

NZAR ID 153, ARM TYPE: Tupara, Draft date 25 March 2011, (VI) Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: 12 bore centre fire double gun for ball and shot: Introduced: c1869. Withdrawn: c1890s

Specifications: Maker: William Tanton, Tenderden, Kent. Barrels: 3 wire fine twist, 29½" smooth bore Birmingham proofed, keyed to forewood. Caliber: Center fire 12 bore (.73") tapering to 13 bore (.72") at muzzle. Action: underlever tip down barrel, back action lock, non rebounding hammers. Stock: walnut, all steel furniture. Sights: brass pin foresight. Muzzle velocity: about 1100ft/s. Range: effective to about 80 yards. Rate of fire: about 20-30 rounds per minute.



Engraved back action lock, marked W TANTON, recessed hammers. None rebounding hammers, back action locks easily removed for servicing.



Plain steel butt plate. Under lever action showing locking design. Birmingham private proof marks and Gun serial No 5282. Fore end locking wedge



Left; Topside of engraved steel action & tang, firing pins could be replaced with percussion nipples & the gun muzzle loaded with musket ball cartridges
 Right; Engraving on right side back action lock plate .

New Zealand Service: An example of a good quality well used 12 bore for shot and ball Tupara. Provenance; Owned and used by a Hawkes Bay Maori Warrior who fought on the side of the NZ Colonial Government, known as Maori Auxiliaries
 By the mid 1860s British and European made 12 bore under-lever breech loading pin-fire Tupara (double guns) were being used by Maori and Settlers in New Zealand, followed in the late 1860s by British and European made 12 bore under-lever

breech loading center-fire Tupara. Some settlers reloaded their own 12 bore ammunition with either ball or shot.

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: Neil Hayes PhD FSG. New Zealand National Archives Wellington www.archives.govt.nz National Library of New Zealand Wellington www.natlib.govt.nz Hawkes Bay Museum & Art Gallery www.hbmag.co.nz Tupara and Police in New Zealand by John Osborne article in the International Police Association Journal, 1986. Osborne Arms Museum OAM for images of Tupara armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-123981.html

Further information on 12 bore center fire Tupara

The pursuit of Titokowaru and Te Kooti, masters of guerrilla warfare, was carried on from October 1867 by the NZ Armed Constabulary Force (akin to an army) Settler Militia, Volunteers and Maori Auxiliaries. Although the last engagement of the war was in May 1872, Maori opposition to surveying and land sales was still widespread and many colonists feared that a resumption of hostilities would occur in the Waikato and Taranaki. In 1878 the New Zealand Colonial Government was again forced to prepare for war, volunteers recruited and suitable arms and equipment procured. By 1879, Parihaka in Taranaki had become a potential centre of rebellion and Maori resistance to governmental authority. Under the joint leadership of Te Whiti and Tohu the residents of Parihaka were determined to resist the European settlement of confiscated lands. In March 1879, surveying parties were stopped, followed in May by the new settlers (Pakeha) land being ploughed up by hostile Parihaka Maori, by August 1879 over 200 ploughmen had been arrested. In Taranaki new Volunteer corps were formed with over 1,500 new recruits under training within ten days of the commencement of the ploughing campaign. By October 1881 the New Zealand Colonial Government ordered an overwhelming force to march against Parihaka, the force assembled on the plains of Rahotu only three miles from Parihaka. Consisting of over 600 Armed Constabulary and nearly 1000 volunteers including pro government Maori and the Nelson Battery of Artillery with their 6 pounder Armstrong Field gun. This was a formidable army. Thirty-three individual units from throughout the colony had by 27 October 1881 been called up for active service. Issued with two day's rations and forty rounds of ammunition the troops formed up into a large column and on 5 November 1881 marched on Parihaka. At 11.30am the Armed Constabulary entered Parihaka without a shot being fired and arrested Te Whiti and Tohu. They were immediately taken to New Plymouth, escorted by a squad of the Taranaki Mounted Rifles. With the Maori King previously, in July 1881 submitting to the authority of the government this marked the end of New Zealand's major internal security concern.



Maori Warriors c1880 with their Center Fire Tupara (Double Guns) performing the HAKA