

**NZAR ID 118, Arm type SMG, Draft date 8 July 2011, Compiled by Phil Cregeen**

**Pattern (Name) Silenced Sterling Mk 5 L34A1, Introduced into NZ Service 1970s, Withdrawn 1989.**

Makers: Sterling Engineering Co, Dagenham, United Kingdom.

Calibre: 9 mm x 19 Parabellum, Length: 864 mm (34.0 in), Barrel length: 198 mm (7.80 in)

Weight: 3.6 Kg, (7 lb 15 oz), Rifling 6: grooves RH twist, Magazine: 34 rounds

Rate of fire: 550 rounds/min, Selective Fire: Full Auto or Single rounds , Open bolt

Sights: flip over 100/200, Bayonet: None.



Commercial Silenced Sterling Mk 5 (L34A1)

During WWII Sterling had been involved in the manufacture of the silenced De Lisle Carbine, this was superseded by the silenced STEN Mk 2S and Mk 6S in service during the 1950s and 60s. The major drawback of these silenced STENs was that their silencers were destroyed if fired on full auto. Initial trials in the late 1940s on silencing Sterlings were based on sub sonic ammunition and George Patchett developed a clip on silencer for the MK II Patchett. However this project was shelved in favour of continued research to use standard ammunition. Development continued both at Enfield and Sterling through the 1950s. George Patchett had the idea of drilling six rows of 12 holes along the rifling of the barrel, this allowed gases to escape and reduced the bullet to sub sonic speed by the time it left the muzzle; when assembled with diffusers and baffles this resulted in a silent discharge which could be fired on full auto. The **Sterling-Patchett 9mm Sub Machine Gun Mk 5** was finally introduced in May 1966 and was manufactured solely by Sterling Engineering at Dagenham. Following user trials the Mk 5 Silenced Sterling was introduced into British Military service as the **Gun, Sub Machine, 9mm L34A1** in 1967. Production ceased in 1988 after 3,500 commercial and about 500 military guns had been manufactured.

### **New Zealand Service**

Company records indicate that New Zealand purchased 5 commercial models.

All L34A1s had no Prefix but just a straight number e.g. 278 etc

The L34A1s were in service from the late 70s through to 1989 in a Counter Terrorist role with NZSAS



Military spec silenced sterling Mk 5 (L34A1)



Two types of marking of Commercial Mk 5 L 34A1



Two makes of magazine, top Sterling, bottom Fazakerley





SAS Display at NZ National Army Museum, L34A1 middle LHS

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*Reference: The Guns of Dagenham by Peter Laidler and David Howroyd,  
Collector Grade Publications.*