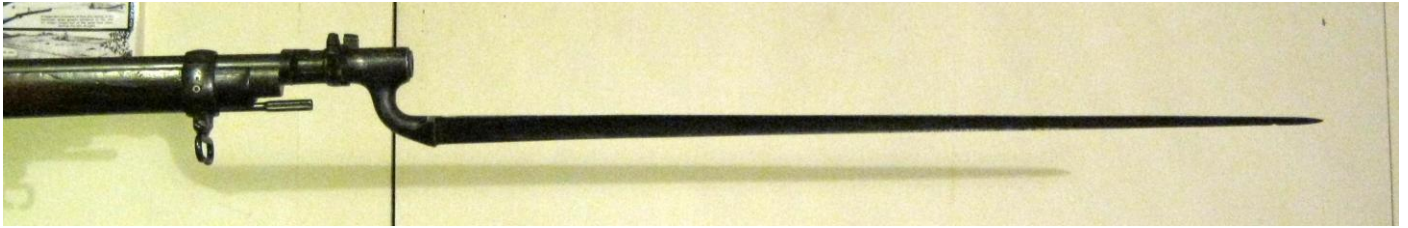


**NZAR ID No 156, ARM TYPE: BAYONET, Draft date 6 March 2012, Compiled by Phil Cregeen**

Pattern (Name) 1895 Socket Bayonet, or Bayonet, Martini Enfield

Introduced into New Zealand Service 1898, withdrawn ???

Length OA 25.0 in (635mm), Blade 21.5 in (546mm), MRD 16.9 mm, Scabbard 22.0 in (559mm)



Pat 1895 Socket bayonet for Martini Enfield

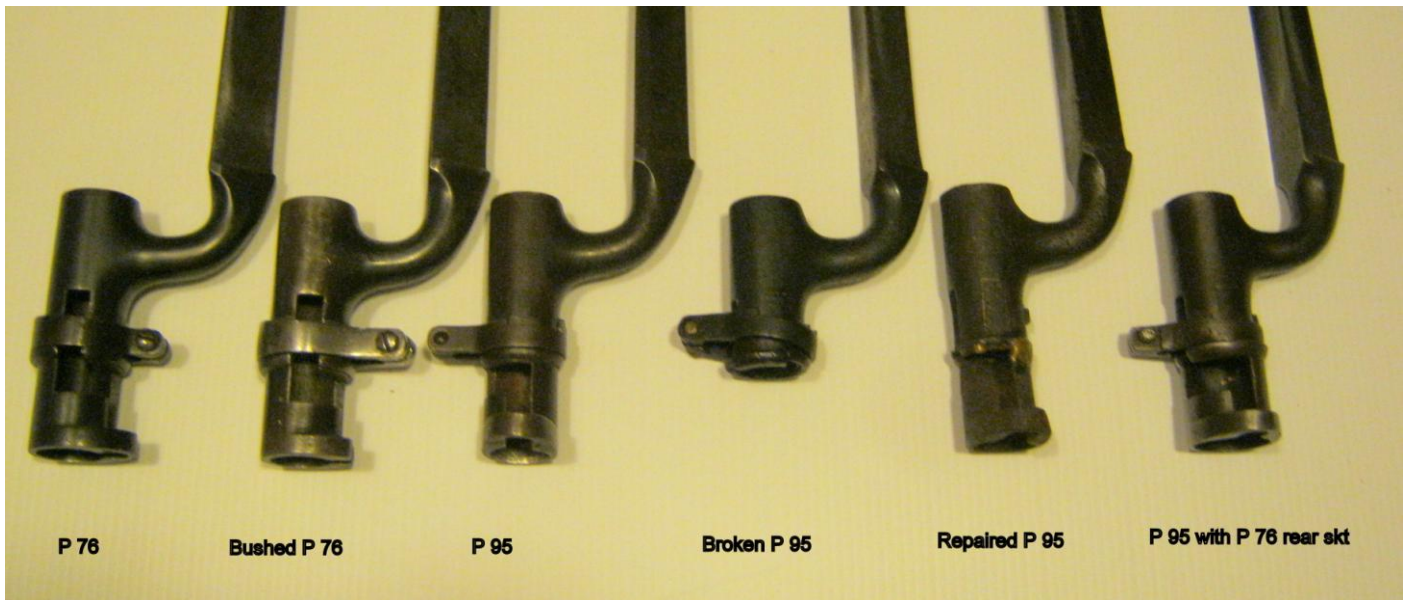
With the introduction of the .303 Magazine Lee Metford Rifle many .450 Martini Henry Rifles were converted to .303 commencing in 1891. Initially these conversions utilised Metford rifling but in 1895 the Enfield system of rifling was adopted for the 303 rifles. With the exception of a small contract for Queensland all Martini Enfield Rifles Mk I and Mk II were only designed to be fitted with the Pattern 1895 Socket bayonet.

The Pattern 1895 Socket bayonet for the Martini Enfield .303 rifle was a conversion from the Pattern 1876 Martini Henry bayonet and was introduced in the List of Changes # 8119 on 4 October 1895, which stated " The conversion is made from the bayonet, triangular, Martini Henry, long, and consists generally in cutting down and rebushing the socket, the socket then being bored and slotted, and fitted with a new locking ring, stop, and screw arranged to fit the rifle. When fixed, the blade is below the barrel instead of at the side, as in the Martini Henry Rifles."



Top: Pattern 1876, middle: Pattern 1876 bushed to fit Martini Enfield, bottom: Pattern 1895, Pat 1876 scabbards

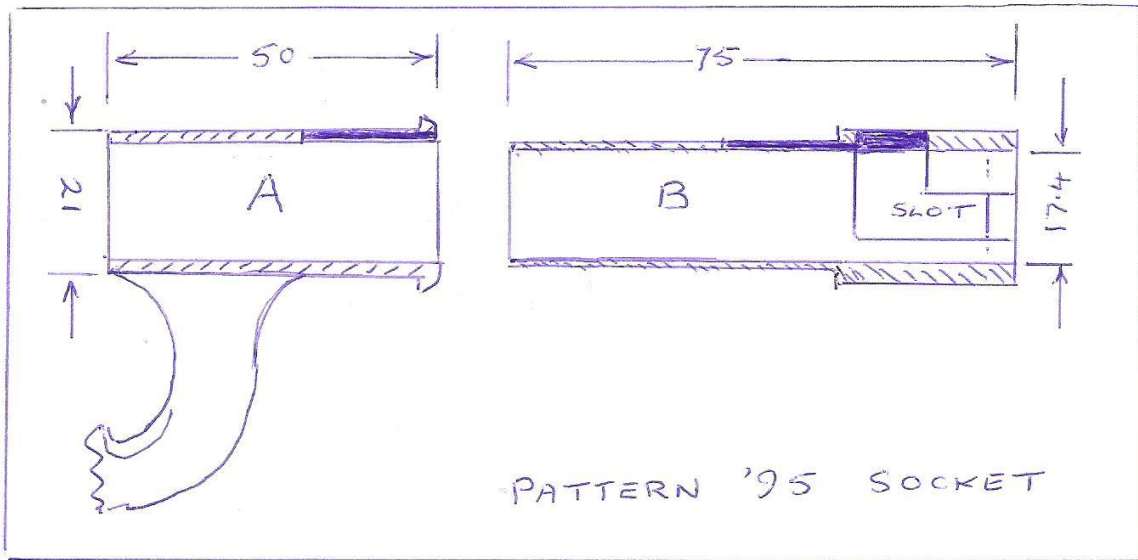
Note: the bushed Pat 76 bayonets (middle) were converted at the Citadel Arsenal in Khartoum and not issued in NZ



A comparison of Martini sockets observed in NZ

Having studied a number of damaged bayonets it is possible to form an opinion as to how the conversion process was achieved and why they break. Unfortunately no Enfield drawings or procedure has been uncovered, so the following is speculation at this stage.

- Rear part of socket is cut off at the locking ring guide, leaving about 50mm of original socket. OD 22.5 mm (Part A in drawing below)
- Reduce remaining socket diameter by swaging down outside diameter from 22.5mm to 21mm which also reduces the inside bore diameter (we don't know if this was done hot or cold)
- New smaller diameter socket bored to size to receive the bush and rear forging (as per drawing below).
- New rear part of socket hot forged (Part B), centre hole bored under size. OD 21 mm
- Rear forging inserted, being brazed in place and old slot filled. Socket normalised by heat treatment.
- New slot cut and bore opened up to finished size ( ID 17.4 mm).
- External socket polished and blued.
- New locking ring fitted. Note the new locking ring has a higher bridge opening to match the one on the insert.



RSAF Enfield converted 86,234 Pat '95 bayonets between 1895 and 1902, to date no record has been found of any new made Pattern '95 bayonets, although it is possible that some were made by the Trade.

Close examination of a Pat '95 in good light will reveal where the old slot has been filled and at the front end of the socket it may be possible to see the bushing. Another indicator of conversion is on the top of the blade where it is possible to see old proof and inspection marks over stamped with new ones.



The filled section of the original slot can be seen in front of the locking ring in line with the new slot.



Typical conversion marks



A broken socket

In 1898 New Zealand purchased 5,000 Martini Enfield Rifles and Pat '95 bayonets, the rifles are marked on the front of the receiver N ^Z 98 and a rack number on the rear of the receiver, the bayonets have a rack number stamped on top of the socket. 1903 Small Arms returns show 10 Martini Enfield rifles on issue to units and 2,653 in store.

A significant number of these bayonets have been observed broken at the step/join between the original socket and the new rear forging, this is thought to be due to rough treatment and the thinness of the bush at this point. It has been reported that *"The reason you find so many bayonets with broken socket was that they were later issued as candle holders in Bell Tents, the hammering into the ground caused damage to the socket. I have one from one of my fathers TF mates he acquired it at his first Annual Camp in 1927 it still had candle grease in the socket and needed a bit of heat to straighten out."*

*Acknowledgements: John Osborne, Graham Priest, Derek Complin and others who shared information and examples.*

*Photos: Phil Cregeen*

*Reference: British & Commonwealth Bayonets by ID Skennerton & R Richardson*