

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(37)
RIFLE, "TERCEROLA", AND SWORD,
OF THE "GUARDS OF H.M THE KING", AMADEO I**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Model of Remington rifle and sword-bayonet which equipped the Infantry Company of the Corp of "Guardias de S.M. el Rey", Amadeo I; Specimen dated 1870, manufactured at the Oviedo Factory; 900 mm long barrel, caliber 11 mm, bearing a sword- bayonet attachment lug; The bayonet blade is double edged on two tables and is inscribed "Fca. DE TOLEDO / AÑO DE 1871"; Specimen number 4759 of the Collection of the Museo del Ejército.

The Corp of "Guardias de S.M el Rey" was created as an escort for the monarch Amadeo I, by Royal Decree of February, 3, 1871; It was a dependency of the Military wing of the King's Household and was organized in two Companies, one of Infantry and one "of Horse", respectively, with a Main Staff composed of 1 Main Medical Adjutant, 1 Chaplain, 1 Armourer and 1 Saddler.

The Infantry Company was commanded by 1 Captain (an Army Colonel), 2 Lieutenants ((Lieutenant-Colonels), 2 "Alférez" (Comandantes), 1 Sergeant Major (a Captain), 2 second Sergeants (Lieutenants), 4 Corporals ("Alférez"), 120 Guards, 2 Drummers, and 2 Buglers.

The Horse Company was commanded by a Captain (a Cavalry Colonel), 1 Lieutenant (Lieutenant-Colonel), 2 "Alférez" (Comandantes), 1 Sergeant Major (Captain), 2 second Sergeants (Lieutenants), 4 Corporals ("Alférez"), 1 First Veterinary Professor, 70 Guards, 1 foundry worker, 2 Blacksmiths and 2 Buglers.

On February, 28, 1871 the Oviedo Factory was instructed to manufacture "190 Remington carbines for the Infantry and Cavalry Companies of the King's Guard"; These "carbines" were actually 120 Remington model rifles for the Infantry Company and 70 "tercerolas" for the Horse Company; Specimen number 4759 of the Collection of the Museo del Ejército is a sample of the rifle,

dated 1870 and bearing a sword-bayonet; The model of “tercerola” made for the Horse Company would not differ from the one approved as regulation issue for the Cavalry, by Royal Order of February, 24, 1871.



Detail of the sword-bayonet for the rifle used by the “Guardias de S.M. el Rey”, numbered 34 on its hilt; 606x25 mm blade, with ricasso, double edged on two tables, inscribed “Fca. DE TOLEDO / AÑO DE 1871”; E. Gorostiza collection.



“Commercial” riding sword used by the Horse Company of the “Guardias de S.M el Rey”, Amadeo I; Straight 845 x 22 mm blade, single edged, rounded spine with adjoining groove in its first two thirds and, double edged on three tables the last third; The first two thirds are engraved and bear the inscription “GUARDIAS DEL REY” / “FABRICA DE TOLEDO 1871” , on its obverse and reverse respectively; Hilt with brass, basket or lamp-light type guard, bearing the Arms of Spain, with inner velvet lining, marked “J/MARTIN”; White metal scabbard; P. Ameller collection.

I know of the existence of only two specimens of the riding sword model used by the Horse Company of the Guards of H.M the King, both with Toledo Factory made blades, and hilts made by the Madrid “bronze and sword maker”, Juan Martin, one of them, the one shown above, is numbered 6 (or 9) on the crossguard and 8 on the scabbard chape.

Its quality is of “commercial”, Officers grade, but the (issue) numbers on the hilt and scabbard make this doubtful; It may have been an issue model paid for by the “Military wing of the King’s Household”; This Royal Corp was disbanded on February, 15, 1873, after the Monarch’s abdication.

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