

A Fort of Alqueidão

At 439 m, it was the system's highest point. Its visual field covered the entire 1st Line, from the Atlantic to the Tagus River. Its strategic location made it Wellington's command post and the only Fort to be garrisoned with troops. General Pack's Portuguese Brigade and two Artillery Companies from Vila de Sobral were stationed there. There are 27 embrasures and 5 magazines among its military structures. Its primary mission was to defend the road from Sobral to Lisbon with 1600 men. Due to its location, Wellington went there on horseback every morning to check the movements of enemy troops.

Powder Magazine

It stored ammunition and gunpowder. Excavated into the ground, its roofing had thick wooden boards covered with canvas and layers of earth.

Governor's House

This building possibly held materials for the local governor, such as letters, telescopes, measuring and drawing objects and tools. The dirt floor, tile roof and less robust walls reveal a non-military function.

Embrasures

Openings on the wall for cannon brakes were the central defence of the Fort. On a trapezoid shape platform, a wooden platform ensured the stability of the advances and retreats of the artillery pieces.

Inner Redoubt

It guaranteed protection to the troops in case the enemy invaded the Fort. One of the telegraph stations of the 1st Line was placed here.

B Combat of Sobral

When the French arrived, the village had a warehouse with dried fish, flour, sugar, and cloth. Private Thomas says that on October 12, they lit fires, and each man became a cook. He put his scone on the fire when he heard the trumpet, snatched it up and placed it in his satchel, joining the troops. The VIII Corps of Junot marched over Sobral. The fighting in the village caused more than 100 deaths on both sides, and the village ended up in enemy hands.



Artillery Ordinance Companies of Vila de Sobral

Exceptionally created by Marshal Beresford. He gave them a brown uniform to separate them from the regular units of the Artillery Corps. The uniform had a white shirt and waistcoat, slacks and a honey-brown jacket, black barrels and collar in red, black leather shoes or boots. On the head, a honey brown "police" cap, with a red stripe and a brown and red wool tassel, with a brass garnet. They used machetes in self-defence.



SUBTITLE

- Information
- Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras (CILT)
- Religious building
- Fort
- Building of Interest
- Train Station

Battle of Seramena

In this village, the road to Lisbon was barricaded. Junot bombed it because it was close to the enemy forefront. Still, British troops counterattacked with over 100 casualties in the French troops. According to Charles Oman, "the highlight of the French conquest in Europe was reached on the rainy and stormy October 14, 1810, on the top of Monte do Sobral, as the allied position south of Sobral was even stronger than in Bussaco".

SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO

Church of Our Lady or Life

Church of Saint Quentin

It is currently a National Monument. It was built by King Manuel I, in 1520, above an old chapel dedicated to Santa Maria de Monte Agraço. It escaped French looting and vandalism due to its location next to an allied observation post. It is called the "tile museum" and deserves a close visit.

Fort Novo

Garrisoned with 250 men and 5 embrasures, it is located on the top of Galhofos, at royal road from Sobral to Lisbon. It reinforced the defence of hill do Alqueidão, protecting the lands of Santo Quintino, royal road and the valley of Arcela, Chancos and Seramena.

Quinta dos Freixos

During operations on the Lines of Torres Vedras, the Anglo-Portuguese Army Commander, Wellington set up his headquarter at Quinta dos Freixos, property of the Baron of Manique, halfway through the hill do Socorro Communications Center and the Fort of Alqueidão Command Post.

Fort of Machado

Garrisoned with 460 men and 7 embrasures, it is located on the frontal plane of the hill do Alqueidão (or Olmeiro) slope. It closed the top alongside the Fort of Alqueidão, Trinta and Simplicio. Its mission was to prevent a French attack on the Fort of Alqueidão. It protected A-do-Baco, Alcareia, Camondes and Arcos.

Casal Cochim

William Beresford, Commander of the Portuguese Army, paid great attention to the defence system of hill do Alqueidão. It was a critical point in protecting the Estrada Real Sobral-Bucelas-Lisboa. The relevance of this position led him to set up his headquarter in Casal Cochim, on the back of Fort of Alqueidão, and 1 km from Wellington's headquarter.

Military Road

It was part of an alternative road network, so often travelled by Wellington. Located on the south side of the mountain range, it was paved with stone blocks embedded in clayey soil. It ensured communication between the Fort of Alqueidão and Machado, Simplicio and Trinta, and a network of routes connecting the Forts of the two First Lines.

Fort of Simplicio

Garrisoned with 300 men and 6 embrasures, it was an advanced fort that, alongside the Forts of Alqueidão, Machado and Trinta, closed the access to the mountain's top. It protected the road to Lisbon, the military roads to Louriceira de Baixo and Carvalha and flanked fire lines with the Fort of Alqueidão. Lisbon and the Pena Palace in Sintra are unexpectedly close.

C The occupation of the village

French troops occupied the town of Sobral until they retreated from the front of the Lines of Torres Vedras on November 15, 1810. During this time, they caused much destruction. Even today, some people talk about the street "of the burned houses". It refers to the troops' fires and the destruction of the City Council's archive. So why was the noblest house in the village – House of the counts of Sobral – not occupied or looted? Because the Count of Sobral is married to the French Louise de Narbonne-Lara, daughter of an aide-de-camp to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Fountain

House of the counts of Sobral

Guerrilla (Armed people)

The term guerrilla emerged in 1809 with commander Beresford. With people framed in the military hierarchy, the regulations of the Militias Regiments or Ordinances were applied. Deeply knowledgeable about the terrain, its mobility resulted in ambushes, attacks on warehouses and logistical resources, taking prisoners, sabotaging paths, bridges, fountains and water wells. This "multiplier of forces" used weapons such as chopsticks, pikes, scythes, pitchforks, or sticks. Their action made communication with the rear and flanks of the French army difficult. It was decisive in Soutl and Massena's defeat.

Sobral Military District

Its mission was to defend the Line between the Fort of Moinho Céu, near Arruda dos Vinhos, and the strip of land from Patameira to Gozundeira, which protected the Runa canyon. The Tactical Command Post was located in Alqueidão and managed a large entrenchment that included the Fort of Alqueidão, Machado, Simplicio and Trinta, and the Fort of Cego, Carvalha, Moinho Céu, Paço, Caneira, Patameira and Novo. Wellington divided the Lines into Military Districts: vital areas that gather fortifications and troops to ensure that critical points on the ground did not fall into enemy hands.