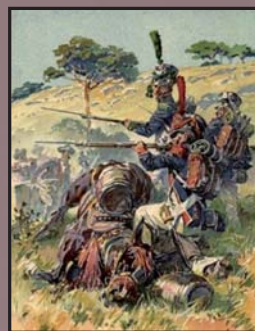


Two guerrilla fighters stand out from among the many who were active in Castilla y León: Julián Sánchez alias *el Charro* and Juan Martín Díez *el Empecinado* (the Undaunted).

El Charro had been an infantry soldier and was quick to reenlist in one of the cavalry regiments formed at the outset of the war. He would go on to show great prowess in harassing enemy units behind the lines. His ever-growing lancers fought in the main battles in the province of Salamanca and over time were praised by Wellington himself, who used *El Charro's* cavalry as the vanguard in the final years of the war.

El Empecinado was one of the first guerrilla fighters to take up arms against the French invaders. He had problems with the military authorities until his band was given recognition as combatants under the orders of the Junta Central in December 1808. His operations were increasingly bold and he would become an example of bravery and fearlessness for young men throughout the region. His fame grew to such an extent that all guerrilla fighters were known as *empecinados*.



Fighting between French troops and guerrilla fighters.

They both ended the war as generals in the Spanish Army.

El Charro's encampment.



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Napoleonic routes between Spain and Portugal

The objective of the Napoctep Project is the creation of a series of tourist routes associated with the presence of Napoleonic troops in Castilla y León and Central Portugal. The routes elaborated are the following:

Route 1st Invasión of Portugal.



Route 2nd Invasión of Portugal.



Route 3rd Invasión of Portugal.



Wellington Route.



Route of Siege and Great Battles.



Route of Napoleon and the Englishman's Run.



Guerrilleros Julián Sánchez el Charro and el Empecinado Route.



0700_NAPOCTEP_3_P Project co-financed by the European Fund Regional Development ERDF within the framework of the Interreg program V A Spain – Portugal (POCTEP) 2014-2020.

DL VA 998-2021



Guerrilleros Julián Sánchez el Charro and el Empecinado Route

from Roa to Ciudad Rodrigo

Juan Martín Díez el Empecinado (the Undaunted).

The phenomenon of guerrilla warfare is essential in understanding the Peninsular War. The concept emerged in this conflict; accordingly, the Spanish word *guerrilla* is linked to the fight against Napoleon in the popular imagination all over the world. It is with good reason that the guerrilla bands came to be one of the three key forces that defeated the French, alongside the Anglo-Portuguese Army and the Spanish Army.

Guerrilla fighters came from all walks of life and backgrounds. Some had been soldiers prior to the war, others had only ever been involved in civil affairs. Some slotted into the military structure straight away, others would only do so over time, and the rest would resist the authorities until they were absorbed into the military or disbanded. They all posed a constant threat to French rule, were highly adaptable, caused fear and anxiety in the enemy ranks, and grew in popularity over time to go down in history as one of the main architects of the defeat of the Emperor.



Guerrilla fighter from El Empecinado's band.

Assault on a convoy.



The extensive Julián Sánchez *el Charro* and *el Empecinado* Guerrilla Trail takes in the sites of the main feats of the central figures it follows.

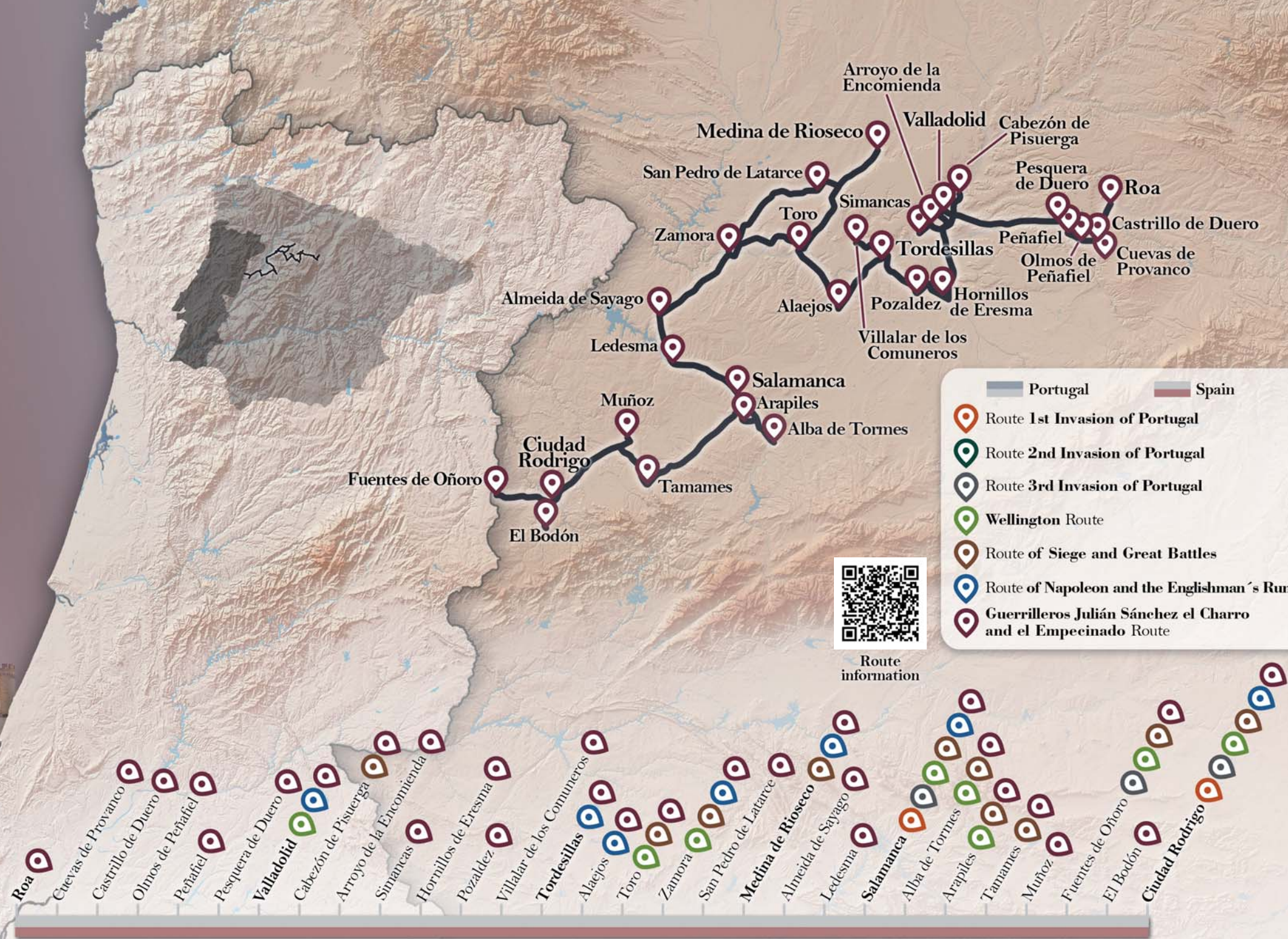
The trail starts to the east of Roa, the symbolic town where *El Empecinado* was executed after the war by order of Fernando VII. He was born in Castriello. Valladolid and the nearby towns were the setting for his first guerrilla operations. The guerrilla fighter known as *El Manco de Tordesillas* (the one-armed man from Tordesillas) was one of his leading deputies.



View of Zamora.

He was even active in the province of Salamanca, although this was principally *El Charro's* theatre of operations, who was based in Ciudad Rodrigo. When the fortress there was occupied by the French, he ran a campaign to prevent supplies reaching it. To do so, he stationed his men in the area from Tamames to the vicinity of his hometown of Muñoz. He also fought in all the major battles in the area, such as Alba de Tormes, Fuentes de Oñoro, and the Battle of "Los Arapiles".

Peñafiel Castle.



Paying your respects at the tomb of *El Charro* in Ciudad Rodrigo, staying in the Parador hotel there, and visiting the Peninsular War exhibition in the Palace of Los Águila. Exploring the nearby Archaeological Site at Siega Verde or the castle in San Felices de los Gallegos. Walking around the battlefield of the Battle of Salamanca and discovering the Interpretation Centre with Primer Edecán. Enjoying the views from the top of the Keep in Alba de Tormes. Treating yourself to some delicious food and drink on the Wine Routes in Cigales, Ribera del Duero, Toro, and Rueda. Spending the night at the Jardín de la Abadía Hotel in Arroyo de la Encomienda, close to Valladolid.



Church of Santa Maria in Alaejos.



Ledesma Castle.

Toro Collegiate Church.

