

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(36)
RIDING SWORD OF THE SQUADRON OF GUARDS OF H.M. THE QUEEN**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Model of riding sword that equipped the Guards of the Squadron of “Guardias de S.M. la Reina”; 945x28 mm blade, double edged and with three tables; Inscribed “REAL CUERPO DE GUARDIAS DE S.M.LA REINA” / “ARTILLERIA FABRICA DE TOLEDO 1852”, on the obverse/reverse respectively; Hilt with fenestrated bowl bearing the Coat of Arms of Spain; Ribbed hilt, shagreen covered and wired, with a long ferrule and pommel cap; V.Krenn collection.

I already mentioned this Squadron in Chapters 23 and 24; Due to an attempt on the life of Isabel II by a madman, the need was felt to organize a force to protect her in her displacements and, by Royal Decree of 27 January, 1852 the Squadron of “Guardias de S.M. la Reina” was created with a main Staff composed of, 1 “Comandante” with the rank of Brigadier, 1 Captain with that of Colonel, 2 Lieutenants with that of Lieutenant-Colonels, 3 “Alférez” with that of “Comandante”, and 1 Adjutant (a Captain).

In the Squadron the different positions had the same denominations as in the Royal “Guardias de Corps”: 1 “Brigadier” (Captain), 3 “First sub-Brigadiers” (Lieutenants), 8 “second sub-Brigadiers” (“Alférez”), 84 Guards (Sergeants), 4 Buglers, 1 Marshall, 1 “Picador” (horse tamer), and 8 servants; Up to the rank of “Alférez” they were Major Officers, while the Adjutants, “Brigadiers” and the “sub-Brigadiers” where Minor Officers.

By Royal Decree of February, 2, 1853, this Squadron was fused with the Companies of Royal Halberdier Guards and they took the name of Royal Corp of Guards of H.M. the Queen, composed of two Brigades, one of Infantry and one of Cavalry respectively, each one with a Major Staff and two Companies; The Cavalry Brigade was armed with sword and, carbine or “tercerola”.

General Espartero, Regent of the Kingdom and leader of the Radical Party was forced into exile in August of 1843, and, the “Moderates” under the leadership of General Narvaez, formed a Government; The Regency was ended and Isabel II was proclaimed to be of age, although she was only 14 years old; The “National Militia” was disbanded, the “Bicolor” bearing the Royal Arms as the Coat of Arms of Spain was adopted as the National Flag on 13-10-1843, and, the following year the “Guardia Civil” was created.

In 1853 the “Moderates” were still in power, which caused the creation of the Royal Corp of “Guardias de S.M. la Reina”; In 1854 they had to yield power to the “Radicals” again with General Espartero leading them; The “National Militia” was restored and the Royal Corp of “Guardias de S.M. la Reina” suppressed; Its Cavalry Brigade was disbanded and the two Companies of the Infantry Brigade recovered the name of Royal Corp of Halberdier Guards.

Of the Royal Corp of “Guards of H.M. the Queen” we have identified with certainty only the model of riding sword which equipped its Cavalry Brigade; It is also possible that the “commercial” saber shown below, bearing the Coat of Arms of Spain, surrounded by ermine, on its hilt, may have been used by an Officer of the Major Staff, as this detail allows us to relate it to the Royal Household.



“Commercial” Officer’s saber; 895x26 mm blade, inscribed “*Fabrica Nacional de Toledo, Año de 1844*”; Hilt with three quillons, and plate bearing the Coat of Arms of Spain on an ermine bed; Ribbed hilt, shagreen wrapped and wired, and long ferrule and pommel cap; J. J. Pérez collection.

**Juan L. Calvó
May, 2012**

Bibliography:

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