

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931  
(19)  
“1<sup>ST</sup>” AND “2<sup>ND</sup>” MODEL CARBINES  
OF THE ROYAL CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”**

**(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)**



**Cavalry carbine with bayonet of the model used by the Guards of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey” during the period 1824-41; Specimen with a 710 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel, dated 1826, bearing the Royal Arms and the inscription “RI. CUERPO DE GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”, individualized “2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup> N<sup>o</sup>42” (2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Number 42); Lock inscribed “Astiazaran” (Bartolome de Astiazaran, Placencia); Specimen number 33254 of the Collection of the Museo del Ejército with a plaque identifying the model on its butt.**

In the document: “Manifest of the Armaments belonging to the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey” that I have delivered to the Comandante of the Royal Artillery Corp by order of the Very Excellent “Señor” Captain General of this province, signed with date 12<sup>th</sup> of February of 1821” and which were surrendered as follows: by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 21 carbines and 21 bayonets, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 30 carbines and 25 bayonets, by the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 38 carbines and 37 bayonets, by the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 37 carbines and 37 bayonets, by the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 37 carbines and 34 bayonets, by the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 37 carbines and 35 bayonets, by the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 40 carbines and 40 bayonets, and by the Brigade

of "Flanqueadores" (Skirmishers) 72 carbines without bayonets", giving a total (in error) of 341 carbines and 257 bayonets, as the sum of all the quantities mentioned actually amount to 312 carbines and 229 bayonets; The 29 carbines and 28 bayonets missing must have been surrendered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade which was omitted by error in the document.

I have no doubt that the carbines without bayonets surrendered by the Brigade of "Flanqueadores" were actually "tercerolas"; On paper, there were 66 Guards in each Brigade except the Brigade of "Flanqueadores" with 86, so the number surrendered by this Brigade was less than the number they actually had.

I am not aware of the existence of any specimen of the "1<sup>st</sup> model" carbine with bayonet but I assume that its dimensions must have been similar to those of the "2<sup>nd</sup> model" and that they bore the Royal Arms and the inscription "RI. CUERPO DE GARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY" and were individualized by reference to the Brigade and Number. The locks would differ only in their size from those "of the Spanish style" used on the "1<sup>st</sup> model" Guards pistol, just as would be the case with the "2<sup>nd</sup> model" carbines.

The carbine and bayonet shown above is one of the "2<sup>nd</sup> model", and I was somewhat surprised by the fact that, in contrast to the "2<sup>nd</sup> model" pistols, its barrel lacks Ramon de Zuloaga's marking and that the inscription relating it to the Royal Corp is not in cursive lettering; However, the dating (1826) and the manner of individualization by Squadron, Brigade and Number, clear up any doubts as to its provenance.

A detail typical of this "2<sup>nd</sup> model" is the system of retaining the ramrod, with a widening at its entrance and a slit into which the retaining piece is inserted in order to prevent its accidental release. This type of ramrod was taken from the Elliott carbines used by the British Dragoons during the War of Independence.



**Elliott carbine for Dragoons; 713 mm long, 16 mm. ("de a 23") caliber barrel, specimen number 2251 of the Collection of the Museo del Ejército.**

This retention system was also used by the "1st Model" carbine and by the "tercerola" of the Brigade of "Flanqueadores"; After these two models, it was featured only in the carbine models with bayonet of 1846 and 1853 for the squadrons of the Guardia Civil.



**Model of 1853 carbine for the Squadrons of the “Guardia Civil”, specimen dated 1853, 716 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel, specimen number 1973-27 of the Collection of the Montjuïc Military Museum.**

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December, 2011**

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