

## A Monument to the Sieges of Badajoz 1811-12

Introduction: An initiative to erect a monument to the memory of the heroic and tragic acts which accompanied the sieges of Badajoz in 1811-12 has been proposed by a number of citizens and associations (Iniciativa Ciudadana Baluarte) to coincide with the bicentenary of the Peninsular War.

All of those who perished, irrespective of their nationality, rank or social status, soldiers or civilians, deserve to be remembered. This then will be a monument in memory of all of those who lost their lives in “The Sieges of Badajoz”. A monument that will be the focus for all to remember those difficult and turbulent times as well as serving as a reminder of the important historical significance of the terrible sieges of 1811 and 1812.



The existing site at the Santa Maria Bastion at Badajoz

Description: The monument (obelisk) will be 6.75m high and designed by Estanislao García Olivares, a well known and renowned local sculptor in Badajoz, whose works include the statue of Ibn Marwan (founder of the city) and the large ‘horse statue’ of Alfonso VIII in Plasencia.

The obelisk is to consist of 4 sides; each dedicated to one of the four principal countries involved: Spain, United Kingdom, Portugal and France. Each face will have a bronze plaque, 50 x 50 cm, with the same text in the country’s language below the national insignia/coat of arms above (see pictures in project paper). The obelisk will be made of silver/yellow coloured granite, with a diameter of 30 cm, and will be cut at Eleuterio Deogracias’s quarry at Quintana de la Serena (Badajoz).

Text: The following text will appear on the English plaque:

*In 1811 and 1812, during the Peninsular War, Badajoz and its surroundings saw the most glorious and fearful actions of which man is capable. These now legendary events have inspired thousands of pages of history.*

*Dedicated to all the victims of that conflict, civilians and military, of all the nation involved in that conflict. This is now a peaceful setting that two hundred years ago was a terrible scene of battle.*

Location: The obelisk will be erected in front of the Santa Maria Bastion where the cannon balls (long since gone) mark “1812” at the site of the breach. It is a fitting location as it was at this place that many thousands of soldiers died trying to liberate the city.



The Proposed Obelisk at the Santa Maria Bastion