

NZAR ID 129, ARM TYPE: Tupara, Draft date 18 February 2011, (VI) Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: Lovell's musket bore double gun Pattern 1839: Introduced: c1847. Withdrawn: c1880s

Specifications: Maker: Tower, London, developed for the Police Force in Ireland, British Ordnance approved. Barrels: Iron 26" smooth bore, Tower proofed with hooked breech and keyed to forewood. Caliber: 11 bore (.733") cylinder. Action: Back action locks. Stock: walnut, brass furniture with Bakers pattern trigger guard, steel ramrod. Sights: pin foresight no backsight. Muzzle velocity: about 1100ft/s. Range: effective to about 80 yards. Rate of fire: about 6-10 rounds per minute.



Back action locks marked Crown / V R / TOWER 1847 and Ordnance Inspectors marks.



New Zealand Service: Provenance – this Tupara was owned / used by a Maori Constable in the Wellington Armed Police Force c1847-1870s. In establishing the Armed Police Forces in 1846, New Zealand 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. Maori warriors including some women soon realized that two barreled guns they called Tupara (double barrel guns) were better than the single barrel muskets in the close-quarter bush fighting encountered in New Zealand. The Tupara soon became the Maoris' favorite firearm. In the percussion muzzle-loading era, Tupara of musket (11 bore) were most prized, these allowed both shot and military musket ball cartridges to be used.

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: National Army Museum www.armymuseum.co.nz Te Awanuiarangi Black. Buddy Mikaere. Te Papa Museum of New Zealand www.collections.tepapa.govt.nz Hawkes Bay Museum & Art Gallery www.hbmag.co.nz Osborne Arms Museum for images of Tupara 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 Tupara and Police in New Zealand by John Osborne article in the International Police Association Journal 1986

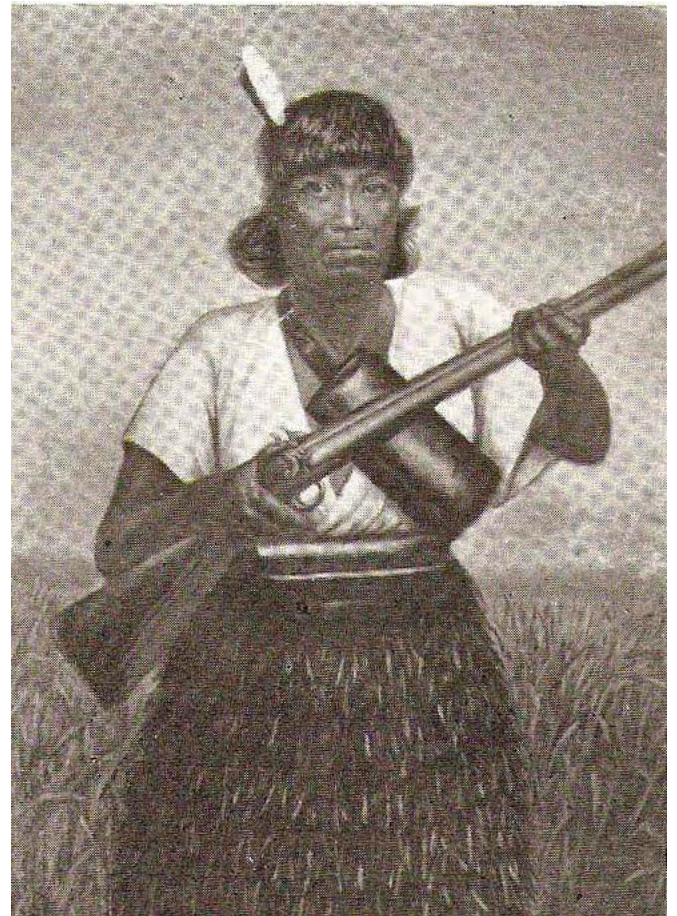
Further information on Percussion Tupara

In 1822 following a request from a troop of colonial cavalry at the Cape of Good Hope, George Lovell, storekeeper and Jonathan Bellis, master furbisher at Enfield Royal Small Arms Factory developed a fearsome muzzle loading flintlock double barrel, smooth bore Tupara (double barrelled gun) having 26" barrels of .733" calibre which accepted the standard British Military Musket ball cartridge. In 1835 Lovell developed a muzzle loading percussion .733" calibre smooth bored Tupara for the Police in Ireland. These proved too heavy and in 1839 a two pound lighter version was developed costing £5 remaining in service for many years.

In the mid 1830s whalers and traders conducted the "direct deals" for firearms (including Tupara) and ammunition. The trading rate for ex military Brown Bess flintlock muskets which cost about £2 at that time varied between 1 to 2 Mokokokai (dried tattooed heads) or 8 to 25 pigs, or 120 to 200 bags of potatoes for one musket, and one good sized pig for 30 musket balls. The trading rate for Tupara (double barrelled guns) which cost £5 and upwards in England was considerably more, 3 to 6 Mokokokai for one Tupara. (Good Mokokokai were selling in England for £2 to £3 each) Percussion Tupara were being traded from about 1835, some breech loading pinfire Tupara from the late 1850s and central fire Tupara from the late 1860s.



Left image: Takiora of the Nukumaru tribe c1865 armed with her percussion Tupara. She fought on the side of the Colonial Government and was a guide to British Generals Cameron and Chute. Note; Lovell's Pattern 1844 carbine, Hay Pattern Medium Enfield Rifle and Terry Carbine against wall.



Right image. A high born Maori women warrior with her Tupara and two wooden cartridge boxes with leather flap covers, each holding about 20 cartridges one in the centre of the waist belt (whitiki) and one on the front of a diagonal shoulder cross belt (haamanu) & a small percussion cap pouch, c1860s

Maori women including wives and sisters and even grey-haired mothers often accompanied their men in the field, carrying ammunition and food and attending to the cooking, and sometimes loading and using a Tupara / gun. Many a Maori woman deserved a war medal for deeds of courage, even in the firing line where they fought and died like the men.