

NZART ID: 204, Arm Type: Machine Gun, Date of Draft: (V1) 14 November 2013, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen
Pattern: BREN LMG 7.62 mm L4A4 Introduced in to NZ Service: 1973 ?, Withdrawn 1990(?)

Maker: Enfield RSAF, Conversion from .303" Bren

Calibre: 7.62 x 51 mm, Bore: 6 groove RH twist 1 in 12"chrome plated, Barrel length: 24.25 in. OA Length: 44.31in.

Weight: 21.6 Lb, Type of Action: Gas operated semi & full auto, Magazine: 30 rounds box.

Sights: Aperture, folding leaf 200-2,000 M. blade foresight.

Muzzle velocity: ball 2750 ft/sec. Rate of fire 450-550rpm.



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**. The first conversion (1,500) was from Mk III to L4A1 in 1956, followed by 7,600 L4A2 in 1959 which had chrome bore among other modification. L4A3 followed being conversions of 134 Mk II Brens. In 1961 the L4A4 was introduced embodying all the previous modifications, some 6,900 Mk III were converted and 500 new manufacture, they were issued with a single chrome barrel. L4A5 was a special conversion of Mk II Brens for the Royal Navy, supplied with two chrome barrels. L4A6 were L4A1 guns retrofitted with new magazines and a single chrome barrel. The most obvious differences between the L4 Bren and its .303 predecessor are the straighter magazine and the straight sided flash illuminator. All L4 series are fitted with the Mk I bipod.(2) The L4 magazine is interchangeable with the L1A1 20 round and L2A1 30 round magazine.

New Zealand Service

The New Zealand L4A4 guns arrived in this country in the mid 1970s; from guns observed to date they were converted in 1973 from Mk III Bren. L4 Brens were issued to 2/1 Battalion in 1980, when the GPMGs were unserviceable and remained in service until about 1990 (1).

Forty seven L4 Brens were sold by tender to the UK in 1993 (1).

L4A4 guns observed in New Zealand

NZ Marked				
Arm	NZ Marked	Maker	Dated	Serial No
Bren L4A4		Enfield	1973	EU73 A19743
Bren L4A4		Enfield	1973	A19783
Bren L4A4	NZ	Enfield	1973	A19850

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

References: (1)NZAHAA Gazette September 1990 – Saga of 7.62 L4A4Bren s/n A19783 by JD Cooke

(2)The Bren Gun Saga by T B Dugelby