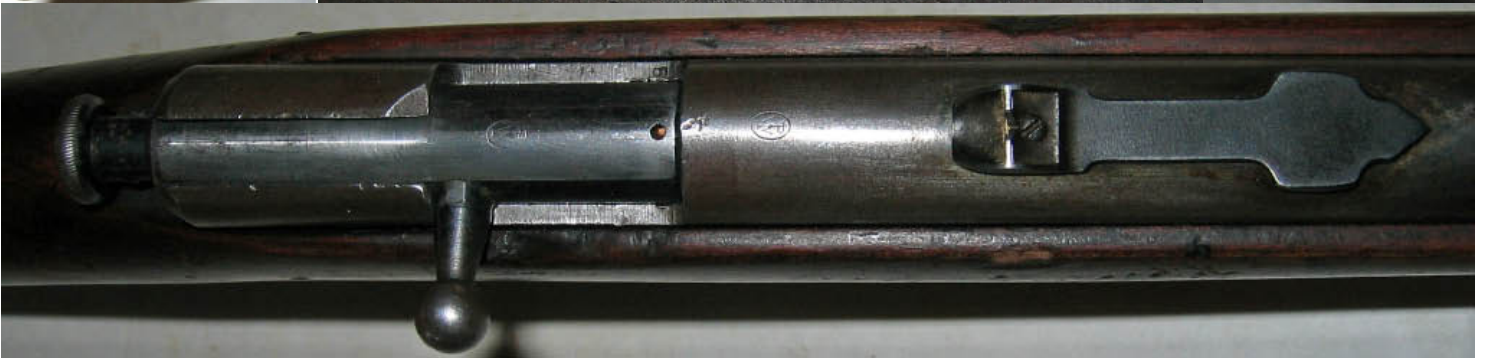


**NZAR ID 356, ARM TYPE: Rifle. Draft date (V1) 15 August 2012, Compiled by John Osborne** AA DTT PHD FSG,

**Pattern: Winchester .22RF M1904 Boys training rifle Introduced: into NZ 1910. Withdrawn: After WWI**

**Specifications;** Maker: Winchester R A Co. Model: M1904. general purpose 4½ lbs “Boys Rifle”, takedown, bolt action single-shot rifle, 21” heavy barrel chambered for .22RF Short, Long, or Extra Long cartridge, overall length 33.25”, screw elevation adjustable rear vee sight, action cocked by pulling rearward on the firing pin head, boxwood stock. Steel crescent shape butt plate & scroll extended trigger guard, Winchester proof marks on barrel & bolt. Winchester bought the rifle design from John M. Browning in 1899, modified it & produced in 1900 an inexpensive .22 caliber Single Shot Rifle, further minor changes brought about the model 1902 then the model 1904 of which 305,984 were made ending in 1931.



**New Zealand Service:** The New Zealand Defence Act 1909 provided for the compulsory training of Junior Cadets which necessitated the taking over of all assets and lawful liabilities by the Government. Previously the Junior School Cadets had from 1903 used the Westley Richards Martini action .310 cadet rifles (NZAR 90) for musketry training on 200 yard outside ranges, however the time spent marching to and from these ranges was considered wasted and so initially 500 .22RF M1904 Winchester bolt action single shot rifles and 500,000 .22RF short black powder ammunition and 500 .177 BSA improved model D air rifles were purchased. By 1911 60 x 25yard .22RF and 46 x 10 yard air rifle indoor ranges had been constructed at schools. 878 WR .310 cadet rifles and spare parts and 683,000 rounds of ammunition were withdrawn from use by the Junior Cadets and transferred to Defence Dept. In 1911 there were approximately 2000 schools with a Junior Cadet Force of 29,067. In 1912 it was reported that the Hazard Perfect Target was used with the BSA air rifles at 15 yards and for the Winchester miniature rifles using 22"RF short black powder cartridges on the 25 yard ranges. Regular local, North and South Island shooting championships were staged for the Junior Cadets and trophies provided by the Government and leading citizens. Very few of these early Winchester M1904 rifles have survived in NZ due to the use of black powder cartridges (the corrosive residue badly damaged the bore and rifling if not properly cleaned after use as is the case in this rifle).

Acknowledgements & special thanks to: NZ Government Junior Cadets Reports 1910, 1911 & 1912. Phil Cregeen, Osborne Arms Museum for images.