### 1808 Los Sitios 1809 de Zaragoza

## Miguel Salamero Square

On 4 August 1808, a
French column bypassed
the street called Calle del
Azoque, taking over the
Santa Rosa Convent and
the neighbouring houses
of Santa Fe. Harsh combat
then took place at that
point.



Cloister of the former Santa Fé Convent.

#### SAN ILDEFONSO CONVENT

In front of this square, popularly called "Plaza del Carbón" (Coal Square), the San Ildefonso Convent, a large building of which only its church is conserved, now called Santiago el Mayor. During the French siege, the convent, like almost all the ones in the city, sheltered numerous wounded and it was later selected by the French General Lefebvre to install his General Headquarters.



Santiago el Mayor Church.

The convent was abandoned due to the Ecclesiastic Confiscation of Mendizábal in 1835 and the building was a military hospital until the Sixties decade in the 20th century, when it was demolished to pave the way for the Avenue named Avenida de César Augusto.

The Capilla de los Fieles Zaragozanos (Faithful Zaragoza Citizens Chapel), dedicated to all the defenders of the Sieges is located inside the church. On its right, the San Ildefonso Arch is still conserved; it is still possible to see the marks of the French artillery in its upper section.

In the site now located by the Hotel Palafox, the church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen was built, which was destroyed during the Sieges.



El premio de la heróina (The heroine award). Illustration of artwork by Miguel Agustín Príncipe, 1846.



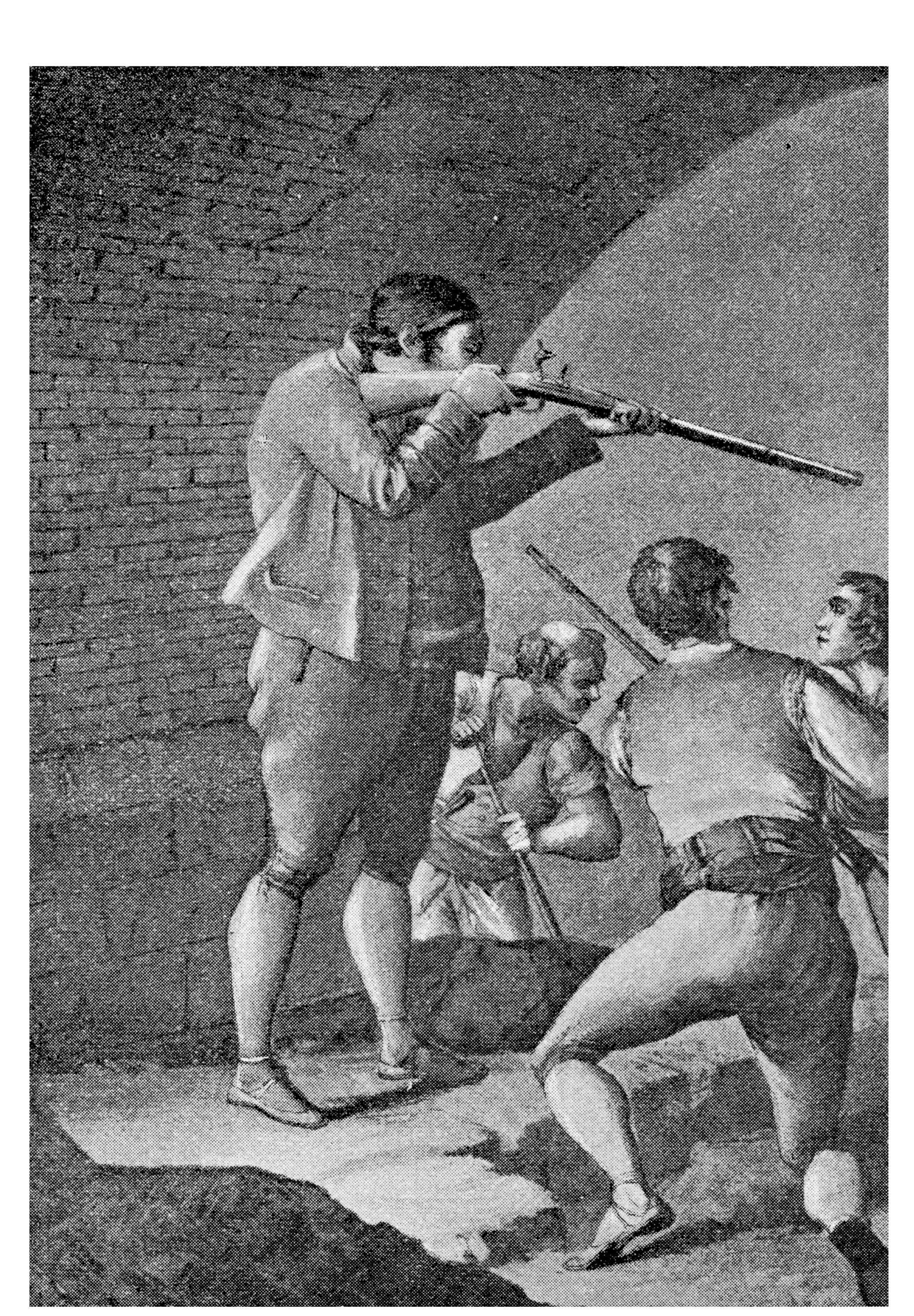




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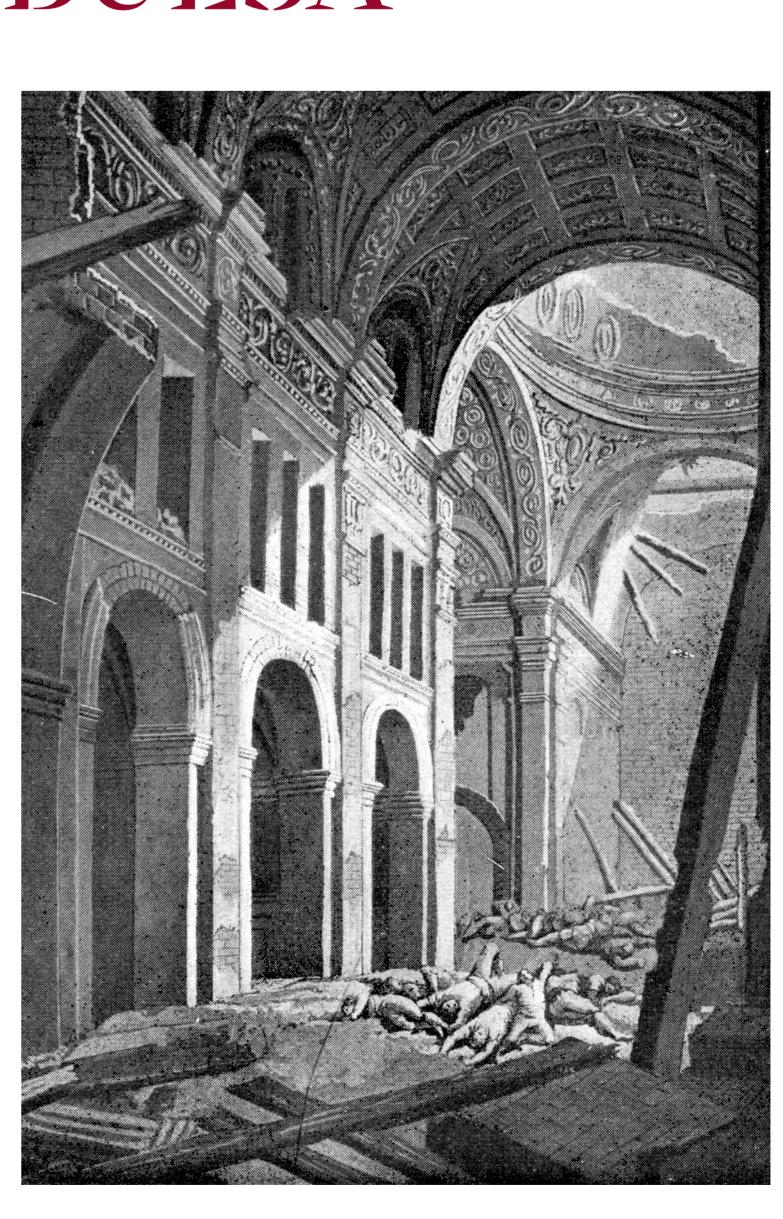
On 4 August 1808 during the first siege of Zaragoza, the French troops successfully entered the city after overcoming Santa Engracia, advancing through the vanished Torre del Pino towards this zone through the Calle Azoque.



Miguel Salamero. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0000273.

#### MIGUEL SALAMERO BUESA

(Zaragoza, 1766-1846). He was from a middle-class family and he married Rafaela Zaro in 1787. He had his weaving looms and lathes in his own building located at Plaza del Teatro (Theatre Square), next to the alley called "Callejón de la China". On 15 June, he took command of his workers. He defended the Santa Fe Convent located in the square of the same name, and the nearby convents of Santa Rosa (today, a school with the same name) and San Ildefonso, hindering the French advance towards Calle Coso. Taken to France as a prisoner after the capitulation, he managed to escape at the border but he could not return to Zaragoza until the French abandoned it in 1813. He lived and died in his house in Calle S. Pablo, num. 2.



Ruins inside the Carmen church. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0000263.





