



Busch Second World War 10 x 80 Binoculars

Sold



REF: 28363

Height: 28 cm (11")

Width: 48 cm (18.9")

Depth: 40.5 cm (15.9")

Description

German Observation Binoculars, 10 X 80

A pair of German ex-military observation binoculars mounted on a modern aluminium cradle with vintage adjustable wooden 'Wild' tripod. The binoculars with 45° incline eyepieces are marked D.F. 10 x 80, X cxn ?, 98157, 58004. cxn is the secret manufacturing code assigned to Emil Busch Optical Industries of Rothenau by the German Army Ordnance Department. Adjustment of the interocular distance is by a knob on the top right hand side, the four shade settings for the lenses are by the knob on the left and the eyepieces can be focused individually. The optics are equal to any modern equivalent and have an outstanding visual clarity. This is a very fine pair of binoculars with a highly polished finish, giving it a sculptural look.

The measurements are without the tripod.

These large aperture binoculars produced during the Second World War were developed for their superior magnification and were manufactured for their specific military purposes where quality and dependability were more important than cost. They were used for long range land observation, aircraft identification or to facilitate the direction of anti-aircraft fire. Being large they were usually mounted onto heavy tripods and were also used on coastal installations as 'look-outs' or mounted to large heavy deck mountings on war ships. The last image is a wartime photograph showing the flakglass mounted onto the flak direction apparatus being used by female assistants (taken from the book - Militärische Ferngläser und Fernrohre by Hans Seeger).

The DF 10 X 80 Flak Glass was manufactured in abundance during WWII by a number of German companies. The original design was by Emil Busch Optical Industries of Rathenow, their manufacturing code was cxn. The German Army Ordnance Department assigned secret manufacturing codes to the different companies, some of the other well known manufacturers were Josef Schneider (dkl), Carl Zeiss (blc), Ernst Leitz (beh), R. Fuess, vorm. J.G. Greiner & Geissler, Optische Industrie, Berlin (cro), Optische Anstalt C.P. Goerz GmbH, Wien 75, Sonnleithnergasse 5 (bpd) and Optische Präzisionswerke GmbH, Warschau (eug).

The D.F. engraved before 10x80 on the binoculars stands for Doppel-Fernrohr (double telescope) and they are mechanically joined together along the horizontal axis with both the left and right sides being separate entities. In addition to DF 10 X 80 and the serial number symbols such as ?, ? and X can be found engraved on the body of the binoculars. These give the indication of grease used on the devices and the different symbols appeared in different years as improvements in lubricant performance or availability changed. It is not unusual to have several markings as some instruments returned for servicing, repair or were re-greased and would have had the latest lubricants applied and thus the current symbol being added even if a previous one already existed.

An approximate date of some of the different lubricant symbols are

K.F. : 1940-41

O : 1942

+ : 1942-43-44 (mainly applied in 1943)

? : 1943-45 (mainly applied in 1944).