

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

No 61

SEPTEMBER

2007

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

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## ***SURVEY OF BRITISH BLOWLAMPS***

Of the 135 survey sheets sent out, 11 were returned. Although that sounds disappointing, those 11 sheets have identified the whereabouts of 110 makes of British lamp, so it is a good basis for gathering the required information.

What seems to be lacking are copies of original literature, so for all of you who did not reply, can you please let me know if you have any that could be used in the proposed catalogue.

There were only 7 makes of blowlamp not identified from the list and they are Easilod, Empire Furnace, Firefly, Greens, Kirk & Merifield, Marcol and Merx. If anyone has an example of any of the lamps, please let me know, I am sure I have seen a Firefly at a meeting a few years ago, but I can't remember who owned it.

Also, I have a photograph of the Invincible, owned by Paul Whiddett and Keith Hawkins, but I know there are others about so would welcome clear photographs of them all.

It looks like the information is out there so I will make a start at gathering it in and see what we can produce.

(A special thanks to Russell Harrower who sent me a folder with a photograph of every one of his British blowlamps, complete with detailed description of their markings)

## ***2008 CALENDAR***

I am hoping to produce a calendar for 2008 and over the season have gathered a good selection of blowlamp photographs.

We need to place an order of 25 or more to get the price to **£9.50 plus postage**, so if you would like a copy, please let me know by the **end of September**.

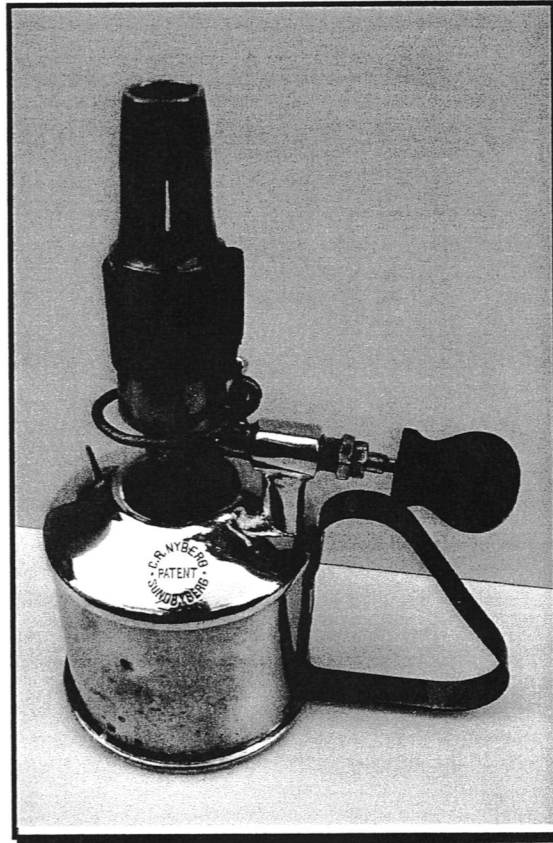
## ***AUTUMN GATHERING***

Plans for the Autumn Gathering at Toddington, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October, are well under way with 16 collectors already confirmed they will be attending. If you would like to attend please contact Keith Hawkins on 01525 290122 or Ray Hyland on 01449 615648.

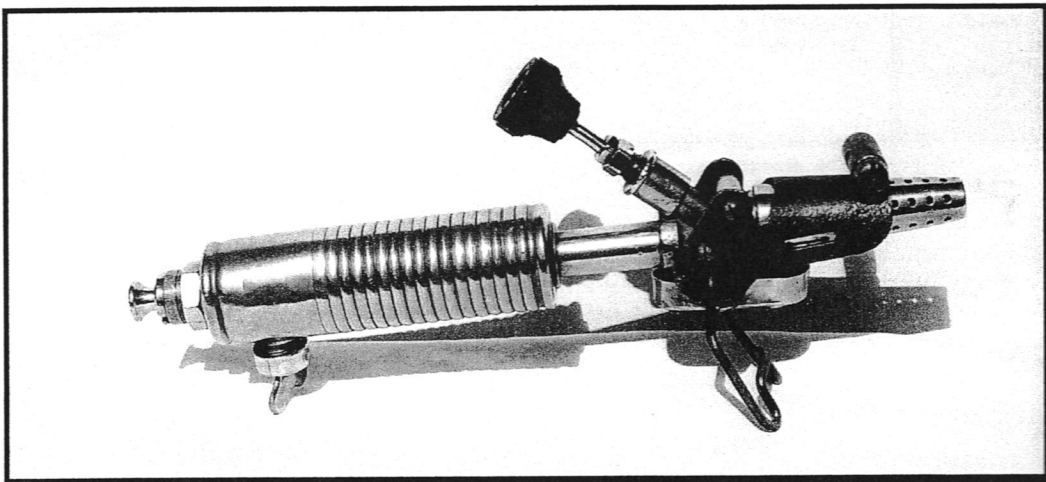
Toddington is reached from junction 12 of the M1 and there will be signs directing you to the village hall. If the last 2 years are anything to go by, we can look forward to an excellent day out.

## RECENT DISCOVERIES

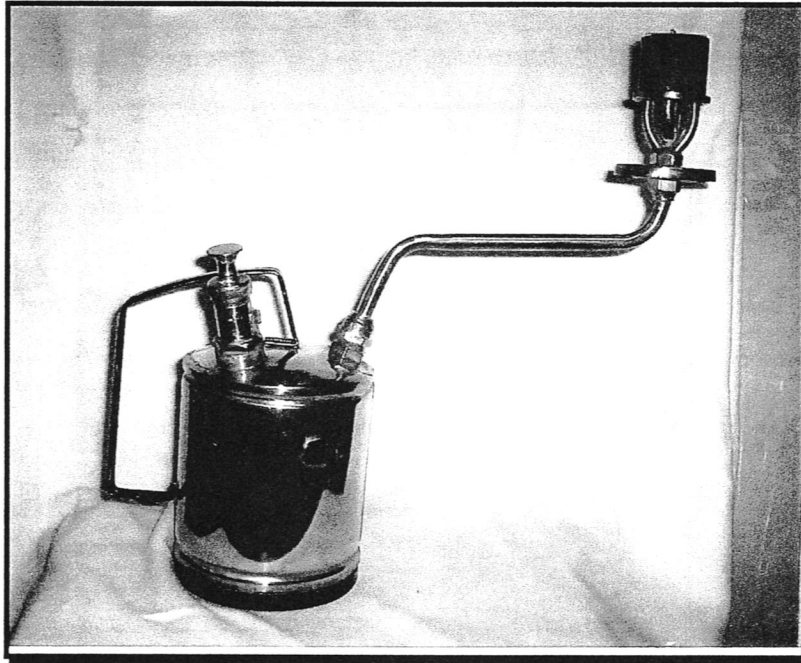
Gerard Muller has sent in a photograph of an extremely rare lamp, "C.R.NYBERG". We think that there is one in a British collection, so if the owner is a member of the Society, please let me know.



Keith Hawkins continues to add new makes to his collection of soldering torches. The latest addition is a "FERVIS". This is a make I have not heard of and although it was bought from America, it has a look of being made in Germany. Does anyone know of this make?

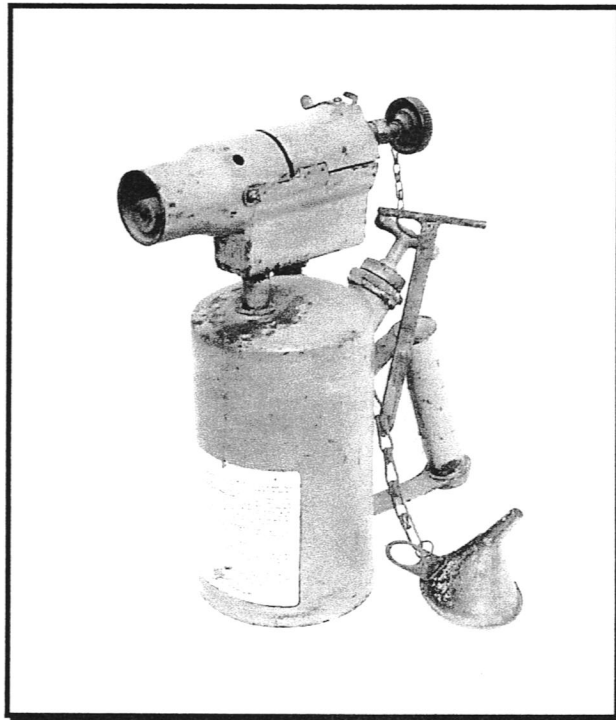


Finally a photograph sent in by Frits Ordelman of a very unusual blowlamp. There are no markings on it, but it would appear to be an engine starting lamp. If anyone has any ideas what it was produced for, please let me know.



**GERMAN MILITARY LAMPS**

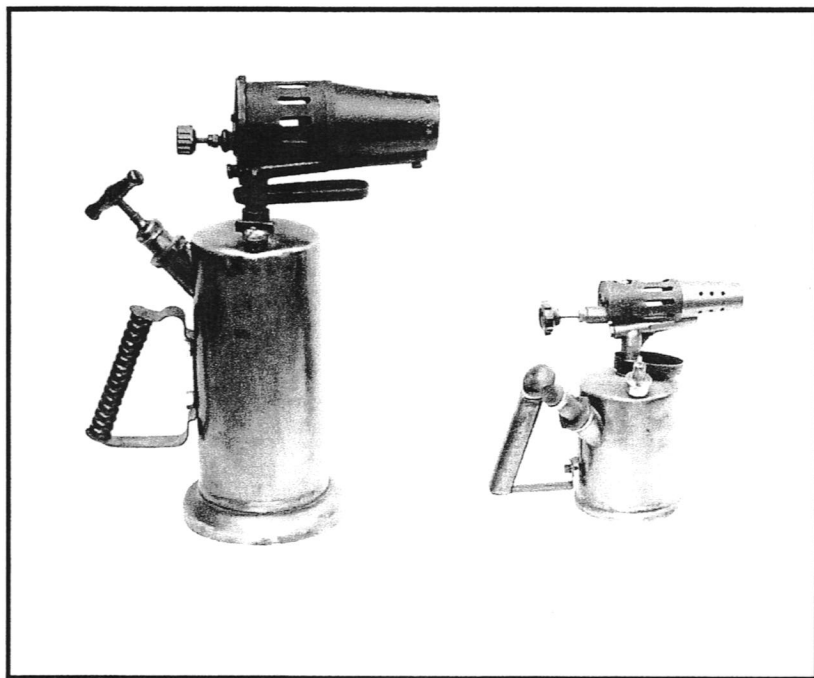
*By  
Keith Hawkins*



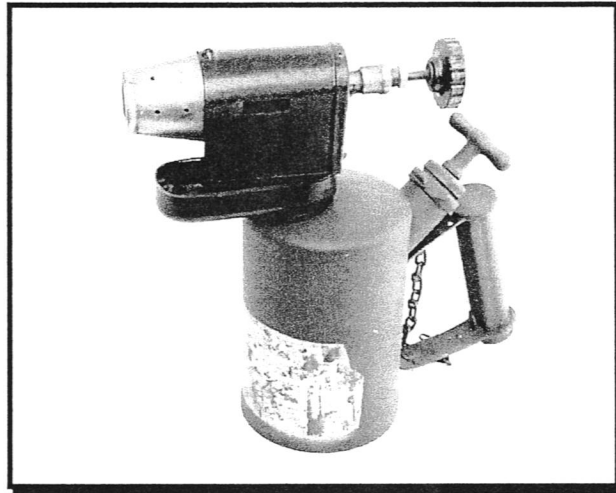
The first lamp is a MISSLER K5512/3, a 2 litre lamp which I acquired from the late Philippe Touillet. His information about it was that it originated in the AFRIKA Corps, hence the sandy colour for desert use. (Sorry we are unable to produce a colour magazine, you will have to take my word for the colour. Ed.) There was also a 1 litre size, No K4323, which is the same in appearance. Both lamps are of all steel construction and access to the jet is through a hinged section of the burner tube, immediately adjacent to the control valve.



This is another MISSLER K5512/3, but with a larger tank, probably 2.5 litres. This tank is also the same as on the LU-AB3 and the burner is the same as the first lamp. I acquired this lamp at an antiques fair in Oslo, Norway.



The larger of the two lamps in this picture is a BARTHEL EB740, again of all steel construction. This, like others, has a very small filler and I always wonder whether the people who made these lamps, did it on purpose, to make life more difficult for the soldiers to fill. This lamp is of 3 litre capacity and there is no resemblance to the BM740. The second lamp in this picture is interesting in that it is obviously a French EXPRESS 352, with a steel tank, but on the front of it is engraved BARTHEL H348. It would appear that Express were required to manufacture lamps for the Germans, who then put their name on them. Whether or not Express openly did this voluntarily has never been satisfactorily explained and is probably now best forgotten.

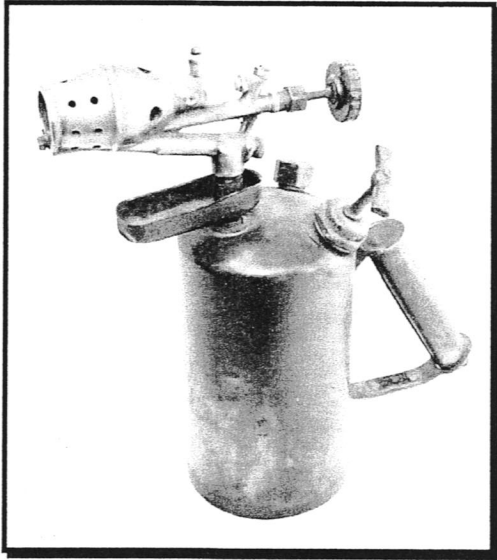


Another Army lamp of 1 litre capacity is the BARTHEL WIKTORIN No 118, with a brass burner on a steel tank.

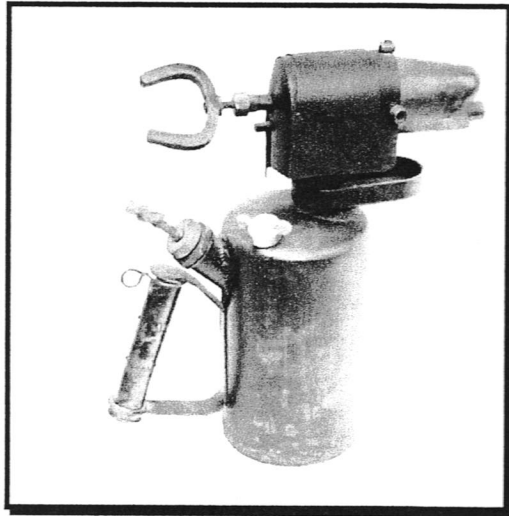


This lamp is a LU-AB3 of 2.5 litre capacity and made by SURMELIN, using the burner and filler cap from a Surmelin 20.

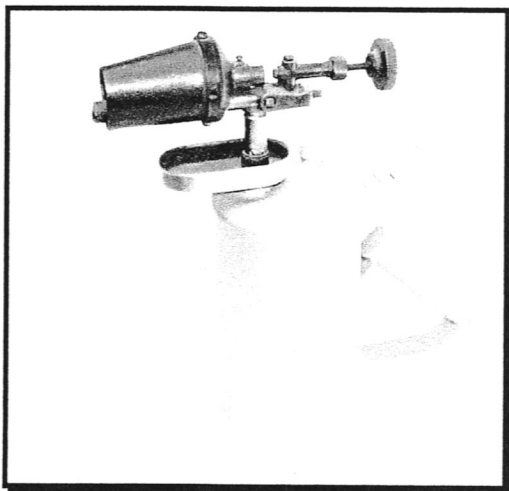
The next 3 lamps are all of 2 litre capacity and were all found in Normandy (Probably removed from wrecked German Army vehicles during the Allied invasion of Europe). Apart from the BARTHEL 401, which has a brass burner, the LU-TECA K5512 and the TACALEMIT K5512, they were all manufactured of extremely poor quality materials, steel tanks, soft cheap allot control knobs, filler caps and pumps. Most of these models seem to bear this familiar K5512 numbering, regardless of who made them.



BARTHEL 401

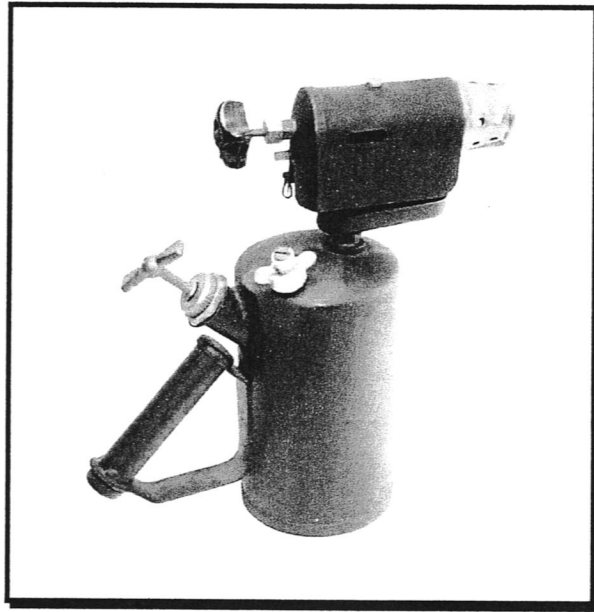


LU-TECA K5512



TECALEMIT K5512

The final lamp in this collection is a 2 litre TAT DR10



There is one amusing storey connected to the purchase of the Barthel EB740, in that my late wife Sheila, Tom Bartlett and I had spent a weekend in Lille, having first been to the meeting at Mouscron. Before we left on our homeward journey, we went to a flea market, just in case there was anything extra to be found. We came across a stall with 4 soldering torches, the 3 litre EB740 and 2 other lamps of 2 litre and 1 litre capacity. The EB740 was priced at 800fr, the 2 litre at 450fr and the 1 litre at 200fr. We asked if the vendor would accept 600fr for the big one, but there was a decisive NON! Sheila then started to conduct a bit of bartering, during which I suspect that the vendor got a bit confused because when she asked me if I had 800fr, she said to hand them over, collect the 1, 2 and 3 litre lamps and do a quick disappearing act, before the poor man realised he had been bamboozled.

To elaborate a little further on the subject of blowlamps used by the military, but not for use on hot bulb ignition. All vehicles would usually have carried a blowlamp so that the crew would have a means of brazing anything that came adrift on their vehicle, without it having to go to a repair workshop, thus keeping the vehicle mobile.

Some years ago I met a gentleman who said he had been a prisoner of war in eastern Poland and in the winter the temperature would drop as low as minus 40 degrees. This would obviously freeze up an engine as quick as lightning and as the German Army, in Russia, had to bring its oil and petrol a very long way, they could not afford to keep their engines running all night as the Russians did. This was one reason why it was so important to capture Stalingrad, as it was a gateway to the Russian airfields in the Caucasus. So the Germans had to keep their engines from freezing by playing a blowlamp over the block at intervals, all night.

In later times, when the Chechnian rebellion was in progress, I saw on BBC television news, Russian soldiers cooking their dinner in the snow with a 2 litre brazing lamp. More recently still I attended a show in a local town and one youngish man told me that he had a blowlamp at home, likened to a Sievert HLL, which he had acquired when he was demobbed from the army. When I asked him why today's army still used blowlamps, he said all the vehicles doing winter training in Northern Norway carried one in case of breakdown. Gas blowlamps were no good as the fuel would have frozen, whereas the petrol does not.

Below is an interesting cover from the Woodworker magazine of 1902, advertising Melhuish Sons & Co Tools. (Perhaps Keith Hawkins can identify the soldering torch)  
 Opposite is a page from the Melhuish catalogue of 1898 – can anyone identify the blowlamp in the centre of the page.

THE
2<sup>D</sup>

WOODWORKER

Vol. I. No. 9.
JUNE, 1902.
PRICE 2d. (Post Free, 3d.)

BRONZE MEDAL,  
1884.

GOLD MEDAL, 1890.

MELHUISSH

SONS & CO

TOOLS

A NOTABLE CATALOGUE of  
WOODWORKERS' TOOLS

Containing 230 quarto pages, printed and bound in superior style,  
 Will be sent **POST FREE** on receipt of 6d. Stamps.

R. MELHUISSH SONS & CO.,

84-87, Fetter Lane, Holborn Circus, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED  
1828.

Improved Self-Heating Soldering Iron and Blow Lamp, 18/6 each, Carriage Paid.

"Yankee" Ratchet Screw Driver (right and left hand).

2 1/3	3 1/6	4 1/9	5 2/-	6 2/6	8 2/9	10 3/-	12 3/6 each, post free.
Our No. 10A Catalogue, 340 pages, cloth bound, 6d., post free.							

C. NURSE & CO., Tool Merchants 182, 184, and 173, Walworth Road, London, S.E.



(Lamps for Benzoline.)

No. 914 gives 8-in. Flame, burning  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. For Plumbers, Painters, Electricians, hard soldering small work, etc.

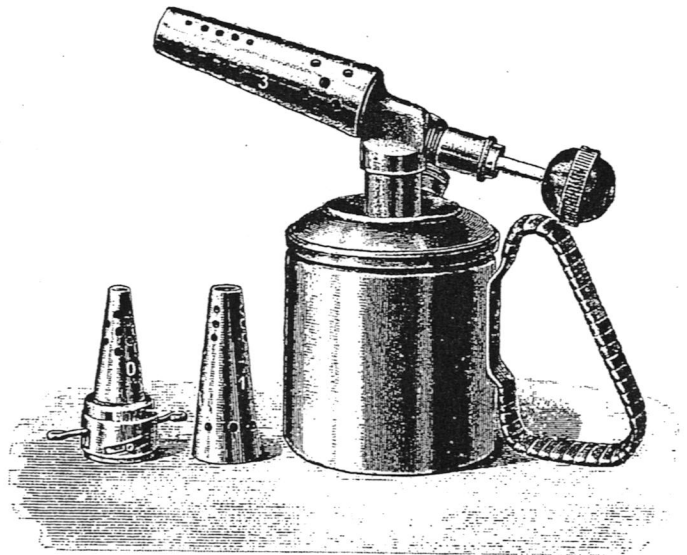
Same Container takes—

1 Nozzle, giving 4-in. Flame, burning  $3\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 hours For Workshop use and fine Work.

No. 0 Nozzle and No. 0 Blowpipe and Regulator.

0, 3-in. very fine and pointed Flame. For Jewellers, Watchmakers, Dentists, Opticians, soldering lead, fine brazing, etc., a thorough substitute for the old Blowpipe.

Price, with either nozzle, 15/-.



No. 915.

For Benzoline.

Suitable for Brazing and Jobbing Work for Plumbers, Cycle Repairers, Brass Finishers, etc.

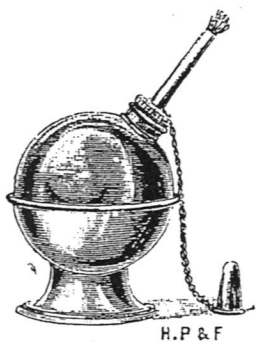
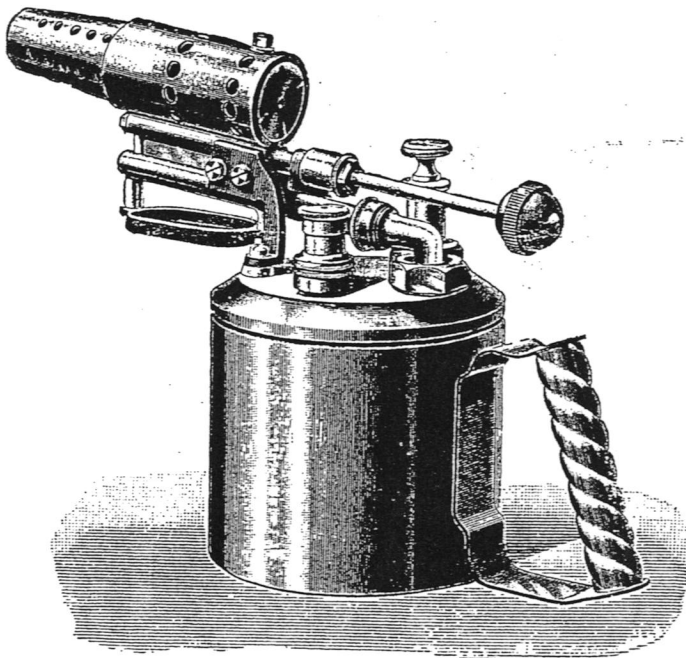
Absolutely Safe.

Explosion Impossible.

Burns in any Position.

The Lamp consists of a Solid and Stout Brass Container. All joints are brazed. Benzoline is forced to the Vaporising Tube by a few strokes of the Pump. The Burner is at a distance from the Container, and the latter never gets hot. Burner is provided with a substantial and effective Regulating Valve, and a Solid Screw-seated Nozzle.

Price, 25/- each.



**Glass Spirit Lamp.**

On Nickel Stand. Movable in all directions.

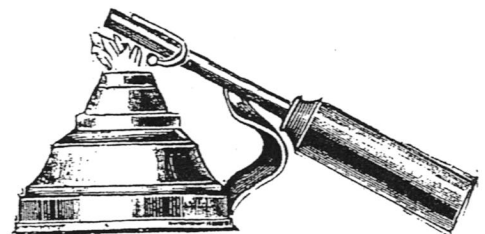
Small Size, 4/- each. Large ,, 7/6 ,,

No. 916.

H.P & F

**Jewellers' Self-acting Blowpipe.**

No. 917.



	No. 0	1	2	3	4	
Blowpipe ...	3/3	4/-	4/6	6/-	7/-	each.
Lamp for same	..	..	2/-	2/6	2/9	..

Carriage Free in Great Britain over 10/- in Value.

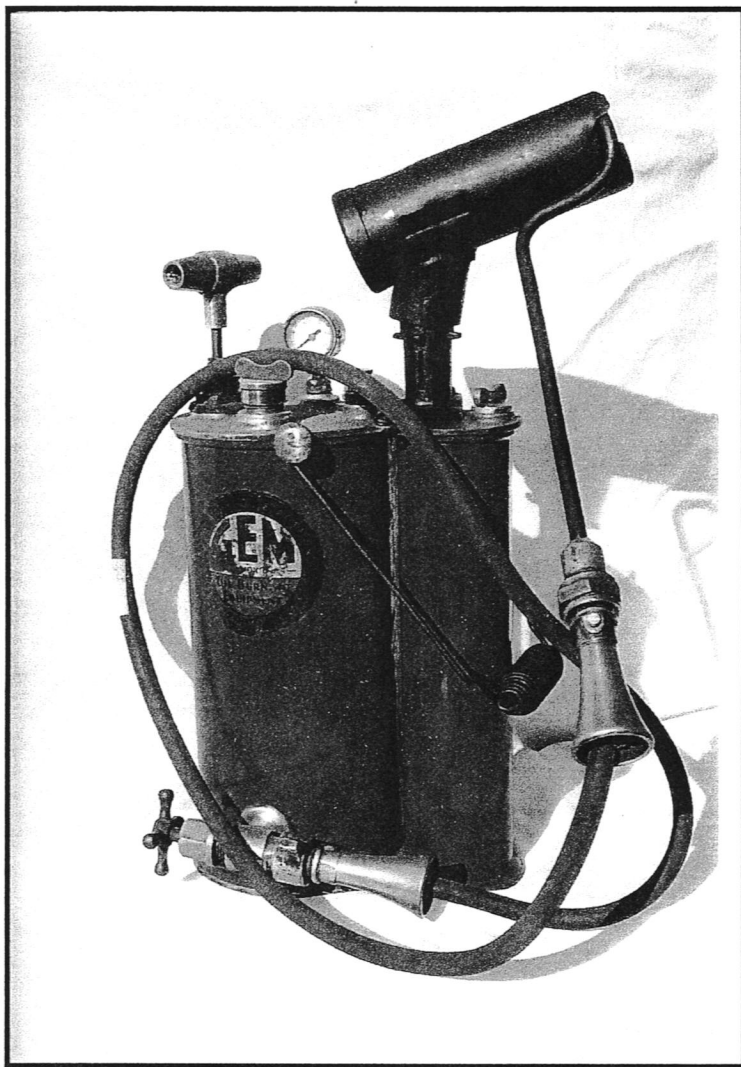
**GEM LAMPS  
WOODWARD BROS & COPELIN LTD.**

Woodward Bros & Copelin Ltd., incorporated on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1918 by John Thomas Woodward, Walter Seth Woodward and William Edward Copelin.

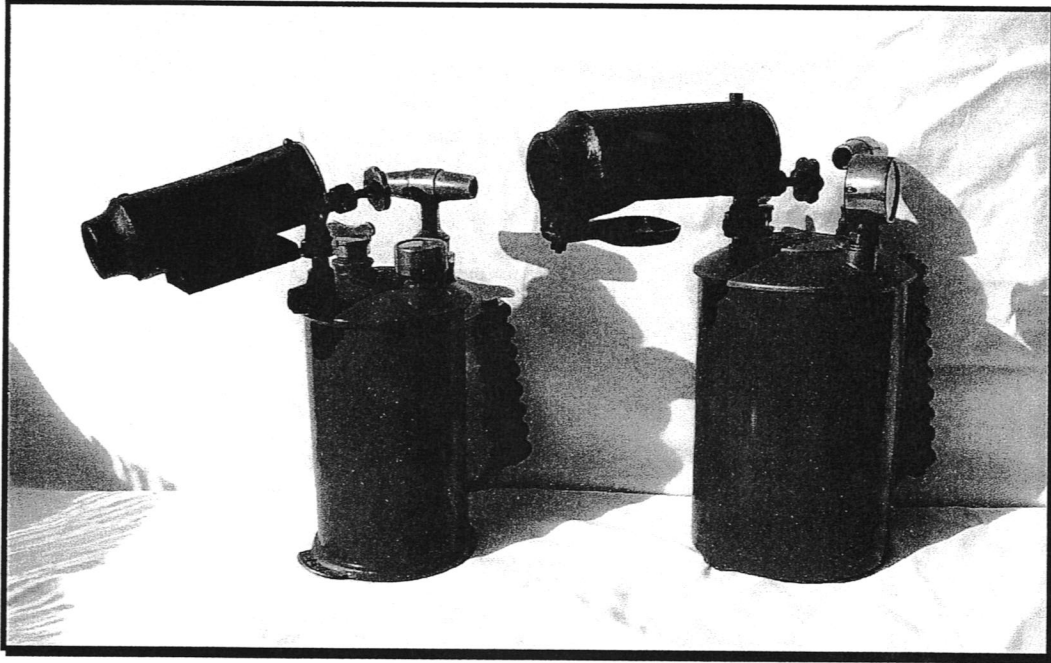
The earliest record of the company is Woodward & Copelin of 17 Bird in Bush Road, Peckham, London on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1904.

The company then moved to 44 Hill Street, Peckham in 1906 and then to the "Gem Works" at Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey in about 1930.

In 1944 the works were destroyed by a flying bomb and were re-established at Grunden Road, Croydon where they remained until 1947, when with the death of Walter Seth Woodward and the decline in the market for Gem lamps, the manufacturing rights were sold to a company in the Midlands.



This unusual lamp with twin fuel tanks and a flexible hose connection to the burner was made at the Croydon works between 1944 and 1947. (Does anyone have any ideas as to its use?)

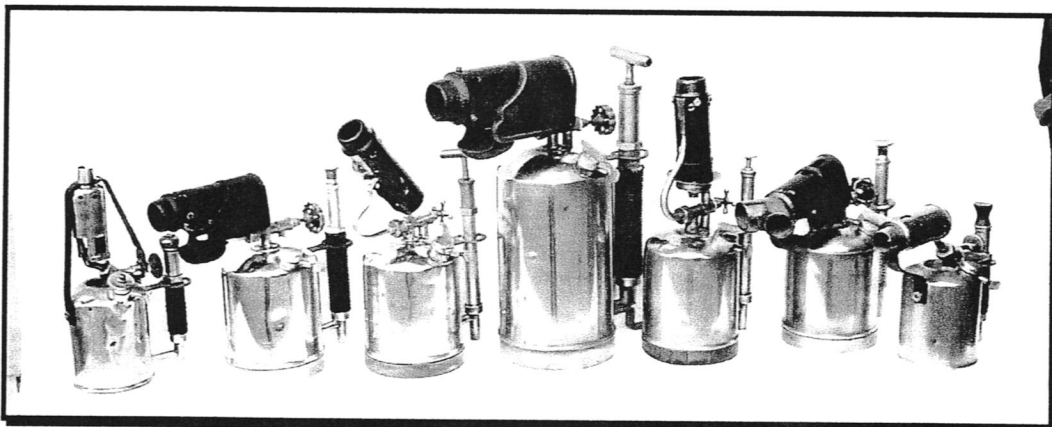


The Gem No3 brazing lamp of 5 pint capacity and the No4 of 1 gallon capacity.

The company also made D.K. Pattern lamps, which gave a light of about 1,000 candle power and were advertised as being especially useful to contractors on Railways, Tramways, Waterworks, Electric Light and Telephone Works and in Laying Cables. The lamp had a 3 gallon tank which would supply a light for 8 hours.

Gem lamps were also manufactured for heavy engineering work, in particular the "Admiralty Pattern" lamp which was supplied to H.M. dockyards at Portsmouth, Chatham and Gibraltar. The lamp was supplied with 2, 10ft lengths of flexible metal tubing, with 2 large heating burners of 5,000 candle power each, which could be used for heating both sides of a propeller shaft.

### **PRIMUS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**



Keith Hawkins has sent in this interesting group shot, from left to right Petrolia 613, 615, 616, 618, 617, 611 and Petrolia 611.

**CLASSIFIED**

For Exchange – Keith Hawkins has a 6 litre steel tank for a Serpentina No0. If anyone has a burner they would like to exchange, or would like the tang to go with their burner, contact Keith on 01525 290122.

For Sale – Blowlamp Society key rings, only 50 have been made, never to be repeated, real collectors item, ideal stocking filler - £4-00 including postage. Tel 01449615648.

Wanted – Soldering iron heaters, petrol, paraffin or gas fuelled. Tel 01449 615648.

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Blowlamp News is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion in the next issue should be with the editor at least 4 weeks before the issue date.

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**Acknowledgements – Keith Hawking, Gerard Muller and Frits Ordelman.**

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**AND FINALLY**

