

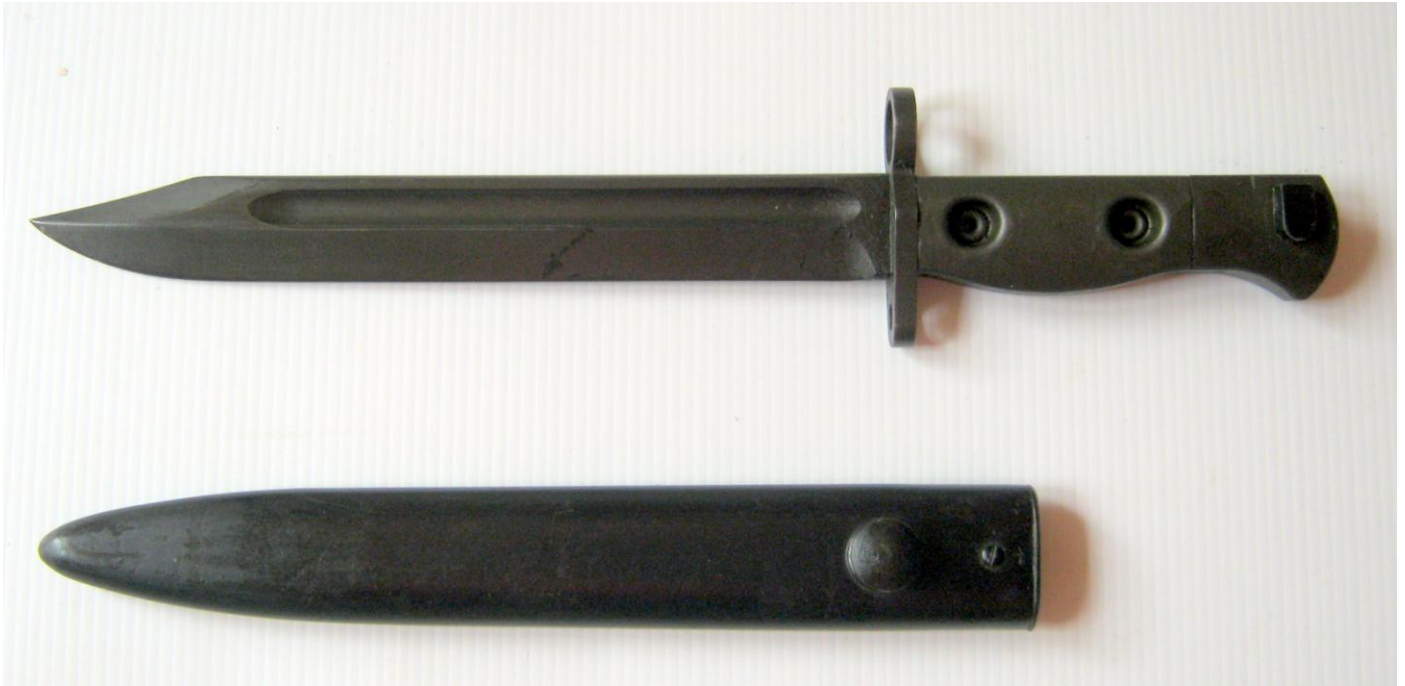
NZART ID No 59, Arm Type: Bayonet, Draft date (V1) 23 March 2014, Compiled by Phil Cregeen

Pattern: Bayonet L1A2 ,. Introduced into NZ Service: 1959, Withdrawn: 1987 to 1990s

LOA: 11.8 in (300 mm), Blade Length: 7.8 in (198 mm), MRD: 15.0 mm, Scabbard 8.6 in (218 mm)

Makers: SAF Lithgow, Australia, also manufactured in Britain (L1A1 to 4), Canada (C1,) and India (A1)

This bayonet was designed for the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle (NZAR ID 26), and comprises of a bowie shaped blade with fuller rounded at the ends, steel grips secured by two rivets, and a square mortise slot with spring catch in the pommel. The scabbard is black painted sheet steel with a detachable throat. The Lithgow bayonet has no makers marks and has a blackened finish.



New Zealand Service

New Zealand decided to adopt the L1A1 SLR in September 1958 and ordered 15,000 rifles and bayonets from SAF Lithgow. The first batch for New Zealand were manufactured in 1959 and delivered in 1959/60 with the order finally completed in 1965. In addition to the Army the RNZN and RNZAF also adopted the L1A1 rifle and bayonet. It remained the main service issue arm until replaced by the Styer Aug commencing in 1988. The L1A2 saw active service in Singapore, Malaya and Vietnam.

Acknowledgments:

Reference: British & Commonwealth Bayonets by I D Skennerton & R Richardson