

THE YATAGHAN

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In 1840 the French produced a bayonet whose style was to affect bayonet design across the world for the next 50 years. The 1840 model had a distinctive recurved blade, based on the North African Yataghan swords. Why the shape was chosen is open to conjecture, the shape gave a longer reach with the long blade and the curve ensured that the blade was out of the bullet trajectory, of course it may just have been a styling exercise. There is a theory that the choice of blade was the best compromise for a blade between thrusting and slashing; In some areas the Yataghan bade replaced the infantry sword and the socket bayonet so this theory may hold, however in other armies the ordinary trooper in the field was never issued a sword, this being a status symbol for the "gentlemen" officers so the theory has a few gaps.

The 1840 had a brass cross guard and hilt with a steel scabbard, within 2 years this had been changed to a steel crossguard as the brass was found not to give the required strength and resilience. The 1842 model had a steel cross guard and a modified blade, a further modification to this was made in 1859 to give the 42/59, this had an internal spring instead of the external leaf spring, by this time the blade style had migrated to other countries with the USA in 1842, UK starting in 1853 with their first Yataghans. Over the next 60+ years virtually every country made a Yataghan styled blade, the last being made at the beginning of the 20th Century in South America

I hope in this page to provide a guide to the Yataghan style blade the users and the various users of the style,, and provide information on the variations and the countries who have used them. Where possible I have used examples from my collection to illustrate the information, others have been illustrated by other collectors allowing me to use examples from their collections (and duly noted with thanks)

Country

ARGENTINA	FRANCE	SPAIN
AUSTRALIA	GERMANY	SWEDEN
AUSTRIA	HOLLAND	SWITZERLAND
BELGIUM	ITALY	TURKEY
BRAZIL	JAPAN	UK
CHINA	KOREA	URUGUAY
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	MEXICO	US
DENMARK	NORWAY	VATICAN
EGYPT	PORTUGAL	VENEZUALA

country	date	details
Argentina	1871	Brass hilted with hooked cross guard, similar to the 1866 for Comblain rifle
Argentina	1871 Short	Shortened version of the Comblain bayonet  <<<Circle A mark on crossguard for Argentine use  <<<Alex Coppel of Germany manufacture mark  <<Chamfered sl
Australia		Dixon hilted Yataghan for a Martini rifle. Leather grips with three rivet fixing and external leaf spring, and straight crossguard, very similar to UK 1856
Austria	1867	Werndl, Leather grips held by 3 rivets. Muzzle ring has a rounded finial on top. There is a small curved quillon.  <<<OEWG makers mark on frog stud  
Austria	1870	Werndl, a lighter version of the 1867 called the "leichtere gattung". The 1867 being retroactively called the "schwere gattung". Bayonet does not have the finial on the muzzle ring. Bayonet now has an internal coil spring
Austria	1873	Werndl, shortened blade compared to 67 and 70, muzzle ring top has gained an adjustment screw  <<<OEWG marking of Styer  <<<Frog stud marked by maker as well 
Austria	1855	Similar to the 1873 but with wooden grips, and twin rivets on the cross guard. bayonet is for the 1855 Mannlicher
Austria	1867 short	Shortened to the same length as the 1873, this is how most Werndl bayonets are found

						
		Close up of right hilt, showing the sight on the top of the muzzle ring and 5 rivet grips with external spring. Ricasso has GF stamp on it. Unit marks on crossguard	Close up of left hilt Maker C&J over W mark on Ricasso			
Austria	1867 short	Variations with wooden grips secured by 2,3 and 4 brass rivets can be found				
Austria	1870 short	like the 1867, most 1870 bayonets are to be found shortened to the same length as the 1873				
						
		Huge press stud on this model	OE/WG marking on scabbard and cross guard markings			
Austria		1867 Werndl with a bushed ring to fit the German 1871 and 1888 rifles during WWI. Bushing extends back from the muzzle ring by approximately the same distance as the muzzle ring				
Austria	1885	Trials bayonet uses the 1867 style blade with wooden grips. muzzle ring is 17.5mm				
						
Austria		Fruworth bayonet for an unknown rifle. Grips are leather held on by 4 rivets. Muzzle ring has a final "sight" on it, cross guard a small kick back on it				
Belgium	1850	An experimental socket bayonet for a percussion carbine has a Yataghan blade on the socket				
Belgium	1866	Carbine a Tige bayonet there are two versions, one has a round ball type pommel with circular horn grips				
Belgium	1866	and the other has a more normal beaked pommel and horn grips with a circular design				
Belgium	1868	Terssen, very similar to the 1866 Chassepot but with a screw holding the leaf spring				
Belgium		An experimental brass hilted bayonet with an unusual pommel ring that operates the leaf spring. Has a swept back quillion				
Brazil	1872	Artillery, scaled down Belgian Terssen similar to the 1866 cadet bayonets				
Brazil	1880	Comblain Belgian Terssen with internal spring in brass hilt				
Brazil	1880	Comblain Belgian Terssen with external spring in brass hilt				
Brazil	1904	Produced for the Brazilian Police, bayonet has wooden grips with riveted grips. This is probably the last Yataghan made				
China		Copy of the French 1866 Chassepot, with the shaved pommel seen on German WWI conversions of the 1866 for the 1871 rifle. These are faked up items, although why they copied these is strange, unless there are real ones out there that have been used as a basis				
						
		Shaved pommel is reminiscent of those made in Germany during WWI to fit captured 1866's onto 1871 rifles	Fullers extend fully under cross guard	Leaf spring is very thin	Blade is thinner than the French 1866, and muzzle ring adjuster is rather crude	Brass grips have different but similar hilt grooves
						
		Comparison of Chinese (right) and French blades	Side view of differences between Chinese and French blades	Frog stud is German style but very flimsy		
China		brass hilt straight cross guard for the Remington rolling block rifle has the feathered scales on the hilt				

Czechoslovakia		Werndl Bayonet full length 1867				
Czechoslovakia		Werndl Bayonet short 1867/73				
Czechoslovakia		Werndl Bayonet 1870				
Czechoslovakia		Werndl Bayonet short 1870/73				
Czechoslovakia		Werndl 1873				
Denmark	1861	Rifle association bayonet possibly for the Georg Christensen rifle. Has leather grips with 3 rivets, external spring. Cross guard has forward finial on the muzzle ring and a reverse one on the other end of the straight cross guard				
Denmark	1865	For the liege made Enfield style rifle for the rifle association. Cross guard has forward finial on the muzzle ring and another on the end of a slightly reverse curved crossguard. Leather grips with 3 rivets				
Denmark	1867	First model has an external spring, leather grips held by 3 rivets. Crossguard has forward curved crossguard similar to the 18 Pommel has a marked beak				
Denmark	1867	the second model has an internal coil spring with 5 rivets holding on the grips. Otherwise it is identical to the first model				
Egypt	1867	Remington, made by the USA, essentially similar to the 1866 chassepot without the mortise slot chamfer of the Chassepot. Many similar blades were produced for other countries and not all are Egyptian issue, for example the French took a large number during the Franco Prussian war				
			Comparison of Chassepot (lower) and Remington slots			
Egypt	1870	Remington, as the 1867 but with Egyptian markings				
		Egyptian Markings on ricasso, pommel and crossguard			Un-chamfered slot and B mark in mortis slot	
Egypt	1914	using the Remington hilt and a new cross guard the 1867/70's were converted to mount on to .303 Martini Henry rifles by fitting new cross guard without any quillion. These can be found in two versions with thick and thin cross guards				
Egypt	1914	Another 1867 conversion to fit the Martini Henry rifle, this one retains the swept forward quillion of the original bayonet				
Egypt	1876/80	Originally identified as a conversion, these are new made bayonets for use on the Snyder conversion of the two band Enfield rifle. Has a straight cross guard, and the brass grip grooves appear to be hand ground and go totally around the hilt.				
Egypt		A hand made bayonet for the Snyder rifle with slab sided brass grips. Found with two different muzzle rings and with both forward and reward facing Quillions, blade is a Yataghan style. This is the smaller muzzle ring variation with a diameter of 19.8mm. Grips are two brass grips riveted to a steel cross guard. Examples can be found with PDL made blades				
		These bayonets are often quoted as Confederate Slab side bayonet but are from a period after the end of the American Civil War				
Egypt		This is the large muzzle ring variation with a diameter of 22.5mm. There are no marks on this bayonet. Grips are two brass riveted to a steel cross guard.				
		This one has only a C mark on the ricasso				

		an ending finial				
Germany	1895	An experimental mauser bayonet with an all steel knurled hilt. The pommel is hollow and is covered with a cap that pivots on screw allowing access to the pommel. Has a short round quillion				
Germany		A conversion of the 1869 Werder with a shaved pommel to fit the 71, the 71/84 and 88 rifles, this is the only modification				
		Shaved pommel to fit later 1871 rifle	Scabbard is leather with brass fittings	Makers mark of W&ST in an arc of Solingen	Unit marks on cross guard	
Germany		1869 Werder with the crossguard moved up 8mm to allow the blade to fit the 1871 rifle.				
Germany		French 1866 fitted with a new hilt more reminiscent of the normal German wooden griped hilt				
Germany		French 1866 fitted with new German style frog stud for issue to rear echelon troops in WW1				
		Modified frog stud to fit German equipment				
Germany		French 1866 modified to fit the 1871 rifle by shaving the rear of the pommel to adjust the height of the muzzle ring when fitted the rifle. Versions can be found with fully shaved hilt and, 1 or 2 steps				
Germany		French 1866 fitted with an ersatz style hilt				
Italy	1868	Similar to the 1866 the bayonet was used by the Papal guards. Blades and scabbards are stamped with a small A the acceptance mark of the papal arsenal. Blades were made in Liege for Nagant produced Remington's and by A&A Schnitzler in Germany (A&AS) for Westley Richards produced Remington rifles (the blades are not interchangeable).				
Italy	1862	Similar to the UK1856 Enfield				
Italy	1850	Similar to the 1842 with a straight cross guard and a small reversed quillion, has a leather scabbard with metal mounts According to my Italian Bayonet book (which i can't read) this is a Bersaglieri volunteer unit adapted bayonet. The year on the ricasso is the made date not the model date. Only 6000 of these blades were made, scabbard is a leather with brass fittings				
Italy	unidentified	Similar to the 1862 model. Can be found with a square "socket" on the crossguard parallel to the hilt. Bayonet is known as the marine model				
Italy		Brescia/Torino manufactured blade again with unchamfered slot and with shorter oval shaped fullers than the other 1866 loc alike.				
Japan		The Japanese used the French 1866, these are marked with Japanese characters in the fuller				
Japan		The Japanese used the UK 1856, these are marked with Japanese characters on the cross guard				
Japan		The Japanese produced their own version of the UK 1856 for use by themselves. Blades are well marked and have a reshaping point to give a Katana style to the blade.				
Korea	1842	German manufactured French 1842 style bayonet, has distinctive beehive makers mark of Samuel Hoppe. Identity of this blade is taken from Janzen's Notebook				
		BEEHIVE mark (Samuel Hopp manufacturer)	Crown over J could indicate Belgian issue rather than Korean			
Mexico		The Mexicans used the USA 1870 Naval yataghan bladed bayonet. Examples used by them are marked Republica de Mexico see USA for more details				
Netherlands	1873	Beaumont, first version has short leaf spring but is otherwise essentially the same as the French 1866				

Netherlands	1873	Beaumont, modified first version, has a longer leaf spring in the grips, the original short leaf spring fixings point having been filled in with a brass plug. Most first pattern bayonets are found in this condition. Many will be found with a numbered brass tag wrapped around the quillion the purpose of which I am unsure at the moment. Mathieu Willemssen, curator Royal Netherlands Army and Arms museum , has suggested that these collars identify the ship to which the bayonet was issued, similar plates were added to other equipment, there is however no records to ID which ship the numbers refer to, many thanks for this					
			Brass plug fills the original location of the shorter spring	The change in spring length is very obvious	P Stevens Maastricht makers marks		I am unsure as to the significance the brass strip wrapped around quillion
Netherlands	1873	Beaumont, second pattern, this has the long leaf spring from new					
Norway	1848	Officers war school, has a long muzzle ring, brass grips and a reversed curved quillion, scabbard is a leather scabbard. Large beaked pommel					
Norway	1859	Chamber loading rifle, has leather grips and brass pommel, straight cross guard, both ends of the cross guard have a round finial on them, scabbard is leather					
Norway	1860	Chamber loading rifle					
Norway	1867	for Remington rifle					
Norway	1876	for Krag Petersson rifle					
Norway	1862/66	Lunds carbine, essentially similar to the 60/67/76/59 models but with a shorter grips					
Poland		Used the French 1866					
Portugal	1860	Westley Richards rifle, black leather chequered grips, and brass pommel. It uses two screws to hold the grips, one holding the leaf spring. Straight cross guard					
Portugal	1886	Kropatschek one of the last Yataghan style bayonets made, the curve is not as pronounced as the earlier patterns. Steel scabbard. Can also be found with a large 17.5mm muzzle ring, this is not a conversion of the small muzzle ring model					
Portugal	1886	The Kropatschek can also be found shortened					
Portugal		Westley Richards rifle essentially similar to the UK 1856					
Spain	1866	Brass hilted bayonet with straight cross guard, forward swept finial on muzzle ring, reverse swept on other end of cross guard Short external spring and rounded beaked pommel					
Spain	1871	Kings Guard bayonet, brass hilt with a straight cross guard					
Spain	1877	Krag Petersson bayonet, leather grips with two rivets one holding the external spring. Circular finials on each end of the straight cross guard					
Sweden	1867	Remington rifle bayonet, straight cross guard with forward facing finials on each end. Wood grips, beaked pommel with hole.					
Sweden	1894/14	Modified version of the 1867 for use on the Mauser carbine					
Switzerland	1864	Sharpshooters, leather grips with 4 rivets, long external spring. Large beaked pommel, cross guard has a swept back quillion and forward swept finial on muzzle ring					
Turkey	1874	Peabody, US made bayonet with leather grips held with 5 rivets, and external spring. Uses leather scabbard					
Turkey	1874	Peabody, US made bayonet with leather grips held with 5 rivets, and external spring. Uses Steel scabbard					
Turkey	1874	Peabody, modified to be a dress bayonet by replacing the grips with new wood ones, and removing the press stud					
							
		Markings under pommel	Matt black finish on refurbished blade	Leaf spring left in place on new grips	Press stud removed		
Turkey	1874	Peabody shortened and straightened for unknown use.					

						
		With a shortened leather scabbard	With one of several variations of shortened steel scabbard			
Turkey	1895	Winchester rifle, bayonet has the fish scale grips of the US civil war bayonets, with a heavy beaked pommel and an ornate of basket hilt				
UK	1853	Artillery carbine, uses an 1866 chassepot style brass hilt with a straight cross guard with a slightly swept back quillion and a forward swept finial on the muzzle ring, rivet to hold the blade is mid way on the hilt. Spring is held by a rivet				
UK	1853	Artillery Carbine, straight cross guard with forward swept finials, leaf spring is held by a rivet				
UK	1853	Artillery carbine, with leaf spring held by screw				
UK	1856	Enfield bayonet. Leather grips are held by three rivets and the external spring is riveted in place. sharp beaked pommel and straight cross guard with forward swept finial on each end.				
UK	1863	Whitworth, the same basic bayonet as the 56 Enfield but has a distinctive circular mortis slot				
						
		Circular mortis slot on Whitworth bayonet				
UK	1856/58	lug and short bar fitment				
UK	1856/58	bushed muzzle ring and filed mortise to fit Martini Henry rifle				
					Hilt comparisons of Three Sword bayonets	
					The top is an 1856 infantry with short spring and extended mortise slot.	
					The Middle is an 1856/58 with longer spring no extension and the pommel modification for the Martini Henry Rifle	
					The bottom is a Volunteer pattern blade with the 1856/58 short mortis slot	
UK	1856/58	"bar on barrel" dished pommel slot				
UK	1858 Naval Sword Bayonet.	An increased muzzle ring over the 1856 infantry model was made, and the heavier barrel of the Naval rifle allowed the keeping to the bar on barrel mounting on the 1858 Naval bayonet. Mainly made by Reeves, German made examples can also be found after 1958 the bayonet became known as the Marine Artillery Sword bayonet, with the introduction of the Cutlass bladed Naval Sword Bayonet.				
UK	1860	1860 saw an improved rifle with a heavier barrel were introduced, to allow for this a slightly larger Muzzle ring had to be introduced on the bayonet (approx 0.5mm) in all other respects it is identical to the 1856/58. Scabbards were made 1" longer allow for shrinkage in hot climates at this time.				
UK		Very long Yataghan with double muzzle ring, hilt is similar to the 56				
UK		Various volunteer bayonets were made based on the 1856 style blade. These can be found with steel or brass pommels and cross guards. Bayonets are often unmarked or have German Solingen/WKC makers marks, and with heavier blades than the normal military issue blades				
						
		Unmarked volunteer	Brass cross guard			
UK		Volunteers can also be found with shorter hilts				
UK		Many Enfield and Martini Henry bayonets were shortened and bushed for use with cadet rifles				
UK	1879	Artillery model with steel scabbard converted from 1859				
	1879 Artillery Bayonet - Sawback	Similar to the new build 1879 Artillery but with the addition of a 9.5" sawback on the spine of the blade. Scabbards with square (earl) and round tips were made				

		In 1892 a MkII model was introduced with a larger muzzle ring to fit the shorter carbine rifle. A MkIII version was made to fit a carbine with a smaller muzzle ring.			
UK	1879 Garrison	Simply the Artillery Yataghan modified to fit the Martini Henry rifle by modifying the MRD In 1892 a MkII model was introduced with a larger muzzle ring to fit the shorter carbine rifle.. A MkIII version was made to fit a carbine with a smaller muzzle ring.			
Uruguay	1895	A modification of the German Werder by the addition of a crude swept forward quillioned brass cross guard. Fits the Mauser r			
USA	1842	A sword socket bayonet for the e1842 US musket, has a distinctive hilt similar to a knuckle duster			
USA	1855	Bayonet for the M1841 (Mississippi) rifle. Has a brass hooped hilt. With opposed finials on straight cross guard, normally four with a pommel ring			
USA	1855	Bayonet for the M1841 (Mississippi) rifle. Both finials are forward facing, fullers disappear towards the point			
USA	1855	Bayonet for the M1855 rifle, heavy straight cross guard and brass hilt			
USA	1861	Sword bayonet for the P.S. Justice rifle M1861, heavy cross guard with round finial on cross guard and brass hilt			
USA	1861	Bayonet for the Navy M1861 Plymouth Whitneyville			
USA	1870	Remington rifle, grips are brass with a feather/scale pattern cast into them			
USA	1870	US Navy rifle, has feathered hilt, with the external spring fitted to an upper ridge on the back of the jilt, and a crossed canon symbol cast into the hilt			
					
		Fish scaled hilt with spring "above" the hilt	Crossed canon pommel marks are only used on the 1870 bayonet		
USA	1873	Winchester rifle, has feathered grips like the 1870			
USA	1885	Bayonet for the Colt revolving rifle, has a swept back quillion			
Vatican		The Swiss Papal guards used the Remington Yataghan both in full length and in shortened form.			
Yugoslavia	1881	German made bayonet with slightly curved yataghan, uses an Austrian style hilt without the quillion.			
Unknowns		These are blades that i have not been able to identify out of my collection, any help on these is gratefully wanted			
		1)			
		Remington based on 1866 Chassepot but totally unmarked bar BELGIUM on pommel. Fullers are not German or French pattern	Belgium mark on Pommel	Loose crossguard, not well made.	
		2)			
		Remington Yataghan of unknown origin	1867 Remington bayonet with unknown markings P*S possibly P Stevens of Maastricht but there is no confirmation of this. Scabbard has French style frog hanger staple.		
		3)			
		Remington, marked with Alex Coppel balance on left side of blade and has a "C" in a circle on the right hand side. Has un chamfered hilt slot			
		4)			

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