

## Binocular - revolver 8 & 12, 5 x 50; 1927-1930

### I. Introduction

The binocular was built app.; in 1927-1930 by Company V-A. Ltd.

It is a revolver model with two oculars and different magnifications of the oculars.

The quality of the material, which was used for make this binocular, indicated that it was manufactured before 1930. It was preceding the big economic crises which soon occurred in the world.



Pict 1&2; revolver 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; ©Anna Vacani

### II. V-A. Ltd London



Pict 3; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd, production logo; ©Anna Vacani

We would like to introduce the Company V-A. Ltd. It is well known British Company, but not for a production of binoculars.

### **1. The short history of the V-A. Ltd**

Two letters of the name of company means – **Vickers-Armstrong Limited**. Up to 1927 in Britain were two separate companies – **Vickers Limited** and **Sir W G Armstrong Whitworth & Company**.

In 1927 the companies decided to join of the assets into one - **Vickers-Armstrong Limited**, private company.

In 1968 the company was partly nationalised, in 1970s process of nationalization took over another part of the company.

Since they united, the company was buying many other big companies, as:

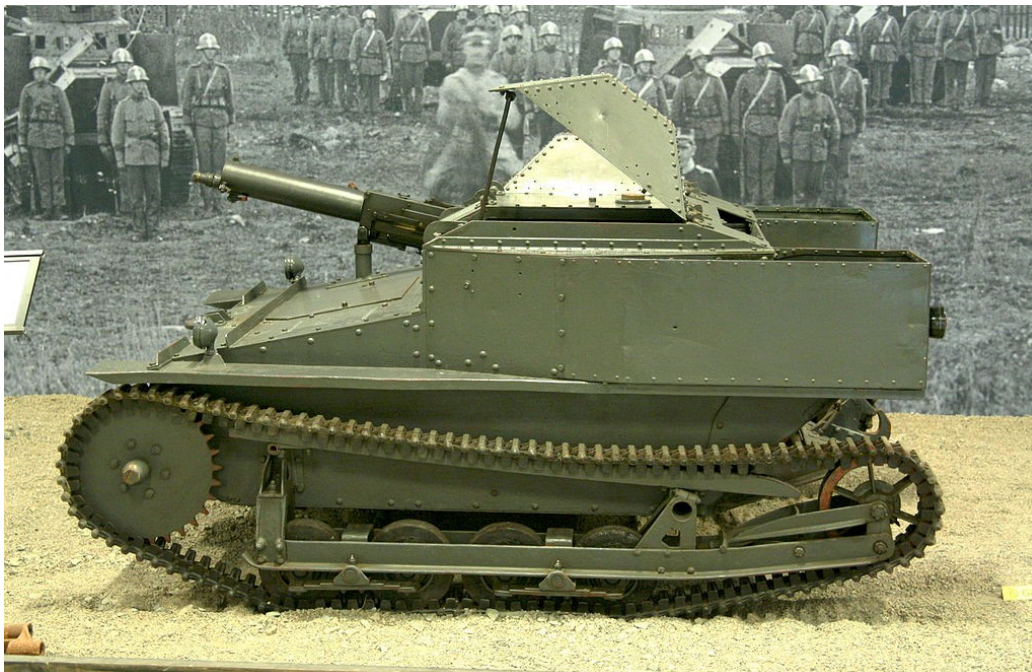
- Ruwolt Ltd – it produced armaments for the Australian Government.

### **2. Production of the V-A. Ltd**

Since 1927 the company was produced large items, among them;

- **Armaments**, as machine gun for aircraft or tanks;
- **Shipbuilding** – the company was the most significant warship producer in the world. The company owned the Naval Construction Yard, in Cumbria; and the Naval Yard at High Walker, on the river Tyne.
- **Military vehicles:**

*Carden Loyd tankette;*



Source of the picture - [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/Carden-Loyd\\_Mk.VI\\_Str%C3%A4ngn%C3%A4s\\_12.08.11\\_%283a%29.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/Carden-Loyd_Mk.VI_Str%C3%A4ngn%C3%A4s_12.08.11_%283a%29.JPG)



*Cruiser MI & MII;*



Source of the picture -

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/Mk1CruiserTank.jpg>

*Vickers 6-ton* (licensed by the Soviets as the T-26), it was not purchased by British army.

*Valentine* (presented to the War Office on Valentine's Day -14.02.1940) -built over 8,000 pieces. It was supplied in large numbers to the USSR and built under license in Canada.



Source of the picture and description: [http://www.tanks-encyclopedia.com/ww2/gb/Tank Infantry MkIII Valentine.php](http://www.tanks-encyclopedia.com/ww2/gb/Tank%20Infantry%20MkIII%20Valentine.php)

– “A Valentine MK.III in the Libyan desert, caring Scottish infantry on its way to the front”

*Vickers MBT* (under licence in India as Vijayanta )

- **Aviation**

*Military large aircrafts* – ex. Wellington Bomber a stronghold of RAF.

*Civilian aircrafts*

- **Marine engines**

### III. 8 & 12, 5 x 50 revolver

#### 1. The revolver's body

##### **Main parts of the body.**

The binoculars' body is built from brass well polished at present. From the remains paint we deduce that originally it was gray colour –Pict 1, 2, 3.

The binocular contains 5 parts – Objective tubes include two parts and are finished with very fixed covers.



*Pict 4; 8 & 12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; objective tubes ©Anna Vacani*





*Pict 5; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; objective tubes ©Anna Vacani*

The objective tube's part at ocular's department is as one piece and creates oculars housings.

The left oculars are inserted into thick brass ring with solid unmovable base. The right ocular's department is moveable for adjustment of the eye width observers.



*Pict 6; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; eye width adjustment; ©Anna Vacani*

The ocular's plate contains many mechanisms at the top and underneath.



*Pict 7; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; ocular plate ©Anna Vacani*

The most important mechanism is the oculars rotation. While keeping the both oculars in your fingers, you can easily turn them to the required magnification. The metal pin will move to the stoppers mounted by the sides of the ocular plates.



*Pict 8; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; stopper for rotation mechanism; ©Anna Vacani*



Underneath of the ocular plate are two mechanisms. Two knobs for the filters colour (pict4). The filters are visible under the ocular covers.

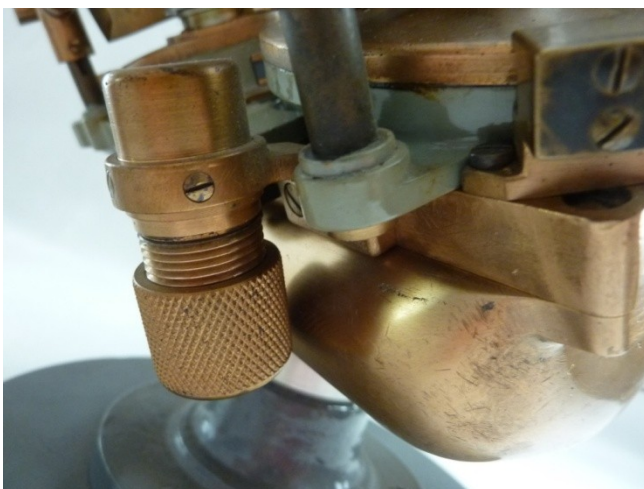


*Pict 9, 10; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; filters ©Anna Vacani*

It is very interesting design of the oculars mounted on the cover plate of the ocular's department for easy rotating of the revolver oculars.

As it is visible in [the picture 4](#), another mechanism, placed on the left side, is for eye width rotary knob.

Under the right ocular ([Pict 6; 7](#)) is a tube for a bulb lightening the reticule, which is fitted in this ocular.



*Pict 11; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; lightening container; ©Anna Vacani*

The revolver is loosely fitted into a base. There is not fitted any screws and similar items.



*Pict 12; 8 & 12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; base; ©Anna Vacani*

It has to be added that the base is not original.  
The revolver is heavy, its weight is - 7, 5 kg.

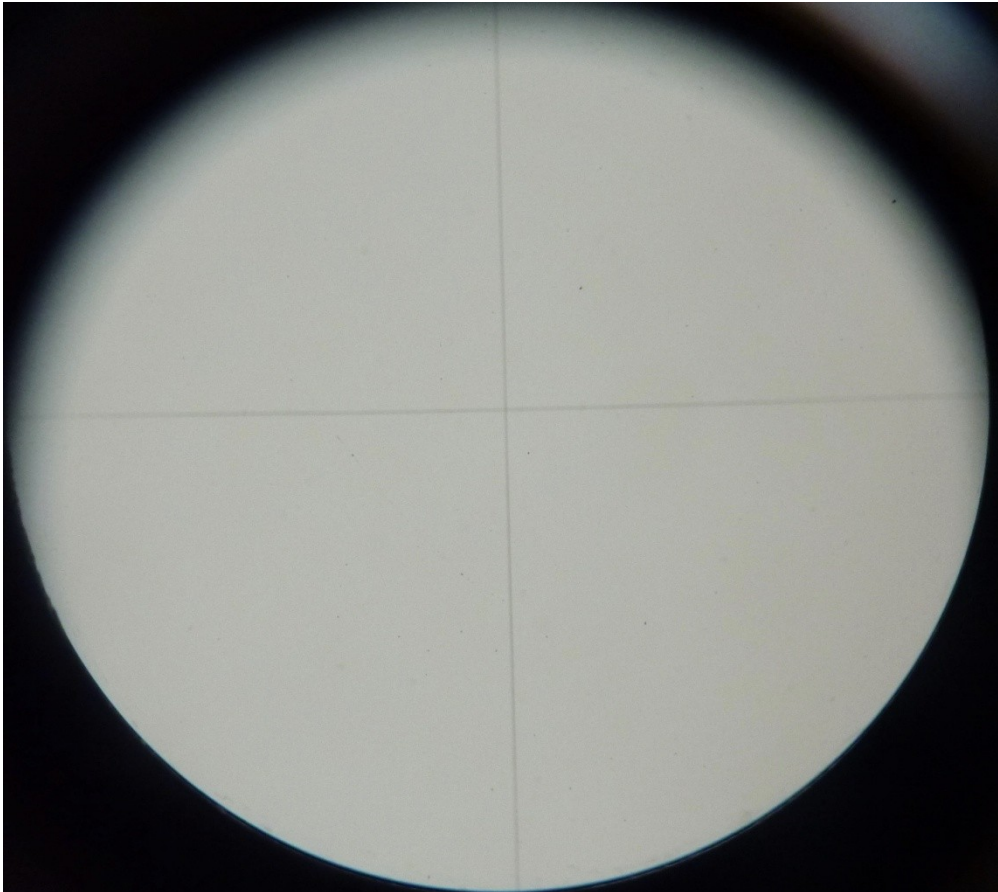
## **2. The revolver's optics**

It is difficult to say a lot about optics. Because of its immaculate optic condition the revolver was not dismantled. We can presume that it is Porro II system, applied in this revolver.

On the revolver body is no description of the magnification of each ocular. As we calculated the revolver magnifications are – 8x and 12,5x.

In the right ocular is mounted a very simple reticule.





*Pict 13; 8 &12, 5 revolver; London V-A. Ltd; reticule; ©Anna Vacani*

## **Conclusions**

Reading the Company history and its produced items, we can presume that the revolver was manufactured (or designed) intended for some ships or other naval purpose.

Additionally, the brass or bronze construction was often used in the navy. The intention of using it on the marine indicates the original light gray paint of the item; it was used in English navy.

The revolver was definitely mounted on the other solid base as the base visible in the [Pict 12](#) is only temporarily. Similarly, as it was mounted on the German marine ships. Look at the article "[U.D.F. 7 x 50 blc U-boat sight for torpedo firing](#)".

We cannot to say that the revolver was in a mass production as nowhere is visible the production number.

We can deduce that it was a prototype? This instrument was not seen by specialist from The Royal Military College of Science.

We would be grateful for your opinions about this model of the revolver.

If anyone has additional knowledge about this model we would be grateful for permission to sharing it with us.

### **Bibliography**

- Writing this article we applied the knowledge from our own large experience and data; since it is not known revolver on the optic market and history.

- Handbook of Artillery Instruments, HMSO, 1914 (in our collection)

- Barr & Stroud Binoculars and The Royal Navy; by William Reid (in our collection)

- <http://enacademic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/292412/24515>

- Wikipedia ; [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/Carden-Loyd\\_Mk.VI\\_Str%C3%A4ngn%C3%A4s\\_12.08.11\\_%283a%29.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/Carden-Loyd_Mk.VI_Str%C3%A4ngn%C3%A4s_12.08.11_%283a%29.JPG)