

### **Oporto Branch**

The Oporto branch of the British Historical Society of Portugal was successfully launched at the end of January. The Society's Chairman gave a talk on the Portuguese Civil War (1828-1834) also known as the War of The Two Brothers. Oporto figures greatly in this civil war. It was besieged by D. Miguel's armies for nearly a full year. When D. Pedro (the ultimately successful brother) died he stated he wished for his heart to be buried in Oporto where it lies before the high altar of the Church of Lapa. His body was returned to Brazil in 1972 (minus, of course, his heart) where it lies buried at Ipiranga, near S. Paulo, where, in 1822, he proclaimed the independence of Brazil.

He was no mean composer. He composed the Portuguese National Anthem ("Hino da Carta"), which remained in force until the end of the monarchy in 1910.

The talk which was held at the Oporto Lawn and Cricket Club was well attended (over thirty people turned up)

and circa fifteen immediately signed up as members.

We wish the Oporto branch every success.

The Society, especially, wishes to thank Ian and Patricia Sinclair for taking this initiative. Those interested please contact Ian and Pat Sinclair at Rua do Revilão, 394, 4100-425 Porto, Tel.: 22 617 46 93, E-mail: [ian.sinclair@europe.com](mailto:ian.sinclair@europe.com)

### **Wellington's Scapegoat**

**The Tragedy of Lieutenant Colonel  
Charles Bevan**

**by Archie Hunter**

**Pen & Swords Book Limited, 248 pp.  
£ 19,95**

A new book on the Peninsular War. Lieut. Colonel Charles Bevan was considered responsible for not protecting a given bridge this permitting the French escaping from Almeida. The story of this tragedy.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Centenary of the Methuen Treaty**

A seminar was held in the old chamber of the Portuguese House of Lords ("Câmara dos Pares") in the Palace of São Bento on this controversial Treaty by the initiative

of the Anglo-Portuguese Parliamentary Friendship Group and the British Embassy.

Prof. Kenneth Maxwell of the Inter-American Studies at the Council of Foreign Relations and Prof. Rui Verde who is a Fellow of Newcastle Law School and also Vice-Rector of the Universidade Independente gave talks on this treaty which is quoted by Adam Smith as a fair and mutually beneficial agreement contrary to general Portuguese opinion. Prof. Maxwell's talk will hopefully figure as an article in the next Annual Report.

Our Patron Dame Glynne Evans closed the meeting. Several of our members were present.

**British Families which became  
Portuguese  
Owen**

Hugh Owen (1784-1860). A British Officer who fought in the Peninsular War. He came from Shropshire. He joined Wellington's armies in Portugal in 1809 as a light cavalry officer in the Dragoons. He fought at Oporto and Talavera. In 1810 he became part of

the Portuguese Army under Beresford. Owen was at the Lines of Torres Vedras as a cavalry brigade major. He distinguished himself at the battle of Vitória in 1813. In 1815 as a lieutenant colonel (in the Portuguese army) he reorganized so successfully the 6<sup>th</sup> regiment of cavalry that it became known as the famous "Dragões de Chaves". In 1820 he accompanied Beresford to Rio de Janeiro (where the King of Portugal was) but when he returned as a full colonel he found Portugal in the throes of revolution and was dismissed from the Portuguese army. He then retired into private life. However, in 1832 he was invited by D. Pedro IV to participate in the civil wars on the liberal side as a general. Owen accepted provided the British Government consented. It did not so he definitely retired. In 1836 he published both in English and Portuguese "The Civil War in Portugal, the siege of Oporto and the death of D. Pedro by a foreigner". He married (1820) in Oporto D. Maria Rita da Rocha Pinto Velho da Silva and had issue among whom Hugo Owen who became 1<sup>st</sup>

Barão de Torre de Pero Palla and the famous (or infamous) Fanny Owen later said to be involved with the writer Camilo Castelo Branco. The Owen family became entirely Portuguese.

**A Comunidade Britânica no Porto  
Inter-Relações Históricas,  
Económicas, Culturais e Educativas  
Maria Guilhermina Bessa Gonçalves  
Edições Afrontamento. 284 pp.**

Dra. Bessa Gonçalves took, curiously a degree in Chemistry (like Mrs. Thatcher) but has been involved in sociological matters with the Universidade Aberta. A wide ranging look of the Oporto British Community not forgetting modern times. Good chapter on literary connections with the XIX and XX century. Also interesting photographs.

**Those who wander round Lisbon will notice buildings with the caravel usually quite small on the front. It means the house belonged to the Municipality, the caravel being the coat of arms of Lisbon.**