

Pattern: Snider Saw-back Bayonet, Introduced into NZ Service 1875, Withdrawn from 1895

Type 1: Length OA 23.5 in (597mm), Blade 18.1 in (460mm), MRD 20.0 mm, Scabbard 19.25 in (489 mm)

Type 2: Length OA 26.5 in (673mm), Blade 20.25 in (514mm), MRD 20.0 mm, Scabbard 20.75 in (527 mm)

Type 3: Length OA 23.5 in (597mm), Blade 18.1 in (460mm), MRD 20.0 mm, Scabbard 19.2 in (488 mm)

Makers: Type 1 & 3 Solingen-Kirschbaum. Type 2 RSAF Enfield.

This series of bayonets (type number conforms to that used in Reference (a)) were not adopted by the British Board of Ordnance and therefore do not have official Pattern nomenclature. They were based upon a similar bayonet approved for the Irish Constabulary in 1867 and were purchase by New Zealand through a number of contracts placed with the War Office and Birmingham Trade for use on Snider Short Rifles and Artillery Carbines. The bayonets have a straight fullered blade with spear point and 14 or 16 pairs of saw teeth along the top edge, a steel hilt with knurled leather grips secured by 4 rivets and the locking spring is secured by a screw on the RHS on the type 1 & 3 and on the LHS on the type 2. The black leather scabbard has a steel locket and chape which is squared on the Type 1 & 3 and rounded on the type 2. Note: Cross guard & MRD may vary depending upon which pattern of rifle or carbine it was fitted to, bayonets being numbered to their own rifle or carbine. Type 1 & 2 are bar on barrel, Type 3 is bar on band.



1st type, 18 in blade, note locking spring on RHS and squared end to the scabbard chape.
3rd type 18 in blade, similar but cross guard and muzzle ring for bar on band fitting.



2nd type, 20 in blade, locking spring on LHS, rounded end to scabbard chape.

Marking: Bayonets purchased through the War Office are generally marked with the makers name or trade mark and inspection marks, the cross guard frequently carries a rifle rack number. Below are examples of marks on the above bayonets.



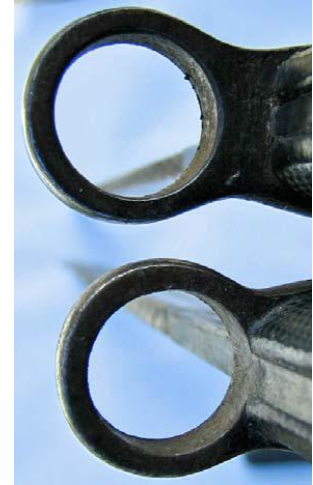
Type 1: Kirschbaum, rack No 642 Sale, WD & Birmingham Inspection
Type 2: Sale, WD, Enfield Inspection Conversion date 9/80
WD and >> sale mark indicate that both bayonets were taken on charge of the British Stores and then sold to New Zealand.

New Zealand Service Details of a number of New Zealand contracts for saw back bayonets (a) have been identified as follows:

Arms supplied by BSA: 2,000 Short rifles & saw-back bayonets in 1874/75 (1871 order). **Type 1 – Kirschbaum**

Arms supplied by BSA: 600 Short rifles and saw back bayonets in 1875. **Type 3- Kirshbaum,**

Arms supplied by RSAF Enfield: 2100 20.25 inch saw back bayonets in 1880/81 being conversions of Pat 1875 Martini Henry bayonets. **Type 2-RSAF Enfield.** This corresponds to an order for 2100 artillery carbines supplied by CG Bonehill in 1980/81.



Compare muzzle ring for bar on band type 3 (Top) with bar on barrel Type 2 (bottom)

700 Snider Short Rifles, bar on band with saw back bayonets (type 3) were issued to the Armed Constabulary Force in 1875. The Armed Constabulary complained that the saw back was too short and thick to be effective and that the blade was poorly balanced for chopping in the bush. (b)

Snider Short Rifles and Artillery Carbines were preferred for the New Zealand bush conditions and were issued to Volunteer & Militia Forces as well as Provincial Constabulary Forces. Sniders and their bayonets were gradually replaced by Martini Henrys, commencing in 1895.

Note that Pat 1856 & 58 sword bayonets (Yataghan) were also supplied with Snider short rifles and carbines.

Acknowledgements: photos provided by Phil Cregeen & John Osborne

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

(b) *Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives* <http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz> H10