

Texts protected by rights of author, prohibited its total reproduction or partisan without written consent of the author.

SITUATION And DESCRIPTION

Upon the steep rock of Monjardín, the rest are raised of which she was one important strength in century X. The primitive name of Monjardín was Deyo coming from Degio and Dierri, this last derivation gave name to the near Valley of Yerri. When being constructed a hermitage dedicated to San Esteban to protomértir, was called San to him

Esteban de Deyo, until centuries XII and XIII. The name of Monjardín comes by one part of Mongarcini (the mount of Garci'a), in reference to a king of Navarre, and by another one of

the amount of flowers and plants that grow, according to 1805 data. Monjardín has one height of 890 meters on the level of the sea. Traveling by the Pamplona highway - Logroño or Estella - Vitoria, is observed right and left respectively this mountain. In order to arrive until by the route but it cuts there, is necessary to go first a Villamayor

and to take the suitable way to arrive until the top, place where we found castle. Monjardín is a typical roquero castle, seated on a rocky platform that it arises in the summit of the mountain. The news of their primitive plant are had pentagonal with heavy almenados walls of stonecutting, two meters wide by fifteen of stop, seated on imposing monolithic rocky crags of conical form. Of some fragments by the top and the slope of the mountain have left it. On platform is the ruins of blocks, jails and other dependencies of the castle, of which are left the facade that it gives to the South face of the mount. Better conserved they are

rain tank, the hermitage, the base of a great tower and the stairs that drawing the curve of

rocks, lead us to the interior of the strength, only entrance of the enclosure.

ORIGINS

The origin of this strength is not known. The first historical news are of the year 882 although are said that they constructed the Romans to it, made the Moors strong and with

divine aid conquered the Navarrese. It could be in effect a strong given Roman his estratégica situation and to be in a one of the sides of the rain tank Roman typical seal, but I will be necessary to give a jump in the time until knowing data trustworthy the castle. The step

of Monjardín at the first hands érabes had to be work of Musa ibn Musa in the year?859 of ours were, although this contradicts one of the important events més that they happened in the castle (the fight between Carlomagno and Furro or Ferragut, in year 711).

The year 711 Monjardín it enters in relation to history, when appearing Carlomagno like protagonist of a fight happened in this mount in front of a king Moor who lived in él, which resists to him. One is called prince Furro. It counts the legend that the troops of Carlomagno on the foot of the Monastery of Irache were encamped haciéndoles

in front the Moors, who are overthrown being left three thousand men dead Navarrese and Moors. The Lacarra historian says on the fight of Roldén between Rolando

(soldier of Carlomagno) and Ferragut (giant of the Moors), had by scene proximities of Estella, next to the Way of Santiago: "historical the Ferragut giant, that it could be the transposition of this historical personage very well who lived in Monjardín, prince of the Moors called Furro, that in the called fight of Roldén, was won and crossed by the navel by Rolando ". This important battle was reflected después in a capital of the cover of the church of Villamayor de Monjardín as well as in the Palace of the Kings of Navarre de Estella. In year 882, a chronicle

of the Monastery of Albelda (the Rioja) it relates combats between the heads Banu Qasi (Navarrese turned to the Islam) in that the winner, Muhammad idn Lope, stops to release to the uncle and the cousin of the won one, demanded the delivery to him of I castrate of San Esteban. The following year, another Muslim campaign entered Deyo (Al-Mundir), enfrentendo again the Banu Qasi. Not always it had been Monjardín in hands érabes then another Christian chronicle that is attributed to Asturian king Alfonso III (866-910), it enumerates the earth that were left of the invasion érabes (Pamplona, Deyo free and Berrueza).

CONQUEST OF MONJARDÍN BY THE KING OF NAVARRE SANCHO GARCÉS I.

The first years of the S passed. X when Sancho Garcés I conquered Monjardín, we see as it were such feat according to the P. Moret.?"it has always been of great devotion the Sagrada image of the Virgin Maria, to that that Real House of Irache is consecrated. And visited habiéndola king, and recognized close by the site of the strength, very enriscado and by all slope, and the much prevention that the Moors had, already being bastion almost unconquerable and forced defense of the plains, having in mérgenes of the Ebro, entered great care and entrusted the company to Virgin. When leaving to assault the castle, it offered everything to him what won of Moors that day, and between the monks there is memory, inherited of his predecessors, whom the sagrada image between the swarms took to the king for assault.

The king moved the troops and recognized the disposition of the mountain on which the castle is founded, and was necessary first to gain the summit of her because to assault right raising the castle, as soon as it is possible to be requested to man loaded with the arms. Still without the opposition of the resistance and letting the Moors roll rocky crags by the mountain down, they could undo ejército without fatigue and to safe his, by to be very tedious and pending the ascent.

By the part of the West is somewhat més soft and rested the ascent. And won until the castle, that finishes it, and around as Earth bankruptcy with slope of great depth by all the sides less of the West.

To assure més the castle seems that the Moors broke that plain, by where it was the unavoidable step, with a cut that took all the width of plain, by where it was the unavoidable step, with a cut that took all width of the plain, doing a deep pit and raising trenches.

Some sign is seen nowadays of this fortification, although ruined already with the long time.(we can see clearly a trench in the plain and the pit, in front of the tower)

They came to be the three unavoidable instances of the combat: to gain the altitude of mountain, to assault and to expugnar the cut, and like last attack, to take castle.?"All it entrusted the king in the sponsorship in the Virgin and the spirited boldness in his

soldiers. The shades at night covered the ascent to the summit, they surprised the hidden sentries in the cut and trenches of plain, siguiéronles in its flight disordered to the castle and, without giving place him a to recover, they assaulted the castle with as much effort that soon after fell in its power.

Title of king of Deyo had to seem to him very honorable when signing itself después of this so glorious fact, that way together with the one of Pamplona, and still más, when choosing for pantheon his, leaving so many churches and monasteries célebres of its kingdom by the small hermitage of San Esteban of appraised castle by él conquered, without a doubt, at the cost of heroic feats." **TIMES OF KING SANCHO.**

We thus arrived at máximo splendor from the castle. Sancho Garcés I was son of second marriage of Garci'a Jiménez, a smaller branch of the familiar clan, without embargo, was protagonist of a dinástico change to be married with Doña All Aznérez, that directly descended from the ruling lineage of Iñigo Edge. In year 905 the reign of Sancho Garcés I begins and in the 907 approximately it conquered the castle of Monjardín after to have defeated and died to Lope ibn Muhammad. As of that year it initiated the conquest of territories of Deyo until down arriving Ega river at Cécar and Resa, both bastions near the Ebro. The king gave political and space contexture to the Kingdom of Pamplona conquering the shores of the Ega, Arga and Aragón as well as part of The Rioja (Calahorra, Néjera, Tudelilla, valley of the Cidacos, etc.), being delimited the kingdom until Peralta, Falces, Carcastillo, Caparroso, Sos and Uncastillo.

The answer éra to the Christian conquest was not let hope and from Zaragoza, the 29 of July of the 924 Emir Abd al-Rahman III had invaded territory of Pamplona and approached until Deyo, where the king had to defend so appraised castle in a battle near the Ega river, in Dicharra (Oteiza of the Solana?). Abderramén made a military stroll by all Navarre that summer dismantling the castles of Peralta, Falces and Tafalla between others.

A year but late (925) king Sancho dies, according to a cronista éra to to fall of its horse, after twenty years of reign in which it consolidated kingdom of Pamplona. As much it considered the conquest of the castle of San Esteban of

Deyo that chose the small church of the same one like pantheon. He was huge the burial of the king; prelates and horsemen of all the kingdom went to render tribute to the late monarch. As of that year and throughout the length reign of their son all the bishops of Navarre and Rioja a occurred to appointment there to renew the memory of the funeral and to do the anniversary to him. Two generations después, this king was enaltecido by its military victories, their mercy and by its works of mercy staying as héroe of a great dynasty of kings.

Leaving events bélicos, which más emphasizes in the castle is that in year 921, Galindo appears as bishop in Pamplona and in I castrate of San Esteban. Everything aims that in those Pamplona times it had been transformed into a pile of rubbish after a chain of assaults, sackings, devastations and destructions and the city was not to him comfortable to to title of the diocese to maintain its residence, thus looked for refuge in strength of Monjardín. In year 928 it returns to appear like "episcopus in Deiu ". También consists the presence of several prelates in the solemn acts of burial and funerales of the King and every year in the anniversary of such facts. The successors of Sancho Garcés, quizá desentendiéndose of the castle they donated to the pamplonesa church by the relations that it had with Monjardín. **MONJARDÍN REAL PANTHEON.**

Today samples of these interments cannot be seen but in S XVII, Francisco de Eguía speaks of inscriptions had in the hermitage, and también Moret Father "gross stone of mérmol that served as altar in the altar and in that epitafio could be read, where one names a king of Pamplona and Deyo..."the successive reforms that the hermitage has undergone have done

to disappear the inscriptions of the tombs. Some sources deny that these buried sovereigns estén in Monjardín and speak of the porch of San Esteban, but not of Monjardín, but of Resa (Andosilla). In any case will of the kings was to rest in Monjardín.

The tomb of Sancho Garcés is located in the hornacina with means arc point, and the one of Garci'a Sanchez in the head of the temple.

BETWEEN The KING And The BISHOP.?In year 1033 the donation from the castle to the Monastery of Irache takes place by

Sancho the Greater one. This king settled down in Navarre a defensive system, multiplying its possessions and situendo them in estratégicos points. After military reconstruction Deyo was in charge to defend others along with strengths the part the west, the one that watches towards Alava "protect of the invasion Castilian Pancorvo, Término and Lantarón but close the passage in first término Marañón, Punicastro and més atrás to the Estella north reinforced with castle of Monjardín, that is into the hands of the monks of Irache ". They say chronicles that the donation was a solemn act of which they were witnesses several bishops.

King Garci'a the one of Néjera had a great persistence in having the castle, thing that in the end it obtained después to overcome one long resistance on the part of monks of Irache, to which in the end, the Monastery had to give in 1045 of Santa Maria de Yarte, in Lete in exchange for Monjardín.

In 1092 Sancho Ramirez it donates the castle to mitra pamplonesa which I will have until 1223, date in which the Fort was given to it to Sancho the bishop D Ramiro in exchange for the villa of Huarte.

King Teobaldo I, in 1238 granted you inherit and honor of Monjardín to bishop D. Pedro de Pamplona, but not the one of the castle that it retained for él. With it increased religious and military carácter of the castle.

The conflict of jurisdictions finished in 1319, when mitra pamplonesa it resigned in favor of Corona.?Después governed the castle the well off family Vélaz de Medrano who by

that época had the Palace of Igúzquiza and Learza además of houses and property in other towns like Luquin. Thus they commanded, in 1390 Simón Martinezof Medrano, in 1414, Juan Vélaz de Medrano, in 1425 Bertrén de Baquedano, in 1430 Lope de Eraso, 1456 Ferrén Vélaz de Medrano. One of these horsemen are the protagonist of the legend de la Cruz of Monjardín. In Castilian invasion, the Vélaz de Medrano always was faithful to the king of Navarre, emphasizing Jaime Vélaz de Medrano who became the last ones strong days of the war in the castle of Mayan of Baztén.

These personages were the calls alcaides, that were in charge to defend, to repair, to victual and demás duties, being forced to reside in the castle or in its defect to name a lieutenant or anchorage. Alcaides, that they had to be Navarrese, were named by the king, being normally noble or horsemen. They perceived a distributed annual pay in two payments, one by the Candlemas (2 of February) and another one by the August virgin. In 1330, alcaide of Monjardín received 8 pounds and 40 cahíces. In order to have an idea, greater pay was of 20 pounds and 100 cahíces (tower of Valcar them) and the minor, very below 1 it frees. The governor sent to the merinos and heads of merindad to watch the castles, thus in 1366 was sent to the recibidor of Estella that it forced the thieves of the region to repair the Castle of Monjardín "a bread of almut "

In 1339 the superior terrace was repaired (used to be of slabs placed upon a built the framework for fort of beams, a earth planks and layer, often waterproofed with bitumen)

In 1367 stone Grant was constructed "to stairs to raise of the foot of

peynna to the castle "In 1371 the small rain tank was repaired, which seems to indicate that there was another one greater.

In 1382, in mounts of Iturgoyen and Ibiricu de Yerri twelve beams were cut for the Castle of Monjardín.

In 1430 there were 7 crossbowmen who received 5 florins per month each one.

In the following years it does not change to the number of dowry of men or laborers.

Relation of alcaides of the Castle of Monjardín.

1276. Miguel Pérez de Legaria

1294. Juan de Villanova and Feliset, to gajes

1300. Juan Buysson?1306. Martín de Aibar

1309. Remiro Pérez de Baquedano

1316. Alfonso Pérez de Desojo

1348. Alfonso Pérez de Desojo and Sancho de Lizarazu

1349. Sancho de Lizarazu

1364. Noble Don Gil Garci'a de Yéniz, the greater one

1368. Alvar Diaz de Medrano?1379. Miguel Garci'a de Galdiano

1387. Miguel Garci'a de Galdiano (confirmed by Carlos III)

1387. Alvar Diaz de Medrano

1405. Juan Vélaz de Medrano

1414. Diego Alvarez de Eulate

1418. Beltrén Diaz de Baquedano

1430. Lope de Eraso?1437. Juan of San Juan

1446. Eneco Pérez de Iturmendi

1456. Fernando de Medrano

1457. Juan Martinez de Eraso

1467. The commander Pedro de Garay

1474. Juan de Moreda

1512 Count de Lerín, Gunner of Navarre?

MONJARDÍN And The ANNEXATION OF NAVARRE A CASTILE.

In the 1512 castle participated in the war of Navarre against the Castilian invasion.

Between July and September of that year, the Duke of Dawn attacked Navarre where he was

with some isolated pockets of resistance among them Monjardín; the Duke preferred first

to take care of the north and después of the 15 of Deyo August falls before Castile. The strength had

luck and was saved of the destruction of castles, that king Fernando ordered the Catholic

in order to avoid any pocket of resistance or insurrection to Corona of Castile, then

it belonged to Count de Lerín to whom surely would have donated it the ducado one of

Dawn. As it is known, the county of Lerín, and therefore Monjardín, was united to

ducal house of Dawn by the wedding of Brianda de Beaumont, daughter of the count of Lerín, with

Diego, son second of Fernando Alvarez de Toledo, Duke of Dawn. Antonio, son of

Diego and Brianda, inherited the title of Duke of Dawn. As of this date no longer figure

in no clergy nor property neither noble. , yet lost its function went to ruin

slowly.

MONJARDÍN And The ANNEXATION OF NAVARRE A CASTILE.

In the 1512 castle participated in the war of Navarre against the Castilian invasion.

Between July and September of that year, the Duke of Dawn attacked Navarre where he was with some isolated pockets of resistance among them Monjardín; the Duke preferred first to take care of the north and después of the 15 of Deyo August falls before Castile. The strength had luck and was saved of the destruction of castles, that king Fernando ordered the Catholic in order to avoid any pocket of resistance or insurrection to Corona of Castile, then it belonged to Count de Lerín to whom surely would have donated it the ducado one of Dawn. As it is known, the county of Lerín, and therefore Monjardín, was united to ducal house of Dawn by the wedding of Brianda de Beaumont, daughter of the count of Lerín, with Diego, son second of Fernando Alvarez de Toledo, Duke of Dawn. Antonio, son of Diego and Brianda, inherited the title of Duke of Dawn. As of this date no longer figure in no clergy nor property neither noble. , yet lost its function went to ruin slowly.

MONJARDÍN And WARS CARLISTAS.

Throughout the centuries, Monjardín was become ruins and suffered numerous sackings. The castle was used in the carlistas wars to be near Estella (Mecca of the carlismo) and of the fort of Montejurra. It had in Monjardín a trimming of the ejército and the carlismo alternatively; with as the inner disposition of the strength underwent much. It seems that in all?the wars were used, being of this época the dependencies that are in ruins and that were constructed with prisoners. Ever since it finalized fight, in 1874, never has been used militarily, nevertheless his religious importance continued being the same one: hermitage with espadaña and bell, several departments to lodge 40 people, room of ermitaño, orchard, magnificent and jamés exhausted rain tank and other dependencies like sacristía, blocks and jails (1920 data).

HERMITAGE.

The small church underwent one of the innumerable reconstructions in the year 1585. date of which it is his main structure and the altarpiece. In this same one date other sixty were authorized along with the hermitage.

Today, of baroque aspect, its structure is very simple, a rectangular ship cover with tube vault. Be presided over by a neoclésico altarpiece where they reuse elements of towards 1600 like the columns of compound order and fluted Fuste. The policromía of the altarpiece is of century XIX and the wood cross kept in the hornacina it imitates models of S XVII. San Esteban presides over altarpiece, to that dedicated the hermitage to him, but from 1143 began a to call of Santa Cruz de Monjardín by the piece that until principles of S XX it was in its interior; de la Cruz Monjardín, the work of orfebrería is més old of Navarre along with the evangelario of Roncesvalles.

In the North wall of the hermitage is a hornacina with arc of average point denoting a tomb. The local writer says, White Urabayen, that in year 1945 cultures very stopped were made in the tomb that were useless.?In the middle of S XX, lucillo was robbed that was located in happiness hornacina place where Sancho Garcés was buried. The linen cloth was of the same one

cut that the arc, very old. In él they were represented Santa Catherine, Santa Bárbara and San Cristóbal. The robbery did not leave sign some.

In 1951 the hermitage underwent an important transformation: it was used excessive respect

temple by the part of the choir, construyéndose this again. It seems that after this reform became to its original aspect, because it had been extended

previously and the walls did not support the tile roof, that came down.

In the month of September of year 1965, the pamplonesa rock the Saeta, paid for the refundición of the bell that until then was in espadaña of hermitage and was placed in the edge of the wall.

The 12 of September of 1987, in the esplanade of the castle, were confirmed four young people of the locality in a ceremony presided over by the Archbishop of Pamplona D. José M^a Cirarda.