

ARMAMENTS OF THE TROOPS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 1788-1931
 (9)
 CARBINE OF THE SQUADRON OF “CAZADORES”
 IN THE “ADMIRAL’S GUARD”, 1802-1808

(Translation by Hector.J.Meruelo)



“Tercerola” with 675 mm long, 18 mm (“de a 17”) caliber barrel, dated 1803, marked “BETO/LAZA” (José María de Betolaza, Elgoibar) under crown, with brass front sight and a rod retaining clip towards the muzzle; Mixed lock, “Model 1801”, marked “EGVIA” (Teodoro de Eguia, Placencia); Embedded in its furniture, an oval, 22x18 mm, metallic escutcheon; Hook and ring for sling attachment; Overall length 1,034 mm; This specimen has some damage to its stock

The “Admiral’s Guard”, attached to the Brigade of Royal “Carabineros”, was composed of one squadron of Hussars and one of “Cazadores”, each one with its own uniform; The Brigade also contained four Squadrons of Cavalry of the Line which were equipped with a carbine, a pair of pistols, and a riding sword; Of the two Squadrons of the Admiral’s Guard, Manuel Giménez González

states that “...for their armaments they used pistols, sabers with plain brass hilts and black leather, brass-reinforced scabbards with white portepee, black leather belt and accouterments” and, “the “Cazadores” used the same carbine as that used by the Army “; Later on he adds, when describing the Hussars’s uniforms, that “they did not use bandoliers as they had no carbines”.

The uniforms of the Hussars and the “Cazadores” was unified in 1806 and, from that date on, being both components of the Brigade of Royal “Carabineros”, both wore the uniform of the “Cazadores”.

Since the “tercerola” illustrated at the start of this article does not have any inscriptions proving it to have been the model used by the Admiral’s Guard we can not state conclusively that it is such, but its construction differs significantly from the standard model issued to the Army; Therefore, it is a unique model which was contracted to the Placencia gunmakers Guilds, for the exclusive use of the Guard.



Standard issue “tercerola” with a 676 mm long, 18 mm caliber (“de a 17”), barrel, dated 1806; Spanish lock, Biscayne variant; Inscribed “1º 2ª Nº 15 B” (1st Squadron , 2nd Company, number 15B); Overall length 1,120 mm.

The war against the Convention, from 1793 to 1795, was disastrous for those weapons factories near the French border; Placencia was occupied by enemy troops and, in Catalonia, the principal portable weapons barrels locks factory of Ripoll was razed. Lessons were also learned from this war: The Cavalry should include light regiments of Hussars or “Cazadores”, besides the regiments of the Line, whose carbines proved to be inadequate; Shorter carbines were needed and these were made and called “tercerolas” to differentiate them from “Cavalry carbines”. The Cavalry Regulations of 1803 already mentions them: “a tercerola for each Soldier, Corporal, and Carabinero, as the other classes shall not bear them”.

The “carabinas”, cited by Giménez González as equipment of the Squadron of “Cazadores” in the “Admiral’s Guard”, as “like those of the Army”, per force must have been “tercerolas”, just as the pistols that equipped the four

Squadrons of Cavalry of the Line were very different from those made before the war of 1793-95 .

Juan L. Calvó
October, 2011.

Bibliography:

M. Gómez Ruiz and V. Alonso Juanola, “El Ejército de los Borbones”, Vol IV, Madrid, 1995.

Juan L. Calvó, “Armamentos de munición en las FF.AA.EE., producción de antecarga, 1700-1873”, Barcelona, 2004

Juan L. Calvó, “Armamento Español en la Guerra de la Independencia”, Madrid, 2008

NOTE

**These works are copyrighted and are the intellectual property of the author.
Reproduction by any means without the author’s previous explicit authorization is
forbidden and penalized by law.**

**However, it may be downloaded for personal use,
as a service to the collecting community.**