

TALHADAS – MORADAL DEFENSIVE LINE. Second archaeological campaign to excavate a cannon battery (18th and 19th centuries)

Calendar 16 July to 5 August 2018

Aims Following work carried out in 2016, this campaign aims to accomplish digging the entire inner area of the battery. In addition, we also hope to offer participants the opportunity to get contact with the excavation methodology for this typology of sites. For further information about work already carried out see http://www.altotejo.org/acafta/docs/Estudos_e_Trabalhos/O_Forte_das_Batarias.pdf

Location The village of Batarias, overlooking the bridge over the River Alvito, Proença-a-Nova Municipality, Intermunicipal Community of Beira Baixa.

Programme (course content) Archaeological excavation (17 days).

Archaeological excavation team Site Director: Mário Monteiro (mario.monteiro@emerita.pt) ■ Sector coordinators and collaborators: to be appointed ■ Participants (total): 9.

This work focuses on 18th and 19th century military structures, namely the Battery of Batarias 1 (Fig. 2), where the first campaign was held in 2016. This battery, located at the half slope, worked in conjunction with Fort of Batarias 1 (which occupies the top of the hill and is already excavated and musealized), both structures being part of a Defensive Line (Fig. 3) constructed in 1762 for the Seven Years' War, and restructured in 1801 in the context of the War of the Oranges. Up to date, this military structure has been the focus of archaeological surveying and excavation at the Achada Battery in Vila Velha de Ródão, and at the Fort of Batarias 1 in Proença-a-Nova (Fig. 4).

The work programmed for 2018 is integrated in Talhadas-Moradal Defensive Line and includes a project conceived within the scope of the Auri Tagus Programme from the Upper Tagus Study Association, and a plan for the constitution of a Visitors' Centre for the Forts and Batteries in Sobreira Formosa, under the auspices of the Proença-a-Nova Municipal Council.



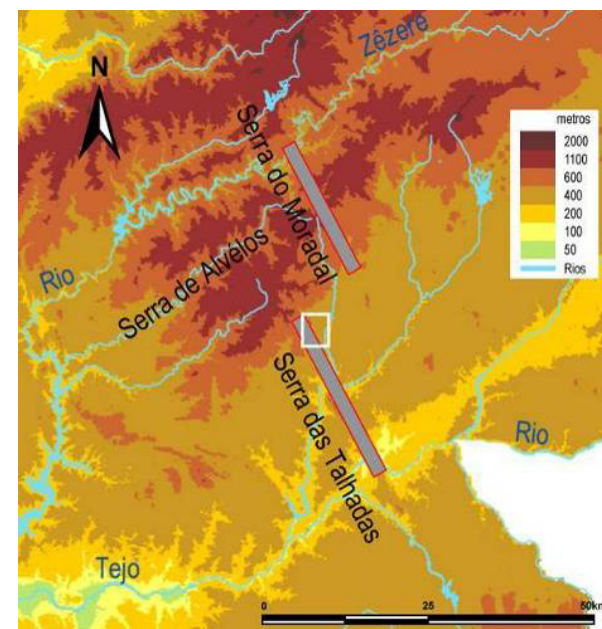
1

1. Location of the Proença-a-Nova Municipality in mainland Portugal.



2

2. View of the Battery of Batarias 1 (2016).



3

3. Location of the Defensive Line (in grey) on the relief map of Portugal and the structures to be excavated (white square).

Archaeological sites and structures

The Battery of Batarias 1 (Fig. 5, 6, 7 and 8) is located in the half slope, which stands out from the surrounding countryside, overlooking the River Alvito, at an altitude of 280m. It overlooks the bridge of Alvito and controls the Royal Road from Castelo Branco to Sobreira Formosa, a broad view as far as the horizon in the direction of the city of Castelo Branco.

The Battrey of Batarias 1 and the Fort of Batarias 1 was part of a defensive structure designed to prevent the progress of invading armies coming along the road through Portela da Catraia, and consisted of various structures strategically laid out.



4. View of the hill of Fort of Batarias 1 and Batery of Batarias 1.

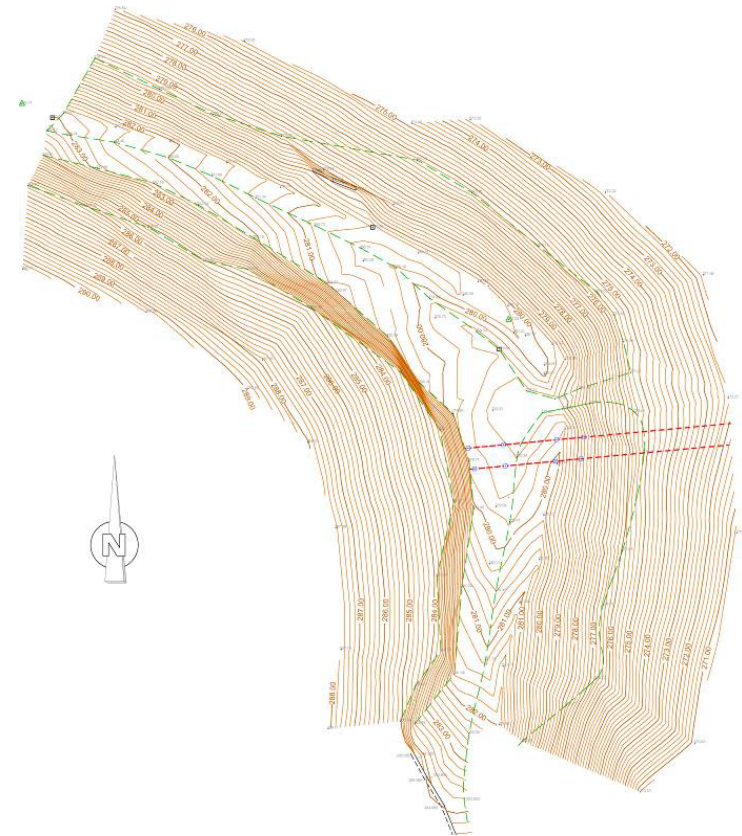
After conclusion of the work carried out in 2016, the data obtained showed a structure that was well built in accordance with the building techniques common for the period, with vestiges of use and two phases of construction ad occupation.

The Battery of Batarias 1 is located halfway up the slope at the point where the gradient suddenly becomes steeper, east of the fort. It consists of schist walls forming an obtuse angle that accompanies the curve of the level of the hill and earthen slopes on the outer part. On the inner side, there is a broad platform excavated in the rock. At the junction of the two arms, which forms an angle, there is an opening, which probably corresponds to an embrasure. Regarding its state of conservation, it seems to be average, though there are trees and earth covering the structures.

A transverse probe was opened with 2m wide. And an 1m wide strip being completely dismantled to identify the apparatus and construction techniques used in the structure, to evaluate the state of conservation of the same and to propose future works. It was found that there were two outer walls on the embankment containing different fillers, which formed a structure for damping bullets fired against the battery.

However, these two walls were completely dismantled in the area of the survey, certainly for the use of the stone in the construction of agricultural terraces existing contiguously,

being only perceptible as its foundations. The identified walls and dismantled structures of the battery are already rebuilt in the survey area, with only this sloping area being rebuilt to provide the visitor with a glimpse of what the structure should be at the date of the rebuilding in 1801.



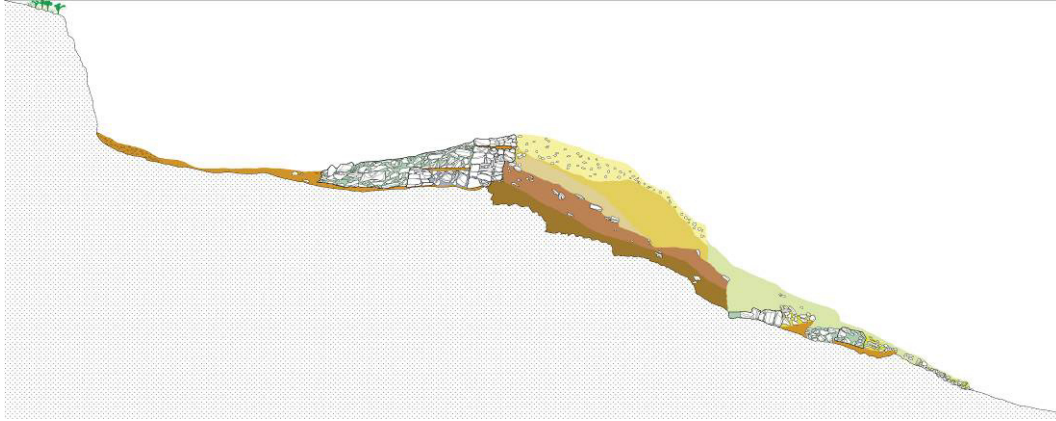
5. Topographic survey of the Battery of Batarias 1.



6. Battery of Batarias 1

Excavation work

In the future, it is intended to carry out excavation work on the whole internal area of the battery (the embankment), to define walls and gunboats and to identify the location of the warehouse, thus making it musealized and didactically exposed for the visitor's enjoyment.



7. Profile drawing.



8. Beginning of the Archaeological excavation in Battery of Batarias 1.

Some texts about the Talhadas – Moradal Defensive Line

ALORNA (1801): **“Plano e disposições para a deffesa da fronteira entre o Tejo e o Douro, desde Villa Velha até ao Escallão pelo Marechal de Campo Marquez de Alorna datado de 26 de Março de 1801”**, Boletim do Arquivo Histórico Militar, vol. 18, p. 79-84, Lisboa, 1948.

BARRENTO, António (2006): **Batalhas de Portugal. Guerra Fantástica. 1762. Portugal, o Conde de Lippe e a Guerra dos Sete Anos**. Tribuna da História, Lisboa, 98 pág.

CASTELLO MELHOR, Marquês de; CARDOSO, Manoel Jozé Dias (1810): **“Sobre o Giro que por ordem do Ill.mo e Ex.mo S.or Tenente General António Jozé de Miranda Henriques fizeram os Ajudantes de Campo Marquez de Castello Melhor e Manoel Jozé Dias Cardoso, pelas Linhas de posição de Talhadas, Águas Quentes e S. Domingos”**. Boletim do Arquivo Histórico Militar, 46.º Vol., Lisboa, 1976, pp. 445-456.

HENRIQUES, Francisco; CANINAS, João Carlos; CORREIA, Fernando Branco (2002): **“As Estruturas Militares da Serra das Talhadas. (concelhos de Proença-a-Nova, Vila Velha de Ródão e Nisa)”**. Açaфа, n.º 5, Actas do Colóquio “As Invasões Peninsulares e a Região de Rodão”. (Vila Velha de Ródão, Maio de 2000). Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão, pp. 43-71.

HENRIQUES, Francisco; CANINAS, João Carlos; SABROSA, Armando; HENRIQUES, Fernando; GOUVEIA, Jorge (2007): **“As Estruturas Militares da Serra das Talhadas na Passagem de Ródão (Vila Velha de Ródão e Nisa)”**, Actas das 3ª Jornadas de Arqueologia do Norte Alentejano (Abril de 2005).

HENRIQUES, Francisco; CANINAS, João Carlos; SABROSA, Armando; HENRIQUES, Fernando Robles; GOUVEIA, Jorge (2008): **“As Estruturas Militares da Serra das Talhadas na Passagem de Ródão. (Vila Velha de Ródão e Nisa)”**. Açaфа On-line, n.º 1, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão, pp. 2-29. <http://www.altotejo.org/acaфа/docs/Estudos e Trabalhos/Estruturas Militares de Rodao .pdf>

MANSO, João (2012): **“As Iniciativas do Município de Proença-a-Nova na Valorização do Património Militar Construído”**. Açaфа On-line, n.º 5, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acaфа/docsn5/as_iniciativas_proenca_nova.pdf

MARQUES, Luísa Pacheco (2012): **“Valorização e Divulgação das Estruturas Militares da Serra das Talhadas – Projecto Integrado de Turismo Cultural e**

Paisagístico. Açafa On-line, n.º 5, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docsn5/valorizacao_e_divulgacao_das_est_mil.pdf

MASCARENHAS, António José Mais de (2012): **“A Reacção dos Portugueses às Invasões Napoleónicas – A Importância das Talhadas”**. Açafa On-line, n.º 5, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docsn5/reacoes_portugueses_as_invasoes_napoleonicas.pdf

MONTEIRO, Mário; PEREIRA, André (2008): **“O Forte das Batarias sobre a Ribeira do Alvito. Proença-a-Nova. Análise Preliminar da Intervenção Arqueológica”**. Açafa On-line, n.º 1, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docs/Estudos_e_Trabalhos/O_Forte_das_Batarias.pdf

MONTEIRO, Mário (2012): **“A Linha Defensiva das Talhadas-Moradal: um ensaio sobre a tipologia das estruturas militares identificadas”**. Açafa On-line, n.º 5, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docsn5/linha_talhadas_moradal.pdf

MONTEIRO, Mário (2013): **“A Linha das Talhadas-Moradal e o Sistema Defensivo de Abrantes. Resultados dos Trabalhos de Prospeção Arqueológica e de Pesquisa Documental”**. Açafa On-line, n.º 6, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docsn6/LINHA_TALHADAS_MORADAL_113_203.pdf

NUNES, António Lopes Pires (2002): **“A Guerra dos Sete Anos e a Invasão Francesa na Beira Baixa. Aspectos Militares”**. Açafa, n.º 5, Actas do Colóquio “As Invasões Peninsulares e a Região de Rodão”. (Vila Velha de Ródão, Maio de 2000). Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão, pp. 11-34.

TORREZÃO, Simão Coelho (s/d), **“Epilogo Histórico da Guerra de Portugal com Castela. No Anno de 1762. Offerecido a S.A.R. O Seren.mo Príncipe Nosso Senhor. Por Simão Coelho Torrezão. Sargento-mor da Câmara de Tavira”**. Boletim do Arquivo Histórico Militar, 46.º Vol., Lisboa, 1976, pp. 405-423.

SILVA, António Manuel (2012): **“Guilherme de Schaumburg-Lippe. O Homem para Levantar o Rei”**. Açafa On-line, n.º 5, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, Vila Velha de Ródão. http://www.altotejo.org/acafa/docsn5/conde_lippe.pdf

VENTURA, António (2008): **Guerras e Campanhas Militares da História de Portugal. Guerra das Laranjas. 1801**. QuidNovi, Matosinhos, 96 pág.

VICENTE, António Pedro (2007a): **Guerras e Campanhas Militares da História de Portugal. Guerra Peninsular. 1801-1814**. QuidNovi, Matosinhos, 104 pág.



Projecto de Investigação da Linha Defensiva das Talhadas-Moradal

See de video

http://defensivelinecongress.pt/uploads/1/0/7/2/107201007/fortes_movie.mov