

NZART ID: 202, Arm Type: Machine Gun, Date of Draft: (V1) 8 June 2014, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: Gun, Machine, Vickers .50" Mk III & V water cooled Heavy Machine Gun;

Introduced in to NZ Service: 1939, Withdrawn 1945

Makers: Vickers- Armstrong Crayford Works.

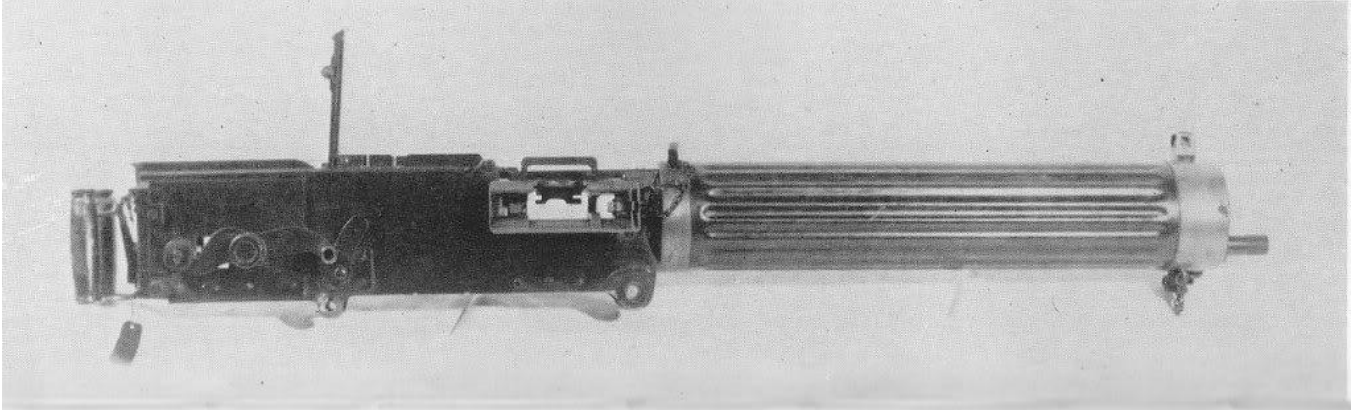
Calibre: .50", Barrel length: 31.1 in. Bore 7 grooves LH twist 1 in 15 inches

OA Length: 52.0 in.; Weight: Mk III w/o water 56 lb, Mk V w/o water 63 lb

Type of Action: Short recoil with full auto; Cyclic rate: Mk I 450, Mk II 500 Mk III 700, Mk IV & V 600 rpm ;

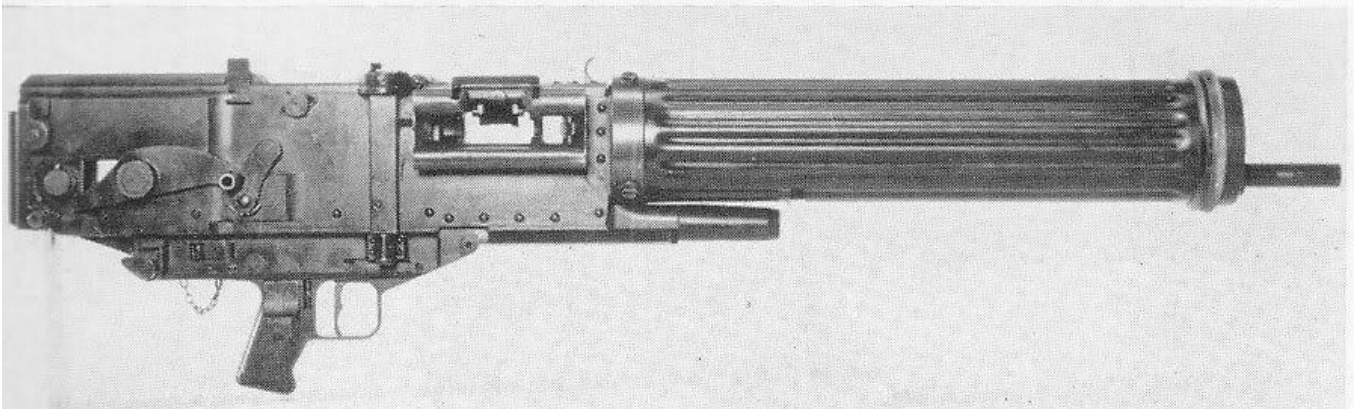
Magazine: 100 round web belt in AFVs and 200 round disintegrating belt in Naval Service.

Ammo: Vickers V/565 .5" cartridge, Length: 4.35", Bullet weight: 580 gr, Muzzle velocity: 2,540 ft/sec



Vickers .50 inch Mk I

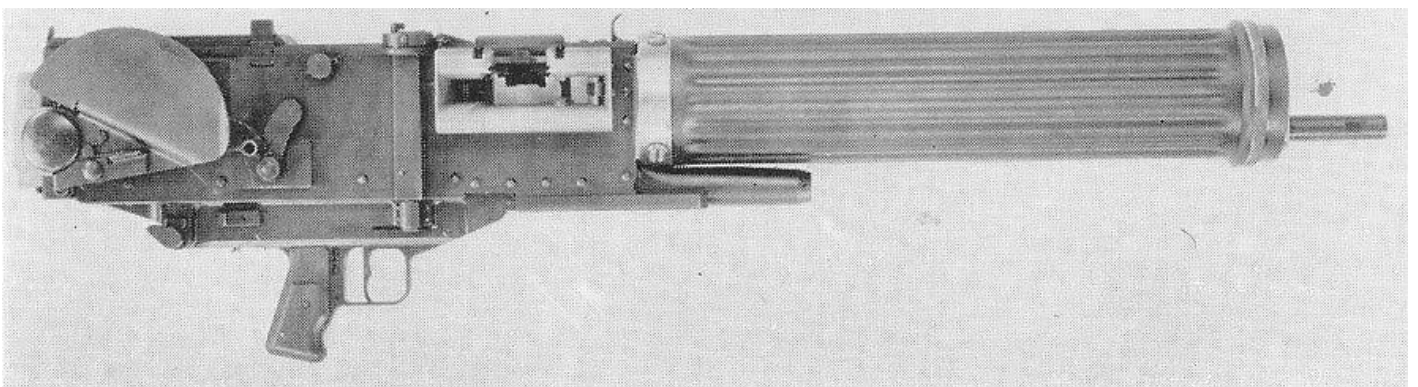
As the design of AFVs improved so it became necessary to have a gun that could penetrate their armour and so the .50 inch calibre Vickers was developed in the 1920s. The Mk I, a scaled up version of the .303 MG was basically an experimental gun and lead to an improved MK II introduced in February 1932.



Vickers .50 inch Mk II

The Mk III was for Naval service and marked with an "S" prefix serial No, it was introduced in July 1932 and had a cyclic rate of 700 rpm. 12,578 Mk III .50" guns were accepted for Naval service usually in twin or quadruple mountings each gun having a 200 round link belt in a drum magazine.

The non interchangeability of the Mk II .50" gun with the .303 gun in AFVs lead to the Mk IV in left and right hand feed, which had the same dovetail base as the .303 gun. It could be fired in remote control in full automatic only and had an increased cyclic rate of 600 rpm and was introduced in November 1933. However the mounting bracket proved weak and only a few were made. A beefed up version was introduced as the Mk V gun in May 1935, this gun fired from an open bolt and became the standard service gun.



Vickers .50 inch Mk V

New Zealand Service

Between January 1940 and 1942 the New Zealand Divisional Cavalry were equipped with Vickers Light Tanks in Egypt and Syria (NZAR 164) These tanks were fitted with .303 (NZAR 199) and .5 inch Vickers MGs .

New Zealanders served in the LRDG who used both .50 and .303 Vickers MGs.

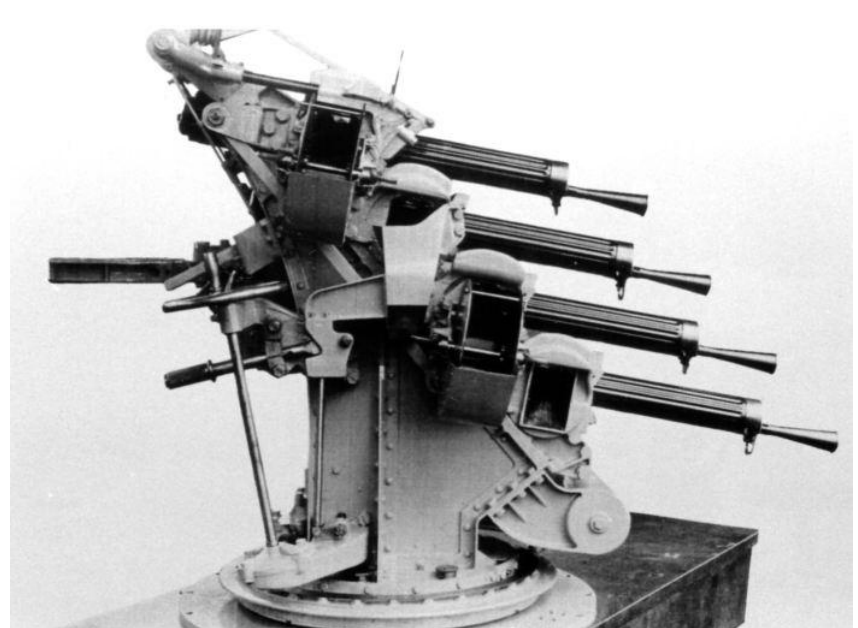
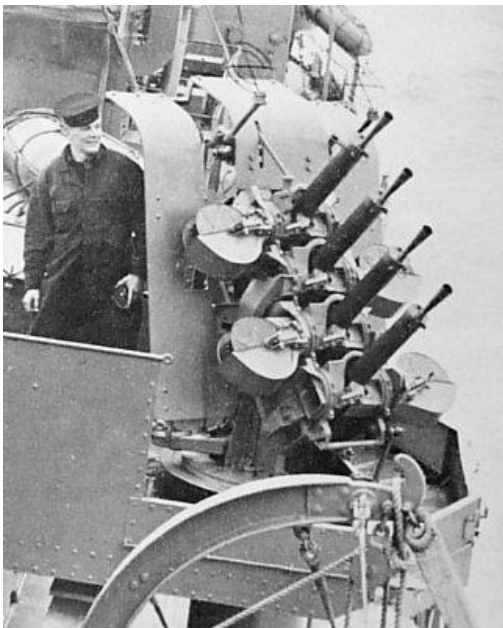
Many New Zealanders served on Royal Navy and merchant ships in WW II fitted with Vickers .50 inch MK III MGs



LRDG Truck mounting a Vickers .50 inch MG



Vickers Light Tank



Vickers .5" Mk.III machine guns on Naval quad AA mount

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

<http://www.vickersmachinegun.org.uk> Imperial War Museum

<http://world.guns.ru/machine/brit/heavy-machine-guns-vickers-e.htm>