

Pattern: Bayonet No 5 Mk I,. Introduced into NZ Service: 1955, Withdrawn: 1989

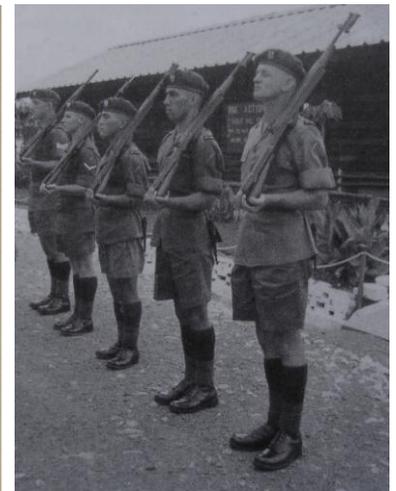
LOA: 11.8 in (300 mm), Blade Length: 7.9 in (201 mm), MRD: 22.6 mm, Scabbard 8.6 in (218 mm)

Makers: Wilkinson, Viners, Radcliffe, Elkington, ROF Poole, Sterling commercial sales.

This bayonet was designed for the Lee Enfield No 5 Jungle Carbine, and comprises of a bowie shaped blade with fuller, wooden grips secured by two screws, and a round mortise slot in the pommel. The scabbard is black painted sheet steel with a detachable throat. Makers codes or initials are stamped on the ricasso. Production commenced in 1944. After WW II the No 5 Bayonet was declared obsolete in 1947 and put into store. When the Sterling SMG (L2A3) was adopted by the British military the No 5 bayonet was supplied from stores. Commercial sales of the Sterling SMG were supplied with a commercial No 5 bayonet, these are marked STERLING etched in a rectangle on the LHS of the blade.



Sterling No 5 bayonet



NZSAS with No 5 Rifle and bayonet in Malaya

New Zealand Service

New Zealand SAS serving in Malay in 1955 were issued with No 5 Jungle Carbines and bayonets. (Most probably from British Stores).

The NZ Cabinet approved the purchase of 2006 Sterling Mk4 (L2A3) on 14 Jan 1959 at the cost of 25 Pounds each. All NZ Sterling Mk4 L2A3s were KR Prefixed, (NZAR 158) making them Sterling Commercial sales, and were also given an NZ prefixed number at the time of arrival. They were supplied with 776 Sterling No 5 commercial bayonets.

1968 saw the beginning of the replacement of the Sterling with M16A1s for Infantry Units, and by 1989 they were completely withdrawn from service from the NZSAS and RNZAC and replaced by MP5s for the NZSAS and the Steyr Carbine for the RNZAC.

*Acknowledgments: Terrence Seymour for information on NZ Purchase of Sterling SMG, Noel Taylor, Rod Woods
Reference: The Guns of Dagenham by Peter Laidler and David Howroyd,
British & Commonwealth Bayonets by I D Skennerton & R Richardson*