

ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(17)

“2ND MODEL” PISTOL FOR THE GUARDS OF THE
ROYAL CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Cavalry pistol of the model used by the Guards of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey” in the period 1824-41; Specimen with a 200 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel marked, under crown, “M/ZULU/AGA” (Master Ramon de Zuloaga, Placencia) and bearing the Royal Arms and the inscription “*Rl. Cuerpo de Guards.de la Persona del Rey*” and individualized “2º 1ª Nº9” (2nd Squadron,1st Brigade, number 9); Spanish lock inscribed “Eguia” (Teodoro de Eguia,Placencia).

Thanks to the French intervention of 1823, Fernando VII recovered his condition as absolute monarch and, in 1824 the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey” was re-established, initially with a Major General Staff and a Company

of four Brigades, to which another “foreign” Company, named “Sajona” (Saxon) was added.

Towards the end of 1824 it was reorganized into six Squadrons, two of them “Saxons”, each one with two Brigades with 66 men each; Of these, 56 were Guards; But the Saxon Squadrons were never fully formed and so the total number of Squadrons was never more than four.



French pistol of the “Garde du Corps du Roi”, 2nd Model, 1816; 200 mm long, 17 mm caliber (“de a 19”), barrel. Daniel Abarca Collection.

The “2nd Model” pistol of the Guards of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, with details taken from the French pistol of the “Gardes du Corps du Roi”, just like the 1st one was made by the Placencia Guilds; It kept the Spanish lock, although evidently of better construction, as I have not seen any examples with broken or herniated springs.

In all the specimens of this model that I have been able to examine the barrel bears the crowned marking “M/ZULU/AGA”, that of Ramon de Zuloaga, who at the time was the Master Examiner (or Inspector) of the Royal Placencia Factory; In the previous model the barrels show only proof marks on their inferior surface.

On the barrel, the emblem of the Royal Corp is inscribed in cursive and not in capital letters as in the previous model, and the reference to the soldier it was issued to also differs from the norm previously followed which numbered the eight Brigades sequentially, making mentioning which Squadron, unnecessary; Here, the Squadrons are numbered 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, each one with two Brigades, the 1st and the 2nd ones of each Squadron.

The specimen shown, individualized “4^o 1^a B^a N^o 9” (4th Squadron, 1st Brigade, Number 9), under the previous system would have been individualized as “7^a B^a N^o 9” (7th Brigade, Number 9); In some specimens the barrels lack the Royal Arms and inscriptions, which were probably erased later on.

**Juan L. Calvó
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Bibliography:

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