

NZAR ID A34 When is a Hay Pattern not a Hay Pattern? By Phil Cregeen

Two friends recently loaned me their “Hay Pattern Rifles” to examine and compare with my own. Close examination and comparison with both Pattern 53 and Hay Rifles was to reveal that a 36 inch barrel does not make a Hay.

The Hay Pattern 1858 Enfield has a 36 inch barrel with 3 grooves, progressive depth rifling with 1 in 48 inch twist. The rear sight is mounted close to the lower band and is graduated 1 to 4 on the bed and 5 to 1150 on the leaf. The furniture is made of bronze (gun metal) and the trigger guard tang is extended to accommodate a lower sling swivel in the butt. The 5,000 Hays ordered by New Zealand in 1864 from Isaac Hollis & Sons are marked Hollis & Sheath / Makers to Her Majesties War Department or Isaac Hollis & Sons on the lock. A second order of 5,000 was placed with Calisher & Terry, however these were subcontracted and mainly assembled at the Tower, locks being marked Tower 1864 or 1865.



- Top: A- Pat. 1853 Rifle, lock marked crown / VR and Tower 1854, 39” barrel with ordnance proofs and inspection marks.
- B- Pat. 1853 Rifle or Hay? Lock marked crown and Tower 1863, 36” barrel with 25 and civil proofs.
- C- Hay Pattern 58 Rifle? Lock marked Hollis & Sheath etc. 36” barrel with 25 but proof obliterated.
- Bottom D- Hay Patter 58 Rifle, lock marked Hollis & Sheath etc. 36” barrel with 25 and civil proofs.

Rifling and under barrel marks:

Using a Parker Hale rod with a ball bearing handle I attempted to determine the rifling twist using a tight patch. Here are the results:

- A – approx. 160 deg rotation in 39” marks: EVANS, EZRA MILWARD, SWINBURN, 727, 24, crown/B/24
- B- approx. 150 deg rotation in 36” marks: JP, RAVIL.
- C- No rifling detected. marks: J THOMAS, WS, I BORNE, C PORTER, 62, JC 62.
- D- approx. 200 deg rotation in 36” marks: HOLLIS & SHEATH, 2074, 2074(breech plug)

Proof marks



A Pat. 53



B Pat. 53 or Hay ?



C-Hay Pat. 58 ?



D- Hay Pat. 58

A significant amount of metal appears to have been removed around the breach of C. (see image above and below)

Rear Sights



A

B

C

D

A bed 1-4, leaf 5-8

B bed 1-3, leaf 5-8 with gold line and similar position and type as A

C bed 1-4, leaf 5-8 similar position and type as A

D bed 1-4, leaf 5-1150, shorter base to leaf mounted adjacent to lower band

Stock

- A Pattern 53 with brass furniture, butt tang marked CG 230.
- B Pattern 53 with brass furniture, lower and middle barrel bands conform to Pat 53, end cap looks to have been refitted to shortened stock.
- C Hay Pattern 58 with bronze furniture, butt tang marked NZ 2555, LHS marked 2887, barrel bands conform to Hay Pattern.
- D Hay Pattern 58 with bronze furniture, butt tang marked NZ 2111, LHS marked 2074

Conclusions

To be classed as a Hay Pattern 1858 a rifle must exhibit all the features of the Hay Pattern as described in the introduction.

- A. Is an Ordnance Board military issue 1st model Pattern 53 Rifle, included for comparison.
- B. Is most definitely not a Hay Pattern but appears to be Private contract 3rd model Pattern 53 Rifle that has been shortened to 36" barrel. On might ask why?
- C. This would appear to have once been a Hay Pattern 1858 Rifle with stock and lock conforming to Hay Pattern, but has been fitted with what appears to be a shortened replacement (36") Pattern 53 private contract barrel, smooth bore or just worn rifling.
- D. Hay Pattern 58 Rifle for comparison.

Acknowledgements: John Osborne for details of Hay pattern

Pat Glynn & Grant Soich for the loan of their rifles.