

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(39)
“TERCEROLAS” AND REVOLVERS OF THE ROYAL ESCORT SQUADRON**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)

The firearms used by the troops of the Royal Household during Alfonso XII's reign (1875-1885), during the Regency (1885-1902), and during Alfonso XIII's reign (1902-1931) were the same Regulation weapons used by the Army; There were no exclusive “models”, as in the past, made for these troops, which, in 1875, were reduced to two Companies of Royal Halberdier Guards and the Royal Escort Squadron, and, were extinguished in 1931 upon the proclamation of the Republic.



Model of 1871 Remington “tercerola”, Oviedo Factory, dated 1875; 588 mm long, 11 mm caliber barrel; Specimen number 2000-141 of the Montjuïc Military Museum (M.M.M)’s Collection.

In 1875 all the classes of troops of the Royal Escort Squadron were armed with Model of 1871 Remington “tercerolas”, while the Officers were issued the Lefauchaux system, 12 mm caliber, pinfire regulation revolver, or, the Smith & Wesson Number 3, 44 “Russian” caliber revolver, authorized by the General Artillery Directorate in November of 1874; With these weapons the Squadron fought in the only occasion it was forced to, during the lifting of the blockade of Pamplona (March, 2, 1875).

After assuming command of the Army, Alfonso XII personally appeared at the theater of war, accompanied by the Royal Escort Squadron and one section of the Halberdier Guards.



Number 3, Second Russian Model , Smith & Wesson revolver, six shots, 44 “Russian” caliber, with a 7” (178 mm) barrel.

The 1885 and 1892 Cavalry Regulations are very concise regarding the armaments used by this Squadron and, as firearms for Chiefs and Officers, they stipulate: “Revolver: The one recommended by Royal Order of 6 of October of 1884, with a silver lanyard”, and for the troopers: “Winchester tercerola”.



Revolver recommended by R.O of October, 6, 1884, model of 1884 in 11 mm caliber; Double action, six shots, 129 mm long barrel, inscribed “ORBEA HERMANOS y C^a, EIBAR - CON PRIVILEGIO EN ESPAÑA”

The revolver is the one featured in the Orbea Hermanos catalogue as their Number 7, while the Winchester “tercerola” is illustrated in the Atlas of the work “Curso Elemental de Armas Portátiles de Fuego” (1889) (“Elementary Course of Portable Firearms”), which specifies: “the model shown in our illustrations is the one currently in use by the Royal Escort and the 14th “Tercio” (Regiment) of the Civil Guard”.



Winchester “tercerola”, illustrated in the Atlas of “Curso Elemental de Armas Portátiles” (1889) by Juan Génova.

It was a model made by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, a modification of the Model of 1873 Winchester carbine which had been one of the repeating firearms selected for trials in Spain, for possible adoption; This firm produced 230 units of this carbine in 1879 on an experimental basis as the “Spanish Model”, in 44-40 (44 WCF) caliber.

The Cavalry Ordinances of 1910 and 1923 are equally concise in their description of those models issued to the Royal Escort Squadron; For Chiefs and Officers they stipulate: "Revolver or pistol: The Regulation one", and for the troopers, "the Regulation Mauser carbine"; In 1910 the regulation pistol was the M1908 Bergmann, plus in 1914 the Campo-Giro Model of 1913, in 1916 the Campo-Giro Model of 1913-16, and in 1923, the "model of 1921 9 mm pistol" (ASTRA 400); The regulation Mauser carbine was the Model of 1895.



Model of 1895 Mauser carbine, specimen number 1971-177 of the Montjuïc Military Museum (M.M.M)'s Collection.

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