

NZAR ID 205, ARM TYPE: Shotgun, Draft date 25 March 2011, (VI) Researched and Compiled by John Osborne DTT PhD FSG,

Pattern: 12 bore centre fire single gun for ball and shot: Introduced: c1870. Withdrawn from Police use: c1890s

Specifications: Maker: Gale & Hill London c1870. Barrel: Steel 32.5" cylinder smooth bore, barrel keyed to forewood. Caliber: Center fire 12 gauge (.73"). Action: underlever tip down barrel, back action lock, non rebounding hammer. Stock: walnut, all steel furniture. Sights: Fixed notch rear sight and brass pin foresight. Muzzle velocity: about 1100ft/s. Range effective to about 50yards. Rate of fire: about 15 rounds per minute.

New Zealand Service: An example of a good quality well used 12 bore single barrel gun fitted with rear vee sight for shot and ball (.73" caliber). Provenance; Owned and used by a Special Constable in the Nelson Provincial Armed Constabulary.



Left side of action showing wedge, underlever & lock retaining screw. None rebounding hammer, lock & barrel easily removed for cleaning & servicing.



Engraved lock, marked GALE & HILL / LONDON. Rear vee sight dovetailed into octagonal breech, marked London Steel. Birmingham private proof marks



Steel butt plate. Engraved top of barrel and breech tang, none rebounding hammer rests against firing pin. Bead foresight, muzzle .73" caliber



Engraved trigger guard tang, under lever and action.

By the late 1860s British made 12 bore (.73" caliber) under-lever breech loading centre fire Tupara (double guns) and single barrel guns were being used by some Maori, Provincial Police special constables and Settlers in New Zealand. Some settlers reloaded their own 12 bore ammunition with either ball or shot.

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: New Zealand National Archives Wellington www.archives.govt.nz National Library of New Zealand Wellington www.natlib.govt.nz Nelson Provincial Museum www.museumnp.org.nz Osborne Arms Museum OAM for images of single barrel gun armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/name-123981.html Gold, Guns and Police in New Zealand an article by John Osborne c1986.

Further information on 12 bore (.73" caliber) centre fire single barrel guns.

In October 1856 gold was found in the Aorere River Valley the site of New Zealand's first gold rush which saw more than 2000 men flood into the area over the following three years. At a meeting in February 1857 diggers developed a set of rules later used in goldfields around New Zealand. The Nelson Provincial Government, organized special goldfields policing and had a new town named Collingwood laid out on the plateau.

The next large gold rush in the Nelson/Marlborough area began in April 1864, when a rich strike was made in the Wakamarina River. On 12 June 1866 James Battle was murdered for the gold he carried by the 'Burgess Gang' on the Maungatapu track, south-east of Nelson. The following day four other men were killed nearby in a crime that shocked the colony. All four members of the Burgess Gang had come to New Zealand via the goldfields of Victoria, Australia. Three of them had been transported to Australia as convicts for crimes committed in England. Four were charged with the Maungatapu murders, three were hanged, and one was pardoned after giving information about the murders.

From 1865 another gold rush started at "Try Again Terrace" downstream from Nelson Creek where over 1200 miners used ground sluicing to wash out the gold.



Miners at the Collingwood Goldfield, Nelson c1870 courtesy ATL National Library of New Zealand