

# Miquelet Locks

*Miquelet* is a Catalan word used to describe irregular mountain fusiliers that were equipped with a distinctive form of snaphance lock. The name was later applied to the locks themselves.



*A fine Dzeferdar rifle with miquelet lock.*

According to Claude Blair, there is no indication that the name was used historically, but in his revised edition of Pollard's History of Firearms, sticks to the term as it is considered a useful distinction nonetheless.

*"The 'classic' miquelet lock has an external mainspring, two sears working through the main plate to give respectfully full and half-cock and a combined steel and pan-cover."*<sup>8</sup>

-Claude Blair, Keeper of Metalwork, Victoria & Albert Museum, 1983

## Development and use

The origins of the *miquelet* are unknown, but it probably derived off an early form of snaphance. By the early 17th century the miquelet lock was already fully developed and primarily used in Spain; remaining in use until the beginning of the 19th century.

The lock was widely used along the entire Mediterranean, including Italy, the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans. As such, it is sometimes also referred to as the 'Mediterranean lock'.



*Balkan miquelet lock half cocked*



*Balkan miquelet lock full cocked*



*Balkan miquelet after being triggered, with pan cover open.*



*Balkan miquelet mechanism viewed from the inside.*