

Pattern: 1856, 58 & 60 Enfield Short Rifle Sword Bayonet, Introduced into NZ Service 1858, Withdrawn by 1896 Length OA 28.1 in (714mm), Blade 22.8 in (579mm), MRD 20.5 to 20.9 mm, Scabbard 24.0 in (610 mm)
This series of bayonet features a curved (yataghan) fullered blade with steel hilt and leather grips secured by 3 rivets. The locking spring is secured by a rivet on the Pat 56 and a screw on the Pat 58 & 60. All types have a leather scabbard with steel locket and chape. Note: MRD will vary depending on which pattern rifle the bayonet was for. Makers: Bayonets were initially manufactured by the Birmingham & London trade and purchased from Solingen; these were hand fitted to the rifle. Production at Enfield commenced sometime after 1858, with extensive use of machinery the Enfield made bayonets were classed as interchangeable, these represent the largest production.



Pat 1858 Bar on Band type



Pat 1860 Bar on Barrel type



Comparison of two types of bar on barrel fitting; note the extended mortise slot on the Pat 56 (top) to engage a forward extension of the bar on barrel, this was omitted from 1858 (bottom).



Comparison of hilt and cross-guard for the Pat 60(top) bar on barrel and Pat 58 (bottom) bar on band.)

These bayonets were also used for the carbines and short rifles converted to Snider breech loading system and new made MK III Snider Artillery carbines. Many were later bushed for the Martini Henry Rifle (see NZAR 135). Volunteer versions of these bayonets were also made by private contractors.

Marking: Board of Ordnance bayonets are generally marked with the makers name or trade mark and BO inspection marks, the cross guard frequently carries a rifle rack number. Volunteer bayonets frequently have no marks but may be etched or engraved. Below are examples of marks on three contract Yataghan bayonets.



Inspectors mark



H. Chavasse



Kirschbaum



sale & 2 x inspector



Bleckmann

New Zealand Service

The Pattern 1856 Short Rifle Sword Bayonet was first introduced in New Zealand in 1858 when the British regiments serving here were armed with the Enfield Short Rifle for sergeants; it was also issued to some Armed Constabulary and Volunteer & Militia units armed with the Enfield Short Rifle, Snider Short Rifle as well as the Snider Artillery carbine. The bayonets were withdrawn from service when the Sniders were finally replaced by Martini Henrys in 1896.

Acknowledgements: photos provided by Phil Cregeen

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

Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives <http://atojis.natlib.govt.nz> H19