

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931
(20)**

**“TERCEROLA” USED BY THE BRIGADE OF “FLANQUEADORES”
OF THE ROYAL CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



“Tercerola” specimen number 2047 in the 1856 and 1911 catalogues of the “Museo de Artillería”; 690 mm long, 18 mm (‘de a 17”) caliber barrel inscribed “EVULDALDO POVS ARMERO DEL REAL CUERPO DE GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”; Its lock, missing some parts, and converted to the percussion system invented by Alexander John Forsyth in 1807, is inscribed “AÑO 1817 EVDAL POVS” and on its chamber, “MADRID”.

The “tercerola” specimen number 2047 of the Collection of the Museo de Artillería is probably the model made for the Brigade of “Flanqueadores” (Skirmishers); In its conversion to a percussion lock using percussion caps, Eudal Pous, armourer of the Royal Corp may have used one of the “tercerolas” made for this Brigade.

In the 1856 Catalogue of the Artillery Museum, specimen number 2047 is described as: “Tercerola”, similar to the previous one (number 2046, 2nd model carbine for the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”) in its furniture, fittings and ramming rod, but with a hook for attachment to sling suspension rings and with a percussion lock, made in Madrid in the year 1817 by Eudaldo Pous armourer to the Royal Corps of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”.

In the 1911 Catalogue, specimen number 2047 is described as: “Tercerola” for percussion caps, 18 mm caliber, 680 mm long bore, 690 mm long barrel and 1055 mm overall length, weighing 2.446 Kg.; The barrel is of forged iron, externally trunco-conical in its first half and with a stock retaining flat spring on its second half; This weapon also has a miquelet lock, percussion cap nipple, brass fittings in the English style, a reinforced ramrod with a retaining slit instead of a spring (same as in the “2nd model” carbine for the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”) for its attachment to the stock, and with rod, percussion nipple and, lastly, a hook and rings”

The lock is described as: “The cock is substituted by a scrolled hammer in the form of a lion’s head; In its mouth there is a pin which, upon discharging, penetrates the nipple which consists of a trunco-conical bit capable of holding only one grain (of mixed powder); The cap holder has a deposit capable of holding several grains and is connected by a strip to the hammer, so that, with each cocking movement it carries it with it and, through an inferior opening it releases one grain into the nipple for each shot, lifting its lid upon firing.”

Regarding the cap holder or deposit it states: “This deposit has a bit in its upper part which communicates with a tube (in a straight angle to the bit) and rests in the pan when folded and communicates with the chamber”.

The 1911 Catalogue shows photographs of this specimen, number 2047 of the Collection, also shown by Sagrera in his 2001 work and by Barceló in his 2002 publishing; It can be seen that, when the latest pictures were taken, the lock was incomplete, missing the firing pin from the mouth of the hammer, and also the caps deposit: Since this “tercerola”, number 2047 is missing from the “Catálogo Razonado de Armas de Fuego del Museo del Ejército” (2003) we may conclude that it is no longer in that Collection (??).

Juan L. Calvo
December, 2011

Bibliography :

Catalogues of the “Museo de Artillería”, 1856 and 1911, Tome II
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