

1808
1809

Los Sitios de Zaragoza

San Agustín square

The square called Plaza de San Agustín is one of the few spaces which has been conserved practically the same as it was during the Sieges suffered by Zaragoza in the War of Independence.

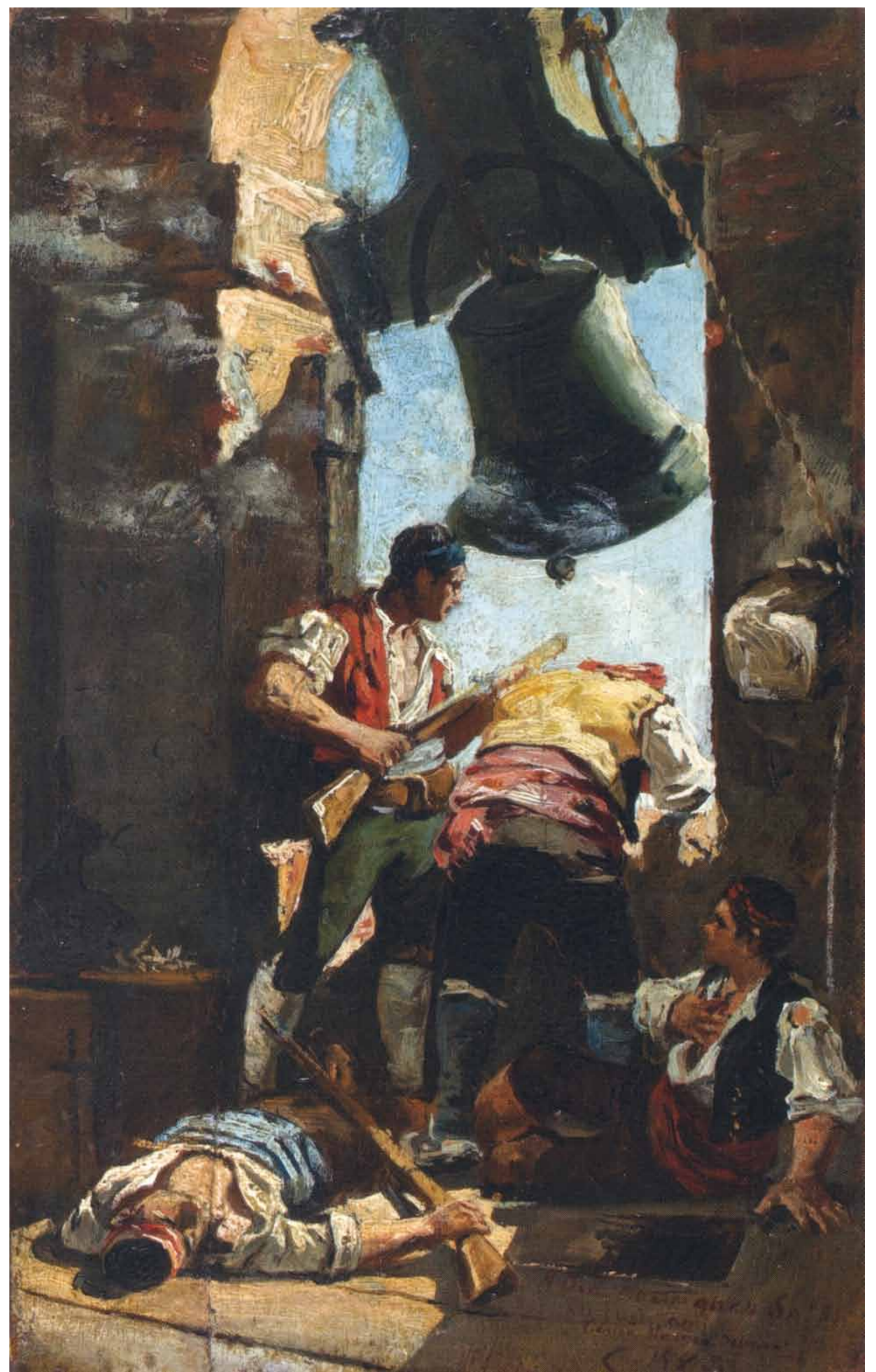


San Agustín Convent, 1930. Photo by Loty.

SAN AGUSTÍN CONVENT

The Convent of San Agustín, founded in the 13th century, was used as a quartermaster barracks during the sieges and the artillery impacts are still visible on its façade. It comprised the city's defensive line on the East, but despite the resistance of the defenders, the French managed to penetrate into the convent and the church on 1 February 1809, which they took over along with the nearby Santa Mónica church.

As a result of the war, the convent complex was destroyed and in the Ecclesiastical confiscation of Mendizábal in 1836, the plot and the properties became national assets. In 1978, it became municipal property and after diverse projects, it was restructured into the current History Centre of Zaragoza.



Heróica defensa de la torre de San Agustín en la guerra de la Independencia (Heroic defence of the San Agustín tower in the War of Independence). César Álvarez Dumont, 1887.

These paintings by Álvarez Dumont, which were inspired by the novel Zaragoza, from the National Episodes series by Benito Pérez Galdós, show the fierce fighting at the San Agustín convent.

THE HOUSE OF THE SIEGES

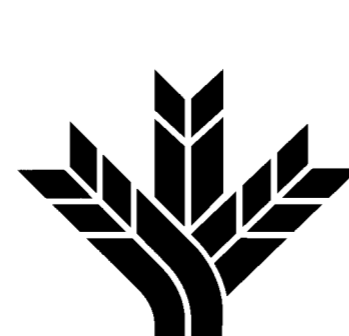
In the nearby street called Calle de Doctor Palomar, a magnificent estate house still conserves the impacts from the French rifles two centuries later.



Estate house located on the corner of the streets: Doctor Palomar num. 16 and Calle el Pozo (Well Street).



English
Français
Mapa/Map/Carte



CAJA RURAL
DE ARAGÓN



Zaragoza
AYUNTAMIENTO

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It was a neighbourhood which witnessed brutal battles and the Zaragoza people showed great resistance in the fight and where the names of its streets: C/Manuela Sancho, C/Heroísmo, C/Asalto, etc. tell us about the defenders and their determination.



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MANUELA SANCHO BONAFONTE

(Plenas, 1783-Zaragoza, 1863) She was one of the women from the city who actively participated in its defence during the sieges by the French. Like numerous others, she carried food and water to the defenders and even played an active role in the combats.

In 1908, her mortal remains were transferred to the Pantheon created for the “heroines of the Sieges” in the crypt of the Portillo church in Zaragoza.

In a message sent to Palafox, Renovales mentioned Manuela Sancho who usually carried loads of gunpowder, bullets and stones for the cannons and mortars of a specific artillery battery, she was apparently unperturbed when watching the gunners who fell dead beside her; later firing several cannons before she picked up a rifle and joined the shooters in the rear guard. In his report on 3 January 1809, Mariano Renovales recommended her “since both in the attack on the last day of last year and yesterday, she served the artillery and mortar units as well as the best gunner could have done...”.



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