

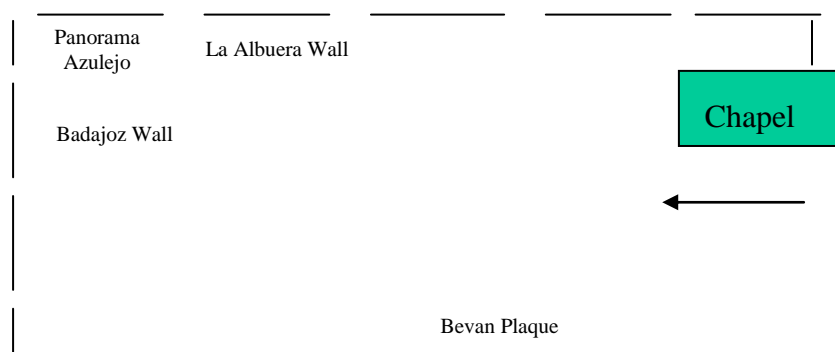
Peninsular War Memorial at the British Cemetery, Elvas

This proposal is submitted for consideration by Colonel Nick Lipscombe, Chairman of Peninsular War 200 (PW200). PW200 is the official UK organisation established by, and providing support to, the UK Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the duration of the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Peninsular War (2007-2014). It works under the wing of Waterloo 200, which is presided over by the current Duke of Wellington. The mission of PW200 is *to commemorate in a spirit of respect to all and malice to none the 40,000 British (including Irish and foreign-auxiliary) service personnel who lost their lives in the Peninsular War of 1808-14.*

The British Cemetery at Elvas is unique in Iberia. There are isolated British Peninsular War graves in Portugal, Spain and southern France but the Cemetery is the only dedicated British military cemetery in the region. It is well maintained, thanks to the excellent work of the Friends of the British Cemetery (FBC). It is also geographically well sited for visits and local support. The annual May and November ceremonies are now well established. The May observance includes the laying of wreaths by relevant civil and military representatives on the Badajoz and Albuera walls.

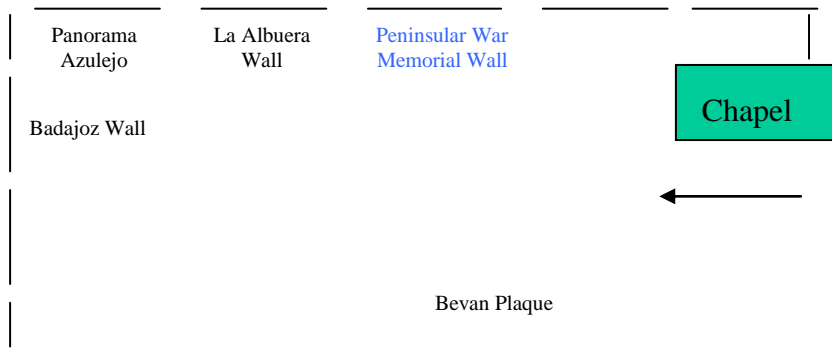


In addition to these two walls there are eight other walls of a similar size and a few slightly smaller walls.



The cemetery at Elvas is a piece of Britain in a foreign land and a suitable focal point for all those British souls who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is unlikely that a suitable or similar location would be authorised or could be established elsewhere within Spain or France. The policy of PW200 is *to ensure that commemoration of the Peninsular War is embedded in a context that rejects jingoism, respects all the fallen of the campaigns of 1808-14 of whatever nationality, recognises the human tragedy of war and, in particular, its impact upon the innocent victims of conflict, seeks to promote friendship and reconciliation between past enemies, and is both primarily Iberian and one founded upon debate rather than confrontation.* In view of both the mission and policy, PW200 approached the FBC

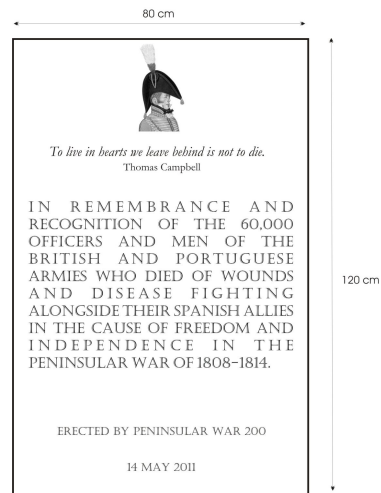
to consider the possibility of erecting a suitable plaque on one of the vacant walls within the cemetery and, in so doing, allow this location to become the a focal point for the fallen from all nations during this most epic of confrontations.



The FBC sub-committee considered the proposition that this PW plaque could be erected on the wall to the right of the Albuera plaques on the Santa Luzia wall. The plaque would be made of marble and in keeping with those already erected on both the Albuera and Badajoz walls; but as a single plaque it might be slightly wider.



Actual Size



Example

80 cm



To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

Thomas Campbell

IN REMEMBRANCE AND
RECOGNITION OF THE 60,000
OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
BRITISH AND PORTUGUESE
ARMIES WHO DIED OF WOUNDS
AND DISEASE FIGHTING
ALONGSIDE THEIR SPANISH ALLIES
IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND
INDEPENDENCE IN THE
PENINSULAR WAR OF 1808-1814.

ERECTED BY PENINSULAR WAR 200

14 MAY 2011

120 cm