

Translated by Greg Gorsuch
Volume 2 Part 1

JOURNALS
OF THE SIEGES

MADE OR SUSTAINED BY THE FRENCH
IN THE PENINSULA,
FROM 1807 TO 1814.

TYPOGRAPHY FIRMIN DIDOT BROTHERS AND C^O.
PRINTERS OF THE INSTITUTE,
RUE JACOB, N^O 24.

JOURNALS
OF THE SIEGES

MADE OR SUSTAINED BY THE FRENCH

IN THE PENINSULA,

FROM 1807 TO 1814;

WRITTEN, ACCORDING TO THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT,

**FROM THE DOCUMENTS EXISTING IN THE WAR ARCHIVES
AND AT THE FORTIFICATION DEPOT.**

BY J. BELMAS,
ENGINEERING BATTALION CHIEF.

SECOND VOLUME.



PARIS,

BY FIRMIN DIDOT FRÈRES AND C^o,
RUE JACOB, n^o 24.

M DCCC XXXVI.



TABLE OF CONTENTS.



FIRST SIEGE of	
Zaragoza.....	
Second Siege of	
Zaragoza.....	
Siege of	
Roses.....	
Siege of	
Girona.....	



FIRST SIEGE
OF ZARAGOZA,
BY THE FRENCH ARMY OF ARAGON,
IN 1808.

ANALYTICAL TABLE

OF CONTENTS.

Insurrection in Zaragoza. -Don José Palafox is proclaimed Captain General of Aragon. -He organizes an army.....	
General Lefebvre-Desnouettes leaves Pamplona at the head of four thousand two hundred men and marches on Zaragoza. Defeat of the Spanish at Tudela.....	
Battles of Mallen and Alagon.....	
Arrival of French troops at Zaragoza. -Palafox leaves the city and goes to Belechite.....	
Preparations for defense by the inhabitants.....	
The French attack the gates of Santa Engracia, Carmen, and Portillo. -They are repulsed.....	
The Spanish receive relief and undertake new defensive works.....	
Palafox gathers four thousand men at Belechite. -Battle of Épila.....	
General Verdier arrives under the walls of Zaragoza with a column of reinforcements and takes command of the siege troops. -Capture of Monte Torrero.....	
The French troops receive new reinforcements and some large-caliber guns. -Napoleon orders the city to be bombarded and a new attack to be attempted by force.....	
The Spanish redouble their efforts to fortify themselves. -Palafox returns to Zaragoza through the suburbs on the left bank and brings some troops.....	
General attack on the city. -The French are repulsed.....	
General Verdier prepares to conduct a full-scale siege. -He opens the trench against the castle.....	
General Lefebvre-Desnouettes moves against Baron de Warsage at Calatayud, and captures this city.....	
Movements directed, by both banks of the Huebra against the Zaragoza city walls. -The Spanish make a sortie which is repelled.....	
General Verdier throws a flying bridge over the Ebro, above the city, and sends some troops to blockade the suburb on the left bank.....	
Capture of the Capuchin convent, located three hundred meters from the city walls, near the Huebra.	
Difficulty of the routes on the banks of this river.....	
A siege crew arrives from Pamplona.....	
A parallel is opened against the convent of Santa-Engracia. -Establishment of breach batteries.....	
A Spanish corps, arriving from Catalonia, advances along the left bank of the Ebro to relieve the fort. -It is defeated at Osera.....	
General Verdier receives new reinforcements. -Palafox has gunpowder manufactured and mills built.....	
Arming the batteries. -The artillery opens fire and makes three breaches in the walls on the Santa Engracia and del Carmen fronts.....	
Assault on the city. -French troops arrive via Santa Engracia Street as far as the Coso.....	
Terror among the inhabitants. -Palafox abandons the city a second time and goes to Pina.....	
The French troops form up on the Coso and divide into three columns to subdue the rest of the city.	
Defense of the inhabitants on the Place de la Madeleine.....	
The Spaniards regain courage and stop the French troops at all points.....	

General Verdier is wounded. General Lefebvre-Desnouettes takes command and orders the French troops to withdraw to the houses on Santa-Engracia Street.....

Palafox sends relief to the inhabitants. -Continuous fighting in the city.....

King Joseph orders General Lefebvre-Desnouettes to prepare to lift the siege. -Some ammunition is destroyed. New orders to continue the work.....

Palafox advances with a large convoy and a column of troops to relieve the city. General Lefebvre-Desnouettes goes to meet him, but is forced to retreat.....

Palafox enters the city with the convoy he was escorting. -Joy of the inhabitants. French troops. -Critical situation of the troops.....

Formal order from King Joseph to lift the siege. -The Spanish army of Valencia marches to the aid of Zaragoza.....

General Lefebvre-Desnouettes destroys part of his siege artillery and retreats to Tudela.....

General Lefebvre-Desnouettes withdraws behind the Aragon River, where he supports the left of King Joseph's army, which has fallen back on the Ebro.....

END OF TABLE.

FIRST SIEGE OF ZARAGOZA,

BY THE FRENCH ARMY OF ARAGON,

IN 1808.

It was on 24 May that news reached Zaragoza of the double abdication of Charles IV and Ferdinand VII in favor of Napoleon; this news aroused general indignation. Don José Palafox, a former bodyguard who had accompanied Ferdinand on his journey to Bayonne, had escaped from the city disguised as a peasant, and for two days had been in his castle of Alfranca, near Zaragoza. His presence and his speeches contributed to exasperating tempers. Crowds of people poured through the streets, crying for vengeance, and went to General Guillelmi, Captain General of Aragon, to obtain weapons. The latter, foreseeing the misfortunes that were about to befall his homeland, sought to calm the multitude; but his efforts had the opposite effect: he was nearly assassinated. Some officers saved him by dragging him and the rebels to the castle outside the city, where twenty-five thousand rifles and sixty-five field guns were located. The stores were invaded, and that very day, the entire city was in arms. General Guillelmi resigned and remained locked in the castle.

The next day, Palafox was placed at the head of the insurrection and proclaimed captain general. His noble birth, his youth, his distinguished manners, and his trip to Bayonne had aroused the interest of the inhabitants in his favor. At that moment, he had his elder brother, the Marquis of Lazan, with him in Zaragoza. A few days later, he was joined by his younger brother, Don Francisco, who had escaped from Pamplona. Father Don Bazile, his former tutor, became his close advisor.

The city of Zaragoza then had fifty thousand inhabitants; it was surrounded only by a weak brick wall, four meters high, and its garrison was limited to two companies of fusiliers and about twenty cannoneers. It was in such a situation that Palafox, surrounded by French troops, and only a few days' march from the border, dared to raise the standard of revolt. He called the population to arms¹, and published his famous manifesto of 31 May, which circulated throughout Europe². Wishing to strengthen in his hands the power he held from the people, he convened an assembly of all the deputies of the province who had a deliberative vote in the Cortes. This assembly took place on 9 June. Palafox explained his conduct there³, and saw his appointment to the post of captain general confirmed by acclamation. Upon separating, the assembly appointed a supreme junta of six members, under the presidency of Palafox, to concentrate all powers.

Enthusiasm soon spread to neighboring provinces. Officers of all ranks, engineers from the Alcalá school, soldiers who had escaped from Pamplona and Madrid, and more than ten thousand Aragon peasants went to Zaragoza. Work began on organizing several tercios or battalions of a thousand men each, gathering munitions, and making clothing and equipment for the soldiers. Baron de Warsage, an

¹ See supporting documents, no. 1.

² See supporting documents, no. 2.

³ See supporting documents, no. 3.

officer of the Walloon Guards, gathered a corps of students and volunteers in Calatayud; he was charged with covering the powder mills of Villafeliche, and maintaining communications with the juntas of Soria and Sigüenza. Another corps was formed at Huesca. The citadel of Jaca and the fort of Venasque were occupied and put into a state of defense; the towns of Lerida and Mequinenza became points of communication and liaison with Catalonia; emissaries were sent to solicit aid from the neighboring provinces; others went to Majorca to obtain the return of ten thousand men of the old troops who were there, and to confer with the English who had an army in Sicily, and whose ships covered the Mediterranean. The Marquis of Lazan took command of the active forces. He left Zaragoza on 6 June, with two thousand men and four cannons, to go to Tudela, and there defend the passage of the Ebro.

The progress of this revolution soon spread far and wide. As soon as the Emperor, who was in Bayonne, learned of it, he sent General Lefebvre-Desnouettes to Pamplona to gather some troops and march against Zaragoza before Palafox had time to form his army. For his part, Marshal Bessières, who was guarding the main road to Castile with an army corps, detached General Verdier with two thousand men to Zaragoza. Mobile columns were also to head for the city from Madrid and Barcelona.

General Lefebvre-Desnouettes left Pamplona on 7 June with four thousand two hundred men, including nine hundred and fifty cavalry, six four-pounder guns, and seven caissons of cartridges. The infantry, commanded by General Habert, consisted of the Second Supplementary Regiment of the Reserve Legions and three battalions from the Fifteenth, Forty-seventh-, and Seventieth-Line Regiments. The cavalry consisted of three squadrons of Polish lancers, the Fifth March Squadron, and a detachment of thirty Spanish cavalymen from the regiment of Calatrava. General Lefebvre-Desnouettes, having learned that the insurgents had breached the bridge at Tudela, decided to cross the Ebro at Valtierra. During the night, he lowered three large boats from the Aragon River and crossed the Ebro at the old ferry. On the morning of 8 June, he continued his march on Zaragoza along the right bank of the river.

A Spanish corps, commanded by Colonel Obispo, was on the heights in front of Tudela, defending the entrance to the city, where the Marquis of Lazan was stationed with his reserves. At first, General Lefebvre employed all the means of conciliation in his power to bring back the insurgents; but his efforts having been in vain, he attacked the Spaniards, drove them from their position and dispersed them. The Polish lancers killed a large number of them. The peasants caught with weapons in hand were all shot. Many arms and ammunition were found in the town. Most of the inhabitants had fled; but the next day, they began to return. General Lefebvre stopped for a few days in Tudela, to disarm the country, secure its communications and re-establish the bridge. This town, of about twelve thousand souls, and situated at the entrance to the Imperial Canal which leads to Zaragoza, became very useful to the army, as a depot for supplies and the wounded. The Marquis of Lazan withdrew to Mallen; but he detached his brother, Don Francisco Palafox, to Tarazona to disturb our communications. Commander Robert was sent, with the battalion of the Seventieth Line Regiment, to subdue the town; he entered unhindered and captured six hundred fusils.

On 12 June, General Lefebvre was joined by the First Regiment of the Vistula, the Sixth Battalion of March, and an artillery convoy he was waiting to advance. On the 13th, he marched on Mallen, leaving an infantry battalion and fifty cavalymen in Tudela. The Marquis de Lazan had rallied on the heights of the village four thousand armed peasants, a battalion of volunteers from Tarragona who had deserted from Pamplona, two hundred fusiliers from Zaragoza, and one hundred cavalymen. Although protected by an olive grove, and in a position favorable enough for irregular troops, the Spaniards were overwhelmed and driven back to the island formed by the Ebro and the canal, where the cavalry wreaked havoc. They lost about a thousand men: the Marquis of Lazan escaped by crossing the Ebro in a small boat. Five cannons, a large number of fusils, and a convoy of eleven carriages loaded with weapons remained in our hands. Our outposts advanced as far as the village of Gallur.

The approach of the French troops threw Zaragoza into dismay; but the inhabitants' enthusiasm soon revived with the sound of bells ringing the alarm bells. and, although the sad results of the affairs of Tudela and Mallen should have convinced them of the inferiority of undisciplined bodies against regular troops, six thousand men spontaneously left the city, forcing Palafox to lead them into combat.

General Lefebvre-Desnouettes encountered these bands on June 14th at Alagon, on the Jalón, where he completely defeated them. The Spaniards retreated in disorder to Zaragoza, where they arrived dying of hunger and thirst, and exhausted by fatigue and the heat of the day. Terror was extreme in the city; but the French troops having stopped at Alagon to spend the night, the inhabitants had time to recover from their fear and regain courage.

The next morning, June 15th, General Lefebvre-Desnouettes continued his march on Zaragoza. He encountered again, half a league from the city, three thousand insurgents with cannons, who had taken up position at the White House near the great locks. Palafox had revived the courage of the inhabitants by marching through the city with a flag bearing the image of Our Lady of Pilar; but, despairing of the city's safety at this critical moment, he left the suburb on the left bank, under the pretext of visiting the outposts, and set off for Belechite. His brother, the Marquis de Lazan, followed him a few hours later⁴.

General Lefebvre-Desnouettes attacked the insurgents in their forward positions; and, despite extremely difficult terrain, covered with olive trees, walled gardens, and country houses, he drove them back at all points. Disorder was at its height in the city; however, the monks managed to triumph over the general terror and bring the people back to the walls. They began barricading the gates and streets, drilling battlements in the wall, and placing artillery on the main avenues. Houses were surrounded by armed men, and crowds thronged the streets to bring ammunition and assist the wounded.

Although weak, the city wall was protected by several large buildings that made it of some value against a major attack. On the threatened fronts were the Convent of Santa Engracia, adjacent to the gate of the same name; and the Torre del Pino, at the angle formed by the wall, between the Santa Engracia Gate and the El Carmen Gate. At this time, the Capuchin Convent could also be seen in front of the enclosure and near the Huebra. To the right and left of the El Carmen Gate, the wall formed part of the Convent of the Incarnation and the college. Further on were the Convent of Mercy and the cavalry barracks; and, in front, the convents of the Trinitarians and the Discalced Augustinians. From the Portillo Gate, the wall continued to the Ebro via the church of that name and the walls of the gardens of the convents of Santa Lucia, Santa Ines, and Las Fecentas, which meet at the Sancho Gate where the Saint-Lambert road ends. The castle, located outside the city, was a well-built square building with a large moat, and its projection gave great strength to this part of the wall.

To attack the city, General Lefebvre-Desnouettes formed his troops into three columns, which advanced to the foot of the wall, taking advantage of the olive groves that covered the ground. The left column,

⁴ The Marquis de Lazan, in his memoirs on the summer campaign of 1808, explains Palafox's and his own departure as follows:

"The Captain General, finding himself without troops, could not hope to defend the city. He risked losing everything by remaining there; and, in that case, his duties as Governor General of the Kingdom of Aragon could attract reproaches. This is why he decided to move his headquarters to Belechite, with the intention of rallying his scattered troops around him. As for the Marquis de Lazan, who was near the Saint-Joseph bridge, since he no longer heard firing at other points, he believed, based on a rumor that suddenly spread, that the French were in control of the city. He reached the Ebro by a circuitous path, which he forded, and headed, with Colonel Obispo and a few officers, for Medina, where he slept, and from where he joined the Captain General the next day at Belechite, who had arrived there the day before."

avoiding the fire from the castle, moved towards the cavalry quarters through the small plain of the Aires del Rey, to turn the defenses of the Portillo gate; the central column attacked the Carmen gate; the right column, avoiding the outer convent of the Capuchins, headed towards the Santa Engracia gate through the low olive grove near the Huebra bridge.

After a brisk attack, part of the enclosure was invaded; the Polish lancers seized the Santa-Engracia gate; the battalion of the seventieth, under the command of Commander Robert, forced the Carmen gate, and penetrated deep into the city; the cavalry quarters were taken and retaken three times, and our troops penetrated through the Portillo gate as far as the Plaza del Toros. Nevertheless, all these successes were without results: the inhabitants, ambushed in the houses and on the roofs, at the exits of the streets and behind barricades, crushed our soldiers under a hail of bullets and stones. Night was approaching and the fighting was still going on; the heat had been excessive all day, and our troops, tired from nine hours of combat, had lost many men, and were beginning to be discouraged by so many obstacles. General Lefebvre-Desnouettes ordered a retreat and took up position half a league from the city, on the heights extending from the right bank of the Ebro to the Imperial Canal, determined to await reinforcements and siege equipment before launching a new attack.

This incident greatly aroused the courage of the Zaragoza⁵, and made them understand that if they could not resist the French troops in line, they would be invincible behind their walls. They worked all night to increase their defenses, fearing a new attack the next day. Intendant Calvo had the city illuminated to avoid both surprises and excesses. The King's lieutenant, D. Vicente Bustamante, who commanded the city in Palafox's absence, appointed commanders for each gate and brought some order to the service. Colonel D. Antonio San-Genis, commander of the engineers, indicated locations for the entrenchments, cuts, and batteries, which the peasants constructed with planks and wool sacks. The streets of Santa-Engracia, del Carmen, and others that lead to the enclosure were barricaded with furniture from houses and shops. Seven companies of sappers were organized to carry out this work; workshops were established for the manufacture of cartridges, the repair of weapons, and the manufacture of grapeshot. These preparations continued with the greatest activity on 16 June, Corpus Christi Day. Priest Sas, who had distinguished himself by his intrepid courage in the defense of the Portillo gate, joined other priests and formed two companies of the bravest men, designated the Companies of Volunteer Fusiliers of the Parish of Saint Paul.

On 17 June, General Lefebvre-Desnouettes, wishing to test the path of negotiations, sent a letter to the governor, via a prisoner, in which he ordered him to disarm the inhabitants and surrender the city gates, promising, on these conditions, to leave his troops camped outside the walls. The Marquis de Lazan, having returned to the city on 18 June, sent this letter to Palafox; and on the 20th, General Lefebvre-Desnouettes received a reply that deprived him of all hope of reducing the city other than by force of arms⁶.

The inhabitants grew courageous and became more stubborn in their resistance, seeing officers and soldiers arriving daily to rush to the aid of the besieged city. What caused them the greatest joy was the arrival, on 19 June, of three men from the Extremadura Regiment, who had been part of the Barcelona garrison, and a hundred volunteers from Tarragona. For our part, we also received reinforcements, which brought our forces to four thousand eight hundred fifty-two men, one thousand one hundred and sixty-three horses, and twelve artillery pieces: five other large-caliber pieces were expected from Pamplona. Colonel Lacoste, aide-de-camp to the Emperor and commander of the engineers, made preparations for a new attack.

⁵ See supporting documents, no. 4.

⁶ See supporting documents, no. 5.

"All has been calm under the city walls since the 15th," wrote General Lefebvre-Desnouettes to the Major General. "The city is closely surrounded from the canal to the Ebro. The insurgents are making defensive preparations; moreover, they are very timid about leaving, not a single man is seen outside. We have used this time of calm to carefully reconnoiter the surroundings of the city; and we have seen that, without venturing too far, it was possible to close in on the city in such a way as to cut off all communication with the outside world. The insurgents occupy on our right, a short half-league from the city, Monte Torrero, where there are large royal buildings. Although they have cannon there, we will attack this position. It is very close to our right; but the Huebra, a very steep-sided river, separates us from it. We will seek ways to cross the Ebro and attack the bridgehead. There are only a few houses on the left bank. All the mills in the town are on the Gallegos. We will capture them. Two other mills are on the canal, and we are in control of them."

On 21 June, General Grandjean arrived at the camp with the Second Vistula Regiment. A battery was built on the Bernadona heights opposite the castle, about 600 meters from the town, and reconnaissance was carried out on Monte Torrero.

Meanwhile, Palafox, who had not yet returned, had rallied at Belechite some companies of veterans and peasants enrolled from the districts of Daroca and Calatayud. His brother D. Francisco came to join him with part of Baron de Warsage's bands. These forces, amounting to about four thousand men, went to Épila, on the road to Madrid, to cut off our communications. General Lefebvre, having learned of this gathering, sent Colonel Chłopicki to disperse it with the First Vistula Regiment, the Fifteenth battalion, fifty horses and a 4-pounder. The affair began on the morning of the 23rd. Despite the advantage of their position, the insurgents were beaten and driven from the city: they had six hundred killed or wounded, and four cannons fell into our hands. Among the prisoners were Lieutenant Colonel Albo of the Engineers and an officer of the Aragon volunteers. General Lefebvre detached two hundred lancers and one cannon to Plasencia to monitor enemy movements and prevent the fugitives from attacking the artillery and food convoys that were to arrive from Tudela via the canal. On the very day of the Épila incident, the Zaragoza garrison launched a sortie against our outposts along the canal, which was promptly repulsed.

Further reinforcements brought our forces to six thousand seventy-four men, twelve hundred seventy-seven horses, thirteen cannons, and one howitzer, not to mention five cannons captured from the enemy.

On 25 June, General Lefebvre made a new attempt at negotiation with the governor, using some Spanish soldiers lured to our outposts. Intendant Calvo and several officers left the square and came to confer with General Lefebvre; but all proposals for surrender were rejected⁷.

General Verdier, commanding the column that left Vitoria, arrived at Tudela on June 24th; he rallied the Fourth and Seventh Battalions of march that were there, and continued to advance along the right bank of the Ebro. He was instructed to follow the left bank, but he feared that he would not find a path for his artillery and would remain isolated on this bank due to the lack of a bridge. On the 26th, he arrived from Zaragoza, and camped on the left of General Lefebvre, leaning on the Ebro. Our forces then amounted to ten thousand five hundred men. General Verdier took command in chief; and, wanting to further tighten the garrison and cover his camps against the Spanish skirmishers, the next day he pushed his outposts, taking advantage of the olive trees that covered the plain, to within half-gun range of the castle and the town.

On 27 June, a depot of twenty thousand pounds of gunpowder, established by the Spaniards in the seminary overlooking the Coso, exploded with a horrible crash. This explosion destroyed part of the

⁷ See supporting documents, no. 6.

building and the houses adjacent to the mouth of Calle del Medio, which were opposite. A large number of inhabitants were victims of this event, which spread desolation throughout Zaragoza.

Monte Torrero, which rises fifteen hundred meters from the town, extends far down the right bank of the canal, and in a sense turned the right of our camps. The Spanish occupied this position with five hundred men and were covered by the canal, which was nearly fifteen feet deep. They had built a battery of four guns on the Buena Vista plateau behind the canal; two other guns battered the America Bridge, near the Monte Torrero warehouses, and the main roads were defended by cut-offs. General Verdier wanted to take control of this naturally very strong position before the enemy had time to increase its defenses.

On 28 June, General Lefebvre, second in command to Colonel Lacoste, was tasked with carrying out this attack with four battalions of Habert's brigade, part of the Polish lancers, and four cannons. One column emerged at daybreak through the canal embankment and attacked the Buena Vista battery head-on, while a second column rounded the mountain via the Quarte road. A third column advanced through the olive trees along the left bank of the Huebra towards the Santa Engracia bridge, to threaten the enemy's retreat. On the other hand, the battery of two eight-inch howitzers, a twelve-inch mortar, and two eight-pounders, which Colonel Lacoste had established opposite the castle, drew the enemy's attention to the town. The Spaniards, flushed out of their position, fled in disorder into the square, leaving four four-pounders and a howitzer in our power. Our loss was only a few wounded. At the port of Monte Torrero, two large boats, two longboats, a lot of lumber, and stores of wheat and wine were found. Such was the confidence of the Spaniards in the strength of this position that they had the artillery officer, named Falcon, who commanded there, hanged as a traitor; an exemplary punishment which some reproached for being too hasty, but which others saw as a salutary brake against those who would give in through timidity or perfidy.

The occupation of Monte Torrero gave us control of the entire right bank of the Ebro, allowing us to complete our investment of the city on that side. The only means left for the insurgents to communicate with the outside world and receive relief were the roads to Catalonia, located on the left bank.

On 30 June, a secretary of Palafox, who was leaving the city, was captured. He reported that the priests and women were the most determined in the defense; that Palafox was still roaming the countryside to stir up the peasants and strengthen his party, imposing the death penalty on those who refused to take up arms; that the greatest disorder reigned in the city; that orders had been given to tear up the streets, and that the mob had hanged one of the principal merchants, convicted of liking the French.

That same day, Colonel Piré, the Emperor's aide-de-camp, arrived at the camp with a column of about 2,400 men, consisting of the Third Vistula Regiment, a battalion of elite grenadiers and chasseurs, and three marching squadrons. He escorted the remainder of the heavy artillery expected from Pamplona. The siege equipment then consisted of three 12-pounders, four 8-pounders, six 8-inch howitzers, three 12-inch mortars, and two 9-inch mortars, not including the field artillery. The Spanish, for their part, received four mortars, two 24-pounders, and projectiles from Lleida.

The Emperor, who was directing the initial operations against Zaragoza from Bayonne, had ordered a major attack on the city for 29 June, after a vigorous bombardment. General Verdier therefore decided to undertake it, without, however, hiding from himself the difficulties it presented.

"Whether it succeeds or not," he wrote to the Major General, "it will be deadly. From the countenance these people are displaying, it appears that they are full of confidence. They have, moreover, a formidable artillery all around the city. They still have a large quantity of it positioned in the public squares and along the main streets; so that if the place is taken, we will find sixty to eighty active guns

there, supplied with ammunition from the royal arsenals, and manned by former artillerymen, deserters from Pamplona and other nearby places."

General Verdier, in concert with Colonel Lacoste, commander of the engineers, erected four batteries:

A first battery, called the left battery, on the heights of Bernardona, with three 12-inch guns, two 8-inch guns, two six-inch howitzers, and two 4-inch guns, to breach the castle and extinguish its fire.

A second battery, to the right of the first, with two 8-inch howitzers and two 8-inch guns.

A third battery with three 12-inch mortars and two 9-inch mortars, built in the center on the road, about 500 meters from the wall.

A fourth battery with two 8-inch howitzers, called the right battery, was built on the slope of Monte Torrero, facing the town.

The inhabitants watched with terror the preparations for the bombardment and loudly demanded the return of Palafox. The Marquis of Lazan put new energy into the defensive works. The surrounding wall was crenellated along its entire length; the Santa Engracia gate was covered by a battery of five guns; three guns were placed on each side of the Torre del Pino; a battery of four guns was established at the Carmen gate with two cuts, and an earthwork was built behind the wall, from this gate to the Torre del Pino; two guns were placed in the cavalry barracks. The castle was armed with five guns on the attack front; five guns were placed in the vegetable garden of the Augustinian convent; the Portillo gate was covered with an earthwork armed with two 24-pounder guns and one 12-pounder gun, and its flanks were defended by two 4-pounder guns and two howitzers; finally, there were three guns at the Sancho gate.

The Spanish had also closed the avenues of the suburb on the left bank, leaving only three main entrances, covered by sandbagged batteries and water-filled ditches. The garrison, including fifteen hundred veteran troops, numbered about eight thousand eight hundred men under arms, namely: the Walloon Royal Guards, the Chasseurs Battalions of Ferdinand VII, the Extremadura Regiment, three battalions of Aragon volunteers, one of which formed the governor's reserve; the First and Second Tercios of Our Lady of Pilar, formed of young men from the city; the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Tercios of Aragon volunteers, composed largely of peasants; the Tercio of Caspé, the companies of Tauste, two hundred and fifty gunners or sappers, veteran soldiers; a squadron of the King's dragoons, and a newly formed cavalry regiment.

At midnight on 30 June, Zaragoza was buried in profound silence when a bomb, rapidly crossing the air, burst on the banks of the Ebro; this was the signal for the bombardment, which continued all day on 1 July and the following night. At first, terror was very great in the city; but little by little the inhabitants became familiar with the danger and soon braved it with incredible composure. A guard, placed in the New Tower on the Plaza San Felipe, announced the arrival of each bomb by ringing its bell; few people died, and the solidity of the buildings, almost all built of brick and vaulted, preserved the city from greater devastation. Our artillery simultaneously battered the castle, the Augustinian convent, part of which was destroyed, the cavalry barracks, the gates of Sancho, del Portillo, del Carmen and Santa Engracia. The Spanish sought to close the breaches with sandbag parapets as much as possible and spared no effort to vigorously repel the assault.

At daybreak on 2 July, General Verdier, judging the breaches passable, ordered a general attack.

On the left, three columns of General Gomez Freyre's division were tasked with attacking the breaches of the castle, the Sancho and Portillo gates, the Augustinian convent, and the cavalry barracks.

On the right, General Lefebvre-Desnouettes' division provided three columns to attack the Carmen and Santa Engracia gates, and the convents of Santa Engracia and Saint Joseph.

Each column, five to six hundred strong, was preceded by a detachment of about fifty of the bravest men, armed with axes and picks, and carrying tarred fascines; other troops were placed behind to support them, and the rest of the army held in reserve. Three squadrons of lancers and cuirassiers crossed the Ebro at a recognized ford above the city, and moved to the left bank, opposite the bridgehead, to charge anyone who wanted to leave. A battalion was placed on the riverbank to support them.

At the given signal, our troops rushed forward fearlessly under a terrible fire of musketry and artillery, firing from the battlements in each house and from all the exits leading into the town. Although practicable, the breach in the castle could not be forced. The column directed against the Porte del Portillo had a moment of success: the greater part of the Spanish gunners of the battery of this gate had been killed, and a panic terror had seized those who rushed to replace them. At this critical moment, a young woman, Augustina of Aragon, arrived at the battery, snatched a match from the hands of an expiring gunner, and set fire to a 24-pounder loaded with grapeshot and aimed at our soldiers. This act of audacity revived the courage of the defenders, who returned in a crowd. Our troops, caught in the flank by fire from the castle and from the vegetable garden of the Discalced Augustinians, retreated in disorder. An attack directed by the small plain of the Aires du Roi against the cavalry barracks and the Convent of Mercy was no more successful. Several attempts against the Carmen Gate and the Pino Tower were also without result. On the extreme right, General Habert seized the Convent of Saint Joseph and forced the passage of the Huebra bridge, defended by two guns. He approached the Quemada Gate; but a fierce fusillade forced him to recross the bridge and abandon the Convent of Saint Joseph after setting it on fire. At all points, the Spaniards defended themselves with incredible ferocity from an undisciplined population. The arrival of Palafox, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the height of the fighting, further exalted their courage. He returned through the suburbs on the left bank of the Ebro, bringing with him about 3,300 infantrymen and 60 horses that Baron de Warsage and Don Francisco Palafox had rallied at Belechite after the rout at Épila. As the battle dragged on for us, with no hope of success and heavy losses, General Verdier ordered his troops back to their first positions. We suffered 200 men killed and 300 wounded. This action allowed us to assess the number of armed men in the town and the strength of their artillery. The inhabitants were enthusiastic. A proclamation, posted in the streets of the town, congratulated them on their courage⁸.

⁸ See supporting documents, no. 7.

STATE

OF THE TROOPS EMPLOYED IN THE FIRST SIEGE OF ZARAGOZA.

HEADQUARTERS.

Baron Verdier, General of Division, Commander-in-Chief.

Gressot, Adjutant Commander, Chief-of-Staff.

Maisonneuve, Chief of Battalion, Aide-de-Camp.

INFANTRY AND CAVALRY.

1st DIVISION, General Desnouettes-Lefebvre.

1 st Brigade, General Grandjean.	{	2 nd of the Vistula.....	2	bn.	1370	m.	pres.
		70 th Line.....	1		379		
		4 th Battalion of march.....	1		581		
		6 th Battalion of march.....	1		655		
2 nd Brigade, General Habert.	{	1 st of the Vistula.....	2		1243		
		2 nd reserve supplement.....	2		1030		
		47 th Line.....	1		420		
		15 th id.....	1		411		
Brigade of Cavalry.	{	Polish lancers.....	3	sq.	717		713 h.
		5 th Squadron of march.....	1		217		215
		Spanish cavalry.....	"		31		32

2nd DIVISION, General Gomès Freyre (Portuguese).

1 st Brigade.	{	119 th Line.....	3	bn.	1173	m.	
		7 th Battalion of march.....	1		334		
2 nd Brigade.	{	5 th Portuguese Regiment.....	1		265		
		Battalion Portuguese Chasseurs.....	1		288		

RESERVES.

Brigade Colonel Piré.	{	3 rd Regiment of the Vistula	3		1332		
		Elite grenadiers and chasseurs	1		971		
		The 3 rd , 8 th and 9 th Squadrons of march	3	sq.	275	287	
Brigade General Bazancourt.	{	14 th Line	2	bn.	1488		
		44 th Line	2		1614		
		11 th Squadron of march	1	sq.	205	205	
TOTAL.....					15005	m.	1452 h.

ARTILLERY.

HEADQUARTERS.

Roquefer, Battalion Chief, Commandant of Artillery.

Guadenard, Battalion Chief.

Brion, Captain, Park Director.

TROOPS.

The Seventh and Eighth and First Companies of the foot artillery and various detachments.....	275	m.		
Train.....	286		500	h.
TOTAL.....	561	m.	500	h.

ENGINEERS.

Lacoste, Colonel, Aide de Camp of the Emperor, Commandant
of Engineers.

Dabadie, Battalion Chief.

Combes, Captain.

Leroux, id.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

No. 1.

Proclamation of Palafox concerning the armament of Zaragoza.

Zaragoza, 28 May 1808.

Aragonese! The general vote of the people of Zaragoza has placed in me the firm hope that animates your noble hearts. You have entrusted me with the care of your glory; I will respond to your trust. Rely on me, happy people whose enthusiasm alone makes them commendable even to your enemies. Breathe easy; continue to act with honor; respect the property of all the inhabitants; do not be led by first impressions, for they were never the daughters of wisdom; complete with dignity the noble enterprise you have begun. Aragon will know how to uphold its ancient glory, which is based on loyalty, patriotism, and obedience to the laws.

Recognized as military and political leader by the higher authorities of this Kingdom and with the consent of the Junta I have created, I order that the following be observed:

1. The inhabitants of the city who possess weapons will be organized into companies of one hundred men, militarily disciplined and subordinate to the persons I appoint to command them.
2. To carry out this organization, they will report to the Convalescent Quarters on the 29th of this month and on the following days, from seven o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock in the morning, and from three o'clock in the afternoon until six o'clock in the afternoon.
3. In view of the repeated news reaching us that all the cities of the Kingdom of Aragon are also in revolt, the district corregidores will also form companies of one hundred men and will report to me, without delay, the number of these companies.
4. Those who wish to join the said companies shall present themselves at the chef-lieu. Those who have already served shall also present themselves, without any excuse and immediately, to organize the said companies. All shall be subordinate to the superior commanders, and, in the event that there are no commanders, to the corregidores.
5. Until further notice, all those who assemble in a company shall be granted four reals per day; the corregidores and municipalities shall take the necessary funds from the public coffers.
6. The corregidores and municipalities shall appoint persons of integrity to record the offers made to me by certain bodies or corporations and individuals, and to receive those from French citizens who, domiciled in this Kingdom, wish to make known their generosity and good intentions.
7. The principal purpose of the companies shall be to maintain tranquility and public order. Any action contrary to this goal is prohibited, and violations will be punished militarily.

8. They will always be subordinate to their respective leaders and will protect citizens and foreigners who are in danger of receiving unjust mistreatment.

9. Finally, I order that, while continuing their public functions in their respective jurisdictions, magistrates and public officers must not lose sight of the fact that, for the time being, the government of the Kingdom is purely military.

Signed: PALAFOX.

~~~~~

No. 2.

*Palafox's Manifesto to the Aragonese.*

Zaragoza, 31 May 1808.

Providence has preserved in Aragon an immense quantity of fusils, ammunition, and artillery of all calibers, which have neither been given nor sold perfidiously to the enemies for our peace. Your patriotism, your loyalty, and your love for the sound doctrines you inherited from your ancestors have determined you to shake off the shameful slavery prepared for you by the French government, which, regulating its conduct by a horrible Machiavellianism, aspired to deceive you, as well as all of Spain, in order to fill the most generous nation on earth with opprobrium and shame. You have entrusted yourselves to me; and this honor, which I so little deserved, you have granted me. It obliges me to tear away the veil of the most execrable iniquity. My life, which I value only insofar as it can contribute to your happiness and that of my dear homeland, is the least sacrifice I can make to repay the proofs of love and trust you have given me. Do not doubt it, Aragonese, my heart, free from crimes, cannot sympathize with those who commit them or protect them.

Some trustees of the Spanish nation, those who hold supreme authority in their hands, are the first to provoke your ruin by every means invented by malice, by brazenly allying themselves with our enemies. The thirst for gold, and the deceptive idea they perhaps have conceived of holding onto places debased by their iniquities, make them regard the extermination of their homeland with cold indifference. Although I have well-founded reasons for believing this, I will avoid sharing them with you, in order to spare you further pain.

Perhaps, knowing your resolve, that of the courageous Valencians, your neighbors, and that of all the provinces of Spain who think the same way, some of these men will return to the just cause and throw off the yoke that was supposed to be imposed on them. If I am mistaken in believing this, let the wicked tremble only to think that time can develop these truths. Aragonese, fear nothing; the cause we defend is the most just that has ever been presented, and we are invincible. The enemy troops in Spain will be powerless against our efforts; woe to them if they dare to repeat in other cities of the Kingdom what they did on 2 May in Madrid, mercilessly sacrificing and calling seditious and murderous those very people from whom they received honors and good treatment that they did not deserve! Bayonne is a good witness; this city knows well the violence that, since a series of perfidies, has been committed there; violence that can be seen by the gross contradictions in the dates of the letters in which Charles IV accuses his minister of conspiring, and which yet then designates him to act with the governing Junta, where he speaks to the King about his son's first wife, as if the latter had been married twice. Consequently, I must declare, and I do declare the following:

1. That the Emperor, all members of his family, and finally every French general and officer, are responsible for the safety of the King and that of his brothers and uncles.
2. That in the event of an attack on such precious lives, and so that Spain does not lack a monarch, the nation will exercise its right of election in favor of Archduke Charles, in his capacity as grandson of Charles III, provided, however, that the Princes of Sicily, the Infante Don Pedro, and the other heirs are unable to compete for the throne.
3. That if the French army commits theft, pillage, or a single homicide, whether in Madrid or any other city, these offenses will be considered crimes of high treason, and no quarter will be given to anyone.
4. That everything done so far in Bayonne and Madrid by the forces that dominate these two cities be considered illegal and null, and an act of violence.
5. That everything that is done subsequently in Bayonne be considered null, and that all those who, not having crossed the border, cross it after this publication be considered rebels against the homeland.
6. That all deserters from the French army who present themselves be received in Aragon and treated with the generosity that belongs to the Spanish character, bringing them unarmed to this capital, where they will be made to serve with our troops.
7. That the other provinces of Spain not yet invaded be invited to send their deputies to Teruel or another suitable location to appoint a lieutenant general of the kingdom, to whom all the individual leaders of the kingdoms of Spain will obey.
8. That this manifesto be printed and published throughout the Kingdom of Aragon, so that it may be known there, as well as in the other capitals and district capitals of all the provinces of Spain.

The Captain General, Governor of the Kingdom of Aragon.

*Signed:* PALAFOX.

~~~~~

No. 3.

*Speech delivered by Palafox on 9 June 1808, at the opening
of the session of the deputies of Aragon assembled
in Cortes in Zaragoza.*

My Lord, Your Excellency is already informed that the inhabitants of this capital unanimously appointed me Governor and Captain General of the Kingdom of Aragon; that I was recognized by all established authorities; that my refusal would have produced infinite evils for our homeland, and would have been fatal to me. My heart, agitated for a long time, was wracked by pain and bitterness. I mourned the loss of my homeland without seeing this sacred fire that vivifies it; I mourned the loss of our adored King, Ferdinand VII, enslaved by the tyrant, and led to France with perfidy; I wept for the outrages done to our holy religion, attacked by atheism, its temples desecrated by traitors on 2 May, and watered with the blood of innocent Spanish victims; I wept for the precarious existence with which the nation was threatened, if it submitted to the yoke of a proud foreigner whose insatiable greed surpasses perversity; I wept for the loss of our overseas possessions, the desolation of many families, some because they would

see the national debt converted into zero credit, others because they would be stripped of their jobs and their dignities, and reduced to indigence, to begging; I finally wept for those who would groan in solitude, in the absence of their sons or their brothers, led to the north to be sacrificed there, not for the interests of honor, religion, the king, or the fatherland, but to the ambition of a man sent to punish humanity, and whose name will leave to posterity the sad memory of the horrors and perfidies that he committed, and of the innocent blood that his insolent ambition caused to be shed.

The 24th of May, a day of glory for all Spain, arrived. The inhabitants of Aragon, always courageous and faithful, broke the chains that artifice had prepared for them, and swore to conquer or die. Such a beautiful resolution filled my heart with that noble ardor that vivifies everything; it was revived and rejoiced at the thought that it could participate in the glory of saving the fatherland. The cities of Tortosa and Lleida, invited by me as important places, united with Aragon; and, at the request of the municipality of Lleida, I sent it a governor, weapons and troops. I have reason to hope that these cities will support each other and will not be occupied by our enemies. The city of Tortosa wishes to participate in our triumphs. By my order it has conferred with the English, and communicated to them the manifesto of 31 May, to circulate it throughout Europe. According to my instructions, she is seeking to bring troops from Majorca and Minorca. She has sent a deputy to confer with me, and I appointed one who left the day before yesterday with secret instructions to the same end, and to establish a correspondence with Asturias. The inhabitants of Tudela and Logroño have asked me for leaders and assistance: they want to defend themselves and prevent the entry of the enemy into Aragon. I have appointed as my lieutenant, with all the plenitude of my powers, His Excellency the Marquis of Lazan, Field Marshal of the Royal Army, who left on the 6th of this month, at midnight, with some troops and munitions. I cannot doubt his activity, his patriotism and his zeal; and Your Excellency will not doubt it either. Several other towns in Navarre have sent their representatives; and the province of Soria, its deputies. I established communications with Santander, and posts on the road to Valencia. I requested arms and gunners from the latter city, directing by this route all the manifestos and published orders, to circulate them in Andalusia, La Mancha, Extremadura, Galicia and Asturias, and inviting these provinces to come to an understanding among themselves. I sent Colonel Baron de Warsage and Lieutenant-Colonel Don André Boggioro, former governor in America, to organize and command the advance guard destined to operate on the frontier of Arcaria and New Castile. To watch over the public revenues and direct the administration with the rectitude, energy, and wisdom that such a worthy office requires, I appointed as steward Don Lorenzo Calvo de Rozas, whose knowledge and probity are known to me, and make me hope for the happiest results. At the beginning of May, events had caused him to send his family here to save them from danger; and the fear of remaining in Madrid himself in such critical circumstances made him come to Zaragoza on the 28th of last month. I told him to stay, and I obliged him to accept this position, although his business and the preservation of his patrimony imperatively demanded his return to Madrid. This important charge being entrusted to such a capable and worthy subject, I will present to the nation, when the time comes, the statement of income and expenditure, and I will give testimony of the manner in which the funds have been managed. There remains then only the sacrifice that is most pleasing to our hearts, to unite our wills, and to aspire to the end that we have proposed. Let us save the fatherland, even at the risk of our lives, and let us watch over its preservation. For this, I propose to Your Excellency the following provisions:

1. That the deputies of the Cortes remain here permanently or appoint a junta to meet daily to propose to me whatever it deems appropriate for the good of the country and the King.
2. That Your Excellency appoint a secretary to keep a record of the results that require secrecy. The minutes of this first session will be drawn up by one of the members present or by the Intendant.

3. That each deputy corresponds with his province and inform them of the provisions, both general and specific, that I will adopt as military and political leader of the Kingdom of Aragon, and those that we will decide on for the greater good of Spain.
4. That the Junta consider and propose to me successively the means necessary to quickly organize everything related to the training of the army and the care of the upcoming harvest, which must not be neglected.
5. That it considers and propose to me the adoption of means of supporting the army, which will be submitted to it by the Intendant of the Kingdom, Don Lorenzo Calvo.
6. That it proposes to me all the measures it deems appropriate to maintain good order, police, and military strength in each department of the Kingdom.
7. That it takes care to maintain relations with the other kingdoms and provinces of Spain, which must form a single family with us.
8. That it undertakes and take care to sign and circulate throughout the kingdom the printed documents, manuscripts, and orders issued by me, or by those which, with my consent, will be sent by the Junta of Deputies of the kingdom.
9. That it first considers whether the deputies, who will come from provinces outside the kingdom, should contribute to its deliberations, since their insights could be useful to the public cause.
10. That it also decrees that our King Ferdinand VII shall be proclaimed, and that it indicates the day on which this ceremony may take place.
11. That it also decides whether the deputations from the other kingdoms and provinces of Spain shall meet at a single location, in accordance with what was announced in the manifesto of last 31 May.
12. That it declares that the urgent matter at this moment is the defense of the homeland.

Zaragoza, 9 June 1808.

Signed: PALAFOX.

~~~~~

## No. 4.

### *Proclamation to the inhabitants of Zaragoza, after the battle of 15 June 1808.*

Zaragoza, 16 June 1808.

Aragonese, your heroic valor in defending the most just cause history can present was manifested yesterday by the triumph we achieved. On 15 June, all of Europe will be made aware of your exploits, and history will recall them with admiration. You were eyewitnesses to our triumphs and the complete rout of the proud French, who dared to attack this capital. Seven hundred dead, a large number of wounded, thirty prisoners, and many deserters who went over to our flags are the fruits of their recklessness.

We have captured six field cannons, a drummer, a few horses, supplies, and weapons, and we must have no doubt that the army that has entered Aragon will soon atone for its crimes by its complete destruction.

Continue, then, valiant Aragonese, with the ardor and noble courage that inspires you. See the heroic conduct of the Saragossa women who, all inflamed with love of their country, religion, and the King, are eagerly running to bring you every kind of assistance. In a short time, a large number of trained troops will join you to share in your glory. In the meantime, all of you, clergy, communities, mothers, citizens who, through the gift of your goods, have already personally contributed to our successes, to the preservation of the capital of your Kingdom and to the maintenance of the dignity of your nation, continue with fervor your prayers to the Almighty and to his most holy mother, the Virgin of Pilar, our protector, so that she may bless our weapons and ensure our victory by the complete extermination of the French army.



## No. 5.

### *Letter from Palafox, addressed by the Marquis de Lazan to General Lefebvre-Desnouettes.*

At headquarters in Zaragoza, 18 June 1808.

My Lord, if you were sent to these lands by His Majesty the Emperor to restore the order and peace that have never ceased to reign there, your mission is at the very least useless. The valiant people of Aragon have brought me out of my retreat to honor me with their trust and place in my hands the care of their safety. I would fulfill my duty very poorly if I abandoned them to the mercy of such an untrue friend.

The defense of the city is entrusted to my sword, and its preservation is guaranteed by my honor. Believe me, send your soldiers back: the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> certainly require a little rest. Rest assured that my resistance will increase along with your determination.

Far from being extinguished, the fire sparked by Spanish indignation is rekindled by the atrocities committed by your soldiers. I see that the spies paid by Your Excellency are deceiving her. A large part of Catalonia has placed itself under my command, as well as part of Castile; the Castilian and Valencian captains-general have united in the good cause; Galicia, Extremadura, and the four kingdoms of Andalusia have resolved to avenge their honor.

The French are taking revenge with cruelties for the resistance they are experiencing. Pillage and murder are their methods of fighting, and the desecration of churches crowns their infamy. Does Your Excellency believe that such conduct can calm the exasperation of a valiant people? Despite his victory on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, continue, if you believe you can succeed in this way. As for me, my duty will always be my guide.

The General of the Spanish troops salutes you.

*Signed: PALAFOX.*

~~~~~

No. 6.

Letter from the Marquis de Lazan to General Lefebvre-Desnouettes.

Zaragoza, 26 June 1808.

General, I have just learned, through Intendant Calvo, of the proposals you have made to him. You are requesting entry to the capital for the troops you command; you come, you say, with the intention of making the inhabitants happy as you have made all the peoples of Spain you have conquered, and it is by removing our weapons that you claim to respect our property and restore peace among us. If I do not accept such proposals, you will not, you say, accept any capitulation from me; but the conduct of your soldiers in Spain, and the means your government has used to occupy the places it possesses, should give you good reason to presume what response I have to give you. What you have done in Austria, Italy, Holland, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, and finally Spain, demonstrates the trust we owe you.

The valiant soldiers imprisoned in Zaragoza swore to die rather than bow under the yoke of France; and all of Spain, where only the remnants of the French armies remain, is in the same mood.

Recall my letter of 18 June, and the manifesto of 31 May, and know that a powerful nation that has not forgotten the crimes of your soldiers is invincible when it defends the most just of causes.

For the Governor, Captain General of the Kingdom.

Signed: MARQUIS DE LAZAN.

~~~~~

## No. 7.

### *Proclamation to the inhabitants of Zaragoza, after the attack of 2 July.*

People of Zaragoza, this day will be immortalized in the annals of your history, and all nations will admire your heroism with envy. At the moment when the catastrophe of 27 June had plunged you into grief, when the explosion of the powder magazine had drawn all your attention and all your care for the unfortunate people buried under the ruins and whose heart-rending cries called you to their aid, it was then that your cruel enemy attempted to carry out his infernal plan. Trusting less in his courage than in your terrible grief, he took advantage of the consternation reigning among you to seize Monte Torrero, and from there he attempted by the most horrible means to set fire to your homes and annihilate your city. Your courage and steadfastness rendered his repeated attacks useless, and furious to see his invincible columns shamefully flee before your soldiers, he rained down a hail of bombs and grenades on your heads and those of your families. According to the lookouts' report, more than fourteen hundred fell on the city in the space of twenty-seven hours, but these projectiles provided him with no other advantage than that of ruining a few buildings, and they gave your heroism the opportunity to be seen by all.

Your courage scorned all these dangers, and on this occasion, your patriotism shone in all its brilliance; far from intimidating you, the cruelty of your enemies did not even draw a complaint from you, and your women imitated your bravery. The valiant leaders and soldiers who shared your dangers and your glory proved themselves worthy of assisting you in the battles that marked this day, and in those you had to endure in the following days, when the enemy attacked your city from five sides at once. They deserve your admiration, for they repelled the enemy everywhere and punished their temerity by covering the battlefields where they fought with corpses.

People of Zaragoza, you have just seen that the vile slaves of the monster who reigns over France, and who has conceived the infernal plan to take away our legitimate sovereigns, flee before those who do not fear them, and have no courage other than theft and cruelty. You will be invincible, and you will always triumph over those who rely only on seduction, lies, and bad faith, for you defend your religion, your homeland, and your King. Heaven visibly protects your weapons, the God of armies fights at your head, the Virgin, your patroness, covers you with her gaze, and the valiant soldiers who fight with you aspire only to the honor of sharing the immortal crown that you deserve by your fine actions. Should you not hope, with such protections, to triumph over your enemies, to reconquer the peace and prosperity for which you aspire, when you have fulfilled your sacred duties towards religion, the King and the fatherland?

~~~~~