

**ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, 1788-1931
(6)
MUSKET USED BY THE COMPANIES OF “CAZADORES-ARTILLEROS”
IN THE SPANISH GUARDS REGIMENT OF THE ROYAL GUARD, 1793-1803**

(Translation by Hector J. Meruelo)



Infantry musket, number 1969 in the collection of the “Museo del Ejército” (Army Museum), catalogued as the model used by the Companies of “Cazadores-Artilleros” (Artillery Chasseurs or Jaegers), which were financed by the Duke of Osuna; 1110 mm long barrel, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber; Lock “a la moda” (in fashion, a hybrid French-Spanish lock), furniture with hidden ramrod channel; Socket bayonet with an 490x91 mm blade.

The Infantry Regiments of the Royal Guard were the Royal Spanish Guards and the Royal Walloon Guards; The first one, inspired in the Infantry Guard of Louis XIV of France, was formed in 1704 and its members were selected from the companies of fusiliers of the Spanish Regiments of the Army, while the Walloon Guards Regiment was formed from the battalions of the Low Countries which, around the same date, marched to Spain to join Felipe V's army.

In 1788 they were organized according to the Regulations of 1773 and each Regiment had six Battalions of seven Companies each, each one with four Officers and ninety-nine soldiers; One of these Companies was of Grenadiers, who, besides muskets with bayonet carried sabers, and the other six were of Fusiliers; the Main Staff had seventy five members, paid by the King, not counting the Officers including the “Pífanos” (fifers) and the Sappers.

In 1793, due to the war with France, the Duke of Osuna, Colonel of the Regiment of Royal Spanish Guards, requested and obtained from Carlos IV

permission to *“raise, dress, arm, and support”* at his expense, six companies of “Cazadores-Artilleros”, each one with one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, one “Alferez” (sub-Lieutenant), four Sergeants, six first Corporals, six second Corporals, two Drummers and eighty-two “Cazadores”.

Each company of “Artilleros-Cazadores” was attached to one of the battalions of Royal Spanish Guards but disappeared in May of 1803 when the Regiments of Royal Guards were reformed and the number of battalions was reduced to three.

The Catalogue of the “Museo de Artillería”, published in 1856, states that the musket illustrated above, number 1969 of its Collection, was *“built by the gunsmith Marschal in 1790”* and the same is stated in its 1911 Catalogue, adding that the barrel is inscribed “C W-I No.7” and “Gs. Es. 6 Bº 5 Cª Nº 66” (Spanish Guards, Sixth Battalion, Fifth Company, number 66) and notes that once these companies were dissolved some of their muskets went to arm the Catalanian “miñones” (local police forces), *“who kept them only briefly, as the people started calling them “mata porcs” (pig killers), due to the shape of their bayonets”*.

Unquestionably this musket was produced in the Catalanian Factory, together with the other armaments that were made there in the early 1790’s, contracted by the various personalities and corporations that levied troops there to aid Carlos IV, in view of the imminent war with France; The above mentioned armourer “Marschal”, probably was Martin Marechal, known to have worked in this factory.



Infantry musket , made in the Catalanian Factory around 1790; 1110 mm long barrel, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber; model of 1789 Spanish lock, Catalanian variant, marked “PIG/RAV” (Francesc Pigrau, Ripoll); Hidden ramrod channel.

I have not been able to see any specimens of this musket model, which equipped the companies of Fusiliers and Grenadiers in the Regiments of the Royal Spanish and Walloon Guards of the Royal Guard, but I do not believe it differed significantly from those with “Spanish lock”, issued to the regular Army around 1789.

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October, 2011

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