

**NZAR ID No 56, ARM TYPE: BAYONET, Draft date (V2) 22 April 2013, Compiled by Phil Cregeen**

Pattern (Name) US M 1905 Bayonet, Introduced into New Zealand Service 1942, withdrawn: Post WWII  
Length OA 20.5 in (521 mm), Blade 16.0 in (406mm), MRD 16.1 mm, Scabbard 17.9 in (455mm)  
Maker: Springfield Armoury, Rock Island Arsenal, (1905 to 1922) Various commercial contractors in WW II



This is a New Zealand marked US M1905 bayonet for the Springfield M 1903 rifle. (BCB N 5).



Marked N^Z 2363 on the wood grips.

US marking on Ricasso

By October 1942 40,000 American 30-06 rifles had been supplied to New Zealand and issued to the Home Guard, these included Model 1903 Springfield and Model 1917 Enfield rifles. The M 1905 Bayonet is used with the M 1903 Springfield rifle (NZAR 184). The M1903 rifle also saw use by some NZ forces in the Pacific theatre of operations. Their use was driven by the need for interoperability with US forces/Logistical networks. The main user was the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) ground crews and servicing units. RNZAF units in the Pacific were under the operational command of COMAIRSOPAC.

Other units that were supplied with M1903s included the 1st and 2nd Commando, Fiji Guerillas. Commanded and trained by New Zealand troops, these units were supplied by the US on operations.

The first M 1903 rifles to arrive in NZ are believed to be a Lend Lease shipment diverted from England. Lend lease equipment was not normally NZ marked as they were not NZ property (the N^Z stamp denoted NZ Government ownership). The N^Z stamp on the bayonet most likely denotes use by the RNZAF.

Records from 1942 show the establishment of the Joint Purchasing Board (JPB) which operated under the US-NZ Reciprocal Aid Agreement. This agreement operated alongside but separate from Lend Lease. The JPB allowed NZ to supply and support US operations in the Pacific and obtain US stores and equipment as partial or as in lieu of cash payment. The stores received became NZ property.

Following the end of WWII the Commonwealth countries in the Pacific renewed their British roots and went back to the .303. Anecdotal evidence suggests much of the American equipment was dumped at sea in the 1960s or sold to dealers in the USA.

All examples of NZ Marked M 1905 bayonets viewed so far are pre 1918 Springfield manufacture with wood grips

**Below: NZ Marked M 1905 (1918 dated) bayonets in alternative scabbards**



M1905 Bayonet with M 1910 scabbard



M 1905 bayonet in 1942 M 3 scabbard

**Below: 1942 dated M 1905 bayonet with M 3 scabbard made by Union Fork & Hoe Co. marked UFH.**



**Acknowledgements:** Warren Collingwood, Noel Taylor, John Osborne, Phil Moore, Derek Complin

**References:**

*The Springfield 1903 Rifles by Lt Col WS Brophy, USAR, Ret.*

<http://www.remingtonsociety.com/rsg/journals/RedStar>

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2-1Hom-c12.html>