

CHRONOLOGY

1789	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	
French Revolution	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.			Napoleon become Emperor of France	Continental Blockade Napoleon's design forced European countries to close their ports to English ships to asphyxiate England economically.	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.	August 17 and 21 Rolica and Vimieiro The English troops face the French and emerge victoriously.	November 18 1st French Invasion Commanded by Junot, French troops enter Portugal and march along the Tagus line towards Lisbon.	November Construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras Engineers begin working in S. Julião, Sobral and Torres Vedras.	August 27 Battle of Bussaco Allied troops clash with the French and win the battle.	October 10 The French arrive at Lines of Torres Vedras.	October 12, 13 and 14 Battles of Sobral, Dois Portos and Seramená.	November 14 Withdrawal from Lines of Torres Vedras Faced with the impossibility of crossing the Lines without resupply and reinforcements, Massena and his troops withdraw.	June 18 Battle of Waterloo Napoleon is defeated. He abdicates in June and goes to exile to the island of Saint Helena in October.

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

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INFORMATION
QR Code

TURISMO DE PORTUGAL



Military Roads
Between the Tagus and the Atlantic, hundreds of kilometres of roads were built on the slopes. They guaranteed a fast circulation of troops and messengers between forts, with the necessary secrecy for the success of the operations. They ensured supply of artillery, ammunition and provisions. They also allowed the evacuation of wounded and men. Initially, they were not paved because they were designed for infantry and cavalry. Still, their construction evolved until 1812, consolidating the defence system operation.



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.

WHO TELLS THIS STORY?

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.



RHLT
ARRUDA DOS VINHOS



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.

A Fort of Carvalha

Located next to the village of Carvalha, it sits 394 meters above sea level, at the highest point of Arruda dos Vinhos. Garrisoned with 400 men, the Fort protected the Arruda valley. Along with Fort of Cego, it allowed crossfire on the enemy. It had 4 embrasures equipped with two calibres 9 and two calibres 12. The ground was previously prepared with stone filler bound with mortar on a flagstone floor. It had a slant built in the land as protection against enemy fire.

Embrasures

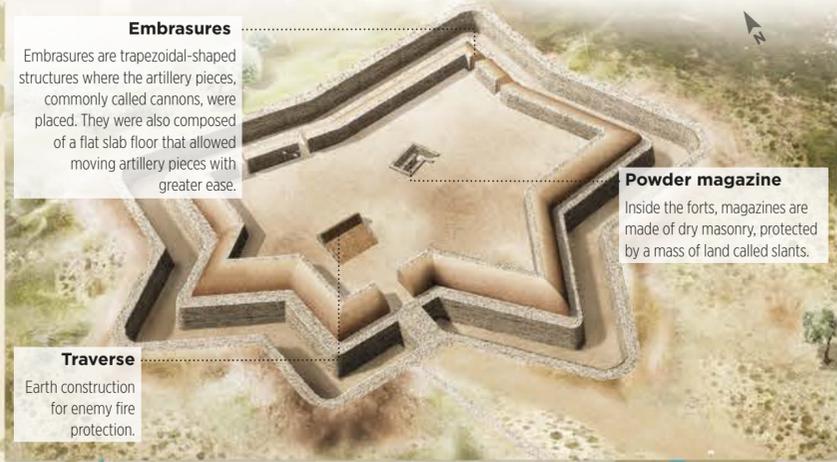
Embrasures are trapezoidal-shaped structures where the artillery pieces, commonly called cannons, were placed. They were also composed of a flat slab floor that allowed moving artillery pieces with greater ease.

Powder magazine

Inside the forts, magazines are made of dry masonry, protected by a mass of land called slants.

Traverse

Earth construction for enemy fire protection.



Fort of Paço

It was built on what is now known as the archaeological site of the Castle. It is located on top of a rocky cliff above Arruda road. This Fort protected the road from Arruda to Sobral de Monte Agraço, along with the Fort of Moinho do Céu, located to its right, and the Fort of Caneira, located to its left.

Chapel of Santa Ana - Carvalha

Cura Bernardo José Vaz's memory refers to the parish of S. Tiago dos Velhos. In 1811, the Chapel of Santa Ana da Carvalha was a warehouse for English boats, and the faithful could not attend Mass.

Arrival at Arruda dos Vinhos

When the English troops arrived at Arruda dos Vinhos, they were pleasantly surprised to find perfectly furnished houses. Most were well-stocked, with food in the pantry and an abundant supply of fine wines in the cellars.

Withdrawal from Arruda dos Vinhos

General Massena abandoned the Lines of Torres Vedras on the night of November 14. He left some straw sentries to occupy their usual positions. The next day, thinking they were reinforcements, the English troops discovered that the French had withdrawn from their positions.

G Fountain (Public Interest Heritage | October 26, 2005)

In the centre of the village of Arruda, there is a three-spout fountain. Rebuilt in 1789, it replaced an old stone fountain. In the 18th century, the Portuguese Crown dedicated special attention to the population's water supply. It is assumed that the Portuguese coat of arms, with the shield of King Joseph at the crowning of the Fountain, meant a possible royal collaboration in its construction. However, the cost of its reconstruction was borne by Domingos Gambôa e Liz, from Arruda dos Vinhos.



SUBTITLE

- information
- Interpretation Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras
- Religious building
- Fort
- Fountain
- Landscape observatory

B Mother Church of Our Lady of Salvation (Public Interest Heritage | March 24, 1944)

In 1810, English officers Kincaid and Simmons found a lifeless older woman before the parish church's altar. They imagined she had not escaped the 3rd French Invasion of Napoleonic troops. They understood that "there should be more glory inside the grave than it seemed to have been outside". They lifted the slab of one of the church's tombs, deposited the body there, carefully covering it again.



Ajuda-Bucelas Military Road

The network of military roads is essential to the Lines of Torres Vedras system. The mobility speed was critical in exchanging orders and messages issued by officers. It was also crucial to the movement of troops on the ground.

Thanksgiving sermon for the Restoration of Portugal

In 1811, the presbyter Luiz Villela da Silva recited the Thanksgiving Sermon in the Parish Church of Our Lady of Salvation in Arruda dos Vinhos. The Sermon celebrated the freedom of the Portuguese people after the expulsion of the French from Portugal. It was offered to D. António de S. José de Castro, Bishop of Porto.

