

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931
(25)**

“MODEL OF 1822 CARBINE FOR SAPPERS”

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Model of carbine, specimen number 1984 of the Collection of the “Museo del Ejército”, identified in the 1856 Catalogue as: “Carbine with saber-bayonet for sappers Model of 1822”, with an 725 mm long, 18mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel, dated 1822, with English style mountings.

The inclusion of this carbine model in this work is due to the fact that I do not believe it was for Sappers or even for the Army, since during Fernando VII’s reign the officially approved models were all mounted “in the French style” with barrel bands securing the barrel to the stock, while those carbines and “tercerolas” mounted “in the English style”, with no barrel bands and with bayonet, were those of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de la Persona del Rey”; I know of no other models except the one presented here.

Also, its “saber-bayonet” actually better called a “sword-bayonet”, with a double fullered blade with a flat spine and a single edge lacks any usefulness as a tool that could be of use to the Sappers; It is a more of a show weapon, better suited to some unit of the troops of the Royal Household than to Sappers; In the Catalogues of the “Museo de Artillería” this bayonet shows no markings but I know of the existence of one specimen with the blade marked “YBARZABAL” indicating its manufacture by Gabriel Benito de Ibarzabal, who during the period 1820-22 manufactured the pistols and, after 1824, also the “tercerolas” and pistols, used by the Cavalry of the Royal Guard.



Sword-bayonet “Model of 1822” with a 610x32 mm blade and marked “YBARZABAL” on its spine and number 436 on its hilt. Eduardo Gorostiza collection.

The date 1822 on this carbine's barrel is no doubt the reason that it is called the "Model of 1822" in the Catalogues, but it only tells us the date of manufacture of the barrel of the conventional "de a 17" (18 mm) caliber; The "Model of 1822" nomenclature of this carbine does not contradict its issue to troops of the Royal Household even though these were disbanded in July of that year.

One Company of "workers-sappers" with 120 members was attached to the Infantry Division of the Royal Guard created in 1824 but, due to all the reasons already adduced I find it difficult to accept that this model of carbine with sword-bayonet was approved as equipment for the Sappers.

I wonder if, when the Catalogues of the Artillery Museum were being written, there was actual documentation justifying the identification of this model carbine as a model for Sappers and I suspect that, if this identification was maintained in the 1911 edition of the Catalogue, and is still maintained in the current "Catálogo razonado de armas de fuego del Museo del Ejército" (Annotated Catalogue of firearms of the Army Museum), is strictly due to inertia.

Juan L. Calvo
January, 2011

Bibliography:

Catalogues of the "Museo de Artillería", Madrid, 1856 and 1911, Tome II
José Borja Pérez,"Catálogo razonado de armas de fuego del Museo del Ejército", Madrid 2003
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