

MILITARY  
ANTIQUITIES  
RESPECTING  
A HISTORY

OF

*THE ENGLISH ARMY,*

FROM

THE CONQUEST TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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*A new Edition with material additions & improvements.*



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1801.

hands it continued anno 1690; where in a treatise of military discipline, published by authority, it is called a bayonet (y). It is not however mentioned in some instructions for the manual exercise published two years after, for the use of the militia, but from divers other military books written about the same time, it appears that the dragoons as well as grenadiers, both horse and foot, had daggers or bayonets, and fixed them in the muzzles of their pieces; neither Father Daniel nor Monsieur St. Remy give the particular date, when the present mode of fixing bayonets took place, nor by whom it was invented; the improvement is said to have originated in France, which seems to be corroborated by the following anecdote communicated to me by Lieut. Col. Christopher Maxwell of the 30th regiment of foot, who had it from his grandfather, formerly Lieutenant Colonel of the 25th regiment of foot. In one of the campaigns of King William III. in Flanders, in an engagement, the name of which my informant has forgot, there were three French regiments, whose bayonets were made to fix after the present fashion, a contrivance then unknown in the British army; one of them advanced against the 25th regiment with fixed bayonets; Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell who commanded it, ordered his men to screw their bayonets into their muzzles to receive them; but to his great surprize, when they came within a proper distance, the French threw in a heavy fire, which for a moment staggered his people, who by no means expected such a greeting, not conceiving how it was possible to fire with fixed bayonets; they nevertheless recovered themselves, charged and drove the enemy out of the line.

At what time the mode of fixing the bayonet, so as not to prevent

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command was, *cast over to the left*, on which, they were to lay their right hands on their daggers, *draw your dagger*, holding it fast before you upright, *screw it into the muzzle of your firelock*, so that the flat side may be toward you when reovered.

(y) BAYONET, from being first made at Bayonne in Spain. Those ancient bayonets are called by the French, bayonets à manche. Many of them may be seen in the small armory in the Tower; the handles are plain, fitting tight into the muzzle of the musket, and rather enlarging towards the blade, to prevent their entering too far into the piece.

loading and firing with it, was adopted in England, I have not been able to discover, but believe it was not at first done quite in the present form; the late Rev. Mr. W. Gostling of Canterbury, a man very curious respecting military matters told me he had seen two horse grenadiers riding before Queen Anne's coach with fixed bayonets, that these bayonets were of the dagger kind having handles originally intended for screwing into the muzzles of the pieces, which handles then had two rings, fixed to them for the admission of the barrel of the piece. In a book of exercise, for the horse dragoons and foot, printed anno 1728 by authority, the bayonet of the present fashion is described.

THE introduction of the bayonet naturally procured the dismissal of the pike, which with the exchange of the matchlock for the snap-hance, the original name of the present lock took place about the third or fourth year of the reign of King William III. this exchange seems not to have been made all at once, but by degrees, wherefore an exact period for that alteration cannot be assigned.

IN the beginning of the reign of King William III. notwithstanding the act of the 13th of Charles II. defensive armour was so much laid aside, that we learn from the Journals of the House of Commons, in the year 1690, a petition was presented by the workmen armourers of the city of London, setting forth that by the act of the 13th of Charles II. it was provided that at every muster and exercise of the militia, every horseman is to bring with him defensive arms, viz. breast and potts, pistol proof; and the back, sword proof: every pikeman to have a back, breast, and head-piece; and every musquetier a head-piece: for want of due execution of which laws, the petitioners trade is like to be utterly lost: and praying the consideration of the house for reviving and encouraging the art of making armour. In answer to which it was ordered, that the consideration of the above-mentioned petition of the workmen armourers of the city of London be referred to the committee, to whom it is referred to prepare and bring in a bill for the better regulating and making the militia of the kingdom more useful.

N. B. THE coat and some other parts of the drawing having been etched without reversing, brings the loop described in No. 1. and the sword No. 4, on the wrong side.

## P L A T E XL.

FIG. 1. A matchlock musquet from the Tower of London.

FIG. 2. The inside of its lock on a larger scale.

FIG. 3. Its bayonet, to be fixed by sticking the handle into the muzzle of the musquet.

FIG. 4. The same sort of bayonet, to be fixed by means of the rings, as described and drawn by Mr. Gostling.

FIG. 5. The head of a musquet rest armed with a bayonet, as described by Bariffe.

FIG. 6. A common musquet rest, in the collection of Mr. Gostling.

FIG. 7. A set of bandileers, with powder flask, and bullet bag.

FIG. 8. A wheel lock piece in the collection of Mr. Brander.

FIG. 9. The lock on a larger scale.

FIG. 10. The spanner for spanning or winding up the spring of the wheel lock.

## P L A T E XLI.

AN ancient iron mace in the collection of Gustavus Brander, Esq.

THE whole length of this mace is two feet one inch, the length of the head seven inches.

WEIGHT, three pounds nine ounces, the handle hollow. The whole mace appears to have been gilt; at present most of the gilding is rubbed off. The handle is perforated near the middle for the passing of a ring, chain, or thong, to hang it to the saddle bow.

## P L A T E XLII.

FIG. 1. Part of a helmet shewn in Warwick Castle, said to have belonged to Guy earl of Warwick.

FIG. 2. A side view of the same helmet, with the pivot, and a small fragment of the visor.

