Appendix of Documents

To complement this book, we thought it would be beneficial to publish a collection of documents, following the thematic outline of the book itself, to help the reader gain even more insight into the Civil War in Catalonia. We have been extremely selective in choosing the texts, limiting ourselves to testimonies and other documents from the period to give a sample of the writing on a variety of issues, from the street fighting of the first day, 19 July, to Catalonia’s occupation by Franco.
A. The Failure of the Military Insurrection in Barcelona

(Thematic Correspondence to Chapter Two)

When army units participating in the uprising against the Republic tried to take to the streets in Barcelona on 19 July 1936, they had to confront fierce resistance from the workers and from popular organisations, as well as from the security forces of the Catalan government, the Generalitat. There were different points in the city that saw fighting, but it was the Eixample, and especially the central squares known as the ‘Plaça de Catalunya’ and the nearby ‘Plaça de la Universitat’, that became the most important sites of the struggle. The Vanguardia’s on-the-scene reporting from Sunday, 19 July, published on Wednesday, 22 July, captures the intensity of the fighting right up until the final surrender of General Goded, the designated leader of the uprising in Catalonia.

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(From La Vanguardia, 22 July 1936)

All Saturday night one could see on the Ramblas, other central streets of the city and in the working-class districts a kind of animation, an effervescence among the people walking in the streets.

All night, rumours circulated that the soldiers in the barracks in the suburbs were going to come out that same night to join in the uprising against the Republican régime.

One of the details revealing that the movement was starting was the confiscation and collection of private automobiles by the workers’ organisations and political organisations.