

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 50

DECEMBER

2004

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Founded by Les Adams, August 1992

Another year almost past and this issue of Blowlamp News (**No 50**) marks another milestone in the Blowlamp Society.

Membership of the Society is at an all time high, with the addition of 4 new members in recent weeks bringing the total to 135, covering all areas of the UK, as well as Jersey, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, USA, Canada and Australia.

I felt that we could not let **50** pass us by un-noticed so I have included a special feature for the centre pages, I hope you all like it.

This is now the end of my second year as editor and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed towards the newsletter and would like to encourage more of you to do so. I am sure there are some interesting articles and photographs out there just waiting to be published.

In a recent telephone conversation with Bob Prichard, the subject of blowlamp literature came up and our conclusion was that everyone has probably got some tucked away and wouldn't it be great to produce a Blowlamp Society catalogue concentrating mainly on British blowlamps. I would be more than willing to edit such a catalogue and Bob has volunteered to help with document copying. If you think it is a good idea, let me know. Better still, start rooting out your literature and send me a reasonable quality photocopy, or for those with all the computer bits, scan the copies and e-mail them. If there is enough literature available, I would suggest that we could also include photographs of examples of each make, as well as company histories and would end up with an attractive publication.

Following on from the mention in the last issue, of an anonymous member from Wales suffering the effects of too much cider, I have received a letter from Dave Rees, who knows this person, and would like to put the record straight.

Apparently the person concerned had visited the Real Ale tent to film Harris's Steam Fair "Pulling Down" and, thinking of his grandchildren, who collect beer mats, ventured into the beer tent. He reassures us that not a drop of cider passed his lips, however, there were 24 real ale barrels being emptied by all and sundry and being a pensioner, decided to put his full support to the task (well it all had to go – and it was free). The remainder of the storey, from that point, remains hazy, but the following morning there was sensitivity to noise levels, but more like 2.3DB, rather than the stated 1DB. According to the member, the scurrilous escort who saw him home and divulged this event needs to be castigated (at least I think that is what he said, as his writing was difficult to read).

MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned above, we have recently recruited 4 new members, Colin Beadman from Barwell Leicestershire, Charlie Day from Birmingham, Peter Jackson from Doncaster and Derek Pearce from Sheperton Middlesex.

It is with sadness that I have to report the sudden death of Des Millward on 5th August.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005

The enlarged format of the newsletter and the use of good quality paper have had the effect of significantly increasing postage costs, particular air mail, so it does mean that I am going to have to ask for a small increase to some of the subscriptions. To maintain the status quo for 2005, UK subscriptions will be £5-00, Europe £7-50, USA, Canada and Australia £10-00. Equivalent payments in Euros and Dollars will be detailed on the renewal forms and all payments in these currencies should be made in cash so that we avoid bank charges.

MEETINGS FOR 2005

Brigitte and Willy Mouton are again organising the Belgian Meeting which will take place on **Saturday March 12th**. The meeting will be held at the same venue as last year which is about a one and a half hour journey from the channel tunnel. For those of you who have been to this meeting before, there is no need to convince you to go next year, for those who have not been before; it is a well organised event with some very impressive displays of blowlamps. There is an invitation included with this newsletter and all replies should be sent directly to Brigitte and Willy.

Last year, I suggested organising a meeting in East Anglia, with a suggested venue being The Ipswich Transport Museum. Unfortunately response to this idea was poor, but as the season has passed, more people have said that perhaps I should try again next year. I know the season is full, particularly for those who attend rallies, so I would suggest that we look to the first **Saturday in October**. We would have exclusive use of the museum, with tables set out amongst the exhibits for showing our blowlamps. Refreshments will be provided and a guided tour of the museum could be arranged for anyone wanting to know more about the place. There is a fixed charge for using the museum, so I would suggest that we need at least 20 people to make it viable. Costs will be between £10 and £15, depending on the choice of refreshment, so if you think it is a good idea please let me know. For those interested, personal invitations will be sent nearer the time, detailing the itinerary.

The May meeting has still to be finalised and further details will appear in the March issue.

RALLY REPORT

Both Keith Hawkins and Dave Rees report an enjoyable end to the rally season. Keith says that the last 5 rally's were undoubtedly the best for enjoyment, collector visitors and lamp acquisitions. At Lincoln, Keith had visits from Max Rhodes, Dave Thomas, Ted Rawson and Ken Longden. The rally was well attended, with many fine exhibits and during the course of the weekend, Keith acquired a Sievert 571, for £3-00. He now has a 571, 572, 574 576 and 577 and would ask that if anyone has a 573 or 575 for sale, he would like to complete the set. Next was on to Honiton Hill and although he likens the ground conditions to the Nile Delta, the weather improved and the rally was a great success. Keith met up with Ray Gubb, who was also displaying some lamps, amongst which was a small paraffin Bladon with a 45 burner, an outside pump and a wooden handle, similar to an Amor. Also on show was a nicely polished John Bull. Other visitors included John Tingle, John Trippick and Ken Longden.

Following Honiton Hill was The Great Dorset Steam Fair and Keith would like to pass on his thanks to all those who visited him, too numerous to list, making this the most enjoyable rally of the year. (Tom Bartlett deserves a mention as tea maker in chief). As usual there were a lot of blowlamps for sale, attracting some very high asking prices, but inevitably ones resolve weakens and purchases were made. Keith bought a an Optimus 395 and an MJR soldering iron for £30-00 each, a nice little Perfektus (Barthel 101 Type) with unusual folding handles for £35-00 and at the very end of the show, an engine lamp with a finned vertical burner and a cast aluminium tank which included the handle as part of the casting. It said Imbert on the valve handle, but a plate attached to the handle showed, Jean Deckardt K-G of Ausberg. (see picture No 4 in the centre spread) Keith will not admit the cost of the lamp, but he says it almost broke the bank.

Following Dorset was the Essex Rally at Barleylands where Piers Daye and Dave Firmin visited, and then onto Power of the Past at Wantisden, where Keith, ably assisted by Tom

Bartlett, entertained me for the day on Saturday and also had a visit from Harry Webb. Unfortunately, there were no lamps for sale but there is always a good selection of lamp start engines and tractors on show. So ends a great season covering over 2500 miles.

Dave Rees, with his wife Joan, attended the Torbay Steam Fair, which was special this year as it coincided with the 150th anniversary of the Anderton & Rowland's travelling fair, and 5 of their steam engines were on show. While browsing around Torquay's side streets, Dave found an Easilit, complete with the 3 brass instruction discs, and only £40-00.

Next came the St Agnes Rally, which unfortunately suffered from some dreadful weather, but Dave did find a 1 pint Orleikon for £18-00.

Finally on to the Great Dorset, where Dave was unsuccessful with new purchases, as Joan would not let him give his blood for them. However, he did make a swap with Keith and was happy with the deal. He met up with Gina Adams, who was visiting the old collections regulars. (Les Adams was Collections Secretary for a number of years)

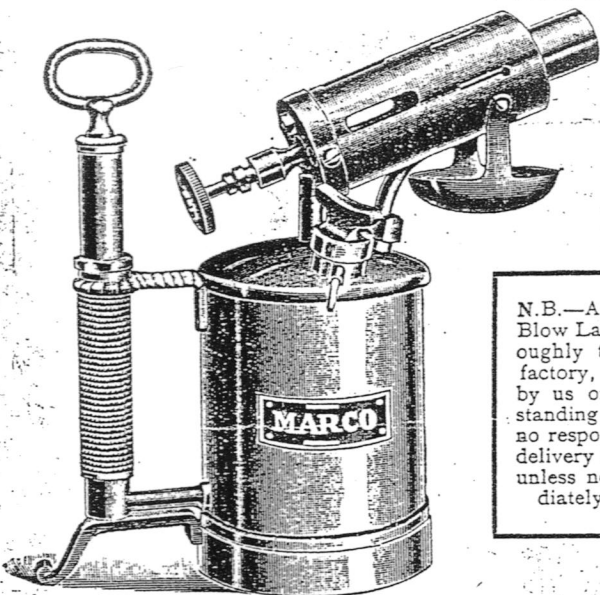
Although Dave's search for new lamps was barren, he did note that a friend of Hywell Thomas purchased an Optimus 301 (not many of those in circulation).

I have received 2 further letters regarding the Great Dorset Steam Fair, firstly from James Wyatt, who would like to thank Keith and Tom for their hospitality, particularly the refreshments and a place to sit and chat and mull over what had been seen in the autojumble. The second letter was from Bob Prichard, who was feeling rather pleased with himself for finding a 2.5 pint Halycon, late on the Sunday, he could not believe that someone had not snapped it up earlier. He asks if anyone else has one of this particular make or if any history of the manufacturer exists.

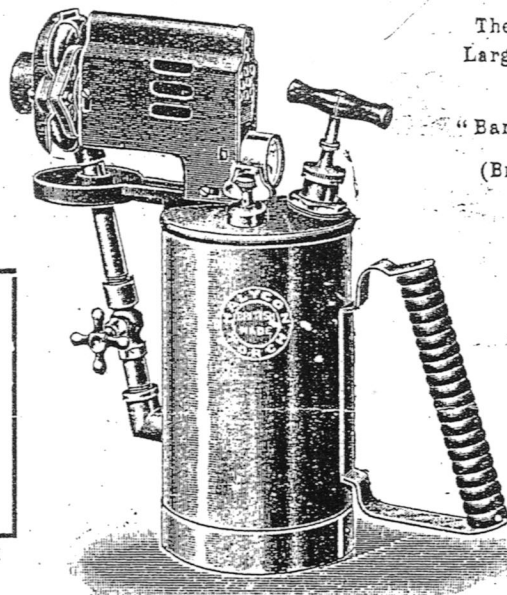
I have a copy of a page from a Brown Brothers catalogue of 1917 which shows the Halycon, together with a rather attractive Marco (see below).

396 BROWN BROTHERS LIMITED.

Brazing Lamps—continued—Brushes, etc.



N.B.—All Brazing and Blow Lamps are thoroughly tested at the factory, and are sold by us on the understanding that we take no responsibility after delivery for any defect unless notified immediately on receipt.



The "Halycon" Large Paraffin Oil Torches. "Barthel" System. (British made.)

For soldering, brazing or heating these large lamps are very serviceable for cycle and motor manufacturers, coppersmiths, engineers, dockyards, breweries, etc., etc.

Petroleum Brazing Lamps.

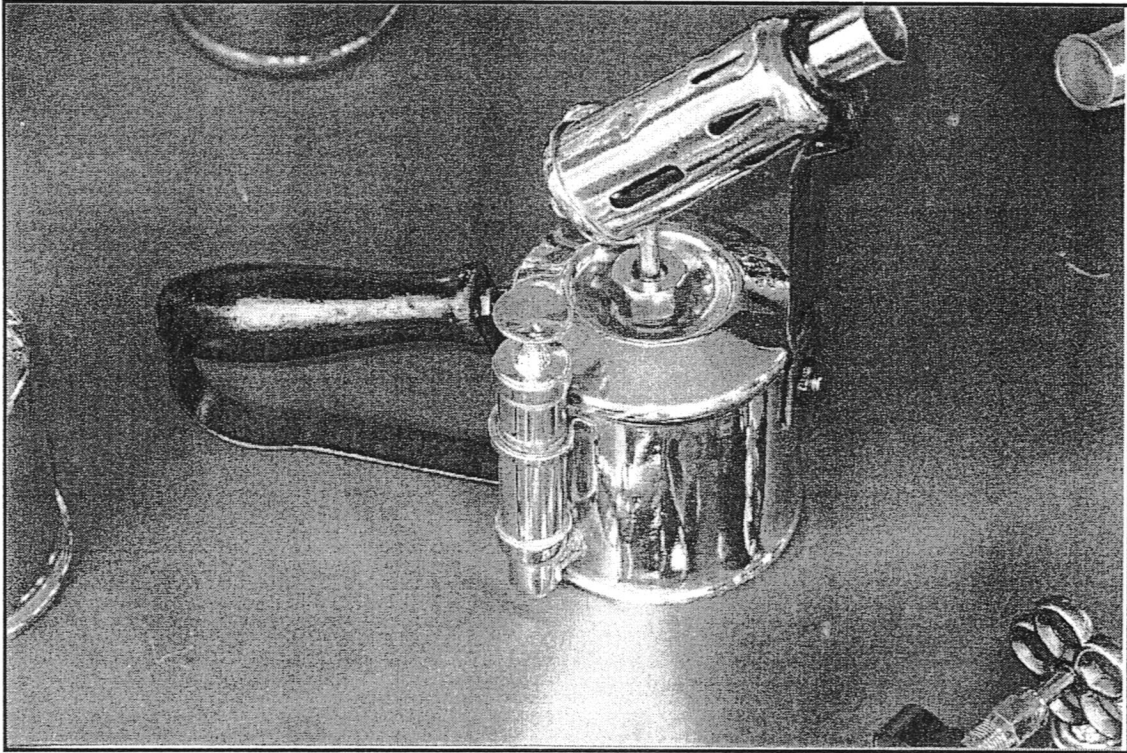
A concentrated powerful heat, suitable for motor or cycle brazing. The burner is provided with a regulating valve, by which the flame can be shut off or reduced, while maintaining the air pressure in the tank.

No. 7082a.	Capacity, 2½ pint...	each	33/-
" 7082b.	" 4 " " " " " " " "	"	50/-
" 7082c	" 6 " " " " " " " "	"	75/-

Petroleum Brazing Torches.

Powerful. Intense heat. Absolutely safe.

No. 7084c.	Full flame about 8 in., capacity, 2½ pints, 75 minutes, with gauge	each	65/-
" 7084d.	Full flame about 20 in., capacity, 5 pints, 60 minutes, with gauge	each	75/-



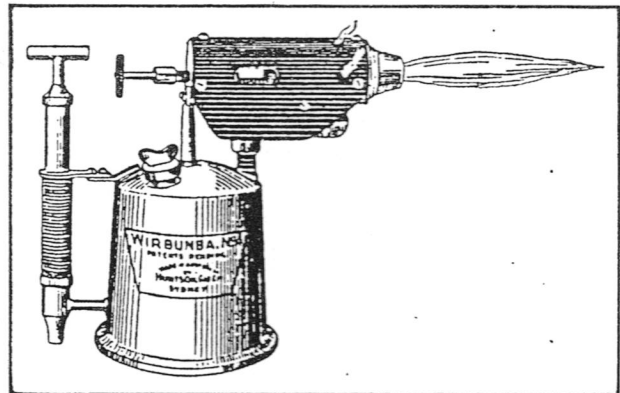
Ray Gubb's Bladon which was on show at Honiton Hill.

MADE IN AUSTRALIA

While looking through some of the papers inherited from Les Adams, I found reference to a blowlamp made by Hunt's Oil Gas Company of 193 Hay Street, Sydney, and the article, from a copy of the Hardware and Machinery magazine dated July 1920, reads as follows.

Hunts Oil Gas Co gave practical demonstrations of the "Pioneer" oil gas stoves and the "Wilbunba" brazing and burning-off lamp. It is interesting to note that "Wilbunba" in the Aboriginal language means "Flame of the fire bursting forth".

This lamp is manufactured in it's entirety by the Hunt Co., at their works in Hay Street. It compares favourably with the imported article, and possesses several improvements, which users have not been slow to recognise. The body of the lamp is composed of a solid piece of brass and the pump is secured to it with two screws, while the hexagon nut is at the base (instead of at the top in the imported lamps).



The fact that the pump fits firmly into the arm support at the top, dispensing with the cane binding, overcomes the rather frequent damage of twisting the pump and straining the lower joint.

A further improvement is the elimination of the air screw by a channel cut in the thread over which the thumb screw cap is fitted. A slight release of the latter adjusts the air pressure as required. An improved valve seating, wherein the expansion by heat and frequent use carbonised the point and establishes leakage, has been overcome by a simple nipple, which provides its own seating, and can be replaced in a few minutes at a trifling cost.

Special attention has been given to balance in the hand. The lamp can be obtained in five sizes. The distributing agents are Maroney & Egan, Vickery Chambers, 82 Pitt Street, Sydney.

We will have to look to our two Australian members to see if an example of the Wilbunba exists and to whether either of the companies mentioned are still trading today.

REQUEST FOR HELP

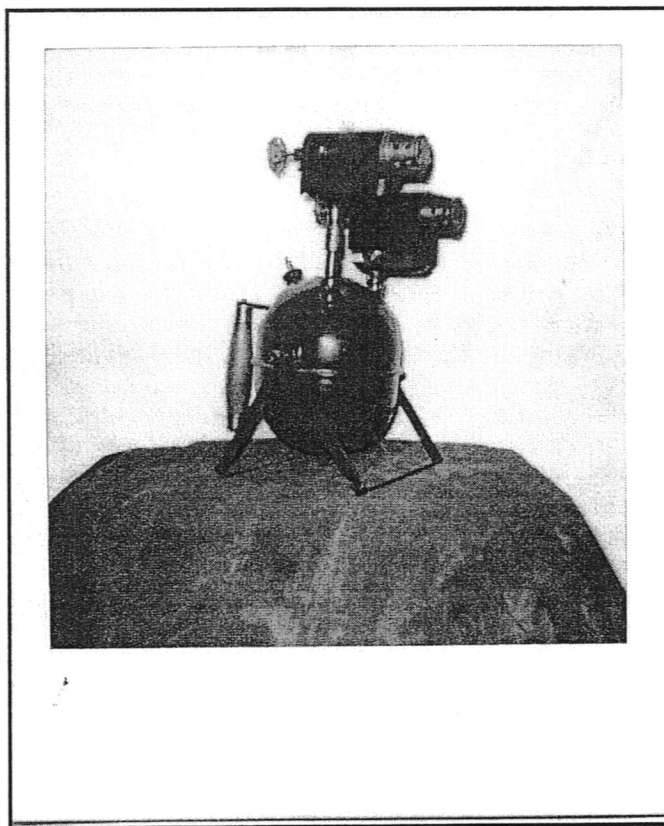
I have received a request from Les Hale, who is restoring a Shropshire Fly boat, which was bought in 1967 and was one of the last wooden boats to be built in Market Harborough, by Giles Baker.

The boat has a 9hp, single cylinder, Bolinder engine and Les has asked for help in locating the correct blowlamp for starting the engine.

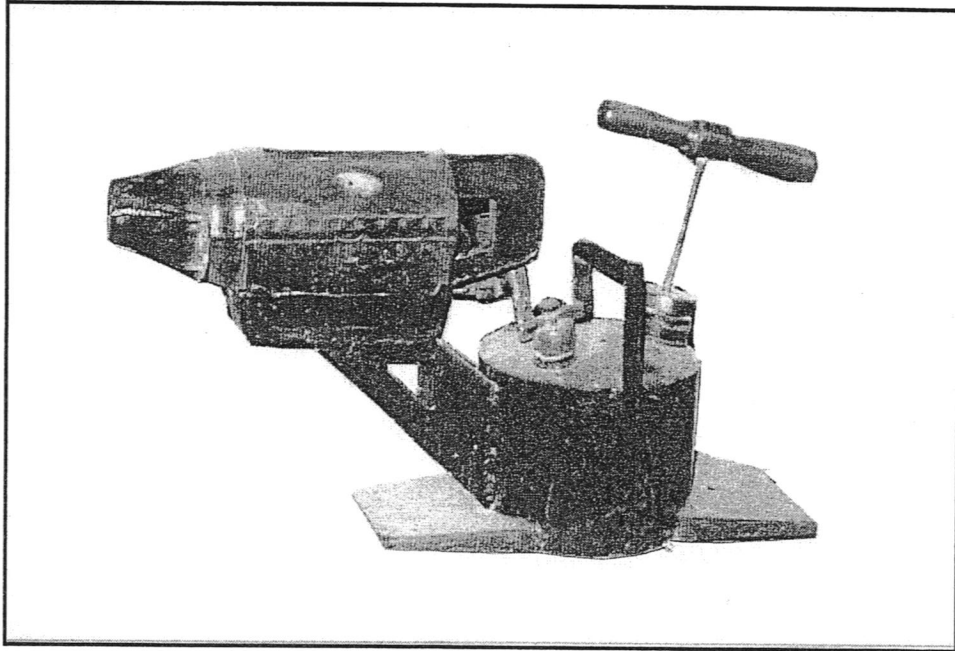
Keith Hawkins has confirmed that the blowlamp for this particular engine is a Vapouria No15, so if anyone has a spare, and would like to help Les complete his restoration, he can be contacted on 01162 693410.

THE ODDBALL COLLECTION

I have two additions to the oddball collection this month; the first one was submitted by Mark Pedersen, who says that it was made by a farmer who used to make many of his own tools. Apparently it started out life as a flare pot (a roadside construction marker) before being converted to a blow torch.



The second entry was discovered by Keith Hawkins while on holiday in Malta. He had an invitation from an engine collector he had met at the Great Dorset Steam Fair to see the collection when he was next in Malta, and it just happened that Keith already had a trip planned. It is a heavy looking blowlamp with an extremely large burner. Unfortunately the owner could not shed any light on to its intended use.



A BRILIANT SHINE

Everybody has their own ideas as to whether blowlamps should be polished, I, for one like to see nice shiny brass and I am sure there are others out there who would agree. We all have our own methods of cleaning the grime off old and unloved blowlamps and it usually involves a lot of hard work (if anyone knows of any easy methods, please let me know).

The thing is, once we have achieved a good shine on the brasswork, how do we maintain it, with the minimum of effort. I don't like to use lacquer, as you can always see it is there, and if it gets damaged, it has to be stripped off and re-applied. Having tried the usual Brasso and Goddards polish, which will give a good result, all be it short lived; I was looking for something which would last that bit longer and be less liable to show the effects of greasy fingers. Anyone who shows lamps will agree that the public like to have a close look at our lamps, but they always forget that there is a handle, and pick them up by the tank.

Whilst attending the Weeting Rally in 2003, I watched a demonstration by a company known then as English Custom Polishes, now known as **BRILIANT POLISHES**, who were making the claim that when brass was cleaned with their products, the shine would last for 6 months, if not longer. I will admit that I was not convinced, but bought a bottle to give it a try. There were 3 grades of polish and I bought the mid grade as a good general purpose cleaner. Using this polish, which contains a percentage of wax, I cleaned all of the brass and copper I could lay my hands on, to test out the claim. This was in July and the next time I went to clean the brass at Christmas, it just needed a light wipe over, so I can confirm that it does work. The secret appears to be the wax content, which when buffed with a 'microfibre' cloth, gives the long lasting shine.

The finish drew a lot of favourable comments at rally's, but I still had the problem with finger prints. I have since found out that Brilliant sell another product called Renaissance wax, which when applied to the cleaned brass, gives a protection against finger prints and the product has been endorsed by museums.

For those of you with computers, you can look on the Brilliant web site at www.briliant.biz, otherwise contact details can be found in the box advert on the back page.

What you need to look for is the brass and copper polish, which is the general cleaner, followed by the gold and silver polish, which has the greater content of wax.

If you would like to try any of the polishes, please let me know, as there is a local agent in Ipswich and I might be able to negotiate a discounted rate through the Blowlamp Society.

SNIPPETS

Russell Harrower has sent in the following brief history of **William Marples & Sons Ltd.**

The company was established in 1794 by William Snr., passing to William Jnr. in 1828. His 3 sons joined the company in 1856, moving to new premises at Hibernia Works, Westfield Terrace, Sheffield, where they remained until 1983, at which time they merged with Record Ridgeway to form Record Marples (Woodworking Tools) Ltd.

They were prolific Wooden Tool manufacturers and Edge & Joiner Tool manufacturers. Their trademarks are Shamrock and Hibernia, being of Irish decent.

In the mid 1920's after an initial period where they purchased blowlamp shells from other companies and completed them themselves, they started manufacturing all types of blowlamps under their trade names of Shamrock and Hibernia.

Samuel Heath and RM

Russell has information which suggests RM Manufacturing & Engineering Co Ltd were still trading from premises in Stanhope Street, Birmingham in 1974. Also Samuel Heath & Sons were still trading at that time from Leopold Street, Birmingham.

The Gas Lighting Improvement Co Ltd

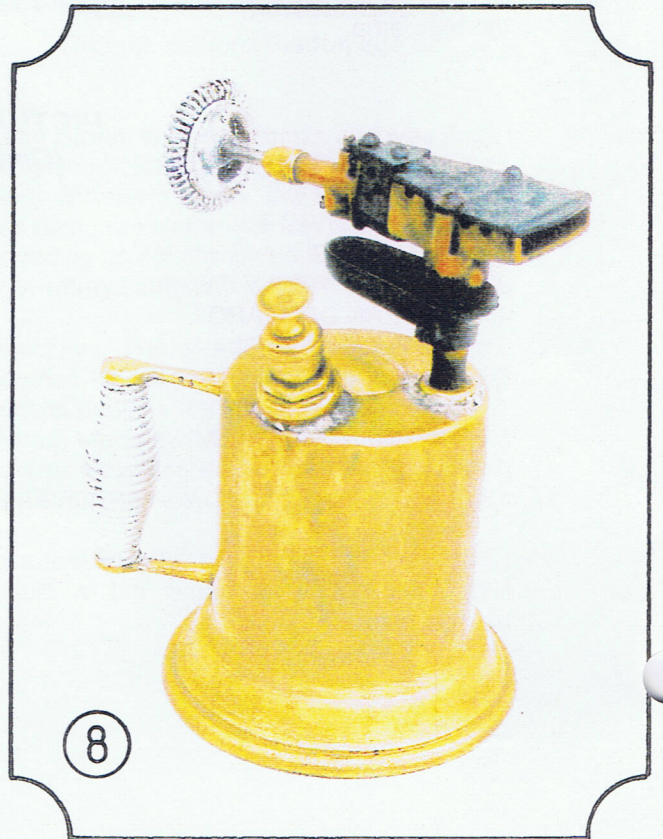
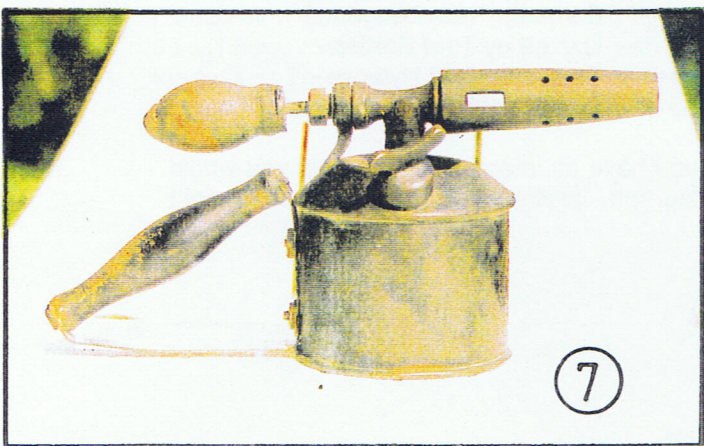
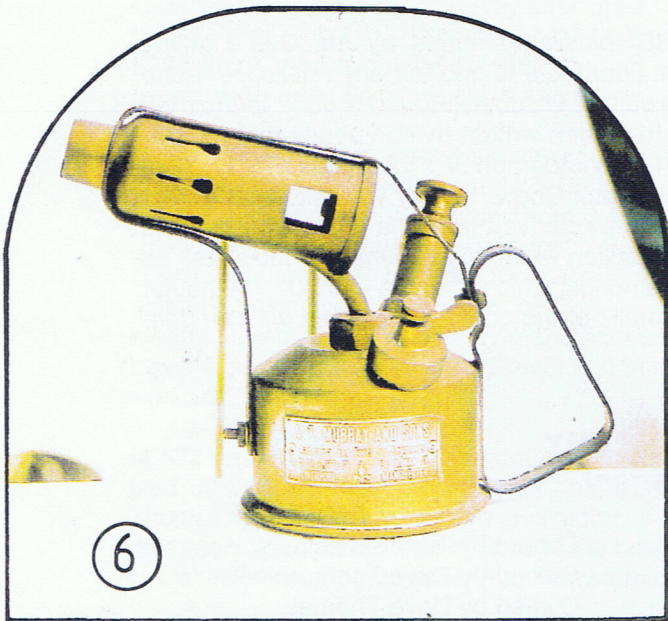
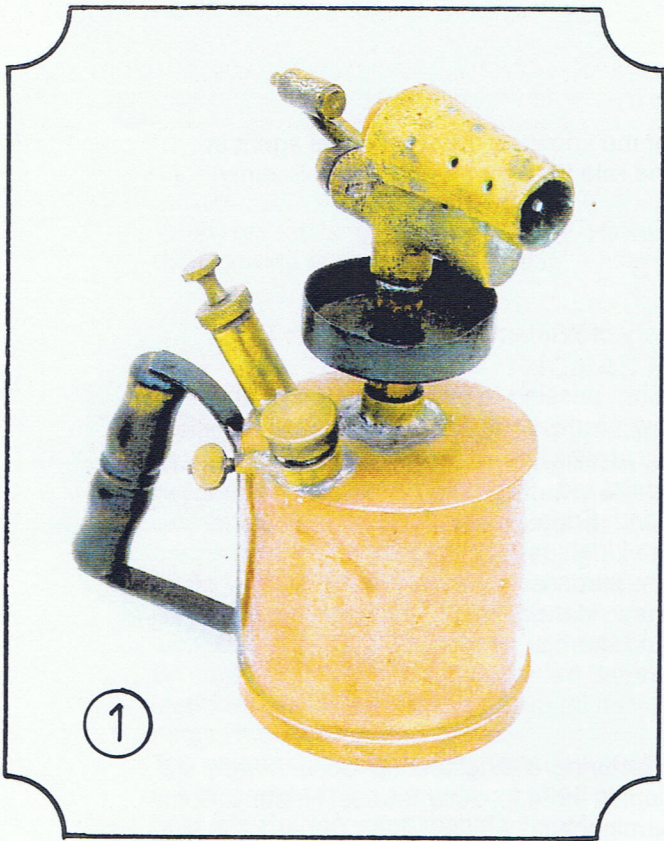
In BN47, I published photographs of a "SIRIUS" blowlamp, made by the Gas Lighting Improvement Company and until recently had not been able to find out any reference to the company. Whilst visiting a copper mine in Cornwall, in October, I found a book in their gift shop entitled "Petroleum Collectables", and as it had been written by somebody that I know, decided to buy a copy. On page 13 of the book is a photograph of a trade stand for the Gas Lighting Improvement Co Ltd. at the 1920 Olympia Motor Show. They were promoting their "Motor Spirit" with the "GLICO" trade name, which was derived from the initial letters of the company. I suppose I should have made the connection when I first bought the blowlamp as another collection of mine is 2 gallon petrol cans, amongst which I have a GLICO. Although the author of the book did not have any further details of the company, at least we can date the blowlamp.

PICTURE GALLERY **(Centre pages)**

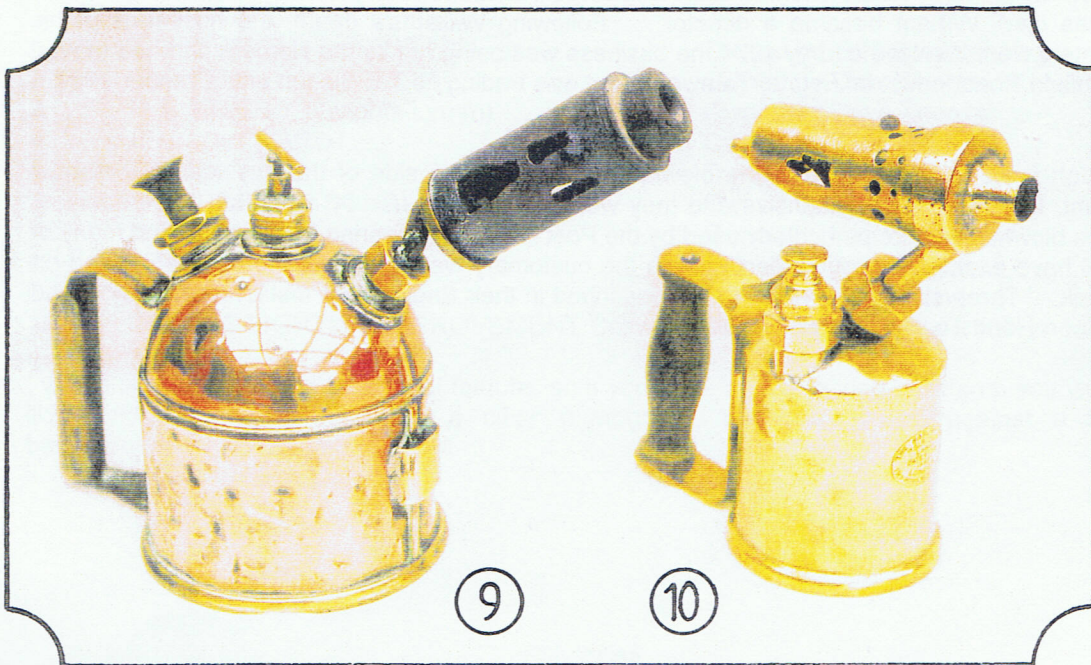
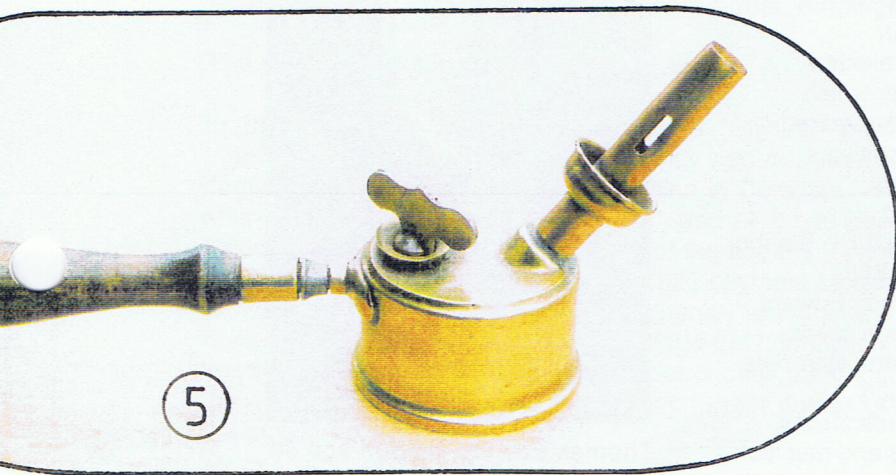
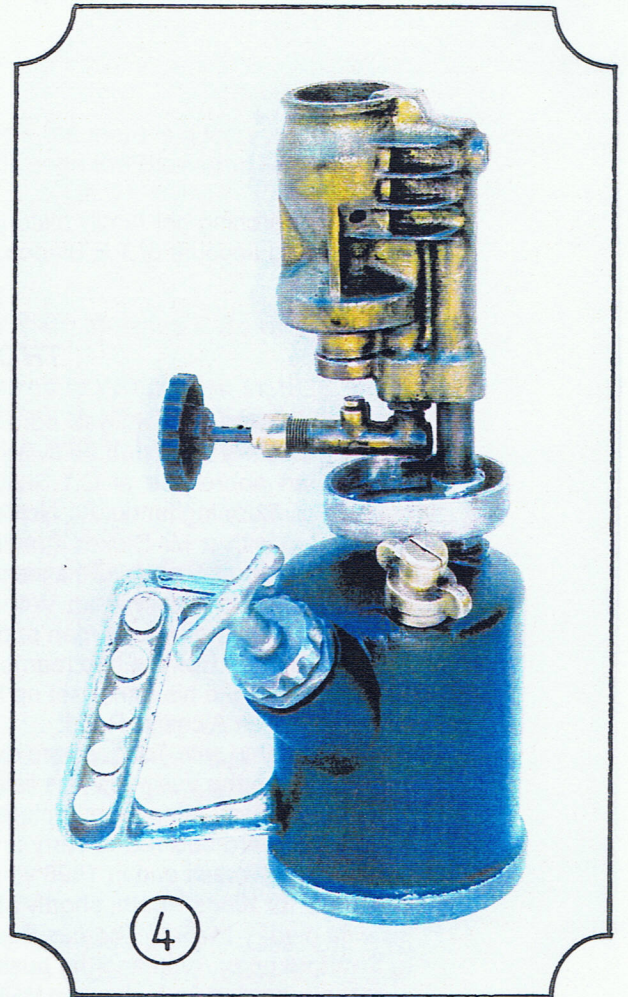
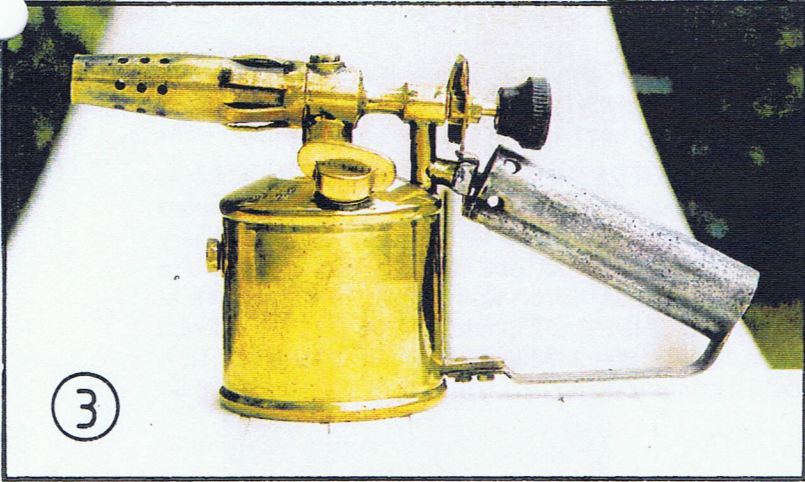
1	A.E.LOVETT	Owned by Tom Bartlett
2	RADIUS	Owned by Dave Thomas
3	THE FIREFLY (Wrights Lymm)	Owned by Dave Thomas
4	JEAN DECKARDT	Owned by Keith Hawkins
5	VULCAN (1893)	Owned by Keith Hawkins
6	A.T.MURRAY & SONS	Owned by Dave Thomas
7	THE SUNBEAM	Owned by Ken Longden
8	DETROIT TORCH Co	Owned by Tom Bartlett
9	UNKNOWN	Owned by Ray Hyland
10	THE GAS LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT Co	Owned by Ray Hyland

I would like to make this an annual feature, so if you have an interesting blowlamp you would like included, please send me a clear photograph, preferably taken against a light background.

PICTURE



GALLERY



Whilst researching her family history, Helena Coney (maiden name Bladon) has provided us with the following account of T.E. Bladon.

THOMAS EDWARD BLADON

Thomas Edward Bladon was born in 1849, possibly at 23 Albion Street, Birmingham, which is where the family are listed as living in the 1851 census. Upon leaving school, Thomas Edward became an apprentice at C.T. Shaw, diamond manufacturers (the family living in the jewellery quarter of Birmingham). However this apprenticeship did not last long as he formed a partnership with a Mr Stokes (trading as Stokes & Bladon) which was trading from premises at 46/61 Northwood Street. This partnership was short lived and Thomas Edward soon joined with Mark Tongue, originally from Wolverhampton, a lamp manufacturer who had a business at 4 James Street, employing 4 men and 2 boys.

By now Thomas Edward had married Sarah Matthews and like his father set up home in Kings Heath on Alcester Road.

The partnership with Tongue was dissolved in 1881, when the business was listed as Ship and Railway lamp manufacturers.

Thomas Edward decided to carry on in business by himself and in 1898 was elected councillor for Kings Heath, shortly after which his wife died. In 1917 Thomas Edward retired to Stratford upon Avon and the business was eventually carried on by his son William.

The business traded under the name of T E Bladon at 99 Northwood Street from around 1888.

On 20th January 1916 it became Thomas Edward Bladon and Son Ltd and the description reads "Trade or business to be brass founders, stampers, piercers, tinsmiths, lamp makers, oil can manufacturers, motor accessory manufacturers, casters, spinners, electrical engineers and munition workers"



Thomas Edward Bladon age 50

In 1921 a mortgage was taken out on 99/105 Northwood Street, for the business and was finally paid off in 1966. When Thomas retired, George Raymond Neale came on board and when Thomas died, William became a director. Following Williams's death, the husbands of his daughters were involved and by 1974 the business was being run by the Homers and had moved to Lichfield Road Industrial Estate, Tamworth and was trading as T E Bladon until October 1990.

Although there is no mention of the blowlamp manufacturing side of the business in Helena's account, their range was extensive and they were adopted for use by a number of companies. Bladon blowlamps were particularly used by the Post Office Engineering Department and many of us will have examples in our collection with the customary warning about their use engraved on the tank. Three sizes of blowlamp were described in their Engineering Instruction on Tools and Transport Hand Tools, a copy of which follows.

LAMPS, TORCHBLOWING, Nos. 1, 2 & 3

* [NOTE.—As this Instruction has been completely revised, individual paragraphs have not been 'starred'.]

1. **General.**—This Instruction describes the construction and operation of "Lamps, Torchblowing, Nos. 1, 2 and 3" and the precautions which must be observed in their use. These lamps all burn petrol and are illustrated in Fig. 1.

2. **Capacities and Burning Times.**—The petrol capacity and approximate burning time, without re-fuelling, for each type of lamp is tabled below :—

Type of lamp	Capacity (pts.)	Burning time (mins.)
Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 1	$\frac{1}{2}$	90
" " No. 2	$\frac{3}{4}$	70
" " No. 3	$\frac{1}{4}$	60

3. **Functions of Lamps.**—"Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 1" is a general-purpose blowlamp, as used by jointers.

"Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 2" is a heavier-type lamp which incorporates a pump, and is suitable for use in exposed situations where it would be impossible to maintain a flame of the "Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 1".

"Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 3" is a small lamp intended primarily for general soldering operations on small distribution cables (including small joints in cables on external walls. It has been introduced for use in exposed positions and high winds where the "Lamp, Spirit, blow-pipe" has proved unsuitable.

A general description of each type of lamp follows.

4. **Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 1.**—Fig. 2 shows a

sectional view of the lamp which has a brass body ; it is tested to withstand a pressure of 150 lb. per sq. in. Mounted in the centre of the top and projecting into the body of the lamp is the brass wick-tube which contains the wick. The top of this tube carries the burner which consists of the nozzle, vaporizer, jet nipple, and regulator valve spindle which is operated by the knob.

5. **Jet-cleaning needle.**—The regulator valve spindle carries a needle at its tip ; this cleans the small hole in the jet nipple every time the regulator is opened and closed. Other needles, pieces of wire, etc., should not be used to clean the hole in the burner as they may enlarge the hole and interfere with the satisfactory burning of the lamp.

6. **Safety valve.**—The normal pressure generated in this lamp, when burning, is approximately 15 lb. per sq. in., but pressures in excess of this figure do frequently occur. A safety valve is fitted, therefore, which operates when the pressure in the lamp reaches 45-55 lb. per sq. in. The safety valve is mounted in the body of the lamp in such a position that it will discharge away from the user. The safety valve has a brass body which contains a brass plunger fitted with a cork washer which is pressed against a brass seating by a steel spring. The valve screws into a socket, at the rear of which is an extension tube which projects above the level of the petrol in the lamp, so that if the safety valve operates with the lamp in the upright position, liquid petrol is not discharged. Petrol can be discharged, however, if the lamp is inverted.

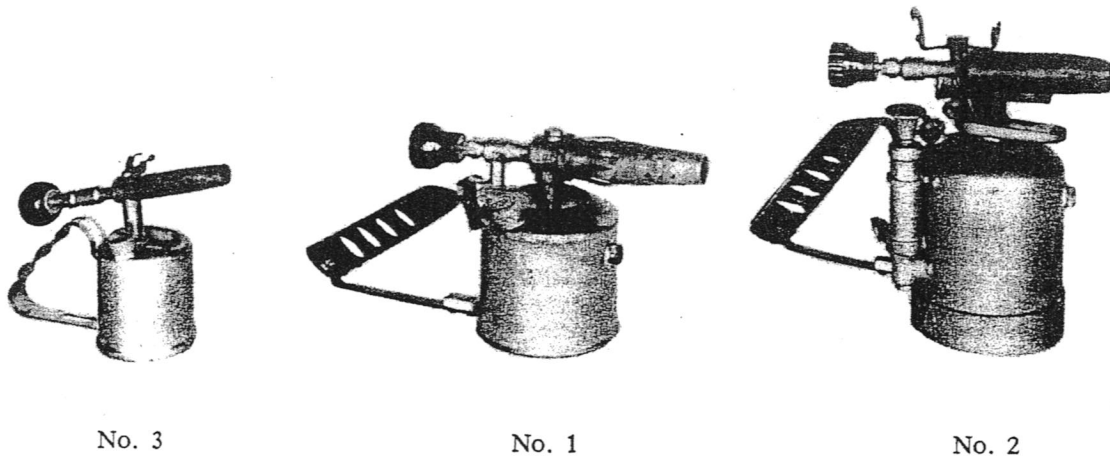


FIG. 1.—LAMPS, TORCHBLOWING

[Crown Copyright Reserved]

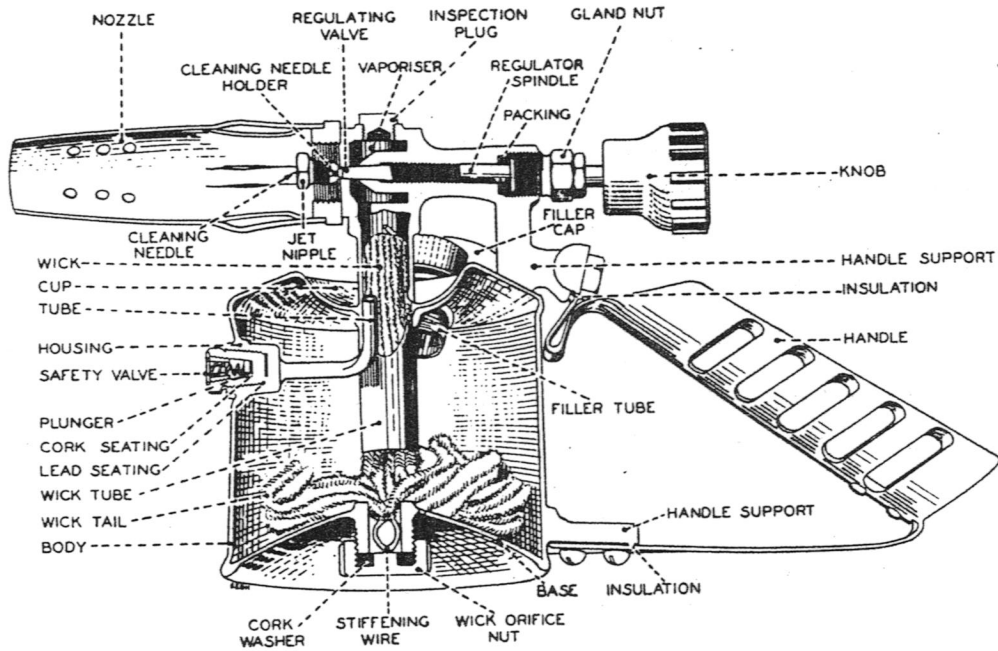


FIG. 2.—LAMP, TORCHBLOWING, No. 1

7. The filler tube extends some distance into the body of the lamp to ensure that there is always a space above the petrol. If the lamp were completely filled with liquid, the body might burst under the pressure due to the expansion of the liquid when the body of the lamp becomes hot, whereas, with the proper vapour space in the container, the only pressure exerted is due to the compression of the vapour above the liquid. As a further safeguard, lamps should not be filled more than two-thirds full. The filler tube is closed by a brass screw cap with a leather washer.

8. The handle is insulated from the body so that it does not become excessively hot when the lamp is in use.

9. *Supports for Soldering Irons.*—“Supports, Iron, Soldering” are not supplied with “Lamps, Torchblowing, No. 1” but should be requisitioned separately. These supports can readily be attached or removed and provide a convenient means of heating soldering irons of the following types:—

- Irons, Soldering, Small
- Irons, Soldering, Instrument, Straight

The general arrangement of the support and method of attachment is shown in Fig. 3. The bolt and wing-nut permit easy removal when the support is not required. When the iron rests in the saddle it can be placed so that its tip is held in the hottest part of the flame.

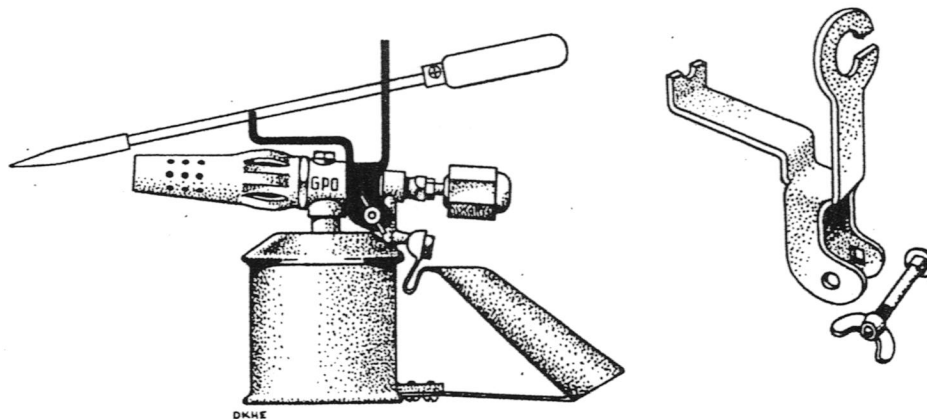


FIG. 3.—SUPPORT FOR SOLDERING IRONS

10. *Steel-bodied lamps.*—Lamps, Torchblowing, of the No. 1 type, but having steel bodies, were introduced as a wartime measure; they are similar to the equivalent lamps with brass bodies. The following special precautions when using this type of lamp should be observed:—

- (a) The gland nut securing the burner to the body should be kept tight.
- (b) The body of the lamp should be examined frequently, both internally and externally, for any rusting. If rusting has occurred, the lamp should be maintenance exchanged at once.

11. *Non-standard type lamps.*—Owing to difficulty which was experienced in obtaining an adequate delivery of "Lamps, Torchblowing, No. 1" of the Department's standard pattern, it was necessary, as a temporary relief measure, to augment the stock by purchase of a quantity of lamps of proprietary makes, details of which are given below:—

- (a) *Max Sievert type A.*—Although this lamp does not meet the Department's specification in all respects, it is soundly constructed and reliable in operation.

Special precautions.—The safety valve of the Max Sievert lamp is incorporated in the filler cap, and special care must be taken to ensure that the filler caps do not become changed-over when lamps of the Department's standard pattern are being used at the same time, as the latter do not incorporate the safety valve in the filler cap. Filler caps on similar lamps should not be changed as this may cause leakages between the filler cap and tube.

- (b) *Paraffin blowlamps.*—The types of paraffin blowlamps which are approved, and the special precautions which should be observed in their use, are described in L 1168.

All non-standard types of lamp, including paraffin lamps, will be replaced when the supply of the standard type becomes sufficient to meet demands.

12. *Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 2.*—Fig. 4 shows a sectional view of the lamp and it can be seen that the construction resembles that of the No. 1. The vaporizing chamber, however, is of different construction, consisting of a passage formed in the base of the barrel of the nozzle. The body is tested to withstand a pressure of 200 lb. per sq. in. The approximate size is 7 in. high and 10½ in. long.

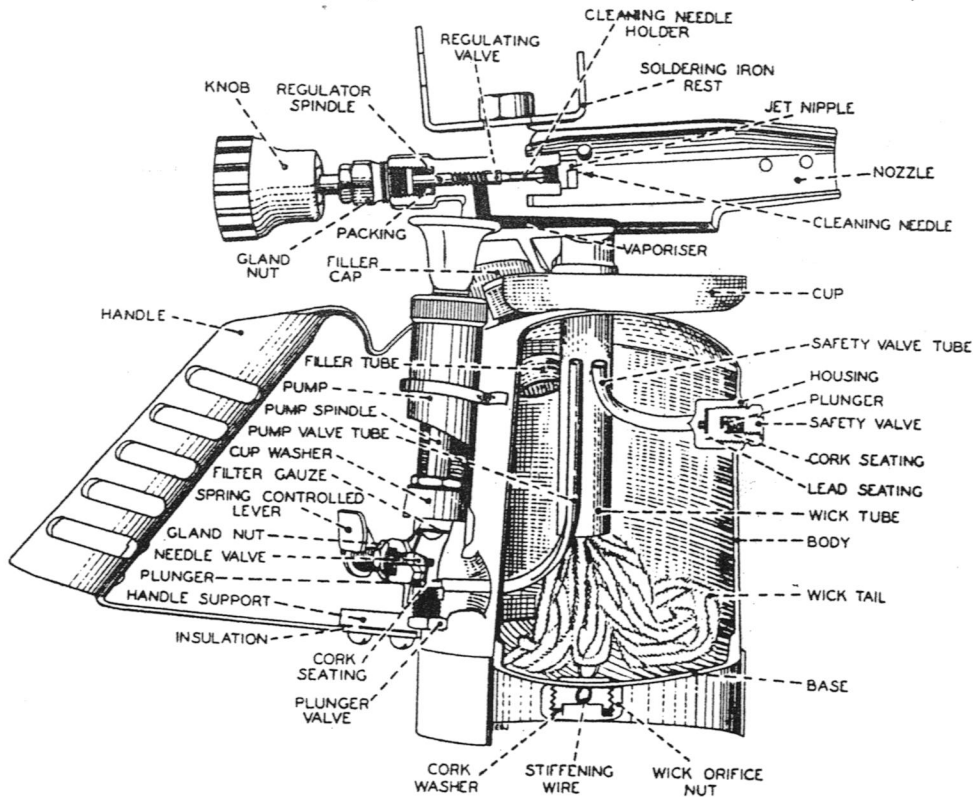


FIG. 4.—LAMP, TORCHBLOWING, No. 2

13. The pump is provided with two valves, one of which is an ordinary spring-type non-return valve, and the other is controlled by a thumb-operated lever which is restored to the closed position by a spring. The air from the pump is passed into the lamp through a brass tube which extends up into the crown of the lamp. This prevents liquid petrol reaching the barrel of the pump.

14. *Support for soldering irons.*—The lamp is provided with a soldering iron rest which is fixed by means of a set-screw.

15. *Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 3.*—Fig. 5 shows a sectional view of this lamp and it can be seen that the construction is similar to the "Lamp, Torchblowing, No. 1". The approximate dimensions are 5 in. high by $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. long.

16. *Safety valve.*—The safety valve at present fitted to this type of lamp is of the soldered-pin type but future lamps will be fitted with a valve of the spring-loaded type. The pin is brazed to the base of the lamp and the upper portion is soft-soldered to the top of the lamp body. Under excessive pressure, the bottom of the lamp body "bells" out causing the fracture of the solder at the top, thereby releasing the pressure. The wick tube which carries the burner is screwed into the top of the body. On the burner, fixed by a screw, is a fitting suitable for supporting an "Iron, Soldering, Extra small".

17. *Operation of all types.*—When spirit (S.B.P. 4 petrol or methylated spirit) is burnt in the cup situated below the burner, heat is transmitted to the body of the lamp causing an increase in the pressure and forcing some petrol, via the wick, into the hot vaporizer. When the regulator valve is opened, with the lamp hot, the vapour issuing from the jet mixes with air in the nozzle and can be lit.

When in use the nozzle of the lamp becomes red hot and sufficient heat is conveyed back to the vaporizer and body of the lamp to maintain vaporization and pressure in the body of the lamp.

18. Instructions for Use.

NOTE: IT IS DANGEROUS TO INTERFERE WITH THE WORKING OF THE SAFETY VALVE IN ANY WAY.

Filling

- (a) Unscrew the filler cap and fill the container two-thirds full with S.B.P. 4 petrol.
- (b) Replace the filler cap and screw it down by finger and thumb pressure only. The use of tools for this purpose is forbidden.
- (c) See that the regulator valve is closed.

19. Lighting out of doors

- (a) Place the lamp away from draughts, but not in a manhole, footway box or vehicle.

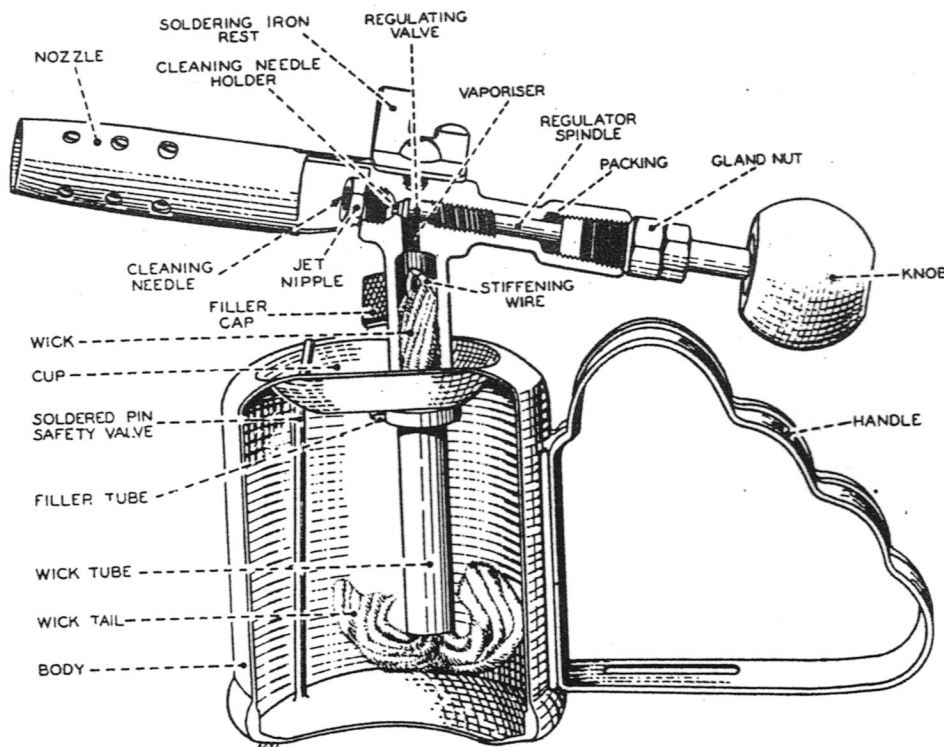


FIG. 5.—LAMP, TORCHBLOWING, No. 3

- (b) Fill the cupped depression beneath the nozzle with S.B.P. 4 petrol or methylated spirit (taking care to prevent an overflow) and ignite with a match.
- (c) Before the flame has quite burnt out, open the regulator valve by unscrewing the knob. It will usually be found that the lamp has generated sufficient gas to enable it to start.
- (d) Should the lamp not start, close the regulator valve and when the flame is quite extinguished, repeat the operation of burning S.B.P. 4 petrol or methylated spirit in the cupped depression, opening the regulator valve and applying a lighted match to the nozzle. *NOTE:* Before priming for the second time examine the lamp to ensure that the needle valve is definitely closed and that there is no trace of flame issuing from the burner.
- (e) In the case of lamps fitted with pumps (Lamps, Torchblowing, No. 2) the foregoing lighting instructions apply, but the pump should not be brought into use until the lamp is alight and then only sufficiently to maintain a good flame when working in exposed places. When operating the pump it is necessary to depress the lever at the base of the pump.

20. Lighting indoors.

NOTE: Blowlamps should be filled outside the building wherever possible and no liquid fuel other than that contained in the lamp itself must be taken into any room in which the lamp is to be lit or used. (See par. 23.)

- (a) Break a tablet of Fuel, "Meta" into several small pieces, place in the cupped depression and ignite with a match.
- (b) Before the flame has quite burnt out, open the regulator valve by unscrewing the knob. It will usually be necessary to apply a lighted match to the nozzle before the lamp will start.
- (c) Should the lamp not start, close the regulator valve and when the flame is quite extinguished repeat operations (a) and (b).

As an alternative, when Fuel, "Meta" is not available, the following method of priming may be used. Open the regulator valve and place the hands round the body of the lamp. The heat transferred to the body of the lamp will cause petrol to flow through the nozzle and drip into the priming cup if the lamp is held at the correct angle. By this means sufficient petrol may be obtained for priming purposes without the fire risk involved when petrol is poured from a container.

21. Supply of petrol.—Only S.B.P. 4 petrol should be burnt in the lamps described in this Instruction. The arrangements for the supply of the S.B.P. 4 petrol are described in General, A 0501 and in A 0504.

★22. Faulty lamps and spare washers.—If the lamp does not burn satisfactorily after carrying out these directions, it should be returned to the Supplies Dept. under a maintenance exchange requisition. A signed fault label A 286 describing the nature of the trouble should be attached. The only spare parts issued are Washers, Filler cap, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and Washers, Airpump.

23. Precautions.

- (a) Never fill a lamp near a fire or naked light, or more than two-thirds full.
- (b) Always tighten filler cap by finger and thumb only. If this is not effective, renew washer. Always carry spare washers.
- (c) Never interfere with the base nut of the lamp, except to keep it tight.
- (d) Never interfere with the safety valve. Return lamp to the Supplies Dept. if valve is out of order.
- (e) When the cleaning needle is broken never use pieces of wire, etc., to clean the burner jet. Change the lamp.
- (f) Never light a lamp in a manhole or footway box or near inflammable material.
- (g) Never allow S.B.P. 4 petrol or methylated spirit used for lighting to overflow the cup. Pour direct into cup and not over the nozzle.
- (h) Never light a lamp near a can of petrol or other inflammable liquid, or if petrol has been spilled on the hands or clothing.
- (j) When a lamp does not start properly at the first attempt make sure the flame has been completely extinguished before repriming.
- (k) Never place a lamp on a fire or gas stove, or use the flame of one lamp to heat another.
- (l) Return to the Supplies Dept. any lamp which does not burn satisfactorily.
- (m) Never turn down a hot lamp suddenly as pressure rises rapidly.
- (n) Never remove filler cap while lamp is hot or under pressure.
- (o) Never stand a lighted lamp in a position likely to cause injury to persons or damage to clothing.
- (p) Never leave a lighted lamp unattended.
- (q) Never light a lamp inside, or take a lighted lamp into, a vehicle.

24. Lamps with pumps: additional precautions.

- (a) Never use the pump until the lamp is alight and then only sufficiently to ensure a good flame.
- (b) Never use the pump with the regulating valve closed.

25. Use of blowlamps indoors.

- (a) Blowlamps with pumps must not be used indoors.
- (b) Blowlamps without pumps must not be used indoors without permission in each case from the Inspector or Assistant Engineer.
- ★(c) Make sure that a fire extinguisher, water or sand is within easy reach and that burning particles are not dropped into inaccessible places, e.g. cracks between floorboards. Do not fill blowlamps on a floor made of, or covered with, inflammable material. Wherever possible blowlamps should be filled and lighted outside buildings.
- (d) No liquid fuel other than that contained in the lamp must be taken into any room in which the lamp is to be lit or used.
- (e) Take special care to observe strictly all the foregoing precautions.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR