

**NZAR ID 454, ARM TYPE: Pistol. Draft date (V1) 5 Nov 2013, Compiled by John Osborne** AA DTT PhD FSG,

**Pattern: Beretta M1934 & M1935. Calibers: 9x17mm & 7.65x17mm. Introduced: 1944. Withdrawn NZ use: after WWII**

**Specifications:** Maker: P Beretta, Italy. Number built approximately M34 1,080,000 (1934 to 91); M35 525,000 (1935 to 67). Action: Semi-automatic blowback. Length 152mm. Barrel length 94mm. Caliber: M34 9x17mm, M35 7.65x17mm. Muzzle Velocity: M34 229m/s, M35 282m/s. Effective range about 50m. Sights: vee rear on dovetail and fixed vee foresight. Weight: approximately 660g. Magazine: M34 7 cartridges & M35 8 cartridges detachable box. Lanyard loop lower left. All parts interchangeable. Holster: M34 brown leather, M35 blue / grey with pouch for spare magazine.

Issued to the Italian armed forces from 1934 and to some German forces in 1944 & 1945, captured in large numbers during World War II from Italian and German armed forces by allied soldiers including New Zealanders, who liked them because of their small size and rugged design. Below top: Beretta Model 1934 made 1937 Cal 9x17mm Corto



7.65mm

9mm



Beretta Model 1935 made 1944 Cal 7.65x17mm



**New Zealand use.** These two pistols were taken from captured German soldiers at Monte Cassino, Italy in 1944 by infantry privates in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force who carried them as backup pistols for the remainder of the war. Several other types of pistols were also captured. Many captured pistols were brought back to New Zealand as war prize guns with the returning troops.

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beretta\\_M1934](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beretta_M1934) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beretta\\_M1935](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beretta_M1935)

For more background information visit [www.nzhistory.net.nz/page/nz-forces-capture-castle-hill-cassino](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/page/nz-forces-capture-castle-hill-cassino)