

**NZAR ID No: 142. Arm type: Knife. Draft date: 11 Mar 2011. Compiled by: John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG. jcosborne@xtra.co.nz
Pattern (name): Scottish Stag antler dirk. Introduced into NZ Service: From 1863. Withdrawn: 1886 / Still field dress.**

This example of a traditional Scottish stag crowned antler handle dirk made by John Nowill & Sons, Sheffield, England has a blade length 12" width 1.25" thickness 0.25" tapering to a spear point, with its black leather hand carved and edge laced sheath. **Provenance:** From the early 1600s the Scottish Dirk has been the edged arm carried by Scotsmen wherever they traveled. Many Scots who came to New Zealand brought with them their Dirk and Sgian Dubh and it is reputed some Scots who joined New Zealand's earliest Militia, Police and bands wore the Dirk. It is still considered appropriate to wear a Dirk and Sgian Dubh as part of Highland Dress to any formal Military, Police or Civilian occasion in New Zealand.



Traditional Scottish field use Sgian Dubh with notched & grooved blade & crowned stag antler handle. Marks on the blade of the dirk.

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Image, Details and Provenance of this Dirk courtesy Osborne Arms Museum armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz

New Zealand National Archives Wellington www.archives.govt.nz National Library of New Zealand Wellington ATL www.natlib.govt.nz

Grant Sherriff FSG Hon Curator Arms, Otago Settlers Museum, www.otago.settlers.museum

Bob Scott, NZ Soldier - Piper New Zealand Scottish Regiment, Pipe Band 1954-55.

Barry Wallace, NZ Policeman - Pipe Major, Dirk Maker, New Zealand Police Pipe Band, Auckland 1960-1992

Jack Terry, NZ Soldier-Piper; Policeman-Pipe Major, Pipe Maker, New Zealand Police Pipe Band, Auckland 1960-1992

Further information on NZAR ID No: 142. Scottish fighting dirk in NZ.

The first independent companies of the Black Watch (*Reicudan Dubh*) were raised as a militia in 1725 to occupy and keep peace in the Scottish Highlands. The Black Watch 42nd Regiment of Foot, the Royal Regiment of Scotland was formed officially in 1739 and first mustered in 1740. Many Scottish Military units around the world including New Zealand have allied themselves to the Black Watch and adopted the Tartan, Sporrans and edged arms similar to those used by the Black Watch.