

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(32)
EQUIPMENT OF THE ARTILLERY SQUADRON,
AND THE COMPANIES OF SAPPERS AND SUPPLY TRAIN,
ATTACHED TO THE ROYAL GUARD**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Model of 1836 musketoon; 690 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel; Model of 1828 French style lock; Overall length of the weapon 1,055 mm. Specimen number 2056 of the Collection of the Museo del Ejército, missing its sling- attachment ring.

Upon the reorganization of the Royal Guard an Artillery Squadron with three Companies and a strength of 270 men and 300 riding and work horses was attached to its Cavalry Division; Each Company had six pieces: four “de a 8” caliber cannon and two “de a 7” caliber howitzers; A Company of “Sappers-workers” with 120 members, 80 of them Sappers with 5 Officers, and 30 workers with 2 Officers, and another Company, of Train, were also attached to its Infantry Division .

According to Giménez González the members of the Artillery Squadron were armed with a pistol, a “tercerola model of 1826” and “a curved saber with quillions”; In my understanding, these weapons were of the models made for the Royal Guard’s Cavalry Division, the pistol being the one I described in Chapter 29, the “tercerola” the one described in Chapter 30, and the saber in Chapter 31.

About the Companies of Sappers-workers and of Train, the same author comments, regarding their attachment to the Guard: “... these Companies continued to belong to the Regiments from which they were drawn and continued to use their own uniform”; From this we can conclude that their armaments were those of standard issue to the Army’s Regiment of Engineers which, for the Sappers included: “.....a short musket (carbine) with bayonet, other gear, and a golden hilted machete”, and for the Train companies: “...for those on horseback, a slung “tercerola”, a long saber with straps, and pistols”.

I have not been able to identify the “short musket with bayonet” used by the Sappers; The “machete with golden hilt” may be the one shown in the Catalogues of the Artillery Museum as specimen number 1783 of its Collection

and described as “machete for Zapadores, model approved by H.M in the year 1826”, or, the preceding model with a similar blade and a solid brass hilt.



Machete for sappers with solid brass hilt, straight, double edged, 533x42 mm blade, inscribed on the obverse and reverse of the ricasso “Real Fabrica / de Toledo” – “Año de / 1823”. Alonso Rodríguez Collection.



Machete for sappers, similar to the one catalogued as the model of 1826 in the Collection of the Museo de Artillería; Specimen with a straight, 518x37 mm, double edged blade, lacking any inscriptions. E. Gorostiza Collection.

For the Company of Train, the pistol would be the standard issue cavalry model of 1815, and the “tercerola” actually a “muskatoon since it had rings for sling attachment”.

Presumably, this muskatoon, except for its 1812 “improved” French style lock, would not have differed much from the one shown at the opening of this article, number 2056 in the Collection of the Museo del Ejército.

**Juan L. Calvo
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