

NZAR ID 369 ARM TYPE: Sword. Draft date (V1) 10 October 2014, Compiled by John Osborne MG DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: 1856? Colonial Cavalry / Mounted Constabulary sword. Introduced: NZ c1860s. Withdrawn: c1920s

Specifications; Maker: MOLE (1835 - 1920), Birmingham, England and others. Blade: single fuller on each side, curved 1 3/8" wide, 31 3/4" long double-edged at hatchet / spear point. Steel three bar knuckle bow guard hilt, with wire wound fish skin grip. Scabbard: Wood lined, pigskin covered with steel furniture stapled to the wooden lining.



Marks of sword maker- Mole, Birmingham



S.P.A.3 and 66 or 99 meaning not confirmed

New Zealand Service: When the Provincial Governments were formed in 1853 they had to set up their own Police Forces who were all armed - including Nelson, Auckland, Otago and Canterbury. who also had to set up special goldfields policing. Extract from the Canterbury Constabulary Force Regulations of 1 December 1862 "Each member of the Force will be furnished, at the expense of the (Provincial) Government, with arms ammunition and appointments according as he may be attached to the Foot or Mounted Division. Extracts from the Otago Constabulary Force Regulations of 1 April 1865. 'Each member of the Mounted Police will be issued with a carbine, sword and revolver. -- 'The Police are armed to enable them successfully to overcome opposition to lawful arrests and to protect themselves against armed interference in the execution of their duty'.

Provenance: This sword was owned and used by a Special Constable in the Hawkes Bay Provincial Government Armed Constabulary / New Zealand Constabulary Force. (Note; Special Constables were normally required to provide their own arms) and this sword was later carried by a descendent -- a member of the NZ Mounted Home Guard (HB) on Shore Patrol during WWII. By the end of January 1941 not all HG in HB had rifles or shotguns but they had a fine collection of extemporized weapons, ranging from knives to homemade bombs

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: New Zealand Police, Phil Cregeen FSG, Noel Taylor FSG, Osborne Arms Museum,