



An Early Colonial Helmet

Author(s): Alfred F. Hopkins

Source: *The Journal of the American Military Institute*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Spring, 1939), p. 64

Published by: Society for Military History

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3038679>

Accessed: 01/12/2009 03:28

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublisher?publisherCode=smh>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Society for Military History is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Journal of the American Military Institute*.

<http://www.jstor.org>



AN EARLY COLONIAL HELMET

Illustrated is a steel helmet of the type known as "cabasset," recovered from an exploratory trench during excavations for the Fusileers' Redoubt within Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown, Virginia. The headpiece was forged by an armourer from a single billet of metal and in the opinion of Mr. Stephen Grancsay, Curator, Department of Arms and Armour, Metropolitan Museum of Art, dates from about 1600. Helmets of somewhat later date were made in two pieces.

Nicolas Martiau, a French military engineer in the employ of the Virginia Company, came in 1631 to build a fort upon the York River at a point within the present limits of the town. He probably brought with him beside those who were to labor upon the stockade, a guard, composed of colonists employed as soldiers, protected from a chance Indian arrow by helmet, breast and back plate, procured by the Company most likely from stocks of old armour stored in London. The helmet shown may be regarded as one of the earliest examples of military head gear used in American colonial warfare.

ALFRED F. HOPKINS

*Colonial National Historical Park,
Yorktown, Virginia*