

INVESTMENT GRADE ACQUISITION

# Vickers G.O. No.2 Mk.1

SERIAL NO: 7920



**ITEM TITLE:** Vickers G.O. No.2 Mk.1 (Land Service)  
**SERIAL NO:** 7920  
**MANUFACTURER:** Vickers-Armstrongs (Crayford), U.K.  
**MODEL:** Vickers G.O. No.2 Mk.1  
**DATE OF ORIGIN:** 1939  
**CALIBRE:** .303 British

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*Colonel David Stirling (standing, right) with 'L' Detachment SAS in North Africa, January 1943.*

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & NARRATIVE

### The "Sky to Sand" Doctrine

This exceptional Vickers Gas Operated (VGO) machine gun is a tangible artifact of the Special Air Service's founding doctrine. In 1941, the SAS required a weapon with overwhelming fire superiority to conduct high-speed raids in the North African desert.

### The 'Hose' (950+ RPM)

Rejecting the slow-firing Bren, the SAS appropriated these high-speed aircraft guns from RAF stores. Selected for its blistering 950+ rounds per minute, it was essential for "shoot and scoot" raids on Axis airfields where volume of fire equated to survival. It earned the moniker "The Hose," becoming the defining silhouette of the SAS Willys Jeep.

### Provenance: The 'No.2' Evolution

Early SAS units relied on scavenged aircraft guns with crude field modifications. This specific example, Serial No. 7920, is the superior evolution. It bears the critical "VICKERS G.O. MARK I" stamp, confirming it is a factory-standard Land Service conversion, purpose-built with the correct pistol grip and stock for ground operations.



*L' Detachment SAS patrol in North Africa.*



*SAS Jeep in Tunisia showing the twin-mount Vickers K configuration*



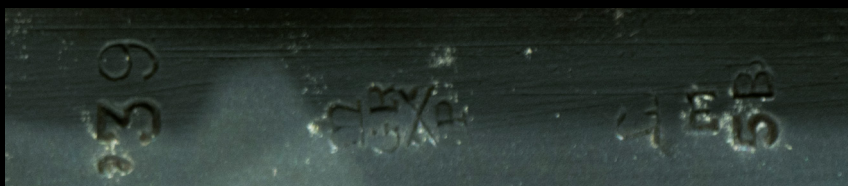
Receiver Detail: VICKERS G.O. MARK I

## FORENSIC VERIFICATION & PROVENANCE

SERIAL: 7920

ORIGIN: The Pre-War Manufacture (1939)

The receiver was milled at the Crayford works during the opening months of WWII. The adjacent "SB" (Steel Batch) and "318" inspector's stamps serve as factory "birthmarks," confirming the receiver block has not been scrubbed or re-surfaced.



SERVICE: THE "SURVIVOR" INSPECTION (1945)

The presence of a "45" stamp on a 1939 receiver is historically significant. It implies the weapon remained in the inventory system for the entire duration of the war and underwent a depot-level inspection at the conflict's end.



RELEASE: THE CIVILIAN "PASSPORT"

The "Crown over NP" (Nitro Proof) certifies the weapon was officially released from military stores and safety-tested by the Birmingham Proof House. This establishes a clear, legal chain of custody.



AUTHENTICATION DATA

### Government Acceptance

The "Broad Arrow" (Pheon) marks visible on the receiver confirm continuous British War Department ownership.



### Matching Manufacturer

Forensic inspection of the pistol grip reveals consistent "V.A." (Vickers-Armstrongs) stamps, confirming a coherent factory assembly.



## CONDITION REPORT

### Finish & Patina

The firearm presents in honest, professional condition. The metalwork retains a consistent, service-grade finish that avoids the artificial glare of over-restoration. It exhibits the sophisticated patina of a genuine conflict-era artifact.

### Mechanics & Markings

Markings : Manufacturer stamps, Broad Arrow acceptance marks, and the "No.2" conversion codes are crisp and deeply struck.

The Raider Configuration Includes :

**100-Round Pan Magazine:** Original "No.2" specification with correct canvas carry handle (Historically loaded to 96 rounds per SAS doctrine to preserve spring tension).

**Vertical Foregrip:** The defining "SAS" modification for recoil control.

**No.2 Mk.1 Buttstock:** The specialized Land Service hardware

**MK II Canvas Case Catcher:** An exceptionally scarce, War Department-issued component. Verified by its crisp "MK II" nomenclature and Broad Arrow acceptance stamp. This accessory was essential for Special Forces operations, ensuring a "brass-free" operational profile that was critical for concealing the Raider's track during covert missions.

Action : The mechanism cycles with the precision tolerances expected of Vickers engineering.

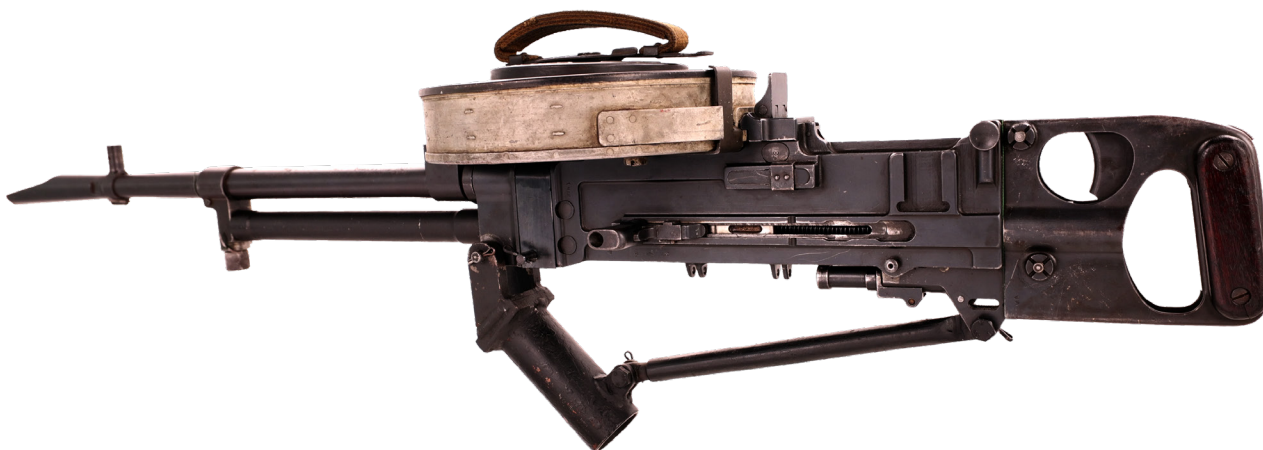


## INVESTMENT SUMMARY

Rarity : An exceptionally scarce first-contract receiver that transitioned to Land Service specification. Its unique value is derived from its blistering 950+ RPM operational profile, a rate unmatched by any contemporary ground weapon.

Status : The definitive cultural icon of the SAS "Jeep Raid" era. This asset embodies the elite 'shoot and scoot' doctrine.

Recommendation : An investment-grade acquisition for the serious curator of British Special Forces history.



## INQUIRIES

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