

NZART ID: 375, Arm Type: Machine Gun, Date of Draft: (V1) 13 June 2014, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: “.450 Maxim Machine Gun (Martini Henry chamber)” water cooled Machine Gun;

Introduced in NZ Service: 1896

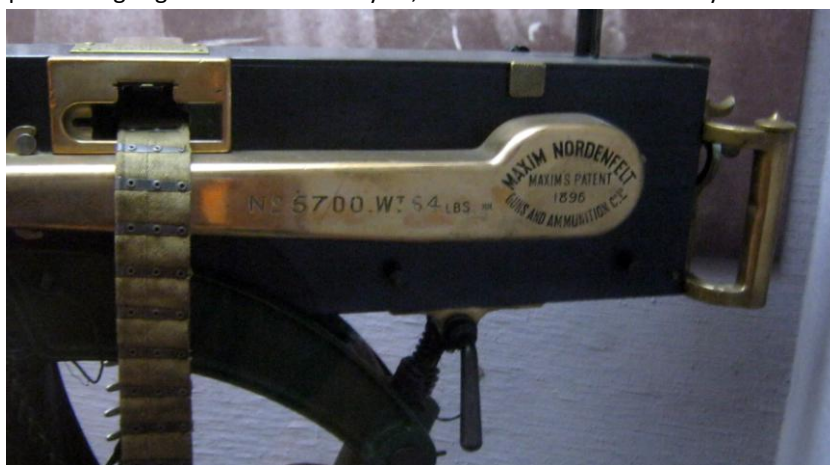
Withdrawn: after 1901 when converted to .303.

Makers: Maxim Nordenfelt Guns & Ammunition Co Ltd, Crayford Works, UK;

Calibre: .450”, Bore: 7 groove RH twist 1 in 20” Henry rifling, Barrel length: 28.5 in. OA Length: 42.4 in.

Weight: 60 Lb bare, Type of Action: Short recoil full auto; Cyclic rate: 400-500 rpm;

Magazine: 250 round fabric belt. Sights: Tangent aperture sight graduated to 1000 yds.; Ammo: .450 Martini Henry



Originally .45 Maxim later converted to .303 No 5700 mounted on Mk IV tripod at National Army Museum, Waiouru

The Maxim gun was the first recoil-operated machine gun, invented by Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim in 1884. Maxim established the Maxim Gun Company with financing from Albert Vickers, son of steel entrepreneur Edward Vickers. Albert Vickers became the company's chairman, and it later joined hands with a Swedish competitor, Nordenfelt, to become Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Company. Finally, the company was absorbed into the Vickers company, leading first to the Maxim-Vickers gun and then, after Vickers' redesign, the Vickers machine gun.

Maxim guns were initially adopted for British Land Service in 1888, in .577/.450 calibre, **.45 Maxim machine gun (M-H chamber)**, but in 1893 a .303 version was introduced and many of the earlier .450 guns were converted to .303, **.303 Converted Maxim machine gun (magazine rifle chamber)**.

New Zealand Service

A Maxim machine Gun was displayed at the New Zealand and Pacific Exhibition held in Dunedin in 1888/89, this was supplied by a representative of the Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Co Ltd, Major General T Bland Strange, who also gave demonstrations around the country to Politicians, Military officers and Volunteers in Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland, but the gun was returned to Britain afterwards.

New Zealand purchased its first six 577/450 Maxim guns in 1896 SN 5696-5701, these were supplied on Field Carriages Mk I and were converted to .303 after 1899 (See NZAR ID 200). Two of these took part in the Hokianga Dog Tax War of 1898.



Left: During the threat of the Dog Tax War on the road to Waima in May 1898 are two .450/577 Maxim Machine Guns.

Far North Regional Museum

Right: Permanent Force Riflemen in training at Narrow Neck, Auckland c1898. *Auckland War Memorial Museum*

Acknowledgements: Rod Woods, N Taylor, J Osborne

References: The Grand Old Lady of No Man's land-the Vickers Machine Gun by D L Goldsmith

AJHR- <http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz>

1912 Admiralty 'handbook for the .45 and .303 Maxim machine gun'.

NZ Herald 17 July 1889