

NZAR ID 348, ARM TYPE: SMG. Draft date (V1) 4 July 2012, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: STEN MKIII 9mm High Power caliber. Introduced: 1943. Withdrawn: 1960s

The MKIII was a simplified Mk II and the most basic model. It was made in Canada and the UK, Lines Bros Ltd was the largest manufacturer. The main difference from the Mark II was the unification of the receiver, ejection port, and barrel shroud that extended farther up the barrel. The barrel was fixed and the body was welded shut along the centre of the top. The Sten Gun used simple stamped metal components and minor welding, requiring a minimum of machining and manufacturing. Much of the production could be performed by small workshops, the Mark III, made from only 47 different parts could be produced from five man-hours work. It was distinctive for its bare appearance (just a pipe with a metal loop for a stock), and its horizontal magazine. Provenance: The Sten MKIII was from 1943 issued and used extensively by British and Commonwealth forces including New Zealand throughout World War II.



Body marked STEN. M.C. (Machine Carbine) MK III NZ No 2183 under trigger guard. Proof marks on barrel Gun S/N K09443

Details of the regular Mark III: Caliber 9mm High Power. Overall Length: 762 mm, Barrel Length: 197 mm. Weight: 3.3 kg. Rate of fire: 500rpm. 32 round magazine, effective range 100 meters. In the 1950s the MK III Sten Gun was designated L51. The Sten Guns were withdrawn in the 1960s and replaced by the Sterling SMG.

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sten> Osborne Arms Museum . NZ National Army Museum. NZ National Library. NZ National Archives.