

NZART ID: 11, Arm Type: Carbine, Date of Draft: (V1) 15 October 2013, Compiled by: Phil Cregeen

Pattern: 1869 Snider Enfield Artillery Carbine Mk III, Introduced into NZ Service: 1875, Withdrawn 1907(?)

Makers: Enfield; Tower; LSA, BSA & M Co, C G Bonehill.

Calibre: .577 in, 25 bore, Bore: 5 groove progressive rifling RH twist 1 turn in 48in, Furniture: Brass with steel cleaning rod

Barrel length: 21.5 in. OA Length: 40.25 in. Weight: 7 lb 7.75 oz.

Type of Action: Snider breech loading, single shot.

Magazine: None, Sights: rear sight bed to 300, leaf to 600 yds., foresight barleycorn on fixed block.

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



Pattern 1869 Snider Mk III Artillery Carbine and Pattern 1856 Sword bayonet

The Mk II** Artillery carbine was introduced by LOC 1446 dated 2 May 1867 to govern conversion of 1861 Artillery Carbines and already incorporated improvements made to the early Mk I Snider breech, it has a cupped hammer. The Mk III Carbine was approved by LOC 1759 dated 13 January 1869 to govern new manufacture of the Snider Rifles and Carbines with steel barrels and locking bolt to secure the breech block, it has a flat faced hammer.(1)



Marking: Lock: "Crown VR, BSA & M Co 1878"

Breech: "S NZ 162" (S=short butt)

Stock: "NZ 162 S"

New Zealand Service

Like other Snider Rifles the Artillery Carbine Mk II** first saw service with the Royal Artillery stationed here from 1868.

By mid 1875 600 Snider Artillery(?) Carbines had been imported to replace the medium rifles of the Armed Constabulary but they were supplied with sword bayonets, which were unsuitable for bush fighting and so they were issued to the Artillery. Observed examples indicate Mk III of Enfield 1871 and Tower 1874 production. 400 Snider Artillery Carbines Mk III were supplied under contract by BSA in 1878 and a further 2,100 Snider Artillery Carbines Mk III with leather sight protectors under contract by CG Bonehill in 1880(2), this later contract are marked N81Z with rack number. By 1879 1419 Snider Artillery carbines were reported on issue to Artillery Batteries, Engineers and Naval Brigade (3). Snider carbines remained in service with the NZ Volunteer Force until replaced by Martini Henry from 1895. In the early 1900s a number of Snider Long and Short Rifles were locally converted to Artillery Pattern with 21.5 in barrel for Constabulary use, these do not have a bayonet bar and retain the rifle sights and other marks. In 1902 Snider carbines were reported still on issue to school cadet forces. In 1907 3,000 snider carbines (all types) were sold to an English firm and shipped to England (4.)

Surviving examples in NZ are predominantly Mk III BSA 1878 & C G Bonehill 1880 contract, with a few Mk III dated Tower 1874 and Enfield 1871.

Acknowledgements: John Osborne,

References: (1).577 Pattern 1853 Rifle Musket & Snider-Enfield by I D Skennerton

(2).577 Snider Enfield Rifles & Carbines by I D Skennerton.

(3) AJHR

(4) <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz> (Evening Post 19 may 1909 "Obsolete Arms")