

CHAPTER 3

SPANISH MODEL MAUSER MUSKETOONS AND EXPERIMENTAL SHORT RIFLES:

Barceló mentions and illustrates two specimens of what he calls Spanish Mauser 1893 “short musketoons” (B.R.II.2.83a, page 368) very similar to the 2nd Model M.1893 Mauser carbine described in Chapter 2, with the same rear sight but with somewhat longer barrels, which were either unique specimens or part of a very short series of recomposed pieces which combined German made, Loewe marked, stocks, receivers and bolts, with Spanish made barrels.



II.2.83.a

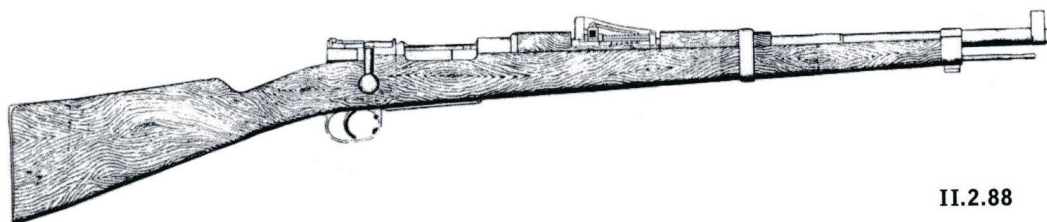
1893 Spanish Mauser “short musketoon”, as illustrated in Barceló’s book.

In Barceló’s opinion they were conceived for use by the Artillery and Engineer corps, featuring a bayonet lug for attachment of the very rare, “**Model of 1899 experimental bayonet for Artillery and Engineers**” (B.R.I.5.20, page 204) and he feels that both the short rifles and the bayonet were the first steps in the research and development which culminated in the Model of 1.916 Musketoon or short rifle and its Model of 1.913 long bayonet.



Experimental M.1899 bayonet for Artillery and Engineers (photo E.Gorostiza)

These short rifles were followed by other experimental models, some of which Barceló illustrates in his interesting work, until in 1.913 the War Materiel Comission approved the “**M.1913 Spanish Mauser Cavalry carbine**”, with a 29.69” barrel (551 mm), a Lange type rear sight, and front sight protectors; It mounted a new model of long bayonet officially adopted as the **Model of 1913 bayonet**; Thirty specimens of this short rifle were ordered built and after further minor modifications it was finally approved as the “**Spanish Mauser Musketoon Mod.1916**”, to Barceló’s displeasure, as he felt that this denomination was a misnomer; This misnomer was probably due to differences between German and Spanish weapons nomenclature.



II.2.88

Spanish Mauser Cavalry carbine, M.1913, as illustrated in Barcelo's book.



M.1913 bayonet

THE MODEL OF 1916 SPANISH MAUSER MUSKETOON

This rifle, of intermediate length between the rifle and the carbine, was approved with its M.1913 bayonet, as replacement for the M.1895 carbine in those forces that used this weapon, such as the Cavalry and the Guardia Civil; It is characterized by its curved bolt handle, its front sight protector, a cut out to facilitate the stripping of cartridges into the magazine, and a safety gas release orifice on the bolt head and on the left side of the receiver; Initially it also featured a magazine base plate release button or latch on the front of the trigger guard, later on eliminated from many specimens, and a new **“Lange” rear sight (“type I”)**(No.6837 dated 1928 in my collection), which from 1927 on was gradually substituted by a **tangent type (“type II”)sight**. (Specimen bearing no serial number or markings in my collection); The M.1916 Musketoon was produced in the Oviedo Factory from 1916 until 1936 in a total number approaching 300,000 units.





M.1916 Musketoon, 7mm caliber, with its M.1913 bayonet and the two types of rear sight, tangential to the left and Lange to the right.



M.1916 Musketoon with magazine base plate opening latch.

In 1943 a few specimens were **experimentally built in, or converted to, the 7.92x57 mm caliber** used in the M.1943 and subsequent M.1944 Musketoons; The two examples in my collection, however, were not built at the Oviedo Factory but at the then new Coruña (Corunna) Factory, one bearing serial “C” and the second one “**No.25 ESPECIAL**”. They both have a pistol gripped stock and bilateral grasping grooves.



Experimental musketoons in 7.92 mm caliber; Coruña Factory; Serials “C” and “25 ESPECIAL”.

In the 1950s about 55,000 M.1916 Musketoons were converted to 7.62 mm NATO or CETME caliber at the Oviedo Factory (No.OT6276 in my collection) and in the 1960s another 25,000 were so converted for the Guardia Civil, these last ones bearing that Corp's crossed sword and fasces emblem on the receiver (No.Z915 in my collection, also bearing an issue number 991).



M.1916 musketoons converted to 7.62 NATO caliber in the 1950s, and for the Guardia Civil in the 1960s.

Finally, after the Civil War the Guardia Civil used a **special variant** of the M.1916 musketoons **“for selected marksmen”**, equipped with a bipod and a 25 round magazine; We assume, but do not know, that it was issued with a telescopic sight. However, Jesús Narciso Núñez in his work on weapons of the Guardia Civil published in the third Special Supplement of ARMAS magazine, states that from 1959 on the Guardia received M.1916 musketoons converted to 7.62 NATO which were in service until the late 1960s or early 1970s, when they were replaced by the CETME assault rifle and he adds that in several Command Posts there were still (at the time of his writing) *"some, duly prepared and equipped with telescopic sights which were used by selected marksmen in VIP protection missions"*; He does not mention the type of scope used with these musketoons, whether Spanish or foreign made, but he does mention the Santa Barbara C-75 telescopic sight used with other precision rifles used by the GC from the 1970s on made by Winchester, Mauser, and Sako.

THE POPULAR REPUBLICAN ARMY MUSKETOONS:

During the Civil War (July, 18, 1936 to April, 1, 1939), the Republican Government, having lost its access to the Oviedo Factory which had been occupied by the Nationalists, manufactured the M.1916 Musketoons in at least two sites: In Catalonia, by the **INDUSTRIES DE GUERRA DE CATALUNYA**, a conglomerate of shops organized by the Generalitat (the regional government) of Catalonia (No.A1307 in my collection, dated 1938), and, in the Levant, in the cities of Valencia, Castellon, and later on Petrer, in Alicante, by the **SUBSECRETARIA DE ARMAMENTOS**, another conglomerate directed by the central Republican government which had moved from Madrid to Valencia due to Madrid being under siege (see “Pistolas y subfusiles de la República. Producción de guerra” by M.Estirado, F.Fuentes and, J.M.Abad) (No.A4888 in my collection, also dated 1938); Robert Ball estimates a total production of no more than 30,000 among the two makers and examples in private collections are rare.



M.1916 type musketoons made by the Industries de Guerra de Catalunya (left) and the Subsecretaria de Armamentos (right).

In his work “La Industria Armera Nacional, 1830-1940”, J.L.Calvó mentions the manufacturing of musketoons in shops (of the Industrias de Guerra de Guipuzcoa?) organized in the Basque city of Deusto, until the fall of Bilbao to the Nationalists in 1937; However, this production was minimal, of probably no more than 200 units; I have never seen one, am not aware of their markings, if any, and will greatly appreciate any information in this regard from my readers.

Another emergency weapon manufactured by the Republicans during the Civil War was a 7 mm caliber, bolt action carbine with a pistol gripped stock and a 20 round magazine marked **MANRESA**, as it was built in that locality in one of the shops of the **INDUSTRIES DE GUERRA DE CATALUNYA**; It is estimated that perhaps 30 were made and for years there was one specimen, SN 30, in the exhibits of the, now closed Monjuïc Military Museum, in Barcelona.



MANRESA carbine, SN 28, 7 mm caliber, with a 20 round magazine.

THE FR-7 CETMETÓN

The last descendant of the M.1916 Musketoons was **the FR-7** (Fusil Reformado-7) or “**CETMETON**”, an M.1916 in 7.62 mm caliber, coupled to the barrel and using the bayonet of the new (1964) CETME Model C assault rifle, with a new type of rear sight; Some feel that it was a transitional step until the CETME was fully available, but other sources have mentioned its use by the Spanish Special Forces; I am not aware of its production numbers; Further on, I will discuss the FR-8.



FR-7 musketoon in 7.62 mm NATO caliber, and its Toledo made bayonet.

*Hector J. Meruelo
Miami, Florida, June, 2014.*

NOTE

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