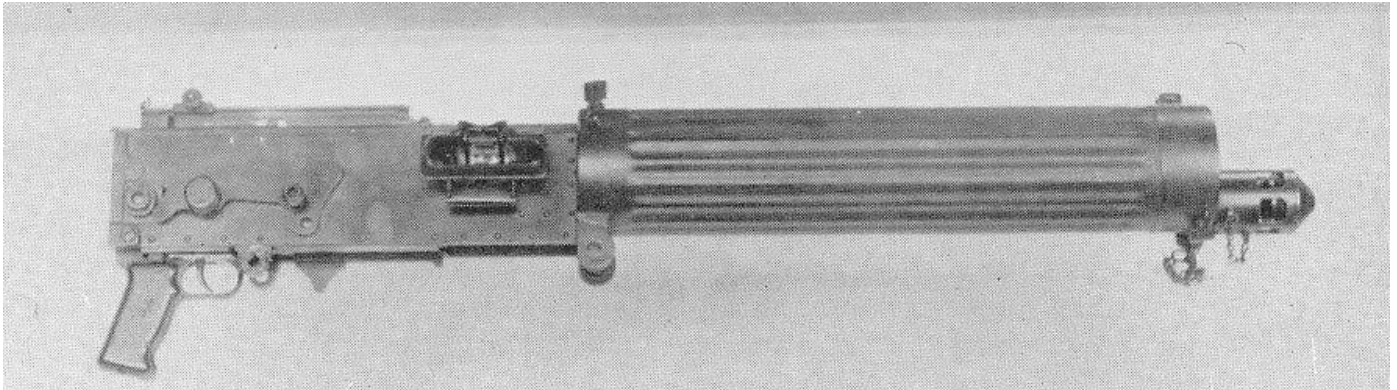
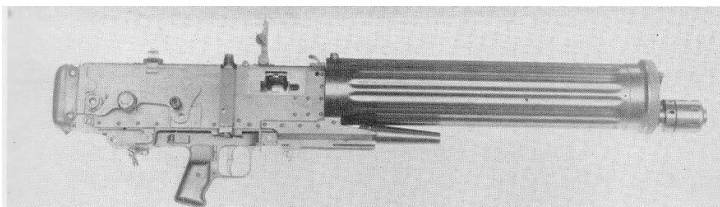


Pattern: Vickers Mk IV & VI & Mk VII .303 AFV Machine Gun, Introduced in to NZ Service: 1940, Withdrawn 1942
Makers: Vickers Ltd, Erith and Crayford Works, UK in WW I; Vickers- Armstrong Crayford Works in WW II; RSAF Enfield
Calibre: .303", Bore: 6 groove RH twist 1 in 10", Barrel length: 28.4 in. OA Length: 41.0 in.;
Weight: 38 Lb Mk IV, 42 Lb Mk VI, 43 Lb Mk VI*, 47 Lb Mk VII
Type of Action: Short recoil with muzzle gas boost-full auto; Cyclic rate: 500rpm;
Magazine: 250 round fabric belt or disintegrating belt.

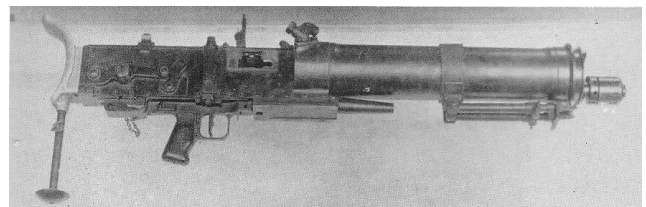


Vickers Mk IV A

Following the First World War the development of Armoured Fighting Vehicles called for more suitable machine guns. With a large surplus of Mk I ground guns (NZAR 201) after the war many of these were converted for use in AFVs. This resulted in the Mk IV A & B, the A & B denoting right and left hand feed respectively, fitted with a pistol grip trigger and dovetail mount being introduced into British Service in May 1933. This was followed in 1934 with the Mk VI A & B which included a stronger dovetail mount and alloy fusee spring cover. The Mk VI* also introduced in 1934 had a new trunnion block that allowed the cooling system to be connected to the vehicle cooling system. Finally in 1936 a new manufactured gun the MKVII with a smooth water jacket and an even stronger dovetail mount was introduced into service. Some 2,500 MK VII guns were manufactured by Vickers and RSAF Enfield. The AFV Vickers could also be dismounted from the vehicle and fitted with a bipod for ground use in an emergency. They became the secondary armament for all British Tanks until replaced gradually by Besa and Browning MGs from early 1940s.



Vickers Mk VI B



Vickers Mk VII B fitted with bipod

New Zealand Service

Between January 1940 and 1942 the New Zealand cavalry were equipped with Vickers Light Tanks in Egypt and Syria (NZAR 164)

These tanks were fitted with .303 and .5 inch Vickers MGs. (NZAR ID 202).

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

References: The Grand Old Lady of No Man's land-the Vickers Machine Gun by D L Goldsmith
<http://www.vickersmachinegun.org.uk>