

headed by Wellesley, who had been sent back to the Peninsula when it was recognized that he had been in no wise responsible for the Convention of Cintra. The year 1809 was very glorious to the English arms: Wellesley first drove Marshal Soult out of Portugal, surprising him at Oporto, and forcing him to flee northward with the loss of all his guns and baggage. Then marching into Spain, he joined a Spanish army under General Cuesta, and defeated at Talavera (July 28, 1809) the French army which covered Madrid. He might even have won back the capital but for the mulish obstinacy of his colleague, and the gross misconduct of the Spanish troops, who could not be trusted except behind entrenchments. Talavera was won entirely by the 23,000 English, their allies refusing to advance even when the battle was won. After this heart-breaking experience Wellesley resolved never to cooperate with a Spanish army again, and to trust entirely to his own troops.

The French driven from Portugal—  
Battle of Talavera.

Meanwhile the news of Talavera caused the French troops from all parts of the Peninsula to concentrate against the little English army, which had to beat a cautious retreat to the Portuguese frontier. No result had been gained from the incursion into Spain, save that the troops had learnt to look with confidence on their leader, who received as his reward for his two victories the title of Wellington, under which he was to be so well known.

After the peace of Schönbrunn had been signed, Bonaparte commenced to pour reinforcements into Spain, and even spoke of going there himself "to drive the British leopard into the sea." Ultimately, however, he sent instead his ablest lieutenant, Marshal Masséna, with 100,000 fresh troops. The arrival of these new legions gave fresh vigour to the invaders: they overran most of Southern and Eastern Spain, and only failed when they were confronted in Portugal by the indomitable army of Wellington.

The "Lines of Torres Vedras"—  
Masséna's retreat.