

Military firearms in colonial Western Australia: their issue and marking

G.B. Trotter

32 Stratford Street, East Fremantle, Western Australia 6158

Abstract – The types, quantities and dates of issue of military firearms to the Imperial garrison, the Enrolled Pensioner Force, the Volunteer Force, the Permanent Force and the Cadet Force between 1829 – 1903 are examined and discussed. The markings of these arms, where known, are described and discussed. The types, quantities and marking of Western Australian military arms in the early Commonwealth period are also briefly canvassed.

INTRODUCTION

The types, quantities and dates of issue of military arms in Colonial Western Australia have been of interest to arms researchers for many years. Little was known until the pioneering work *The Volunteer Movement in Western Australia 1861 – 1903* was written by George Wieck in the 1960s. Wieck's chronology on the formation and disbandment of the various volunteer corps between 1861 and 1903 has been the standard reference on the subject. His work has since been expanded upon by later writers, notably James Grant, but like Wieck, the focus has remained on personnel, arms being relegated to an incidental status. Broomhall in his valuable reference *The Veterans* includes more information on the Enrolled Pensioners arms, but again the focus is on the men, arms being secondary.

This paper follows the Wieck chronology. The author has checked references to arms given in these and other works and has included additional archival material discovered at this time and during earlier research on *The Martini-Enfield Rifle in Western Australia*. The aim has been to present a chronological description of the arms issued to the Western Australian military. Some discrepancies have arisen regarding the types of arms and their dates of issue as stated in the Wieck reference compared with data presented in this research. Wieck gives 1883 as the date of issue of the Snider-Enfield rifle in Western Australia. This researcher found no reference to this date in the archives, instead 1870 was found to be unequivocally the date of issue of the Snider-Enfields to the Pensioners and 1877 the date of issue of the Sniders to the Volunteers. Chris Halls, in his book *Guns in Australia* quotes the types of arms on issue here, notably the Snider-Enfield two band Artillery Carbine (1880s), and the Martini-Enfield Artillery Carbine (1898) for the Naval Artillery Volunteers. He also writes that the Martini-Enfield Artillery Carbine Mark I was issued in 1900 to the Fremantle

Artillery Volunteers. Again, no archival record on the issue of these arms was found. It is however entirely possible that archival sources were found by these writers, but as the sources were not given they could not be referred to at this time. Similarly, some records of arms issues located for this paper are not referred to by previous writers. It is possible that arms of the types mentioned were indeed issued on the dates stated by Wieck and others and due reference is made to them, but until they can be verified they are included for comparison and comment only. Some volunteer corps such as the Sussex and Swan Volunteer Rifles described in Grant are omitted here due to their never becoming properly active. The various mounted detachments of the volunteer corps which became the W.A. Mounted Infantry in 1900 are also omitted due to the lack of records concerning them. Because the local W.A.M.I. and the Boer War W.A.M.I. detachments used identical arms they are treated as one entity. It was also intended to give a complete account of the marking of volunteer arms but, as will be seen from the text certain sections of the arms marking procedure remain uncertain, notably, some of the Martini-Henrys of the rifle corps and the arms of some of the mounted and artillery corps. What has been presented however greatly clarifies this subject.

Note: Abbreviations which may be found in the text: E.P.F. = Enrolled Pensioner Force, W.A.I.B. = W.A. Infantry Brigade, S.M.L.E. = Short Magazine Lee-Enfield, M L-E = Magazine Lee-Enfield, M.M. = Martini-Metford, M-E = Martini-Enfield, Mk = Mark, B.L. = Breech loading, M.L. = Muzzle loading. The initials of the various corps are used frequently in the text but always in context with the corps under immediate discussion and thus will cause no confusion.

Note also that with the exception of the Deane, Adams revolver-carbine and the W.A. Pattern Martini-Enfields, only the issue and ownership marks of the various firearms under discussion are

illustrated. For full technical details and full length illustrations of these other arms, refer to Skennerton's *Australian Service Longarms*. In some cases it has not been possible to photograph markings, but generally, the markings which are not illustrated are similar in style and marking method to those shown. One last point must be clarified. It will be noticed that Pinjarra is also referred to as Pinjarrah, this is because the old spelling included the "H".

THE IMPERIAL FORCES

Beginning with the first white settlement of Western Australia in 1826, Imperial troops were stationed here until they were withdrawn in 1863. Their arms would have included British service "Brown Bess" flintlock muskets and the various types deriving from it. They were the India Pattern, the New Land Pattern and the Patterns 1839 and 1842 muskets. The 63rd Regiment, arriving here in 1829 included in its stores the following arms which were in addition to their issue "Brown Bess" muskets.

Rifles MFG CB with steel rammers and bayonets	- 20
Carbines, Elliots, with steel rammers	- 20
Muskets, extra service, with rammers and bayonets	- 40
Scabbards, bayonets, muskets	- 60

These arms were to be placed at the disposal of the commanding officer of the West Coast.¹ "Extra service" arms were cheap low quality muskets and bayonets made by the trade. "Elliots carbines" refers to the General Elliot Light dragoon carbine of 1773.² These arms were unlikely to have been marked. Later regiments had the Baker rifle and later still the Pattern 1851, 1853, 1858 and 1860 Enfield long and short rifles.³ Small numbers of most of these types of arms exist in public and private collections but they are generally unmarked except for the Board of Ordnance "B broad arrow O" mark on the butt and are therefore not readily identifiable as Imperial garrison issue arms. The absence of issue markings need not disqualify them as garrison issue arms however as it appears to have been not unusual for them to be unmarked. Skennerton states that "the regular British issue rifles and carbines were not always stamped with the unit markings".⁴ Some of these arms do have the markings of British military units but none so far have been identified as units stationed here. These arms may be surplus regular army or yeomanry weapons sent to W.A. as stores without first having their markings cancelled. It is considered highly likely that most of the arms on issue to Imperial troops probably left with them

when they departed W.A. and those arms which were left here and which have been noted as marked and unmarked, were probably "extra service" and obsolescent arms intended as reserves for the possible defence of the colony. A considerable number of socket bayonets which fit these muskets have been examined and were found to bear no ownership marks or stand numbers whatsoever. This evidence, tenuous though it appears, leads to the conclusion that virtually none of the service arms of the Imperial troops remain here, the surviving arms being the latter miscellaneous types.

THE PENSIONERS

The most significant Imperial force stationed in Western Australia was the Enrolled Pensioner Force, which manned the Convict Establishment in Western Australia. In response to a shortage of labour, convict transportation began in the free colony of Western Australia in 1850 with the arrival of a group of convicts and their Pensioner guards on the *Scindian*. These guards, like the Imperial garrison troops, were funded from Britain, but they were volunteers and are more closely linked to the settlement of the colony than the garrison troops. Many came with their families and remained as settlers. Their official association with W.A. lasted 30 years, with a further seven as the Enrolled Guard.

The Enrolled Pensioner Force came to Western Australia as guards detachments with each lot of convicts arriving between 1850 and 1868. They served from 1850, but the need for this force declined after convict transportation ceased in 1868, leading to reductions of their numbers and final disbandment in 1880. The need to continue to have an armed policing force in the colony was recognised however and a small number of Pensioners were selected to serve on a new force entitled the Enrolled Guard. This group continued the duties of the old force but was more of a gendarmerie. It existed from 1880 to 1887.

Between 1850 and 1868 a total of 1191 guards arrived in the colony. In the early days they were armed with "smoothbore muskets and bayonets"⁵ for the rank and file. The early arms of the Pensioners were probably Pattern 1839 and/or Pattern 1842 muskets. One Enrolled Pensioner Force Pattern 1839 smoothbore musket is known in a private collection, complete with its accoutrements, but is unmarked except for the "B broad arrow O" mark of the Board of Ordnance. Based on such a small sample however it would be premature to conclude that all early E.P.F. arms were unmarked. On one occasion in 1855 the Pensioners apparently applied to England to

upgrade their arms to the new "Minie Rifle", (the Pattern 1851), but instead received "500 or 600 percussion smoothbore muskets". These arms were accompanied by the comment "No Minie rifles are available and it will be some time before they can be spared".⁶ The large number of muskets sent is surprising considering the low number of men actually under arms in W.A. Of the 352 guards here in 1856, only 157 were required to bear arms, and by 1864 the number of armed guards had risen to only 268,⁷ so the large number of arms sent in 1855-56 probably included arms for store. The reason that no Pattern 1851 Minie Rifles were sent was that virtually all of them were needed for regular troops in the Crimea and also, by 1855 the Pattern 1853 rifled musket was well into production and issue. Two years later, in May 1857 the E.P.F. acquired six double barreled carbines complete with sword bayonets and 120 rounds of carbine ammunition from the W.A. Police Force. These carbines were for use when shipping convicts up and down the coast in boats, where their long muskets proved cumbersome.⁸ It is presumed that these carbines, if marked, would have had the ownership marks of the Police Force.

The new Pattern 1853 Enfield .577 inch calibre muzzle loading rifles began making their appearance at this time and may have accompanied the later Pensioner groups arriving here. They would have arrived in Western Australia probably beginning in the late 1850's or early 1860's but there is also strong evidence suggesting that they were sent as a single large shipment. A reasonable number of Pattern 1853 Enfields survive bearing the engraved marks of the Enrolled Pensioner Force. The mark on the brass buttplate tang is "W.A. over E.F. over number" (see Figure 1). The highest number observed on an Enfield is 260 (W. A. Museum, W73.104). E.P.F. Enfields noted have included Second and Third models of both British and Belgian manufacture. From the similarity of the engraving style of the letters and numbers observed on these Enfields it is concluded that they may have been engraved at the same time by the same hand. Whether they were engraved in England prior to shipment or engraved here at the convict establishment is unknown, but in light of evidence discovered concerning the engraving of volunteer arms, it could well have been done here. From butt numbers observed and known manning levels it is calculated that they were numbered from one to about 300. When these arms were issued they replaced the smoothbore muskets on issue in the metropolitan area but the remote country stations retained their smoothbore muskets for another twenty years. Pattern 1853 Enfield bayonets noted have been marked with stand numbers only, having no additional identifying letter code. The

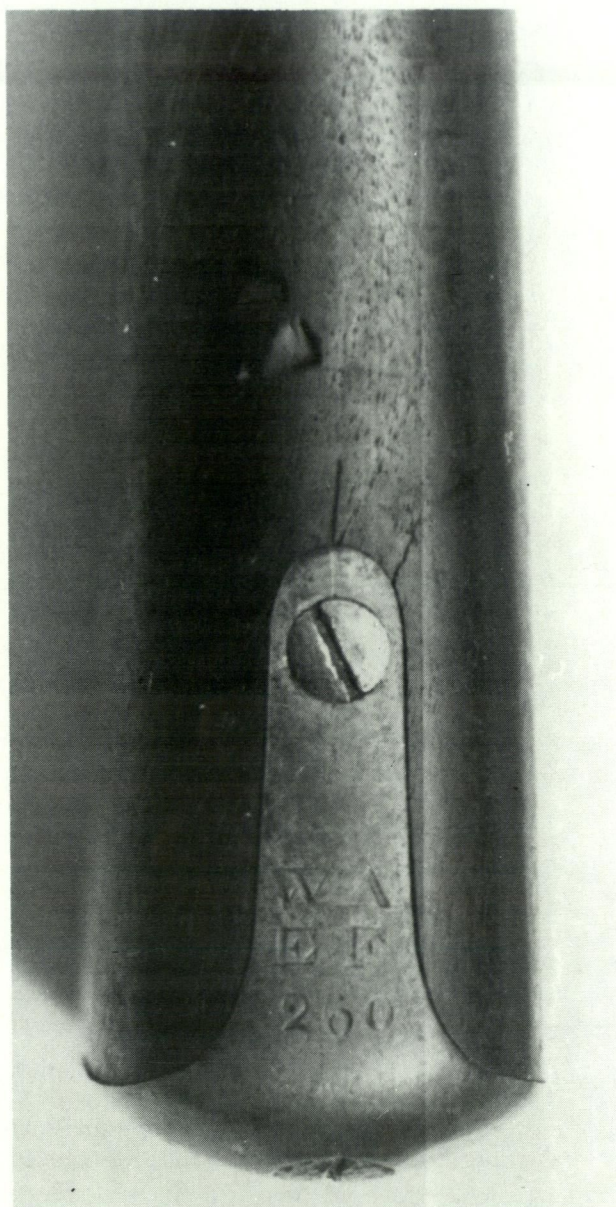


Figure 1 The engraved ownership marks of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, 1850 - 1880. This mark appears on the butt plate tang of a Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle used by them between c.1860 - 1870. (Photo D. Elford).

stand number range observed indicates that these bayonets are almost certainly W.A.E.F. bayonets. The highest number observed was 267.

The next arm used by the E.P.F. was the Snider-Enfield conversion to breech-loader. According to a despatch included in the 1876 Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament, the E.P.F. received their Snider-Enfields "early in 1870".⁹ The Snider-Enfield .577 inch calibre breech loading rifles were introduced into British service commencing in 1866,¹⁰ and were produced in both the short rifle version for sergeants and the long rifle for rank and file. All E.P.F. Enfield-Sniders noted have been the Mark II** long rifles. These arms were also marked on the brass buttplate tang

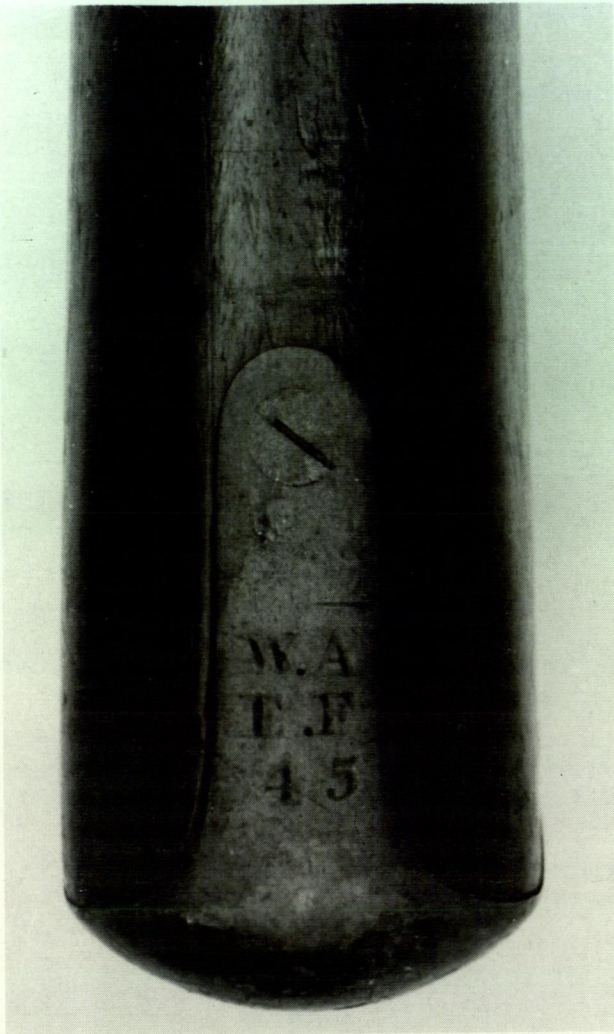


Figure 2 The ownership marks of the Enrolled Pensioner Force. These marks are on the butt plate tang of a Snider-Enfield Mk II** used by them between 1870 – 1880. (Photo D. Elford).

“W.A. over E.F. over number” (See Figure 2). They were engraved in their own series beginning again at one, with the highest number noted being 194. Again, stand numbers observed and manning levels indicate that about 250 were received.¹¹ These more modern arms were also issued where the need was greatest (i.e., Fremantle and Perth), replacing the Enfields which were then loaned to the volunteers.¹² The obsolete smoothbore muskets of the Albany, York, Northam, Greenough and other outstations were never replaced by breech-loaders. It was only the reduction of the Force in 1878 that caused these outstation arms to be recalled, and after total disbandment of the E.P.F. in 1880, they were sold, on January 3rd 1881.¹³

The successor to the Enrolled Pensioner Force was designated the Enrolled Guard and mustered 50 pensioners. The new force received E.P.F. Snider-Enfields with their marks unaltered, the remainder being loaned to the volunteers, also with

their marks intact. It is thought that, being Imperial arms on loan, these marks could not be altered by the colonial government. The Enrolled Force existed until 1887. During the years 1874 – 1887, the E.P.F. and later the Enrolled Guard never took the opportunity to modernise their arms by adopting any of the newer types such as the Martini-Henry.¹⁴

THE VOLUNTEERS

The earliest volunteers were the Swan River Volunteers of 1829 and possibly the Gentlemen Volunteers of 1830. These groups were armed with weapons of types unknown, but may have included those arms listed in the stores of the 63rd Regiment. As the colony was under the protection of Imperial troops their role was actually redundant and was therefore short lived, lasting only until about 1830 or 1831.

The Western Australian Volunteer Force proper began in 1861 and was a response to the announcement that Imperial troops would be withdrawn from garrison in Western Australia by 1863. The first two corps were raised simultaneously, being the **Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles** and the **Fremantle Volunteer Rifles**. The Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles, (also referred to in the records as the Perth Company and the Perth Rifles), consisted of 100 men who were issued initially with “Colonial muskets and accoutrements” borrowed from the Colonial Store.¹⁵ These were probably spare Pattern 1839 or 1842 muskets originally sent to the E.P.F. in 1855. On 13th September 1862 the M.V.R. were issued with “100 new Enfield muzzle-loading percussion rifles recently received as a gift from England”.¹⁶ These Enfields were Pattern 1853 long rifles, the standard British service arm, part of a shipment of “200 Enfield Rifles...received from England per the *Bride* for the use of the Volunteers”.¹⁷ From the very beginning of the volunteer movement the careful recording and issue of arms was undertaken. Barlee, the Colonial Secretary noted on the 9th August 1862:

“The arms shall be marked prior to issue in order to admit of each stand being identified...Places of Arms will have to be fitted up in Perth and Fremantle”.¹⁸

This stand of arms was definitely marked prior to issue as a letter dated August 12, 1862 from the Colonial Secretary to Lt. Col. Bruce, the Commandant of the W.A. Volunteer Force shows. It reads:

“His Excellency the Governor will feel obliged by your making all the necessary arrangements in regard to the marking and issue of the Rifles received per the “*Bride*” for the Volunteers...The Comptroller General (of Convicts) has been requested to send to Perth two convicts who can be employed in marking the arms in such manner as you may direct”.¹⁹

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

Marking and Preservation of Arms issued to
Corps of Colonial Volunteers.

Every Government rifle in the possession of a corps is to bear engraved upon the heel-plate the letter V, and the letter denoting the colony, according to the arrangement given in Appendix A.; the number of the corps should also be added, and the rifles should be numbered consecutively from one upwards, in the manner shown in Appendix B. Care is to be taken that the arms are, in all cases, marked by engraving and not by stamping.

In addition to the letter V no letters except those indicating the colony need be engraved on the rifles issued to rifle volunteer corps; on those issued to light horse, artillery, engineer, and mounted rifle volunteer corps letters denoting the various branches of the service should be added thus—

V	V	V	V
A L 2	A A 2	A E 2	A M 2
1	1	1	1

Corresponding letters and numbers are also to be engraved on the socket of the bayonet, on the button of the scabbard, on the rammer immediately under the jag, on the muzzle-stopper, and on the nipple-wrench.

APPENDIX A.

Colony.	Letters denoting Colony.
Antigua	A.
Bahama Islands	B. I.
Barbadoes	B.
Bermuda	B.
British Columbia	B. C.
British Guiana	B. G.
Canada	C.
Cape of Good Hope	C. H.
Dominica	D.
Gambia	G.
Gold Coast	G. C.
Grenada	G.
Heligoland	H.
Honduras	H.
Jamaica	J.
Montserrat	M.
Natal	N.
Nevis	N.
New Brunswick	N. B.
Newfoundland	N.
New South Wales	N. W.
New Zealand	N. Z.
Nova Scotia	N. S.
Prince Edward Island	P. E. I.
Queensland	Q. L.
St. Christopher	S. C.
St. Helena	S. H.
St. Lucia	S. L.
St. Vincent	S. V.
Sierra Leone	S. L.
South Australia	S. A.
Tasmania	T.
Tobago	T.
Trinidad	T.
Turks Islands	T. I.
Vancouver Island	V. I.
Victoria	V.
Virgin Island	V. I.
West Australia	W. A.

Figure 3 Extract from the regulations governing the marking of Volunteer arms. This War Office publication was circulated to all British colonies in 1862 and governed the marking of Imperial arms on issue in the colonies. Colonial owned arms did not necessarily have to conform to these regulations. (Photo V. McNerney).

In 1862 a War Office circular entitled "Regulations for the Marking and Preservation of Arms issued to Corps of Colonial Volunteers" was received in W.A.²⁰ (see Figure 3). It set out the regulation letter and number codes for the marking of volunteer arms such as those sent on the *Bride*.

The regulation mark for a rifle volunteer corps was the letter "V" engraved on the tang of the buttplate followed by the ownership code for the colony and then the stand number of the arm, thus, for Western Australia it was "V over WA over 1". They were to be numbered consecutively from one upwards. The arms were to be engraved, not stamped. The bayonet socket and other small accoutrements were also to be marked. From this regulation it is evident that the individual identity of a particular corps would not be recorded, as the various rifle corps would be issued with arms marked simply "V over W A over number" (see Figures 9 and 10). Only a register of the stand numbers would enable one to identify whether an arm was on issue at Perth or Fremantle. No Pattern 1853 Enfield muzzle loading rifle is known to the author with this "V over W A" marking, but in view of later correspondence from the Commandant of Volunteers it can be stated with reasonable confidence that the letters "V over W A" were used. The Commandant, in an 1864 letter discusses the marking of the next documented shipment of arms (for the Pinjarrah corps), which he desired to have marked to War Office instructions "as in the case of the Enfield Rifles".²¹ This document seems to confirm that the Enfields were marked in the prescribed manner. A possible alternative marking is discussed at the end of the section below, entitled, "Review of Marking".

The Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles were armed with Enfields and lasted ten years until 1872 when they were abruptly disbanded. The arms of this corps were immediately returned to store. One rifle, on issue to Private William Elsegood of the disbanded corps was not returned. This matter was viewed very seriously as the Commandants report of 5th July 1872 to the Commissariat shows:

"W. Elsegood has lost his Volunteer Rifle. Referred to Colonial Secretary in order that he may be pleased to cause steps to be taken for the recovery of the Rifle which can ill be spared. It appears that W. Elsegood belonged to the disbanded company of the Perth Volunteers and as yet has not handed in his Rifle"

The laconic reply from the Colonial Secretary, noted on the margin of this correspondence, was that "W. Elsegood be called upon to return the Rifle".²² It appears that by 29th November 1872 Elsegood's rifle was still missing as there is a reference in this same correspondence to "Enfield Rifle No. 234 lost or mislaid by Volunteer Wm. Elsegood of Perth Company". This man is the only rifle volunteer whose rifle stand number is known.



Figure 4 The Deane, Adams and Deane revolver-carbine issued to the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers in 1864. (Photo H.49 W.A.M. History Dept.).

As the previous corps' stand numbers are known to reach 100 only, this high number indicates that Private Elsegood's rifle was one of the E.P.F. Enfields on loan.

The Fremantle Volunteer Rifles, raised at the same time as the Perth corps, were also initially issued with "obsolete muzzle-loading muskets".²³ Their arms were also probably Pattern 1839 or 1842 muskets "from the War Office stocks held in the Colony".²⁴ These obsolete muskets were followed in August 1862 with Pattern 1853 Enfields, part of the consignment of 200 sent from England per the *Bride* and also issued to the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles.²⁵ The Fremantle corps arms were also marked according to the War Office instructions with "V over W A". This corps rose to a peak enrolment of 69 members and was disbanded in 1870.

The next two corps to be raised were mounted volunteers. The **Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers** were first in 1862, under the command of Captain Fawcett. According to Wieck, the P.M.V. were initially issued with "six revolver-carbines obtained from the guard of a prison ship" followed by 18 "revolver-carbines received in 1864".²⁶ No record of the loan of the prison arms was found but the later revolver-carbines are known to have been commercial Beaumont-Adams revolvers of 38 bore (.50 inch) marketed by Deane, Adams and Deane of Birmingham (see Figure 4). The non-detachable carbine stocks were fitted at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield and they were then sent to Western Australia.

These 18 revolvers were acquired especially for the P.M.V. by the Colonial government. They arrived in October 1864 and were sent immediately by "McLarty's team" down to Pinjarrah without first being inspected and marked. This led to an interesting series of letters from the Commandant and the Colonial Secretary. In a memo from Lt. Col. Bruce dated 5th October 1864 he states:

"I have been verbally informed that the Carbine Revolvers applied for by His Excellency the Governor

for the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers have been dispatched to Pinjarrah.

They ought to have been inspected and reported on by a Board after landing.

They should have been marked before issue arguably to War Office instructions as in the case of the Enfield Rifles. I recommend that steps be taken to engrave numbers from 1 to 18 on the several carbines with the initials W.A.V., for instance W.A.V. No. 1, W.A.V. No. 2 etc.

The engraving should be executed on the barrel, on the shifting breach (sic) chamber and on the stock, so as to guard against any of the component parts being changed."²⁷

In the event, these instructions were not properly carried out. The Prison provided a convict engraver, "Reg. 7520, C. Reichberg",²⁸ to do the work, but the specimens examined are actually marked "W.A.P.M.V. No." on the top of the barrel only (see Figure 5). It was evidently felt that as the butts of these arms were not detachable there was no danger of them "being changed", consequently none of them were marked with stand numbers (see Figure 6).

It can be seen from the regulations already referred to that the Commandant was slightly in error in his instruction to mark the arms "W.A.V. No. 1", as in fact "V over W A" was stipulated. The War Office regulations also stipulated that in the case of corps other than rifle (infantry)

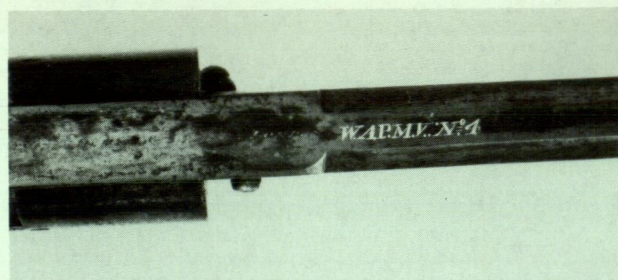


Figure 5 The ownership marks of the W.A. Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers, 1864 – 1882. This mark was engraved by a convict in 1864. (Photo V. Mackaay).



Figure 6 The roundel stamped on the butt of the Deane, Adams revolver-carbine by the Enfield manufactory. Enfield was responsible for the supply of the butts of these arms. (Photo H.49 W.A.M. History Dept.).

volunteers, such as light horse, artillery, engineers and mounted rifles, their arms were to be marked to show the particular branch of the force to which they were issued. Thus, "V over W A A over number" would be the code for the artillery. "V over W A M over number" would be the code for the mounted rifles and "V over W A E over number" the code for the Engineers etc. etc. It can be seen therefore that although not in the prescribed order, the initials "W.A.P.M.V." reflects the branch of the force the arms were issued to more accurately than the "W.A.V." requested by Lt. Col. Bruce. This instance of the marking of an individual corps identity is one of the few known cases of it occurring. "W.A.P.M.V. No." is at odds with the strict regulation guidelines and contrary to Bruce's instructions but it is reasonable to assume that Captain Fawcett's strong personality, the isolation of Pinjarra in those days and the timidity of a probationary convict all combined to produce this decidedly individual marking.

It appears that these revolver-carbines were not very satisfactory, being large and clumsy for cavalry. Capt. Fawcett began to request replacement arms as early as 1868. In a letter dated 21st October 1875, the new Commandant, Lt. Col. Harvest wrote to the Colonial Secretary concerning the P.M.V. He stated that they performed creditably but that they had always suffered from a deficiency "in every article – arms, uniform and equipment", and reported that the men had lately been issued with 12 swords and some bridles. He included a recommendation for the placing of an order for "20 pistols, 5 double rein bridles and 30

pair riding boots" and enclosed a copy of a letter from Captain Fawcett, the P.M.V.'s commander, stating the corps position regarding arms.²⁹ The letter stated:

"Our present Revolver-carbines were part of the armament of the convict ship *Hugomont* (sic) and are only serviceable for marines. They were issued in 1865 and I reported to Colonel Bruce they were unsuitable for cavalry (2nd November 1868)."³⁰

Although Wieck states (p.30) that the P.M.V. never received any other arms, it is evident from the following correspondence that this is not the case. Lt. Col. Harvest wrote again to the Colonial Secretary on 26th November 1875:

"The Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers have at present cumbersome useless pistols (that is, useless for mounted infantry) and should be provided with a few light revolving pistols".³¹

Subsequent correspondence shows that this request was eventually addressed. On 15th February 1876 Lt. Col. Harvest, Inspector of Volunteers wrote to the Colonial Secretary requesting permission to order "Twenty small Smith & Wesson No. 2 revolver pistols".³² A Crown Agent (London) letter in reply to the Colonial Secretary's order for these arms dated 18th July 1876 states:

"...the pistols cannot be supplied not being of service pattern. The Crown Agents have already ordered from Messrs Blakemore 20 S & W No. 2 Revolvers & Rods & 3500 Cartridges at a cost of fifty one pounds thirteen shillings".³³

These revolvers are identified as either Smith & Wesson .32 inch calibre rimfire, Number 2 Army revolvers, manufactured in the United States between 1861 – 1874 or Smith & Wesson .38 inch calibre centre fire, Model 2 (Baby Russian) revolvers manufactured between 1876 – 1877³⁴ (see Figures 7 and 8).

On 17th February 1877 Lt. Col. Harvest sent a receipt to the Colonial Secretary's Office, it reads "Received from Ernest Howard esq. Colonial Secretary's Office, the undermentioned for the use of the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers. 20 Pistols".³⁵ On the same day Harvest wrote to Howard enquiring about the ammunition:

"Where is the ammunition for the pistols you have sent me? The letter from the Crown Agents dated 18th July 1876 mentioned '20 revolvers and 3500 cartridges.' I have telegraphed to Capt. Fawcett to call at my office for the pistols when he comes to town and I should like to be able to give him the ammunition at the same time. It can be deposited in the magazine at the Perth Barracks."³⁶

This letter is definite proof that the P.M.V. received additional arms after the Deane, Adams revolvers, and they appear in the W.A. Returns between 1880 – 1882 which record this unit as being armed with "Light Cavalry Swords and Revolvers". As the number of men rose to 29 in the 1880 Returns,³⁷ these additional men must have

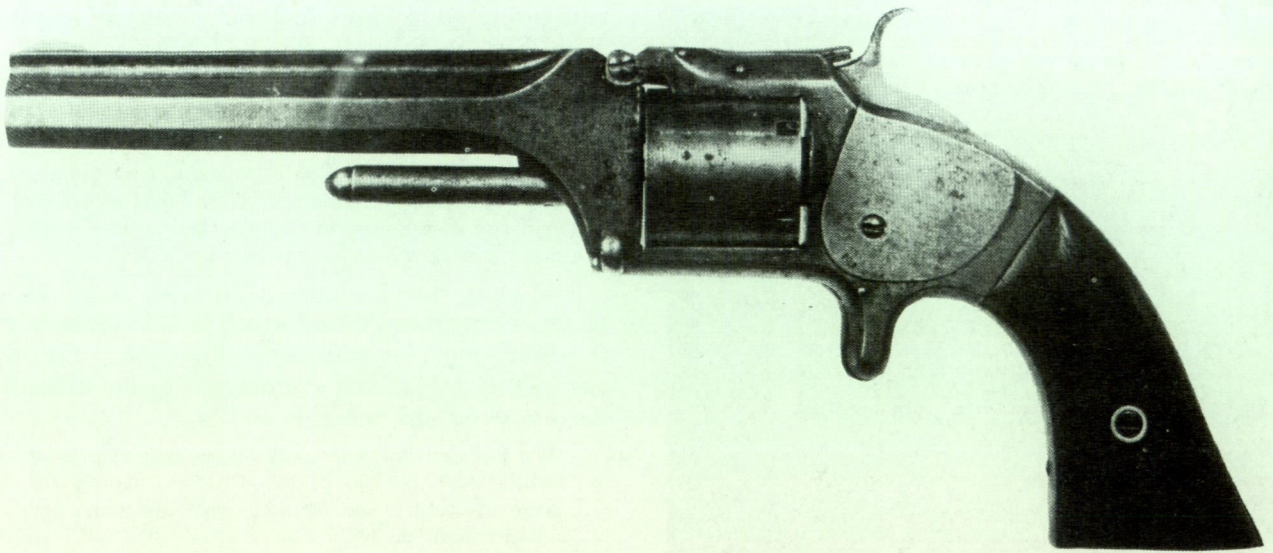


Figure 7 The Smith & Wesson No 2 Army revolver, calibre .32 rimfire.

also been armed, probably with a mixture of Deane, Adams revolver-carbines and Smith & Wesson revolvers. From its earliest days there has always been something of a question mark concerning the arms used by the P.M.V. A Return for 1870 states that 26 men were present for muster, but 40 men "could not parade for want of equipment and uniform".³⁸ Hall states that he thinks these men were armed with 1840 Constabulary carbines, Pattern 1844 Yeomanry carbines and Pagets carbines converted to the percussion system,³⁹ but as yet no evidence of such issues has been found. Numbers of these types of arms exist in collections but none are marked to the P.M.V. except the Deane, Adams revolver-

carbines. The Western Australian Museum holds two of these revolver-carbines, numbers four and five (W72.37 and W743 (see Figure 6). Number five belonged to Captain Fawcett. There is no mention in the archives regarding the marking of the Smith & Wesson pistols of 1877. This corps was disbanded in 1882. There is a record in the Colonial Secretary's Subject Register that Lt. Col. Angelo, the then Commandant, disposed of the P.M.V. arms on 28th August 1883.⁴⁰ A light cavalry sword with its blade etched "Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers" is known in a private collection.

The second mounted corps, the Union Troop of Western Australian Mounted Volunteers consisted of 33 men and lasted only from 1870 until 1872,

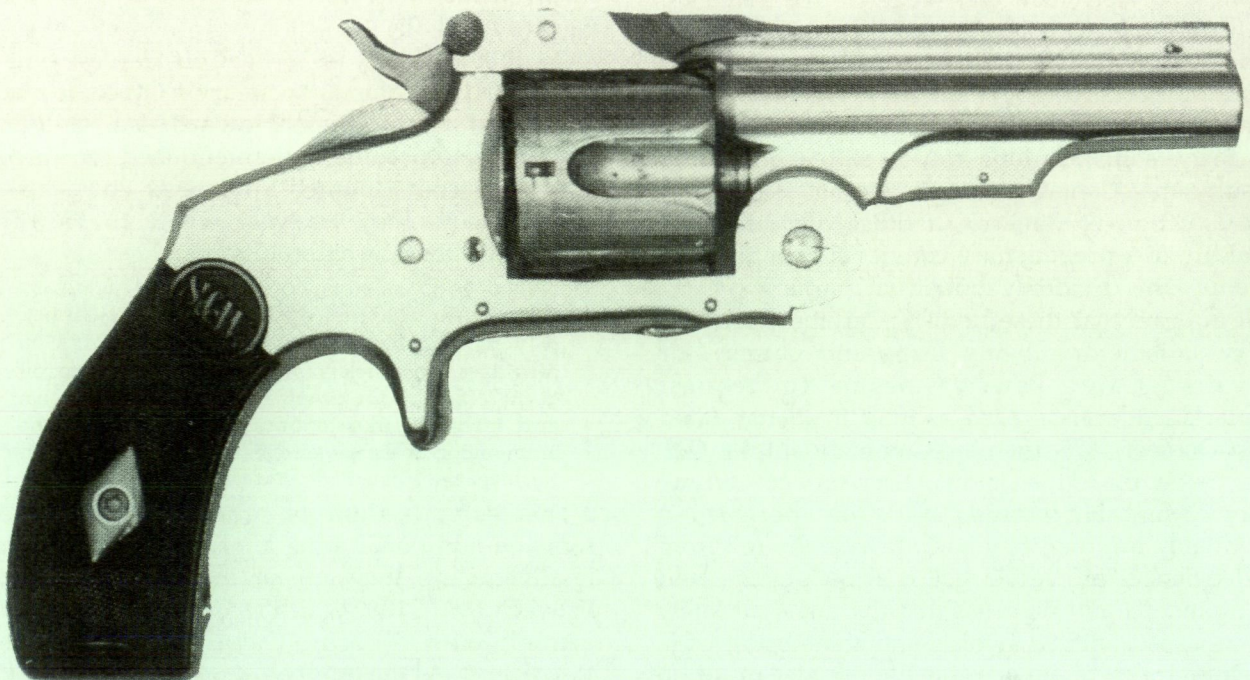


Figure 8 The Smith & Wesson No 2 revolver, calibre .38 centrefire.

their arms being unknown. In 1872 this troop became known as the **Western Australian Troop of Volunteer Horse Artillery**. Their small arms are not known with certainty but W.A. is known to have attempted to procure 30 Martini-Henry .577/.450 inch calibre carbines for them in 1872.⁴¹ In 1874 it is recorded that two copies of a book on "Artillery Carbine Exercises" were received. As the W.A.T.V.H.A. were the only artillery corps at the time it indicates the possibility that they may have been armed with artillery carbines.⁴² The following information however seems to indicate that this corps had no firearms on issue. Photographs of them taken in 1875 and 1879 show them armed only with swords,⁴³ and an 1874 confidential despatch from the Governor to England states that the V.H.A. "has the use of Snider Rifles"⁴⁴ indicating that the troop borrowed arms when required. Also, when the stores of the disbanded Enrolled Pensioner Force were transferred to the W.A. government in 1880, a voucher to the Colonial Storekeeper, J. Flynn, for ammunition used since 1878 was included. The voucher was for "6000 Rounds, Snider Ball for Captain Phillips of the Volunteer Horse Artillery",⁴⁵ It is certain therefore that the troop had access to Sniders (for target practice) at least from 1874 – 1880. Prior to 1877 the "Sniders" could only be the .577 inch Snider-Enfield rifles of the E.P.F. who at that time had the only Sniders in W.A. After 1877 Sniders were on issue to the volunteers but all are thought to have gone to the rifle corps. This corps was again re-named in 1882 as the Perth Artillery Volunteers, with a muster of 25 men and 7 recruits.⁴⁶ They are listed in a Stores Return for 1884 as having "light and heavy swords, 12 Revolvers, 5 Revolving Carbines and 4 Rifles, Enfields". The carbines and Enfields were listed as "unserviceable".⁴⁷ It is difficult to interpret these arms other than to say that there appears still to have been no official "stand" of arms, rather, an oddment of leftovers. The arms listed as unserviceable were probably so due to a lack of muzzle loading ammunition at that late date. The corps are reported in 1887 however to have been awaiting the arrival of a shipment of Martini-Henrys "expected soon".⁴⁸ If they received the Martinis they would have been the first recognizable stand of arms the corps is known to have possessed. This unit became the Number 1 (Perth) Battery, Field Artillery in 1897. They bore this name through until 1903. The arms issued in this latter period and details of their marking are unknown.

In the initial period of the Volunteer Movement 1861 to 1872, only four corps were formed and by 1869 mustered 98 N.C.O.s and men at Perth, 60 at Fremantle and 76 at Pinjarrah.⁴⁹ The last mounted corps, the Union Troop of Western Australian

Mounted Volunteers, already mentioned, was not raised until 1870, when its muster stood at 40 officers and men for a grand total of 272 W.A. volunteers.⁵⁰ By 1872 the two rifle corps had been disbanded, and the 200 Enfield M.L. rifles shared by the Metropolitan and Fremantle Rifle Volunteers were returned to store, leaving only the two mounted corps with less than 100 arms on issue to defend the colony. These totals illustrate the relatively small number of arms existing then, which is not surprising when the entire population, (including convicts) in 1867 was only 21,718.⁵¹

The next period of the Volunteer Movement began in 1872 and went through Federation until 1903. It included a major restructuring in 1893. This period began with the raising of the Perth Company of the Western Australian Rifle Volunteers in 1872, which soon became known as the **Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers**. The M.R.V. included many members of the disbanded Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles. On 14th June 1872 Captain Finnerty the Commandant of Volunteers, recommended to the Colonial Secretary that Captain Birch, the newly designated commanding officer of the M.R.V. be empowered to swear in the volunteers and issue "Enfield Rifles and accoutrements".⁵² The recommendation was accepted and consequently, on 20th June 1872, Finnerty applied to the Colonial Secretary for "100 Enfields for Captain Birch and the new company of volunteers".⁵³ Birch had actually applied to Finnerty to arm the men with breech-loaders (ie. E.P.F. Snider-Enfields) to put them "...on a par with the Pensioners when we are exercising with them"⁵⁴ but this request was not granted. Instead, as has been noted, they were armed with 100 Enfields which appear to have consisted wholly or partly of E.P.F. surplus Enfield arms loaned to the colony.⁵⁵

The M.R.V. was increasing in numbers and according to the Returns of 1874 stood at 122 men.⁵⁶ On the 26th November 1875 Lt. Col. Harvest, the Inspector of Volunteers wrote to the Colonial Secretary stating:

"The Perth Rifle Corps (M.R.V.) should I think be armed with Snider Rifles – their present arms, Enfields on loan from the Imperial Government would then be available to complete the Guildford Volunteers and supply York and Newcastle" and "The Enfields now on loan were spare in the Colony owing to the Pensioner Force being armed with Sniders".⁵⁷

The M.R.V. continued to increase and in that year had a muster of 125 men armed with Enfields.⁵⁸ Soon after, on 18th February 1876, Lt. Col. Harvest ordered new arms consisting of:

"Arms, inter., Rifles B/L Snider with C/R, Short Pat/60, Steel Barrels P/III7.
Rifles B/L inter., Snider with C/R Pat. 53, Steel Barrels, P/III Long Butts 2nd Class 131".⁵⁹

On 17th February 1877 he received per barque *Clifton*, 131 Pattern 1853 Snider .577 inch calibre long rifles and bayonets and seven Snider short rifles with sword bayonets. One chest of 20 long rifles was water damaged and was sold at auction on 11th April 1877, leaving Harvest with 111 long and seven short Sniders which he intended issuing "immediately" to the M.R.V.⁶⁰ Harvest was disappointed as to the quantity of Sniders he could get for his Defence Estimate vote and in September 1876, seven months after the Sniders were ordered, sought to have an additional 24 Sniders purchased from the War Office in London at a reduced rate.⁶¹ He received these latter arms in mid 1877, some months after the original shipment arrived. Instead of the 24 calculated for in the second order, the quantity sent per the *Eulie* was three chests containing "33 Snider-Enfield Rifles, Steel Barrels, Mark III, Short butt, 2nd Class". Harvest wrote in the margin of the shipping advice "24 requested 15 September 1876, 33 sent – so much the better as a case of the previous lot is lost to us".⁶² The M.R.V. were issued some of these 33 rifles in addition to the original 118 long and short Sniders received per the *Clifton*.⁶³

The question of marking the arms arose immediately upon receipt of the *Clifton* lot of Sniders, with Harvest writing to the Colonial Secretary on 17th February 1877.

"Propose to receive rifles for Perth Rifle Volunteers (M.R.V.) as soon as landed from *Clifton*, should be engraved according to regulations before issue to corps. Suggest the engraver be furnished from the Convict Establishment to execute the work in the armoury adjoining the guard in No. 2 Pensioner Barracks at Fremantle".⁶⁴

On the same date Harvest wrote again to the Colonial Secretary's Office seeking advice as to the wishes of the Governor regarding the marking of the arms, whether they should be engraved

"from 1 throughout with 'M.R.V.' Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers, for whom the arms are immediately intended or 'W.A.V.' Western Australian Volunteers...or issued without marks".⁶⁵

The Colonial Secretary's Office commented on 22nd February 1877:

"I also agree with Col. Harvest as to the engraving of the sound rifles in that these be numbered throughout, with the letters 'W.A.V.' which I think would be better than 'M.R.V.' but on this point I am willing to defer to Col. Harvest's opinion if he considers the latter initials preferable. The Engineers can I think be sent to Perth to do the work under Col. Harvest's superintendence".⁶⁶

The location where the engraving was to be done and the personnel to do the work were settled in a letter from Lt. Col. Harvest to Mr. Howard of the Colonial Secretary's Office on 16th March 1877. In response to a delay in the supply of engraving tools made at the Fremantle Prison, Harvest wrote:

"There is some difficulty about certain tools and chisels – required by Prisoner Davis for engraving the Volunteers Arms he is at work on...will you kindly have this matter put right and the tools sent up? This engraving is slow work and we can't afford the delay of sending to Fremantle".⁶⁷

From this correspondence much is again clarified about the engraving of colonial arms, except which letters were eventually decided upon. In view of the reference in Harvest's letter to the engraving of the arms "according to regulations" and his preference for "W.A.V.", it is reasonable to conclude that they were indeed engraved that way rather than "M.R.V.". This conclusion is supported by the fact that the latter letters are unknown on any Western Australian Snider arm at this time, while the regulation "V over W A over number" is known on four Western Australian Snider arms. (see Figure 9). These are a Pattern 1860 Snider short rifle Mark III engraved on the *wood* of the butt "V over W.A. over 5 over P". (W. A. Museum W85.22) and a Snider long rifle Mark III engraved on the brass buttplate tang "V over W A over 50 over P" (W.A. Museum W73.91). The third and fourth rifles, in private collections, are also Snider long rifles Mark III, marked respectively, "V over W A over 77 over P" and "V over W A over 99 over P" on the brass buttplate tangs (see Figure 10). The reason the short rifle is engraved on the wood rather than the buttplate is possibly explained by the fact that the buttplate of the short rifle is case-hardened iron rather than soft brass and may have been too hard for the homemade engraving tools made in the Convict Establishment workshops. The meaning of the letter "P" is unknown but may indicate issue to the Perth company of the W.A. Volunteers or "Purchase", to signify colonially purchased arms rather than Imperial arms on loan. These "V over WA" marks conform to the regulations of 1862, and the Mark (III) of these arms conforms to the 1877 order. It is interesting to note that Snider rifle "V over W A over 99 over P", still has the correct slotted, squared tip cleaning rod present. Although from another rifle, it is from the same 1877 group of 151 Snider Mark IIIs arriving in two batches in that year. The rod is marked across the shaft, just below the tip, "V over 150", indicating that the small accoutrements also were marked according to regulations. Several Pattern 1853 Enfield bayonets have been noted with this marking, such as "V over 16", which is in the W.A. Museum collection (W 1328).

The 1881 Returns show the M.R.V. as being armed with 140 Sniders,⁶⁸ confirming that they were issued most of the additional 33 Sniders received later in 1877. Correspondence confirms that Prisoner Davis, now free, also engraved these second order Sniders.⁶⁹ In a Minute dated 15th January 1884, this corps is listed as having in its

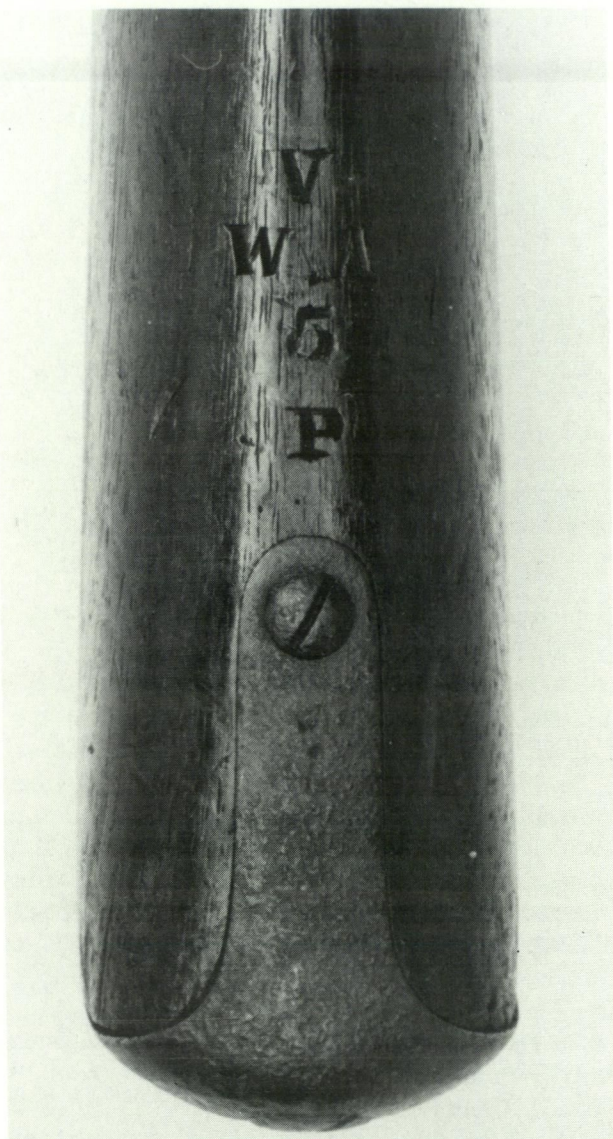


Figure 9 The ownership marks of the W.A. Volunteers, 1862 – c.1882. This mark was engraved on the butt plate tang of Enfield and Snider long rifles. The short rifles of the sergeants, having hard iron butt plates were engraved on the wood instead. The "P" is thought to indicate the Perth company of the Volunteers or "Purchase", to distinguish these arms as colonial government property, rather than Imperial arms on loan. (Photo D. Elford).

charge in store 130 long Snider rifles and six short Snider rifles. It is noted that "Long rifle number 40 is deficient its bayonet"⁷⁰, indicating again that in accordance with the regulations of 1862, the bayonets were marked to the rifle.

In the Returns to 31st December 1884 this corps is listed as having 120 men armed with Martini-Henry .577/.450 inch rifles.⁷¹ These Martini-Henrys were ordered on 13th August 1883. They were listed as:

"100 Rifles, B.L. with Cleaning Rods, Martini-Henry, long butts for Rank and File.

10 ditto for Sergeants.
100 bayonets, common.
10 sword bayonets for Sergeants".⁷²

The rifles were described as "latest Pattern" (Mk III), "for the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers". The M.R.V. are recorded as receiving an additional 30 Martini-Henrys in 1886, taking their total to at least 140 stand.⁷³ The markings of two of the M.R.V. Martini-Henrys are known. One is a Mark II, dated 1880, and is marked, (upside down), on the left side of the butt "M R V over 96". The stand number, "96", in large numerals, appears a second time on the opposite (right) side of the butt (see Figures 11 and 12). The second rifle, in poor condition, is an Enfield Mark I dated 1873, converted to become a Mark II. The butt is marked in an identical way to the rifle just described, except that the butt mark is "M R V over 8".⁷⁴ A number of W.A. issue Pattern 1876 socket bayonets, which originally accompanied these rifles have been examined, and they and some of their scabbards have been noted as being marked with stand numbers, but without identifying letters. All bayonets were numbered, but only a small number of the scabbard studs were. The highest number noted on a bayonet was 118, while the highest

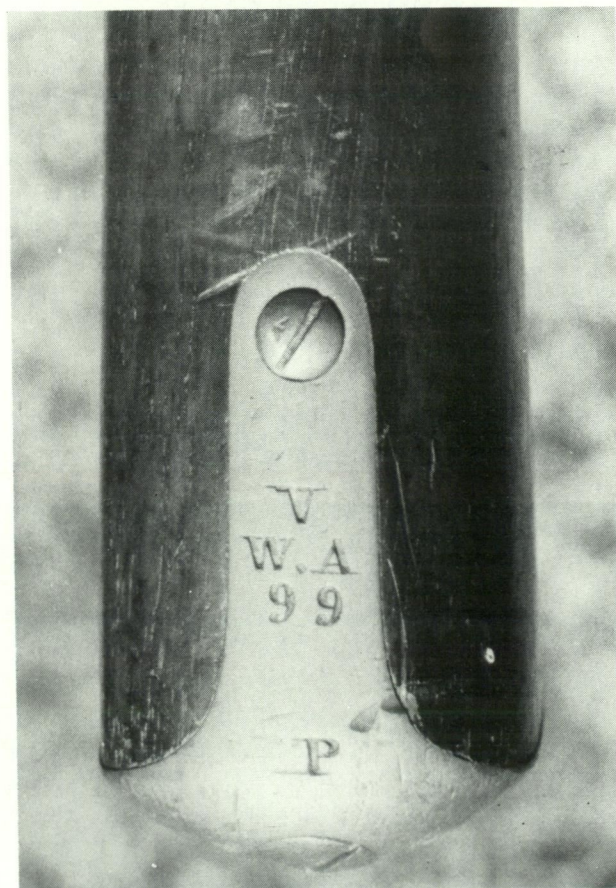


Figure 10 The ownership marks of the W.A. Volunteers. This long Snider Mark III was one of a lot shipped to W.A. in 1877. These arms were engraved by a convict. (Photo Author).

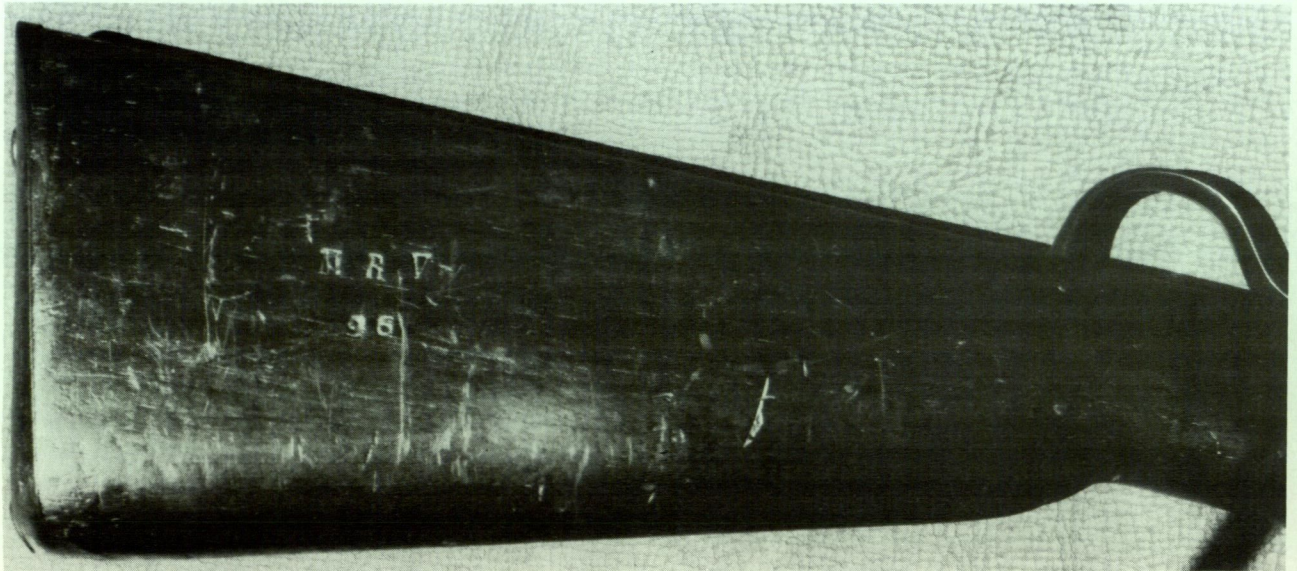


Figure 11 The ownership marks of the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers, stamped into the left side of the butt of a Martini-Henry rifle, Mark II. The initials are "M R V over 96". (Photo Author).

scabbard number was 23. Like the Pattern 1853 Enfield and Snider bayonets, the Martini-Henry bayonet is impossible to allocate to a corps unless an arms register is found.

In 1895, as A and B companies of the 1st Infantry Volunteer Regiment, the corps numbered only 65 men who were armed with the new Martini-Metford .303 inch rifles.⁷⁵ The Martini-Metfords issued to this unit were part of 700 Martini-Metford Mark I (W.A. Pattern) rifles which were ordered in 1893 and arrived in July–August 1895 per the *S.S. Nairnshire*.⁷⁶ These arms fixed the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet and were simply marked "W A over number" on the right side of the butt, omitting the prefix "V", the letters and numbers being separated by a thin horizontal line (see Figure

13). The rifle in Figure 13 is from the W.A. Museum Collection (T298).

This corps was absorbed by the Western Australian Infantry Brigade as the 1st Battalion in 1900. They were then issued with 229 of the 1000 Magazine Lee-Speed .303 inch repeating rifles ordered and received in 1900.⁷⁷ The Lee-Speeds also fixed the Pattern 1888 bayonet and were marked on the butt simply "W A over number" (see Figure 14).

The **Fremantle Rifle Volunteers** were established in 1872 under Captain Sutherland. A letter from Lt. Col. Harvest to the Colonial Secretary on 18th March 1873 states that part of their accoutrements were made in the Convict Establishment at Fremantle.⁷⁸ Again, on the 19th Harvest writes to

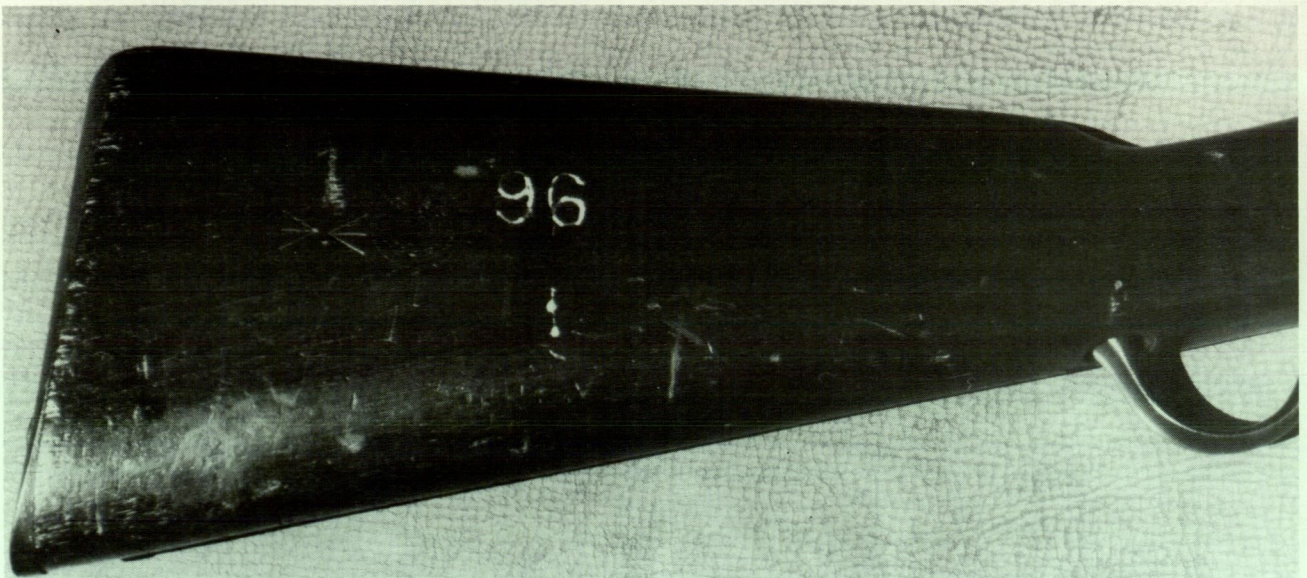


Figure 12 The stand number "96", is repeated in large numerals on the right side of the butt of the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers Martini-Henry Mark II, illustrated in Figure 11. (Photo Author).

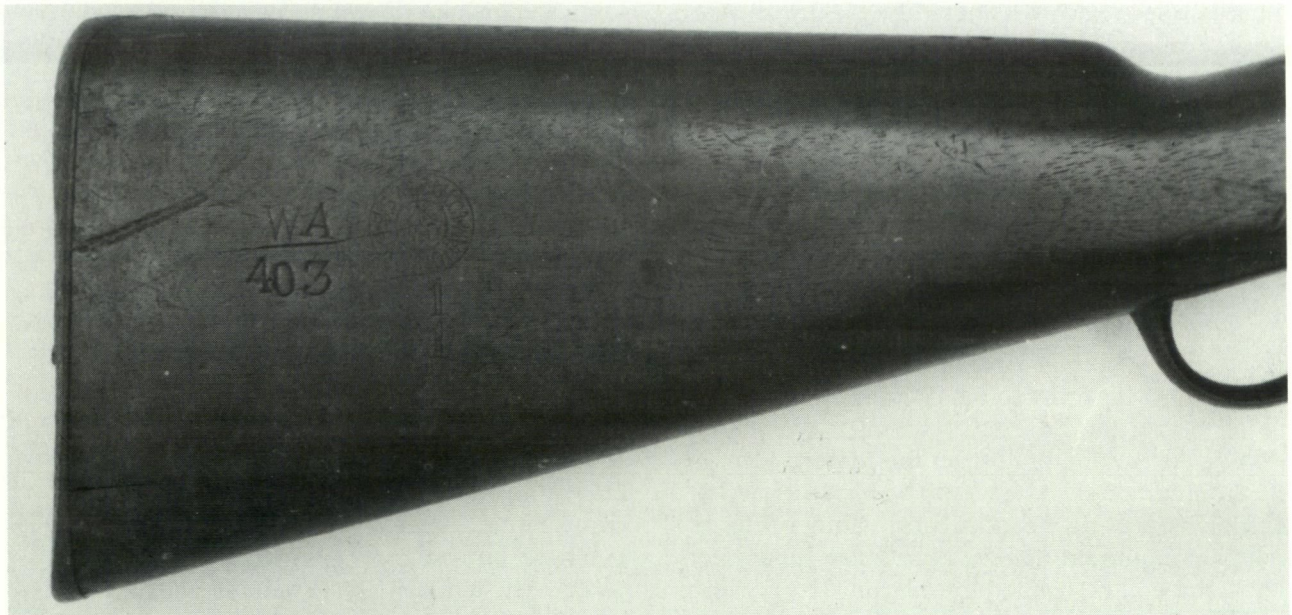


Figure 13 The ownership marks of the W.A. Defence Force, 1893 – 1903. The initials “W A” are stamped with individual punches on the right side of the butt of a Martini-Metford Mark I rifle, W.A. Pattern. (Photo D. Elford).

the Colonial Secretary regarding his inspection of the new Fremantle corps which mustered 53 NCOs and men (not counting 19 unavoidably absent from parade). They were imperfectly equipped, being short of about 40 pouches and some belts which could not be made at the Prison due to shortage of material. Regarding arms Harvest wrote:

“They have at present 50 Enfield Rifles and some old smooth-bore muskets I lent them from the Pensioner Store – they ought to be armed with rifles of one uniform pattern – I recommend that 72 Stand of

Martini-Henry long Rifle / steel barrel / complete with Bayonets etc., be procured for them as speedily as possible”.⁷⁹

In a marginal note, Harvest clarifies the “72 Stand” as “68 Long for the Rank and File and 4 Short for Sergeants”, which, since the Martini-Henry did not have a short model, betrays Harvests unfamiliarity with the new arm. He continues with an order for “12,000 ball and 3000 Blank Rds” of ammunition for the Martini-Henrys. Included with this order is a discussion of the



Figure 14 The ownership marks of the W.A. Defence Force, 1900 – 1903. This mark is stamped on the right side of the butt of a Magazine Lee-Speed rifle. Note the mismatched letter punches used. (Photo D. Stein).

differing price structures offered by the British War Office. Apparently stores ordered under "No. 1 Balance Sheet" were a different price from those stores purchased under "No. 2 Balance Sheet", and as Martini-Henry ammunition was about 10 shillings per 1000 more expensive than Snider ammunition, the purchase of it under the most generous balance sheet should be investigated – the new Martini-Henry and Snider rifles costing about the same. Harvest probably sowed the seeds of later confusion over the supply of the Martini-Henry rifles and their ammunition at this time, as he concluded his order to the Colonial Secretary by stating that if the British Government would not concede any saving of cost on the Martini-Henrys and ammunition then he would be happy to accept Sniders instead. He meant of course Snider rifles as well as ammunition, but the War Office apparently concluded that he wanted the Martini-Henry rifles but the cheaper ammunition, which was Snider ammunition. This led to the Martini-Henrys being issued from the Tower in August 1873⁸⁰ and being received and issued in September 1874. Upon opening the ammunition crates they were found to contain Snider ammunition. Harvest complained in a letter to the Colonial Secretary which led to some somewhat strained correspondence between Western Australia and London. The Snider ammunition was transferred to the Enrolled Pensioner Force and on 22nd September 1874 approval was given to order 2000 rounds of Martini-Henry Ball ammunition and 2000 rounds of Blank ammunition from Melbourne "as a matter of urgency".⁸¹ These Martini-Henrys appear on the 1875 Returns where "82" are listed on issue to the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers, the extra ten rifles probably being Snider-Enfields.⁸² The *Inquirer* newspaper reported in May the following year that at a shoot, the F.R.V. would use "Sniders instead of Martini-Henrys"⁸³ indicating that they still had no ammunition eight months later. The Martini-Henry rifles would have been Mark I, (First or Second Pattern) arms,⁸⁴ but none have been noted. No mention of their marking was found. Interestingly, Harvest in 1876 offered these Martini-Henrys as a swap to the Pensioner "Day Force" in exchange for their Sniders, but London declined to permit it.⁸⁵ Harvest was attempting to regain uniformity of ammunition supplies (and bayonets) by having one pattern of service arm. Also, the greater number of secondhand Sniders to be had by swapping off the almost new and therefore more expensive Martinis would have allowed him to make up a shortfall he knew would occur when the order of Sniders per *Clifton* arrived in 1877. (Due to the small budget allowed him by the W.A. government the number of Sniders ordered was less than the number actually required for the volunteers). Instead of the swap the War Department agreed to sell W.A.

some Sniders at a discount. These discounted arms were the 33 Sniders per the *Eulic* in 1877. No other request for arms or ammunition is known until 1881 when a note stating "Issue 1200 rounds, Martini-Henry Ball ammunition to Capt. Sutherland"⁸⁶ was sent to the Enrolled Guard storekeeper Sgt. McCarthy, followed soon after by another which stated "Hand over to Captain Sutherland, commander of the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers, 20 Snider Rifles".⁸⁷ Increased enrolments had outstripped the Martini-Henrys, necessitating the issue of Sniders to supplement them. To redress the problem of two different patterns of arms being on issue in the corps about 28 Martini-Henry rifles were purchased "for the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers" in 1881.⁸⁸ No specific requisition document was found for this additional purchase but it is obvious from a Minute paper dated 15th January 1884 that this corps received the additional Martinis. Describing all the arms held by the F.R.V. as at 1st January 1884 it lists, "100 Martini-Henry Rifles, 100 bayonets", an increase of 28 Martini-Henrys since 1874. There is also a note stating that there were "50 Sniders (Converted Enfields), 47 Long and three Short in store".⁸⁹ These Snider-Enfields were obviously the standby arms already mentioned in the voucher of 1881 which were on loan from the E.P.F. The Commandants Report for 1885-86 shows that 20 additional Martini-Henrys were issued to the F.R.V. in 1886, bringing the total to 120 stand.⁹⁰ He also stated that "The rifles in possession of the Fremantle Corps are nearly all greatly in need of browning and general looking over". These rifles, most of which had been in service since 1874 were the oldest Martinis in the colony. Consequently on 8th August 1887 the Commandant ordered and received in the same year, spare parts for Martini-Henrys Marks I, II, III⁹¹ with which the arms of the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers, (and others), were serviced. This corps was armed with Martini-Henry rifles until 1895 when as C and D companies of the 1st Infantry Volunteer Regiment they were issued with 81 Martini-Metford Mark I rifles. By 1899 they numbered 216 men having been reorganised and increased by the addition of F company, still armed with Martini-Metfords. In 1900 this corps was absorbed into the Western Australian Infantry Brigade becoming the 2nd Battalion, when they were issued with 249 Magazine Lee-Speed rifles.⁹²

The **Guildford Rifle Volunteers** were a detachment of the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers from 1872-73 until 1874 when they officially became the Guildford Rifle Volunteers in their own right. For the first few years "only very obsolete rifles were available".⁹³ They were partially armed with Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Enfields in 1874, and in 1877 when the M.R.V. rearmed with

Sniders, the Guildford corps completed their arming with more Enfields which then became available.⁹⁴ Some of these Enfields were surplus E.P.F. arms. The Returns of 1875 show that it was armed with 49 Enfields rising to 53 in 1878.⁹⁵ A letter from Lt. Col. Harvest to Governor Ord dated 3rd May 1878 discusses the issue of Snider rifles surplus to the reduced Pensioner Force. Harvest wrote seeking the Governors signature to allow him to:

"...immediately arm the Geraldton and Guildford Volunteers with Snider Rifles and thus the entire Rifle Volunteer Force in the Colony will be completely armed with breechloaders".⁹⁶

The strength of the corps in 1878 was 53 and the number of Sniders would have matched this figure. Six years later a Minute of 1st January 1884 confirms this fact as it shows the corps had the following arms in store. "19 Rifles, Snider, Long, one Short. 31 Rifles, Snider, Converted, Long, Two Short. 11 Rifles, Enfield, Pattern 1853 (used for recruit drill)".⁹⁷ These documents confirm that Lt. Col. Harvest was successful in transferring the E.P.F. Snider-Enfields to the volunteer corps, they being first recorded in the Returns of 1880. The Minute of 1884 also illustrates the care taken in the records to separate the colonial purchased Sniders from the Snider-Enfield conversions on loan from the E.P.F. (ie. the Imperial government). Between 1878 - 1886 the number of Sniders on issue to Guildford fluctuated, but reached its highest number in 1882 when 76 were on issue.⁹⁸

This corps is recorded in the Commandants Report of 1886-87 as being issued with 60 Martini-

Henry rifles, with another 20 being supplied in 1887-88.⁹⁹ This gave a total of 80 Martini-Henrys on issue, but as the corps strength continued to rise to 133 (as at 31st December 1887),¹⁰⁰ the 53 Sniders listed in the Minute of 1884 were again pressed into service and remained on issue until eventually replaced by Martini-Metford rifles in 1895. The corps declined in numbers from about 1890 and in 1893 became E and F companies of the 1st Infantry Volunteer Regiment. In 1895, the Returns show 104 Martini-Metfords on issue. By 1898 the numbers had fallen to 45. In 1900 this corps was absorbed by the Western Australian Infantry Brigade when it became A company of the 3rd Battalion. At this time it was issued with 59 Lee-Speed Rifles.¹⁰¹

The **Geraldton Rifle Volunteers** officially began in 1877¹⁰² with 53 men. Wieck states that "they were armed with very obsolete rifles which were not replaced until years later".¹⁰³ The records show that initially they were armed with Enfields issued from the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers in 1877, as in that year a charge of two pounds five shillings was debited to the M. R. V. for "Cleaning Enfields, Geraldton". It appears that the Geraldton corps did not retain their Enfields long as soon after the Harvest letter of 3rd May 1878, in which this corps was earmarked as one of two designated to receive surplus E.P.F. Sniders, a cost of two pounds ten shillings was debited to the Geraldton corps on 30th August 1878, for "Marking Arms".¹⁰⁴ It is uncertain which arms the debit refers to but taken together with the Harvest letter, the two references indicate that in 1878-79 this corps may have been issued some of the 33 new Sniders which arrived



Figure 15 The ownership marks of the W.A. Defence Force, 1898 - 1903. This mark, "W A / 1043 / D", is on the right side of the butt of a Martini-Enfield Mark I, W.A. Pattern rifle. These arms were issued almost exclusively to the W.A. Mounted Infantry between 1899 - 1901. (Photo D. Elford).

on the *Eulie* in mid 1877 as well as the surplus Enrolled Pensioner Force arms selected by Harvest. Only the new arms would have required marking, the E.P.F. arms being Imperial arms on loan, are thought prohibited from alteration. Perhaps these 1877 "second order" arms are those referred to in the debit charge, as the corps is listed as having 52 Sniders on issue in 1880.¹⁰⁵ A Minute dated 15th January 1884 lists the G.R.V. as having "46 Long Snider rifles, four Short Snider rifles and 50 lots of accoutrements". These accoutrements are described as "Old and unfit for daylight Parade".¹⁰⁶

The Commandants Report for 1886 shows that the Geraldton Rifle Volunteers were armed with 60 Martini-Henry rifles in that year.¹⁰⁷ In 1896 the G.R.V. were issued with 70 Martini-Metford rifles and in 1898 they were issued with 89 Martini-Enfields,¹⁰⁸ the Martini-Metfords presumably being re-issued to another corps, most likely including their mounted detachment. The Martini-Enfields were Mark I W.A. Pattern rifles, part of a lot ordered in 1897 and received in 1898.¹⁰⁹ These arms were marked on the butt "W A over number", possibly including the suffix "D" (see Figure 15). The arm in Figure 15 is from the W.A. Army Museum Collection (Item 082.90).

The G.R.V. are the only volunteer rifle corps known to have been issued any of these imported

Martini-Enfields, which can be seen in a photograph in Trotter⁷⁶, (p. 302). These W.A. Pattern Martini-Enfield rifles are considered unique among Australian colonial Martini-Enfield rifles as they alone fixed the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet. With the exception of a number of Queensland arms set up to take a side-mounted sword bayonet, all other Australian Martini-Enfield rifles took the Pattern 1895 socket bayonet, (see Figure 16). The G.R.V. retained these arms even after they became B company, 3rd Battalion, Western Australian Infantry Brigade in 1900.

In 1884, the Geraldton corps raised a detachment at Northampton. It was a half-company known as the **Northampton Rifle Volunteers**. They were armed with 40 stand of Sniders handed down to them by the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers when this latter corps was issued with new Martini-Henrys. They retained these Sniders until replaced by 40 Martini-Henrys in 1887.¹¹⁰ The Northampton Rifle Volunteers had become totally inefficient by 1899 and were disbanded that year.

The **Wellington Mounted Volunteers** were raised in 1877. It is recorded that "rifles" were shipped to Bunbury for them on 16th December 1878,¹¹¹ and they were reported as having used Enfield rifles in a "hot and windy" shooting match later in the month.¹¹² These rifles were probably not

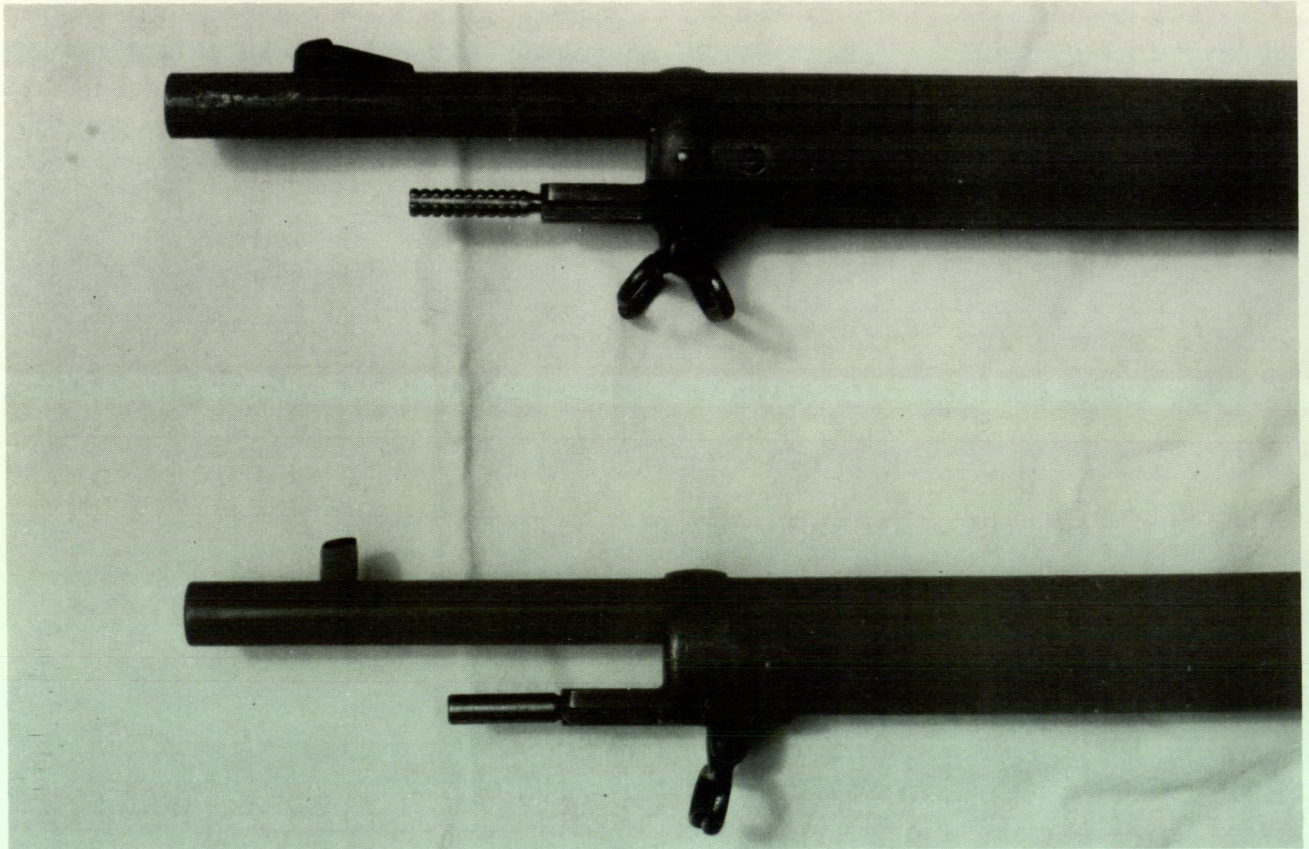


Figure 16 The distinctive nose cap feature which makes the W.A. issue Martini-Enfield rifles unique. These rifles are the only Australian Martini-Enfield rifles which fix the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet. The upper rifle is the Martini-Metford Mark I, W.A. Pattern, the first W.A. service rifle to fix the Pattern 1888, the lower is the Martini-Enfield Mark I, W.A. Pattern. (Photo R. Sinclair).

the issue arms of the corps but rather target practice arms. Wieck states that they were armed with revolver-carbines like the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers,¹¹³ but the only records found show that they are recorded as being issued with "Swords and Belts" and "30 Pistols" in 1878.¹¹⁴ The Returns of 1880 – 1882 describe their arms as "Light Cavalry Swords and Revolvers". One of their swords, No. 34, is in the W. A. Museum Collection (W1182). The blade is etched with their name. They were disbanded in 1882, as, like the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers, they could only muster eight troopers that year. In a report on their disbandment the Commandant, Colonel Angelo, recommended that their commander, Captain Lovegrove and his men be permitted to "keep their rifles" on the understanding they started a rifle club at Bunbury. The request was granted.¹¹⁵

The **Albany Rifle Volunteers**, raised in 1878, were armed initially with 52 Pattern 1853 Enfield muzzle-loading rifles shipped from Perth per the *Rob Roy* on 23rd August 1878.¹¹⁶ It seems these Enfields were soon replaced by Sniders. In December 1879, a requisition was sent to acquire "50 Rifles, B.L. Snider. 40 Long butts, 10 Short butts, with bayonets and sword bayonets – for Albany Rifle Volunteers".¹¹⁷ These rifles arrived in 1880 and are shown on the Returns between 1880 – 1885. They appear in a photograph in Grant, (p. 29). The Commandant was making arrangements for ordering Martini-Henry arms for this corps when they were disbanded in early 1885.¹¹⁸ The disbanded corps was replaced two months later in May 1885 by the **Albany Defence Rifles**. Plans were finalized to requisition a quantity of new Martini-Henry rifles for them in 1885, the Commandant desiring particularly that the A.D.R. "...be supplied with the best Rifle".¹¹⁹ These rifles were issued in 1886. One of these Albany Defence Rifles Martini-Henrys survives in the W.A. Museum Collection (W535). It appears to be branded on the *left* side of the butt "A D R over 8" (see Figure 17). The use of the left side of the butt and branding have been noted as a standard alternative to engraving on the buttplate tang. This alternative was in British military usage at least in the first half of the nineteenth century.¹²⁰

This rifle is one of only three specimens of W.A. Martini-Henrys known to have survived. It is the third volunteer arm, (together with the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers revolver-carbine and the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers Martini-Henry), known to have an individual corps mark. The 1886 Returns show the Albany Defence Rifles as being issued with 75 Martini-Henry rifles, part of 80 apportioned to Albany out of a large order of 250 received in Perth in that year.¹²¹ Again, this corps had to be disbanded in 1888 "and its arms returned to store".¹²² It was replaced by the **Plantagenet Rifle**

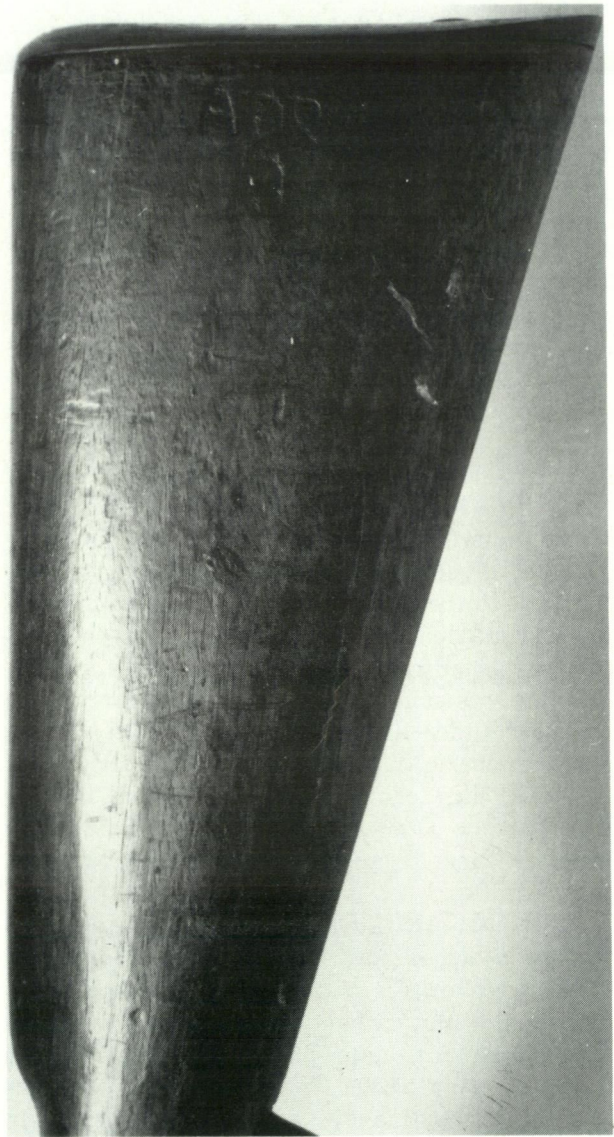


Figure 17 The ownership marks of the Albany Defence Rifles, 1885 – 1888. This mark is on the left side of the butt of a Martini-Henry Mark III rifle. It is thought to have been put on in Albany, indicating that some corps may have marked their own arms. (Photo D. Elford).

Volunteers. This corps received 62 of the Martini-Henrys of their predecessors which are recorded in the Returns of 1889.¹²³ The Returns of 1890 show this corps as being issued with 46 Martini-Henrys which they kept until 1895.¹²⁴ In 1896 they were issued with 48 Martini-Metfords,¹²⁵ used by them for musketry and drill and also in their capacity as relief gunners for the Albany coast defence artillery (Permanent Force). They were disbanded in 1897. Many members of the Plantagenet Rifle Volunteers became members of a new volunteer corps raised in 1899, the Albany Volunteer Garrison Artillery. These men also assisted with the manning of the coastal defence artillery, having 66 men by 1900.¹²⁶ Nothing was found concerning their firearms other

than a report in 1901 which stated that their "rifles" had arrived by train.¹²⁷

The **York Rifle Volunteers** were raised in 1878, after an extended period of uncertainty beset with financial and other problems. Wieck says in the preliminary stages of their establishment, "tentative approval was given for the loan of the muskets".¹²⁸ In 1878 or 1879 they evidently received the handed down Enfields of the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers as initially proposed by Harvest in his letter of November 1875, because in the 1879 Returns they are armed with 41 Enfields. In 1884 their stores are listed as including "18 Muskets. 55 Rifles, Enfield, and 13 Rifles, Snider".¹²⁹ The Returns of 1885 list them with 33 Sniders, part of about 50 they received in 1884 from the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers when this latter corps received its new Martini-Henrys.¹³⁰ They disbanded in 1886 before being issued with any of the Martini-Henrys. After a hiatus of seven years the **York Infantry Volunteers** were raised in 1893. They are shown in the 1893 Returns as being armed with 67 Snider Rifles,¹³¹ and in 1895 they were armed with 70 Martini-Metford rifles. They were re-named the York Infantry in 1899 and in 1900 they became D Company, 3rd Battalion, W.A. Infantry Brigade still armed with 60 Martini-Metford rifles.¹³²

The **Naval Artillery Volunteers** as they were known were raised as the Fremantle Naval Artillery Volunteers in 1879. They were reported to be armed with "carbines". Halls states that they were issued with Snider-Enfield two band Artillery Carbines in the 1880's,¹³³ while Skennerton states that the Snider-Enfield Naval Rifle was issued in Western Australia "to naval units".¹³⁴ The records show that on 1st December 1879 a requisition was forwarded to England to acquire "25 Carbines or Rifles, Naval Pattern 1858, Complete with sword bayonets, scabbards etc.". ¹³⁵ These naval rifles, which are very similar to the army short rifle, were received and were issued. The corps is listed in the Commandants 1881 Report as being armed with "Snider Rifle, 58. Naval Pattern."¹³⁶ This list is clarified further in 1884 when the corps is recorded as having in store "25 Rifles, Naval, 25 Cutlass bayonets",¹³⁷ and interestingly, under "Old Stores" were listed "25 Percussion Muskets with bayonets". This latter notation indicates that these old muskets and bayonets were issued at the time of raising and were their issue arms until replaced by the Sniders. Other archival evidence of arms which was found for this corps states that on 10th May 1881, Lt. Forsyth purchased four Sergeants swords at Lionel Samson's auction of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard stores. On the 12th May, Lt. Forsyth applied to the authorities to have the cost waived as he intended that they be used by the F.N.A.V. (Fremantle Naval Artillery Volunteers).¹³⁸

A Naval sword bearing his name and "Fremantle N.A.V." is in the W.A. Museum Collection (W75.50). In 1888 this corps which had been run on naval lines, was re-titled the **Fremantle Artillery Volunteers**, re-issued with army uniforms¹³⁹ and thenceforth run on army lines. On 30th May 1891 they were issued Martini-Henry rifles.¹⁴⁰ They became the No. 2 (Fremantle) Battery, Field Artillery in 1897. In 1898, according to Halls they were issued with "Martini-Enfield Carbines" and in 1900 received "Martini-Enfield Artillery Carbines Mark I".¹⁴¹ Skennerton states that "small numbers" of Martini-Enfield Artillery Carbines Mark I were used in Western Australia.¹⁴² No arms of the types described have been noted by the author as yet. The markings of all of these arms are also unknown. According to the 1900 Returns this unit entered the Commonwealth with 79 men on the roll.

The **Bunbury Rifle Volunteers** were raised in 1892 and according to the Returns of 1893 - 1894 were issued with 45 Martini-Henry rifles.¹⁴³ They received 74 Martini-Metfords in 1896 rising to 237 in 1900. This large issue of rifles included 133 for the four Divisions of the South-west Mounted Infantry, raised in that year. A contemporary newspaper account states that the Mounted Rifles had been armed with "...antiquated Snider rifles".¹⁴⁴ The B.R.V. became C Company, 3rd Battalion, W.A. Infantry Brigade on 3rd September 1900.¹⁴⁵

The **Perth Mounted Rifle Volunteers** were raised in 1894 and are noted as having 42 men in May of that year.¹⁴⁶ It is possible that this corps was also armed with "...antiquated Snider rifles", They are noted in the 1895 Returns as being issued with 31 Martini-Metford rifles. They do not appear again in the Returns and were disbanded in 1897.

The **Metropolitan Civil Service Battalion** was raised in December 1899. This unit seems to have suffered from some neglect, due to the raising and equipping of the various contingents to the Boer War. It was initially issued with W.A. Defence Force Martini-Henry Rifles converted locally to become .303 inch "Unofficial Conversion" Martini-Enfield Mark I rifles, W.A. Pattern, (see Figure 19). As the number of men in this corps in 1900 totalled 284, it is reasonable to assume that the Unofficial Conversions issued to them also totalled 284.¹⁴⁷ Specimens of these conversions noted were still marked on the butt with their original W.A.D.F. initials and stand numbers, no additional mark being applied at the time of conversion. The mark, thought to have been put on the original Martini-Henrys in 1893 when the W.A. Volunteer Force became the W.A. Defence Force, consists of the letters "W A D F" within a 2 cm circle (see Figure 18).

A contemporary *Australian Advertiser* newspaper account (of the receipt of the new Martini-Metford



Figure 18 The ownership marks of the W.A. Defence Force. It is thought this mark was used between 1893 – 1895. The “W A D F” mark, contained within a 2 cm circle and struck from a single die punch, is on the right side of the butt of a Martini-Henry Mark III rifle, later converted to Martini-Enfield Mark I, W.A. Pattern to become the Unofficial Conversion. (Photo D. Elford)

rifles in July – August 1895), alludes to the proposed conversion of the remaining Martini-Henrys. It describes how:

“...at a comparatively light cost the military authorities will be able to alter the present Martini-Henri (sic) rifles by fitting them with Metford barrels”.¹⁴⁸

The Unofficial Conversion shown in Figure 19 is fitted with a replacement Enfield barrel, but a rifle fitted with a Metford barrel as described in the newspaper article has been noted. A rifle fitting this description is depicted in Figure 21. A careful study of the rifle in Figure 21 reveals that by the presence of the double step shape of the short Nock’s form at the breech, the barrel can be determined to be a Metford barrel.¹⁴⁹ No officially converted Martini-Enfields were produced with this type of barrel, therefore the rifle depicted in this contemporary 1900 photograph can only be one of the locally converted Unofficial Conversions. These Unofficial Conversions are the only Martini-Enfields which were fitted with Metford barrels, a fact which may also explain why these Martini-Enfields alone were fitted with the

superceded two-piece Metford type Rigby nose cap, rather than the then current one piece nose cap fitted to other appropriate British service arms. It is possible that although the barrel is of the Metford profile, the rifling, at this late date may have been of Enfield type, suitable for cordite. One of the two specimens of this locally converted Martini-Enfield, examined during the course of earlier research into these W.A. Pattern arms, was still fitted with the Metford profile barrel. Arms of this type, fitted with Metford barrels and converted locally from W.A. volunteer Martini-Henrys, match precisely the description of the proposed conversion arms given in the *Australian Advertiser* newspaper account of the proposed conversions on 28th August 1895.

It is certain that William Vernon Needham, gunsmith, of Lincoln Street, Highgate Hill performed these conversions, using parts supplied from England. Mr Needham came from an important line of English gunmakers. He emigrated to Sydney in 1875, setting up business in Paddington, where he is recorded as being in business in 1885.¹⁵⁰ He subsequently moved to

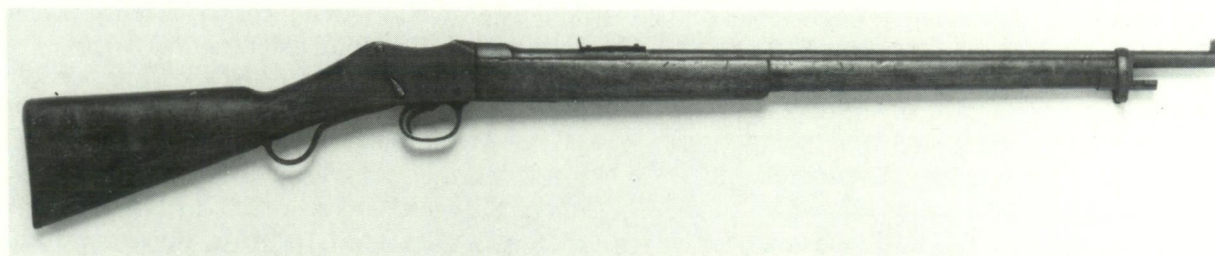


Figure 19 The Unofficial Conversion Martini-Enfield Mark I, W.A. Pattern. There is evidence that William Vernon Needham, a local gunsmith and Armourer to the Forces, did the conversions. This specimen, in poor condition, no longer has its original Metford profile barrel. (Photo D. Elford).



Figure 20 William Vernon Needham, "Armourer to the Forces", standing in front of his premises in Hay Street, Perth. According to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company calendar visible in the window, this photograph was taken in January 1894, some six months after he received his government appointment. It was probably taken to commemorate the event, which is noted in his new sign, "By Appointment to the Government of W.A., Armourer". (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Mansom.)

Perth and is recorded in various trade and postal directories as being in business in William Street in 1887, in Hay Street between 1888 and 1895, and at 101 Barrack Street and 44 Lincoln Street between 1895 and 1898. From 1898 until his death in 1928 he worked from number 44 Lincoln Street, then number 68, and finally number 70.¹⁵¹ Needham, a highly esteemed gunsmith, was appointed by the W.A. government as "Armourer to the Government Departments"¹⁵² in 1888, and "Armourer to the Forces" on 9th May 1893.¹⁵³ Operating from his Hay Street premises, (see Figure 20) he was retained to undertake the:

"Examination of Rifles including stripping, cleaning, oiling, correcting of sights, adjusting pull-off and refitting of damaged portions of locks etc., with parts supplied by the government".¹⁵⁴

During 1900 the pressures of arming the Boer War contingents was great, and it is thought that the arms of the Metropolitan Civil Service Rifle Volunteers may have been requisitioned for them, possibly leaving the M.C.S.R.V. unarmed for a short period, until the issue of the new Magazine Lee-Speeds could be arranged. In September 1900 the corps became the four companies of the 4th

Battalion of the Western Australian Infantry Brigade and are recorded as being armed with 284 Magazine Lee-Speed rifles.¹⁵⁵ The Unofficial Conversion Martini-Enfields which were handed in were reissued to W.A.M.I. Contingents to the Boer War. The M.C.S.R.V. corps and the Fourth W.A.M.I. (see Trotter⁷⁶, p.303), are the only units known to have received these arms.

The **Permanent Force** was not a volunteer corps. It was established by the agreement of most of the colonies in 1892 as a co-operative defence scheme, and in fact was a foreshadowing of the Federal defence scheme to come later. When the Permanent Force was set up it was intended that detachments would be posted to selected coastal defence sites in the various participating colonies. In W.A. Albany was chosen to have defensive coastal fortifications built and artillery installed. A crew of artillerymen was sent from South Australia in 1893 to man the guns. These men were armed with Martini-Henry artillery carbines (see Figure 22). In 1895 the W.A. Returns list 26 men for this Force and the Dominion Returns of 1904 list 26 Martini-Henry carbines in store,¹⁵⁶ indicating that these carbines remained in W.A. after they were retired. One



Figure 21 The Metropolitan Civil Service Rifle Volunteers in camp in 1900. Between December 1899 and mid 1900, the corps was issued with the Unofficial Conversion W.A. Pattern Martini-Enfield. Careful examination of the rifle in the original photograph reveals the short, two step Nock's form at the breech, a characteristic of the Metford profile barrel. Only the Unofficial Conversion Martini-Enfield had this feature. (Photo courtesy of History House Museum, Armadale. A.K.P. 661 C.9 A.5).

Martini-Henry artillery carbine in the W.A. Museum Collection (W175) is marked on the right side of the butt "P M F over 110" (see Figure 23). This carbine is accompanied by its Pattern 1879 bayonet also marked "110" (W.A. Museum W1099). The carbine is marked on the body "Broad arrow over S A over 541". The bayonet also bears the "Broad arrow over S A" ownership mark. The W.A. Government Gazette of 6th April 1893 gives the W.A. Permanent Force initials as "W.A.P.F." or "P.F."¹⁵⁷ The mark "P.M.F." therefore is definitely not a W.A. mark, standing in fact, for "Permanent Military Force", a South Australian variation.¹⁵⁸ It is tentatively suggested that this arm may be one of the 26 Permanent Force carbines brought over from South Australia by the gun crew in 1893. A second Pattern 1879 bayonet in the W.A. Museum Collection (T418), is also marked with the South Australian property marks and bears stand number "97", confirming that a number of these arms once existed here. From these stand numbers it can be deduced that the South Australian carbines and

bayonets include the numbers spanning "97 – 110", potentially identifying 14 of them. The circumstantial evidence presented to connect this arm with Albany is very strong, but whether this arm is definitely linked to Albany must await verification.

There is reasonable evidence to conclude that the Permanent Force was issued with rifles in the 1898 – 1900 period when the Martini-Henry carbines were retired. One firearm noted during research for *The Martini-Enfield Rifle in Western Australia* was a Martini-Enfield Mark I W.A. Pattern rifle, marked on the butt "W.A.A. over 7" (see Figure 24).¹⁵⁹ This mark, adopted in 1893, is the identification letter code of the "Western Australian Artillery", which was the artillery company of the Permanent Force. The W.A. Government Gazette of 6th April 1893 stipulated that the shoulder straps of the Permanent Force uniform would have as identifying initials "W.A.E. for the Engineers and W.A.A. for the Artillery".¹⁶⁰ A requisition for artillery pattern uniform buttons and badges, and

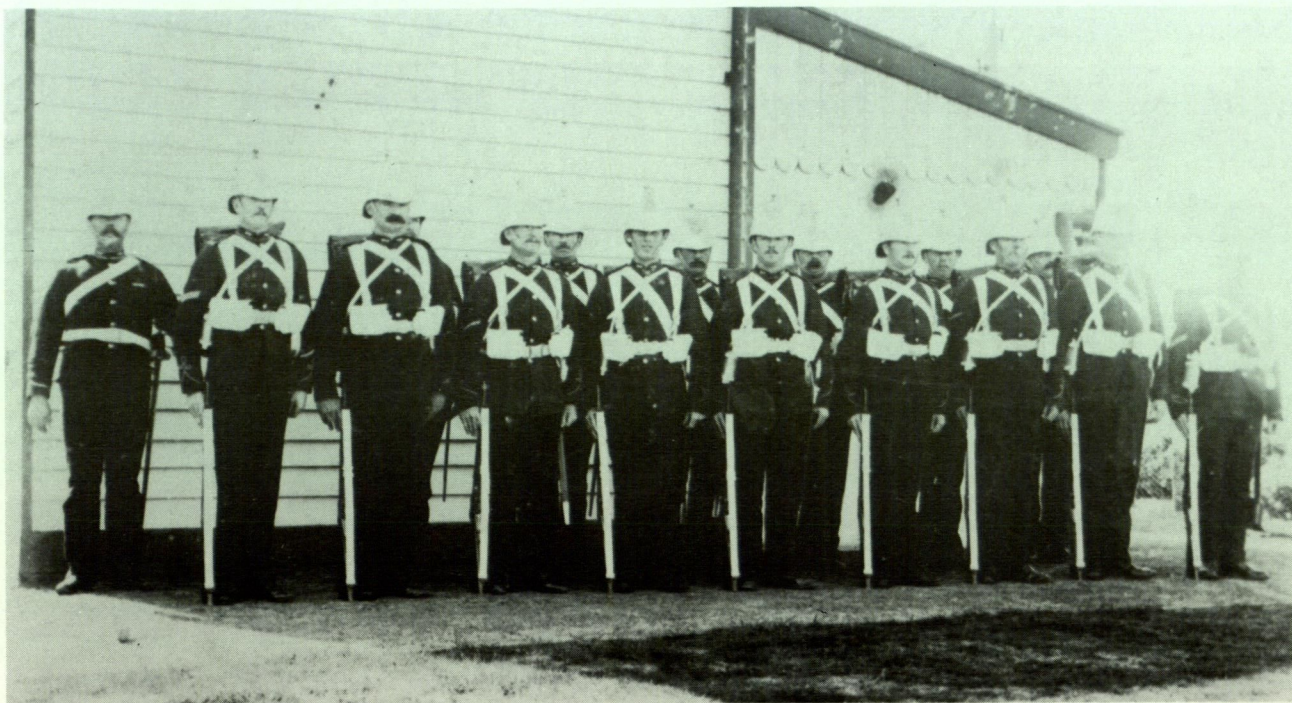


Figure 22 The Permanent Force at Albany, 1895. These men were recruited in South Australia and brought Martini-Henry artillery carbines and Pattern 1879 bayonets with them when they came. These arms can be seen in this photograph. (Photo courtesy of Army Museum of W.A.).

sleeve and shoulder insignia depicting the initials and words "Western Australian Artillery", was sent on 19th May 1893.¹⁶¹ This requisition was for the NCOs and men of the Permanent Force. The recorded use of the letters "W.A.A." on the uniforms of this unit which have also been noted

as being present on this rifle, a pattern of arm unique to W.A., is undoubtedly the evidence necessary to connect the two. This evidence points to the W.A. Artillery being issued with *rifles* c.1898, rather than more modern types of artillery carbines. It is therefore possible that other artillery

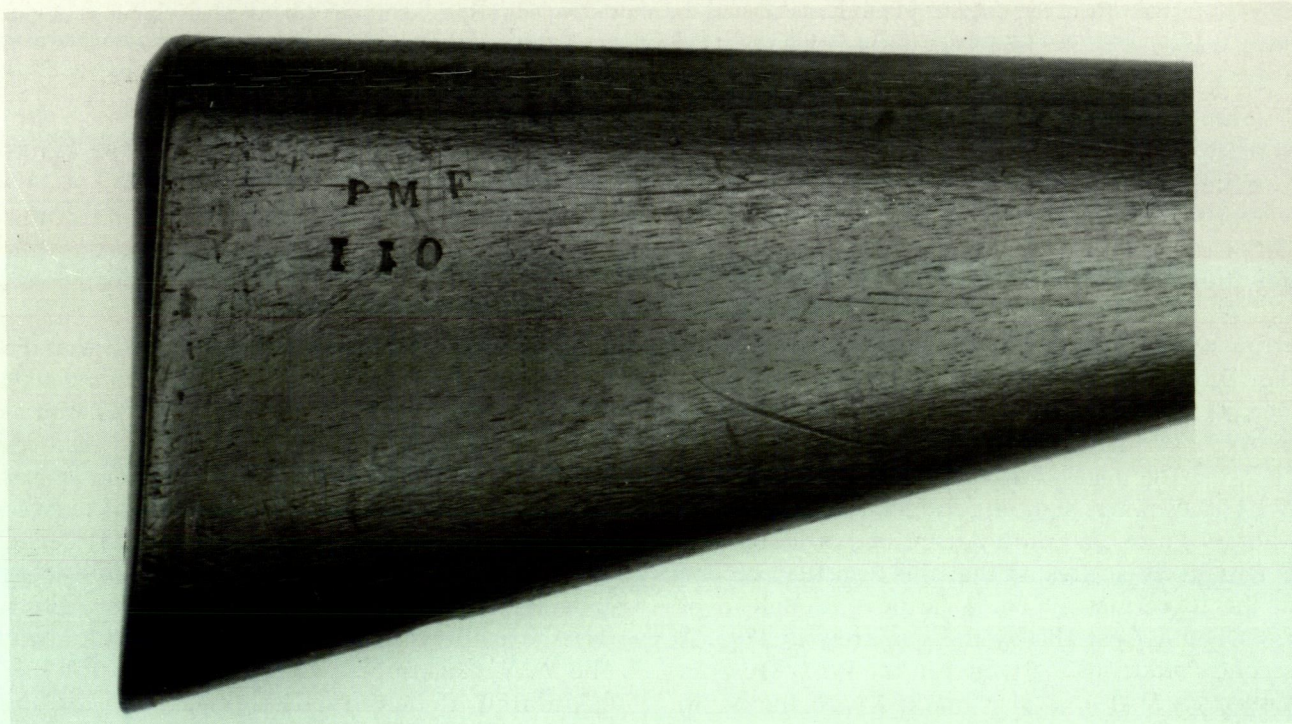


Figure 23 The ownership marks of the Permanent Military Force of South Australia. Men were enlisted in South Australia as gun crew in 1892 and commenced service in Albany in February 1893. It is thought this carbine is one of 26 of these Martini-Henry artillery carbines which were brought with them at this time. (Photo D. Elford).

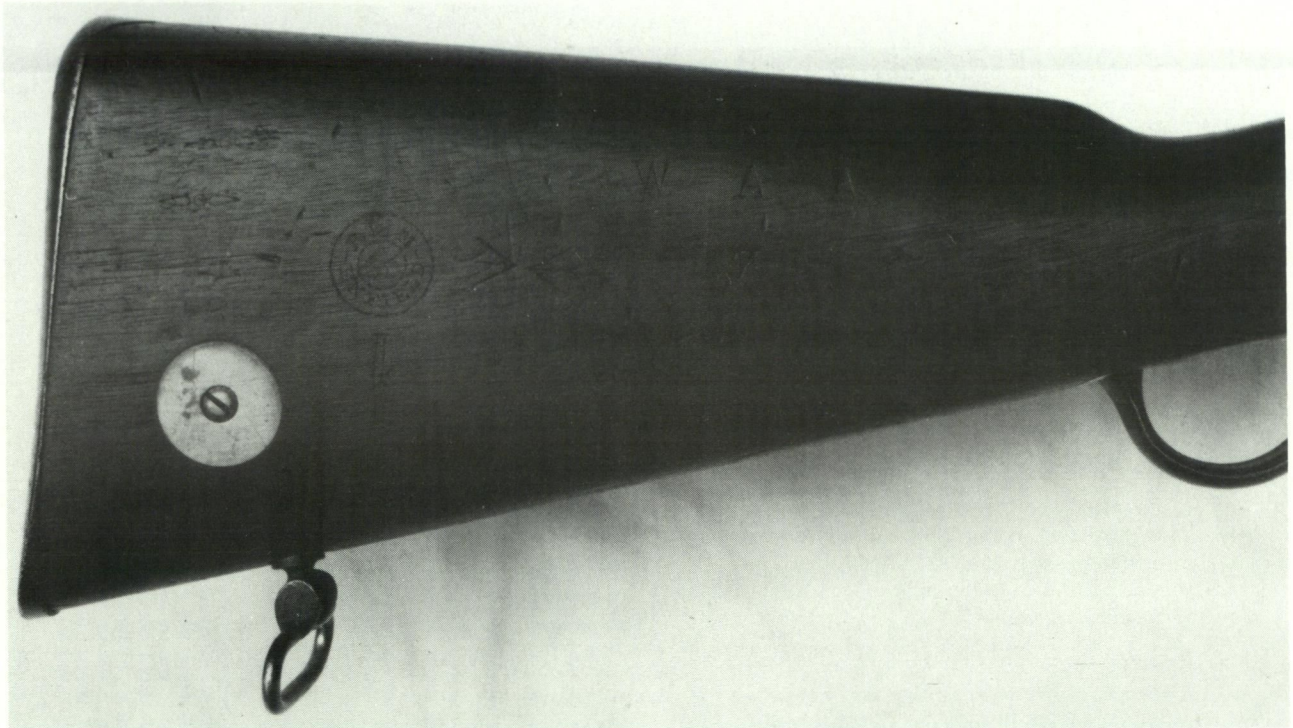


Figure 24 The "W.A.A." ownership marks of the W.A. Artillery company of the Permanent Force which manned the Albany fortifications, 1893 – 1901. The mark is on the right side of the butt of a Martini-Enfield Mark I rifle, W.A. Pattern. (Photo R. Sinclair).

units may also have been issued with rifles at this time, but as yet none have been noted.

The brief period from 1895 through Federation to 1903 saw the reforming of existing corps and the raising of new corps which took the W.A.D.F. into the Commonwealth. Corps of this era included the Pinjarra Mounted Infantry, Goldfields Battalion of Infantry, W.A. Mounted Infantry (W.A.M.I.) and the Boer War W.A.M.I. Contingents. It was a period of rapid expansion in the numbers of men and arms. This expansion, from 617 NCOs and men in 1895 to 2561 NCOs and men in 1900,¹⁶² naturally led to a huge increase in the demand for arms.¹⁶³ Additionally, there were 872 NCOs and men in the six W.A.M.I. Contingents to South Africa also requiring arms. The words of the Local Commandant of the time, Col. Chippindall, sum up the pressures of this phase in the life of the Defence Force. He wrote:

"No separate Department exists for Pay, Stores, Supplies, Commissariat, Transport, Medical etc. etc., and (if one realises) that all details are carried out in one office, some idea of the work done can be arrived at".¹⁶⁴

Because of the continuous raising and despatching of troops, the movements of arms between corps and the almost complete absence of records for this period, the arms and their marks are described now as a group rather than by issue to individual units. To maintain continuity the subject is discussed from 1895 – 1903.

On 17th January 1893 the W.A. Government ordered 700 Martini-Metford Mark I Rifles, W.A. Pattern. The W.A. Pattern refers to the fact that these rifles were especially modified for W.A. by the inclusion of a butt-trap for the oil bottle and sighting for black powder .303 inch cartridges. This arm was the first of a line of W.A. Pattern Martini arms which fixed the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet instead of the socket bayonet previously utilized by the Martini-Henry rifles in service.¹⁶⁵ These 700 rifles arrived in 1895 and issue began immediately, the newly established First Infantry Volunteer Regiment being armed first, with the York Infantry and the Perth Mounted Rifles also receiving their arms in that year.¹⁶⁶ Specimens of Mark I examined confirm that these arms were stamped with a simplified ownership code, "W A over number" (see Figure 13). They were marked from 1 – 700. In 1897 a further 200 Martini-Metford rifles were purchased from England. This time however, they were the Mark II type, unable to fix the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet, taking instead the Pattern 1887 sword bayonet, an entirely different bayonet which would have to be specially ordered. There is tentative evidence to suggest that these Mark IIs may have been ordered due to a lack of military knowledge on the part of the civilian purchasing agent in London. He may have just ordered "more" Martini-Metfords, without knowing there was a Mark II variation, a type different from the Mark I previously supplied. In

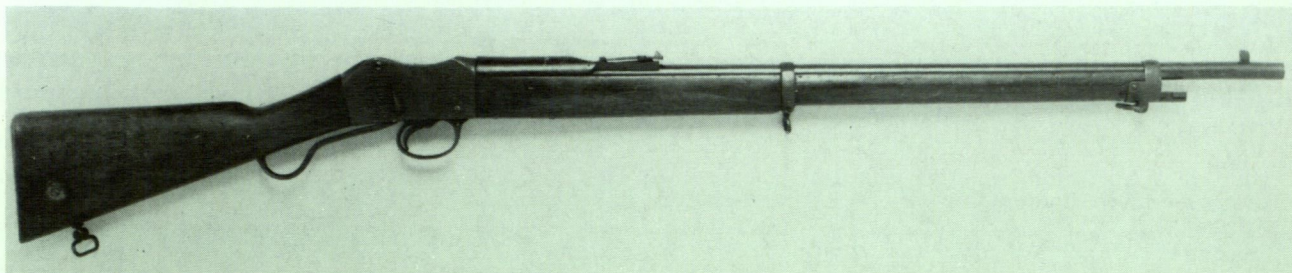


Figure 25 The Martini-Enfield rifle, Mark I W.A. Pattern. This arm is one of 1150 Mark I and II rifles shipped from the Tower of London between 1898 – 1901. (Photo D. Elford).

fact, in an attempt to have the vacant position of Military Adviser filled, the Agent General's Report of 1899 stated:

"The passing of military stores is something that can only be described as chaotic. A Military Adviser could assess the difference between MK I, II, III which is of considerable importance to the military but which is of no importance to a civilian"¹⁶⁷

These Martini-Metford arms were all issued to the Volunteers initially and many were later taken to South Africa by the Boer War Contingents. It is thought that the Mark IIs were modified to fix the Pattern 1876 socket bayonet of the retired Martini-Henrys, now in store.¹⁶⁸ No specimen of the Mark II is known to have survived but it is thought probable that the simple "W A over number" mark was continued, and they were numbered 701 – 900.

Following close upon this acquisition came a quantity of Martini-Enfield Mark I rifles, W.A. Pattern, obtained from the War Office in England. These rifles were essentially the same as the Martini-Metford Mark Is of 1895 except for a three inch shorter barrel made with Enfield rifling to accommodate the new smokeless cordite powder, rather than Metford rifling which was adapted to the earlier black powder cartridges. As W.A. still had considerable stocks of black powder cartridges, these Martini-Enfields were sighted for these rather than the cordite type. The W.A. Pattern Martini-Enfield, in common with the Martini-Metford Mark I, had a Rigby type nose cap fitted which allowed the fixing of the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet (see Figure 16).¹⁶⁹ No documentation was found for this 1898 shipment other than records for 200 Martini-Enfield Mark Is (presented by the author in a previous paper),¹⁷⁰ but an undated, unsourced list showing that "900 Converted Rifles" were issued to W.A. from the Tower in May 1898 "on ordinary repayment"¹⁷¹ has been determined to refer to a considerably larger shipment of Martini-Enfields than previously thought. The list indicates that 900 Martini-Enfields (which may include Mark II W.A. Pattern arms) arrived here in 1898. The list also shows "200 Converted rifles" sent to W.A. in May 1900, "on special repayment" with another "50 Converted rifles" issued in October 1901 "on ordinary

repayment". There is no doubt that the description "Converted rifles" refers to Martini-Enfields as these arms were conversions of Martini-Henrys, while the Martini-Metfords previously mentioned were all new-made arms. These revised figures increase the previously known total from 400 M-Es received between 1898 – 1900 to 1150 received between 1898 – 1901. Examination of surviving arms has revealed that all were converted at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield in England, all were W.A. Pattern fixing the Pattern 1888 sword bayonet, and both Mark I and Mark II types were included. Butt stand numbers support the larger 1150 total being correct as the highest stand number noted was 1057.

The first Martini-Enfields arrived in 1898 and a small number, 89, were issued immediately to the Geraldton Rifle Volunteers, the only volunteer corps known to have received them. An estimated 30 were also issued to the W.A. Artillery company of the Permanent Force at Albany. The volunteer force being fully equipped with Martini-Metfords, the remainder of the Martini-Enfields were issued in response to the huge demand to equip the escalating enrolments in the W.A. Mounted Infantry and the Boer War W.A.M.I. Contingents between 1899 – 1901. At this time the demand for arms became so great that many of the Martini-Metfords of the volunteers were withdrawn and, with these Martini-Enfields, were issued to the mounted contingents. The Martini-Enfields used by these units were stamped on the right side of the butt "W A over number over D" (see Figure 15). Butt numbers noted indicate that the arms were numbered from 1 – 1100 D. Many of the Martini-Metfords and these Martini-Enfields went with the Contingents to South Africa and possibly never returned.¹⁷²

In addition to these imported Martini-Enfields a quantity of W.A. Defence Force Martini-Henrys were converted locally in Perth into Martini-Enfield Mark I W.A. Pattern rifles from parts supplied from England in 1899 – 1900 (see Figure 19). The exact number is uncertain but is around 251 – 284.¹⁷³ These arms were pressed into service with the Metropolitan Civil Service Rifle Volunteers as soon as they could be converted and



Figure 26 The ownership marks of the W.A. Defence Force, 1900 – 1901. The mark is on the right side of the butt of a Martini-Enfield Mark II, W.A. Pattern. This mark does not include the suffix "D", found on the earlier Martini-Enfields. It is not known to whom these arms were issued. (Photo D. Elford).

some are known to have been subsequently issued to the Boer War Contingents.

The Boer War demand on the Volunteer Force's supply of arms was intense, with many of the volunteer corps finding it difficult to maintain their own arms needs. By early 1900 it was reported that:

"Consequent on the distribution of rifles amongst the different Western Australian contingents, the local defence force has found it necessary to replenish its stock of firearms. The Premier recently despatched an order to England for a supply of rifles."¹⁷⁴

This order for the local defence force included 1000 Magazine Lee-Speed rifles which arrived in 1900, and also the 200 Martini-Enfields of 1900. By December 1900, 821 Lee-Speeds were on issue to the W.A. Infantry Battalion. The First Battalion at Perth had 229, the Second at Fremantle had 249, the Third, (one company), at Guildford had 59 and the Fourth (Civil Service) Battalion of four companies had 284 rifles on issue in Perth.¹⁷⁵ Perhaps the very last of the purely colonial arms

purchases were 50 Martini-Enfields which were sent to W.A. in October 1901.¹⁷⁶ It is a very difficult matter attempting to identify this shipment among the other 1100 M-Es sent from England between 1898 – 1900, but a number of Mark II rifles dated 1900 have been noted marked "W A" in large letters without the "D" suffix. On these rifles the stand number has been placed at some distance from the letters (see Figures 26 and 27). It is possible that the 50 arms of 1901, not arriving until after the sixth and last W.A.M.I. Contingent was sent to South Africa, were issued to some other group and therefore were marked differently, not having the "D" suffix. The arm illustrated in Figure 26 may be from this shipment. From this time onwards all arms purchases for the states were by the Commonwealth Government, the states having handed over all defence responsibilities in the 1901–1903 period.

In June 1903 a shipment of 1350 Magazine Lee-Enfields were sent (W.A. Museum F87.046). These



Figure 27 The Martini-Enfield rifle Mark II, W.A. Pattern. One of the 1150 Mark I and II rifles shipped here from the Tower between 1898 – 1901. The rifle still has its spring steel foresight protector in place. (Photo D. Elford).



Figure 28 The butt marks of an early Commonwealth period Magazine Lee-Enfield Mark I*. The stand number, and the Commonwealth roundel with "W A" in the centre, are visible, as are the manufacturer's roundel and the twin opposing broad arrows denoting sale. This rifle also bears marks indicating issue in April 1906. The stand number and the letters "W A" are repeated on the breech. (Photo D. Elford).

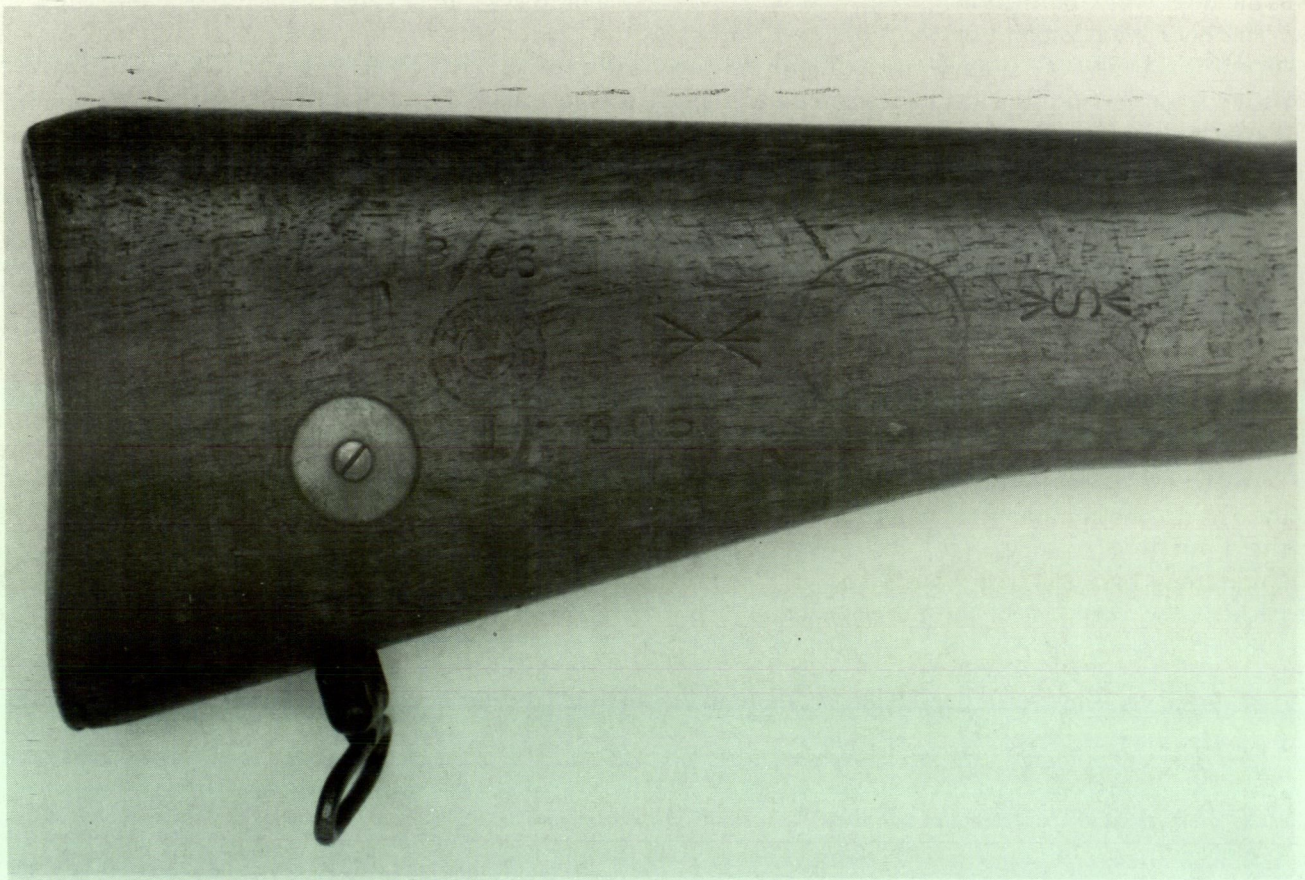


Figure 29 Butt marks of an early Commonwealth period Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield Mark I. The Commonwealth roundel with "W A" in the centre, the stand number and the August 1906 issue date are visible. This arm is one of 600 ordered in 1904. (Photo D. Elford).

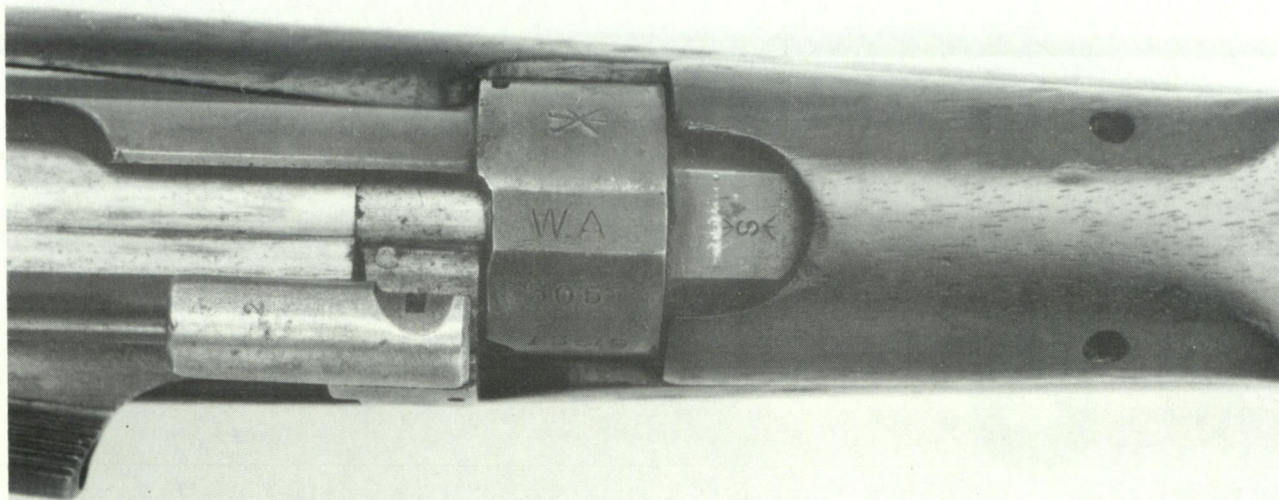


Figure 30 The breech of the arm illustrated in Figure 29, showing the stand number and the "W A" mark denoting Western Australian issue. (Photo D. Elford).

and other identical arms were marked on the breech of the barrel with "W A" and the stand number. The "W A" was struck with a single two letter punch. "W A" and the stand numbers were also struck on the left side of the butt, but now the letters "W A" were surrounded by a circle containing the words "Commonwealth of Australia Mily. (military) Forces" (see Figure 28). Stand numbers noted have been in the 2000 – 3000 range. These arms are not marked to units so it is not possible to identify specific issues.

Army General Order 289 of 16th February 1903 and General Order 15 of 20th January 1904 give the requirements for marking Commonwealth arms. The regulations give the example "A over 10 over A.I.R." (A Company, 10th Regiment, Australian Infantry Regiment),¹⁷⁷ which for W.A. would be "A

over 11 over A.I.R.". Arms have been noted marked this way for eastern states regiments but as yet none have been noted for W.A. In 1905 W.A. received around 600 Short, Magazine Lee-Enfields Mark I (W.A. Museum W87.1).¹⁷⁸ These arms were marked in an identical manner to the Magazine Lee-Enfields of 1903 (see Figures 29 and 30), and also do not have the "A.I.R." markings stipulated in the 1903–04 orders. The SMLE Mark Is were issued in 1905–06 with stand numbers from 1 – 600, those noted have all been below 600. Other than state ownership marks there is nothing to indicate specific unit issue, the brass marking discs on the butts being left unmarked.

The Boer War period and the rapid expansion in the number of men and arms ushered in the era of modern armies and National Service. It was the



Figure 31 The butt marks of an early Commonwealth period War Office Pattern .22 inch training rifle. The marks indicate issue to the Citizen Military Forces of the 5th Military District, i.e., Western Australia. (Photo D. Elford).

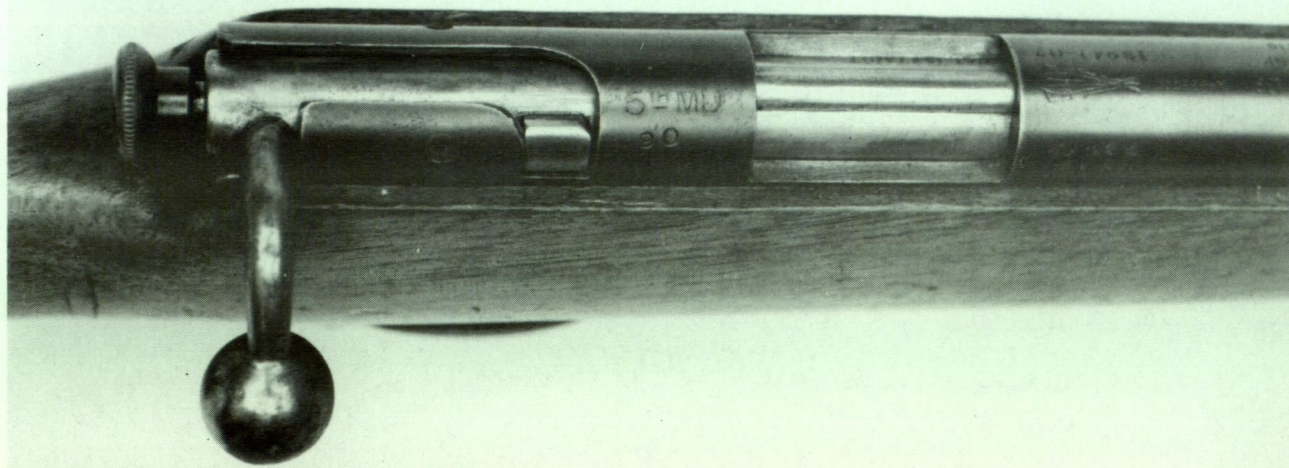


Figure 32 The breech of the rifle illustrated in Figure 31, showing the repeated stand number and issue marks for Western Australia. (Photo D. Elford).

end of the old Volunteer Force and the beginning of the end of individual colonial identity in the military. In 1911, in conjunction with the other states, Western Australia was designated as the 5th Military District of Australia. From this time onwards the only identifying mark to indicate W.A. issue was the numeral "5", used either by itself or as "5th M.D.", "5 M.D." or "D arrow D over 5", (Defence Department). These marks appear mainly on Citizen Military Forces (C.M.F.) arms from this period, like the War Office Pattern .22 inch Training Rifle (see Figures 31 and 32) from the W.A. Museum collection (NA.52).

Pattern 1907 bayonets have been noted bearing Militia ownership numerals such as "16", "84" and "86", for respectively, the 16th Battalion, the Goldfields Infantry and the 86th Infantry. No such unit identity marks have as yet been noted on W.A. rifles, but individual unit identification marks such as "4 LH", "56 IB" and "24 IB" for respectively, the Fourth Light Horse and the 56th and 24th Infantry, have been reported to the author from the other states. Apart from the "A.I.R." marking already referred to, the regular army seems largely to have refrained from using state identity marks on arms, the numeral "5" alone surviving into more recent times.

THE CADETS

The W.A. Cadet Force is relatively unknown. In the 1861 – 1892 period the terminology "cadet" and "recruit" was used interchangeably, with the meaning seeming to imply recruit. The early Volunteer Corps are recorded as establishing their own Cadet Corps at Guildford, Perth and Fremantle. In 1883 they were issued with what were described as "Enfields, shortened in length" and in 1888 "short (Snider) rifles".¹⁷⁹ From 1888

they also utilized a sub-calibre device known as the Morris Tube which was inserted into the barrel of an existing arm and allowed the firing of smaller cartridges.¹⁸⁰ These Morris Tubes allowed the use of service arms for training recruits and cadets. In 1892 the W.A. Government began moves toward the establishment of a recognisable boys and juveniles Cadet Corps by introducing military drill into the schools. The Commandants Report for 1896 recommended that a Cadet Force be formed. He recommended that the senior cadets were to be armed with a suitable arm, while the junior cadets were not to be armed (i.e., dummy rifles only). They were to be provided with Glengarry cap, red serge coat, trousers and brown belt.¹⁸¹ Albany had attempted to raise a corps in 1895. Their junior cadets were issued with dummy rifles and Martini-Henrys were applied for to arm the senior cadets, but little more is known.¹⁸² In February 1897 Cadet Corps were established at Perth and Fremantle. The Commandants Report for 1898 recommended that Martini-Enfield Carbines be ordered for the Senior Cadets and dummy rifles for Junior Cadets, "as soon as a pattern is approved". His successor, in his Report for 1899 states that these arms had not been ordered and the cadets were drilling without arms. Again, in 1900 the Commandant reported that a corps of 50 Cadets had been raised in Coolgardie and that

"it would be a help if they could be issued with dummy rifles or M-E Carbines. These weapons have been asked for on several occasions and are asked for again."¹⁸³

It seems this lack of arms for the cadets may have continued through until after Federation in 1901. Treasury records show that funds for "rifles for Senior Cadets and dummy rifles for Junior Cadets" for the 1897–98 year were voted but were unexpended, the reason being "rifles not received

at close of year". The funding vote was repeated in 1898–99 but again was unexpended. In 1899–1900 no funds were voted for cadet arms. In the 1900–1901 year funds were voted for "cadet rifles, 500 with bayonets, and 500 dummy rifles". These funds were unexpended by 1901–1902 because "these votes lapsed upon transfer of the department to the Commonwealth".¹⁸⁴ Apparently the cadets languished somewhat between 1898–1903 and little activity is recorded for this period,¹⁸⁵ the non arrival of the 500 rifles and bayonets before Federation prevented weapons drill or musketry until 1903. The following Education Department records show that 1903 was the real beginning of the W.A. Cadet Force. Under the heading "Cadets and Military Drill" the 1903 Education Department Report states "The Cadet Force was brought into

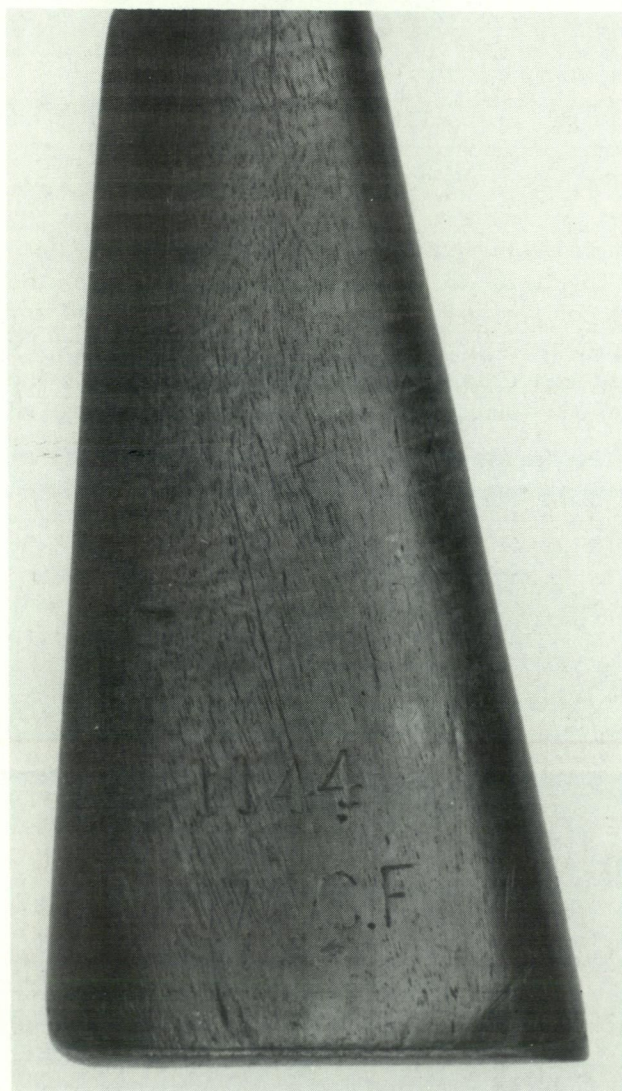


Figure 33 The ownership marks of the W.A. Cadet Force. This mark consists of stand number "1144" over the initials "W A C F". The mark is located on the right side of the butt of a Francotte Martini cadet rifle. Between 1903–1904, around 1500 of these arms were issued by the Education Department of Western Australia. (Photo D. Elford).

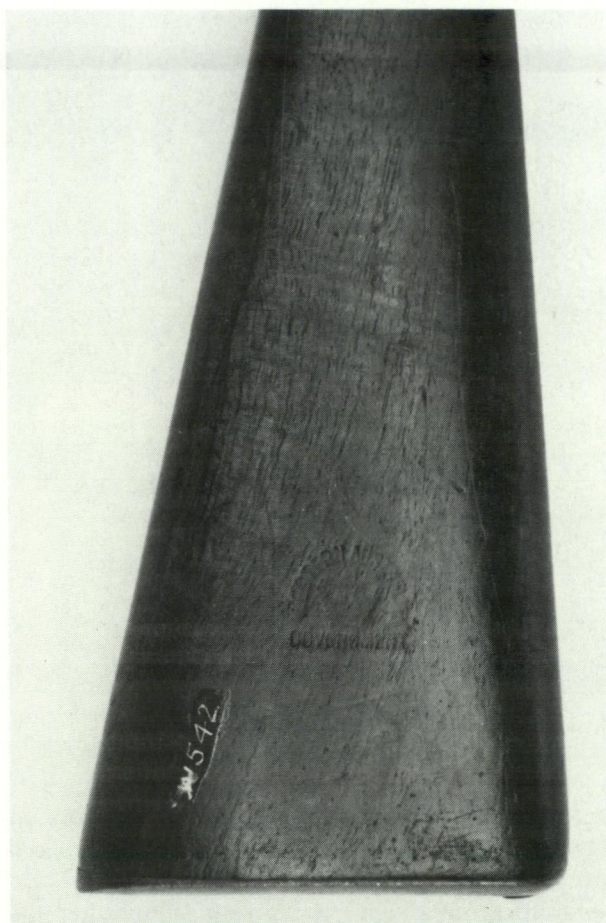


Figure 34 The left side of the butt illustrated in Figure 33 showing the Western Australian Government ownership mark. (Photo D. Elford).

existence by the regulations which came into force on the 20th February", (1903). The first year was spent organizing the students and teachers in 27 schools so that by 31st December 1903 the department had 1208 cadets. The Report continued with a reference to arms, "The Force has been armed with Francotte rifles, and 1000 of these rifles have been obtained", but no ammunition accompanied the rifles and "regrettably" the cadets had been unable to practice musketry. The Report recommended another "500 Rifles and belts etc." be ordered in the coming year.

The arms referred to are the .297/.230 inch calibre Francotte Martini. The bayonet is a small socket bayonet. (W.A. Museum W1339). From the Education Department Report of 1903 it can be determined that the 500 rifles and bayonets ordered by the colony of W.A. in 1900–1901 was increased by another 500 rifles in the Commonwealth period 1902–03. According to the 1903 Report this increased order arrived in 1903 and was issued in one lot of 1000. It is concluded that the additional order of "500 rifles and belts" recommended for purchase in the 1903 Report also arrived soon afterwards, probably in 1904. This



Figure 35 The Western Australian Government ownership stamp impressed on the left side of the body of the Francotte Martini rifle discussed in Figure 33. This mark, along with the Francotte patent mark were impressed by the factory at the time of manufacture. (Photo D. Elford).

conclusion is supported by the serial numbers on these rifles. Arms have been noted in two serial number ranges, 61,000 and 67,000, indicating two separate groups. The first group, containing the expanded order totalling 1000, falls into the 61,000 – 61,999 serial number range. Butt stand numbers

noted in this range have all been between 1 – 1000. (The lowest 90, the highest 931). The arrival of the second group of 500 rifles recommended for purchase in the 1903–04 year is supported by another group of rifles noted as falling into the 67,000 serial range. The rifles in this serial range all

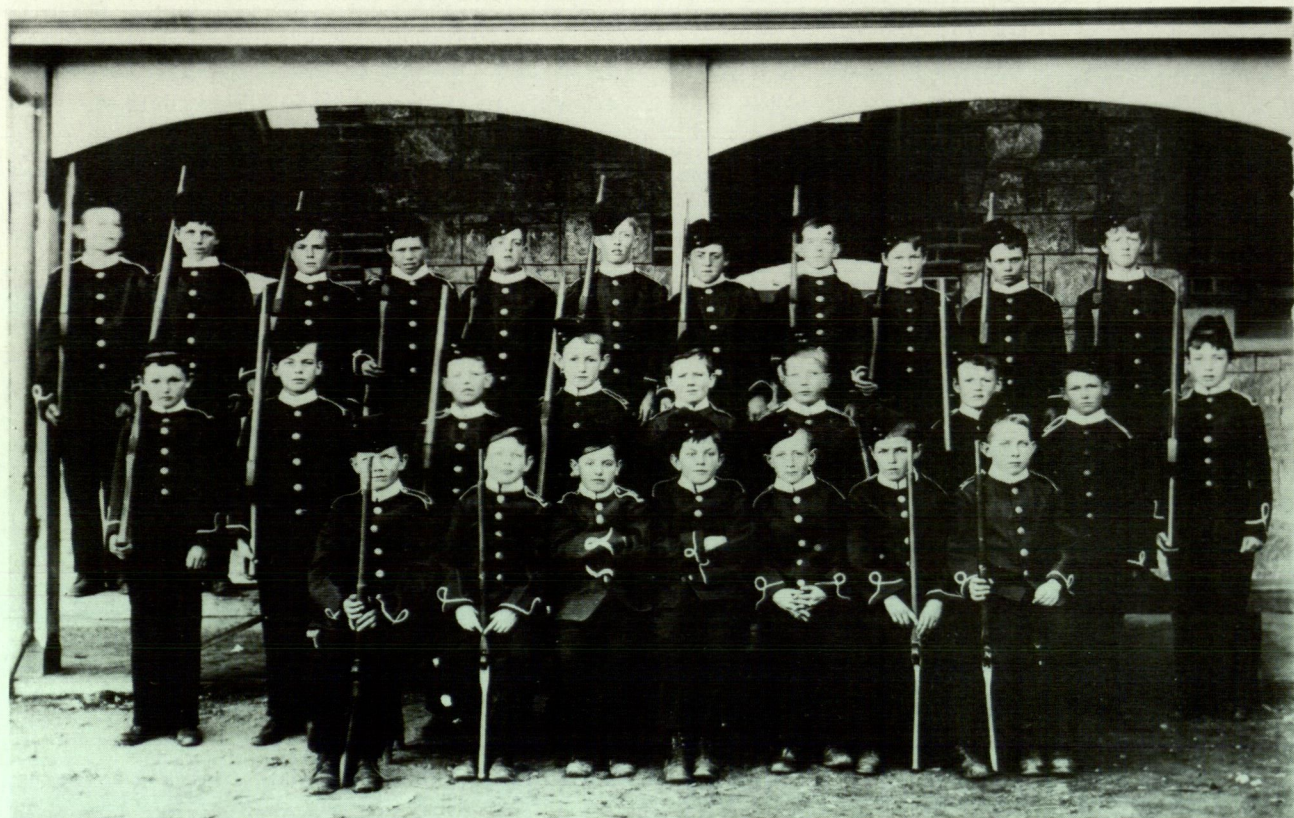


Figure 36 Southern Cross cadets armed with dummy rifles. This photograph was taken about 1904. (Photo courtesy of Army Museum of W.A.).

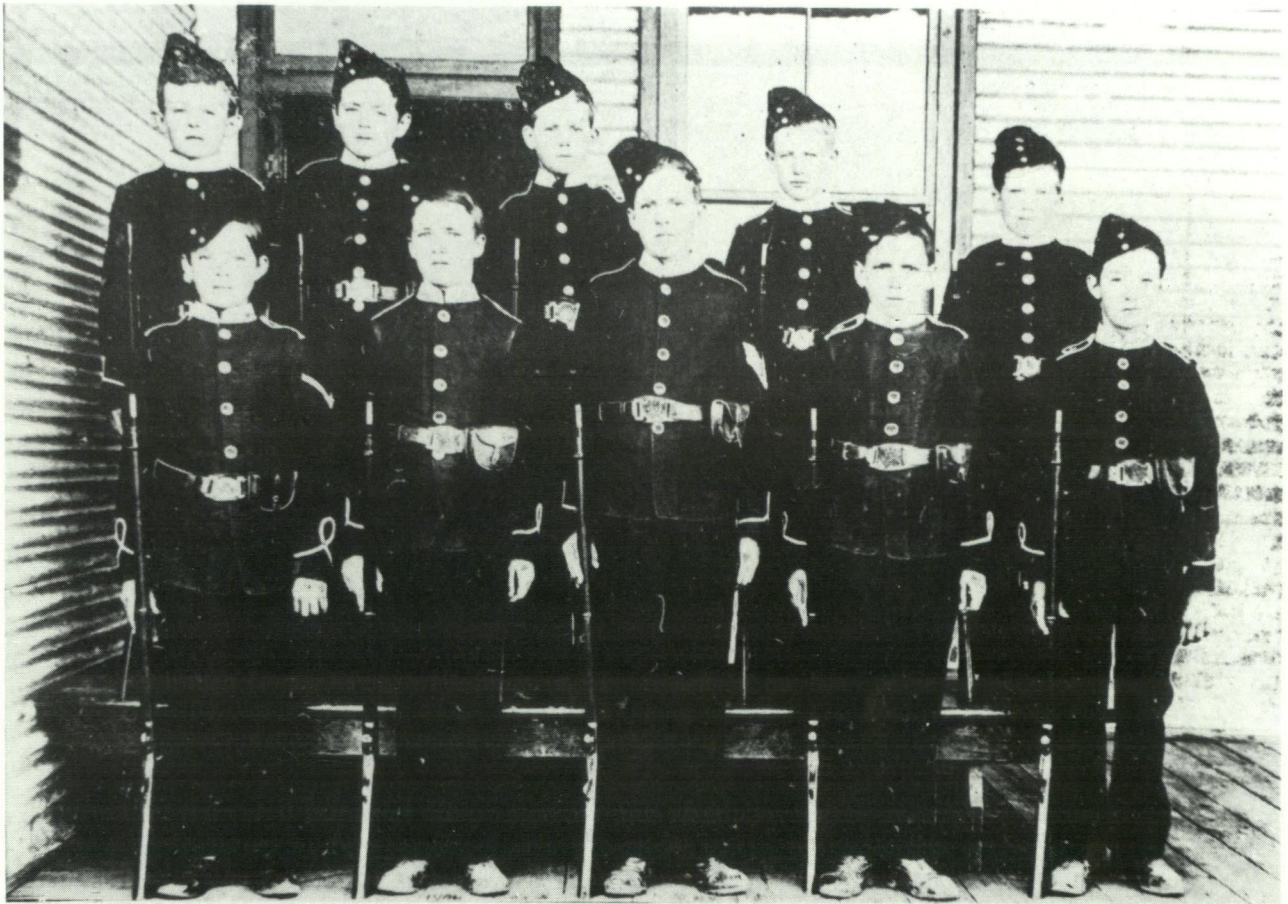


Figure 37 Cadets of the Trafalgar corps of 1904 armed with Francotte Martini rifles. (Photo courtesy of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* and Eastern Goldfields Historical Society. 21/28A).



Figure 38 Commencing around 1908 the Commonwealth took control of the Cadet Force. This .310 inch Cadet Martini is marked on the right side of the butt with the Commonwealth ownership roundel with "W A" in the center and the stand number. (Photo D. Elford).



Figure 39 The right side of the body of the cadet rifle illustrated in Figure 38. The impressed Commonwealth of Australia ownership mark is evident as are the "W A" issue letters and stand number, 3413, punched in at the time of issue. (Photo D. Elford).

have stand numbers above 1000, (the lowest 1006, the highest 1144). The stand numbers indicate that the total number of rifles may only be 200, (the highest serial number noted was 67,176), but as 500 were ordered it is presumed that they all arrived and were issued. This physical evidence confirms that two lots of rifles arrived, were numbered with stand numbers continuing in numerical sequence, and based on present evidence totalled at least 1200. It is expected that further research will confirm that these cadet rifles did indeed total 1500. All Francotte cadet rifles are marked on the right side of the butt "number over W A C F". On the left side of the butt and body will be found stamped (by the factory), "Government of Western Australia" around a crown (see Figures 33, 34, 35). The W.A. Museum holds one of these rifles (W542).

Around 1908 - 1909 slightly larger Cadet Martini rifles of calibre .310 inch, made by W.W. Greener and Birmingham Small Arms were issued here, possibly replacing the Francottes. These later rifles were marked "W.A." on the right side of the butt and body, however the "WA" on the butt was surrounded by a circular stamp marked "Commonwealth of Australia Mily. (Military) Forces" (see Figures 38 and 39). The W.A. Museum holds two of these rifles, W1691 and W72.71. According to records, senior cadets may have been issued with Martini-Enfield .303 calibre rifles after 1903 and Magazine Lee-Enfields after 1908, but as yet, no arms have been noted so marked.¹⁸⁶

REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT AND ISSUE

The procurement and issue of volunteer arms to individual corps has been documented as far as the

surviving arms and the archives found allow. It is relevant now to examine the broader aspects of the procurement of these arms in terms of their "type" and total quantities.

As has been stated, the early Imperial arms of the garrison troops and the Enrolled Pensioners are known, but in general terms only. The apparent lack of identifying marks and possibly also stand numbers frustrates the accurate identification of these arms or their quantities. In the case of the garrison troops, it is certain that in most cases their arms departed with them when the period of their posting ended. It is not possible to estimate the quantities or types of arms they left in store at the time of their departure until new records are discovered.

The early Pensioner arms have thus far been referred to only as "smoothbore muskets" or "Carbine, Muzzle Loading". Considering the time frame of this early 1850 - 1860 period however, it is reasonable to assume that the Pattern 1839 and 1842 would have been included in their armoury. Of the bayonets from this period examined, the Pattern 1839 and 1842 are strongly represented, indicating their presence here in reasonable numbers. These smoothbore muskets survived in outstation service until 1881 when they were sold to the public.

It is not until the re-arming of the Pensioners with Enfields in c.1860 that a clearer picture emerges. It can be determined that the Enfields probably numbered around 300. This estimate is based on the numbers of Pensioners actually bearing arms as given in Broomhall's work, *The Veterans*. From this source it can be determined that the total of men under arms never seems to have

been more than about 300, a total which is supported by the highest stand number noted on an Enfield, number 260, and 167 on an Enfield bayonet. Taken together, these factors of evidence give circumstantial support for a probable total of 300 Enfields.

After transportation of convicts ceased in 1868, the need for the Pensioners gradually lessened over the following decade. In 1870, when this force was re-armed with Snider-Enfield rifles it is estimated that the need had declined considerably so that on this occasion only about 250 Snider-Enfields were received.¹⁸⁷ The highest stand number noted on an E.P.F. Snider-Enfield was 194.

The Volunteers, as has been noted, were issued with 200 Enfield rifles in August – September 1862 which seems to have fulfilled their requirements until the 1870's. They received a large quantity of Enfields from the E.P.F. when that body was re-armed with Snider-Enfields in 1870. It is not thought that they received all the E.P.F. arms as some small quantities of Enfields were still in the E.P.F. store when they disbanded in 1880. Enfields remained the issue arm of the Volunteer Force until they began to be replaced by Sniders in 1877. They were finally recommended for "abolition" in a letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor on 25th April 1882.¹⁸⁸ This recommendation was echoed in the Commandants Report of that year where he recommended that the "muzzle-loaders" should be sold.¹⁸⁹ The last corps to be armed with Enfields were the York Rifle Volunteers, who had them until 1883–84.¹⁹⁰ From this information it is evident that the volunteers had 200 of their own Enfields and the use of close to 300 others. The total number of Enfields in W.A. therefore was around 500.

In 1875, W.A. applied to England for a loan of 400 Sniders for the Volunteers but this was refused.¹⁹¹ The first Sniders received by the Volunteers were 111 long and seven short Sniders purchased by the Colonial government and issued to the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers in early 1877, followed by 33 more in mid 1877. The Fremantle Naval Artillery Volunteers received 25 Pattern 1858 Snider Naval rifles in 1879 and the Albany Rifle Volunteers were issued 50 Sniders in the same year, (a contemporary account describes them as conversions). The colonial purchased Sniders therefore totalled 226. By 1881 Geraldton and Guildford both had about 130 Sniders between them, the volunteers having obtained access to the Snider-Enfields of the now disbanded Enrolled Pensioner Force. The Sniders and Snider-Enfields were the issue arms of the Volunteer Force until 1884 when they began to be replaced by the Martini-Henry rifle. In 1885 a shipment of spare breech-blocks and other parts for the Snider rifles was ordered for W.A. These parts were used in

1886–87 to "overhaul and put in thorough repair" 288 Snider rifles¹⁹² which were then kept as reserve arms in racks in the armoury at the Perth Barracks. This total did not include "40 issued to the York rifle club and 12 Short rifles to Major Gardiner for the use of the Cadet Corps". The Sniders were officially "called in" in 1887.¹⁹³ An Annual Return sent to the War Department in England in 1889 shows that W.A. had 366 Sniders and 104,790 rounds of ammunition in reserve as of 31st December 1888.¹⁹⁴ This Return confirms the totals of Volunteer and E.P.F. Sniders. By adding the 53 Snider rifles known to have been on issue at this time to the Guildford Rifle Volunteers, (between 1884 – 1895),¹⁹⁵ 12 with the cadets, 40 with the York Rifle Club, the 366 total increases to 471. Similarly, adding the 226 known Volunteer Sniders to the 250 Snider-Enfields of the E.P.F. gives a total of 476, which, allowing for a small unexplained discrepancy of five rifles between the two totals, thus reconciles the respective figures and establishes the total for Sniders in W.A. at around 470. Sniders were still on issue to the Guildford corps as late as 1893–94,¹⁹⁶ years after the Martini-Henry had superseded them throughout the Defence Force. According to an already quoted newspaper report, it was a shortage of modern arms which led to the arming of mounted units with Sniders in the 1894 – 1895 period.

It will be remembered that the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers were the first corps to be issued Martini-Henrys. They consisted of 72 Mark Is issued in 1874, with the total rising to 100 by 1881. The Commandant, obviously becoming aware of the desirability of re-equipping with this modern arm wrote in his Report as early as 1881 that:

"A large proportion of the Sniders are Converted Enfields and many of them are damaged and unserviceable. I would therefore submit for His Excellency's consideration, that it would be better to replace them by degrees with Martini-Henrys and that a supply of the latter be at once ordered for the Metropolitan Rifle Corps".¹⁹⁷

These arms were ordered in August 1883 but did not arrive for issue until 1884. They were 110 rifles "latest pattern" (Mark III). In 1885 another large order was sent from England. This order was for 101 Mark II rifles. They were intended for the Albany Rifle Volunteers, the "increased" Fremantle Rifle Volunteers and the Guildford Rifle Volunteers.¹⁹⁸ (It is possible that this order is actually part of the later, large order of 250). During the 1886–87 year 250 Martini-Henry Mark III rifles were received and were distributed to the Perth (30), Fremantle (20), Guildford (60), Geraldton (60), and Albany (80) Corps,¹⁹⁹ leaving only 60 more required to fully arm the Defence Force with Martini-Henrys. These 60 arrived in 1887 and were distributed to the Northhampton

Rifle Volunteers (40) and the Guildford Rifle Volunteers (20).²⁰⁰ These seem to be the last purchases of Martini-Henrys made. Even though the demand for arms continued to increase, obsolete "reserve" Sniders were re-issued instead of further purchases of the Martini-Henry being made. The W.A. government attempted to obtain a gift of 1000 Martini-Henry rifles and bayonets from the Imperial government in 1892²⁰¹ but by 1893 it had become obvious that the British Government would not accede to this request. W.A. therefore commenced the procurement program of the new smallbore .303 inch calibre Martini arms. In an Annual Report to England in 1888 the total number of Martini-Henrys in W.A. was given as 574.²⁰² This total is repeated ten years later in the Commandant's Report for 1898-99,²⁰³ the rifles having been called in in 1896-97.

In 1893 the W.A. government began to procure what was to become a unique series of W.A. Pattern Martini .303 inch arms. This program began with the arrival of 700 Martini-Metford Mark I rifles in 1895. These arms were issued to the entire volunteer corps, the Martini-Henrys being retired. A further 200 Martini-Metford Mark IIs arrived in 1897-98, followed by 900 Martini-Enfields in 1898. 200 more Martini-Enfields arrived in 1900 with 50 more, the last, arriving in 1901. A further lot of around 251 - 284 Martini-Enfield arms were converted locally in Perth in 1899 - 1900. The imported M-Es were issued throughout

the mounted corps, with some of them going to the rifle volunteers at Geraldton and the W.A. Artillery company at Albany. The 251 - 284 local Unofficial Conversions went to the Civil Service corps in 1899-1900, and thence to the W.A.M.I. Many of these arms (272 M-Ms and c.606 M-Es), went to South Africa with the Boer War Mounted Infantry Contingents and possibly never returned.²⁰⁴ After the war Army General Order 296 of 24th December 1903 directed that all Martini-Enfield, Martini-Metford and Martini-Henry rifles still held in country areas were to be boxed and sent by rail to the central ordnance store in Perth. This was the final "call in" of the .303 inch Martini arms, as soon after, Army General Order 26 of 18th February 1904 began to offer for sale to the local rifle clubs "Martini-Henry, old 10/-, Martini-Enfield, new 40/- without bayonet."²⁰⁵

W.A. is known to have purchased 1000 Magazine Lee-Speed rifles in 1900. All specimens of these rifles noted were made by the Birmingham Small Arms company. These arms were issued to the Volunteers in W.A. only, and thus survived through to 1904 when they were recorded in the Dominion Returns as still numbering 1000. From 1901 onwards arms purchases were a Commonwealth responsibility.

The arms of the early Cadet Corps-1883 -1888 were few in number and were limited to shortened Enfields and short Snider rifles. In 1889 the Morris tubes were issued which allowed the use of



Figure 40 A Western Australian Contingent to the Boer War embarking with their Martini-Metford Mark I rifles at Fremantle wharf. These arms, and the Martini-Enfields, went to South Africa and possibly never returned. (Photo courtesy of Battye Library. 5272P).

existing volunteer arms for target practice. It is evident however that the shortened rifles were still used for rifle drill.

The Cadet Force was established in 1897 and it is known that dummy rifles and Martini-Enfield carbines were repeatedly sought for them between 1896 - 1899. As far as is known only the dummy rifles were ever forthcoming. The Cadet Force does not appear to have been armed until 1903 - 1904 when two lots of Francotte Martinis, the miniature cadet rifle of .297/230 inch calibre were procured. They appear to have arrived in two lots, 1000 in 1903 and another 500 in 1904. The first order included a lot of 500 miniature socket bayonets. These arms were paid for by the W.A. Education Department. These little rifles are known to have been put on sale to the public in 1935. They were sold by Shimensons of Perth.²⁰⁶ The later Martini Cadet rifles used in W.A. appear from their butt marks to have originated in 1908 - 1909 and were Commonwealth arms, slightly heavier in weight and of a larger .310 inch calibre. The cadets were possibly issued Martini-Enfields and Magazine Lee-Enfields in the Commonwealth period but none have been noted with Cadet marks.

REVIEW OF MARKING

From the archives and the arms themselves a reasonable assessment of the marking of Colonial arms has been constructed. With the exception of the earliest Imperial arms, most markings are now known. The lack of certainty regarding the marking of some groups of the arms of this study is due in large part to the scarcity of surviving colonial arms upon which observations can be made.

The first recorded marking of W.A. arms were the Pattern 1853 Enfields of the W.A. Enrolled (Pensioner) Force issued c.1860. These Enfields were engraved (possibly prior to shipment) "W A over E F over number" on the buttplate and are believed to have stand numbers from 1 - c.300. They were followed by Snider-Enfield Mark II** conversions in 1870 which were also engraved "W A over E F over number" on their buttplates and had their own series of stand numbers beginning again at 1 through to 250. Short rifles for sergeants are also recorded as being on issue to the pensioners but none have been noted as yet. No other arms are known marked to this force.

From the earliest days of the volunteer movement, the careful marking of arms and recording of their issue was undertaken. The arms were marked according to regulations published by the War Office in London in 1862. There is no doubt that the first 200 Pattern 1853 Enfields received here in August 1862 were engraved by two unknown convicts in accordance with these regulations. No marks have as yet been noted on

Enfields but their marks, according to the regulation were "V over WA over number". These Enfields were augmented by a number of Enfields released from the Enrolled Pensioners in 1870. The Pensioner Force arms, as far as is known were not re-marked, it being thought forbidden to alter Imperial arms on loan. No re-marked specimen has been observed. Only one Enfield is known by its stand number. This was Enfield number 234 issued to the unfortunate Private Elsegood of the Perth Volunteer Rifles. This high stand number, 234, indicates that Enfields, additional to the 200 sent out in 1862 were acquired. As this rifle was the subject of discussion in 1872, two years after the Enrolled Force released a quantity of their estimated 300 Enfields to the volunteers, this may well have been an E.P.F. number.

The next lot of arms, the Deane, Adams revolver-carbines of 1864 intended for the Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers were marked by C. Reichberg, a convict, in an unusual manner, partly the incorrect "W.A.V." requested by the Commandant and partly the "V over W A M" stipulated in the War Office regulations. The result was the unique "hybrid" mark "W.A.P.M.V. No.". The marking, (if done), of their 20 Smith and Wesson No. 2 Army revolvers of 1877 is unrecorded and no specimens are known.

The Volunteers were next issued with Snider long and short rifles, Mark III in 1877. These were received in two shipments and are definitely known to have been marked in the regulation manner, being engraved "V over W A over number" by prisoner Davis, also a convict. It is unknown how (or if), 50 Snider rifles procured in 1879 for the Albany Rifle Volunteers were marked, and the marks of 25 Pattern 1858 Snider Naval rifles procured in 1879 for the Fremantle Naval Artillery Volunteers are also unknown. "30 Revolvers" were procured for the Wellington Mounted Volunteers in December 1878 but like the Smith & Wessons of the Pinjarrah corps none are known to have survived and no reference to their type or marking was found. As mentioned in the text there is a notation in the records referring to "marking arms" for the Geraldton Rifle Volunteers in 1878. The details of these markings are unknown but it is thought the arms referred to were the new arms included in a mixed lot of new issue Sniders and E.P.F. Snider-Enfields sent to them in that year. It can be seen from the discussion then that the volunteers were issued, respectively, with a mixture of Volunteer and E.P.F. Enfields, followed by a mixture of Volunteer and E.P.F. Sniders. Volunteer arms were marked with volunteer marks while E.P.F. marks were left with E.P.F. marks.

Martini-Henry rifles were purchased in 1874 and again between 1881 - 1887 until virtually the entire corps was armed with them. A Martini-Henry was

noted bearing the initials of the Albany Defence Rifles. The initials were branded or deeply cut onto the left side of the butt. The initials are "A D R over number". Another two Martini-Henrys have been noted as being marked on the left side of the butt "M R V over number" and on the opposite side with the stand number repeated. These markings open up the possibility that other Martini-Henry arms also were marked to individual corps. If this individual marking by corps was widespread, then there must still be a considerable number of identification markings waiting to be recorded by arms researchers. Another mark noted on the Martini-Henrys are the initials "W.A.D.F." within a circle. These are the initials of the W.A. Defence Force and are thought to have been applied in or after 1893, when the Defence Force came into being. The Martini-Henrys are known to total at least 574, and stand numbers noted on the W.A.D.F. marked arms, 521 and 529, support this figure, but in doing so another question is raised. It has been seen that Martini-Henrys were issued throughout the Force generally, with some corps marking their own arms. From the specimens examined it is apparent that some individual corps each numbered their particular stand of arms from one upwards. The Albany Defence Rifles and the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers totalled about 200 men at the time the Martini-Henrys were issued, indicating 200 rifles, therefore it is difficult to see how the W.A.D.F. marked Martini-Henrys, noted to have stand numbers in the 520s, could bear such numbers if they also began at one. From these three groups of stand numbers it would be possible to identify stands of Martini-Henrys totalling in excess of 700, which is contrary to the annual Returns total found of 574. It is clear therefore that the marks and numbers of the Martini-Henry group of arms is not as yet entirely clarified.

The commencement of the procurement program of .303 inch small-bore Martini arms began in 1895 with the issue of 700 Martini-Metford Mark I W.A. Pattern rifles, at which time the simplified ownership mark "W A over number" was adopted. This mark was applied to the wood of the right side of the butt of all arms with individual letter and numeral punches. The "W A" was separated from the numerals below them by a thin horizontal line which was never used on any other W.A. colonial arm. The Martini-Metford Mark Is were marked "W A 1-700". The Mark IIs which followed in 1897-98 are believed to have followed the practice of numbering all arms by "type" or "make", thus the 200 Mark IIs are thought to number "W A 701-900". No specimen of the Mark II has been found and most, if not all, are known to have gone to South Africa with the Third and Fourth Boer War Contingents. (See Trotter⁷⁶ pp.

303, 312). The .303 inch rifle procurement program continued with the receipt of 900 Martini-Enfield Marks I (and II?), W.A. Pattern rifles in 1898. A small lot of these arms were immediately issued to the Geraldton Rifle Volunteers and the W.A. Artillery at Albany. The marks of the Geraldton issue arms are thought to have been "WA over number" (possibly with a "D" suffix), while the Albany issue arms are known to have been marked "W.A.A. over number". The remainder of the Martini-Enfields were marked "WA over number over D" and seem to have been issued exclusively to the W.A. Mounted Infantry Contingents to the Boer War, between 1899 - 1901. These arms were augmented by further purchases of 200 in 1900 and 50 in 1901. The total number of M-Es purchased was 1150 and the stand number range noted (20 D, 40 D, 750 D, 783 D, 806 D, 1043 D and 1057 D) indicates that about 1100 of these had the "D" suffix. A small quantity of M-Es have been noted without the "D" suffix, (stand numbers 23 and 34), suggesting around 50 arms. Both of these arms are Mark IIs dated 1900, suggesting that they may have been the last 50 received in late 1901, and therefore possibly not issued to the W.A.M.I. It is thought that the "D" suffix is linked to the W.A.M.I. only.

It can be discerned from the illustrations that the style of letter punch used in the marking of the letters "W A" on the .303 inch Martini butts varied, although in most cases it remains consistent within the "type" lot being marked, especially the Martini-Metfords. The location of these letters and numerals however often varies from butt to butt within the "type" group, suggesting idiosyncratic differences between workmen. The method used was the stamping of the letters and numerals with individual punches. Within the Martini-Enfield group the predominating style of letter and numeral punches and their location on the butt is typified by that shown in Figure 15. The style and size of letter and numeral punches used within this group does vary however and this variation is typified by Figure 26.

At this time at least c.251 -284 old W.A. Defence Force Martini-Henrys were converted in Perth to become Martini-Enfield Mark I W.A. Pattern rifles. These rifles were undoubtedly converted by a gunsmith named William Needham, using parts supplied from England. He was "Armourer to the Forces" from 1893. These W.A.D.F. Martini-Henry rifles were not re-marked when they were converted, as those noted have retained their old W.A.D.F. stamp and stand number unaltered.

During this period, 1000 Magazine Lee-Speed rifles were received. They were marked on the butt "WA over number", with stand numbers from 1-1000. They were issued exclusively to the local forces, none going to the contingents. These rifles were all marked with individual letter and

numeral punches. At least one specimen (Figure 14), has been noted as being marked with different style "W" and "A" punches. The practice of using individual letter punches ended with the colonial period. All subsequent marking, beginning around 1903-04, employed multi-letter die punches and included the circular Commonwealth die stamp. The W.A. Cadet Force mark "W A C F", found marked on the butts of Francotte Martinis is quite regular and uniform in the spacing of the letters, suggesting the possibility of a large die stamp, possibly in two parts, "W A" and "C F".

It can be seen from the foregoing discussion that a potentially serious anomaly arises in the marking of W.A. arms. It is apparent that as each "type" group of arms arrived from England they were marked with the appropriate letters and then marked with stand numbers beginning with one upwards. This practice was mentioned quite early by the regulations of 1862 and by Lt. Col. Harvest in his 1877 letter, where he recommended the numbering of the new Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Sniders from "1 throughout". At times the volunteers were armed simultaneously with Volunteer and E.P.F. marked Enfields and Sniders, each lot respectively marked from one upwards. The result was pairs of Enfields, with each pair marked respectively, one, two, three etc, etc, and pairs of Sniders, each marked one, two, three and so on. It is not known with certainty how the early quartermasters maintained their issue records in the face of the potential problems this duplication presented but it is thought that each type of mark was recorded in separate registers and in the case of the Sniders the letter "P" found on the butt was possibly used to identify those arms issued to the Perth company of the W.A. Volunteers from those issued to any other volunteer company such as the Albany Rifle Volunteers or the Fremantle Naval Artillery Volunteers, who also had Sniders, it may also mean "Purchase". It must be borne in mind also, that by the time the volunteers were fully issued with Sniders, the Enfields were being withdrawn from service thus reducing the chance of duplication. In the case of those Sniders bearing the Enrolled Pensioner Force marks "W.A.E.F" it is thought that they were probably recorded as such when issued to the volunteers, thus avoiding confusion. By ensuring that no corps was issued with two lots of arms bearing the same numbers the potential for confusion would have been further reduced. In fact it has been noted that over the years particular care was taken to differentiate between different lots of arms, even to the extent of noting in the records of certain corps that they were issued with "converted Enfields" (ie. Snider - Enfields), rather than "Sniders". The Volunteers are known from records to have only purchased Snider Mark III rifles (Appendix 1), an entirely

new-made arm, while the E.P.F. is known from surviving specimens to have only had Snider-Enfield Mark II** conversions. The careful noting of these different types indicates that the "converted Enfields" were the former E.P.F. arms on loan from the Imperial government while the Sniders were the Colonial government purchased arms. It is also highly probable that this precise "type" recording of arms extended to their numbers as well. An example of this is the number on Private Elsegood's "lost or mislaid" Enfield of 1872. Elsegood's corps, the disbanded Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles had about 100 members armed with 100 Enfield rifles received per the *Bride* in 1862. These rifles were marked "V over W A 1 - 100", yet ten years later Elsegood's rifle is reported to bear number "234". The probable reason for this is that the corps numbers had risen above 100 by 1872 and E.P.F. Enfields had been issued to make up the difference. The E.P.F. Enfields became available in 1870 when the E.P.F. received their new Snider Enfields.

The Martini-Henrys are known to have been marked to a variety of individual corps, and to the W.A.D.F. itself. With so few known to have survived it is difficult to be certain about their marks and numbers, but it appears that, like the Enfields and Sniders, they also had parallel sets of stand numbers, all beginning at one. The potential problems arising from this practise of stand number duplication within a single "type" of arm are self evident, and must have required constant vigilance on the part of the ordnance storekeeper during the re-allocation of arms between corps, as occurred with some frequency between 1885 - 1895.

In later years, as each shipment of the different types of .303 inch arms arrived they were marked "W A over 1 upwards, throughout the number of their particular lot. Thus by 1900 W.A. had separate lots of .303 inch Martini-Metfords, Martini-Enfields and Magazine Lee-Speeds, with each lot marked respectively "W A over 1, 2, 3 etc. throughout. Marking arms by "type" in lots could again potentially lead to administrative confusion as in the case of the earlier arms as having three .303 inch calibre rifles marked "WA over 1", three "WA over 2", three "WA over 3" etc., makes it difficult to control the issue or recall of arms. Again, the careful notations in the Returns over the years showing that the various corps were issued with named lots of arms, either Martini-Henrys, Martini-Metfords, Martini-Enfields or Lee-Speeds indicates separate "type" recording in either separate registers, or separate sections of a larger register.

One last volunteer arm, residing in the W.A. Museum collection (AMD 150), which must be described, is a Pattern 1853 Enfield long rifle, third

model. This arm deserves a mention as it is *engraved* on the butt plate tang "V" over the *stamped* number "96". It is possible that this plain "V" code is an arms identification code from an eastern colony, but it may also be a simplified W.A. volunteer code, possibly even the mark of the 200 Enfields shipped on the *Bride* in 1862. If this mark is indeed on one of the *Bride* arms, then it does not conform strictly to the regulations of 1862 as referred to by Col. Harvest when he discussed the marking of arms in his letter of October 1864. If from W.A., the mark has not appeared with any clarity in the archival record and therefore must await verification, but it cannot be dismissed out of hand.

CONCLUSION

Following Wieck and Grant, all corps and their issue long arms with their markings have been investigated and the results presented. As stated, the lack of surviving arms specimens is the greatest single obstacle preventing a more comprehensive detailing of these subjects. It is felt however that all major groups of arms have been examined and described. Some small shipments of "arms" or "pistols" were noted but as they were not identified specifically they could have been intended equally for the Police or Convict Establishment rather than the Volunteers, consequently they were not included. Side arms for the upper ranks of the corps, with the exception of two Webley revolvers ordered for the Permanent Force in 1893, are invariably referred to as "revolvers". Officers generally purchased their own pistols, leaving no record of type. These arms therefore have of necessity been excluded from this paper. It is felt however that numbers of these small lots found in the records described simply as "arms" could actually have been procured to "top up" the arms stands of the various corps as needed, when enrolments rose. The important groups of arms and their quantities however are given with confidence. There were c.500 Volunteer and Enrolled Pensioner Force Pattern 1853 Enfields and c.470 Volunteer Sniders and E.P.F. Snider-Enfields. There were at least 574 Martini-Henrys, 900 Martini-Metfords, 1150 Martini-Enfields, and at least c.251 – 284 Unofficial Conversions of W.A. Martini-Henry rifles into Martini-Enfields. Also there were 1000 Magazine Lee-Speeds, W.A.'s first modern repeating military rifle, together with the 1500 early post Federation Francotte Martini cadet rifles.

It must be said that despite statements to the contrary by previous writers, no evidence of the issue of carbines to the artillery corps was found. Instead, where their arms were mentioned, they

were described as being conventional long arms, Naval short rifles, or Sniders on loan, only the Permanent Force of 1893 being documented as having Martini-Henry carbines. The early mounted corps were also found to have revolvers or revolver-carbines only, with conventional long arms being on issue for target practice. The later mounted infantry were armed with infantry long arms, such as Sniders, and later the various .303 inch Martini arms.

The "recycling" of arms between various corps illustrates a certain practical frugality in government defence expenditure, and certainly illustrates the problems arising from these constant exchanges for the quartermasters and armourers who had to keep track of arms issues by means of stand registers.

It can be seen that arms were marked from the earliest days. The E.P.F. arms were possibly engraved with their marks prior to shipment to W.A. Between 1862 – 1878, all volunteer arms marking seems to have been performed by convicts while for a time after that date it appears to have been contracted out, not always with entirely satisfactory results, as a letter from Lt. Col. Harvest to the Colonial Secretary in 1878 shows. In discussing the quality of free, compared with convict labour workmanship, he states:

"I find that Tradesmen in Prison work their best with the view of obtaining a reduction of Imprisonment – Last year I had an Engraver from the Prison at Fremantle lodged in the Perth Gaol, marched to Perth Barracks daily to engrave Volunteer Rifles under my supervision. He worked very well and in consequence was let off the remainder of his sentence, nearly expired – Some months afterwards more Rifles required engraving and I was forced to employ the same man out of prison – his charge was high and the work not so satisfactorily performed".²⁰⁷

Harvest was referring to Convict Davis and the 118 long and short Snider rifles of early 1877. The second lot requiring engraving were the 33 Sniders of mid 1877. Between 1878 and 1893 little is known regarding the marking of arms. From the Martini-Henry specimens it appears that at least on two occasions a corps marked its own arms, and judging from the individual corps names etched on surviving sword blades of this period, it may be more widespread a practise than presently thought. Also during this time many quartermaster duties were apparently done within the volunteers, with some duties devolving upon a Corporal Rush, who cleaned, repaired and generally seems to have issued and shipped arms to the new corps and outlying stations.²⁰⁸ From 1893 until Federation, William Needham, the "Armourer to the Forces" took charge of the care of arms. It may have been Needham who introduced the "W A D F" stamp into the service. Due to the variations encountered in the styles and locations of the butt marks and

numbers of the .303 inch Martinis, it is believed that in some cases at least, these arms were marked by different people, possibly at different locations. It is believed Mr. Needham may have been engaged to number and mark some batches of .303 inch calibre Martinis between 1895 and 1901, when the Commonwealth took over.

It is acknowledged that certain small discrepancies appear in the quantities of arms listed and inconsistencies exist in the archival record. The means of eliminating these anomalies is believed to exist. It was noted by Lt. Col. Harvest in a Minute to the Colonial Secretary in 1878 that, "Every item of Volunteers expenditure passes thro' my hands and is noted in a book in my office".²⁰⁹ Until a researcher is fortunate enough to locate Colonel Harvest's (and his successor's), book and the arms registers, the anomalies in the story of Colonial military arms will remain. It is hoped that in the absence of such records, this present paper will form a solid basis for further research.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to acknowledge James Grant for his assistance and advice on the Volunteer Corps; Ron Cook, for his helpful criticisms on the arms themselves. Nathan Thompson, Sgt. R. Warburton (W.A. Police), Margaret Needham, Elizabeth Mansom and the Battye library staff are also thanked, as are those institutions and individuals who allowed me access to arms and records in their care.

- ¹ Dennison, W., *A Short History of the 63rd of Foot in Western Australia 1829 - 1833*, Privately Published, Perth, (n.d.), p. 9.
- ² Priest, G., *The Brown Bess Bayonet 1720 - 1860*, Tharston Press, Norwich (U.K.), 1986, pp. 102, 133, 156. According to R.J. Wilkinson Latham, *British Military Bayonets 1700 - 1945*, Hutchinson, London, 1967, p. 77, extra service arms and arms issued on loan for temporary purposes did not receive a corps mark, unless issued for active service. They only had the mark of the issuing depot.
- ³ Skennerton, I.D., *Australian Service Longarms*, Privately Published, QLD., 1976, pp. 68-99 and Halls, C., *Guns in Australia*, Hamlyn, Sydney, 1974, pp. 69-70
- ⁴ Skennerton, I.D., *A Treatise on the Snider*, Privately published, Qld., 1977, p. 163
- ⁵ Broomhall, F.H., *The Veterans*, Hesperian Press, Perth, 1990 p. 2.
- ⁶ Battye Library, CO 18/93, quoted in Broomhall, p. 2.
- ⁷ *Op cit.*, Broomhall, pp. 29, 48.
- ⁸ Battye Library, Acc. 36 513/229, 22nd May 1857. These carbines are mentioned again in a letter (Acc. 36 509/339), to the Colonial Secretary from members of the Swan Volunteer Rifle Corps which unsuccessfully attempted to acquire arms in 1861. The letter, dated October 29 requests the supply of "20 carbines, bayonets and accessories belonging to the Police Force to be issued to the Swan Rifles for drill purposes, providing they can be spared." The police reply of the 1st of November states "twenty carbines can be spared but the swords belonging to them are all served out to the men at the stations...the carbines are all double breasted (sic) ones". Technical information on these carbines may be found in Skennerton's *Australian Service Longarms* pp. 12 and 76 and Blackmore, H.L., *British Military Firearms 1650 - 1850*, Jenkins, London, 1969, pp. 219-220.
- ⁹ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament, 1876, Governors Despatch No. 25, enclosure Number 1, 18/2/76.
- ¹⁰ *Op cit.*, Skennerton, *A Treatise on the Snider*, p. 107.
- ¹¹ *Op cit.*, Broomhall, p.58. In 1868 there were 190 men under arms on a daily basis in the metropolitan area. 65 men in the outstations remained armed with smoothbore muskets. Purdon, C.J., *The Snider-Enfield Rifle*, Historic Arms Series No. 24, Museum Restoration Services, New York & Ontario, 1990, p. 31. Quoting from a British "Schedule of Correspondence, compiled 1867-", the number of "Sniders" for Perth W.A. is given as 135 long, 15 short in 1870.
- ¹² Battye Library, Acc. 36 805/14. Commandants letter, 26th November 1875, "The Enfields now on loan were spare in the colony owing to the Pensioner Force being armed with Sniders".
- ¹³ Battye Library, Acc. 144, 3rd January 1881. 67 outstation arms plus 7 others were auctioned by Lionel Samson.
- ¹⁴ Battye Library, Acc. 144, 15th December 1880. Returns of stores of the disbanded E.P.F. The stores official reported that the E.P.F. "Never had the Martini-Henry Rifle". Photographs in Broomhall show the final parade of the Enrolled Guard in 1887, all are still armed with Snider-Enfields.
- ¹⁵ Battye Library, Acc. 49, Vol. 43, letter 1443. Acc. 36 509/335. The issue of these Colonial muskets was approved on 30th September 1861.
- ¹⁶ Battye Library, Newspaper Archives. *Perth Gazette*, 12th September 1862 indicates that the rifles arrived on the *Bride* on 16th July 1862, replacing "Brown Bess" muskets. These arms were requested by the Executive Council on the 20th August 1861. (Acc. 1058, Vol. 1858-1866, p. 147).
- ¹⁷ Battye Library, Acc. 36 496/9, 9th August 1862
- ¹⁸ Battye Library, Acc. 36 496/9, 9th August 1862. A "stand" is the military term for a group of arms issued to a corps and the identifying number put on the arm becomes the stand number by which it is known. The term also refers to the various accoutrements which accompany each firearm, these accoutrements also bear the stand number of the arm.
- ¹⁹ Battye Library, Acc. 49 Vol. 44, Letter 519, 12th August 1862.
- ²⁰ State Records, South Australia, supplied by A.F. Harris, private correspondence, 9th February 1994.
- ²¹ Battye Library, Acc. 36 548/361, 5th October 1864.
- ²² Battye Library, Acc. 36 856/331, 5th July 1872, 29th November 1872.
- ²³ Wieck, G., *The Volunteer Movement in Western Australia 1861 - 1903*, Paterson Brokensha, Perth (n.d.) p. 29.
- ²⁴ *ibid*, Wieck, p. 29.
- ²⁵ Battye Library, Newspaper Archives, *Perth Gazette*, 25th July 1862.
- ²⁶ *Op. cit.*, Wieck p. 30.
- ²⁷ Battye Library, Acc 36 548/361, CSO correspondence. The Enfield Rifles referred to are the 200 per the *Bride* in 1862.
- ²⁸ Battye Library, Acc. 36 548/361. Biographical details of this convict will be found in Erickson, R., *Dictionary of Western Australians. Bond 1850 - 1868*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 1979, p. 447.
- ²⁹ Battye Library, Acc. 36 805/10. Research revealed a letter dated 29th October 1873 which indicates that the 12 swords were ordered that year, (Acc. 36 759/170). They were 12 Light Cavalry Swords, Staff Sergeants Pattern with bags and knots received from Wilkinsons, per the *Ivy* on 6th May 1874, for Pinjarrah Mounted Volunteers (Acc. 36 764 pp. 48-51).
- ³⁰ Battye Library, Acc. 36 805/12. The convict ship name is probably *Hougoumont*. Fawcett appears mistaken in both the date of issue and the origin of these arms. They were procured especially for him, direct from England in 1864. This correspondence is possibly the source of Wieck's statement that the P.M.V. was originally armed from the guard of a convict ship.
- ³¹ Battye Library, Acc. 36 805/14.
- ³² Battye Library, Acc. 36 847/219.
- ³³ Battye Library, Acc. 36 847/248. V.R. Blakemore, Charlotte Street, Birmingham.
- ³⁴ Jinks, R.G., *History of Smith & Wesson*, Beinfeld, Hollywood, 1977, pp. 50 - 52, 105 - 108, and Neal, R.J. & Jinks, R.G., *Smith & Wesson 1857 - 1945*, Barnes/Yoseloff, N.Y. & London, 1975, pp. 62 - 65, 106 - 111. Mr Jinks opined that in his view he felt it more likely that the revolvers supplied would have been the .38 calibre arms. Letter to author, 18.3.1994.
- ³⁵ Battye Library, Acc. 36 CSR 899/198.

- ³⁶ Batty Library, Acc. 36 CSR 899/195.
- ³⁷ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook, Military Returns 1880 – 1882.
- ³⁸ Batty Library, Acc. 36 729, 24th May 1870.
- ³⁹ *Op cit.*, Halls, p. 140.
- ⁴⁰ Batty Library, Acc. 527/1579.
- ⁴¹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 708/213. According to Temple, B.A., and Skennerton I.D., *A Treatise on the British Military Martini 1869 – 1900*, Vol. I. Privately Published, Queensland, 1983, p. 127, Martini-Henry carbines were not produced until 1877.
- ⁴² Batty Library, Acc. 36 764/65.
- ⁴³ *Op. cit.*, Wieck, p. 36 and Grant, J.R. *From Captains to Colonels*, Burrigge, Perth, 1991 pp. 12, 52, 53 – 59.
- ⁴⁴ Batty Library, Acc. 390/47, Vol. 1, 20th May 1874, Confidential Despatches.
- ⁴⁵ Batty Library, Acc. 144, 25th November 1880.
- ⁴⁶ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1882. Report on the Volunteer Force 1881–82.
- ⁴⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 527/321, Minute Paper, 15th January 1884. This document indicates that the corps still lacked arms at this date.
- ⁴⁸ Batty Library, Newspaper Archives, *West Australian*, 13th May, 1887.
- ⁴⁹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 638/170. As already mentioned it appears that at least 40 of the men on the roll of the Pinjarrah corps were without equipment and uniform. They may also have been deficient in arms.
- ⁵⁰ Batty Library, Acc. 36 705/121.
- ⁵¹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 705/17.
- ⁵² Batty Library, Acc. 36 728/297.
- ⁵³ Batty Library, Acc. 36 728/301.
- ⁵⁴ Batty Library, Acc. 36 728/292.
- ⁵⁵ Batty Library, Acc. 36 805/14.
- ⁵⁶ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1874.
- ⁵⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 36 805/14. These loan Enfields consist of a portion of the gift Enfields which arrived in the *Bride* in 1862 and others lent from the E.P.F. stores, ie. "on loan" from the Imperial Government.
- ⁵⁸ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1875.
- ⁵⁹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 822/26, 27. The Pattern 1860 actually refers to the pattern of an earlier short rifle adopted in 1860. These 1877 short rifles were virtually identical, except were new made arms rather than conversions of Enfields.
- ⁶⁰ Batty Library, Acc. 36 847/219, 243, 244, 246, 248. Vol. 899/206, 221, 222, 223, 225, 226. Vol. 822/26, 27.
- ⁶¹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 847/248, 249, 250.
- ⁶² Batty Library, Acc. 36 856/1–4.
- ⁶³ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament, 1877/78. Expenditure of Annual Grant to Volunteers. Rifles supplied by Crown Agent per *Eulie* charged to Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer account.
- ⁶⁴ Batty Library, Acc. 36 847/248, 249, 250.
- ⁶⁵ Batty Library, Acc. 36 899/221, 222.
- ⁶⁶ Batty Library, Acc. 36 899/204. The sound rifles referred to were those not damaged in transit by sea water.
- ⁶⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 36 899/231. Biographical details of a convict thought to be this man will be found in Ericson, R., *Dictionary of Western Australians. Bond 1850 – 1868*. University of W.A. Press, Perth, 1979, p. 139.
- ⁶⁸ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1881.
- ⁶⁹ Batty Library, Acc. 527 243/12. Letter, 19th November 1878.
- ⁷⁰ Batty Library, Acc. 527/321. Minute, 15th January 1884. Stores in charge of Volunteers Department.
- ⁷¹ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook, Returns of Land Forces to 31st December 1884.
- ⁷² Batty Library, Acc. 527/1531/35.
- ⁷³ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887. Commandants Report 31st December 1886.
- ⁷⁴ From a private collection in Bunbury. The butt and body of the first rifle are both marked as Mark II, but are made by different manufacturers. The body, by London Small Arms Co. is dated 1880, while the Enfield made stock is dated 1883. This rifle could be from an 1885 order for 101 Mark II Martini-Henrys. The butt and body of the second rifle are both manufactured by Enfield. The butt retains its correct checkered buttplate. Because of the poor condition of the butt, the stand number could also be "3".
- ⁷⁵ Batty Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1895.
- ⁷⁶ Trotter, G.B. (1993). The Martini-Enfield Rifle in Western Australia. *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 16 (3) p. 298.
Batty Library, Newspaper Archives, *The Australian Advertiser*, 19th August 1895.
- ⁷⁷ *ibid*, Trotter, pp. 298, 299, 305. This paper describes the purchase of the Martini-Metfords Mark I and II and the Magazine Lee-Speeds.
- ⁷⁸ Batty Library, Acc. 36 759/162.
- ⁷⁹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 759/62. A letter dated 1st October 1872 (Acc. 36 708/209) states the number of smoothbores to be "twenty, for drill".
- ⁸⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1876. Governors Despatch No. 25. Inclusion Number 2. 18th February 1876.
- ⁸¹ Batty Library, Acc. 36 788/115.
- ⁸² Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1875.
- ⁸³ Batty Library, Newspaper Archives, *Inquirer* 12th May 1875. These Sniders could only have been borrowed from the E.P.F.
- ⁸⁴ Temple, B.A., and Skennerton, I.D., *A Treatise on British Military Martini 1869 – 1900*, Vol. 1, Privately Published, Queensland, 1983, p. 85.
- ⁸⁵ Batty Library, Acc 36 847/249, and Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1876. Governors Despatch No. 25. Inclusion Number 1 & 2.
- ⁸⁶ Batty Library, Acc. 144, 13th April 1881.
- ⁸⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 144, 10th May 1881.
- ⁸⁸ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings W.A. Parliament 1882, Commandants Report, 1881. The Commandant reported an expenditure of 225 pounds for Arms and Ammunition purchased from the War Department for the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers, the Naval Artillery Volunteers and ammunition for the service generally. Another record shows that three chests and one case of rifles "for the Volunteer Forces" arrived per the *Daylight* in that year. These chests are believed to include the 28 M-H rifles for the F.R.V. and unknown other items. They were ordered on 16th October 1880. (Acc. 527/1326)
- ⁸⁹ Batty Library, Acc. 527/321 1884
- ⁹⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings W.A. Parliament, 1887. Commandants Report 1886 – 87.
- ⁹¹ Batty Library, Acc. 527/2893/87.
- ⁹² Batty Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1895 – 1900.
- ⁹³ *Op. cit.*, Wieck, pp. 39, 40.
- ⁹⁴ Batty Library, Acc. 36 805/14
- ⁹⁵ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1875 – 1878.
- ⁹⁶ Batty Library, Acc. 36 900/331.
- ⁹⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 527/321
- ⁹⁸ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1878 – 1886.
- ⁹⁹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1886 – 1888. Commandants Reports 1886–87, 1887–88.
- ¹⁰⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887–88.
- ¹⁰¹ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbooks 1893–94 Military Returns, and W.A. Statistical Registers 1895 – 1900. Naval and Military Returns.
- ¹⁰² *Op cit.*, Grant, p. 43. Grant states 1878. The Returns for 1877 show the G.R.V. with 53 men.
- ¹⁰³ *Op cit.*, Wieck, p. 42.
- ¹⁰⁴ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1879. Expenditure of Annual Grant to Volunteers 1877–78.
- ¹⁰⁵ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook, Military Returns 1880.
- ¹⁰⁶ Batty Library, Acc. 527/321.
- ¹⁰⁷ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887. Commandants Report 1886.
- ¹⁰⁸ Batty Library, W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1896 – 1898.
- ¹⁰⁹ *Op. cit.*, Trotter, pp. 285 – 314. (Halls, p. 142 states M-E Mark II).
- ¹¹⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1884. Commandants Report 1883. Votes and Proceedings W.A. Parliament 1888. Commandants Report 1887.
- ¹¹¹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1878. Expenditure of Annual Grant to Volunteers 1878.

- ¹¹² Battye Library, Newspaper Archives, *W.A. Times*, 31st December 1878.
- ¹¹³ *Op cit.*, Wieck, p. 43.
- ¹¹⁴ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1878. Expenditure of Annual Grant to Volunteers 1877-78.
- ¹¹⁵ Battye Library, Acc. 527/1531/18. These were probably the Enfield rifles used for target shooting. Volunteers received subsidised arms and ammunition to use to practice shooting. It was probably these arms they sought to retain.
- ¹¹⁶ Battye Library, Acc. 527/243/1.
- ¹¹⁷ Battye Library, Acc. 527/1144.
- ¹¹⁸ Battye Library, Newspaper Archive, *Albany Mail*, 1st April 1884, describes a shooting match by the A.R.V. where "The company are provided with converted Enfield rifles, but before next year will probably be furnished with Martini-Henri (sic) rifles".
- ¹¹⁹ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1885 - 1887. Commandants Report 1884-85.
- ¹²⁰ Darling, A.D., *Red Coat and Brown Bess*, (Historical Arms Series 12), Museum Restoration Service, Canada, 1978, p.52.
- ¹²¹ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887. Commandants Report 1886.
- ¹²² *Op cit.*, Wieck, p. 51.
- ¹²³ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1889-91. Commandants Report 1889.
- ¹²⁴ Battye Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1891.
- ¹²⁵ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1896.
- ¹²⁶ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1900.
- ¹²⁷ Battye Library, Newspaper Archive, *Albany Advertiser*, 10th January 1901.
- ¹²⁸ *Op cit.*, Wieck, p. 45.
- ¹²⁹ Battye Library, Acc. 527/321.
- ¹³⁰ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of sW.A. Parliament 1884. Commandants Report 1883-84.
- ¹³¹ Battye Library, W.A. Yearbook, Naval and Military Returns 1893-94.
- ¹³² Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1895 - 1900.
- ¹³³ *Op cit.*, Halls, p. 140.
- ¹³⁴ *Op cit.*, Skennerton, p. 96.
- ¹³⁵ Battye Library, Acc. 527/1144.
- ¹³⁶ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1882. Commandants Report 1881.
- ¹³⁷ Battye Library, Acc. 527/321. It was not possible to identify these percussion muskets from the records. It is possible that they were Pattern 1839 or 1842.
- ¹³⁸ Battye Library, Acc. 144, 12th May 1881.
- ¹³⁹ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1889. Commandants Report 1888.
- ¹⁴⁰ Battye Library, Newspaper Archives, *West Australian*, 2nd September 1891.
- ¹⁴¹ *Op cit.*, Halls, p. 140.
- ¹⁴² *Op cit.*, Skennerton, p. 120.
- ¹⁴³ *Op cit.*, Grant, p. 31. Grant says these rifles were issued in June.
- ¹⁴⁴ Battye Library, Newspaper Archive, *Australian Advertiser*, 8th May, 1895.
- ¹⁴⁵ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1896 - 1900.
- ¹⁴⁶ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1894. Commandants Report to June 1894.
- ¹⁴⁷ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1900.
- ¹⁴⁸ Battye Library, Newspaper Archive, *Australian Advertiser*, 28th August 1895.
- ¹⁴⁹ Skennerton, I.D., *The British Service Lee*, Privately Published, Qld., 1982. On page 56 of this publication are to be found a discussion on, and illustration of, this Metford barrel.
- ¹⁵⁰ Shannon, R.B., *Colonial Australian Gunsmiths*, Wentworth Press, Sydney, 1967, p.18. Biographical details supplied by Mrs Margaret Needham show that William Vernon Needham was born in London on 21st August 1851 and died in Perth in March 1928, aged 77 years. He retained his connection with the state government even after Federation, being Armourer to the Police at the time of his death. As well as being able to manufacture and repair firearms, it is probable that he imported arms into W.A. through J.V. Needham, the firearms company, of London and Birmingham, to whom he was related.
- ¹⁵¹ Battye Library, W.A. Almanack and Directory, (Stirling Bros.) 1887-1888. W.A. Directory, (H.Piersenne), p.15, 1894. W.A. Directory, (Wise's), p.183, 1895
- ¹⁵² Battye Library, W.A. Almanack and Directory, 1888, (Advertisement).
- ¹⁵³ Battye Library, Executive Council Minutes, 9th May 1893, 567/93.
- ¹⁵⁴ Battye Library, Acc. 527 CSO Letter received, 9th May 1893, 742/93.
- ¹⁵⁵ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1900.
- ¹⁵⁶ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1895, and, Dominion Returns for Land Forces to 31st December 1904, quoted in private correspondence by Skennerton and Temple 18.7.1991, 18.3.1992.
- ¹⁵⁷ Battye Library, W.A. Government Gazette 6th April 1893, p. 347.
- ¹⁵⁸ Public Records Office, South Australia. *The South Australian Military and Police Forces 1887*, Booklet, reprinted by Harris, A.F., Macgill, S.A. (n.d.)
- ¹⁵⁹ *Op cit.*, Trotter, p. 289.
- ¹⁶⁰ Battye Library, W.A. Government Gazette 6th April 1893, p. 347.
- ¹⁶¹ Battye Library, Acc. 527 840/93.
- ¹⁶² Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1895, 1900.
- ¹⁶³ Murray, P.L., *Records of the Contingents to the War in South Africa 1899 - 1902*, Defence Department, Melbourne, 1911, p. 441.
- ¹⁶⁴ Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1900. Commandants Report 1899.
- ¹⁶⁵ *Op cit.*, Trotter, p. 298.
- ¹⁶⁶ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register 1895. Naval and Military Returns.
- ¹⁶⁷ Battye Library, CO 18 W.A. 12, 1900. Agent Generals Report 1899.
- ¹⁶⁸ *Op cit.*, Trotter, pp. 311 - 313. Since this paper was published it has been determined that the Pattern 1876 bayonet would fit the Mark II without any alteration, the rifle foresight ramp only requiring a simple modification.
- ¹⁶⁹ *ibid*, pp. 298 - 307. The author presented documentary evidence to support the acquisition of 200 M-Es in 1898 and 200 more in 1900.
- ¹⁷⁰ *ibid*, pp. 298 - 307.
- ¹⁷¹ Public Records Office, London. "Issues of .303" Arms made to the Colonies since Introduction", supplied by B.A. Temple in personal correspondence 11.7.1993.
- ¹⁷² Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament, Commandants Report 1900. "Two hundred and nineteen rifles were sent to South Africa with the First and Second Contingents" (of 222 NCOs and men). A document concerning the handing in of Martini-Metfords in Cape Town for Magazine Lee-Enfields, 28th November 1899, exists in the Battye archives, (Document from the South African War, 827/7, p.29). In response to a survey of W.A. marked arms for a previous paper on the W.A. Pattern Martini-Enfield, one W.A. marked "Martini .303" was reported as returned to Australia from Lesotho, South Africa, by a Mr Jurgen Schultze of N.S.W. in c.1970.
- ¹⁷³ Battye Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1901, Commandants Report 1900 and W.A. Statistical Register, Naval and Military Returns 1900. The Report shows that there were 251 Martini-Henry rifles awaiting conversion at this time, while the Returns show that the Civil Service Corps mustered 284 men, now known to have been armed with Unofficial Conversions. This latter figure is also circumstantially supported by the Dominion Returns of 1904 which show that 287 M-Hs were lost from the original total of 574, almost the exact total of men in the Civil Service Corps.
- ¹⁷⁴ Battye Library, Newspaper Archives, *West Australian*, 13th February 1900.
- ¹⁷⁵ Battye Library, W.A. Statistical Register. Naval and Military Returns 1900.
- ¹⁷⁶ Public Records Office, London, "Issues of .303" Arms made to the Colonies since Introduction". Quoted by B.A. Temple in private correspondence 11.7.1993.
- ¹⁷⁷ Army Museum of W.A. Archives, Army General Orders 1903 - 1909.

- ¹⁷⁸ Skennerton I.D., *Australian Service Bayonets* Privately Published, QLD. 1976, p.17. Dominion Returns, 1904, 620 Pattern 1903 bayonets were listed as on order for W.A. These are the accompanying bayonet for the SMLE Mk. I.
- ¹⁷⁹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1884, 1889. Commandants Report 1883, 1888.
- ¹⁸⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1889. Commandants Report 1888. These tubes were used by the recruits of the Perth, Fremantle, Guildford and Geraldton Corps.
- ¹⁸¹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1897. Commandants Report 1896.
- ¹⁸² Batty Library, Newspaper Archives, *Albany Advertiser*, November 1895.
- ¹⁸³ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament. Commandants Reports 1898 – 1900.
- ¹⁸⁴ Treasury Department Archives, Reports of Public Accounts 1896 – 1902.
- ¹⁸⁵ Jones, D., "Cadets and Military Drill" (Chap. 2) in Bessant R., and Maunders, D., (eds), *Mother State and Her Little Ones*, Centre for Youth and Community Studies, Melbourne, 1987. The cadet enrolment in 1898 was 155 Senior and 276 Junior.
- ¹⁸⁶ Batty Library, Commonwealth Parliamentary Acts, "Cadet Force Australia 1903", adoption by Secondary School Senior Cadets of .303 M-E (single-loader), p. 3, and 1908, adoption by Senior cadets of M L-E, p.2.
- ¹⁸⁷ Op cit., Purdon, p. 31 (see footnote 11).
- ¹⁸⁸ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1882, Report.
- ¹⁸⁹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1882, Report.
- ¹⁹⁰ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook. Military Returns 1883 – 1884.
- ¹⁹¹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1876. Despatch No. 25.
- ¹⁹² Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1889. Commandants Report 1888.
- ¹⁹³ Batty Library, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), 1887, p. 227.
- ¹⁹⁴ Batty Library, CO 18 210. Reel 1707, 1888.
- ¹⁹⁵ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook and Statistical Registers, Military Returns 1884 – 1895.
- ¹⁹⁶ Batty Library, W.A. Yearbook 1893 – 1894. Military Returns.
- ¹⁹⁷ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1882. Commandants Report 1881.
- ¹⁹⁸ Batty Library, CSO 4123/1885, Minute paper 9th October 1885. "101 Rifles, B.L., M-H, Mk II, Short Butts". Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1885–86. Commandants Report 31st December 1885. The 101 rifles may have been part of the larger order received in 1886.
- ¹⁹⁹ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887. Commandants Report 1886–87. This order may have included the order for 101 rifles of 1885.
- ²⁰⁰ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1887. Commandants Report 1887.
- ²⁰¹ Batty Library, CO 18 218, Reel 2664, 1893.
- ²⁰² Batty Library, CO 18 210, Reel 1707, 1888.
- ²⁰³ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1899. Commandants Report 1899.
- ²⁰⁴ The precise fate of the rifles accompanying the contingents is uncertain. The archival record allows for a number of possible explanations. The Dominion Returns of 1904 show that the 900 M-Ms were reduced by 272 to 628. The approximately 1434 M-Es, (1150 M-Es and c.284 Unofficial Conversions), were reduced by c.606 to 828. The total losses are therefore 272 plus c.606, or c.878, virtually the exact total of 872 NCOs and men of the six contingents. The M-Es however, could also have been removed from the Returns list due to General Order 263, of 16th Nov. 1903, which required the W.A. military authorities to allocate 600 M-Es to the rifle clubs. Unless firm evidence is located, this matter must remain inconclusive.
- ²⁰⁵ Army Museum Archives, General Orders 1903 – 1909. No Martini-Metford rifles were offered for sale even though they were available.
- ²⁰⁶ Comments by two former owners of these rifles, related to author in 1990 and 1994.
- ²⁰⁷ Batty Library, Acc. 527/243/12, Letter 19th November 1878.
- ²⁰⁸ Batty Library, Votes and Proceedings of W.A. Parliament 1878 – 1887. Corporal Rush is referred to several times during this period in various Returns and Reports.
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APPENDIX 1

DATE	ARMS/TYPE	QUANT.	ISSUED TO
c.1860	Enfield P.53	c.300	E.P.F.
1870	Snider-Enfield II**	250	E.P.F.
1862	Enfield P.53	200	W.A.V.F.
1864	Deane, Adams	18	W.A.P.M.V.
1870	Enfield, E.P.F.loan	c.250	W.A.V.F.
1874	Martini-Henry I	72	F.R.V.
1877	Snider III	151	M.R.V.
1877	Smith & Wesson No 2	20	W.A.P.M.V.
1878	Revolvers	30	W.M.V.
1879	Snider III	50	A.R.V.
1879	Snider P.58 Naval	25	F.N.A.V.
1880	Snider-Enfield, ex E.P.F.	50	En.Guard
1880	Snider-Enfield, ex E.P.F.	c.200	W.A.V.F.
1881	Martini-Henry (II?)	28	F.R.V.
1884	Martini-Henry III	110	M.R.V.
1885	Martini-Henry II	101	W.A.V.F.
1886	Martini-Henry III	250	W.A.V.F.
1887	Martini-Henry III	60	W.A.V.F.
1895	Martini-Metford I	700	W.A.D.F.
1897	Martini-Metford II	200	W.A.M.I.
1898	Martini-Enfield I,(II?)	900	W.A.M.I.
1899	Martini-Enfield I U.C.	c.284	W.A.M.I.
1900	Martini-Enfield I, II	200	W.A.M.I.
1900	Magazine Lee-Speed	1000	W.A.I.B.
1901	Martini-Enfield II	50	
1903	Magazine Lee-Enfield I*	1350	
1903–4	Francotte Martini Cadet	1500	W.A.C.F.
1905–6	Sht.Mag. Lee-Enfield I	600	

The corps who received these arms are given where known. Where the arms were issued to several corps or throughout the Force generally they are given as W.A.V.F. or W.A.D.F. Some of the Martini-Enfields which were issued to the W.A.D.F. then passed on to the W.A.M.I. Contingents, are given as W.A.M.I. The early Federation period arms were probably issued to the W.A. Infantry Regiment and the 11th Australian Infantry Regiment, but as none have been noted these issues are omitted.

APPENDIX 2

These various marks and numbers are the key to clarifying much valuable information regarding the quantities of arms used here and their issue to W.A. troops. They are taken from specimens noted and estimates calculated from archival sources.

Known Marks and Numbers include:

W.A. ENROLLED FORCE 1850 – 1880

W.A. ENROLLED GUARD 1880 – 1887

WA/EF 1–c.300 Pattern 1853 Enfield
WA/EF 1–250 Snider-Enfield Mk II**

W.A. PINJARRAH MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS 1862 – 1882

WAPMV 1–18 Deane, Adams Revolver-Carbine

W.A. VOLUNTEER FORCE 1861 – 1893

V/WA 1–200 Pattern 1853 Enfield
V/WA 1–c.150 P Snider Mk III
ADR/1–c.70 Martini-Henry Mk III
MRV 1–c.125 Martini-Henry Mk II, III

W.A. DEFENCE FORCE 1893 – 1903

WADF (uncertain) Martini-Henry Mk III
WA/1–700 Martini-Metford MkI
WA/701–900 Martini-Metford MkII
WA/1–c.1100/D Martini-Enfield MkI, II
WA/1–c.50 Martini-Enfield Mk II
WA/1–1000 Magazine Lee-Speed

PERMANENT FORCE 1893 – 1903

PMF/97–110 Martini-Henry Carbine
(South Australian Mark)
WAA/1–c.30 Martini-Enfield Rifle MK I

W.A. CADET FORCE 1896 – 1903

1–1500/WACF Francotte Martini

APPENDIX 3

During the 1901 – 1903 period of Colonial/State/Commonwealth transition, arms continued to be marked "W A" on the butt and for the first time, on the breech also. Commonwealth marks may have been added at this time or after 1903. General Order 289 of 16th February 1903, and General Order 15 of 20th January 1904 gives the requirements for marking butts, e.g., "A/10/A.I.R." (A Company, 10th Regiment, Australian Infantry Regiment). Arms from other states have been noted with this mark, but as yet none from W.A. have been seen. W.A. arms would be marked "A/11/A.I.R."

The circular Commonwealth mark is: Commonwealth of Australia/Mily./Forces/ W.A. (within circle)/number.

This mark may be found on:

Magazine Lee-Enfield Mark I
Magazine Lee-Enfield Mark I*
Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield Mark I
W.W. Greener Cadet rifle
BSA Cadet rifle

After 1911, W.A. became the Fifth Military District. The marks are "5th M.D.," "5 M.D.," or "D broad arrow D/5". They stand for 5th Military District and Department of Defence/5th Military District. These marks may be found on the several variations of the Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield, various training rifles and their bayonets, and on bayonet practice "fencing muskets" and on swords.

Manuscript received 13 April 1994; accepted 20 September 1994.