

**NZAR ID No: 145. Arm type: Knife. Draft date: 21 Mar 2011. Compiled by: John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG. jcosborne@xtra.co.nz
Pattern (name): Scottish Sgian Dubh antler crown handle. Introduced into NZ Service: From 1863. Withdrawn: Still in use.**

This example of a traditional deer antler crown handle 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. **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.



The notched back grooved blade is marked J. NOWILL & SONS / SHEFFIELD, the deer antler crowned handle has a metal button cap.



The flat leather sheath is held against the leg by the hose (stocking) with the antler crown just protruding from the right leg stocking top.

A short knife developed and used over centuries in Scotland and by Scots worldwide. Fitted with a stag crowned antler handle for field use. 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.

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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: 145. Scottish Field Sgian Dubh in NZ.