

NZAR ID No: 35. Arm type: Carbine. Draft date (V1) 12 Feb 2012. Compiled by: John Osborne DTT, PhD, FSG.

Pattern (Name) Pattern 1840 Constabulary Carbine. Introduced into NZ Service: From 1858. Withdrawn: 1890s?

Makers: Tower, Birmingham gun makers.

Calibre: .653 in, 17 bore, Bore: smooth Barrel length: 26.0 in, OA Length: 42.5 in, Weight: 6 lb 15 oz.

Type of Action: percussion muzzle loader, single shot, Magazine: None, Sights: foresight only .

Bayonet: Pat 1840 Socket (NZAR # 400)



Lovell's 26" barrel Pattern 1840 17 bore (.653" calibre) constabulary percussion carbine with its 13" triangular blade bayonet 3" socket



Barrel pined to walnut stock, brass furniture including two ramrod pipes, fore end, trigger guard and buttplate.



Lovell's spring bayonet catch and steel ramrod

Socket marked C / IC 179, viewers mark - crown /B/12, safety spring clip missing



Butt tang marked 2/RP/938



unmarked P1842 carbine lockplate



Barrel Tower proof & inspection marks

Introduced in 1840 by George Lovell for the Irish Constabulary, initially 2000 carbines were made using converted flintlock parts and the Hanoverian catch to secure the bayonet. From 1842 the new pattern lock was used and from 1844 the Lovell catch was used to secure the bayonet. The Constabulary carbine was used by other British and colonial police forces.

New Zealand Service

In 1858 the New Zealand Colonial Government purchased 120 Lovell's P1840 Constabulary smooth bore carbines and socket bayonets as above for some provincial foot constabulary (mostly Auckland). These were ex British Constabulary which had been rearmed with Enfield rifled carbines. The Auckland Provincial Foot Constabulary complained that these carbines were smooth bore and requested henceforward to be issued with rifled carbines.

Acknowledgments: Phil Cregeen, photos by John Osborne.

Reference: British Military Firearms 1650-1850 by H L Blackmore
British Military Longarms 1715-1865 by D W Bailey