

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(30)
"TERCEROLA" USED BY THE ROYAL GUARD'S CAVALRY DIVISION**

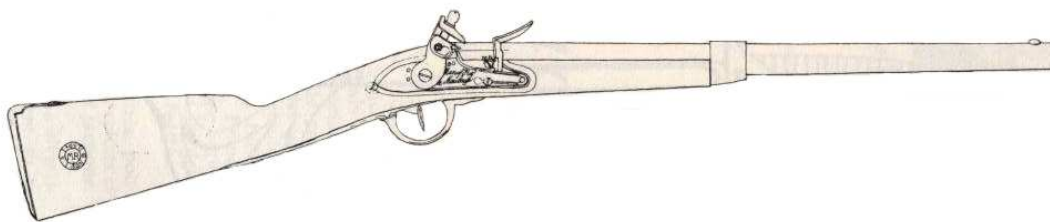
(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Model of "tercerola" used by the Regiment of "Cazadores" of the Royal Guard's Cavalry Division; 495 mm long, 18 mm ("de a 17") caliber barrel marked "Y/BAR/ZA/BAL" within an oval, and inscribed "Guardia Real"; Model of 1816 lock in the French style marked "AZC/ARR/UNZ" (unidentified) on the reverse of the plate; Number 199 on the buttstock; Overall length 870 mm.

The Regiment of "Cazadores" of the Royal Guard's Light Brigade, composed of four Squadrons with two Companies of 56 soldiers each, was equipped with "tercerolas"; In 1828 it was decreed that, in both, the Regiment of Lancers of the same Light Brigade, and in the two Regiments of Grenadiers and "Coraceros", one of the Companies should be of "Tiradores" and they would also be armed with "tercerolas".

According to Giménez Gonzalez, the Artillery Squadron attached to the Royal Guard's Cavalry Division was equipped with the "tercerola" that he denominates as the "model of 1826", probably referring to the same model used by the Regiment of "Cazadores" and that had been contracted to Don Gabriel Benito de Ibarzabal; This model, except for its Spanish regulation caliber "de a 17" was copied from the French "mousqueton de cavalerie" model of 1816, with a ramrod separate from the weapon, and bore the oval "Y/BAR/ZA/BAL" marking and the inscription "Guardia Real" on its barrel.



“Mousqueton de cavalerie modele 1816” with a 500 mm long, 17 mm (“de a 19”) caliber, as illustrated in “Armes a feu Francaises, Modeles d’ordonnance” by Jean Boudriot (installment number 2), Paris, 1961

We may ask ourselves if, in the same manner as with the model of pistol, this model of “tercerola” was originally conceived for the Brigade of “Carabineros Reales” with characteristics which are unknown to me at this time; In any case, in contrast to the pistol model, the model of “tercerola” which was supplied by Ibarzabal to the Royal Guard’s Regiment of “Cazadores” lacks any original details; It’s lock is the French one of 1816 and therefore different to the model, “improved” in 1812, used in the pistol models used by the Brigade of “Carabineros Reales” and by the Royal Guard’s Cavalry Division; This model of “tercerola” for the Royal Guard is the only one that I am aware of, amongst the Spanish issue guns, that uses a lock identical to the French lock of 1816.



Flash pans of the 1812 “improved” lock model used in pistols and incorporated into the French 1816 lock in the “tercerola”; Both locks with similar dimensions, around 135 mm long; The flash pan of the second one is of the type used with the Model 1828 lock, with a different cock.



Specimen of the model of percussion “tercerola” which was tried by the Company of “Tiradores” of the Royal Guard’s Regiment of “Coraceros”, in 1831; Overall length 631 mm , 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel; Specimen number 2053 in the Catalogue of the Artillery Museum.

The Company of “Tiradores” of the Royal Guard’s Regiment of “Coraceros”, was the first one to try , in 1831, a piston model, one specimen of which, shown in the Catalogue of the Artillery Museum with number 2053, is at this time missing from the Collection of the Museo del Ejército; B. Barceló Rubí reproduces part of the report on this trial where it was compared to the weapons then in service: “the results showing (only) minimal difference in, number of

shots fired, or in number of misfires, compared to those of percussion caps, although these conclusions are not definite due to the poor quality of the locks and caps used in these trials”

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March, 2012

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