

1808
1809

Los Sitios de Zaragoza

San Miguel square

In the battle which Zaragoza waged against the French troops during the War of Independence, the San Miguel neighbourhood played an outstanding role.



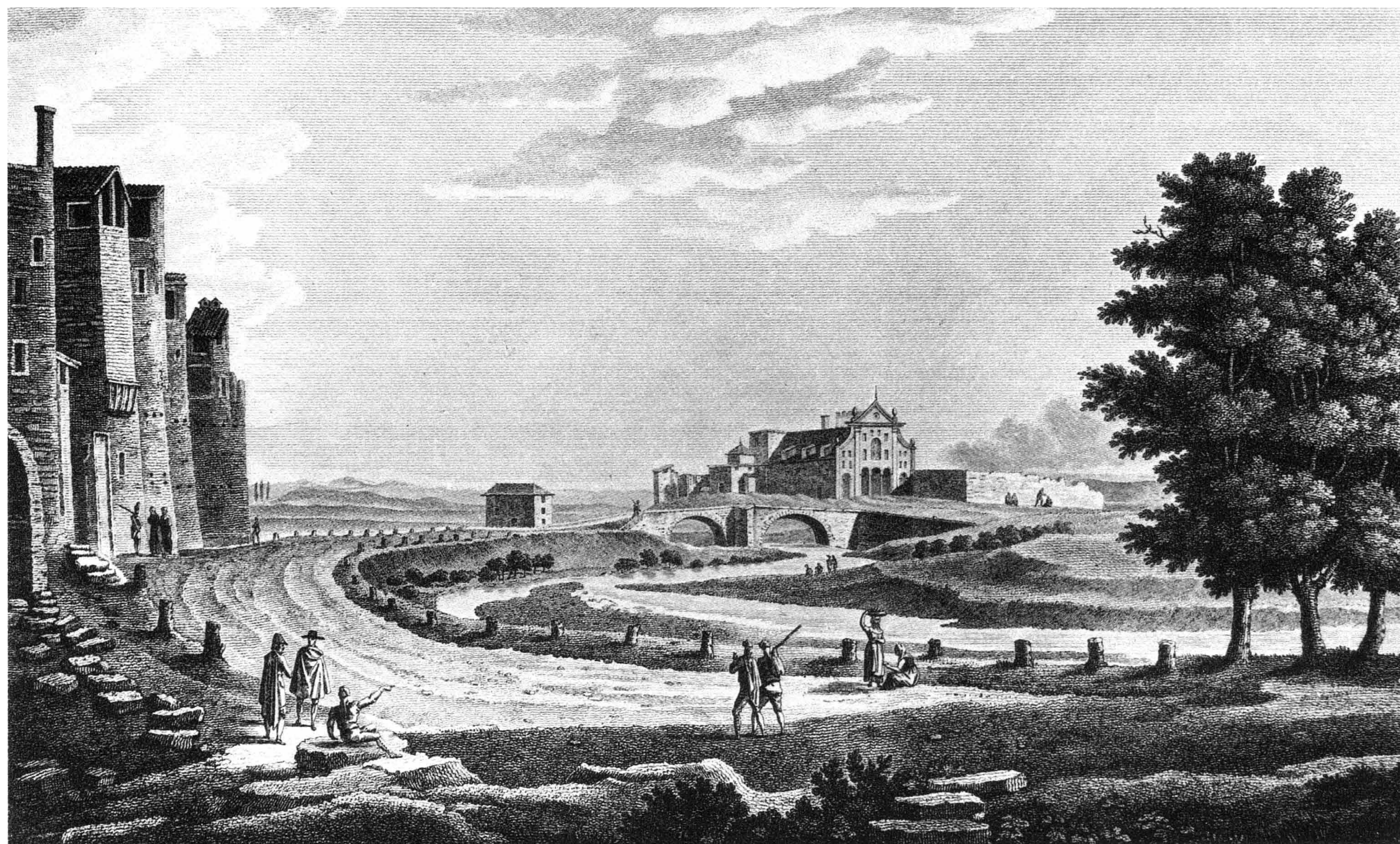
Iglesia de San Miguel y Puerta del Duque. Fototipia Castañeira y Álvarez. Madrid. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_0238.

At the time of the Sieges, the San Miguel parish church was located close to one of the city gates, called the Puerta Quemada (Burned Gate). The French entered through it during the first siege, in bloody house-to-house combats. The neighbourhood was practically uninhabited, even the statue of its popular Christ was transferred to the nearby church of La Magdalena to protect it.

One week after Palafox was appointed Captain General, a prayer mass was held at the San Miguel Church, praying for the health and success of the José de Palafox government.



El Excmo. S. D. José Rebolledo de Palafox y Melci. (José Pasqual de Quinto y de los Ríos, *Los Sitios de Zaragoza, 1808-1809*).



View of the San José Convent of the Discalced Carmelites in 1806, taken from the left bank of the Huerva River in the proximity of the apse of the parish church of San Miguel de los Navarros. (Drawing by Luis Le Jeune and engraved by Perdoux for the "Viaje por España" ("Trip through Spain").

During the second siege, two cannons were placed inside the church, in the direction of the bridge called Puente de San José on the Huerva River to defend that city entrance.



English
Français
Mapa/Map/Carte



CAJA RURAL
DE ARAGÓN



Zaragoza
AYUNTAMIENTO

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In the Square called Plaza de San Miguel, there is the Puerta del Duque de la Victoria (Duke of Victoria Gate). In reality, it was an Arch of Triumph to commemorate General Espartero's visit to the city. It was demolished in 1919 and today a painted wall on a nearby building remains as a reminder.



Postcard published to celebrate the centennial of the Sieges of Zaragoza, 1908. San Miguel. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_0163073.

HEROISM STREET

Adjacent to the Square called Plaza de San Miguel, there is the street named Calle del Heroísmo where hand-to-hand combat took place between the siege troops and the besieged citizens. Before the Sieges, it was called Calle Quemada, since it was the meeting place of the coal workers guild which blackened the neighbouring walls with their lit braziers.

At the end of this street was one of the city gates, the Puerta Quemada (Burned Gate). The name of this street was changed after the sieges to Heroism, which commemorated the resistance of the Zaragoza defenders.



Calle [de] Heroísmo Archivo MORA. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_0977.

THE CHURCH BELL FOR THE LOST

The splendid Mudéjar tower of the Church of San Miguel housed a Bell for the Lost, which since the 16th century, it rang thirty-three times at nightfall with the aim to guide the people who were in the fields outside the walls, since people often could not find the road back to the city because of the fogs and the lack of lighting. In the early 16th century, the priest of San Miguel decided to place a big lamp in the highest part of the belfry so that, with the help of mirrors, it could serve as lighthouse whose light was a reference point in the fields. However during a storm, a north wind attacked the lighthouse in 1556. Although the bell ceased to ring for several months during the time of the Sieges, this tradition continued for some time afterwards.



Torre mudéjar de la Iglesia de San Miguel de los Navarros.



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