

NZAR ID 374, ARM TYPE: Machine Gun. Draft date (V1) 9 October 2012, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,

Pattern: Hotchkiss MKI P1914 Light Machine Gun. Introduced: into NZ service 1916. Withdrawn: 1945

Specifications; Maker: British RSAF. Model: Hotchkiss P1915?, gas operated Light Machine Gun, caliber .303", OA length 46.75" air cooled with cooling fins, rear sight graduated to 2000 yards. Ammunition feed rigid strip of 9, 14 or 30 rounds or semi-rigid belt of 50 rounds. Rate of fire 450 rounds per minute, it could also be fired in single shot mode at a rate of 100 rounds per minute. Weight 31lbs with tripod.



British made Hotchkiss MKI with wooden stock, bandoleer pouches for 9 round clips, spare barrel, 14 and 30 round clips



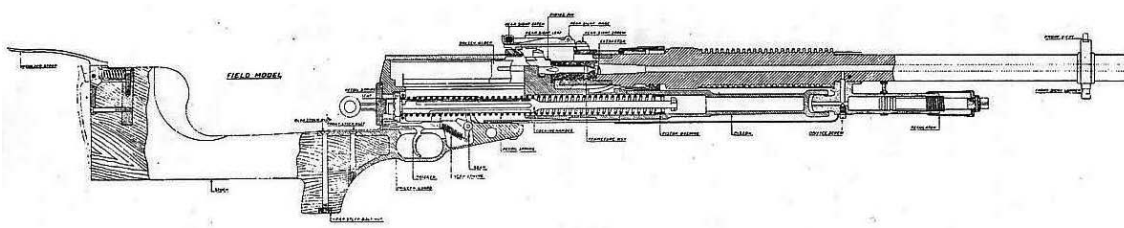
British made .303" MKI Hotchkiss saddlery



NZMR with a MKI Hotchkiss .303" c1917.



Alternative detachable tubular stock.



Detailed sectioned drawing of the Hotchkiss LMG

Based on the French Hotchkiss Model 1909 being the first portable light machine gun, simple in design, made up of only 26 component parts. The infantry model used an adjustable tripod or front bipod, when used in aircraft or in tanks it was equipped with a swivel mount and the short detachable tubular shoulder stock was removed leaving the pistol grip. These were used extensively in WWI. The British considered it more suitable for mounted troops, cavalry and mounted infantry than the more cumbersome Lewis LMG.

New Zealand Service The MKI .303" Hotchkiss was used by some famous units in equally famous battles. The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade, the Australian Light Horse, and the legendary Camel Corp used it in the Desert Campaign in Sinai and Palestine from 1915 - 1917. It was also used by some mounted troops in the fighting on the Western Front. The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade consisted of four units of mounted infantry, the Auckland, Canterbury and Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiments also the Otago Mounted Rifles Regiment which served on the Western Front. In 1916 the Hotchkiss machine Gun Mark I, was issued one per rifle troop in the NZ Mounted Rifles, or platoon in the camel corps units. By 1944 the NZMR brigade ceased to exist as individual units were absorbed into other regiments.

Acknowledgement and special thanks to: Rod Woods for images. Phil Cregeen. Ian Skennerton - .303" Hotchkiss Machine Gun Arms & Militaria Collector No 28
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_Mounted_Rifles_Brigade