

Barr & Stroud Binoculars

Barr and Stroud, founded in 1888 by Archibald Barr and William Stroud to develop and manufacture optical rangefinders, produced their first binoculars in 1919.

During the 1930s the company became the preferred supplier of binoculars to the Admiralty, a position it maintained until the mid-1950s.

Increased competition from the Far East during the 1960s, coupled with the failure to win any significant new military contracts, led to Barr and Stroud ceasing binocular production in early 1972.

Serial numbers for binoculars were allocated in strict chronological sequence, irrespective of model.

The production ledgers, which record these details along with the purchaser and dispatch dates, were not included amongst the records we received from the company.

A table of approximate dating information is overleaf.

Based on Appendix III of *"We're certainly not afraid of Zeiss" – Barr & Stroud Binoculars and The Royal Navy* by William Reid, supplemented by information obtained by sampling the remaining outward invoice books, (UGD 295/3).

Serial No.	Date
8138	1932
10300	1934
13206	1936
17979	pre-1940
33135	1940-1
48339	1944
70119	1945
89971	1946-7
91786	1947
106337	1951
115656	1951
116089	1952
116365	1953
117711	1954
118501	1955
119096	1956
119298	1957
123171	1958
124480	1959
125664	1960
127349	1961
127512	1962
127525	1962
131387	1969
131406	1970
133645	1971