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The Indian Fusil in New France

Compiled by "Doc" Shaffer

- ❑ 1662-3: The Montreal notary Bénigne Basset notes: 3 trade guns (fusil de trade) @ 20 livres each, 1 long trade gun @ 30 livres. (Bouchard, Les Armes...,)
- ❑ 1663: A "grand fusil de traite" was found at Jean Milot's house in Montréal. Valued at 30 livres. (Ref: Inventaire des biens et meubles de defunte Marthe pinsson vivate femme de Jean Milot - 6 juillet 1663. Bénigne Basset, 272 AJM).
- ❑ 1665: De Tracy Indian trade list includes: one flintlock trade gun - 6 beavers.
- ❑ 1671-2: Intendant Talon provides an important shipment of flintlock guns to the Saint-François-Xavier mission. (Bouchard, Les Armes...,)
- ❑ 1677-8: 5200 Livres to be paid to Mr Bellinzani in payments of the arms which will be sent to Canada for the stores of the fort in Quebec city. François Bellinzani had been one of the directors of the defunct Cie. des Indes Occidentale (Montreal Merchant's Records)
- ❑ 1677-8: Order to pay 6000 Livres to Sr. de la Live in reimbursement of what he has paid for 500 fusils sent to Canada for the stores of the Quebec fort (Fort St-Louis?). Order signed "Louis" and "Colbert". *Christophe de la Live, cashier of the Cie. des Indes Occidentales. Both he and Bellinzani still had interests or shares in the newly organized Domaine d'Occident. (Montreal Merchant's Records)
- ❑ 1683: 100 muskets [Canada] (for trade and military, Cassel).
- ❑ 1683: Trade list for trading at Trois-Rivières includes: 1 fusil worth 30L – 10 beavers, 1 fusil worth 10L – 6 beavers, 1 ordinary fusil – 5 beavers, and 1 carbine – 4 beavers.
- ❑ 1664: Trade list for Ft. Frontenac includes 1 fusil – 6 beavers.
- ❑ 1685: (Undescribed account) Royal order to reimburse Mr Bignicourt for arms delivered for New France. (Montreal Merchant's Records)
- ❑ 1689: To make gifts to Indians for Canada and Acadia:
 - 300 fusils to make presents to the allied Indians @ 11L-1s a piece(Montreal Merchant's Records)
- ❑ 1691: Pontchartrain purchased 900 fusils for Canada at Titon (Bonney, p. 522).

- ❑ **1693: 158 guns and sheaths and 33 pistols. These gifts were given to the Indians near and far; Hurons, Sauteux, Nipissing, Miamis, Illinois, Puants, etc. (Bouchard, "Arms Collecting")**
- ❑ **1694: Documentation on an expedition to Canada showed payment of 8,700L to Sieur de Is Combe for Tulle fusils and lockplates. (Bouchard, Museum, p 11).**
- ❑ **1695: 200 muskets of small caliber appropriate to Canada at 12L, and 5 muskets for Indian chiefs at 29L, ordered from Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 8, 20).**
- ❑ **1696: Contract with Tulle to provide, during each of next 5 years, 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs. It was renewed for the same number of years. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24).**
- ❑ **1697: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from 1696 additional 5-year Contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24).**
- ❑ **1698: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from Contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)**
- ❑ **1699: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from Contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)**
- ❑ **1700: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from Contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)**
- ❑ **1701: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from Contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)**
- ❑ **1701: Shipment of supplies to the Fort at Biloxy, included presents to be given to the Savages of the a for said country:**

25 fusil fins	16L-10s
27 common guns	10L-10s
4 guns	15L-10s
3 guns	13L-10s

(Hamilton).
- ❑ **1702: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from renewed 1696 contract for additional 5-years with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)**
- ❑ **1702: Included in a shipment from France to merchant Martel in Quebec:**
 - 2 - very fine guns, brass furniture, 4-1/2 foot barrel, in fashion at 26L4s**
 - 3 - very fine guns, 3 foot 8 inch barrel at 16L2d**
 - 6 - very fine guns, flat lock at 14L4d**
 - 6 - very fine guns, at 13L8d**

18 fine guns, brass furniture at 12L6d
5 - fine carbines, brass furniture at 10L8d
10 carbines, brass furniture at 10L8d
1 - pair of fine pistols, brass furniture at 30L
(Kent)

- ❑ 1703: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)
- ❑ 1703: Expenses for Mississippi included:
500 trade guns at 14L apiece (Brain).
- ❑ 1704: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)
- ❑ 1705: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)
- ❑ 1705: 500 promised but only 139 muskets arrived [Canada] (Cassel).
- ❑ 1705: Saint- Etienne succeeded in selling hunting guns for Canada, but the quality was so poor that Vaudreuil and Beauharnois asked the King that future shipments come from Tulle (Bouchard, Museum, p 12).
- ❑ 1705-16: Correspondence with Tulle shows that production was concentrated on hunting muskets for Canada and later on Grenadier muskets (Bouchard, Museum, p 11).
- ❑ 1706: 600 hunting muskets with barrels 3'-9" for Canada and Acadia and 5 fine hunting guns for Indian Chiefs, to be provided from contract with Tulle. (Bouchard, Museum, p 9, 24)
- ❑ 1706: 361 muskets, rest of 1705 order [Canada] (Cassel).
- ❑ 1707: 475 muskets [Canada] (Cassel).
- ❑ 1712: Specifications at Tulle mentions hunting guns for Canada with a barrel 4 inches longer than on the gun previously provided (Bouchard, Museum, p 11).
- ❑ 1713: Contract to Tulle for 500 hunting muskets destined to Canada with a barrel 4-inches longer than previously provided muskets (Bouchard, Museum, p 24).
- ❑ 1716: A new contract was signed with Tulle in Rochefort which included hunting guns (with barrels 3'-6"). [New France] (Bouchard, Museum, p 11, 24).
- ❑ 600 fusils de chasse ordered for Canada, followed by 200 more for presents for the Indians (Coulter.)

- ❑ **1723:** Request to readjust the price for 230 hunting muskets for Canada, as muskets are 4-inches longer [at 3'-10"] than described in contract. (Bouchard, Museum, p 24).
- ❑ **1724:** From ledger of goods sent from Montreal to trader Jacques Campeau at Detroit, 3 guns at 25L each, 1 grand fusil at 50L, and 1 gun to Deniaux who was hired to make the voyage to Detroit. (Kent).
- ❑ **1731:** 200 trading muskets from Saint-Etienne and 50 pistols that did not pass test, were nevertheless sent to Quebec, despite their rejection upon inspection. (Bouchard, museum, p 24).
- ❑ **1732:** From a ledger off goods supplied to trader Cuillerier for this voyage to Detroit, 2 fine guns at 34L each and 2 guns with anchor mark on the lockplate at 20L. (Kent).
- ❑ **1735:** 33 muskets with an anchor, Jaques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre trade account book, page 104; 12 muskets with a anchor, page 312; and 1 dozen bayonets with boxwood handles, page 98 (Peyser).
- ❑ **1746 [Canada]:**
3,400 muskets from Liège
800 muskets from Tulle
(Cassel).
- ❑ **1747:** 4,242 muskets [for Canada] (Cassel).
- ❑ **1747:** Inventaire des armes à feu dans les magasins du roi au Canada included: (Bouchard, Les Armes..., p. 97)

Types	Québec	T.-Rivières	Montréal
Fusils de chasse	1 876	--	555
Fusils de Tulle	1 821	--	562
Fusils de traite	--	319	521
Fusils de St.-Étienne	--	--	503
Fusils de Liège	128	--	289

- ❑ **1748:** 514 muskets [Canada] (Cassel).
- ❑ **1748:** Bottereau & Le Moyne contracted to provide for the Colony of Quebec in Canada 800 hunting guns of St. Etienne for the Indians, with barrels 4 feet long in 28 calibre. The stocks all of a piece, trimmed in iron and partly in copper [brass], with sights of drawn silver, and which shall be proofed with an ordinary charge... 222 were accepted by 4 August 1749, and an additional 118 by December, 229 were rejected. The guns supplied ranged in calibre from 26 to 38. (Hamilton, p 167-8).
- ❑ **1749:** The Magazine in Quebec included:
2,062 Tulle guns
392 guns from Liege
(Hamilton, p. 39).
- ❑ **1749:** General inventory of the munitions of the King's magazine in Montreal included:
45 English guns
182 Saint-Etienne guns with 4 foot barrels

294 Saint-Etienne guns with 3'-8" barrels.
256 Liege guns
92 Tulle hunting guns
(Bouchard "Arms Collecting").

- ❑ 1752: Quebec magazine inventory includes:
45 fusil de chasse
18 espingoles
7 carabines
(Bouchard Les Armes..., p. 96)
- ❑ 1755: Items listed as necessary for Fort Duquesne included:
fusil fins
Tulle hunting guns
(Grenier)
- ❑ 1756: Bougainville complains that it was difficult to get the Indians to accept guns other than the Tulle (Coulter)
- ❑ 1758: Statement of what is indispensable to send from France by the first ships, for service ... of this colony included:
Fowling pieces w/o bayonets, to arm the Indians 2,000
(Paterson from O'Callaghan)
- ❑ 1758 [Canada]:
6,000 muskets from Minister of War
2,000 muskets from Rochefort
2,000 from Bordeaux
(Cassel).
- ❑ 1758: From a ledger at Montreal of goods supplied to trader Jean Chapron for his voyage to Detroit, 2 guns with semi-fancy furniture and 3-1/2 barrel and 6 guns with semi-fancy furniture and 3 foot barrel. (Kent).
- ❑ 1759 [Canada]:
2,000 muskets contracted from La Combe
2,000 muskets contracted from Carrier & Le Jay
(Cassel).

1. Large quantities of arms were sent to New France, but very few have survived.

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