

ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931  
 (21)  
 PISTOL OF THE BRIGADE OF “TIRADORES”  
 IN THE ROYAL CORP OF “GUARDIAS DE LA PERSONA DEL REY”

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Cavalry pistol of the model made for the Brigade of “Tiradores” (sharpshooters) of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”; 175 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel bearing the Royal Arms and the inscription “*El Cuerpo de Guardias de la Persona del Rey*” and individualized “*B<sup>a</sup> Ts. N<sup>o</sup>12*” (Brigade of Tiradores, number 12); French style lock with swivel mechanism, inscribed “*B./ Careaga / En Ermua*”

In a decree of 26 of May of 1831, among other dispositions regarding the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”, it was ordained that: “in order to apply the full force of this Corp in all types of service required, a Brigade of “Tiradores” will be formed with strength drawn from the other Squadron’s Brigades”.

Gómez Ruiz and Alonso Juanola point out that this Brigade, with 66 soldiers, was never formed, and that the men who had been recruited were dispersed to the Brigades of the other four existing Squadrons; Its creation,

however, caused the contracting for the manufacture of its equipment, including the necessary number of “tercerolas”, pistols and sabers.

The model of pistol made for the Brigade, with a French style lock with swivel mechanism, had no resemblance at all to the model made at the time for issue to the Army; Its plate was inscribed with the name of the maker, usually one sited “En Ermua” (in Ermua); It has no crowned marking on the barrel but it does bear the Royal Arms and the inscription “Rl.Cuerpo de Guards. De la Persona del Rey”, individualized “B<sup>A</sup> T<sup>S</sup> N<sup>O</sup>” (Brigada , Tiradores , Number---).

The design of its furniture suffers from the lack of a metal end cap, and the ramrod’s accidental release is prevented by a lug on the clip attaching the rod holder to the barrel.



**Specimen converted to percussion with a stock of the model made for the Brigade of “Tiradores” of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”;** In its conversion, the Royal Arms and the inscription relating it to the Royal Corp, the Brigade, and the specific number, have been erased; **The lock plate still has the inscription “M.R.Arguiarro, En Ermua”.** Juan Garcés Collection.

This last specimen was converted to percussion and, had the barrel shortened and a new stock fitted which allows for the modified lock work; This is the only such specimen converted to percussion that I am aware of.

**Juan L. Calvo  
December, 2011**

#### **Bibliography:**

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