The Spanish Civil War Remembered

It began fifty years ago this year, with an attempted coup against the recently-elected government of Socialists, Communists, liberals and, later, anarchists. It ended three years later in bitter defeat for the fledgling democratic Republic: a defeat which, as the left at the time correctly predicted, was the last stepping-stone to the Second World War. In between, it inspired thousands of anti-fascists worldwide to devote themselves to solidarity work, or to give up homes and families to take up arms for the Republican cause.

In November, a major two-day seminar in Sydney recalled this greatest of all solidarity movements and its effects on Australia, with talks by veterans of the struggle, films, music, and a photographic exhibition.

All for Franco 1936:
the bishops of Burges and army generals show their support.

'La Pasionaria': Dolores Ibarruri, heroine of the civil war years, is still a leading Spanish communist at the age of 90.

Australians in Spain, November 1937 (left).
Barry, Mary Lawson, John Fisher, last hit.
Republican troops advance to battle outside Madrid.

A women's militia unit leaving Barcelona for the Aragon front in the early days of the war.

Agnes Hodgson, May MacFarlane, Bluey Leen and Aileen Palmer.

Give the fascist salute in Grenada, 1936.

Republican soldiers of the 43rd ('Lost') division return to Spain from France, June 1938.