

# Musketeers of the Guard

by Sarah Collinge

*The Three Musketeers*, written by Alexandre Dumas, was originally published in 1844 and became an instant success. Set in France during the 1700s, the story tells the adventures of a young man, D'Artagnan, who travels to Paris in hopes of joining the Musketeers of the Guard. He becomes friends with three of the Musketeers—Athos, Aramis, and Porthos. The four swordsmen join together to defeat an evil advisor who has a secret plot to overthrow the king. In the end, D'Artagnan proves his loyalty and chivalry and is granted his wish to become one of the famous Musketeers.

## Who were the Musketeers?

The Musketeers of Alexandre Dumas's novel were personal household guards of the French king, King Louis XIII. Their duty was to protect the king and his family, who were constantly in danger from conspiracies against them.

To become a Musketeer, a man had to be a nobleman of the upper class. He also had to be trained in fighting and have strong horsemanship. Musketeers were masters of sword fighting and participated in many duels in order to defend the king and queen. They lived by a strict code of chivalry.



## What did they wear?

A Musketeer of the Guard wore a cavalier hat with a plume, and a tabard decorated with a silver cross and fleur-de-lis—a symbol of the Musketeers. A tabard is a loose outer garment without sleeves that is worn over a shirt or armor.

## The Musketeers' Motto

A motto is a statement that expresses a belief or goal. The Musketeers were well known for their motto, "All for one, and one for all." This statement expresses their loyalty to the king, and their loyalty to each other.

Resources:

Kelly, J. (2012). *How musketeers worked*. Retrieved from <http://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/musketeer.htm> on December 29, 2012.

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