

"Atroces armas de fuego de antaño", Remingtons letales: heterogeneidad y poder de fuego en el armamento de la frontera oeste de Buenos Aires, 1869-1877 [

2018

text (article)

Analítica

This paper deals with firearms that were employed by the Argentine army in frontier warfare between 1869 and 1877. Documentary information and archaeological assemblages from two contemporary military frontier facilities -Fort General Paz and Fortín Algarrobos- are combined to characterize the armament in service during those years. This was a crucial period, during which a process of modernization and standardization of the army's weaponry started, centered on the incorporation of Remington single-shot breech-loading rifles and carbines. However, the archaeological record shows that this process was slow and that an astonishing variety of older firearms (flintlocks, percussion smoothbores and rifles) remained in service, causing logistic and operative problems. The paper then discusses the impact of the incorporation of the Remington guns on frontier warfare, critiquing commonly held determinist characterizations, and placing the Remington's effect into a broader political and economic context

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Editorial: 2018

Tipo Audiovisual: Guerra de frontera Ejército argentino Pampa Armas de fuego Remington Frontier warfare

Argentine army Pampas Firearms Remington

Documento fuente: Anuario de arqueología, ISSN 1852-8554, null 10, Nº. 10, 2018, pags. 23-50

Nota general: application/pdf

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Lengua: Spanish

Enlace a fuente de información: Anuario de arqueología, ISSN 1852-8554, null 10, Nº. 10, 2018, pags. 23-50

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