

(No. 4.)



1859.

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T A S M A N I A.

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DESPATCH.

ENFIELD RIFLES.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
9 August, 1859.

(No. 4.)



(No. 39.)

*Downing-street, 25th November, 1858.*

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 31, of the 18th ultimo, I transmit for your information the copy of a letter from the War Department, stating that the number of Enfield Rifles for which you have applied, together with the requisite accoutrements and ammunition, will be sent out to Hobart Town; but that, for the reasons specified, this supply is to be confined to Rifles of the pattern of 1851, instead of 1853, the former of which is considered to be most suitable for the services upon which a Local Militia is employed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

E. B. LYTTON.

Governor SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

(Copy.)

*War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., 8th November, 1858.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 20th October, covering an extract from a Despatch of the Governor of Tasmania, requesting a supply of 1000 Rifles for the armament of the Colonists, I have the honor, by direction of Secretary Major-General Peel, to acquaint you, for the information of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, that as the store of Enfield Rifles, pattern 1853, is not sufficiently large to enable him to grant a supply of that arm at present, he has sanctioned the issue of 1000 Rifles of the pattern 1851, with the requisite accoutrements and ammunition, in the proportion of 500 rounds per Rifle.

I am to request that you will point out to Secretary Sir E. B. Lytton that the Rifle of pattern 1851 is rifled upon precisely the same principle, and is equally good as a weapon, as that of the pattern 1853, the only difference being that the gauge of the former is  $^{\circ}702$  and of the latter  $^{\circ}577$ . The diameter was reduced in 1853 in order that the soldier might be able to carry 60 rounds of ammunition, which, although of importance in a Campaign, is not an essential for a Local Militia.

I am to add that the Rifle of 1851 is less likely to fail, or to get out of order in unskilled hands, than the more delicate weapon of 1853, and has therefore been considered more appropriate for Local Corps, which have not the advantage of experienced musketry instructions.

I have, &c.,

B. HAWES.

*The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.*