

Rosado, Tomás Garcia

By [José Luís Assis](#)



Tomás António Garcia Rosado (1864-1937)

General Tomás António Garcia Rosado was a Portuguese general and colonial administrator. In June 1918, he was appointed commander of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps, thereby replacing General Tamagnini. After the war, he served as the ambassador of Portugal to Great Britain from 1926 to 1934.

Agence Rol: Le général portugais Garcia Rosado nommé commandant du corps expéditionnaire portugais, black-and-white photograph, n.p., 1918; source: Gallica, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 52043 bis, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53005178s>.

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Rosado, *Tomás António Garcia*

(General Rosado, Tomás António)

Diplomat and military writer

Born 04 March 1864 in Beja, Portugal

Died 30 August 1937 in Lisbon, Portugal

Summary

Tomás António Garcia Rosado was a Portuguese expeditionary commander and colonial administrator. He served as commander of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps during and shortly after World War I. After the war, he served as Portuguese ambassador to Great Britain

from 1926 to 1934.

Table of contents

- [1 Academic Profile and First Military Activities](#)
- [2 Expeditionary Commander and Colonial Administrator](#)
- [3 Commander of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps](#)
- [4 After the Armistice of 11 November 1918](#)
- [5 Literary Production and Military Decorations](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [Selected Bibliography](#)
- [Citation](#)

Academic Profile and First Military Activities

General Tomás António Garcia Rosado (1864-1937) was born on 4 March 1864 in Beja and died on 30 August 1937 in Lisbon. He was the son of José Francisco Rosado and Angélica do Carmo Garcia Rosado.¹

On 29 July 1879, he was incorporated into the 2nd Infantry and began his preparatory studies at the Polytechnic School for Artillery, which he completed in 1882. In 1883, he began the General Staff course at the Military Academy, concluding it in 1885. In 1888, he was promoted to lieutenant and placed in the General Staff Corps. On 13 February 1889, he was promoted to captain and performed duties for the 3rd Military Direction Headquarters. On 2 July 1890, he was appointed to carry out the planning and modernization of the Entrenched Field of Lisbon. On 28 June 1891, he marched to the south riverbank of the Tagus River to study military garrison and organisation in order to protect the army during future movements.²

Expeditionary Commander and Colonial Administrator

In October 1895, Garcia Rosado embarked as part of a force of 586 men bound for Goa, India as a result of the “Revolt of the Ranes”. On 12 November 1895, the expeditionary corps arrived in Goa and entered combat on 24 November 1895. The operations continued until 23 December 1895 and Garcia Rosado’s actions were a success³. In November 1897, Garcia Rosado embarked for Mozambique and assumed functions as head of the military government there.

In May 1898, he was appointed commissioner of the [Portuguese government](#) for the delimitation of the Barué, Manica and Mozambique frontiers. On 7 September 1899, he was promoted to major and on 4 December 1899 returned to Portugal, being placed in the army's general staff. In June 1901, he embarked in Lisbon for another mission to Mozambique as district governor of Lourenço Marques.

On 17 January 1905, he came back to Lisbon and, on 29 September 1906, was promoted to lieutenant colonel. On 27 March 1907, he was given a mission to head the Portuguese delegation at the Pretoria Conference – the Luso-British Convention – that would solve many diplomatic problems such as military cooperation. On 5 October 1910, with the founding of the republic, García Rosado, although a sympathizer of the monarchy, decided that his loyalty was to the nation, and therefore decided to continue to serve with dedication. In 1911, he ascended to colonel and returned to the army's general staff, where continued to assert himself as a great thinker and organizer. In 1913, he was named commander of the 5th Infantry Regiment.

Commander of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps

After the victorious military coup by [Sidónio Pais \(1872-1918\)](#) on 19 December 1917, García Rosado was promoted to general and took over as chief of the general staff of the army.⁴ In June 1918, after the removal General [Fernando Tamagnini de Abreu e Silva \(1856-1924\)](#) because he showed excessive displeasure with the government's policy, García Rosado was appointed commander of the [Portuguese Expeditionary Corps](#).⁵ In June and July 1918, the Portuguese government expressed the idea of replacing the military forces that were in [France](#) if the [British government](#) guaranteed [transport](#). General García Rosado left for the French capital, where he contacted the highest authorities. On 28 July 1918, he travelled to [Great Britain](#) with the following proposal: The Portuguese Expeditionary Corps would receive a phased reinforcement of 3,000 to 12,000 men, or all of these at once, on the condition that London pledged to provide troop transport. The negotiations with the British authorities were quite difficult, but García Rosado succeeded. After taking command of the Portuguese troops, General García Rosado found himself faced with a very difficult military situation: the soldiers did not understand why they weren't being replaced by fresh troops and the officers who had travelled to [Portugal](#) to enjoy their leave were not returning to the war.

The agreement that Sidonio Pais's government had reached in London between General García Rosado and the War Office was only fulfilled on 28 September 1918. This situation shows that General García Rosado had not been appointed to resolve a situation with professionalism, but to remove General Tamagnini.

General Garcia Rosado, after a few conversations with Captain [Augusto Casimiro dos Santos \(1889-1967\)](#), concluded that three battalions in good physical and psychological condition, capable of moving forward for combat, could be formed. On 9 November 1918, the Portuguese troops were on the front lines.⁶ On 11 November 1918 at 11 am, after the armistice, the arms were silent. It was thanks to the political and diplomatic effort of General Garcia Rosado that Portugal sent four infantry battalions – the 14th, 23rd, 15th and 35th – to the front alongside Great Britain.

After the Armistice of 11 November 1918

On the day of the armistice, General Garcia Rosado handed over command to General [José Augusto Alves Roçadas \(1865-1926\)](#), in order to assume responsibility for the troops who, due to their lack of transportation, had to stay.

In January 1919, after the assassination of Sidonio Pais, General Garcia Rosado travelled to Lisbon and, on 16 February 1919, returned to France to command the expeditionary forces. On 14 April 1919, he received a telegram to travel to Lisbon and on 18 April 1919 was informed by the military attaché in Paris that General Alves Roçadas would replace him as commander of the Portuguese Expeditionary Corps. He served as a member of the jury of examinations for the position of general in 1920 and 1923. In July 1926, he was appointed ambassador of Portugal to Great Britain, which he remained until 4 March 1934.

Literary Production and Military Decorations

General Garcia Rosado, as a military writer, left very little behind. One article is “Marshal Foch”, published in the Military Magazine.

He was awarded several insignia, including the Military Order of the Tower and Sword, Valour, Loyalty and Merit; Knight Commander Order of St. Michael and St. George, by [George V, King of Great Britain \(1865-1936\)](#); Commandant of the Légion d'Honneur by the [French government](#) (1919); and a Portuguese Expeditionary Corps commemorative [medal](#) with the caption “France 1917-1918”.

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Notes

1. Arquivo Histórico Militar, 3.^a Divisão, 7.^a Secção, Caixa 2363. ↑
2. Ibid. ↑

3. Telo, António José: General Tomás António Garcia Rosado (1864-1937), Lisbon 2015, p. 5. [↑](#)
4. Fraga, Luís Alves de: General Tomás Garcia Rosado, o outro comandante do C. E. P. França 1918-1919, Lisbon 2006, p. 38. [↑](#)
5. Ibid., p. 40. [↑](#)
6. Ibid., p. 80. [↑](#)

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- [**Marques, Isabel Pestana / Dias, Eurico Gomes / Borges, João Vieira: Diário de campanha do general Fernando Tamagnini, comandante do CEP \(The campaign diary of General Fernando Tamagnini, CEP commander\),**](#) Lisbon, 2018: Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar.
- [**Telo, António José: General Tomás António Garcia Rosado \(1864-1937\),**](#) Lisbon, 2015: Academia Militar.

Citation

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External Links

- [**1914-1918. We Know This War by Heart. Portugal and the Great War \(Universidade Nova de Lisboa\) \(Online Exhibition\)**](#)

- [Général Garcia Rosado commandant de l'armée Portugaise, in: Excelsior. Journal illustré quotidien, 26 July 1918, p. 2 \(Gallica\) \(Primary Source\)](#)
- [Menenses, Filipe Ribeiro de: Introduction. The Lusophone World at War, 1914-1918 and Beyond, in: e-journal of Portuguese History 15/1, June 2017 \(e-journal of Portuguese History\) \(Article\)](#)
- [Roose, Edouard: The Portuguese in the Great War \(Remembrance Trails - Northern France\) \(Article\)](#)

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