

**Pattern (Name): Bayonets for Martini Henry Rifle & Artillery Carbine**

When the Martini Henry Rifle first went on general issue in 1875 no provision had been made for a purpose made bayonet. Thus it was initially provided with bushed bayonets of a previous pattern. These were to be bushed Pat 1853 socket bayonets for privates and bushed Pat 1856/58/60 Yataghan Sword bayonets for sergeants. A purpose made socket bayonet with a longer blade then followed, this was the Pat 1876. At the same time a sawback sword bayonet was introduced: Pat 1875, however they were not general issue and were later converted to make Irish Constabulary and New Zealand Snider bayonets. For the Navy a cutlass bayonet was required and these were provided by converting Pat 1859 Cutlass bayonets to become the Pat 1871, by generally lightening and fitting a new cross guard. When the Martini Henry Artillery Carbine was proposed the bayonet selected was the Pat 1879 Artillery Sawback Bayonet.

When a new smaller calibre Enfield Martini was being trialled in .402 calibre a new sword bayonet was developed, however when the Enfield Martini project was dropped following the introduction of the .303 magazine rifle these bayonets were retained for the Martini Henry Mk IV Rifle and became the Pat 1887 Mk I, II, III & IV. All sword bayonets for the Martini Henry Rifle will fit on all marks of Martini Henry Rifle, however the socket bayonets will only fit on MK I,II, & III rifles and the Artillery bayonet will only fit the carbine.



Pictured above: 1. MH Rifle and Pat 1876 Socket and Bushed Pat 1873 Sword bayonet.

2. MH Rifle and Pat 1887 Mk III and Mk I Sword bayonet

3. MH Artillery Carbine and Pat 1879 Artillery sawback bayonet

4. MH Cavalry Carbine which does not fit a bayonet.

**Pattern 1872 Bushed Pattern 1853 Socket Bayonet NZAR ID 58**



Length OA: 20.7 in (526 mm) Blade: 17.0 in (432 mm) Socket: 3.0 in (76 mm), MRD 18.1 mm

The scabbard is that for the Pat 1853 bayonet with black leather body and brass locket and chape



Bushed socket



Note conversion date 9/75

Approved in December 1872 conversion of these bayonets took place at RSAF Enfield, where 224,278 were converted between 1872 and 1879.

**Pattern 1873 Bushed Pattern 1856/58/60 Sword Bayonet (Yataghan) NZAR ID 136**



Martini Henry rifle with Bushed Pat 1860 Sword Bayonet



Hilt of P 73 bayonet, note conversion date 2/85 on ricasso



Yataghan bayonet Pattern 1860 (converted in February 1885) to fit Martini Henry Rifle.  
Note bushing and filed step to the hilt

Length OA: 28.2 in (716 mm) Blade: 22.8 in (579 mm) Scabbard: 24.0 in (610 mm) MRD: 18.2mm  
Leather grips secured by 4 rivets, Scabbard: original black leather with steel locket and chape reused.

Approved in January 1873 conversion of these bayonets took place mostly at RSAF Enfield where a total of 103,585 bayonets were converted between 1872 and 1889.

### **Pattern 1876 Socket Bayonet NZAR ID 157**



Pat 1876 Socket bayonet and Mk II Scabbard

Length OA: 25.1 in (638 mm) Blade: 21.7 in (511 mm) Socket 3.0 in (76mm) Scabbard: 22.25 in (565 mm) MRD: 18.3 mm

Approved in June 1876 a total of 532,759 bayonets were manufactured at RSAF Enfield and a further 28,200 by BSA. There are two marks of scabbard, the Mk I having three rivets securing the internal spring and the Mk II has two.

### **Pattern 1871 Cutlass Bayonet NZAR ID 137**



Pattern 1871 Naval Cutlass Bayonet

Length OA: 31.3 in (795 mm) Blade: 25.6 in (650 mm) Scabbard 26.2 in (665 mm) MRD: 18.0 mm

Leather grips secured by four rivets, with a black leather scabbard with steel locket and chape.

Approved in July 1871 this bayonet is a conversion of the Pat 1859 Cutlass bayonet and was achieved by shortening and straightening the blade, at the same time lightening the blade, pommel and basket and fitting a new cross guard. The scabbard was also a conversion. Conversion of 50,511 bayonets was carried out at RSAF Enfield between 1874 and 1882. A further 3,000 (approx) bayonets were converted by simply bushing Pat 1859 Cutlass Bayonets in 1886.



P 1871 hilt, note conversion date 5/75



Canterbury Mounted Rifles with MH & P87 sword bayonet c 1897

**Pattern 1879 Artillery Bayonet NZAR ID 54**



Pat 1879 Artillery Bayonet (new made) and Scabbard

New-Length OA: 29.75 in (756 mm) Blade: 24.25 in (616 mm) Scabbard: 24.7 in (627 mm) MRD 17.5 mm

Conversion-Length OA: 31.25 in (792 mm) Blade: 25.75 in (646mm) Scabbard: 26.81 in (680 mm) MRD 17.5 mm

The hilt has leather grips with four rivets and a guard, the blade has a 9.25 in. sawback with 41 teeth and a fuller. The scabbard is black leather with steel locket and chape.

Approved in July 1879 the first batch of 1,340 in 1879/80 was a conversion at Enfield of the Pat 1859 Cutlass bayonet, thereafter new made bayonets were produced totalling 65,143 of both types by 1890.

In addition to small dimensional differences between the converted and new made bayonet the new made bayonets have the locking button on the RHS while the conversions have it on the LHS.

Yataghan sword bayonets were also bushed for the Martini Henry Artillery Carbine Mk II which was a cut down rifle and therefore had a larger MRD.

## Pattern 1887 Sword Bayonets NZAR ID 50



Pattern 1887 Mk I

Length OA: 23.7 in (602 mm) Blade: 18.3 in (465 mm) Scabbard: 19.25 in (489 mm) MRD 18.0 mm

Black leather grips with four rivets, fullered blade, scabbard black leather with steel lock and chape.

Originally developed for the .402 calibre Enfield Martini the Mk I was adapted for the Martini Henry Mk IV and approved in May 1887 along with Mks II and III. The Mk I was a conversion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> model E-M trials bayonet while the Mk II was new made, but had a coil spring instead of leaf spring for the locking bolt and the grips were secured by 2 rivets instead of 4. The MK III was also new made but had no fuller in the blade and had a coil spring and two rivets in the grip. A Mk IV was approved in June 1891 being a conversion of the 1<sup>st</sup> model trials bayonet and was very similar to the Mk I.

Enfield converted 21,113 trials model to Mk I and manufactured 36,400 new Mk I in 1887. Production of Mk II amounted to about 2,100.



Pattern 1887 Mk III

Production of the Mk III amounted to 8,639 at Enfield between 1894 and 1900 while Wilkinson manufactured 42,000 between 1888 and 1889. Mk IV conversions of the 1<sup>st</sup> model trials bayonet amounted to some 24,000.

## **New Zealand Use of Martini Henry bayonets**

While all of the above bayonets may be found in New Zealand there is little documentary evidence to confirm what was actually purchased and issued by the colonial government.

The first recorded use of a Martini Henry rifle in New Zealand was in 1872, however this was a single rifle used in a Volunteer Prize Shoot and would have been a MK I, if it had a bayonet it would have been a bushed Pattern 53 or Bushed Yataghan sword bayonet.

In 1889 500 Martini Henry rifles were ordered from Britain arriving in 1890, some of these were Mk IV and would have had the Pat 1887 bayonet. Another 200 rifles arrived in the colony in August 1893 with 50 Bushed Pattern 1873 sword bayonets.

In 1894 a further 5,000 Martini Henry rifles and carbines were ordered from Britain arriving in 1895 with a mixture of Pattern 1876 socket and Pattern 1873 and 1887 sword bayonets.

*Acknowledgements:*     *photos by John Osborne and Phil Cregeen*

*Reference:*             *British & Commonwealth Bayonets by ID Skennerton & R Robertson.*

*Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives* <http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz>