

CHRONOLOGY

War of the Oranges
The conflict between Portugal and Spain reflected international positions: Spain and France coerced Portugal to reject the alliance with England to accept Napoleon's strategy.

Continental Blockade
Napoleon's design forced European countries to close their ports to English ships to asphyxiate England economically.

1st French Invasion
Commanded by Junot, French troops enter Portugal and march along the Tagus line towards Lisbon.

2nd French Invasion
Soutil invades Portugal from the North of the country.

Construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras
Engineers begin working in S. Julião, Sobral and Torres Vedras.

Battle of Bussaco
Allied troops clash with the French and win the battle.

Withdrawal from Lines of Torres Vedras
Faced with the impossibility of crossing the Lines without resupply and reinforcements, Massena and his troops withdraw.

Battle of Waterloo
Napoleon is defeated. He abdicates in June and goes to exile to the island of Saint Helena in October.

1789	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--

RHLT ROUTES

TORRES VEDRAS - ALONG THE FIRST LINE

Route Linear
Distance 24km

WELLINGTON

Route Linear
Distance 23km

THE DEFENCE OF THE TAGUS

Route Linear
Distance 16km

THE GREAT PASSES

Route Linear
Distance 30km

THE JUNCTION OF THE LINES

Route Linear
Distance 22km

FROM THE PALACE TO THE ATLANTIC

Route Linear
Distance 7km

CONTACTS

Praca Dr. Eugénio Dias, 12
2590-016 Sobral de Monte Agraço

Tel.: +351 261 942 296

linhasdetorres@rhl.pt

www.rhl.pt

ACCESS

GPS
39.01864-9.15154

INFORMATION



TURISMO DE PORTUGAL



October 27
Treaty of Fontainebleau

November 29
The departure of the Royal Family
Junot arrives in Lisbon to see the Portuguese Royal Family depart for Brazil, failing to imprison the Queen and Prince Regent.

September 15
End of 1st Invasion
English ships transport the last French troops out of Portugal.

May 18
End of 2nd Invasion
After being defeated in the Battle of Porto, the French troops withdrew to Spain.

July 24
3rd French Invasion

April 8
End of the 3rd Invasion
The French Army definitively withdraws from Portugal.

May
End of construction of the fortifications of Lines of Torres Vedras.



Military Roads

Between the Tagus and the Atlantic, hundreds of kilometres of roads were built on the slopes. They had a pole crossed by a wooden lintel, from which rope-powered balloons hung. The combination of balloons with flags and streamers placed on top of the mast allowed for several combinations of numbers interpreted by the Popham code, used in the British Navy. Communication was fast and secure, transmitting a message between the Tagus and the Atlantic in a few minutes.



Optical Communication System

With 10 telegraph stations, the telegraphs were installed at the highest points of the Lines. They had a pole crossed by a wooden lintel, from which rope-powered balloons hung. The combination of balloons with flags and streamers placed on top of the mast allowed for several combinations of numbers interpreted by the Popham code, used in the British Navy. Communication was fast and secure, transmitting a message between the Tagus and the Atlantic in a few minutes.



PORTUGUESE ROYAL FAMILY

D. Maria I: B. 1734 D. 1816 | D. João: B. 1767 D. 1826

Due to his mother's illness, Queen D. Maria I, Prince D. João ruled Portugal. When faced with the threat of country invasion, he prepared to withdraw the Royal Family to Brazil, preventing the Kingdom from losing its independence. When Junot entered Lisbon, the royal and merchant fleet had already left the Tagus, taking the Royal Family, the Court and part of the Portuguese Army. They arrived in Rio de Janeiro after a difficult trip, storms, lice plagues and poorly preserved food.



NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

B. 1769 D. 1821

A key figure in history, he became Emperor of France with the ambition of expanding French territory by invading foreign nations. In 1806, he ordered the Continental Blockade against the United Kingdom to dominate its main opposing power. Portugal did not accept the order to close the ports to English ships. The price to pay was three French invasions that left the country in ruins. But this small country never lost its independence and imposed the first defeat on Napoleonic troops.



GENERAL JUNOT

B. 1771 B. 1813

He commanded the 1st French Invasion of Portugal in 1807. He arrived in Lisbon just in time to see the Royal Family depart from the Tagus to Brazil. He flew the French flag at Castelo de S. Jorge and became governor-general of Portugal and Duke of Abrantes. Still, in 1808 he was defeated in the battles of Rolica and Vimieiro. After the armistice of the Sintra Convention, he withdrew with his troops, taking everything they had stolen. He returned in 1810 with the Army of Massena but was defeated again.



MARSHAL SOULT

B. 1769 D. 1851

After the fall of Napoleon, he joined the monarchy, was Minister of War and Prime Minister of Louis XVIII. He commanded the troops of the II Corps of the Grande Armée of France in the Iberian Peninsula and invaded Portugal in 1809. He entered Galicia, Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro and occupied Porto. He was quickly defeated by the resistance of the Portuguese guerrillas and the Anglo-Portuguese Army, retreating to Spain. He left behind a trail of death, destruction and looting.



MARSHAL MASSENA

B. 1758 D. 1817

The "enfant chéri de la Victoire", as he was known for his performance in combat, became famous in the battles of Essling and Wagram (1809). In 1810, Napoleon entrusted him with the leadership of the 3rd French Invasion of Portugal. The general suffered his first defeat at Bussaco, continued his march to Lisbon but could not cross the Lines of Torres Vedras. He decided to retreat, withdrawing his forces from the country in March 1811, never to return.



ARTHUR WELLESLEY
DUKE OF WELLINGTON

B. 1769 D. 1852

Fundamental in Portugal's history for his political-military performance, he was the country's defence strategist during the 3 French invasions. He was responsible for the construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras. He received the titles of Conde de Vimieiro and Marquês de Torres Vedras from the Portuguese crown. He would definitively defeat Napoleon Bonaparte, at the Battle of Waterloo, in 1815.



MARSHAL BERESFORD

B. 1768 D. 1854

Commander of the Portuguese Army was entrusted with reorganising the military system, preparing it to face Napoleonic troops in 1809. He was a demanding disciplinarian who implemented strict processes to create discipline and carried out rigorous inspections of the country's military garrisons. He increased his powers with King João VI, remaining in Portugal until the liberal revolution (1820), which forced him to return to England.



Fortification of strategic points

Between November 1809 and September 1810, Wellington had several field fortifications built north of Lisbon to protect the city and face the French. Based on maps drawn by Major Neves da Costa and his chief engineer, Colonel Fletcher came up with a strategy to fortify spots on top of hills. It was a way to control the paths leading to the capital and reinforce the natural obstacles of the terrain. With more than 85km, the Lines of Torres Vedras were thus born.



Construction secrecy

The construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras was one of the best-kept secrets in military history. The absolute secrecy surprised the French commander, Andre Massena, who only learned of their existence a few days before he actually saw them. Convinced that he had forced the English to withdraw back to England, he was so angry that he would have said, "What the hell! Wellington didn't build these mountains!"



Scorched Earth Policy

It was a tactic adopted by Wellington. It consisted of evacuating the population from Leiria to the Lines, turning the territory into a vast desert. Mills, fields, crops, and anything that could serve as food for the invaders were destroyed. This policy was essential for the triumph of the allies. Still, many Portuguese starved to death. The violence of the starving French troops escalated as they persecuted everyone they encountered.



RHLT
LOURES



A Mother Church of Bucelas

Tradition establishes its foundation on the appearance of Our Lady of Purification, on the place it was built in 1522. Documentation tells us that in 1566 the body of the Church was already built. In 1809 it served as temporary barracks for the British troops deployed in Bucelas. The sobriety of the exterior does not reflect the richness and artistic quality of the interior, with its Tuscan columns, checkered tiles, grotesque paintings and gilded woodcarvings.



B Santo Antão do Tojal

This monumental baroque ensemble comprises the Archbishop's Palace, Mother Church, fountain-palace and aqueduct. It is associated with the memory of King João V and its Italian architect António Canevari and Dom Tomás de Almeida, the first Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon. In October 1810, three cavalry regiments were installed in Santo Antão do Tojal. Wellington ordered them to proceed to Mafra in the middle of the month.



C Flora of the Forts

The Forts have an extraordinary natural wealth. There is much to discover - the stunning landscape or the autochthonous flora, which varies between spring and autumn. In the image, a plant of the Orchidaceae family, commonly known as Erva-do-Salepo.



D Demarcated Region of Bucelas

Founded by decree on March 3rd, 1911. It is the only wine-growing region to produce white DOC exclusively. The main variety is Arinto, with a minimum of 75% of the vine variety. It can be combined with the varieties esgana-cão (sercial) and rabo-de-ovelha. Each DOC Bucelas wine is a manifestation of this unique terroir. Legend has it that, during the 3rd Invasion, the Duke of Wellington was so delighted with this wine that he sent it to the court in London, where Bucelas became "king".



Optical Telegraph in Montachique

In Montachique, one of the optical telegraphs of the 2nd Line of Defence was located. This telegraph was supposed to establish communications between the Lines of Torres Vedras and Lisbon. Fast and effective communication was fundamental to Lisbon's defence strategy, and Montachique's telegraph communicated directly with Serra do Socorro.



Military Road

The military road from Arruda dos Vinhos allowed access to Bucelas on the 1st line of defence. It played a vital role in the fast movement of troops and messages, facilitating supply or withdrawal, if necessary. It still preserves some sections of the original pavement and traces of animal-drawn vehicles, such as carts and ox carts.



Ajuda Pequeno Redoubt



Ajuda Grande Redoubt



The entrance of Dragoons (English cavalry) and a half brigade of German Artillery in Bucelas



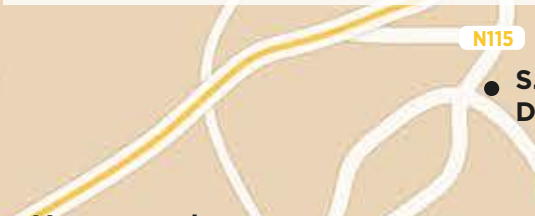
Bucelas Wine and Vineyard Museum / Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras

The Museum is installed in a building from the end of the 19th century. It introduces us to the Demarcated Region of Bucelas and the art of making wine. It has a specialized Wine shop where you can find the famous DOC Bucelas and other surprises. The Interpretation Centre of the Lines is in the same venue, a gateway to discover the Historical Route of the Lines of Torres in the municipality of Loures.



The Ribas Escarpment

The Ribas escarpment was built on a limestone platform between Fort of Mosqueiro and Fort of Ribas, following the old military road between these two positions. Several were built on the Ribas' mountain, from the canyon of Bucelas to Cabeço de Montachique. It is an example of a type of military work that reinforces natural barriers.



F Fort of Arpim

Fort of Arpim, on the 2nd line, defended the road that gave access to Bucelas and connected the military positions in Calhandriz and the military positions in Serra da Aqueira. It has a polygonal plan with 5 gun emplacements built on land with traces of wood. It corresponds to the platforms on which the artillery pieces were manoeuvred. Its imposing magazine, built-in masonry, is a unique piece due to its state of conservation. The fittings of the wooden structures and the rainwater drainage system are still visible.



SUBTITLE

- Information
- Museum
- Religious building
- Fort
- Building of Interest
- Park
- Train Station

F Trancão River Route

A section of the Trancão river was requalified using natural engineering techniques. It allows enjoying the riverside space with a pedestrian and cycling path, enhancing the landscape and biodiversity and linking the population, river, and natural resources. Historically, the Trancão River was a food source for the population that lived on its banks. In 1810, sections of the military road followed its course.



G Forts and Mill

Fort of Ajuda Grande and Pequeno worked as forwarding positions of the 2nd line, articulating 1st line military positions. They were designed to slow the enemy down if they broke through the 1st Line of Defence. Next to Fort of Ajuda Grande, the mill could have been an advanced observation post.

