

Unveiling of the PW200 Plaque, Elvas - 14 May 2011



Lady Jane Wellesley unveils the Plaque.



Lady Jane lays a wreath in remembrance.

The Peninsular War 200 Plaque, erected in remembrance of the allied servicemen who died during the War in the period 1808-1814, was unveiled at the British Cemetery, Elvas, Portugal by Lady Jane Wellesley on 14th May 2011. The cemetery, which sits high on the battlements of the impressive fortified town of Elvas, is a most fitting location; the proverbial 'corner of a foreign land'. It features commemorative plaques to the allied fallen at Albuera and Badajoz. The installation by Peninsular War 200 of a plaque commemorating all the allied fallen in the Peninsula is therefore particularly appropriate and the cooperation of the Friends of the British Cemetery is most appreciated. PW200 is also thankful to Mr Jonathan Bird of HESCO Military products who very kindly funded the project. It was most fitting that Lady Jane Wellesley, daughter of the current Duke of Wellington, unveiled the plaque and PW200 are most grateful to her for all her work in support of PW200, Friends of the Waterloo Committee and as the Patron of the Friends of the British Cemetery Elvas.



The Remembrance Service



Soldiers from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The unveiling followed the traditional annual remembrance service held at the cemetery which, this bicentennial year, witnessed a large gathering of former and serving officers and soldiers from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Royal Welsh. A series of addresses were made by military and civilian dignitaries including Sr. Rondão Almeida, the Mayor of Elvas, whose continued support to the cemetery is most commendable. The Grand Master of the Order of Malta, a key benefactor to the refurbishment of the chapel adjacent to the cemetery, also spoke and he made a most valuable point that in our prayers of remembrance, we should not forget the French. A sentiment which solicited rich approval from the congregation and served to reinforce that forgiveness and remembrance go hand in glove. Following the service and unveiling the group enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Portuguese Military Museum within the town walls.



Peninsular War 200

The official UK organisation for the commemoration of the Peninsular War.

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