

NZAR ID 365 ARM TYPE: Cutlass. Draft date (V1) 26 April 2016, Compiled by Phil Cregeen, Pattern: British Pattern 1845 Naval Cutlass. Introduced: NZ c1850s, Withdrawn: 1900s

Specification; Makers: Enfield, Mole and various English and Solingen cutlers.

Blade: slightly curved flat backed with no fuller double-edged at spear point, 1.25" wide at hilt, 29.5" long.

Guard: plain sheet steel bowl without quillion, slotted for sword knot. Grip: ribbed cast iron with 12 grooves.

Scabbard: Brown leather with brass frog hook and chape. Note: cutlass were normally stored in racks and issued without scabbards to boarding parties, scabbards were issued to sailors on shore duties.

The design of this cutlass was based on a proposal put forward to the Admiralty in 1842 by George Lovell, Inspector of Small Arms, and followed the testing of a number of experimental types in the early 1840s. However over its service life it underwent a number of modifications, with blades reduced in length to 27 inches (1859) and 26 inches and straight (1871 and 1875). The final version was that of 1887 retaining a slightly curved but lighter blade of 27 in.



Two variations of Pattern 1845 Cutlass; Top: Pat. 1859 private contract by Mole - 28.75" blade, Bottom: Pat. 1887 converted in 1888 - 27" blade



From Left: Guard with brass plate stamped with rack number; Hilt with 12 grooves; Blade markings indicating Conversion in 1888 and Birmingham repair in 1892; WD acceptance mark and bending test.



L/S Odgers VC, storming Kaiapopo pa on 28th March, 1860,



N = Naval Issue



Cutlass rack HMS Warrior

New Zealand Service

Used by sailors on British Royal Navy warships in New Zealand waters from the 1850s to the early 1900s including "Blue Jackets" serving ashore during the NZ Wars 1860 to the early 1870s and by sailors on New Zealand Colonial Government warships and gunboats from the 1850s.

Acknowledgements: http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Gov09_05Rail-t1-body-d11.html

Reference: *British Naval swords & Swordsmanship* by J McGrath & M Barton.