

The legend of Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto has its name connected to the river that crosses the city. It is associated to a legend that remounts to the 10th century and explains its origin.

In the beginning of the 10th century, the Christians were winning land to the Moors. The earl D. Hermenegildo Gutierres was the lord of the territory from Galiza to Coimbra, having as its centre Porto. The leader of Christians, D. Hermenegildo took over the city of Porto, restoring the wall destroyed by the Moors.

Meanwhile, Califa Abdurrahman III, refugee in Spain, commanding a powerful army, decided to invade, fiercely Porto, surrounding the city. However he faced a powerful Christian resistance, which forced him to step back and renounce the invasion

Therefore, knowing that D. Hermenegildo's son-in-law would come to help him, Califa Abdurrahman III decided to confront him near a clear stream, in a place called Campanhã.

There, the two armies confronted themselves in a bloody battle. In the memory of the people remained, forever, the blood spilled there. It was so plentiful, that it dyed the clear waters of the river. From now on it is called **Rio Tinto**.

