

**NZAR ID 128, ARM TYPE: Tupara, Draft date 18 February 2011, (VI) Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,  
 Pattern: 11 bore Percussion double gun for ball and shot: Introduced: c1861. Withdrawn: c1890s**

**Specifications:** Maker: William Sparks Riley, Lench Street, Birmingham. Barrels: 3 wire fine twist (damascus), 30" smooth bore, Birmingham proofed with hooked breech and keyed to forewood. Caliber: 11 bore (.75") tapering to 12 bore (.73") at muzzle. Action: Side locks, non rebounding hammers. Stock: walnut, all steel furniture, brass tipped wooden ramrod. Sights: brass pin foresight. Muzzle velocity: about 1100ft/s. Range: effective to about 80 yards. Rate of fire: about 6-10 rounds per minute.



Engraved side lock, marked W S Riley. Left hammer ear broken off.



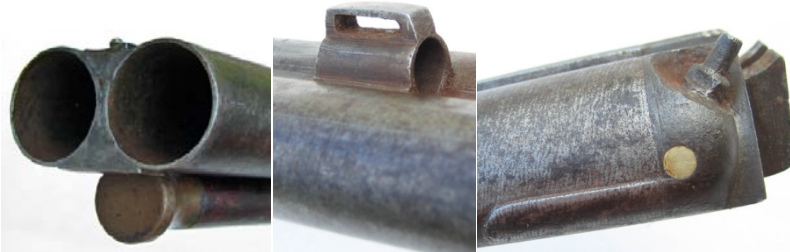
Hammer on half cock. Side locks easily removed for servicing.



Underside of engraved steel trigger guard and tang.



Engraving of front trigger guard bed & fore end. Barrel retaining key.



Birmingham private proof marks and Gun Serial Number 1794



Barrel marked W S Riley, Birmingham, England

**New Zealand Service:** An example of a good quality well used musket bore Tupara. Provenance; issued by the NZ Colonial Government to a Hawkes Bay warrior chief who with his followers fought on the side of the Government, known as Maori Auxiliaries

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: Neil Hayes QSM PhD FSG. New Zealand National Archives Wellington [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz) National Library of New Zealand Wellington [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz) Hawkes Bay Museum & Art Gallery [www.hbmag.co.nz](http://www.hbmag.co.nz) Tupara and Police in New Zealand by John Osborne article in the International Police Association Journal, 1986. Osborne Arms Museum for images of Tupara [armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz) [www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/patuone-eruera-maihi/1](http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/patuone-eruera-maihi/1) [www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-123981.html](http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-123981.html) [www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/wiremu-tamihana](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/wiremu-tamihana)

### Further information on 11 bore Percussion Tupara

Maori chiefs and their followers during the so called Musket Wars c1819-1840s soon realized that shorter two barreled guns they named Tupara were better than the one long barrel of the musket. Flintlock Tupara could be easily muzzle loaded with suitable carbine or musket bore ball cartridges. From the mid 1830s the percussion Tupara that would fire the standard military 1 ounce .69" diameter musket ball became the Maori Warriors favorite arm. In the mid 1840s there were rebellions by the Maori chiefs Hone Heke and Te Rauparaha and their followers. In establishing the Armed Police Forces in 1846, Governor George Grey instructed that one quarter of the Forces were to be Maori Constables who were to be treated as Europeans in every respect, including pay, and were permitted to use their own arms including Tupara. In 1860 the Taranaki Wars began but Wiremu Tamihana (image below), a leader of the Kingitanga unity movement, negotiated an uneasy truce in 1861. Fighting resumed in Taranaki in May 1863 and in July 1863 the Waikato was invaded. Fighting with the Kingitanga stopped in 1865 but was sustained by resistance from the Pai Marire (1864-65) and continuing from Titokowaru in Taranaki and Te Kooti on the east coast. The NZ Colonial Government issued arms including Tupara to Chiefs leading the Maori Auxiliary Units. The pursuit of Titokowaru and Te Kooti, masters of guerrilla warfare, was carried on by the NZ Armed Constabulary Force (akin to an army) Settler Militia & Maori Auxiliaries. The last engagement was in May 1872, after which Maori resistance gradually subsided. Breech loading Tupara became popular with some Maori warriors from the late 1860s.



Eruera Maihi Patuone, Nga Puhi chief & government adviser c1864



Haka with Tupara



Chief Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi te Waharoa c1865



Two Heretaunga (Hawkes Bay) Maori Warrior Chiefs with their Tupara (Double Guns) and wearing Korowai (feather cloaks)