

INVESTMENT GRADE ACQUISITION

THE “LONDON OPTICAL” VARIANT

SIGHT, FIXED LINE, BREN, MK I

SERIAL NO: 204



ITEM TITLE: SIGHT, FIXED LINE, BREN (CASED)

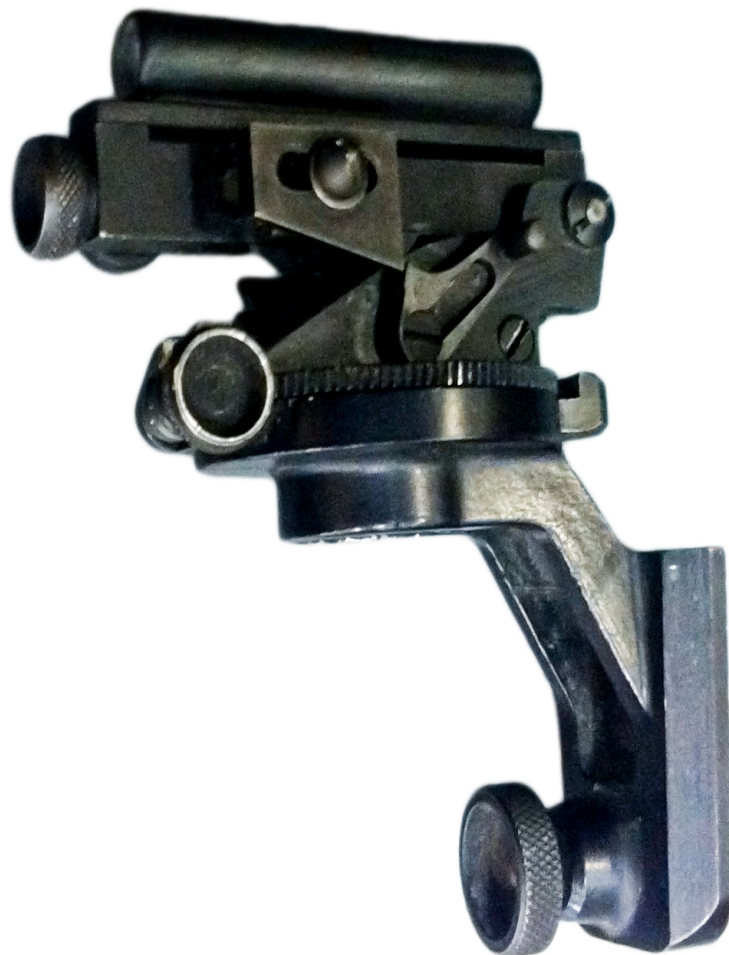
SERIAL NO: 204 (CONFIRMED FIRST BATCH)

MANUFACTURER: PLESSEY / LONDON OPTICAL CO.

MODEL: MK I (LAND SERVICE)

DATE OF ORIGIN: 1939

PROVENANCE: UK ORIGIN / CANADIAN PRESERVATION



THE LOST LEGIONS OF DUNKIRK

In 1939, the “Sight, Fixed Line, Bren” represented the pinnacle of British optical engineering. Designed to convert the Bren Light Machine Gun into an indirect-fire instrument for defensive lines, it was complex, expensive, and issued strictly to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).

THE GREAT DESTRUCTION (1940)

When the German Blitzkrieg collapsed the Allied front in May 1940, the BEF was forced to evacuate from Dunkirk. In the chaos, nearly the entire initial production run of these sights—numbering in the thousands—was abandoned on the beaches.

THE OBSOLESCENCE EVENT

Following the evacuation, the War Department simplified Bren production. The complex mounting brackets were deleted, rendering the Mk I Sight obsolete. Finding a surviving 1939 example is statistically improbable. Finding one from the First Batch of 500 is historically significant.



THE "DUAL-MAKER" ANOMALY

A RARE INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION

Forensic examination of Serial #204 reveals a detail found only on the earliest pre-war examples: a "Dual-Maker" pedigree.

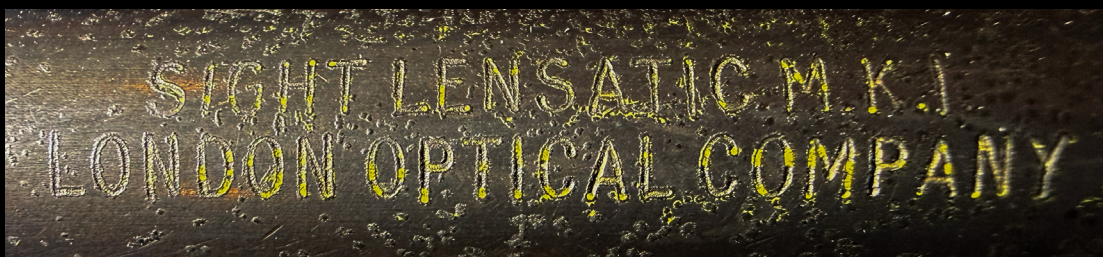


THE EVIDENCE

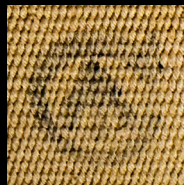
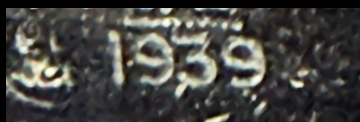
The Mechanics : The side housing bears the code "PL 6642", confirming the heavy engineering was performed by The Plessey Company in Ilford.



The Glass : The upper housing is stamped "THE LONDON OPTICAL CO". This indicates that the precision lenses were ground by a specialist London instrument maker, not a mass-production factory.



The Government Seal : Flanking the date "1939" is the Broad Arrow, the definitive War De-partment acceptance stamp.



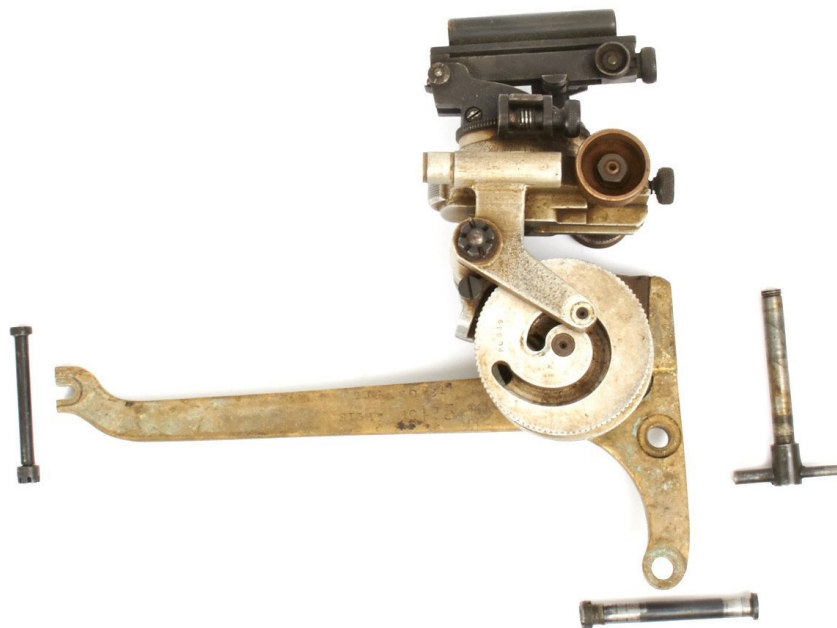
CONCLUSION

This is not a standard wartime mass-production unit. It is a Gentleman's Grade instrument, assembled by two separate British specialist firms before the Blitz forced the dispersal of industry.

THE VICKERS LINEAGE

THE MISSING LINK

To the uninitiated, this is a Bren sight. To the expert, it is a Vickers Hybrid. Forensic examination reveals that the Mk I Fixed Line Sight was a desperate adaptation of existing Great War tooling.



THE VESTIGIAL LATCH

Note the small mechanical latch on the left face of the sight body. On a Vickers Machine Gun Dial Sight, this lever functions as a "Zero Release." On the Bren Fixed Line Sight, it connects to nothing. It is a "vestigial organ"—proof that Plessey utilized unmodified Vickers optical housings to rush this sight into service.



THE “EMPIRE” SAVIOUR



THE SURVIVAL MYSTERY

How did Serial #204, a First-Batch British unit, survive in near-mint condition while its brethren were destroyed in France? The answer lies in the Canvas Transit Case.

THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

The interior lid of the web case bears the faint but definitive “Broad Arrow enclosed in C” stamp—the property mark of the Canadian Department of National Defence.

THE “SAFE HAVEN” THEORY

It is documented that in 1939, a small quantity of early British equipment was shipped to Canada to assist in setting up the John Inglis production lines. While the UK inventory was being decimated in Europe, this unit sat in a climate-controlled Canadian store, protected by the Atlantic Ocean. It is a “British Born, Canadian Saved” artifact.



THE TIME CAPSULE

THE WOODEN PACKERS

The ultimate indicator of an "Unissued" state is the internal woodwork. This case retains its original Yellow Varnish "Set to Zero" Packing Pieces.

Status : In field service, these wooden blocks were immediately discarded by soldiers to save weight. Their presence here, intact and stencilled, confirms this unit has spent 85 years in storage, never seeing a frontline trench.



CONFIGURATION LIST

- Optic :** 98% Original Black Crinkle Finish.
- Mechanics :** Elevation and Windage drums rotate with factory tension.
- Mounting :** The critical dovetail interface shows Zero Peening.
- Case :** Original 1939/40 Webbing, chemically clean.



THE BLUE CHIP ASSET

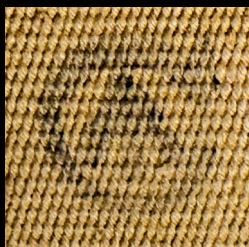
MARKET POSITION

This is not “Surplus”; it is Industrial Heritage. It represents a convergence of three distinct collector markets:

- 1 The Commonwealth Collector :** A “Holy Grail” Pre-Dunkirk artifact.
- 2 The Optics Specialist :** A rare “London Optical Co” signed variant.
- 3 The Investment Buyer :** A confirmed First Batch (Serial #204) survivor.

VALUATION

With standard, late-war examples commanding significant sums, this Serial #204 unit—with its unique “Dual-Maker” provenance and “Time Capsule” condition—stands in a class of its own. It is an unrepeatable opportunity to own a verified survivor from the opening chapter of the Second World War.



INQUIRIES

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REF: ASSET #204