

Pattern: 1869 Hay Snider Enfield Rifle(Snider Medium Rifle) Introduced to NZ Service:1869,Withdrawn: 1907
Makers: Calisher & Terry, Tower; Birmingham Small Arms Co,
Calibre: .577 in, 25 bore, Bore: 3 groove progressive depth rifling RH twist 1turn in 48 in.,
Barrel length: 33.5 in. OA Length: 51.75 in. Weight: 9 lb 9 oz. (4.3 kg)
Type of Action: Snider breech loading, single shot
Magazine: None, Sights: rear sight bed to 400, leaf to 900 yds., foresight barleycorn on fixed block.
Bayonet: Pat 1853 Socket, (NZAR # 58) internal diameter of the socket reamed to suit the larger barrel diameter



New Zealand Service

On 16 February 1869 500 Hay Pattern Medium Enfield Rifles (NZAR # 82) were sent to England for conversion to the Snider Breech Loading Mark III Action. From observed marking on breach blocks it would appear that these conversions were undertaken by BSA Co. They arrived back in NZ in November 1869 and by January 1871 the whole of the Armed Constabulary Force was armed with Snider Long and Medium (Hay) Rifles. The breech loading Hay Pattern Snider proved not to have the long range accuracy of the muzzle loading Enfield Rifles, but the Breech Loading Hay Snider could be reloaded and fired much faster than the Muzzle Loading Enfield. The Snider ammunition delivered equally as good ballistics and accuracy from the 30.5" barrel Snider Enfield Short Rifle with 5 groove 1 in 48 twist rifling compared to the 33.5" barrel Hay pattern Snider and with the added advantage the short rifle could be fitted with a saw back sword bayonet and was more suitable for New Zealand's bush environment. The Hay Pattern Snider Rifles on issue to the Armed Constabulary were replaced by Snider Short Rifles, bar on band in 1875.

Some Hay Pattern Snider rifles were among those converted to carbine for cadets. In 1907 7,000 snider rifles (long, medium and short rifles) were sold to an English firm and shipped to England.(2)

Marking



Butt tang



Lock plate



Breach



Rear sight

Observed examples:

NZ Marked			
Arm	NZ Marked	Maker	Dated
Hay Snider	K NZ 932, S, AC		
Hay Snider	NZ 1652	Hollis & Sheath	
Hay Snider	S K NZ AC 635	Tower	1865
Hay Snider	NZ 819	Tower	1865
Hay Snider	S K NZ AC 967	Tower	1864
Hay Snider	K NZ AC 56	Tower	1865
Hay Snider converted to carbine	K NZ AC 869	Tower	1865
Hay Snider Mk III	K NZ AC 547	Tower	1865
Hay Snider Mk III	K NZ AC 893	BSA & M Co *	1880

*Possibly a replacement lock

Acknowledgements: Information and photos-John Osborne, Phil Cregeen,

References (1) AJHR: 1870 A 9a, 1871 G 5,1875 G 10

(2). <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>