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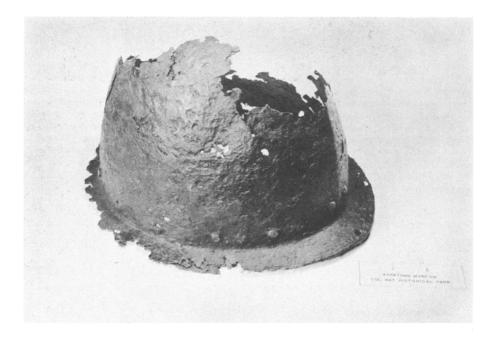
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AN EARLY COLONIAL HELMET

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