

NZART ID No 139, Arm Type: Bayonet, Draft date 27/8/2011, Compiled by Phil Cregeen

Pattern: Bayonet No 4 Mk I, II, II*, III, No 7 and No 9. Introduced into NZ Service from 1942, Withdrawn from 1962

LOA: 254 mm, Blade Length: 203 mm, MRD: 15.5 mm

Developed at RSAF Enfield in the 1930s for the new No 4 Rifle the No 4 series of bayonets are an 8 in spike fitted to the rifle by means of a socket that locks on to two lugs on the end of the barrel. The various Marks following the Mk I evolved as wartime economies to speed up production. NZ issued bayonets are normally marked with electric pencil.



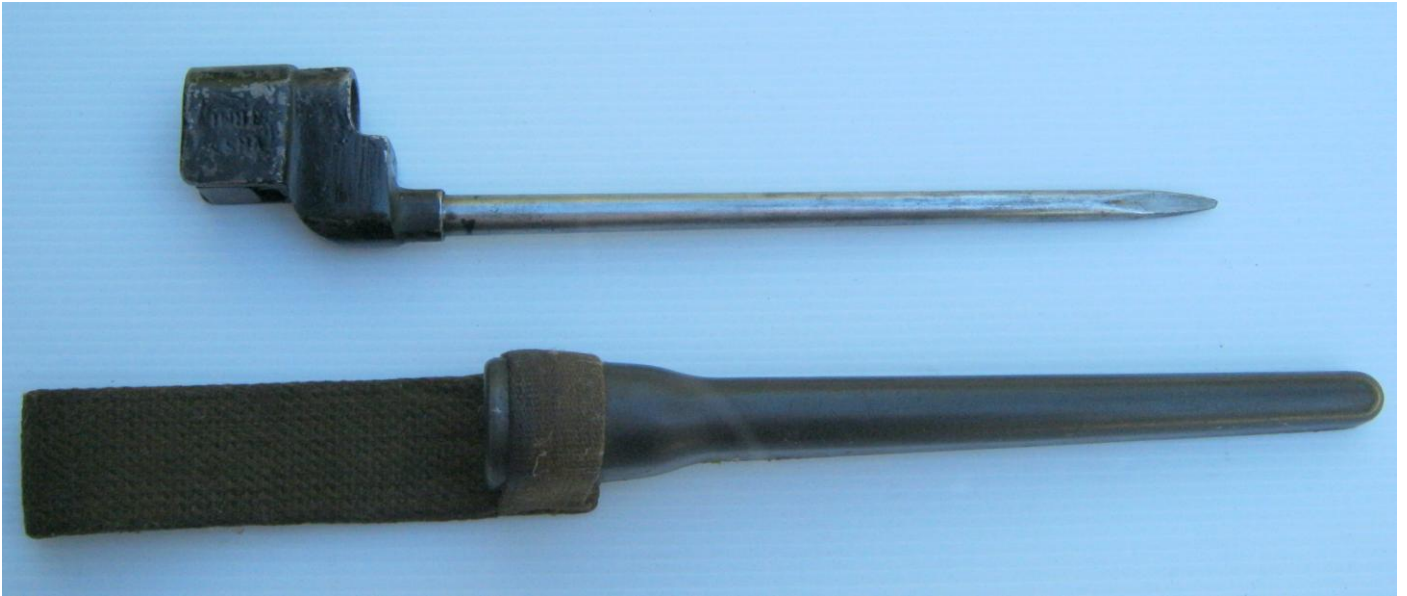
No 4 Mk I with Mk I scabbard, Manufactured by Singer Manufacturing Co. who produced 75,000 in 1941

The Mk I scabbard has a tapered steel body with an aluminium throat.



No 4 Mk II with Mk II Scabbard, Manufactured by Singer, Long Branch (Canada) and Savage (USA) Introduced from 1941.

Mk II scabbard has a parallel steel body with an aluminium throat. Introduced in 1941



No 4 Mk II*, with Victory Plastic scabbard. Manufactured by: Prince-Smith & Stells, Howard & Bullough, Baird Engineering and Lewisham Engineering in the UK. Introduced in 1941 the spike and socket are made as two separate components and then braised together.

The Victory Plastic scabbard was manufactured by the Beckwith Manufacturing Co. in the USA and supplied as part of Lend Lease. It has a tapered plastic body with a steel throat and an integral frog.



No 4 Mk III with MK III scabbard, Manufactured by J Lucas and introduced in 1943 this is a fabricated bayonet.

The Mk III scabbard has a slightly tapered plastic body and an aluminium throat.

The Mk II and Mk II* bayonets are the most common types to be found in New Zealand and marked with NZ issue marks. However since millions of these bayonets were manufactured in WW II it is certainly probable that all marks were issued to NZ forces at some time. Note bayonets and scabbards are interchangeable. See also NZART No 25, the No 4 Rifle.



No 7 Mk I Bayonet & scabbard, the socket rotates to form a fighting knife. Developed in 1945 for the MK V Sten it was also used on the No 4 Rifle. Manufactured by Elkington, ROF Poole, ROF Newport and BSA. 330,000 made.



No 9 Mk I bayonet and scabbard. Introduced in 1948. Manufactured at RSAF Enfield (1949 to 1962) and ROF Poole (1947 to 1949).

Acknowledgements:

Photographs: Phil Cregeen

References: The British Spike Bayonet by ID Skennerton

British & Commonwealth Bayonets by ID Skennerton & R Richardson