

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931  
(26)  
MUSKETS OF THE ROYAL GUARD'S INFANTRY DIVISIONS, 1824-1841**

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



**Model of 1815 infantry musket made at the Royal Factory of Placencia; 1,050 mm long, 18 mm ("de a 17") caliber barrel; French style lock "improved" in 1812; M. González collection.**



**Model of 1828 infantry musket made at the Royal Factory of Placencia; 1,035 mm long, 18 mm ("de a 17") caliber barrel; Model of 1828 French style lock; Specimen number 1962-1566 of the Collection of the Montjuïc Military Museum.**

During the "July days" of 1822, previously mentioned in Chapter 16, the battalions of Royal Guards failed in their attempt to restore the authority of Fernando VII, who then, upon being re-established as absolute monarch by the French intervention of 1823 wished to have a Royal Guard capable of crushing any indications of a liberal coup.

In May of 1824 the Regulations for the formation of the new "Guardia Real" were published; It was to be composed of an Infantry Division, two Brigades of the Line, one Cavalry Division, one Artillery Squadron, one Company of Sappers-labourers and one of baggage Train; The Main General

Staff included 1 Chief of the Major General Staff, 2 General Adjutants, one for Infantry and one for Cavalry (both Field-Marshalls), 7 primary Adjutants (Brigadiers), 4 of them Chiefs of General Staffs and the other three of the, Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery-Sappers and Train respectively, plus 7 secondary Adjutants (with a rank of Captain) with the same allocations.

The Royal Guard's Infantry Division had 4 Regiments of Grenadiers (two per Brigade), each with 2 Battalions of 8 Companies, and a total strength of 8,000 men.

The Divisional Main Staff included 1 "General Comandante" of the entire Division (a Lieutenant-General) and 2 Chiefs for the 2 Brigades (Field-Marshalls); The Main Staff of each Regiment included, 1 Colonel (a Brigadier) and 1 Major Lieutenant-Colonel (actually a Colonel); That of each Battalion had 1 Commandant (a Colonel), 1 second chief (a Lieutenant-Colonel), 2 Lieutenant-Adjutants (Captains), 1 Brigade Sergeant, 1 Chaplain, 1 Master Armourer, 1 Surgeon, 1 Major Drummer for the first Battalion and another one for the second one. Each Company included 1 Captain (actually a "Comandante"), 2 Lieutenants (actually Captains), 2 "Alférez" (Lieutenants), 1 Sergeant Major, 4 second Sergeants, 5 drummers, 8 first Corporals, 8 second Corporals, and 101 soldiers.

The Infantry Division of the "Provincial Royal Guard" was organized with elements of Grenadiers and "Cazadores" (Chasseurs, Jaegers) of the "Provincial Regiments"; It also had two Brigades, each one with two Regiments of three Battalions and each Battalion with seven Companies; The first Brigade, of Grenadiers with 184 Officers and 4116 Grenadiers and the second Brigade, of "Cazadores" with 184 Officers and 4116 "Cazadores".

The Main Staffs of the two Brigades included: 1 "Comandante-General" (Lieutenant General), and 2 Chiefs for the two Brigades (Field Marshalls); Those of each Regiment, 1 Colonel (a Brigadier) and 1 Lieutenant-Colonel (actually a Colonel); The Main Staff of each Battalion included 1 "Comandante" (a Colonel of Militia), 1 main Adjutant (actually an Infantry Captain) in charge of supplies, 1 second Adjutant (a Captain of Militia), 1 Chaplain, 1 Surgeon, 1 Sub-Lieutenant (a Lieutenant of Militia), 1 Brigade Sergeant, 1 Master Armourer, 1 Major Drummer in the First Battalion and a Corporal Drummer in the Second and third ones, 1 Corporal and 6 "Gastadores" (Pioneers).

Each Company had 1 Captain (a Militia "Comandante"), 1 Lieutenant (a Militia Captain), 2 Sub-Lieutenants (Militia Lieutenants), 1 Sergeant Major, 3 second Sergeants, 2 Drummers for the Grenadiers and 1 Drummer and 1 Bugler for the "Cazadores", 1 first Corporal-Furrier, 5 Corporals, 5 second Corporals, and 80 Grenadiers or "Cazadores".

In 1832 its strength was increased to 8 Companies per Battalion each one with 76 Grenadiers or "Cazadores", with the 8<sup>th</sup> Company of Grenadiers being composed of "Tiradores" and the 8<sup>th</sup> Company of "Cazadores" of "Carabineros".

Decimated by the combats it participated in during the 1833-40 Carlist War, the Royal Guard was reorganized by the then Regent of the Kingdom, General Espartero, on August, 3, 1841: The Infantry with two Regiments of three Battalions each, the First Regiment with personnel drawn from the Royal Guard's Infantry Division and the Second one from the Provincial Royal Guard's

Infantry Division, with the same standing and strength as the Army's Infantry, and the same arrangement for the Cavalry.

As an "Exterior Guard" these Infantry and Cavalry regiments were responsible for guarding the Royal Palace but, on the night of October, 7, 1841, they allowed the entry of a group of military officers who, having kidnapped the young Queen tried to end General Espartero's regency.

This attempt having failed, thanks to the valiant resistance offered by the Interior Palace Guard, the Royal Halberdier Guards, General Espartero decreed that, from then on, the Exterior Palace Guard be composed of the Madrid Army garrison and, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December of 1841 he decreed the extinction of the Royal Guard.

I made reference to muskets specimen numbers 1979 and 1980 of the Catalogues of the Artillery Museum in Chapter 16 and from these we can conclude that the musket model approved for the Regiments of Royal Guards in 1815 was different from that one used by the Army Infantry although the differences were minimal.

I do not believe the same happened in 1824 and in my opinion the muskets used by the Infantry Regiments of the Royal Guard and of the Provincial Royal Guard were the same as issued to the Army, initially the model of 1815 and later on the model of 1828, and this last one probably was issued to the Royal Guard even before than to the Army's Infantry Regiments.

They were also probably these same Army models of 1815 and 1828 that were issued to the Marine Infantry battalions of the "Royal Marine Brigade" organized in 1827 by fusing these battalions with the Marine Artillery brigades; In February of 1833 the "Royal Marine Brigade" changed its name to "Royal Marine Artillery Corp".

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