

**INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL REENACTMENT
OF THE "2 DE MAYO UPRISING" AND
THE LIBERATION OF MADRID OF 1812**

From Sacrifice to Freedom

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🌐 [HTTPS://VOLUNTARIOS.MADRID/](https://voluntarios.madrid/)

INVITATION
2024

Dear friend,

On behalf of the Asociación Histórico-Cultural "Voluntarios de Madrid 1808-1814", I am writing to invite you, on the 210th anniversary of the end of the War of Independence (also known as the Peninsular War), to the International Historical Reenactment of the "2nd of May Uprising of 1808" and the Liberation of Madrid in 1812.

The historical reenactment will be a massive international event without precedent in the capital of Spain and will take place from the 1st to the 5th of May 2024, encompassing a series of events that took place in the region of Madrid during the War of Independence in the very historical locations where these events took place.

Our association is working on this historical event in collaboration with the Community of Madrid government, the Madrid City Council, the Spanish Armed Forces, and other public and private entities. This event, already enormously popular, will have international relevance and will commemorate the end of the war in 1814, combining in the same historical week both the "2 de Mayo Uprising" in 1808, which started the war, and the liberation of Madrid in August 1812, led by Lord Wellesley and Brigadier Juan Martín Díez, "el Empecinado".

The event will be attended by historical reenactment associations from Spain, Portugal, Ireland, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Italy, Malta, Czech Republic, Poland, among other European nations. The participation of the units, regulated in the Conditions of this invitation, will be managed by the Asociación Histórico-Cultural "Voluntarios de Madrid 1808-1814", which has more than 20 years of experience in organizing this type of events, including Somosierra, Colmenar de Oreja, San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Madrid.

Please read the conditions of participation in the event, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Alfonso Sabán Astray

*President of the
Asociación Histórico Cultural
"Voluntarios de Madrid
1808-1814"*



Conditions for participation

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY 1ST OF MAY

Morning - Historical reenactment of the uprising of the town of Torrejón de Ardoz.

THURSDAY 2ND OF MAY

Morning - Acts of protocol and tribute on the commemoration of the "2 de Mayo Uprising".

Evening - Parade in the centre of Madrid and reenactment in Plaza de Oriente (Royal Palace) and Puerta del Sol (reenactment of the defence of the Montealeón Artillery Park).

FRIDAY 3RD OF MAY

Morning - Cultural day and free time.

Evening - Period ball in a XIX Century palace.

SATURDAY 4TH OF MAY

All day - Victory parade in the centre of Madrid and reenactment in Parque del Retiro.

SUNDAY 5TH OF MAY

Morning - Reenactment of the liberation of Barajas and end of the Historical Week.



Conditions for participation

REENACTMENT UNITS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION

The "2 de Mayo Uprising" consisted of a popular uprising of the lower classes of Madrid, and a small part of the Spanish army quartered in the capital, against the french garrison, composed of imperial troops of French, Polish and German (*Westphalian*) origin.

The Liberation of Madrid in August 1812 followed the Battle of Arapiles. The Allied army was composed of troops from several nations: British, Irish, Portuguese, Spanish and German (*King's German Legion*). The Imperial garrison was mainly of French origin.

SERVICES PROVIDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS BY THE ORGANIZATION

Registration will be done by sending the "Registration Form" to the organization, also attaching a picture of the reenactment group, **before the 30th of January 2024**. No registration fee is required. **It is mandatory at least two days participation** to benefit from the following provisions:

- **Beds (bunk beds)** arranged in a heated multi-purpose hall.
- **Space available in period camp** to sleep in tent.
- **Meals** (breakfast, lunch and dinner per day).
- **Gunpowder.**
- **Transportation** from the logistics center to the recreation sites.
- **Assistance** in managing **weapons permits**.
- List of **recommended hotels and restaurants**.
- List of **recommended cultural activities and discounts**.
- **Consular assistance.**
- **Commemorative souvenir.**

TRANSFER OF IMAGE RIGHTS

The submission of the "Registration Form" will imply the transfer of the image rights of the reenactors to the organization.

Conditions for participation



AUTHORITY RECOGNITION

Participants in the historical reenactment must follow the instructions of the organizers at all times. Any participant may be removed for anachronistic clothing or inappropriate/dangerous behavior towards other reenactors and/or public.

In order to ensure the correct development of the events, both civilian and military reenactors will submit to the authority of the group leaders designated by the organization. In the event of any discrepancy between the instructions of the military commanders and those of the organization staff, the instructions of the latter shall prevail.

In any case, the organization, which will be assisted by the State Forces, is reserved the right to take any legal action, which may be entitled to any attendees, who refuse to follow the organizational instructions, or cause safety problems for the rest of the reenactors, or the public during the events.

Conditions for participation

CONDITIONS FOR CAVALRY

The organization will provide the cavalry reenactors with 10 horses financed 100% by the organization and 10 horses with a 50% discount. The provision of financed and subsidized horses will be made in strict order of registration. Additional horses may be arranged, subject to availability, on a bilateral basis between the interested cavalry reenactors and the organization. Reenactors who wish to reserve a horse (either financed or with a discount) will need to make a transfer of €150.00 to the organization's bank account which, in the case of financed horses, will be returned in full to each reenactor after the event. The organization's bank account is **ES6420859288120330230871 (SWIFT: CAZRES2Z)**.

CONDITIONS FOR ARTILLERY

Artillery groups interested in participating should contact the organization by e-mail to determine their conditions. For logistical and cost reasons, in principle only cannons from Spain and Portugal will be admitted.



Conditions for participation



CONDITIONS FOR HISTORICAL FIGURES

Reenactors representing main characters (Marshal Murat, Lord Wellesley, General Carlos, General Lafon-Blaniac, El Empecinado, etc.) interested in participating should contact the organization by email to determine the conditions of their participation.

Relevant information

PERIOD BALL

In August 1812, Madrid City Council and Sir Arthur Wellesley organized a ball to celebrate the liberation of the capital. This event will be reenacted and a period ball will take place during the *Semana Histórica* on the evening of Friday, 3rd of May. This event will be self-funded by the attendees.

Attendance at the reenactment will not, by itself, entitle you to attend the period ball. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis (along with payment for tickets). Information on the ball will be provided on our website <https://voluntarios.madrid>. In addition to the date, time and place of the event, you will also find details on how to:



BUY TICKETS



OBTAIN PRE-AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMISSION



PURCHASE/RENT A SUITABLE SUIT OR DRESS FOR THE OCCASION.



Relevant information

COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR ITEM



The organization will give all attendees a commemorative souvenir of the reenactment.

SHORT DRAMATIZED DOCUMENTARY FILM

The organization will produce a docudrama in collaboration with the Francisco de Vitoria University, which will be made available to all the participating groups for educational and entertainment purposes. An example of a previous collaboration (The Liberation of San Lorenzo de El Escorial) can be seen at the following link: <https://voluntarios.madrid/escorial2022>



Relevant information

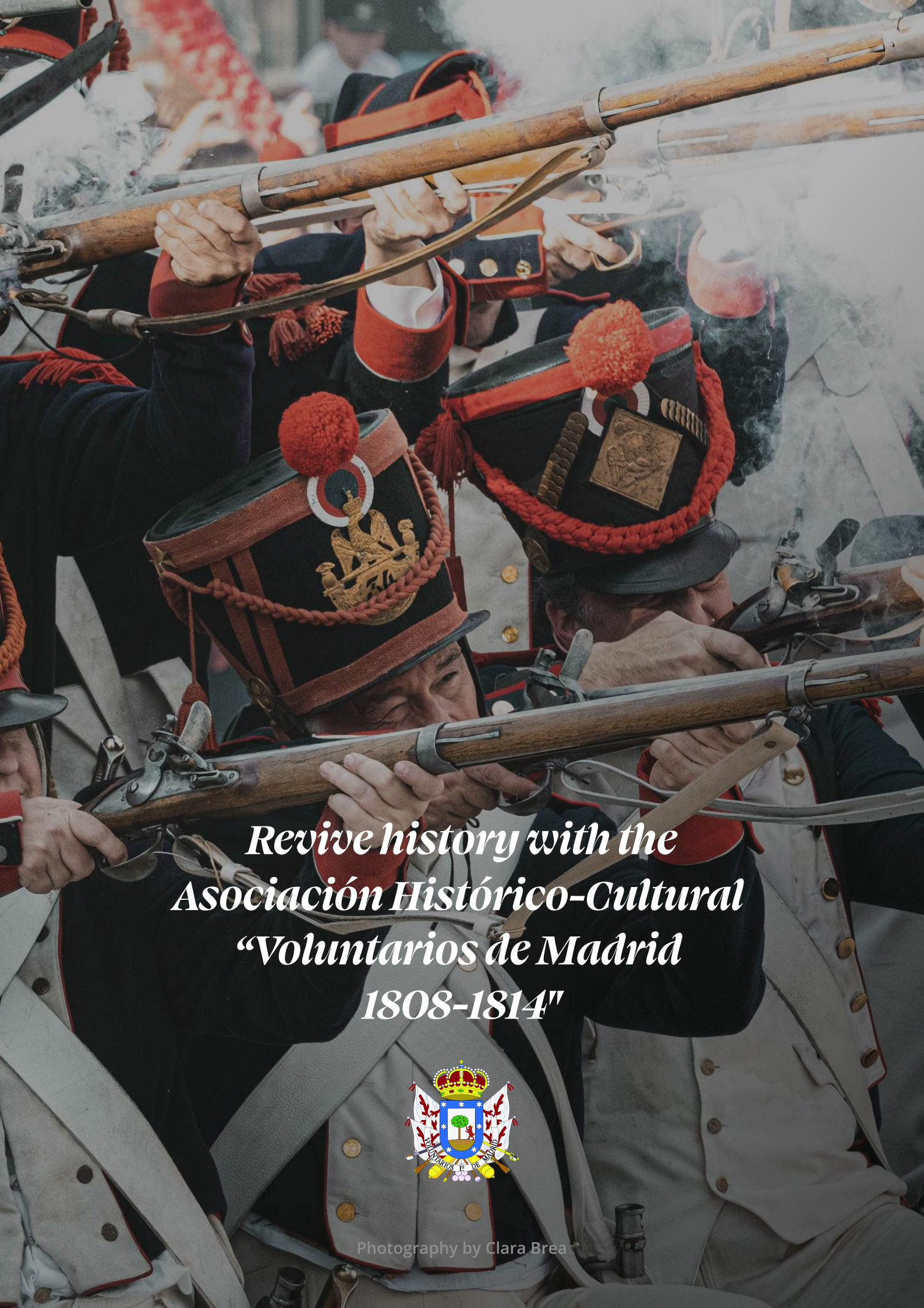


REGISTRATION OF REENACTING GROUPS BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In accordance with the collaboration agreement signed between the *Asociación Napoleónica Española* (ANE) and the *Napoleonic Association* (NA), the latter will be the official interlocutor of the organization with reenactors of British origin. The NA will provide its members, and exceptionally also British reenactment associations which do not belong to NA, with a platform to channel the registration of reenactors from the UK (and also coordinate weapon permits).

RECEIPT OF REENACTMENT-RELATED E-MAILS

You have received this email because we understand that your group may be interested in attending this event. If you do not wish to receive further communications, please reply to this email explicitly stating so. Likewise, if you know that a group with an interest in the event has not received this email and would like to be informed, please let us know.



*Revive history with the
Asociación Histórico-Cultural
“Voluntarios de Madrid
1808-1814”*



Photography by Clara Brea