

NZAR ID 366 ARM TYPE: Sword. Draft date (V1) 18 Nov 2015, Compiled by Dr John Osborne MG DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: British P1856 Police short sword / cutlass. Introduced: NZ late 1850s Withdrawn: 1890s

Specifications; Maker: unmarked - several British sword-smiths. Blade: Curved, with full length fuller, 1.25" wide, 23" long double-edged at spear point. Hilt: Brass, single bow bar with quillion. Grip: ribbed fish-skin no wire ties over hardwood. Scabbard: Black leather with brass fittings and frog button. Security: Press button, spring scabbard retention latch incorporated in cross guard.



Left image: hilt, grip and latch. Centre: close up of security release button and latch. Right image: Police undergoing sword training at Wellington Barracks in London 1867. *Courtesy Illustrated London News*

New Zealand Service: Used by some NZ Provincial Governments foot constabulary, prison guards, water Police and Customs. From 1853 to 1877 New Zealand adopted Provincial Governments who were required to appoint and pay for their own Armed Constabulary Forces. Examples; in 1862 the Canterbury Provincial Government regulations specified its mounted force would be issued with a sword, pistol and baton, and its foot constabulary with a rifle, sword and baton. In 1865 the Otago Provincial Mounted Constabulary were issued with a carbine, sword and revolver, and their foot constabulary with a rifle, sword and baton.

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