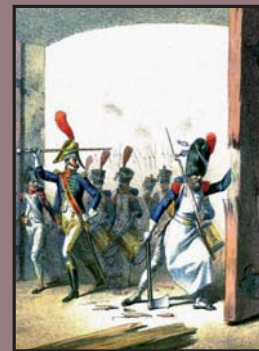


The first of the major battles was in Moclán or Medina de Ríoseco in July 1808 and ended in a French victory. That same year saw the retreat of British forces towards Galicia and various clashes from Benavente to Cacabelos.



French musicians entering a gate opened by sappers.

The clash of battle and the first of the major French defeats would come at Fuentes de Oñoro in 1811, which, months later, would continue with the retaking of the fortresses at Ciudad Rodrigo and, in the spring campaign, Astorga. The Battle of Salamanca was the crowning military victory of the allied forces.



Grenadiers from various Spanish regiments.

Fighting between French and British cavalry.



Napoctep

www.napoctep.eu

Napoleonic routes between Spain and Portugal



The objective of the Napoctep Project is the creation of a series of tourist routes associated with the presence of Napoleonic troops in Castilla y León and Central Portugal. The routes elaborated are the following:

Route 1st Invasión of Portugal.



Route 2nd Invasión of Portugal.



Route 3rd Invasión of Portugal.



Wellington Route.



Route of Siege and Great Battles.



Route of Napoleon and the Englishman's Run.



Guerrilleros Julián Sánchez el Charro and el Empecinado Route.



Route of Siege and Great Battles

from Almeida to Puebla de Sanabria

Joaquín Blake y Joyes.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the most important and well-known events in any war are the sieges and battles. In the Peninsular War, the Portuguese region of Beira and the Spanish region of Castile and Leon were, from 1808 to 1812, the stage for some of the fighting that would determine some of the most important events in the conflict.

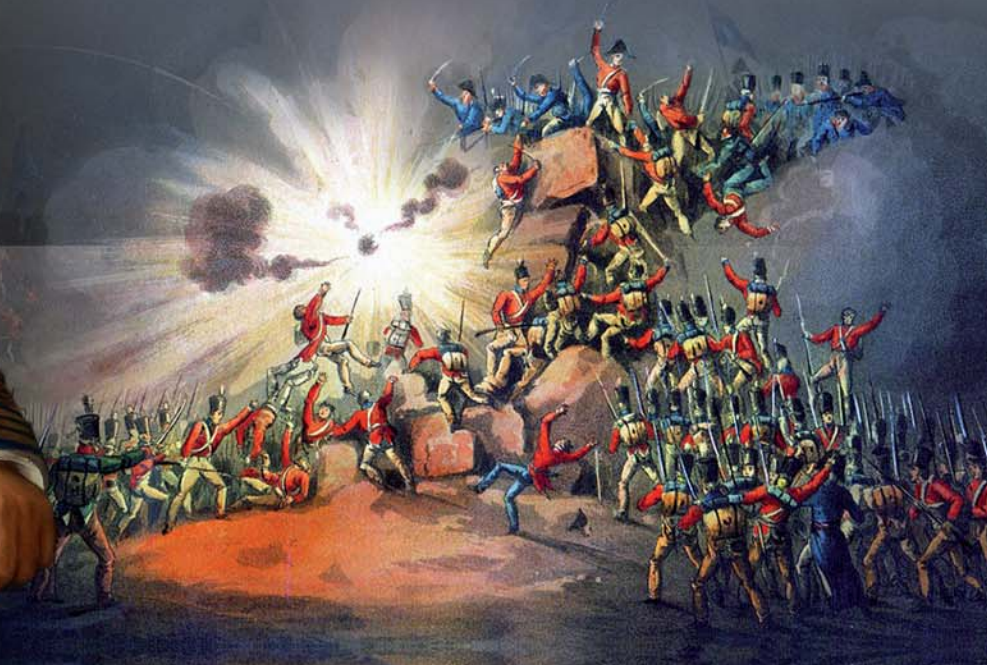


Allied soldiers attempting to take control of a breach.

Both the British Army and the Portuguese and Spanish Army sought to wrestle control of these regions away from the French generals. Given the almost continual presence of General Wellington and his troops in La Raya from 1810 onwards, Napoleon even created an army to engage him: the *Armée du Portugal*.

Sieges came about when one of the sides tried to take a fortress or fortified city from the other, which generally caused widespread destruction and, occasionally, vicious cruelty against the civilian population.

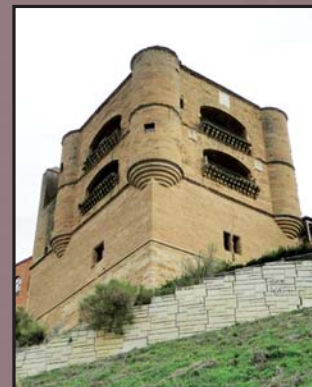
Assault on Ciudad Rodrigo in 1812.



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The *Trail of Sieges and Great Battles* encompasses the major confrontations. Fortresses such as Almeida, Ciudad Rodrigo, and Astorga came under siege twice, firstly by the French armies and then latterly when they were retaken by Spanish troops. Other places, such as Alba de Tormes, Puebla de Sanabria, and Salamanca, also suffered the wrath of heavy weapons.

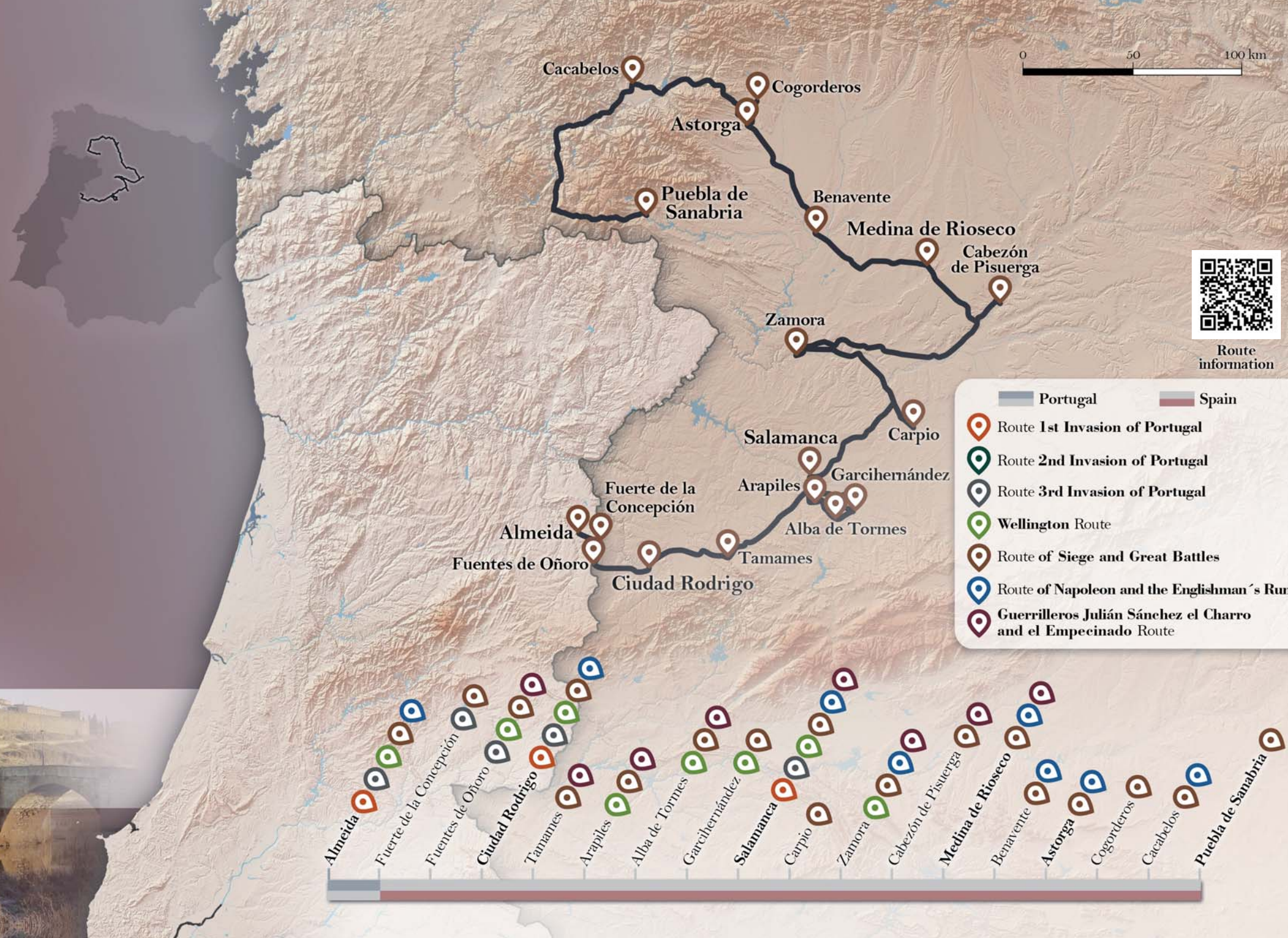


Caracol Tower in Benavente.

If fortresses were clear targets for both sides as they sought to consolidate their power, the sites where the battles that would, largely, settle the outcome of the war broke out were less obvious. Our region is home to several fine examples, such as Fuentes de Oñoro, on the Portuguese-Spanish border, Tamames, Salamanca, Alba de Tormes, and Medina de Rioseco.

Other smaller clashes took place in Cacabelos, Cogorderos, Benavente, Cabezón de Pisuerga, Carpio, and Garcihernández.

Ciudad Rodrigo from across the Águeda river.



Many of the walls that withstood barrages, fires, and demolition during the war are still standing, such as the Keep in Alba de Tormes, the Caracol Tower at Benavente castle, the Fortress of the Conception in Aldea del Obispo, and the Parador hotel in Ciudad Rodrigo. Others, such as the castle in San Felices de los Gallegos, the House of Tapa in Astorga, and the San Marcos Parador hotel in Leon, housed soldiers from different countries.



Alba de Tormes Castle Keep.



Battle of "Los Arapiles" Interpretation Centre.

The battles are explained in centres such as the Battle of "Los Arapiles" Interpretation Centre, the Almeida Military Museum, and the exhibition at the Palace of los Águila in Ciudad Rodrigo and by specialist historical guides, such as Primer Edecán.

If you want to find out about history, the best place is the place where it happened.

Monument to the Battle of Moclin in Medina de Rioseco.

