

NZART ID: 75, Arm Type: Carbine, Date of Draft: (V1) 19 July 2013, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen FSG

Pattern: 1853 Enfield Artillery Carbine, Introduced in to NZ Service: 1858, Withdrawn 1880-85

Makers: Enfield; Tower; London & Birmingham trade and also Liege, Belgium.

Calibre: .577 in, 25 bore, Bore: 3 groove uniform depth rifling RH twist 1turn in 78in.,

Barrel length: 24.0 in. **OA Length:** 40.0 in. **Weight:** 7 lb 8 oz.

Type of Action: percussion muzzle loader, single shot

Magazine: None, **Sights:** rear sight fixed 100 yds, flip up leaf for 200 & 300 yds., foresight barleycorn on fixed block.

Bayonet: Pat 1853 & Pat 1858 Sword bayonet. (NZAR # 53)



Private London proof marks & 25 bore plus Ordnance proof & acceptance marks on barrel.



Lock marked Crown/VR1857/TOWER



Right side butt marks 2nd grade. 100 & 200yd rear sight 300yd missing. Front band with sling swivel, early long bayonet bar on barrel.

Introduced in January 1853 contracts were let for this carbine in October but were not completed until December 1854. Fitted with brass furniture, fixed 100yd & flip up leaf for 200 & 300 yd rear vee sights, early rear band, walnut stock, loose steel ramrod with button head on early models, brass nipple protector & chain, sling swivels, early long bayonet bar for Yataghan Sword Bayonet. In 1858 an improved version was introduced which included progressive depth rifling, a stronger hammer, Jag headed ram rod, spoon spring to secure the ram rod and removed the forward extension on the bayonet bar.

New Zealand Service. From 1858 Royal Artillery stationed in New Zealand, from 1860 some of the New Zealand Provincial Governments Coastal Defence Batteries and from 1867 New Zealand Armed Constabulary Field Artillery then the New Zealand Volunteer Field Artillery. From 1869 the Breech loading MKIII action Snider Enfield Artillery carbine eventually replaced the P1853 Enfield Artillery Carbine. In 1869 a return of arms for the colony shows a total of 325 muzzle loading carbines on issue and in store. In 1871 the New Zealand government purchased 800 second hand muzzle loading carbines from Britain for use by the Cadet Force, these are marked NZ/rack No/71 on the butt tang, examples observed are mainly Belgium contract P 53 Artillery Carbines with lock dates ranging from 1857 to 61, some have been noted without bayonet bar and only 100 yd fixed sights.

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: Phil Cregeen, Osborne Arms Museum for images.

References: <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/british-troops-in-new-zealand/1>
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British Military Firearms 1650-1850 by H L Blackmore
British Military Longarms 1715-1865 by D W Bailey