

**NZAR ID No: 144. Arm type: Knife. Draft date: 21 Mar 2011. Compiled by: John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG. jcosborne@xtra.co.nz
Pattern (name): Scottish Sgian Dubh (black knife). Introduced into NZ Service: From 1863. Withdrawn: Still formal dress.**

This example of a traditional jewel top Scottish Sgian Dubh made by John Nowill & Sons, Sheffield, England has a grooved blade length 3.68" (93mm) width 0.68" (21mm) thickness 0.1" (2.4mm) tapering to a spear point. The cast metal furniture on the knife and sheath is engraved with traditional Scottish designs. **Provenance:** The SGIAN-DUBH was reputed to have been carried by some members of the New Zealand Forest Rangers 1863-67 and some members of the Armed Constabulary Field Force from 1867-1886 and by the various New Zealand Highland Rifle Volunteers from 1885. With dress (Black Watch) uniform by some members of the New Zealand Scottish Pipe Band from 1939. Also traditionally worn by some members of Military, Police and Civilian Highland Pipe Bands in NZ and worldwide.



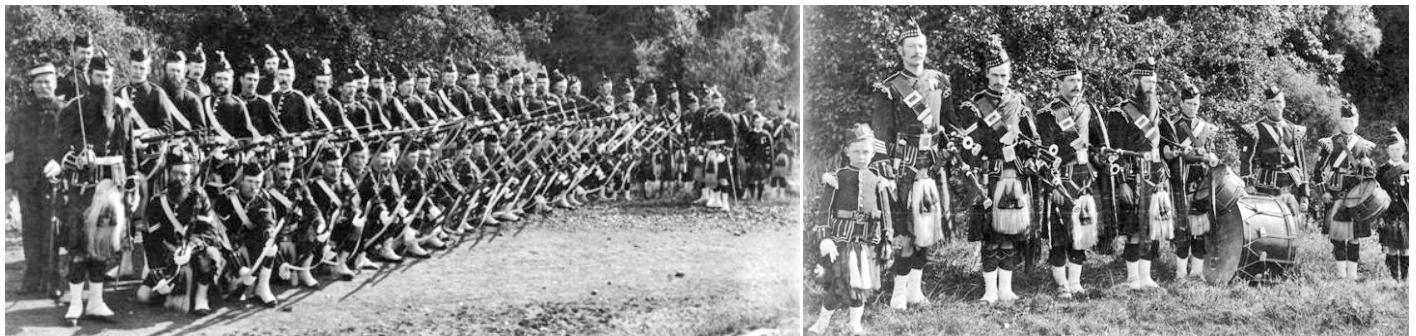
The blade is marked with trademarks - D Star and crossed keys / J. NOWILL & SONS / SHEFFIELD ENGLAND



A short knife developed and used over centuries in Scotland and by Scots worldwide. Usually worn with Highland dress and carried in the right hose stocking. Fitted with a carved black handle or crown stag antler. In dress form traditionally surmounted with a Cairngorm, semi precious quartz crystal stone found on the Scottish Cairngorm Mountains. It is still considered high fashion and appropriate to wear a Dirk and Sgian Dubh as part of Highland Dress to any formal occasion in New Zealand.

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: National Army Museum, Waiouru www.armymuseum.co.nz
Image, Details and Provenance of this Sgian Dubh 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: 144. Scottish Sgian Dubh in NZ.



Left: Dunedin Scottish Rifles in Dunedin c1880s linked to the Black Watch and wearing the Black Watch Tartan and Sporran, armed with Snider Enfield Carbines and Yataghan sword bayonets, Officers with Dirks, Sgian Dubh and basket hilted broadswords.
Right: Dunedin Scottish Rifles Band, c1880s armed with Dirks and Sgian Dubh (small knives tucked in to the outside of right hand sock) wearing the Tartan and Sporran of the Black Watch. Images courtesy Grant Sherriff FSG