

Pattern: 1859 & 71 Naval Cutlass Bayonets, Introduced into NZ Service 1860, Withdrawn by 1896(?)

Pat 59: Length OA 32.25 in (819mm), Blade 26.5 in (673mm), MRD 20.6 mm, Scabbard 27.2 in (691 mm).

Pat 71 : Length OA 31.3 in (795mm), Blade 26.6 in (650mm), MRD 18.0 mm, Scabbard 26.2 in (665 mm).



Pat 1859 Type 1

Pat 1859 Type 2

Pat 1859 bushed for Martini Henry

Pat 1871

Approved on 18 April 1859 the **Pattern 1859 Cutlass Bayonet** featured a curved non fullered blade with early models having wooden grips with six vertical grooves (**Type 1**) and a full basket guard, it was intended to fit on the Pattern 1858 Naval Short Rifle and later Snider Short Rifle. In May 1859 a change to knurled leather grips (**Type 2**) was approved. The scabbard was of black leather with steel locket and chape and after complaints included an internal spring from 1862. An order for 78,000 bayonets was mostly made by Solingen makers: Weyersberg, Schnitzler & Kirschbaum, Holler, Clauberg, Klonne and a small number made by Reeves the only British firm. The bayonets were inspected by British officers in Solingen and marked with a crown over S and inspector's number as well as the maker's trademark.

With the introduction of the Martini Henry into Naval service a lighter cutlass bayonet was introduced by LOC 2713 on 11 July 1871 to govern new manufacture and conversions of the Pat 59 Cutlass Bayonet to become the **Pattern 1871 Cutlass Bayonet**. Conversion of these bayonets was undertaken at RSAF Enfield between 1874 and 1882, when 50,710 bayonets were converted, but no new ones were manufactured. The conversion involved grinding the blade straight and one inch shorter, reducing the size of the guard and fitting a new cross guard to suit the Martini Henry. The scabbard was shortened to suit the shorter blade. A small number of Pat 59 was simply bushed for the M-H.



Pat 1859 Type 1

Pat 1859 Type 2

Bushed Pat 1859

Pat 1871

New Zealand Service

The Pattern 1859 Cutlass Bayonet was first introduced in New Zealand when Royal Navy ships provided support for the British Army in such engagements as at Rangiriri Pa in November 1863 and Gate Pa in November 1864.

It is doubtful whether the Pat 1871 Cutlass bayonet was ever used in New Zealand other than being carried onboard British warships visiting these shores in the late 1800s.

Acknowledgements: photos provided by John Carter.

Reference: *British & Commonwealth Bayonets* by ID Skennerton & R Robertson.

Naval Cutlass Bayonets by John Carter, NZAHAA Gazette.

150 Anniversary of the War in Waikato & Tuaranga by J Osborne, NZAHAA Gazette.