

NZAR ID 154, ARM TYPE: Tupara, Draft date 25 March 2011, (VI) Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: 12 bore Pin Fire converted to centre fire double gun for ball and shot: Introduced: c1867. Withdrawn: c1890s

Specifications: Maker: Charles Osborne, Birmingham. Barrels: 3 wire fine twist (damascus), 30" smooth bore Birmingham proofed, keyed to forewood. Caliber: Pin / Center fire 12 bore (.73") tapering to 13 bore (.72") at muzzle. Action: underlever tip down barrel, side locks, 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.

New Zealand Service: An example of a high quality well used 12 bore for shot and ball Tupara / double gun. Provenance; Owned and used by a Special Constable in the Hawkes Bay Provincial Armed Constabulary.



Engraved left side lock, marked CHAS OSBORNE.

None rebounding hammers, side locks and barrel easily removed for cleaning & servicing.



Steel butt caps.

Engraved under lever and trigger guard, fore end attached to barrel by wedge.

Muzzle .72" caliber



Under lever barrel locking detail.



By refitting the pin fire hammers this gun can be used with pin fire cartridges. Birmingham private proof marks.



By the early 1860s British and European made 12 bore (.73" caliber) under-lever breech loading pin-fire Tupara (double guns) were being used by some Maori, Provincial Police and Settlers in New Zealand followed in the late 1860s by British and European made 12 bore (.73" caliber) under-lever breech loading center-fire Tupara. Some settlers reloaded their own 12 bore ammunition with either ball or shot. The standard 1 ounce .69" diameter lead musket ball was loaded into the cartridge or buck or bird shot as required.

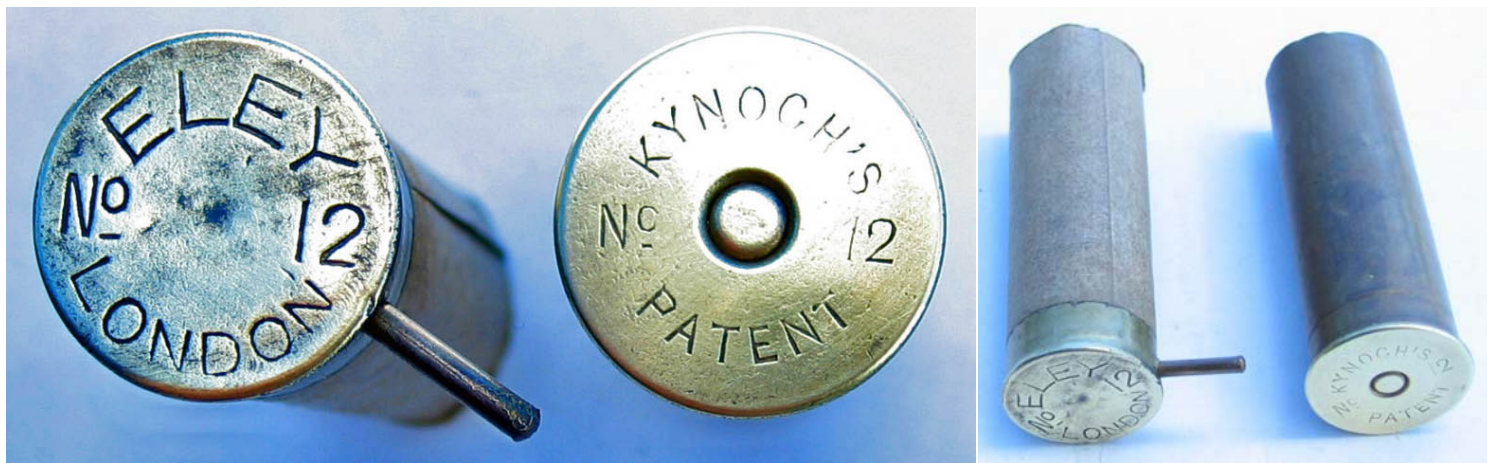
Charles Osborne (1799-1871) established his own gunsmithing business in 1838 at 1 Litchfield Street, Birmingham, the

Business grew, and in 1854 traded as Charles Osborne & Co (Ltd. from 1896) and moved to 12 & 13 Whittall Street (by 1889 the factory also occupied 14 Whittall Street and in 1898 took additional factory premises at 16-17 Sand St, Birmingham). Osborne was a successful and astute man and in 1858 was appointed Guardian of the Birmingham Proof House. He continued the firm until his death in 1871, age 72. The business was carried on by his son Charles Osborne Jr.

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: 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 pin fire & centre fire Tupara / Double Guns

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 hostile Maori 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.



Empty 12 gauge primed cases left pin fire, right center fire ready for loading with black powder, card wad then ball or shot then outer card wad. The cartridge case then rolled over the wad and normally sealed with melted wax to water proof. French Gunsmith Casimir Lefauchaux is credited with the design of the pin fire cartridge in 1836 and exhibited his pin fire under lever, tip down double gun at the 1851 Great Exhibition in London. Several British and European designers improved on the Lefauchaux pin fire cartridge and were quick to incorporate the revolutionary self contained pin fire cartridge into their own design under lever breech loading guns. Several armed New Zealand Provincial Police, Settlers, and Maori Warriors quick to see the advantages are known to have owned and used pin fire Tupara (double barrel guns) from the early 1860s. The disadvantage of the pin-fire cartridge was that the pin had to be positioned in the slot slowing down loading and gas escaped through the pinhole limiting breech pressures, many pin-fires were later converted to center fire by local NZ gunsmiths. Several British and European Gunmakers simultaneously developed the centre fire cartridge. In 1852 London gun maker Charles William Lancaster patented his centre fire cartridge and slide forward, tip down double barrel gun. In 1861 London gun maker George Daw patented an improved centre fire cartridge and applied it to his under lever tip down double barrel gun which he exhibited at the 1862 International Exhibition. London ammunition manufactures Messrs Eley Bros commenced mass production of the centre fire cartridge from 1863. Colonel Edward Mounier Boxer, Superintendent of the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, London developed a centre fire cartridge - British patent No 137 of 1866 and which was subsequently adopted for British military and civilian use. Several armed New Zealand Provincial Police, Settlers, and Maori Warriors quick to see the advantages are known to have owned centre fire Tupara (double barrel guns) from the late 1860s.