

NZAR ID No 58, ARM TYPE: BAYONET, Draft date (V1) 11 April 2012, Compiled by Phil Cregeen

Pattern (Name) 1853 Socket Bayonet for Enfield Pat 53 Rifled musket, Introduced into New Zealand Service 1858, withdrawn

Length OA 20.5 in (521mm), Blade 17.0 in (432mm), Socket 3.0 in (76 mm), MRD 20 mm,

Triangular hollow ground blade. Black leather scabbard with brass locket and chape.



Markings Left: Enfield, Right: Salter Socket MRD to fit: Enfield 20 mm, Hay 21 mm, Martini Henry 18.1mm

Approved in October 1853 this was the first British socket bayonet to use a locking ring and was made for the Pattern 1853 Enfield Rifled Musket. It also served these rifles when converted to Snider breech loading in the late 1860s and other muzzle loaders of the era such as the Hay Pattern 1858 Medium Rifle. It was also bushed to fit the Martini Henry Rifle when this was introduced in the 1870s.

Bayonets were manufactured at Enfield and also by the Birmingham Trade, which included: Aston, Deakin, Lawrence, Roe, Reeves, Salter and Brooks. From 1867 to 1878 manufacture was almost entirely by RSAF Enfield with repairs carried out at RSARF Birmingham. Detailed production figures are not available but those that have been recorded run to over 400,000.

New Zealand Service

The Pattern 1853 bayonet was first introduced in New Zealand in 1858 when the 65th Regiment was equipped with the Pat 53 Enfield. It was later issued to other British regiments serving in New Zealand, Armed Constabulary and Volunteer Units armed with the Enfield and Snider Rifle.

Subsequently the bayonet with a slightly larger MRD was issued with the Pattern 1858 Hay Medium Rifle 1000 of which were purchased by New Zealand in 1865. In 1869 500 of these rifles were converted to Snider action in England.

Enfield Rifles remained in Store until 1883 and Snider Rifles were held until 1891 although most of these were Short Rifles taking a sword bayonet



British 65th Regiment in Napier with their Pattern 1853 Enfield Long Rifles and bayonets issued to them in 1858. The 65th served in New Zealand from 1846 to 1866.



New Zealand Militiaman with his Hay Pattern Medium Enfield Rifle and bayonet

Acknowledgements: photos provided by John Osborne and Phil Cregeen

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

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