

¡Ni cadenas en las manos, ni grillos en los pies!!

¡NO PASARAN!!

Y no pasarán porque el alma popular no quiere que pasen los enemigos de la República y de España

¡No pasarán, no! Si pasaran quedaríamos deshonorados y envilecidos. Pero no será así... ¡Pasar, nunca!

*El Diluvio, Barcelona
Saturday, July 25, 1936*

No pasarán", "They shall not pass". These two words became the motto of the fight against fascism during the Spanish Civil War. Posters and banners repeated the message. In Barcelona, where the rebel military units rising against the elected Republican government were soon defeated in the early days of the Civil War, the slogan had special meaning. Later, it became akin to a doctrine during the siege of Madrid. And this republican newspaper published what can be the best single front page to illustrate the three-year conflict.

But "No pasarán" was not, as is often claimed, invented by the Spanish Communist leader *La Pasionaria* or the republican movement at the time. She did, however, make the cry popular following a speech in Madrid the day after the military coup when she encouraged the workers, peasants, antifascists and all Spanish patriots to rise up and defend the Republic.

Probably she had read the famous slo-

gan in history books as in fact its modern origins can be traced to the First World War. French General Robert Nivelle used it in the Battle of Verdun, although it was also attributed to Field-Marshal Philippe Petain. Then, of course, *Ils ne passeront pass*, referred to the German troops.

However, it sounds much better and straight forward in Spanish.

Whatever its origin, the newspaper *El Diluvio* made a beautiful poster-like front page with the slogan. And next to it there are other headlines that show the strong passions of the moment:

"Neither our hands cuffed, nor our feet shackled!... They shall not pass because the popular soul does not want the enemies of the Republic and Spain to pass.... Move back, miserable fascists; move back, hated and greedy monarchists; move back, militarists who dream of an abominable and cruel dictatorship. Move back, all move back!... You shall not pass, no way!... The walls of our chests and of our hearts, loyal to the Government and the Republican regime will bravely stop you".