

NZAR ID No: 124. Arm type: Carbine. Draft date: 8 Feb 2011. Compiled by: John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG. jcosborne@xtra.co.nz
Pattern (name): pattern 1827 Paget's flintlock cavalry carbine. Introduced into NZ Service: 1840. Withdrawn: 1860?

Paget's pattern 1827 flintlock carbine fitted with 20" 11 bore (.733" caliber) smooth bore barrel with captivated swivel ramrod, saddle bar and brass furniture, walnut stock, 100 yard rear sight mounted on barrel tang, barrel attached by tang screw and two keys. **Provenance** - used by New South Wales Mounted Armed Police who accompanied Captain William Hobson at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 and by some of New Zealand's first Mounted Armed Constabulary. Paget's carbine was also made with a 16" 17 bore (.66" caliber) smooth bore barrel.



Saddle bar and ring, rear sight, Birmingham private proof marks



Lock marked TOWER / PROOF and Crown



Acknowledgements and special thanks to: National Army Museum, Waiouru www.armymuseum.co.nz
New South Wales Police www.policensw.com The State Library of New South Wales www.sl.nsw.gov.au
Osborne Arms Museum for images of carbine armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz Barry Chisnall UK, www.britishcarbines.co.uk
New Zealand National Archives Wellington www.archives.govt.nz National Library of New Zealand Wellington ATL www.natlib.govt.nz
Carbines and Police in New Zealand 1840-1990 by John Osborne ISBN 0-908873-01-8.

Further information on NZAR ID No: 124. NZ Paget's Pattern 1827 Flintlock Carbines.

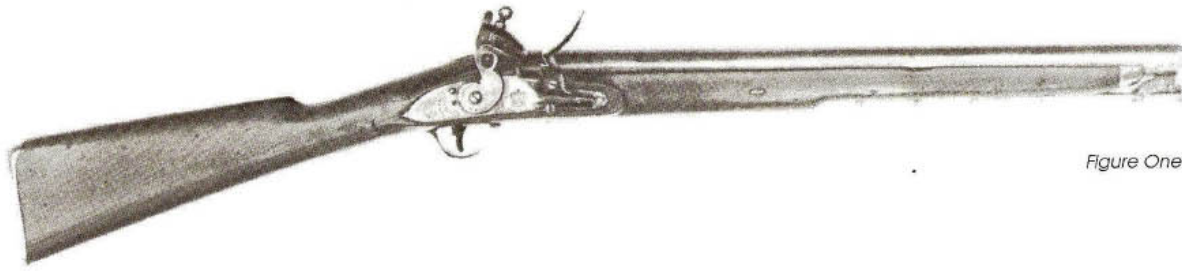


Figure One

PAGET'S CARBINE

In 1825 a mounted police force was set up in New South Wales, primarily to combat bush ranging. The armed force consisted of volunteers from British army regiments serving in New South Wales, armed with cavalry sabres flintlock carbines and flintlock horse pistols such as those used by the British Army. In 1840 members of the New South Wales mounted police force accompanied Captain William Hobson at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, and New Zealand's Annexation by the British Crown.

The main cavalry carbine at this time used by the N.S.W. mounted police was that designed and developed by General Henry Paget (1768-1854) who when Colonel of the Seventh Light Dragoons was considered an outstanding British Cavalry Leader. He became Master General of the Ordnance 1827-1828.

Compulsory proof testing of guns in London dates back to 1637. Proof was necessary to protect against unsound guns.

Figure One

Paget's Carbine c1827. Muzzle loading Calibre 11 Bore. (.733 inch Calibre) smooth bored 20 inch barrel (also made with 16 inch barrel of 17 Bore), fitted with a vee backsight and a long sloping foresight. Barrel held to walnut stock by two keys. Brass furniture. A backward bent saddle ring bar is fitted to left side, captivated steel ramrod secured at muzzle, lock marked with crown and tower proof. Reinforced cock.

CARTRIDGES

Finely ground (meal) black powder propellant and a lead round ball projectile was wrapped together using cartridge paper tied at each end with fine string.

In use the cartridge was torn open at the powder end. With flintlock guns some powder was first placed in the flash pan as priming, the remaining powder was poured into the barrel at the muzzle. The paper patched lead round ball (quite a loose fit in the barrel) was rammed down on top of the powder.

Cartridge bags or pouches were developed, worn on a cross belt or waist belt made from leather with individual partitions to protect the fragile cartridges. Paper cartridges burned when the charge was fired. Often smouldering pieces of paper remained in the barrel causing premature ignition of the next cartridge when being loaded. In 1847 Englishman John Mollet patented combustible paper cartridges (No 11657) which were treated with nitric and sulphuric acids, rendering them self-consuming in use. About the same time the bullet end of the cartridge was dipped in a molten lubricating mixture comprising 5 parts tallow and 1 part beeswax. The calibre of the gun was measured by the number of bore sized lead round balls that weighed one English Pound.

The lead ball bullet used in the gun was smaller than the bore to allow it to be rammed down even when the barrel becomes fouled.

From the book *Carbines and Police in New Zealand 1840-1990* by John Osborne