

Pattern: Martini Cadet Rifle, Introduced into NZ Service: 1902, Withdrawn: 1911

Makers: Westley Richards, Birmingham & London

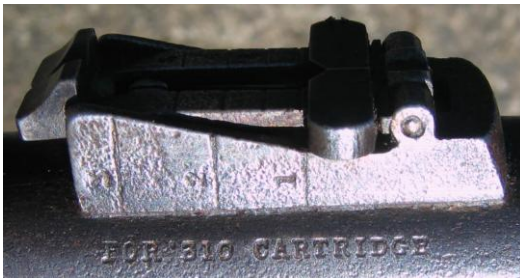
Details of Arm:

Calibre: .310 in, Rifling: 6 grooves RH Twist, Barrel Length: 25.2in., OA Length: 40.3 in.

Action: Single shot Martini falling block. Weight: 6 Lb 6 oz.

Sights: barleycorn foresight, leaf back sight to 600 yds and bed 100 -300 yds,

Markings: **Δ Westley Richards & Co, London** on LHS of body and top of barrel, **for 310 cartridge** on barrel below rear sight. **N^Z and rack No.** on top of action body.



The Westley Richards .310 Martini Cadet was one of a range of miniature rifles produced in the late 1890s for Cadet Forces, others were produced by BSA, Francotte, and Braendlin Armoury Co, in calibres of .22 in .297/230 in, .450 in, all taking the general form of the Mk IV Martini Henry Rifle.

New Zealand Service

A secret report to parliament by the Joint Defence Committee in 1900 recommended that School Cadet Corps should be placed under the control of the Education Dept. and that further Corps should be formed under the Defence Dept for school leavers, this would ensure that school cadets did not lose their enthusiasm for military training before becoming eligible for the Volunteer Force at age 18. The aim was to ensure a Volunteer Force of 20,000 men. This new arrangement came into effect in 1902. In 1903 the strength of the Public School Cadet Force was reported by the Education Dept as 9,370 equipped with 8,379 **model rifles** (dummy) for drill and 674 miniature rifles (**Westley Richards Martini .310 Cadets**) for shooting. In 1904 900 Martini cadet rifles were on issue, increasing to 950 in 1906 A further import of cadet rifles was received in 1908 along with spare barrels.

In 1911 878 WR Martini Cadet Rifles and 683,000 rounds of .310 ammunition were sold to the Defence Dept for £2,165, with a further 200 + rifles on loan to the Defence Dept. after it had been found that too much time was wasted marching to ranges and the junior cadets in future would use .22 Winchester M 1904 rifles and BSA air rifles on local school ranges of 25 and 10 yds.

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Photographs: John Osborne

Reference: Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives (AJHR)