

NZART ID: 87, Arm Type: Rifle, Date of Draft: (V1) 18 September 2012, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: 1867 Snider Enfield (sword) Short Rifle (2 band Snider Enfield), Introduced in to NZ Service: 1868, Withdrawn 1907

Makers: Enfield; Tower; London Armoury Co; Private gun makers.

Calibre: .577 in, 25 bore, Bore: 5 groove progressive rifling RH twist 1 turn in 48in., or 3 groove uniform rifling RH twist 1 in 78 in.

Barrel length: 30.5 in. OA Length: 49.0 in. Weight: 8 lb 12 oz. (4.0 kg)

Type of Action: Snider breech loading, single shot

Magazine: None, Sights: rear sight bed to 400, leaf to 1000 yds., foresight barleycorn on fixed block.

Bayonet: Pat 1856 Yataghan Sword bar on barrel (NZAR # 42) or Snider saw-back bayonet (NZAR 75)



Approved by LOC 1407 dated 28 Mar 1867 to govern the conversion of Pattern 1860 Enfield Short Rifles for sergeants to breech loading on the snider principle, and incorporated the improvements of the Snider Long rifle Mk II**. Pattern 1858 Short Rifles bar on band were also converted. In 1869 a Mk III version was introduced by LOC 1759 dated 13 January governing new manufacture and included a breech locking bolt and steel barrel. These rifles all have steel furniture. (1)

A Naval version of the Snider Short Rifle was introduced by LOC 1495 dated 7 August 1867 and governed the conversion of Pattern 1858 Naval Short Rifles. These have gun metal furniture and a heavier profile barrel and weigh 8 lb 15.5 oz. This rifle accepts the Pattern 1858 naval cutlass bayonet.

New Zealand Service

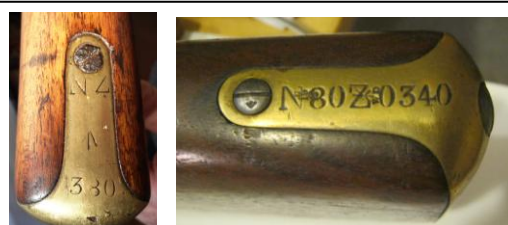
Like the Snider Long Rifle the army version of the Snider Short Rifle first saw service in New Zealand with the 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot commencing in March 1868.(2)

In 1875 the Armed Constabulary Force were armed with 700 Snider Short Rifles (bar on band) with saw-back bayonets. By 1879 the colonial government had 3345 Snider Short Rifles of both types on issue and in store, of these 1504 were on issue to the Armed Constabulary & Police Force. Through the 1880s and 90s Volunteer Rifle Corps were armed with Snider Rifles. Numbers increased to 8024 in 1892 and from then numbers declined to 7847 in 1906. In 1907 7,000 snider rifles (long, medium and short rifles) were sold to an English firm and shipped to England.(2)

NZ Marked				
Arm	NZ Marked	Maker	Dated	Serial No
Snider Naval Short Rifle Mk II**	N^Z 88 354	Leige	1862	
Snider Naval Short Rifle Mk II**	N^Z 88 632	Leige	1862	
Snider Naval Short Rifle Mk II**	N^Z 88 49	Tower	1857	
Snider Short Rifle	NZ 87 (Y, VRTS, 197)	Enfield	1867	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II	N^Z 87 801	Enfield	1862	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II	N 80 Z 01270	NA&A co	1879	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II	N^Z 88 63	Tower	1861	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II	NZ 380	Tower	1861	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II**	N^Z 87 1448	BSA & M Co	1865	
Snider Short Rifle Mk II**	N^Z 87 518	Enfield	1861	
Snider Short Rifle MK II**	NZ 206	Enfield	1861	4443
Snider Short Rifle Mk III	^NZ 1002			1002
Snider Short Rifle Mk III	N80Z 0318	CG Bonehill	1880	
Snider Short Rifle Mk III	N80Z 01993	NA & A Co	1879	
Snider Short Rifle Mk III	N80Z 01992	NA&A Co	1879	

From the New Zealand issue numbers on the Snider Short Rifles observed opposite there would appear to have been significant imports in the following years:

1875, 1880, 1887, 1888



Bar on band 1875 Bar on barrel 1880
Marking

Acknowledgements: Information and photos-John Osborne, Phil Cregeen,
References: (1).577 Pattern 1853 Rifle Musket & Snider-Enfield by I D Skennerton
(2) <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>