



The Markings of English Cannon Captured at Yorktown

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NOTES AND ANTIQUITIES

THE MARKINGS OF ENGLISH CANNON CAPTURED AT YORKTOWN

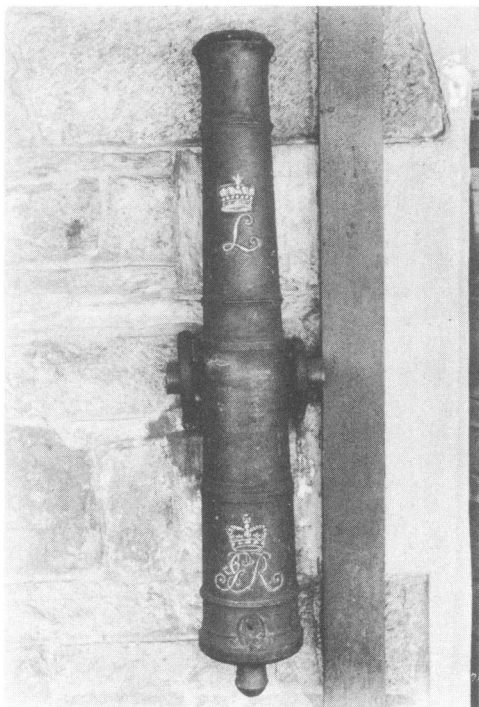
(Continued from Volume II, 239)

Photographs 6 and 7 are of two 5.8-inch howitzers, and photograph 5 is that of a 6-pounder. All three were cast during the regime of John, Viscount Ligonier.

Sir John Ligonier was made Lieutenant General of Ordnance on April 22, 1748 and remained in that office until November 30, 1757. At the time he was appointed Lieutenant General he was not of sufficient rank to permit him to wear a coronet, but being a Knight of the Bath he used the ribbon of the order with its inscription, "*Tria Juncta In Uno,*" and placed within its circle the block letter "L" to form his monogram (6). On November 30, 1757 he was made Master General of Ordnance and created a viscount. Hence, in picture 7 you see his monogram, but with a viscount's coronet placed above the ribbon of the Order of the Bath. Also here you see the ribbon of the Order of the Bath forming a complete circle, whereas on the previous guns it was tied in a fancy loop.

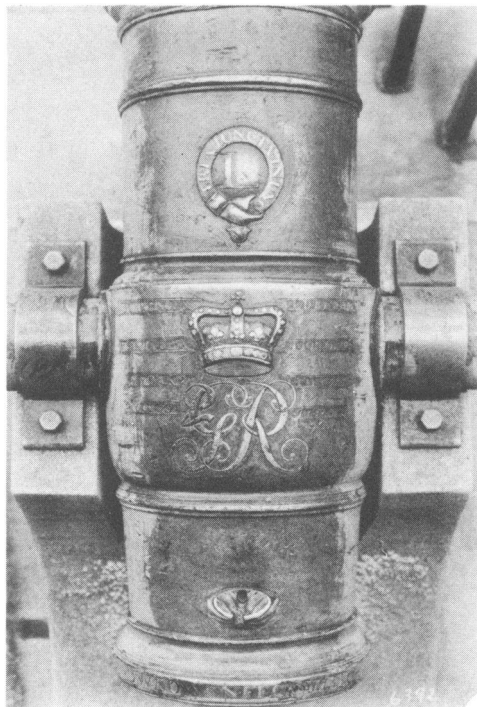
Photograph 5 is of a 6-pounder, cast in 1761. Here is another type of monogram of Lord Viscount Ligonier. He uses the viscount's coronet, but a letter "L," in French script, is placed under the coronet. John, Viscount Ligonier, remained in office as Master General of Ordnance until November 30, 1763.

Photograph 8 is that of a 5.8-inch howitzer cast by R. Gilpin in 1758. R. Gilpin was also a master founder in Woolwich. This howitzer has the cypher and the royal crown of George II on the reinforce, and the ducal coronet and block letter "M," with a scroll under the letter, on the chase. This is the initial of the Duke of Marlborough. Charles, Duke of Marlborough was Master General of Ordnance from May 10, 1755 to November 30, 1757. Although the gun was cast after his term of office had expired, his coronet and monogram on the gun are justified. When we consider the length of time it took to prepare the core, to dry it properly, and to prepare the flask for casting, it could have run well into the following year before it was completed. The founder's name and year when cast



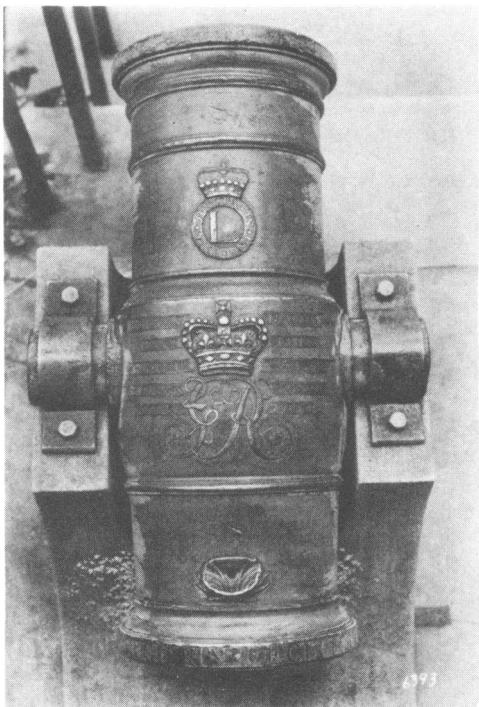
ENGLISH 6-POUNDER, BRONZE, MADE BY R. GILPIN, 1761

Crown and monogram of George III on the breech; monogram of Viscount John Ligonier on the chase (5).



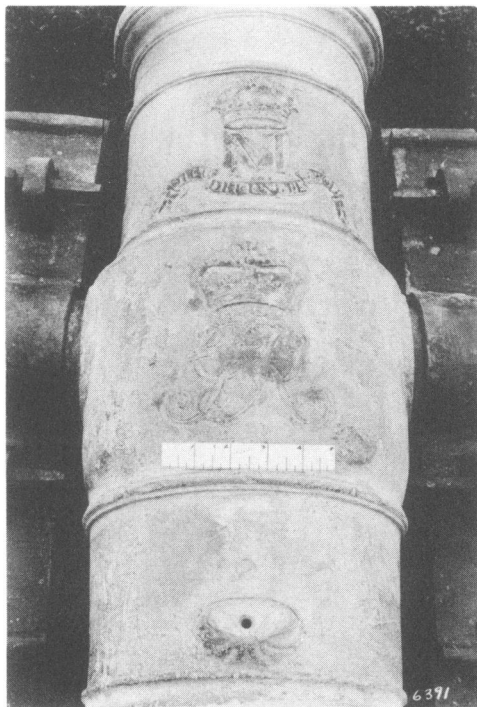
ENGLISH 5.8-INCH HOWITZER, BRONZE

Made by W. Bowen, 1755. Crown and monogram of George II; monogram of Sir John Ligonier, before he became a Viscount, on the chase (6).



ENGLISH 5.8-INCH HOWITZER, BRONZE

Made by R. Gilpin, 1760. Crown and monogram of George II on reinforced field; monogram of Viscount John Ligonier on the chase (7).



ENGLISH 5.8-INCH HOWITZER, BRONZE, MADE BY GILPIN, 1758

Crown and monogram of George II, with crown and monogram of Charles, Duke of Marlborough on chase (8).



ENGLISH 12-POUNDER, BRONZE, MADE BY W. BOWEN, 1759

*Royal coat of arms of George II on the
breech (9a).*



*Coat of arms of Lord George Sackville on the
chase (9b).*



ENGLISH 12-POUNDER, BRONZE, MADE BY W. BOWEN, 1767

*Royal coat of arms of George II on the
breech (10a).*



*Coat of arms of John, Marquis of Granby on the
chase (10b).*

were not placed on the base ring until the gun had been turned and completed. This was cut by an engraver. All embossing was cast in the mould and shaped and cleaned afterwards.

Photographs 9a and 9b are of a 12-pounder cast in 1759 by W. Bowen. On the breech it has the royal coat of arms of George II; on the chase it has the ducal coat of arms of Lord George Sackville. Lord George Sackville was Lieutenant General of Ordnance from November 30, 1757 to September 10, 1759. This is the celebrated Lafayette gun. General Lafayette when in America in 1824 visited Watervliet Arsenal at Troy, New York. According to tradition, he recognized this piece as one of the original Yorktown guns. The gun has a large dent on the side near the breech resulting from a direct hit by a cannon ball. The gun also bears the inscription showing that it was surrendered by the capitulation at Yorktown, October, 1781.

Photograph 10b shows the coat of arms of John, Marquis of Granby. John, Marquis of Granby, was Lieutenant General of Ordnance from September 10, 1759 to September 10, 1763, and held the office of Master General of Ordnance from November 10, 1763 to the year 1770, when he died. In this instance the coat of arms is that of the Duke of Rutland, who also held the title of Marquis of Granby. The title of Marquis was usually given to the oldest son, hence, John, the son of the Duke of Rutland, would use the family coat of arms, but placed a marquis' coronet above the shield instead of the ducal. John, Marquis of Granby, was a general in the army and attained high military reputation as commander in chief of the British forces serving under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

THOR BORRESEN

*Colonial National Historical Park,
Yorktown, Virginia*

AN IDENTIFICATION DISC FOR THE ARMY, 1862

The identification of the dead after battle has always been a partially unsolved problem of administration in the history of modern warfare. In the American Civil War, this problem appears to have been one of particular magnitude. The system of identifying the slain by means of personal possessions or by other sources of information found on the bodies by burial parties, was inadequate even under favorable conditions. Although early in the war, orders were issued requiring all commanding generals in the field to set off burial grounds for the dead immediately after each engagement, this regulation recognized the obvious difficulties of identification. In substance it directed that all graves be marked by some form of headboard, and "when practicable," the names of the persons buried should be inscribed on these grave markers. From the markers, registers of the burials were to be preserved, "in which will be noted the marks corresponding with the headboards."¹

¹ General Orders, No. 33, April 3, 1862, War Department, *Official Records*, Series III, Vol. II, 2.