

NZART ID: 203, Arm Type: Machine Gun, Date of Draft: (V1) 14 October 2013, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen
Pattern: BREN LMG Mk I & II Introduced in to NZ Service: 1939, Withdrawn 1983(?)
 Maker: Enfield RSAF, Monotype Group, John Inglis Canada, Lithgow Australia, Hyderabad India.
 Calibre: .303", Bore: 6 groove RH twist 1 in 10", Barrel length: 25.0 in. OA Length: 3ft 9.5 in. Weight: 22 Lb 2 oz
 Type of Action: Gas operated semi & full auto, Magazine: 30 rounds box or 100 round drum in AA role.
 Sights: Mk I aperture, dial drum 200-1,800 yds., Mk II aperture, folding leaf 200-2,000 yds. blade foresight.
 Muzzle velocity: Mk VII ball 2440 ft/sec. Rate of fire 450-550rpm.



Bren Mk I



Bren Mk II

Based on the Czech ZB 26, development took place at RSAF Enfield during the 1930s and the first production model was assembled in 1937. BREN being a combination of BRuno and ENfield. Production at the Inglis plant in Canada commenced in 1938, although the first gun was not assembled until 1940 and at Lithgow Australia in 1940. In order to streamline production certain machining operations were soon omitted resulting in the Mk I M (Modified). The Mk II Bren was primarily manufactured in Britain during WW II by a consortium of companies known as the Monotype Group, and incorporated further manufacturing simplifications, although some Mk II guns were also made at Enfield and John Inglis. With the introduction of the 7.62 mm NATO round in the late 1950s many .303 Bren guns were converted at Enfield to become the **Gun, Machine, 7.62 mm L4**.



Marks "Mk I Enfield 1942", rear sight, change lever "A,S,R"



Typical barrel and body marks: "DP 592 NZA "

New Zealand Service

The first consignment of Bren Guns along with Bren Gun Carriers arrived in NZ in early 1939 and was soon being used to train the Territorial Force in mechanised combat. New Zealand soldiers were armed with the Bren Gun in all theatres of operation in WW II, and in Malay, and Korea.

The Mk I & Mk II Bren were replaced by the GPMG in NZ Infantry service from 1967, although they were retained for national service training until 1973. The first Brens were sold by tender in January 1970, (185 Mk I, 28 Mk II and 7 DP) being ex RNZAF equipment. Some were also reintroduced for training in 1977/78, when the GPMG was withdrawn for refurbishment, and remained in service until about 1983. Final stocks of .303 ammunition were sold in 1989.

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

*References: .303 in. BREN Light Machine Gun by Ian Skennerton
 The Bren Gun Saga by T B Dugelby*