



ELVAS

It was the Arabs who founded the city, hence the name, which in Arabic meant 'The Strong (Place)'. It was founded in the first half of the eighth century. The town consisted, initially, of the castle and a small fortified area encompassing the high ground.

The settlement soon developed well beyond these walls, necessitating the building of a second defensive wall. The line of this can still be seen, highlighted by the square towers, which were erected at intervals.

Elvas was captured by forces under the King D. Sancho II in 1228. Among his army were a group of Knights Hospitaller. They broke through at an area known as Corujeira (*The Place of the Owls*). Here they raised an altar. This became a hermitage and finally a substantial church dedicated to their Patron Saint, John the Baptist.

Following the Christian conquest, Elvas expanded rapidly and before long an additional line of defence was needed. This is generally known as 'a Muralha Fernandina'. It was completed in about 1340.

The final fortifications were essentially built on this wall using all the most modern techniques, turning it into one of the strongest fortified towns in Europe.



THE BRITISH CEMETERY, ELVAS, PORTUGAL

The British Cemetery at Elvas was opened to receive the body of Major General Daniel Hoghton, who was killed at the Battle of Albuera on 16 May 1811. Several further burials were made there since but only four have grave stones. It is the only British military cemetery in the Iberian Peninsula that has graves from the Peninsular War. It is an essential visit for any battlefield tour in the area.

The Friends are an Anglo-Portuguese charity (Charity Number 1109395) formed in 1996 to care for the Cemetery. In 2000 memorial plaques were unveiled to the regiments that fought at Albuera and in the sieges of Badajoz. The Chapel at the Cemetery has also been restored and a small museum installed.

In 2012 Elvas was finally recognised as a World Heritage Site and the Fort de Graça restored to its 18th Century glory.



THE FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH CEMETERY, ELVAS

ANNUAL RECEPTION

AT THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB

**On Thursday 30th March 2023
from 7 to 9:30 pm**

**Kindly sponsored by Brigadier Jim
Tanner OBE**

The evening will be accompanied by a talk by Brigadier Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE, Director of the National Army Museum.

His subject will be:

'Coalition Success—The Anglo-Portuguese Army in the Peninsular War'

Afterwards drinks and canapés will be served and a raffle will be drawn at 8:30pm.

All monies raised will go towards the upkeep of the British Cemetery.





Brigadier Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE

Justin Maciejewski was an officer in the Royal Green Jackets and The Rifles and led a distinguished career in the Army, including command of 12th Mechanised Brigade. His operational service included Northern Ireland, the Balkans and Iraq, where he was awarded the DSO. On leaving the Army he was a management and leadership consultant with McKinsey and Company and in 2018 became Director of The National Army Museum.

He has been involved with military history and heritage throughout his professional life. He is a graduate of Cambridge University, where he specialised in British imperial and military history, holds an MA in Defence Studies from King's College and was a visiting fellow at Oxford in 2012 as part of the Changing Character of War Programme under Professor Sir Huw Strachan. He is also a graduate of the Joint Services Staff College Advanced and Higher Command and Staff Courses.



THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB

The Army and Navy Club (The Rag) was founded in 1837. Its first patron was The Duke of Wellington. In 1847 the Club moved to its present site at 36 Pall Mall, on the corner of St James's Square and Pall Mall, in the heart of Mayfair. The Club house has undergone several modifications to keep up with the times and was completely rebuilt in the 1960s. It now offers members excellent accommodation and dining and first class facilities including function rooms and business facilities.

The Rag is one of London's most prestigious private clubs. Membership today is open to non-military as well as military members on application.



APPLICATION FOR TICKETS

Name:

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Address:

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Post Code:

Number of Tickets required
at £55 each.....

Payment may be made by cheque or online
via BACS.

Cheques should be made payable to:

'Friends of the British Cemetery' and sent
with this form by **17th March** to:

Major Nick Hallidie
10 Ballingdon Street
Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 2BT

Tel: 01787 880 445
Mob: 07812 010 097

Email: nickah3559@gmail.com

For those paying online, please contact
Major Nick Hallidie for the bank details on
nickah3559@gmail.com.

