

Pattern: Percussion Pistol converted from Flintlock, Introduced in to NZ Service: 1850s, Withdrawn: 1860s?

Makers: London & Birmingham Trade.

Calibre: 0.710 in smooth bore, **Barrel length:** 8.0 in., **OA Length:** 14.5 in. **Weight:** 3 lb

Type of Action: Percussion single shot muzzle loading.

Sights: none, **Ammunition:** Paper cartridge with .680 in ball and 2.5 drams (68 gr) black powder



From the late 1830s to 1850s as the percussion system of ignition became accepted, flintlock pistols were converted to percussion by the London and Birmingham Trade both for the Board of Ordnance and for private sale. Cheap and robust many were produced in the 1850s for the Crimea War and British Volunteer Yeomanry. The example above is converted from a Land Service flintlock pistol; it has an 8 inch barrel held in the walnut stock by a single pin and a tang screw. The plain converted lock with Pat 53 hammer is secured by a two side nails and the wooden brass tipped ram rod is held in place by a single brass pipe. The trigger guard is of brass.



The lock is marked TOWER



14 Bore Birmingham proofed barrel

New Zealand service:

From c1840 most commissioned officers in New Zealand military and constabulary services were expected to purchase their own arms (handguns and swords), and all other NZ Colonial military and constabulary personal were invited and encouraged to buy their own handguns at a special government price (cost landed in NZ). Handguns were not normally issued to rank and file personal, only muskets, rifles or carbines with bayonets as appropriate. Military, constabulary and settlers normally procured military type handguns for which ammunition was available and issued. In the early days 1840s and 50s all types of handguns were in use including duelling pistols. With the establishment of the Provincial Governments in 1853 and their setting up of their own Armed Constabulary (foot and mounted) they purchased and issued their own arms. In 1858 the NZ Colonial Government passed the Militia Act and this brought some uniformity to the types of arms and ammunition issued to NZ Colonial Militia but as NZ was a fledgling colony it purchased (were possible surplus / used / converted / best current model) military arms from the UK.

Acknowledgements John Osborne

Reference: *British Military Firearms 1650-1859* by H L Blackmore
The British Soldier's Firearm 1850-1864 C H Roads