

## **F26.53 Peninsular War: Revising the story through data**

### **Overview**

I am working on a book project that studies the Peninsular War (1808-1814). Most of the information published about this theater of the Napoleonic Wars comes from British sources, and concentrate almost exclusively on the affairs of the English army in Portugal and Spain. Therefore, these sources disregard Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, and French views of the events. The goal of this project is to tabulate all the battles, sieges, skirmishes, etc. of the Peninsular War, to establish clear patterns, including all army numbers, battle results, relevance of battle, main participants, locations, all with clear evidence and multiple comparative sourcing. For that purpose, the intern will read primary and secondary sources, as well as do online research, to find the information and consolidate it in a clear format.

### **What the student will DO and LEARN**

The goal of this project is to tabulate all the battles, sieges, skirmishes, etc. of the Peninsular War, to establish clear patterns, including all army numbers, battle results, relevance of battle, main participants, locations, all with clear evidence and multiple comparative sourcing. The intern will start by reading a general history of the Peninsular War. After that, the student will engage with other primary and secondary sources in order to create a timetable of all large and minor battles, collecting and tabulating information on armies involved, size, location, losses, main figures or leaders of each battle, battle results, and other important data. Some sources will be provided by the instructor, others can be found at Cline Library. The research also involves comparative online research.

### **Additional benefits**

Student will learn the basis of historical research. Skills to develop include: learning how to compare and analyze information, establish the importance and reliability of sources, and reach conclusions based on the data provided. Depending on the intern's skills, acquire experience creating a digital history project.

### **Additional qualifications**

Required: attention to detail. Not needed but preferable if student has a History or other Humanities emphasis. Also not required, but preferred if student has knowledge on how to create websites. Some knowledge of Spanish (or other romance language) at the reading level preferred but not required.

### **Time commitment**

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks