

NZART ID: 200, Arm Type: Machine Gun, Date of Draft: (V1) 12 June 2014, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: ".303 Maxim Machine Gun (magazine rifle chamber)" water cooled Machine Gun;

Introduced in NZ Service: 1901, Withdrawn: 1916

Makers: Maxim Nordenfelt Guns & Ammunition Co Ltd, Later: Vickers Sons & Maxim Ltd, Crayford Works, UK;

Calibre: .303", Bore: 5 groove LH twist 1 in 10", Barrel length: 28.5 in. OA Length: 42.4 in.

Weight: 64 Lb bare, 115 Lb with tripod, Type of Action: Short recoil full auto; Cyclic rate: 450-550 rpm;

Magazine: 250 round fabric belt.

Sights: Tangent aperture sight graduated to 2500 yds. for Mk VI ammo. Ammo: .303 Cordite Mk VI



.303 Converted Maxim No 5700 mounted on Mk IV tripod at National Army Museum, Waiouru

The **Maxim gun** was the first recoil-operated **machine gun**, invented by **Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim** in 1884. Maxim established the Maxim Gun Company with financing from Albert Vickers, son of steel entrepreneur **Edward Vickers**. Albert Vickers became the company's chairman, and it later joined hands with a Swedish competitor, **Nordenfelt**, to become **Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Company**. Finally, the company was absorbed into the **Vickers** company, leading first to the Maxim-Vickers gun and then, after Vickers' redesign, the **Vickers machine gun**.

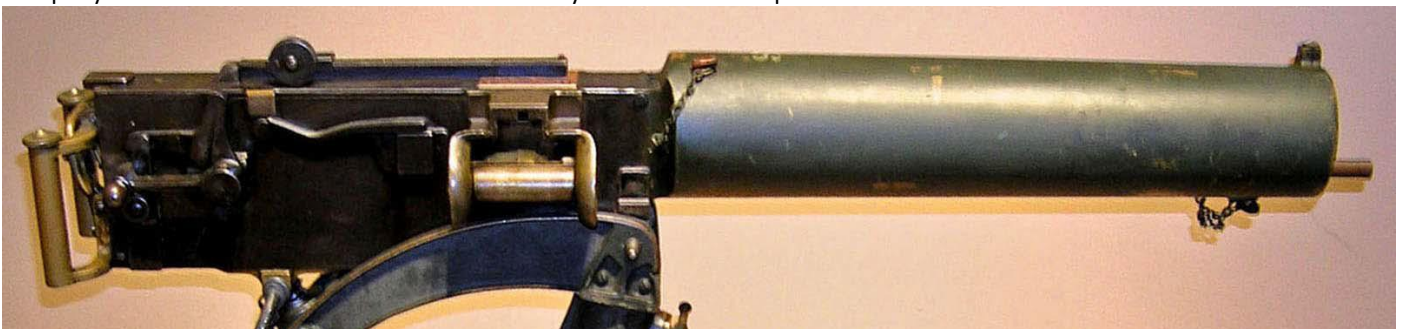
Maxim guns were initially made for British Service in .577/.450 calibre, **.45 Maxim machine gun (M-H chamber)**, but in 1893 a .303 version was introduced and some of the earlier .450 guns were converted to .303, **.303 Converted Maxim machine gun (magazine rifle chamber)**.

New Zealand Service

New Zealand purchased six 577/450 Maxim guns in 1896 SN 5696-5701, these were supplied on Field Carriages Mk I and were converted to .303 after 1899. A further 29 guns were purchased from Vickers Sons & Maxim in 1901, SN 6920 – 6941 and 7164 – 7170 on Dundonald Galloping Carriages. In 1910 a further 36 guns were ordered on Mk IV tripods with pack saddlery and stores but they did not arrive until 1913. When additional tripods arrived the Dundonald carriages were scrapped. However initially due to the delay in converting the Dundonald carriage guns to tripod mounting only one gun was issued to each of the 29 regiments.

New Zealand Mounted Rifles formed a .303" Maxim Machine Gun Battery manned by volunteers from the 4th & 5th Contingencies during the Boer War. These guns were supplied by the British.

New Zealand Forces entered WW I with older Maxim MGs and 36 new ones. Following the Gallipoli campaign the NZ Machine Gun Corps was formed in Egypt in early 1916 armed initially with Maxims augmented with Vickers from British stores. 3 Companies each with 16 MGs were assigned one to each of the NZ Brigades making up the NZ Division, a fourth and fifth Company were formed in October 1916 and February 1917. These Companies saw action in France and Palestine.



.303 inch calibre machine gun, manufacture by Vickers Sons & Maxim Ltd. Marked on the side plate: 1901 / VS & M / CARTRIDGE / MAGAZINE RIFLE / CORDITE. Stamped: [broad arrow] & "ENFIELD" & ".303 Mk 1 / VSM" Serial number: 7164. *Auckland War Memorial Museum.*

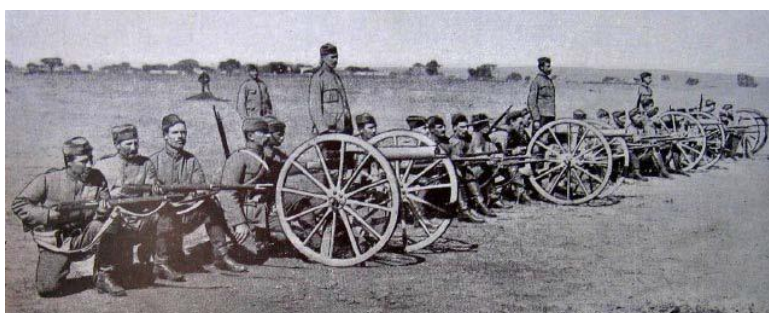


Maxim SN 6941 on Dundonald Galloping Carriage

This gun was purchase privately by Dalgety & Co and donated to the Amuri Mounted Rifles, and is now in a NZ private collection



N Z .303" Maxim machine-gunner and observer at the Apex, Gallipoli



NZ MR MG Battery Boer War

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

References: The Grand Old Lady of No Man's land-the Vickers Machine Gun by D L Goldsmith

AJHR- <http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz>

Handbook for the .303 & .303 Converted Maxim Machine Guns (Magazine Rifle Chamber)' by War Office 1911.