




Small arms owned by the New Zealand Government and issued to New Zealand Forces are typically marked NZ or N^Z, and often include a number and date. When sold from service they are generally marked with opposing broad arrows >< associated with the letter S. The exact form and location of these ownership marks varies throughout our history and from one type of arm to another. The marks illustrated have been collected from over a 1,200 observed examples but of course there are always exceptions to the rule.











Note: Rack No equates to a stores accounting number and is different from a maker's serial number.

The style and form of the letters and broad arrow will be seen to vary from one batch to another.

The following tables provide a guide to NZ ownership marks.

**New Zealand Government Arms**

PERIOD	MARK	LOCATION	ARMS	
1860 -1865	<b>Rack No</b>	LHS Frame in front of revolver cylinder	Adams & Double trigger Tranter Revolvers	
1861-1865	<b>NZ Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang	Calasher & Terry Rifles & Carbines	
1865 -	<b>NZ Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang	Hay Pattern Rifles Pat 53 Enfield Rifles Snider Rifles	

1869	<b>NZ AC Rack No</b> (AC=Armed Constabulary)	Butt plate tang	Hay Pattern Snider Conversion		S=short butt K=batch AC=Armed Constabulary
1870	<b>ACF Rack No</b>  (Armed Constabulary Force)	LHS Frame	Adams M 1867 revolver		
1871	<b>NZ Rack No 71</b> (Year)	Butt plate tang	Tower/Belgium Contract Pat 53 Artillery and Constabulary Carbines		
1872	<b>N^Z Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang	Tisdal Contract Snider carbines		
1875	<b>NZ ^ Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang  Rack No also on breech tang and stock to rear	Snider Short Rifles Bar on Band	 	
1878	<b>NZ Rack No</b>	Receiver ring Stock to rear of action body	BSA Contract Snider Carbines & Short Rifles	 	
1880	<b>N80Z Rack No</b> (NYearZ)	Butt plate tang Receiver ring Stock to rear of action body	BSA& NAA Contract Snider Carbines & Short Rifles	 	

1880	<b>N80Z</b>	LHS Revolver frame	Tranter M1878 & Adams Mk III M1872 Revolvers	
1881	<b>N81Z</b> Rack No (NyearZ)	Receiver ring	CG Bonehill Contract Snider Carbine	
1887-88	<b>N^Z</b> Year Rack No	Butt plate tang Receiver ring Stock to rear of action body	Snider Short Rifle	
1887	<b>N^Z</b> Year	Receiver ring	Remington Lee Rifles	
1890-1900	<b>^</b> <b>NZ</b> Year  <b>Rack No</b>	Front top of action body or Knox form  Rear top of action body or Knox form	Martini Henry Rifles and Carbines,  Martini Enfield Rifles and Carbines	
1900-1916	<b>N^Z</b> Rack No Year  (E=England) (C=Canada)	RHS butt socket or butt plate tang	Lee Enfield Rifles and Carbines MLE Mk I & I* MLM Mk II LEC I* SMLE Mk I & III Long RF .22 (Bonehill Conversion)	




SX= Strengthened Extractor

1902	<b>E ^ D</b> (Education Dept)	Top front of action body	Westley Richards 310 Martini Cadet Rifles		
1912	<b>N ^ Z</b>  <b>Rack No</b>	Top rear of action body			
1917	<b>N ^ Z</b> <b>month, year,</b> <b>Rack No</b>	Butt disk	Pat. 14 Rifles		
1920	<b>^</b> <b>N Z</b> <b>20</b>	Top of action body	BSA Model 12 .22 Target Rifle		
1923	<b>N ^ Z</b> <b>month, year,</b> <b>Rack No</b>	Barrel	Vickers Martini .22		
1917-1940	<b>N ^ Z</b>	LHS of receiver ring and/ or barrel  RHS Butt	Lee Enfield No 1 Mk III (SMLEs) and some MLE & MLMs  Noted on some MLM Mk II		
1939	<b>NZA Rack No</b>  Rack No Cancelled when DP No applied	LHS body	Bren Gun		

1940	N^Z Rack No	RHS butt	Pat 14 Rifles Weedon Repair Standard WW II	
1941	N^Z Rack No  NZ Rack No	Magazine housing  Barrel	Sten Mk II	
1942	N^Z Rack No	LHS butt	Remington M 1903 Rifles	
1942	N^Z Rack No	LHS butt or butt socket, often applied by electric pencil	Lee Enfield No 4	
1952	N^Z Rack No	LHS butt socket	Lee Enfield No 8 .22 Rifles	
1959	N^Z Rack No	Magazine housing	Sterling SMG L2A3	
1959-60	N^Z Rack No	LHS body above magazine	L1A1 first 1000 only, issued to NZIR in Singapore	

## New Zealand Provincial Government Arms

Arms purchased by Provincial Governments were not necessarily NZ marked at the time of purchase, but are thought to have been marked after being taken on charge by the Colonial Government in or after 1877.

1877 ->	<b>NZ Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang	Colt Revolving Carbine	
1877->	<b>NZ Rack No</b>	Breach	Westley Richards (Monkey tail) Carbine	
1877->	<b>A NZ Rack No</b>	Butt plate tang	Sharps Carbine	

### Sold out of service mark:



## WW II Home Guard Marks:



The arms marked HG were impressed into service in WW II and returned to their owners after the war, or compensation was given to the owner if the firearm had been lost or destroyed.

Arms marked SP were purchased by the NZ Army from gun dealers and individuals and marked SP/N, SP/C and SP/S with a unique number, for Northern, Central and Southern Army Districts respectively. This procurement commenced in February 1942 and records of all purchases were kept on a central register, which was updated monthly.

Acknowledgements and thanks to: John Osborne, Rod Woods, Blue Thomas, Noel Taylor, Phil Moore

NZ Arms Register <http://www.armsregister.com/>