

1808
1809

Los Sitios de Zaragoza

San Felipe square

The Square called Plaza de San Felipe is one of the most suggestive places of the historical City Centre, surrounded by old Renaissance palaces. The Torre Nueva (New Tower) was built here, the only Mudéjar tower with a civic nature in all Spain, which fulfilled an important mission during the sieges of Zaragoza.



View of the demolished "Torre Nueva" (New Tower) of Zaragoza, whose strategic site in the city centre motivated the military leaders to consider it as the New Tower Watchtower Command post. (Drawing by E. George and lithographed by T. Heawood around 1837).

THE NEW TOWER

It was built in the early 16th century in Mudéjar style brick work by the Town Council of Zaragoza. It has a big clock and a bells system with the aim that it could heard in the entire town and regulate the life of the city.

The tower is a symbol for the city and one of the most beautiful among the numerous ones that exist in the city. The Town Council decided to demolish it in 1892 alleging its ruin and its tilt. There was a harsh reply from the majority of the population and intellectuals, but there was nothing that could be done and it was finally demolished. Today a flagstone marks the place where it was located as the only memory.

WARNING SYSTEM IN THE SIEGES

During the sieges of Zaragoza in the War of Independence, the Torre Nueva (New Tower) was used as a watchtower. With its 80m height, it was an unsurpassed observation point from which to monitor the movements of the French troops. An alarms system was also created, where bells were rung to warn the Zaragoza people of attacks with artillery shells: "two rings whenever a shell was fired from the artillery battery placed behind the Castle, and one ring only, if it was from the hill called Monte Torrero...". The tower had a final and sad mission, since it was used as the support to hoist the white flag which announced the city's' surrender to the Zaragoza residents on 20 February 1809.



Plaza de San Felipe con Palacio de Argillo al fondo. L. L. Roger Viollet. Hacia 1890. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_04584.



English
Français
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CAJA RURAL
DE ARAGÓN



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AYUNTAMIENTO

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The mortal remains of María de la Consolación de Azlor y Villavicencio, count of Bureta, rest in the church of San Felipe. In a plaque placed to the left of the main altar on the occasion of the First Centennial.



Countess of Bureta, the great heroine and tireless defender of the barricades. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1_02936.

THE COUNTESS OF BURETA

María Consolación de Azlor y Villavicencio (Gerona, 1773-Zaragoza, 1814), Countess of Bureta and cousin of Palafox, received a thorough education. When her father died in 1787, the family moved to Zaragoza. On 12 May 1794, she married Juan Crisóstomo López-Fernández de Heredia, the VI Count of Bureta, who left her a widow in December 1804. In 1808 when the French armies were besieging Zaragoza, she refused to abandon the city, collaborating actively in its defence and making her house available to those who needed it. She created and directed the Amazon Corps, a special female corps which provided first-aid services to the wounded and took care of distributing food supplies and ammunition to the combatants. She converted her home in the nearby Calle de Torrenueva, a street named after the demolished tower, into a hospital and even wielded weapons in times of danger. When the first siege concluded on 1 October 1808, she wed Pedro María Ric in her second marriage. When the city surrendered, Lannes permitted the Countess and her family to abandon Zaragoza and move to Cádiz. When the war ended, she returned to Zaragoza.



Iglesia de San Felipe y Santiago el Menor.



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