

The British Royal Cypher—1660 to Present CRII–ERII

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Fasten your figurative seat belts, folks, this promises to be a fast fling through 300 years of royal firearms 'istory and the fellows and femmes "wot" foisted it upon us.

Normally, Brits present a *Punch and Judy* show of utterly "Hinglish" political and social satire. Today, let us call it the *Nock and Bess* show, *Henry and Brownie*, if you prefer first names, featuring the finest of royal martial weaponry and their 'ighness owners represented thereon by their respective Royal Cyphers.

Such symbols have been around Europe for a long time. Only in England, however, did a persistent pattern develop of placing a large crown over cypher on the lockplates of government-owned military firearms and related paraphernalia.

Because John W. Jordan, in his *The Eagle on U.S. Firearms*, so capably covers the U.S. equivalent of a Royal Cypher, even equating the two pictured in juxtaposition, and I could find, on this side of the pond, little written material on its British cousin, it seemed worthwhile to research the latter. Jordan thinks of these lockplate symbols as "government trademarks." I believe, in addition, they are there to remind both shooter and shootee of the power of the throne over their respective destinies!

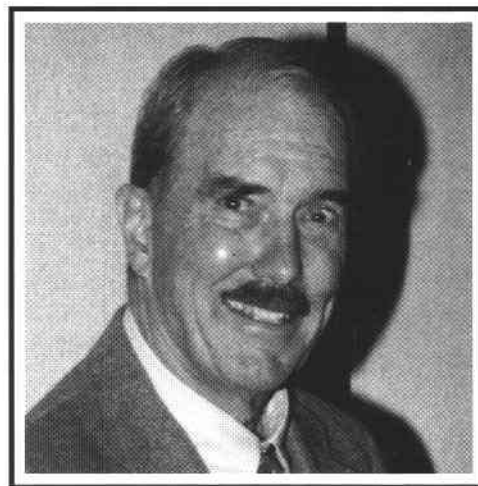
Webster's 20th Century Unabridged Dictionary defines *cypher* in part as: "an intricate weaving together of letters as the initials of a name, on a seal, plate or coach, tomb, picture, etc.; a monogram."

The crown surmounting and the trailing R make it Royal.

The obvious place to turn for a good start was Howard Blackmore's seminal work, *British Military Firearms, 1650-1850*, which displays a beautiful Georgian Royal Cyphered musket lock on the cover of the 1994 reprint. Toward the back of the book he devotes four pages to Royal Viewing and Proofing marks and Royal Cyphers. The nautical William Gilkerson also touches briefly on cyphers in his *Boarders Away II*, but few sources appear to dwell on the British subject in the Jordanian detail of *The Eagle* . . .

CHARLES II

The 10-year period before the restoration of Stuart Kings in 1660 was a time of turmoil in England under a



Parliamentary Commonwealth headed by General Oliver Cromwell. View and Proofmarks of the 1650s are the first four shown on this partial page 281 from Blackmore. With the restoration in 1660 of Charles II, son of the beheaded Charles I, Royal Viewing and Proofing marks included a crown over the monarch's initial followed by an "R" for Rex, Latin for king, or Regina for queen. These "mini" Royal Cyphers continued, on barrels down at least through the Victorian era.

Charles, as far as we can determine, while introducing Royal crowned View and Proof marks, did not require a Royal Cypher on the lockplates of weapons produced for the Crown during his reign.

One of the most significant happenings during his kingship impacting us colonials was a campaign by his brother, James, Duke of York, against the Dutch, which resulted in the surrender of Nieuwe Amsterdam by my feisty forbear, Pieter Stuyvesant, to a British fleet commanded by the future king. It was no coincidence that Nieuwe Amsterdam was renamed—what else but New York!

Other excitement included the Bubonic Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London the following year. Charles, normally more of a cocksman and yachtsman, is reported to have played fireman on this scary occasion.

He did leave as important legacies of his 25-year reign, the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679 and architect Christopher Wren rebuilding London after the 1666 fire.

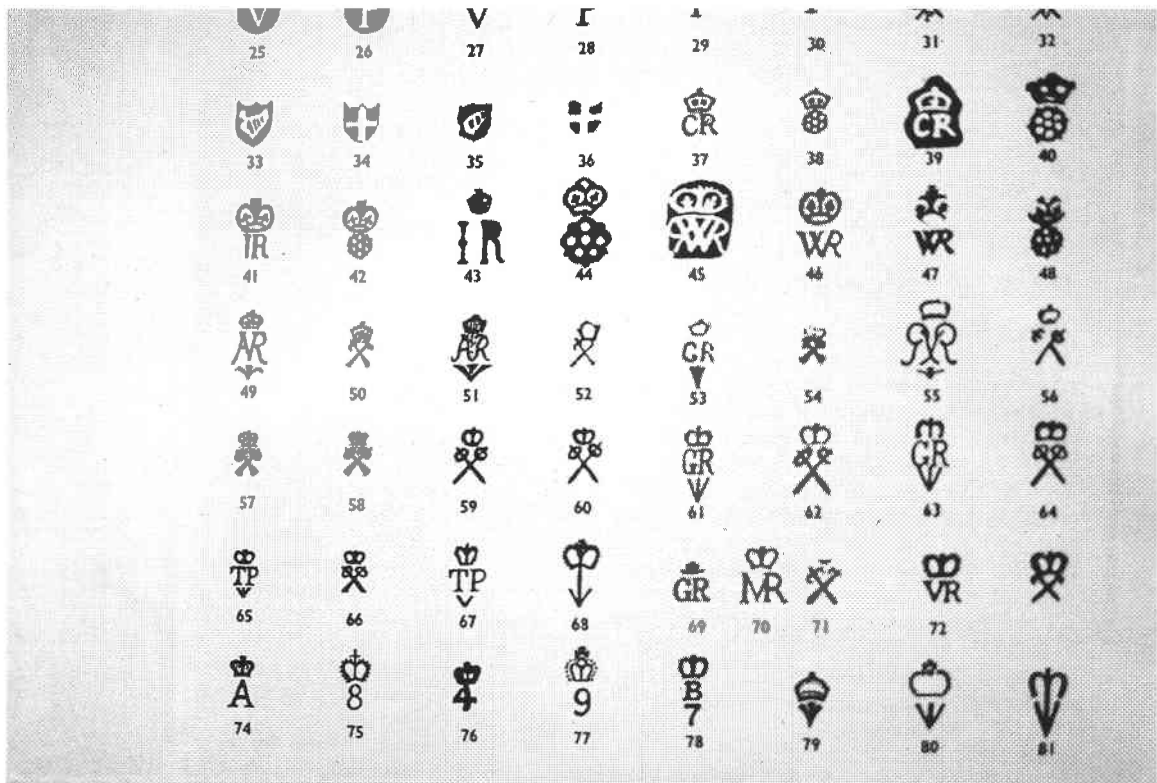


Figure 1. Blackmore View and Proof Marks, *British Military Firearms 1690–1850*, partial page 281.



Figure 2. Portrait of Charles II.



Figure 3. Portrait of James II.

JAMES II

Charles' younger brother, once Duke of York, now James II, succeeded to the monarchy in 1685. An interesting legacy of both James' and Charles' rules is that, although they were closet Catholics ruling a Protestant-controlled England, they were tolerant of the influx of mechanically skilled French Protestant Huguenots driven out of France because their Royal associate, Louis XIV, revoked the Edict of Nantes. Sadly, both countries displayed gross intolerance toward the established faiths of the other. These Huguenot French gunsmiths, with names such as Barbar, Sauvage, Le Maire, De Lattre, and many others, introduced the French lock, which was superior to the established English "dog" lock as is attested by this graceful J2R cyphered French-type lock on a Robert Brooke carbine. Brooke carried the lofty title of "Maker of the King's Guns Within the Tower of London and Elsewhere."

Blackmore's *British Military Firearms* implies, in the picture plate of Royal Cyphers on page 283, that James' reign saw the first use of the Royal Cypher on a musket or pistol lockplate, although it had been on English artillery since Tudor times and on artillery in other countries as well. Note

variations even within a reign and increasing sophistication as the practice evolves. The folk art quality of earlier cyphers is more appealing than the machine stamping on later ones.

Use of the cypher was not confined to firearms because we have observed in a contemporary painting of an officer in a military miter hat with James' cypher on its face as well as on other items of militaria. It is just that firearms are more durable than cloth and leather and thus more available for examination today.

It is surprising to see an Arabic 2 between J and R on both carbine and hat in the 17th century rather than the Roman numeral in this context, which predominates over these three centuries. Occasionally, an Arabic Royal 2 or 3 pops up on accoutrements, but nowhere else have we seen it on lockplates.

James' reign lasted barely more than 2½ years when the seven powers-that-be of Church and State became concerned about the supposed birth of a son to his 15-year-old second wife, Mary of Modena, a Catholic. James' two older Protestant-reared daughters by his first wife, Anne Hyde, were married to European Protestant princes—Mary to William of Orange in Holland and Anne to Prince George of Denmark. Consequently, those seven movers and shakers instigated a "Glori-



Figure 4. Robert Brooke J2R Cypher Carbine—P. Wainwright coll.

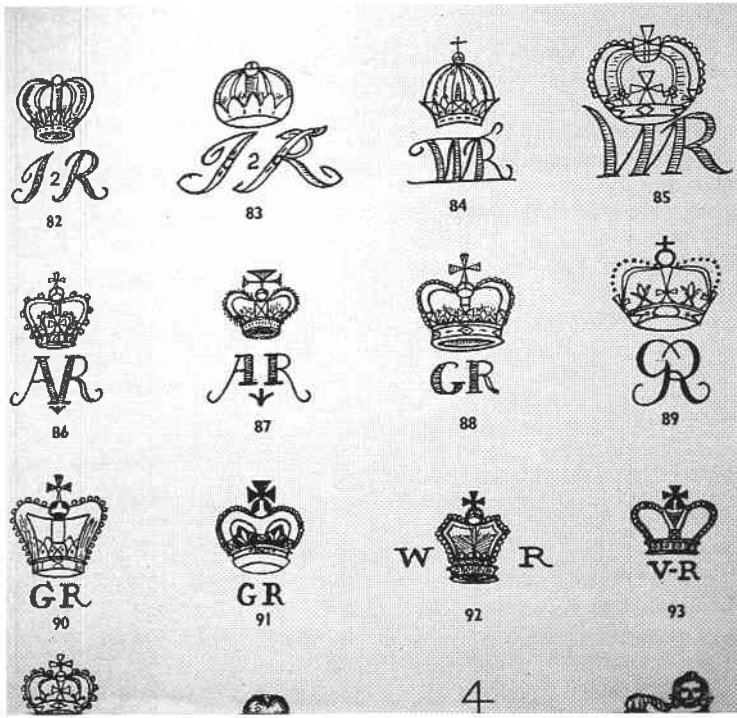


Figure 5. Blackmore Royal Cyphers, p. 283.



Figure 6. William and Mary Platter.



Figure 7. WR Cypher Musket Lock—P. Wainwright coll.

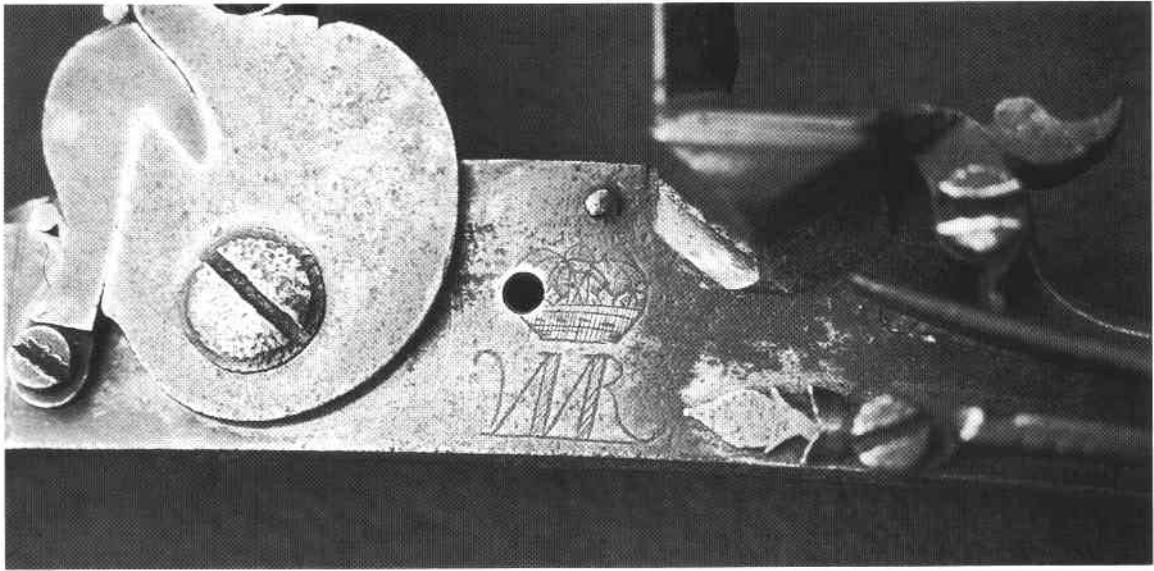


Figure 8. WR Cypher Dog Lock—Lee Burke coll.



Figure 9. Portrait of Queen Anne.



Figure 10. Painting of "Marlborough Man."

ous Revolution” in 1688 by inviting the elder daughter, Mary, with her warrior husband and cousin, William, to assume the throne as co-monarchs. What minor resistance James was able to offer to their landing and usurpation of his crown was rather simply dispatched, and James was allowed to flee to France, not suffering the terminal fate of his father, Charles I. However, as we shall later see, he and his Catholic son and grandson, the “Old” and “Young” pretenders, respectively, continued to make trouble for the Protestant crown of England during succeeding years.

WILLIAM AND MARY

William and Mary were invested as co-monarchs, as the platter illustrates. William, however, was an accomplished warrior, having stood up to the king of France while leader of Holland. Thus, male chauvinism prevailed, and he was “more equal” than his co-monarch spouse when it came to executive and military duties. The WR cypher is not joined by MR on the lockplate.

William not only had to fight the French but also his French-backed father-in-law who stirred up trouble in Ireland. Again, he allowed James to flee after beating him roundly in 1690 at the Battle of Boyne. Ulster Protestants, to this day, wear orange and refer to themselves as Orangemen in William’s honor, particularly when they wish to annoy Ulster Catholics.

An important Bill of Rights was implemented with the

crowning of these co-monarchs, the most significant restrictions on the power of the throne since the Magna Carta and the more recent Habeas Corpus Act.

English born gunsmiths, who probably resented the influx of their more skilled immigrant French counterparts, still managed to sell the crown a few dog lock muskets, but the French lock became the standard flintlock.

Mary died of smallpox in 1694, but her Dutch husband continued to rule very successfully, from an English point of view, until his horseback riding death in 1702, just as the lengthy and bitter war of the Spanish succession commenced.

William was succeeded peacefully by his sister-in-law, Anne.

QUEEN ANNE

Anne’s powerful weapon in this long and bitter war was her best girlfriend, Sarah’s, husband, a fast-rising army colonel by the name of John Churchill. Although their friendship did not survive the political infighting between Whigs and Tories, Churchill became the doughty Duke of Marlborough, victor of the Battle of Blenheim not far from Munich. A grateful nation, headed by his wife’s girlfriend, Anne Regina, gave him a very expensive palace in which another most important war time leader would be born 170 years later. The Crown and nation did not, however, complete the payments on it.



Figure 11. Queen Anne Cyphered Dymond Pistol—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 12. Portrait of George I.

Although Marlborough's military career was one of bloody success piled upon bloody success, political infighting between Whigs and Tories eventually brought him down when he was accused of diverting army funds, possibly to support the lifestyle that the nation had thrust upon him.

Marlborough's successes did, however, result in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, at just about the end of Anne's reign. In the meantime many pre-Brown Bess muskets and numerous horse pistols had been produced for the use of his troops with Anne's cyphers on their somewhat banana-shaped lockplates.

The perennially pregnant Anne—18 times are recorded—died in 1714 without living issue, leaving a legacy of Queen Anne's Wars, Queen Anne furniture, and Queen Anne pistols.

Her distant relative, Sophia of Hanover, a granddaughter of the first Stuart King, James I, had been designated heir to the throne, but Sophia preceded Anne in death by a few months. Because the deposed James II's Catholic heir, "Old Pretender" James Francis Edward, with the help at various times of the French, Scottish, or Irish, was still causing problems, the very Protestant English Parliament, promptly turned over the throne to her very German son George.

GEORGE I

George, Elector of Hanover, even though he spoke no English, qualified for the throne by virtue of a slightly Stuart bloodline and no suspicion of his practicing "Popery."



Figure 13. GR I Musket—C. Miller coll.



Figure 14. Portrait of George II.



Figure 16. Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie.



Figure 15. GR II Jordan Pistol Dated 1746—P. Wainwright coll.

Except for minor Jacobite uprisings by followers of James' son, "The Old Pretender," King George's 13-year reign was relatively peaceful, although consequently, according to Michael Barthorp in *The Armies of Britain 1485-1980*, "not a happy one for the army." It was marred mainly by the bursting of the speculative South Sea Bubble, hardly a matter for the military.

Firearms left over from Anne's wars and reign were adequate in modernity and numbers, so George I cyphered weapons are the rarest of the 18th century.

The picture of our new member, Clint Miller's magnificent musket, has to fill the only serious gap in my Royal Cypher side and shoulder arm collection.

Some positive legacies of this non-English speaking king's reign were Isaac Newton's apple, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, and the still practiced Septennial Act looming ominously over the present Tory government, which has been in power for almost 7 years since the last election.

GEORGE II

George II assumed power in 1727 upon the death of his father and managed to preside over a great many wars that followed the lull of the preceding reign. Thus there are numerous examples of cyphered weapons from the Wars of

the Austrian Succession plus the final Jacobite gasps of the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie, who though successful at Prestonpans, Scotland in 1745, suffered disastrous defeat in 1746 at the Battle of Cullodan.

Production of firearms must have been stimulated by these events because three examples in my collection are dated 1746. The year 1746 is on the tail of this Georgian cyphered Jordan pistol lock.

Bonnie Prince Charlie fled as in this song:

Speed bonnie boat like a bird on the wing,
Onward the sailors cry.
Carry the lad who's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.
Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunder claps rend the air.
Baffled our foes stand by the shore,
Follow they will not dare.

Following was not necessary as he fled all the way to Rome only to die of drink 42 years later.

Many of his followers were ruthlessly killed by GR-cyphered, mitered hat minions of George wearing G2R-cyphered cartridge boxes and egged on by drummers in GR-cyphered jackets.

Others were sent as slaves to the American Colonies in which Scottish names were prominent among the revolutionaries 30 years later, particularly those who came over the



Plate 226. British waist cartridge box bearing the monogram of George II. This is made of a block of wood with the leather flap nailed at the back.

Figure 17. G2R Cartridge Box

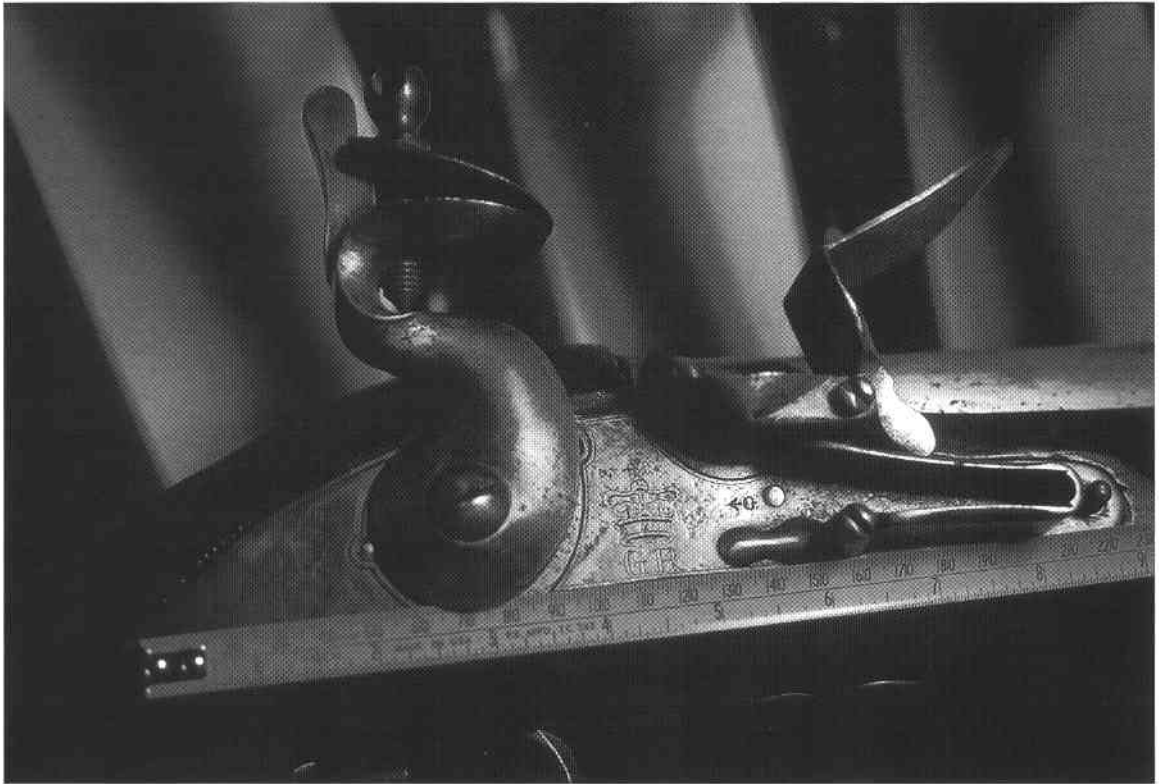


Figure 18. GR II James Farmer Wall Gun Lock—P. Wainwright coll.

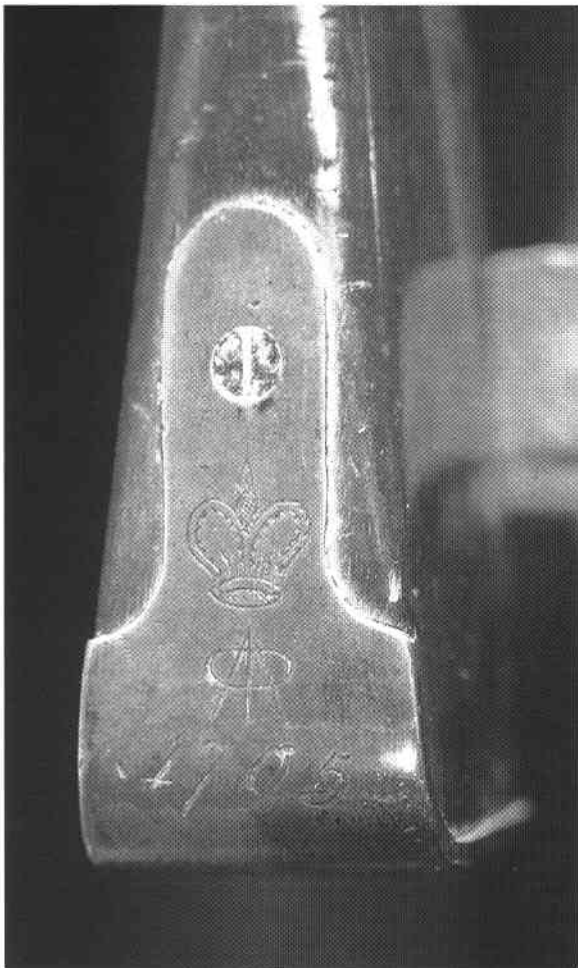


Figure 19. AR Cyphered Butt Plate on GR Naval Blunderbuss—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 20. Cartoon of George III

Appalachian mountains to defeat a fellow Scot, Major Patrick Ferguson, he of the breech-loading rifle, and his Tory band at North Carolina's King's Mountain.

This 9-inch lock on a 6-foot-long wall gun by James Farmer is a 1-inch bore, at least 40-pound (pardon the expression) "blown-up" Brown Bess.

Although these GR cyphers on firearms have a II, the dates and makers' names on many are a giveaway.

The Crown, however, attempted from time to time, to standardize and cut costs by farming out to many gunsmiths parts production of locks, stocks, and barrels and then assembling weapons in the Tower of London. Such were, for the most part, just marked Tower and Royal Cypher rather than the name of the lockmaker and a date as heretofore and are harder to ascribe.

Utilizing the likes of these arms, India and Canada were secured for the crown by Clive and Wolfe, respectively. Much as Abraham Lincoln was reputed to have responded to reports that General Grant was a drunk with . . . "Find me his brand of whiskey and I will give some to my other generals . . .," so King George earlier had retorted when told that General Wolfe was "mad," with . . . "Then I must have him *bite* my other generals."

A naval musketoon or blunderbuss in my collection is virtually the same as pictured in Blackmore, the middle of three guns in Figure 20, p. 99, except equipped with a yoke and pintle swivel similar to that found on many wall guns. I call it my "four-fer," built one might guess, circa 1760; the lockplate cypher could represent either GR II or his grandson, GR III, during whose reign the cock may have been replaced, neither of them using identifying numerals, Roman or Arabic. Most interesting though, is the characteristic flat brass butt plate of naval shoulder weapons. This formed, flat slab of brass had survived earlier sea service during the reign of Queen Anne as evidenced by a beautiful AR 1705 cypher on its upper tang. At least this brass served through the reigns of about four monarchs, Anne and her various Georgian successors, thus my "four-fer" the price of one gun.

In this connection, Blackmore comments, with the caption under Figure 20, on the naval use of earlier brass on a later gun, so the practice must have been widespread. Although the navy was the "senior service," it often received hand-me-downs from the army or made do with salvage or rebuilt guns. Life at sea was tough on ships, men, and their weapons, i.e., ". . . wooden ships and iron men . . ." as their navy of that period has been described.

George II, who hated his eldest son, Frederick, survived long enough for Freddie's death and left the throne to his grandson, George, in 1760.

GEORGE III

George III was, of course, our least favorite king, and we colonials forcibly severed ties with the motherland during his reign. Apparently, some of his homebound subjects were not exactly fond of him either, as evidenced by this cartoon.

There were numerous wars in addition to the American Revolution, and thus numerous arms survive with Georgian cyphers from his 60-year reign. Among the largest I could find was one on a beautifully patinated bronze mortar dated 1807 resting on the floor of the Steel Tower at the new, magnificent Royal Armories in Leeds. As mentioned earlier, artillery has carried Royal Cyphers since Tudor times and still does today.

If Anne had her "Marlborough Man," George III had his Wellington for whom the boot was named. Wellington, the only man after Oliver Cromwell to serve as head of the army and government concurrently, used not only "the boot" but guns, such as this short land pattern musket with 4 inches of the barrel lopped off, compared with the earlier 46-inch Besses, to put down Napoleon more than once. Otherwise, it is only slightly "new and improved," to borrow a phrase, over the earlier long land pattern.

The sergeant's halberd, a long-time rallying point for the troops and symbol of rank, was gradually abandoned, and sergeants were provided with a much more practical fusil, such as the scaled-down Brown Bess by Durrs Egg shown with "the real thing," to borrow another advertising cliché.

Nelson's sailors carried aloft close to 600 of these seven-shot volley guns. Note that the Royal Cypher is at the tail of the lockplate on a second model designed to clear French quarter decks of officers. There was some question as to whether they might set their own ship's rigging on fire, probably "scuttlebutt" started by a disgruntled sailor with a very sore shoulder.

Admiral Nelson won the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 but ended up pickled in a cask of rum for the triumphal return trip to Britain.

Although Royal George's forces managed to give their nemesis, Napoleon, a final "boot" into exile in 1815 at Waterloo, they earlier had serious trouble with a former colonial militia officer also by the name of George; this trouble was not resolved in the Crown's favor.

"Our" George utilized some war surplus French "lend-lease" muskets without Royal Cyphers that worked just as well because he couldn't capture enough cyphered British ones or make many at home.

Marquis de Lafayette, *merci mille fois!* We did return the favor 140 years later and again in another 25 years after that.

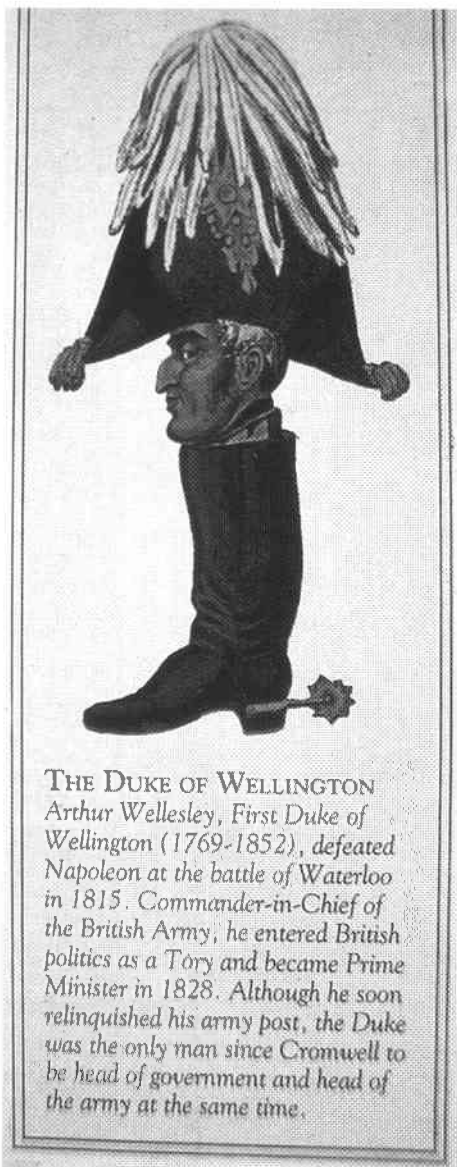


Figure 21. Wellington Boot—Kings & Queens of England by Fry, P.S.

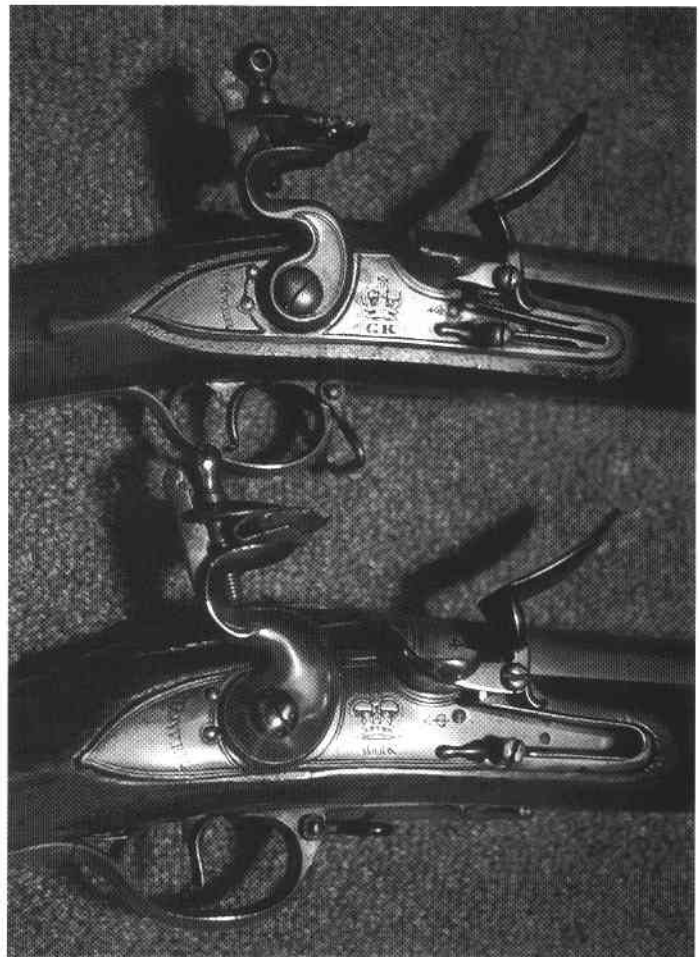


Figure 22. GR III Short Land Pattern Musket and GR III Fusil—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 23. Nock Volley Gun—P. Wainwright coll. ex. Clay Bedford coll.

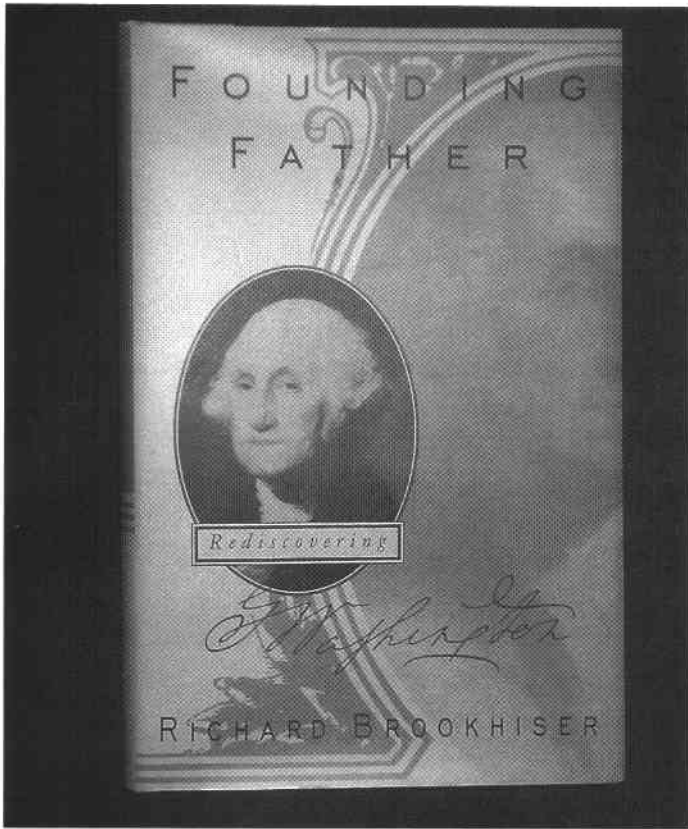


Figure 24. George Washington—*Founding Father* by Brookhiser R., dust jacket.



Figure 26. Cartoon of George IV

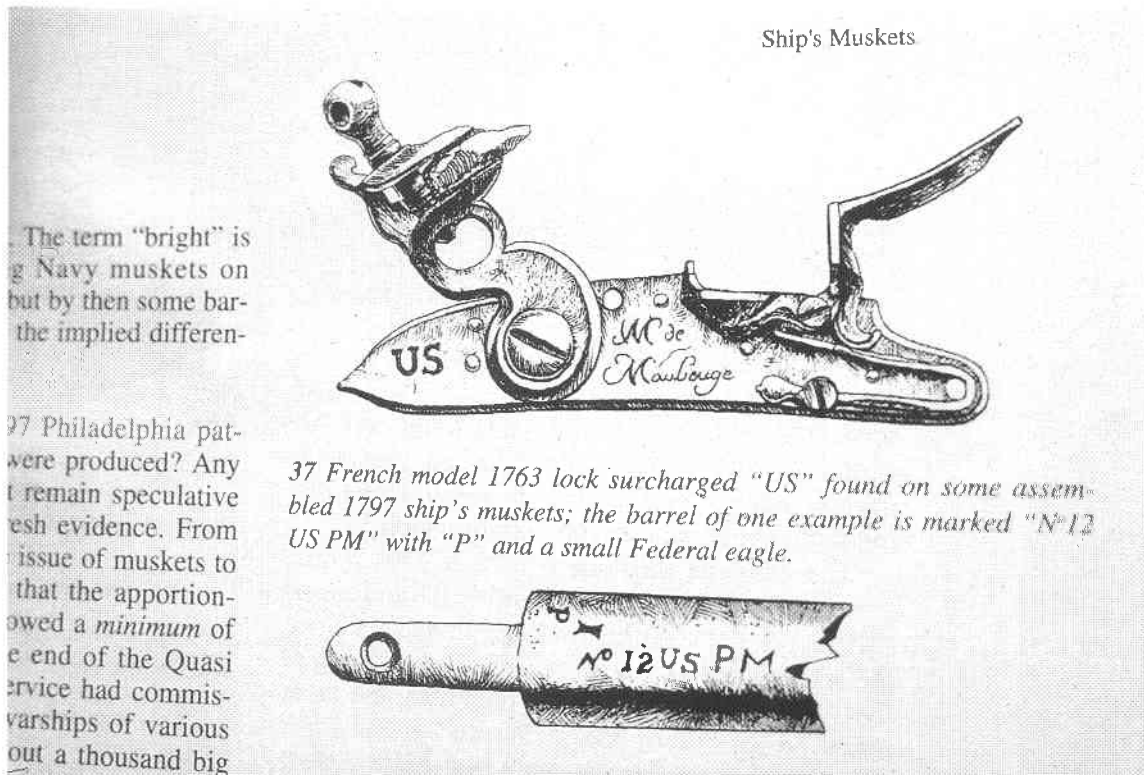


Figure 25. Charleville/US Lockplate—*Boarders Away II* by Gilkerson, W.

Some nasty American so-called loyalists wore GRIII-cyphered buttons of "Butlers Tiger's" and cartridge boxes with a G3R cypher similar to those pictured with Grandpa II. "Our" George's Continentals prevailed after much travail, with a mixed bag of militia and French help and great leadership on his part and that of a few others. Prince Regent George tried in 1812 to reassert British control, but with a former Corsican artillery officer distracting him, we won that second round also.

King George's even more serious personal problems included his madness, as described in a recent film "The Madness of King George," and a sad relationship with his son, Prince Regent, during his father's incapacitation. George IV was crowned upon George III's death in 1820.

GEORGE IV

Because George IV had been Prince Regent for the last 9 years of George III's reign, it is hard, in the absence of a III or IV on lockplates, to pin down which Royal Cyphered firearms were his father's and which his own. Furthermore, he inherited some of his father's bad habits as witnessed by this cartoon of a gluttonous George remarkably reminiscent of the earlier one of dear old dad.

Some interesting firearms developments took place during his regency and his reign. Rifles became more prevalent, one example of which is this sturdy rifle by Durrs Egg, also pictured on the right side of Figure 39 in Blackmore and formerly in the Jac Weller collection. This period saw the blossoming of many fine arms-making families, such as the Eggs, Mortimers, Mantons, and Nocks serving both civilian and military markets. Henry Nock, with encouragement from the Duke of Richmond, Master General of the Ordnance, earlier came up with the finest flintlock of all, the Nock screwless lock with a bowed, cyphered flash guard. However, they were too expensive to produce for general use; therefore, the "India Pattern" musket was copied by the Crown from the simpler and less expensive musket used by the British East India Company.

WILLIAM IV

George's monarchy lasted only 10 years. He was succeeded in 1830 by his "sailor" brother William IV. Although little of note happened during "Sillie Willie's" reign, we finally get respite from over 100 years of GR Royal Cyphers and find that weapons, such as these two pistols, one Sea Service and one Cavalry, are stamped with WR Royal Cyphers



Figure 27. GRIII or IV Egg Rifle—P. Wainwright coll., ex. Jac Weller coll.



Figure 28. GRIII or IV Nock Lock—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 29. GRIII or IV India Pattern Musket—P. Wainwright coll.

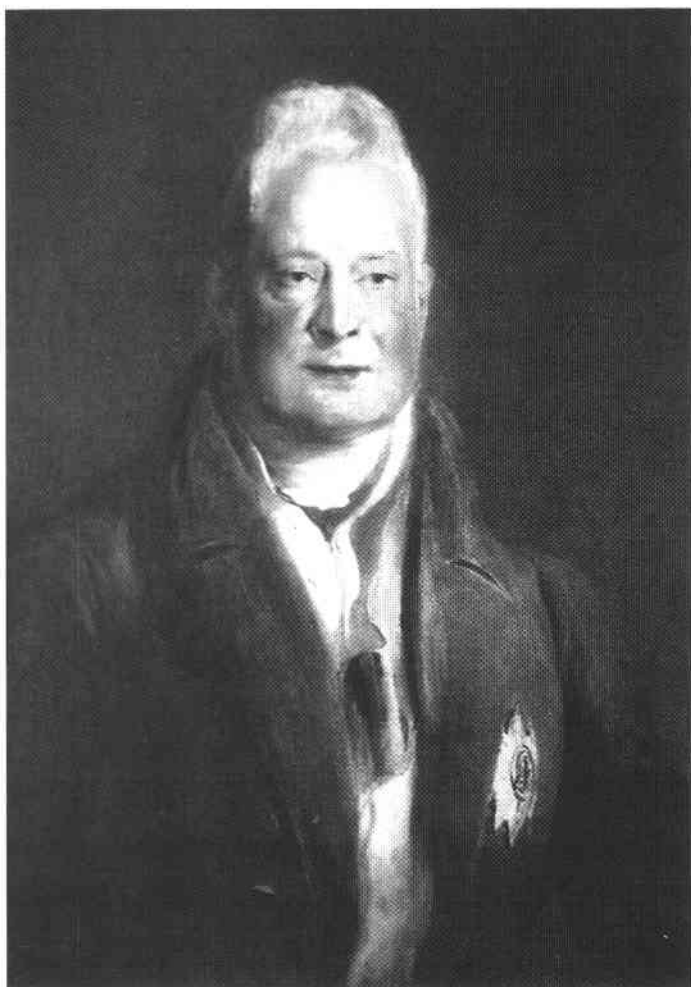


Figure 30. Portrait of William IV

as is the separate carbine lock whose gun was probably converted to or completed as percussion in the late 1830s. All three are different, though from a relatively short period.

A small wooden “billy club” was found in an antique shop in Yarnell, Arizona, with a painted William IV Royal Cypher covering much of its length. It was supposedly some kind of ceremonial piece, but further research leads me to believe it is actually a detective’s truncheon, another example of the power of the throne represented on a weapon by a Royal Cypher.

VICTORIA

William, who had no heirs, managed to hang on to life long enough for his niece, Victoria to turn 18 in 1837 and be of sufficient age to assume the throne in her own right. The 64-year Victorian Era and its Pax Britannia, among many notable events, produced a whole series of new firearms to enforce that more or less, on and off Pax, on terms favorable to the British Crown.

Victoria was blessed with eminent political leaders,

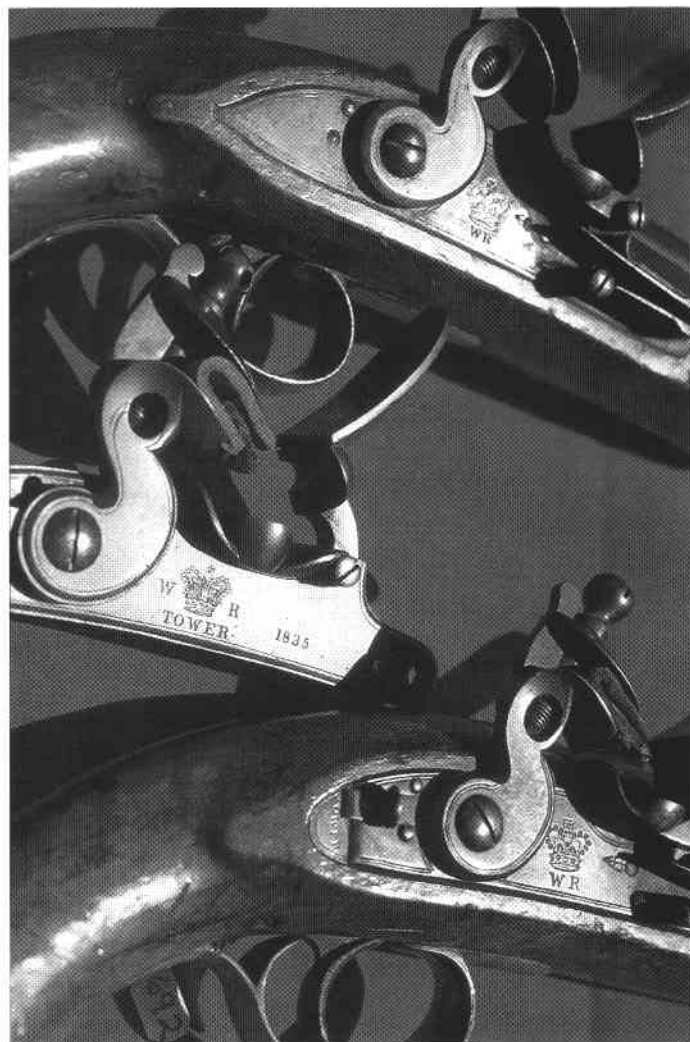


Figure 31. WR IV Sea Service Pistol, WRIV Cavalry Pistol, WRIV Carbine Lock— P. Wainwright coll.

Prime Ministers Disraeli and Gladstone, as well as colorful generals, such as Chinese Gordon and Lord Kitchner. The ever-growing empire was all brought under the Crown when the East India Company was nationalized after a revolt of its Hindu Sepoy soldiers who refused to bite cow fat-soaked, paper-wrapped cartridges. Pig fat presumably was rumored by troublemakers when soldiers were Moslems. Massacred English citizens were the excuse for the confiscation of this old company, and Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. Some of her Royal Cyphers were then formed with an “T” in the middle for Imperial, or its Latin root, as shown on this later 1900 Boer War candy box for soldiers.

Guns produced and cyphered during her reign ranged all the way from India pattern flintlocks to relatively modern bolt action, .303 caliber, smokeless powder Enfields and most carried a simple, stamped VR under the crown. In fact, the entire percussion era and its variety of locks was encompassed by Victoria’s reign. These guns were put to hard usage during the Crimean and their Indian Wars.



Figure 32. Portrait of Queen Victoria



Figure 34. Two VR Percussion Carabines with Enfield Locks—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 33. 1900 Boer War Victoria Candy Box—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 35. 1863 Target Enfield—P. Wainwright coll.

Note that this Target Enfield is a Royal prize, so there is no VR under the crown because government ownership is not claimed after it is awarded.

Some of the percussion muzzle loaders were later converted breech-loading Sniders. These, and new ones like them, were the last to have a conventional lockplate with a Royal Cypher.

No firearms cyphers were ever as complex as that on an 1869 Sabretache, England's answer to the Scottish sporran.

The Swiss-inspired Martini Henry, with a large, flat-sided receiver, provided an ideal surface for the cypher. Many early lockplates had presented a bowed surface, and some were cluttered. This example shows artillery limber dings and "NSW" on the stock for New South Wales, Australia. These were put to good use during the various African wars.

When the Germans came up with, and sold to many others, a powerful bolt action, 8-mm cal. Mauser, the British countered with a .303 cal. bolt action rifle by James Paris Lee, another American, as was Snider. An immediate problem was where to put the traditional Royal Cypher because there was no longer a lockplate or side plate. One needs to look to the offside of the butt stock socket/wristband for a tiny crown over VR and other essential information. Early Lees exhibited the only instances we could determine during the life of the Royal Cypher on firearms that it appeared on the offside.

EDWARD VII

Victoria's son, long-time king-in-waiting, Edward VII, assumed the throne upon her death in 1901. There were plenty of guns left over to enforce the relative peace during his 9-year reign. Although some were made, we look to this magnificent dress sword hilt for an example of his cypher. There is also one on the blade, but the one on the guard is outstanding!

Although perennial Prince of Wales, Edward, Bertie to his intimates, had enjoyed a lot of play time in Paris, his fondness for French in part led to an *Entente Cordiale* in 1904, although not exactly of the cordial nature pictured here. It solved some mutual colonial aggravations and laid the groundwork for a serious alliance with long-time antagonist, *La Belle France*, when Cousin Kaiser Willie marched in 1914. By then, son George V was on the throne and was faced with a major crisis, WW I.

GEORGE V

To fight these battles, his troops used an improved version of the earlier pictured Lee Enfield, now the short magazine Lee Enfield, or SMLE, that is, "smelly." Here we find a pale imitation of the formerly elegant Georgian Royal



Figure 36. Snyder Conversion



Figure 37. VR 1893 Martini Henry Artillery Carbine—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 38. VR 1900 Lee Enfield Carbine, Reverse—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 39. ERVII Sword Hilt—P. Wainwright coll.



Figure 40. Cartoon of Edward VII.



Figure 41. George V at the Front



Figure 42. GRV 1917 Short Magazine Lee Enfield—P. Wainwright coll.

Cyphers, obscured by the bolt handle when locked. Thus they lost much of their *raison d'être*, even though back on the proper side, and were abandoned in 1935.

George's reign also produced some handsome cyphered sword blades, many of which were left behind with their owners, "the best and the brightest," along with tons of shrapnel, to provide the poppies of Flanders Field with enough iron in the soil to make those flowers more blood red than ever.

EDWARD VIII

George and Mary of Tek's eldest son assumed the throne in January, 1936, as Edward VIII for one of the shortest ever reigns. Few firearms were produced except for a cannon or two to salute the coronation that never came. Note that the die appears to have been modified to make the Roman numeral VII read VIII. "Wally's Wimp," who was not overly inclined to stand up to Herr Hitler in any case, resigned the throne after 325 days to "marry the woman I love. This 1936 dated candy box is appropriately without a Royal Cypher, and the newly created Duke of Windsor and his woman never again set foot in Windsor Castle or any other place in Albion.

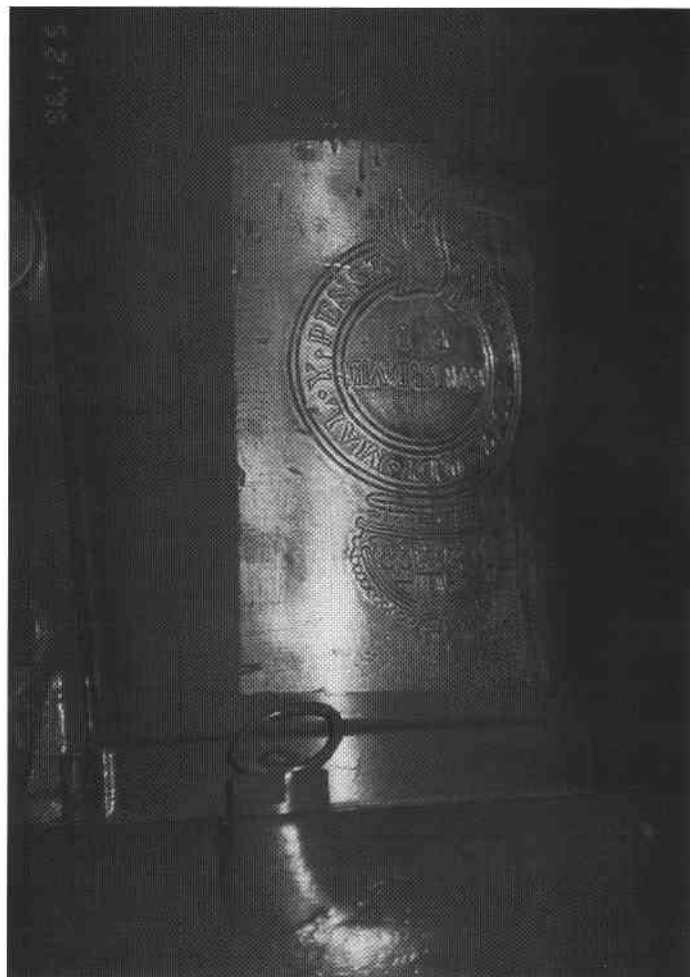


Figure 43. Breech of ER VIII Cannon, Museum of Artillery coll.



Figure 44. 1936 VRVIII Candy Box—P. Wainwright, coll.



Figure 45. King George VI and Queen Inspecting Home Front Rubble.



Figure 47. Portrait of Elizabeth II.



Figure 46. GRVI Sword Blade



Figure 48. ERII Sword Blade—P. Wainwright coll.

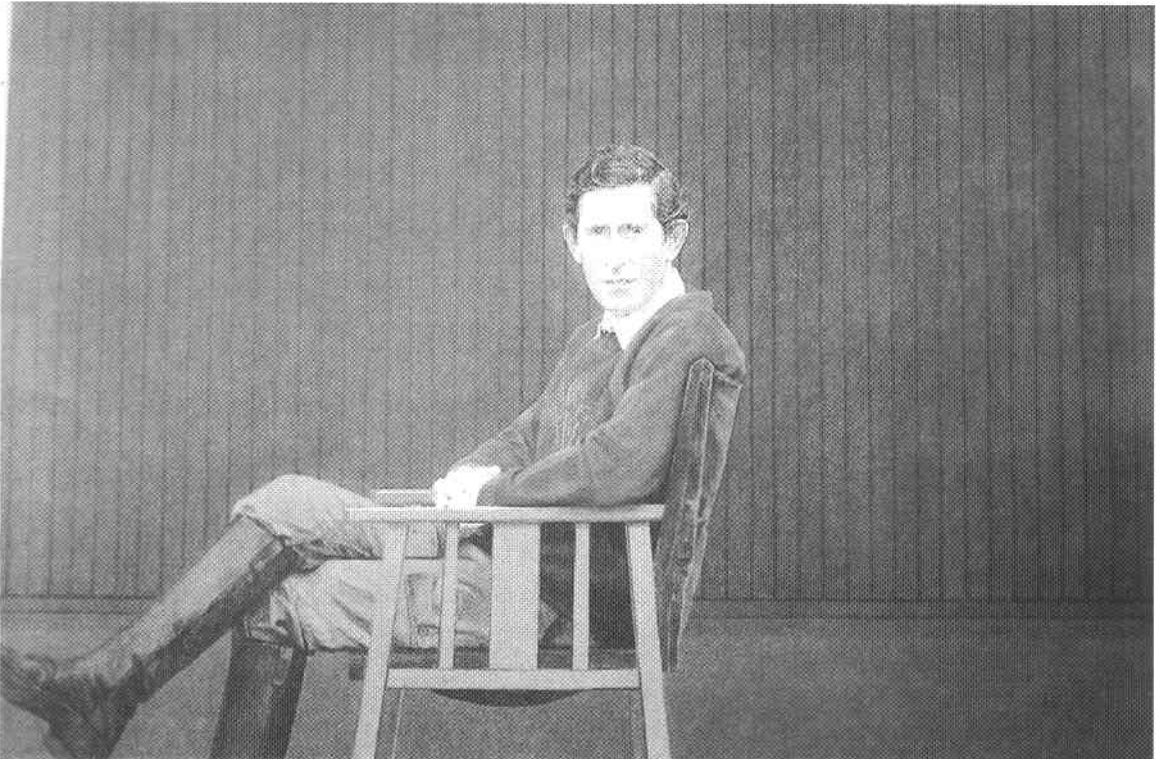


Figure 49. Charles, Prince of Wales

GEORGE VI

Fortunately, his brother George, was made of sterner stuff. He and his troops fought WW II without Royal Cyphers on their newer Lee Enfields, though still on swords. Important weapons were the powerful words and leadership of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. "Winnie" was a worthy successor to his ancestor, that "Marlborough Man" of yore.

ELIZABETH II

We come to the last and present queen, daughter of George VI and the still living, delightful now "Queen Mum" seen in a previous picture of bomb damage 55 years ago.

With Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Cypher tradition continues as on the blade of this Canadian Naval Officer's sword.

Queen Elizabeth had, if no Royal Cyphers on the iron of her firearms, a fireball of a first minister, the "Iron Lady." Margaret Thatcher valiantly served her Queen and country, as well as all of us former colonials and the rest of the civilized world in the Falklands War, and most significantly, the Cold War.

Remember that George II contended successfully in 1746 at Culloden with the "Young Pretender," Bonnie Prince Charlie. Now, 250 years later, Elizabeth II may need to decide whether her modern Prince Charlie fits another important definition of a cypher from the same dictionary as before, namely: "a person or thing of no value or consequence; a nonentity."

We early on showed View and Proof marks and a portrait of King Charles II. We now leave with a mystery—will there ever be a CIIR Royal Cypher?? . . . or W5R?? . . . or HRIX??

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