

Specifications: Manufactured by Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal (FN) 1900 to 1914, approximately 700,000 made. Caliber 7.65x17 (Browning). Action: semi automatic blowback. Length: 172mm. Weight 625g. Barrel length: 102mm barrel is fixed to the frame. The recoil spring is located within the slide and above the barrel. This spring, via a special lever also acts as a firing pin spring. Box magazine capacity 7 cartridges. Sights: half round blade front sight, vee rear sight. Cartridge ejection port cut into frame on left side. Lanyard retaining loop at lower left rear of frame. Holster: Brown pigskin with spare magazine.

The first semi-automatic blowback operated pistol was designed by American John Moses Browning in 1896 modified in 1897, 1899 and after a few more modifications was adopted by the Belgium Military as Mle.1900. The Browning M1900 was issued to some German forces during WWI particularly in Belgium and France.



New Zealand use. This FN made Browning M1900 No1 pistol was taken from a captured German soldier at Messines Ridge in June 1917 by an infantry private in the New Zealand Expeditionary Division who carried it as a backup pistol for the remainder of the war. Many captured pistols were brought back to New Zealand as war prize guns with the returning troops.

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Phil Cregeen FSG, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FN_M1900 Osborne Arms Museum for images. armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz

For more background information visit www.battlefield-tours.co.nz/html/new-zealand-ww1.html