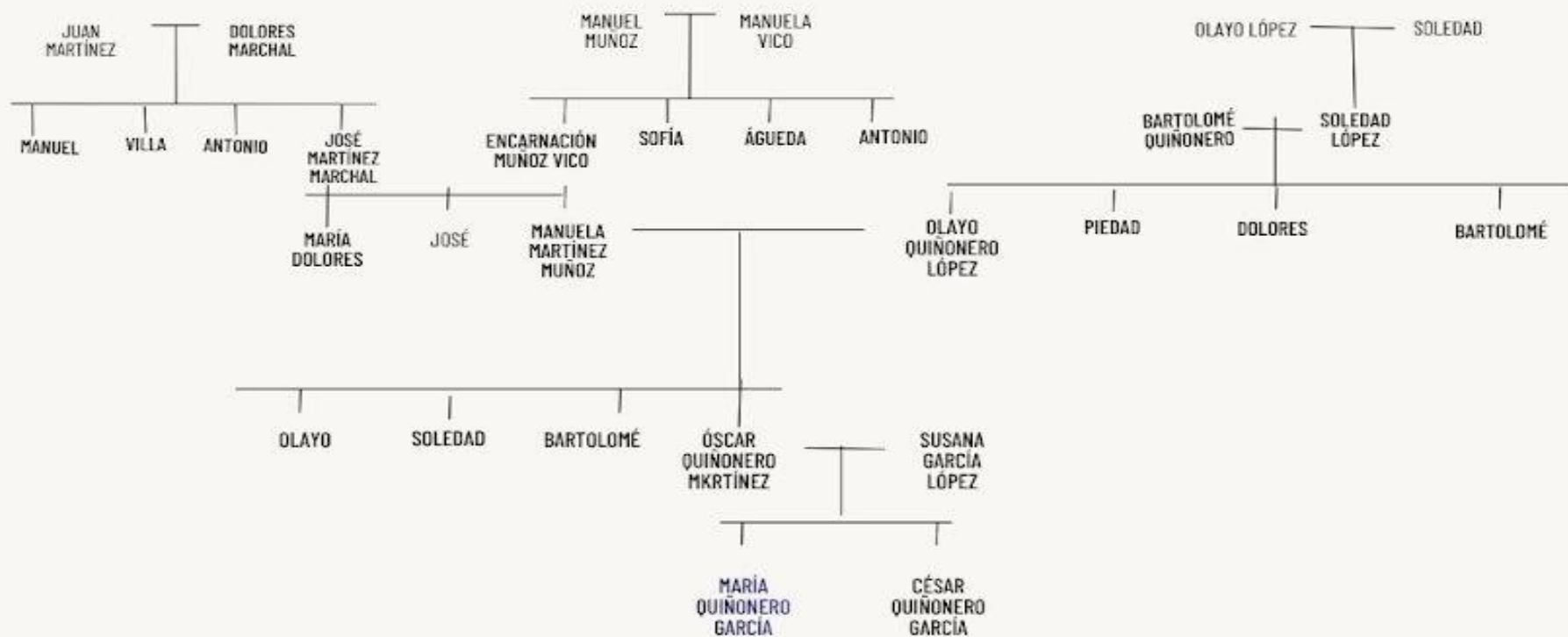


The boy on the left is my great grandfather, my dad paternal grandfather, Bartolome Quinonero



My grandmother, Manuela Martinez and my grandfather, Olayo Quinonero.

MY FAMILY TREE



JAEN BOMBARDEADO

Sin objetivo militar y con la única justificación de vengarse de las derrotas que nuestro Ejército causa a los invasores, la criminal aviación fascista bombardea ferozmente un pueblo pacífico. Y en su impotencia, se ensaña una vez más en los cuerpos de mujeres y niños

Jaén ha conocido en la carne de sus mujeres y de sus niños lo que es capaz de hacer el fascismo. Los que venden la patria al extranjero, los que traen aviones alemanes e italianos para lanzar metralla contra una población indefensa.

¡PUEBLO DE JAÉN! SERENIDAD

Para defenderse de la aviación deben adoptarse las siguientes medidas:

- 1.º Organización de las señales de alarma con tiempo suficiente para prevenir a la población.
- 2.º Establecer punto de refugio en los sótanos de las casas que reúnan mejores condiciones para ello y a los que se debe acudir al oír las señales de alarma.
- 3.º Organización de equipos de socorro para extraer heridos.
- 4.º Apagar las luces que dan al exterior.
- 5.º Serenidad y disciplina, con las cuales conseguiremos frustrar las intenciones de los asesinos de mujeres y niños.

Altavoz del Sur, para esto, como para cuanto sea preciso, se ofrece incondicionalmente a las autoridades.

Las víctimas serán vengadas.

¡VIVA EL FRENTE POPULAR!

Todos los hombres útiles de la retaguardia, deben sin descanso, construir las defensas antiaéreas. Serenidad y disciplina



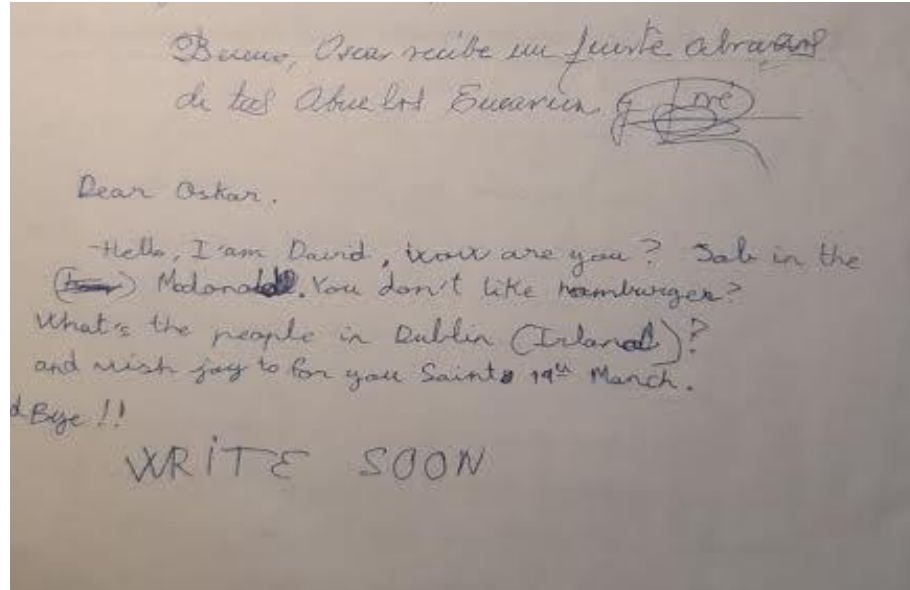
La Virgen de Lintres vuelve a su Santuario



the bombings of
the civil war in
Linares

“All the best”

Talking with my father I found out that he lived in Ireland for 2 years, while he was there he received a letter from his grandfather Jose Martinez wishing him all the best in Spanish, that is why my project is titled like that. The letter is in Spanish, but my dad’s cousin wrote a part of the letter in English, he was a child. In the photo we can see this written in Spanish: “Well Oscar, receive a big hug from your grandparents, Encarna and Jose.”



“Dear Oscar.
-Hello, I’ am David, wow are you? Job in the Mcdonald. You don’t like hamburger?
What’s the people in Dublin (Ireland)?
And wish joy to for you Saint 19th March.
Bye!! WRITE SOON”

My dad used to work in Mcdonalds in Dublin, he said he arrived without a job, with very little money and no English, but little by little he managed to move forward. At the beginning, it was hard for him to find a place to live, although he found a job quite quickly.

He couldn't understand people well, and they couldn't understand him either. Even so, he studied on his own and tried to improve every day. After some time, he changed jobs and started working as a personal assistant of Martin Naughton, which helped him a lot because he had to speak more and meet different important politicians, a few years ago, he read that he died and he was very sad.

He also told me a story: one day he was crossing the street and looked the wrong way, because in Ireland people drive on the left, when in Spain we drive on the right. He almost got hit by a car, but luckily nothing happened. He said that moments like that showed him how different life was there.

He also remembered that people were very kind. Sometimes, when he got lost, strangers used to help him and even walked with him to the place he was looking for.

Finally, he went back to Spain without much money, but with better English and a lot of experience. He always says that living in Dublin helped him grow as a person and that he learned a lot during that time.

“All the letters I wrote to my family and friends during that time ended the same way: ... from Dublin, All the best!”

Some of the letters that my dad sent and received while he was in Dublin.



My personal experience

As a teenager living currently in Ireland, I think I understand my dad more now than I was a child, I think he is right, but there is something different, he did not know english, when I came here, knowing english, I found very difficult to understand people, everything is very different and new when you move, but it is more if it is even in a different country and language.

I made my decision to come to Ireland influenced by my family, my dad and my uncle lived a part of their lives here. Also, I have always thought that Ireland was a country I wanted to live in, and I feel very lucky to be here.

I also agree, that living here makes you grow as person and I have learned a lot, not only english, I have learned about new cultures, people and how is being live alone and have to do everything myself, without knowing anyone.

ESPAÑA

IRELAND/ ÉIRE



TOLEDO

Madrid

BALLINAMORE
(Leitrim)

Dublin

0 500
0 1200
Kilómetros
Miles

0 300
0 1100
Kilómetros
Miles

Monuments in Dublin that have a special connection.

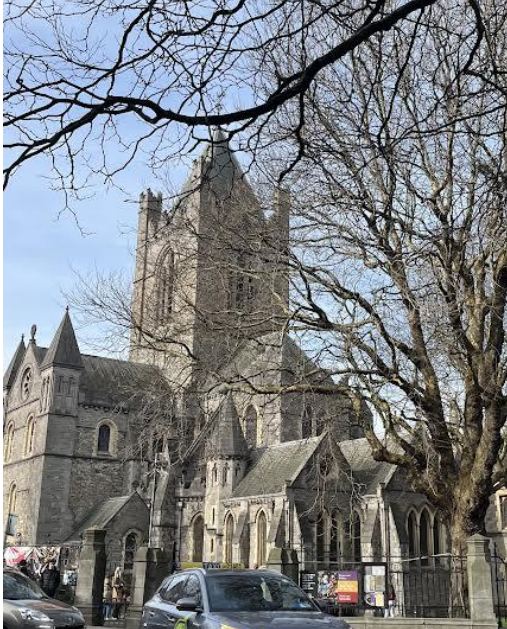
The Dublin Castle has a really small connection with the Spanish Armada. At that time, the castle was the main center of English power in Dublin.

When the Spanish ships sank in Ireland, some sailors came to the Irish coast. The English leaders in Dublin Castle got this information and decided what to do. They told soldiers to watch the Spanish men and take action.

So, the castle did not fight in the Spanish Armada, but it was important because it helped to control the situation in Ireland.



The St Mary's Church has a connection with the Irish Civil War. During this time, the church was in Dublin in Ireland, when there was a lot of fighting. Soldiers used buildings in the city, including churches, to move and hide. St Mary's Church was part of this city environment during the war, so it was not fighting in the war but it was part of the conflict.



**Dublin
February 2026**



Tower of Hercules

The Tower of Hercules is a very old lighthouse in A Coruña, in Galicia. It was built by romans a long time ago and it is still standing today. The lighthouse helped sailors to see the coast and to stay safe in the water. Many ships used it when they traveled in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Tower of Hercules is also near the statue of Breogán, a figure from legends about Galicia and Ireland. According to the legends, the first people in Ireland came from Galicia long ago. Sailors may have used the Tower of Hercules when traveling from Spain to Ireland and today, the lighthouse is a World Heritage site. It is a symbol of the city and shows how important lighthouses were for sailors and for history. Even though it did not fight in battles, it helped many people and ships and is part of the myths and history of Galicia.



Tower of Hercules, 2022



My grandmother

These are some questions I asked my grandmother about her life when she was little:

7. Where were you and my grandfather born? I was born in October 1943 and moved to Linares when I was about 13 years old.

Your grandfather, Olayo Quiñonero López, was born on February 12, 1938. There were four siblings: Dolores, Piedad, Bartolomé, and Olayo.

Your grandfather Olayo's parents, your paternal great-grandparents, were named Bartolomé and Soledad. I don't remember Bartolomé's parents' names or where they were from.

Soledad, who lived a very long life, died at almost 98 years old. I remember that her parents were named Olayo and Soledad. They were both from Almería and moved to Linares for work, where Olayo worked as a boss in one of the many mines that existed in Linares at that time.

8. How many siblings are you? Do any of your siblings live in their birthplace?

Of my siblings, only my sister María Dolores still lives in Linares. My brother, due to work, moved to Jaén where he died at the age of 48.

9. How many times have you changed your place of residence? What were the reasons?

I have lived in Monte López Álvarez (Martos), Linares, and currently in Toledo.

10. Why do you currently live in Toledo?

After becoming a widow and getting older, I came to Toledo, where two of my children live.

11. How many children did you have? How many live in the city where they were born?

I had four children: Olayo, Óscar (your father), Soledad, and Bartolomé. None of them live in their birthplace. They all live in other cities for work. Two reside in Toledo (Óscar and Soledad) and two in Ciempozuelos, a town in Madrid (Olayo and Bartolomé)

Conclusion about my project.

My conclusion, is that migration has always been part of human life. In the past, people moved to nearby places because of family or work. Later, many people moved from the countryside to the city to find better jobs and better living conditions.

Today, migration can also be international. People move to other countries to study, work, or learn new languages and cultures.

I think people migrate mainly to improve their quality of life, find better opportunities, and build a better future. In my family, we have always moved, even if it has been nearby, that is why I think other cultures are very important.

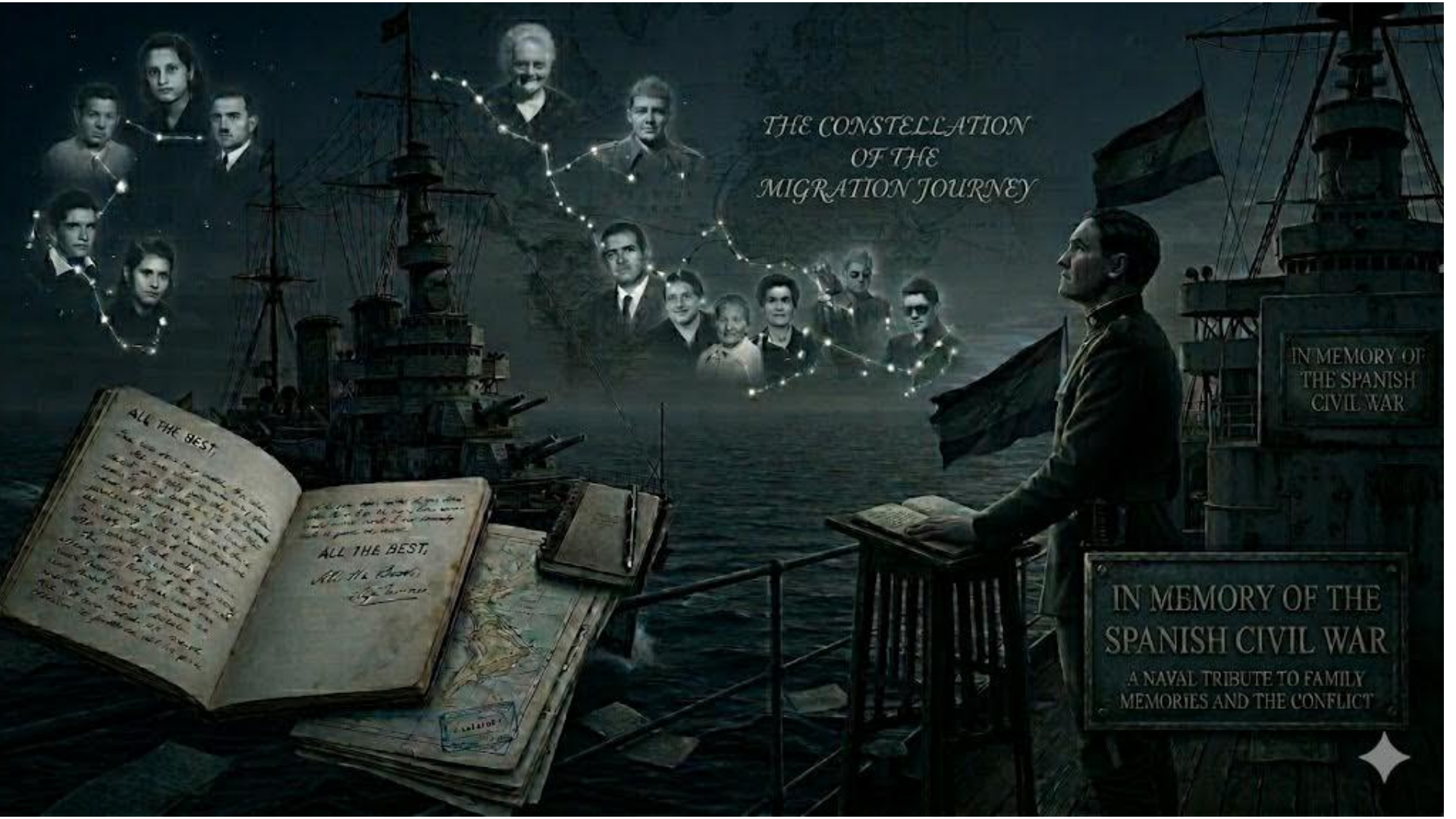
Doing this project has helped me to know and learn more about my family, and how was the life during Civil War and Post- Civil War.

THE CONSTELLATION
OF THE
MIGRATION JOURNEY

IN MEMORY OF
THE SPANISH
CIVIL WAR

IN MEMORY OF THE
SPANISH CIVIL WAR

A NAVAL TRIBUTE TO FAMILY
MEMORIES AND THE CONFLICT





The end

Websites.

- <https://www.ucc.ie/en/emigre/history/#:~:text=Historic%20Emigration,export%20prize%20levels%20following%20Waterloo.>
- Epic museum official web
- <https://spanisharmadaireland.com/>
- <https://www.hermandadsantamariadelalcazar.org/historia-del-edificio/>
- <https://abcblogs.abc.es/espejo-de-navegantes/otros-temas/el-canon-del-castillo-de-palermo-que-lucho-en-la-gran-armada.html?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>
- I used Gemini for the map and for the picture of the constellation.