

1808  
1809

Los Sitios  
de Zaragoza

# Santiago Sas square

This square is located in the centre of a zone called Trenque de Gimeno Gordo, a maze of narrow alleys which started at the gate called Puerta Cinegia and ended at the El Pilar esplanade.



*Asalto a Zaragoza, 1809. January Suchodolsky, 1845. Muzeum Wojska Polskiego, Varsovia.*

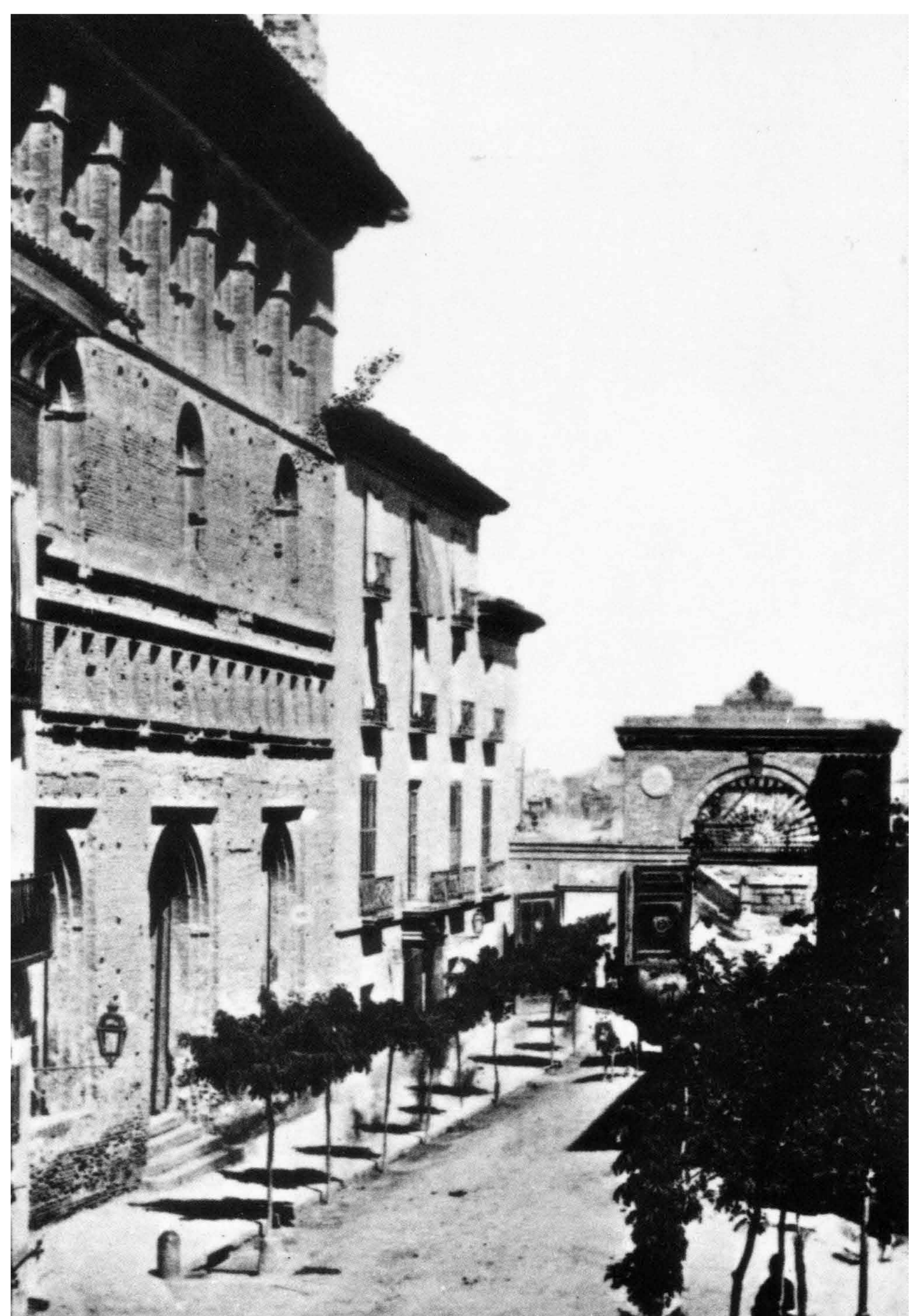
## EL TRENQUE DE GIMENO GORDO

It was an intricate labyrinth of streets without sunlight, narrow and interconnected, where intense hand-to-hand combat took place, when the French army tried to reach the Pilar Cathedral through this zone and crossing the gate called Puerta del Ángel to cross the river and enter the Arrabal district.

At the time of the sieges, the current street: Calle de Alfonso I was hardly an alley which ended at this square, today, the street is named Santiago Sas.

Detail of an engraving from the 19th century which represents the first Siege of Zaragoza by the French.

Lonja, Ayuntamiento y Puerta del Ángel. Anterior a 1867. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0196.



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CAJA RURAL  
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Father Santiago Sas participated in a series of high risk actions, encouraging the people to tenaciously fight to the maximum. Gálvez and Brambila, engravers who arrived in Zaragoza on 26 October 1808, were able to make eye witness drawings of the destruction from the first siege. With these drawings, subsequently engravings, they were able to create their series, “Ruinas de Zaragoza” (“Ruins of Zaragoza”); the portraits were commissioned by General Palafox.



Father Santiago Sas. Benefice priest of Luco, he died trapped inside the ruins of his country. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_02939.

## SANTIAGO SAS Y CASAYAU

Father Santiago Sas (Zaragoza, 1774-1809) belonged to an illustrious Zaragoza family and was a priest at the parish church of San Pablo.

During the Sieges of Zaragoza, he was noted for his extraordinary courage, actively participating in the defence of the city against Napoleon's troops, for which General Palafox granted him the rank of Captain. At his expense, he organised two voluntary shotgunner companies from the parish of San Pablo, with whom he took part in the Battle of Las Eras. In the first siege, he was at all the major risk points, such as the Carmen and Portillo gates, at the Sancho gate or the street named Calle Doctor Palomar.

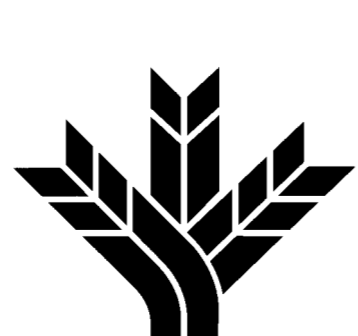
He was killed three days after the capitulation of the city, assassinated by the French, despite the fact that the capitulation document stipulated respect for lives. His body was thrown into the Ebro River from the stone bridge, together with Father Basilio Boggiero. At the site of the stone bridge where they were killed, a monolith now honours their memory.



Asalto a Zaragoza, 1809. January Suchodolsky, 1870. Muzeum Wojska Polskiego, Varsovia.



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