

1808  
1809

# Los Sitios de Zaragoza

## Assault street

Next to the brick wall, made of “earth” as it was called in the Medieval period, which was the city wall since the Muslim period, and it was also used for the defence of Zaragoza in the War of Independence.



Engraving by Gálvez y Brambila. View of the former San José convent burned by the French.

## THE NOW ABSENT SAN JOSÉ CONVENT

On the other side of the nearby Huerva River, in the junction of the current streets: Calle Jorge Cocci and Camino de las Torres (Towers Road), the San José Convent of the Discalced Carmelites was attacked by the French artillery batteries. It was a fort with major strategic importance for the defence of the city, which was destroyed by a fire in July 1808 which is recorded in this engraving.

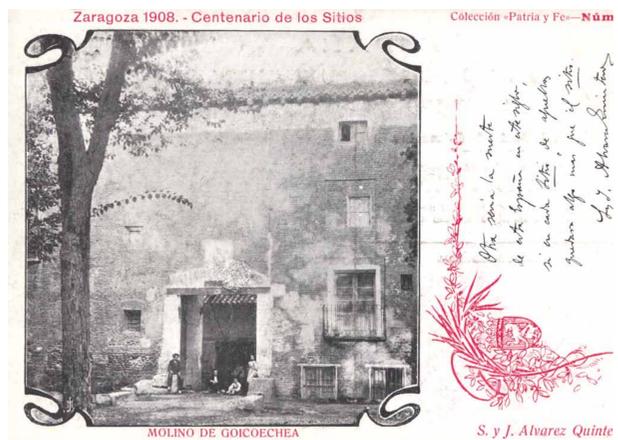
It was subsequently rebuilt after the sieges in 1814. The Ecclesiastic confiscation in 1835 meant the end of its religious use and its nationalization. It was later used as a city prison, which was formally renamed in 1900 as the “Penal de San José” and as a quartermaster barracks until its ruin in the Sixties decade of the 20th century.

## THE OIL MILL OF GOICOECHEA

In the nearby Bruil Park, at the time of the Sieges, an oil mill was built by Juan Martín de Goicoechea, one of the most relevant entrepreneurs in Zaragoza at the end of the 18th century.

It was a strategic point where the Zaragoza people dug trenches to garrison their defence, however the French troops managed to capture the mill on 27 January 1809.

Several of its presses and millstones are still conserved in the park.



Postcard published to celebrate the centennial of the Sieges of Zaragoza. 1908 The Oil Mill of Goicoechea. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0163076.



Ruins of the oil mill called Goicoechea, located in Bruil Park.



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CAJA RURAL  
DE ARAGÓN



Zaragoza  
AYUNTAMIENTO

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This zone, between the current Promenade called Paseo de la Mina and the streets: Calle Asalto and Calle Heroísmo, witnessed the intense combat which their names remind us.



Antonio Sangenís y Torres. Pepe Luz, 1947. Museo de la Academia General Militar, Zaragoza.

## ANTONIO SANGENÍS Y TORRES

(Albelda, 1767-Zaragoza, 1809). He organised the defensive system of Zaragoza during the two Sieges. He created a Sappers Battalion (combat engineers) in a flat city without fortifications, achieving significant defensive works for the campaign. Sangenís was killed by a cannonball while he observed a trench excavated by the French enemy. A commemorative plaque on the wall of the street called Calle Asalto marks the site of his death and another plaque pays tribute to the infantry soldiers who fought for Zaragoza.



Calle de Asalto. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0141148.

Ruins of the wall of the Sieges in front of the Bruil Park. After harsh combats on 26 January 1809, the French opened fire with all their artillery batteries against the wall defences; a few days later, they entered the San Agustín neighbourhood through this zone.



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