

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931  
(18)  
"2<sup>ND</sup> MODEL" PISTOLS FOR OFFICERS OF  
THE ROYAL CORP OF "GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY"**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



**Cavalry pistol of the model used by the Minor Officers of the Royal Corp of "Guardias de la Persona del Rey"; Specimen with a 200 mm long, 18 mm ("de a 17") caliber, 1826 dated barrel, marked under crown "M/ZULU/AGA"(Master Ramon de Zuloaga, Placencia) bearing the Royal Arms and the inscription "*RI. Cuerpo de Guards. de la Persona del Rey*" and individualized "4<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup> 2<sup>o</sup> S Br" (4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-Brigadier); Identical lock to the Guards model. Robert. E. Brooker Jr. Collection.**

Towards the end of 1824 the Royal Corp of "Guardias de la Persona del Rey" was organized with a General Major Staff, a Legal Staff and a Main Staff for each Squadron; The General Major Staff included, 1 Barracks Captain, Director and Inspector, 2 General Adjutants, 1 Commissar, 1 Secretary, 1 Quartermaster General, 1 Stables Director, 1 Files Clerk, 1 Weapons Maintenance officer, 4 Chaplains, 4 Marshalls, 4 Horse Breakers, 2 Horse Tamers, 3 Surgeons, 1 Major Musician, 1 Kettle Drummer for the entire Corp, 2 Gunsmiths, 1 Barracks boy and 1 Stockade servant.

The Legal Staff was composed of, 1 Advisor, 1 Prosecutor, 1 Court Recorder, and 1 Marshall; The Main Staff of each Squadron included, 1 Main "Comandante", 1 Second "Comandante", 1 Adjutant, 2 Servants, 1 Standard Bearer and 1 Bugler; in each Brigade, 2 "Exentos"(the oldest one acting as a Captain, the other one as a Lieutenant), 1 First Brigadier (functioning as an "Alférez"), 1 Second Brigadier (as a first Sergeant), 2 Sub-Brigadiers (as second Sergeants), 4 Cadets (as second Corporals), 56 Guards and 2 Buglers.



**Cavalry Pistol of the model used by the Major Officers of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”; 178 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel, marked under helmet “EXAR/ZULU/AGA” (Examinador Ramon de Zuloaga, Placencia), bearing the Royal Arms and the inscription “*RI. Cuerpo de Guards. de la Persona del Rey*”; Spanish lock, inscribed “Zuluaga” and the triggerguard inscribed “Ramon Zuluaga”.**

There were two models made for the restored Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, one for the Major and the other one for the Minor, Officers; Of the model for Minor Officers I am aware only of the specimen shown; Of the one for Major Officers I have seen a number of specimens, all lacking any individualizing inscriptions to a specific Officer and some also lacking the Royal Arms and the emblem of the Royal Corp, which were subsequently erased.

This would be the only model issued and paid for by the Royal Corp to equip its Major Officers as there are no equivalents in those produced for the Royal “Guardias de Corps” or their sucesors the “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, in the period 1814-21, during which their Major Officers used “commercial” pistols.

Don Ramon de Zuloaga y Ubera (1768-1648), of Eibar, was very active in the production of these models as during the reign of Fernando VII he was the Master Examiner of the Royal Placencia Factory, the maximum hierarchy in that factory's Guilds; The elimination of the obligatory membership in the Guilds in 1820 allowed him to avoid it once it was reinstated again in 1823 and, just as in Eibar the first factory firearms "maker" was Gabriel Benito de Ibarzabal, Ramon de Zuloaga was, in Placencia, the first gunsmith artisan to produce weapons identifying him as the only maker, just as the Madrid arquebusiers did, once liberated from all Guilds obligations in 1710 by Felipe V.

His markings as Master of the Guilds, in those "2<sup>nd</sup> model" pistols for Guards of the Royal Corp of "Guardias de la Persona del Rey" are limited to the barrel, but in the Officers models the locks are also inscribed "Zuluaga" and in those of a Major Officer, "Ramon Zuluaga" is also inscribed on the trigger guard.

These are not the only pieces that this artisan constructed as he also produced "commercial" arms, such as a shot gun, number 1963-513 of the Collection of the Montjuïc Military Museum, which bears the markings "M/ZULU/AGA" and "EXAMR./DE PLA/SENCIA", the inscription "M (under crown) Zuluaga" and "Ramon Zuluaga" on the trigger guard.



Ramon de Zuloaga had two brothers, Juan Andres born in 1775 and Master of the Royal Oviedo Factory, and Blas (1782-1856), armourer of the Royal Corp of "Guardias de la Persona del Rey" and later on "Major Lieutenant Armourer" to the Royal Armoury; His son, Eusebio Zuloaga, named "Archebusier to the H.M" in 1844, honed his initial skills as an armourer in Placencia from his uncle Ramon de Zuloaga and perfected them in France with a grant from Fernando VII.

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