

NZAR ID 312, ARM TYPE: Pistol. Draft date (V1) 3 Jan 2013, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: Webley MKI M1887. Caliber: 455/476. Introduced in UK: 1887. Withdrawn: after WWII?

Specifications: Maker: P Webley & Son. Barrel: 4" 100mm. Caliber: .455" Long Black Powder. Action: Double Action, 6 chamber top break self-extracting cartridge revolver. Birds head shaped grip, Bakelite (synthetic plastic – composite) grips. Fixed notch rear sight and blade foresight. Muzzle velocity: 620ft/s 190 m/s Range 50m. Rate of fire: 20-30 rounds per minute. Weight: 1kg unloaded. Cartridge: Solid drawn brass case with .455" 265 grain hollow based wax lubricated lead projectile propelled by 18 grains black powder. The MKI would also chamber and fire the earlier .450" Boxer / Adams cartridge, & the later .455" Long MKI Cordite & .455" Short MKII Cordite Cartridge.



New Zealand Service: From earliest days commissioned officers and some NCO's in the NZ military were expected to purchase their own pistols which would accept the military issue ammunition. During the 1880s -90s some Commissioned and Senior Non Commissioned Officers were recruited from Britain bringing to NZ their personally owned Pistols. The Webley MKI was the standard issue British Military revolver also available to purchase from military outfitters and retail arms dealers. Other makes of pistols were also available. The Russian Scares, requiring the formation of NZ coastal defence volunteer units, continuing threats by hostile Maori including the 1898 Dog Tax War and the Second Boer War 1899-1901 lead to military enthusiasm. By 1903 there were 227 Volunteer Units in New Zealand which had provided officers and men for the Ten contingents of New Zealand Mounted Rifle Volunteers (NZMR) totaling 6495 with 8000 horses shipped from NZ served in South Africa between 1899 and 1903 (the term of service was one year), the largest proportion of representation from any British Colony. This revolver has a NZ provenance seeing service with its commissioned officer owner in the Boer War and WWI and many were called up for home guard use in WWII.

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: NZ National Achieves Military Records. Osborne Arms Museum armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz
Phil Cregeen. Chris Punnett – "Those Confusing .455s". www.cartridgecollectors.org

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