

NZART ID: 126 Arm Type: Carbine, Date of Draft: (V1) 17 October 2013, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: NZ Pattern Snider Constabulary Carbine Mk III, Introduced into NZ Service: 1872, Withdrawn 1907(?)

Makers: W H Tisdall, 47 Whittall St, Birmingham

Calibre: .577 in, 25 bore, Bore: 5 rifling RH twist 1 turn in 48in, Furniture: Brass. Steel rod. Saddle bar & ring.

Barrel length: 18.5 in. OA Length: 36.55 in. Weight: 6 lb 13 oz.

Type of Action: Snider breech loading, single shot.

Magazine: None, Sights: rear sight bed to 300, leaf to 600 yds., foresight barleycorn on fixed block.

Bayonet: None



Trade (NZ) Pattern 1872 Tisdall Snider Mk III Constabulary Carbine

The British introduced a full stocked 2 band Constabulary Snider carbine in July 1867 with a MK III version in 1869 being a conversion of the Pattern 1856 Short Rifle intended for the Irish Constabulary(2). The NZ Pattern 1872 Tisdall contract are similar but have a shorter barrel and were new made with 5 groove rifled barrels, and included a saddle bar and ring.



Lock: "Crown 1872 W H Tisdall,
47 Whittall St, Birmingham"

Saddle bar & ring

Birmingham proof marks

"N^Z 568"

New Zealand Service

NZ Cavalry were still armed with Enfield & Terry carbine and some Police with Westley Richards Monkey Tail breech loading carbines until 1872, when a special contract from W H Tisdall supplied 500 special short Snider Constabulary carbines with saddle bar. Contemporary reports do not differentiate between the Tisdall and other forms of Snider cavalry carbine. No Snider cavalry carbines were available from WD stores at this time all stocks having been issued to Imperial troops. It should be noted that snider carbines Cavalry/Yeomanry/Constabulary and Artillery were used by the Volunteer Force, Permanent Force, Constabulary and Cadets. It is understood that the Tisdall carbines were purchased to replace the arms of the Volunteer Cavalry Units but by 1878 contemporary photos show them in the hands of Armed Constabulary Field Force.

By mid 1879 there were 648 Snider "Cavalry" type carbines on issue to NZ Cavalry Units, increasing to 1,880 Snider Cavalry carbines held in the Dominion by 1893(3). The NZ Volunteer Force remained armed with Snider rifles and carbines until they were gradually replaced by the Martini Henry from 1895. In the early 1900s a number of Snider Long and Short Rifles were locally converted to Cavalry Carbine Pattern with 19.25 in barrel for Constabulary use. In 1902 Snider carbines were reported still on issued to school cadet forces. In 1907 3,000 snider carbines were sold to an English firm and shipped to England (4.)

Surviving examples of the Tisdall carbine in NZ (15 recorded to date) have been noted with and without saddle bar, it is understood that the bar was removed when used by foot constabulary.

Tisdall's later moved their entire gunsmithing business to New Zealand.

Acknowledgements: John Osborne,

References: (1).577 Pattern 1853 Rifle Musket & Snider-Enfield by I D Skennerton

(2).577 Snider Enfield Rifles & Carbines by I D Skennerton.

(3) AJHR

(4) <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz> (Evening Post 19 may 1909 "Obsolete Arms")