



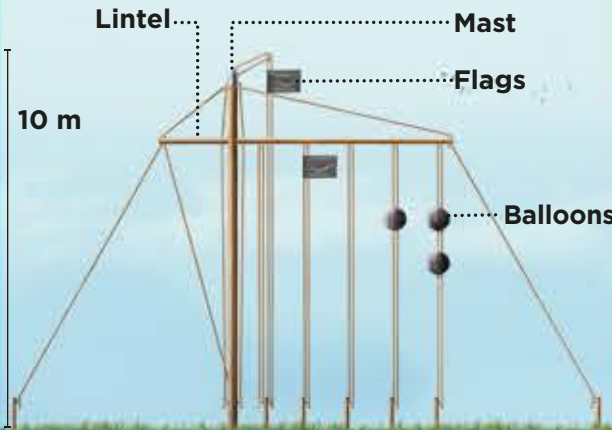


Communications on the Lines of Torres Vedras

An optical telegraph network allowed a fast transmission of messages between the Atlantic coast and the Tagus river. On the Lines of Torres Vedras, balloon (English) and pointer (Portuguese) telegraphs were used.

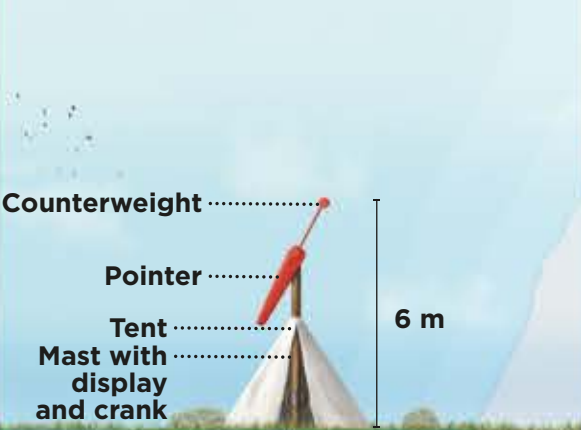
Balloon Telegraph (English)

The balloon equipment used in the telegraph stations of the Lines of Torres Vedras was operated by 5 men. It consisted of a pole and a lintel, from which black balloons were suspended, arranged in such a way as to form signs corresponding to messages. The code used was based on the English navy, plus expressions intended for onshore service. The system made it possible to transmit a simple message between the Tagus and the Atlantic in few 7 minutes.



Pointer Telegraph (Portuguese)

Operated by a single man, the Portuguese telegraph consisted of a rotating hand at the top of a vertical mast. The operator observed and made the signals with his eyes on the telescope. With his left hand, he moved a crank that rotated the pointer, and with this right hand, he wrote down the message. With just 8 signs, it was possible to compose more than 60,000 words and sentences.



**Sizandro River**

The Sizandro River played an essential role in defending the left flank of the 1<sup>st</sup> Line, between its mouth and Torres Vedras, the least fortified area. Near the town of Ponte do Rol, small dams were built. It resulted in the flooding of a significant part of the valley, favoured by the particularly harsh winter of 1810-11, creating an obstacle to the progress of French troops.

**Fort of Paço**

Very close to the coast and with a privileged view over the Atlantic, Fort of Passo was part of the defence device of the northwestern section of the Lines of Torres Vedras. Inside, the ruins of an old mill remain, which could have been used as a powder magazine.

**Fort of Grilo**

This Fort defended the valley of the Sizandro river and the road to Mafra. The north face was sharply steep to make it impossible for the enemy troops to approach. It housed a telegraph station, through which communication was made with the Fort of S. Vicente.



**Torres Vedras 1807-1810**

From December 6, 1807, until the end of May 1808, 2 regiments of French infantry were stationed in Torres Vedras, with about 3,000 soldiers, under the command of Brigadier Charlot, whom the population was obliged to house and feed. Later, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> invasion, the town would again support the weight of the army, this time the British, commanded by General Picton.



Fort of S. Vicente windmills

As in other Forts of the Lines, the windmills integrated into the Fort of S. Vicente were dismantled and turned into magazines to store gunpowder and ammunition. Their owners were compensated according to the income they took from them.

**Fort of Olheiros**

It is the northernmost point of Lisbon's First Line of Defence, between Alhandra and the mouth of the Sizandro river. It defended the west flank of the Fort of S. Vicente and the Sizandro river valley, the Fort of Grilo and the 3 Forts built in the Varatojo hills.

**Fort of Feiteira**

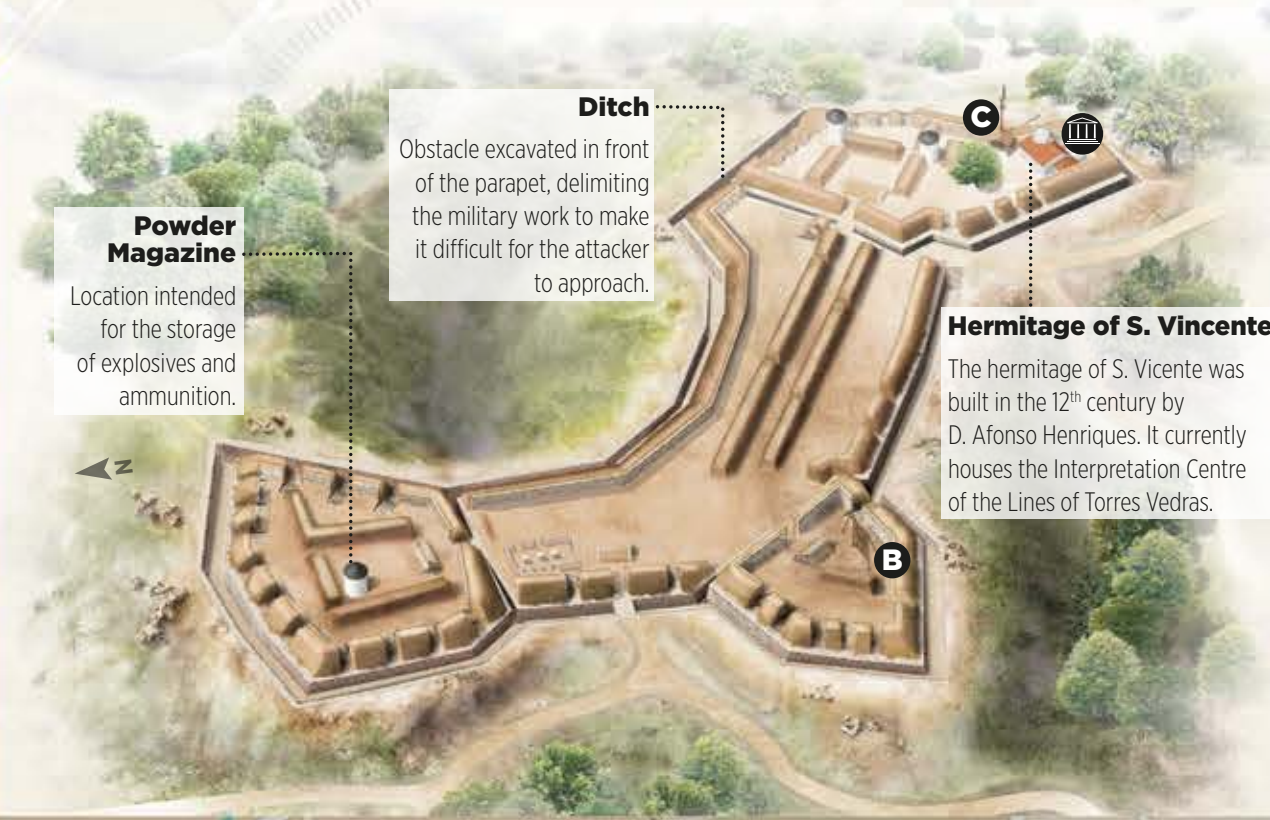
Built after the withdrawal of the French army from its position bordering the Lines of Torres Vedras, the Fort of Feiteira was intended to defend the valleys of Runa and Ribaldeira under the command of Baron d'Eben and General Spencer, respectively.

**Fort of Archeira**

Garrisoned by 500 men and provided with 6 cannons (gauge 12), the Archeira Fort, also known as "Cheira", was intended to defend the valleys of Runa and Ribaldeira under the command of Baron d'Eben and General Spencer, respectively.

Fort of S. Vicente

Built in 1809, the Fort of S. Vicente, one of the most extensive fortifications in the entire defence system, was equipped with 26 artillery pieces and a military contingent of 2000 to 2200 men, accommodating around 4000 soldiers. Formed by 3 strongholds, its function was to defend the town of Torres Vedras and its accesses, alongside the Fort of Forca, the Castle, the battery of S. João and the battery of Cruz. Its polygonal layout allowed for crossfire and covered the surrounding terrain with greater amplitude. It had an optical telegraph inside, for fast communication with the Fort of Grilo, close to the Atlantic, and Serra do Socorro's communications centre.



**Powder Magazine**

Location intended for the storage of explosives and ammunition.

**Ditch**

Obstacle excavated in front of the parapet, delimiting the military work to make it difficult for the attacker to approach.

**Hermitage of S. Vicente**

The hermitage of S. Vicente was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by D. Afonso Henriques. It currently houses the Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras.



**Combat of Dois Portos**

On October 13, 1810, when trying to occupy the hill overlooking the Caixaria, near Dois Portos, the French division commanded by General Solignac was attacked by Colonel Collins' Portuguese brigade, integrated into General Cole's division. Regiments 11 and 23 managed to stop the French troops, and the Allies suffered eight casualties.

**Combat of Dois Portos**

SUBTITLE

- Tourist information
- Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras (CILT)
- Religious building
- Train Station
- Fort