

Chalwyn "New Pilot" lantern.

4174. **Chalwyn "New Pilot" lantern.** by Arthur Brook (ajbrook@optusnet.com.au)

Posted: Dec. 26, 2006 @ 19:59.

I am researching the lamps and lighting technologies used by the Victorian Railways, a once state owned railway system in Victoria, Australia.

I am trying to establish whether the Chalwyn "New Pilot" lantern in the photographs was purchased, and perhaps even modified for use by the Victorian Railways. I was given the lantern by a former VR employee. It was stored at a station in the 1970s for emergency use if the electricity failed, but as it has no VR identification marks, it may not have been railway issue. When given to me, the lamp was finished all over in what appeared to be an old aluminium based "silver" paint with patches of light surface rust beginning to develop at various places. To prevent further corrosion, the rust was removed and the surface sprayed with an aluminum paint which gave a finish indistinguishable from the older finish. What was the factory finish on the metal work of "New Pilot" lanterns?

Searching the various lamp sites on the internet indicates to me the a metal sheet behind the globe (see photographs) is not usually found on Chalwyn "New Pilot" lanterns or other cold blast lanterns. What is the function, a reflector or wind shield? I was told by a former user of the lantern that in a strong wind facing the shield into the wind helped steady the flame.

The reflector/shield is very neat and gives the impression it could have been added during lantern construction or later by a skilled craftsman? Was it a factory option offered for "New Pilot" lanterns? Are other examples of "New Pilot" lanterns with a similar reflector/wind shield known to Guild members?

Apart from some information on the internet about the Chalwyn company manufacturing road hazard lanterns, BS3143 type, in the 1950-70s, I have had virtually no success in finding the history of the company or either their "pilot" hot blast lanterns or their "New Pilot" cold blast lanterns. Comments or information would be appreciated, particularly the manufacturing dates of both lantern types.

- On Dec. 27, 2006 @ 01:29, Alex Marrack (alexmarrack1@aol.com) wrote:
Not my subject at all, but I'm sure I have seen lanterns like these in a UK post war catalogue, WITH the reflector as shown.. but i have no idea whether they were chalwyn or not, never mind which model.. sorry I cannot help further.. I have no idea where else you might look.
- On Dec. 27, 2006 @ 02:55, Mike Dolan (twmtk@aol.com) wrote:
Hello Arthur, your lantern appears to be a export model of the Dietz No. 2 Crescent. Mfg. until the 1960s. The location of the patent numbers would make a identification. W. Kirkmans site on Dietz lanterns on the Guild site may help you. If the patent numbers indicate Dietz, probably the one person to help you would be W.Kirkman. The reflector was probably mfg. by Chalwyn. Mike
 - On Dec. 27, 2006 @ 15:43, Arthur Brook (ajbrook@optusnet.com.au) wrote:
The New Piolt lantern does closely resemble the Deitz No.2 Crescent, but there are no markings on the lamp to indicate a Dietz connection. On the tank left of the filler is stamped CHALWYN and to the right MADE IN ENGLAND. Around the back on the tank is NEW PILOT. The globe has CHALWYN and the Chalwyn symbol molded in it. There are no patent marks or other marks on the lamp, which is in good condition.
 - On Dec. 27, 2006 @ 17:25, Mike Dolan (twmtk@aol.com) wrote:
Hello Arthur, have you seen a Chalwyn lantern with a patent stamp on it? Posibly they reverse engineered the lantern after the patent protection expired. The lanterns appear similar except for the absence of the 6 horizontal bands on the air tubes. Does your lantern have a 1" wick and is it 15" tall as is the Dietz?

Mike

- On Dec. 30, 2006 @ 16:01, Arthur Brook (ajbrook@optusnet.com.au) wrote:
Hello Mike,
Thanks for your reply, I appreciate your interest. The height of the Chalwyn lantern (without the small loop on top) is 12½ inches, and to the top of the handle when raised as in the photograph is 16½ inches. The wick is 3/8 inches wide, and a 1 inch wick could not possible fit. The base of the tank is 6 1/8 inches in diameter. The maximum outer-edge width of the air tubes, about opposite the burner, is 7 inches. There are no patent marks or dates. The Chalwyn "New Pilot" lantern is very similar to the Deitz No.2 Crescent. Perhaps it is based on the Deitz lantern as you suggest, but reduced in size a little to modified for the smaller wick. Arthur.
- On Dec. 31, 2006 @ 02:42, Trevor Emmens (trevor.emmens@ntlworld.com) wrote:
You can't have looked very far if you haven't found the Chalwyn company. Just go to www.chalwyn.co.uk.
They still sell hurricane lanterns, but I don't think they are now made in the UK. Whether they can tell you about the one you have, I don't know, but it would be the obvious place to start.
Regards,
Trevor
- On Jan. 01, 2007 @ 04:50, Arthur Brook (ajbrook@optusnet.com.au) wrote:
Thanks Trevor,
I found the Chalwyn company web site when I first started searching for information over a year ago, but received no reply to my requests for information. I guess it time to try again.
Regards, Arthur.
- On Jan. 21, 2007 @ 07:58, Dave (dbarden@tiscali.co.uk) wrote:
I managed to get a response from a very kind lady at Chalwyn, although very limited or even no knowledge exists now about the detailed history of specific lamps & lanterns, she did send me a potted history of the company, which I copy below for general interest;

"The original title of the company was Chalwyn Lamps Limited and was formed with the primary object of manufacturing and marketing of Hurricane Lanterns.

Originally the lanterns were manufactured by James Croll Limited (a Chalwyn company) on a sub-contract basis, but in 1946/47 premises were acquired in Parkstone and a specialised production unit was established. Sales were controlled through an **associated company Chalwyn Wild (Sales) Limited in London.**

During the early 1950's the company moved ahead rapidly and made good profits and in 1951 it was decided to concentrate all activities in Parkstone and the London sales office was closed.

The factory premises in Parkstone were acquired from Mass Products Limited, then in liquidation. The manufacturing facilities were organised on a mass production basis, the assembly lines being particularly efficient.

The range of lanterns comprised of four models (Tropic, Far East, Tempest and Pilot) available in all major world markets and supplied a demand in post-war years of some 50,000 lanterns per week, indeed over a period of about 20 years some 30,000,000 lanterns were produced and the Chalwyn brand image firmly established.

The principal markets were the West Coast of Africa, East Africa, the French Territories, Middle East, Ceylon and many other countries. The company employed some 120 agents in all parts of the world, India, originally a main market, operated a complete import ban to protect local products.

During this period it was decided to commence manufacture in South Africa to take advantage of local conditions and a subsidiary company was eventually set up and commenced operation in 1954. This company was sold to the South African shareholders in 1970.

In 1955/56 sterling was made convertible and Chalwyn's existing markets were immediately opened up to competitors from European and Eastern Communist countries, the principal markets in West Africa were lost to this competition and therefore sales efforts were re-directed to the lesser markets.

It had been realised that Hurricane Lanterns would have a limited 'life-span' and thought was given to introducing a measure of diversification, this was not easy in view of the specialised nature of plant and machinery and with the introduction of new products it was felt that the name of Chalwyn Lamps Limited was somewhat restrictive and the name was changed to Chalwyn Limited on 1st July 1958.

During the early 1960's trade in lanterns continued on a gradually reducing scale but it was

increasingly evident that Hurricane Lantern manufacture was uneconomical, demand had fallen and competition had forced prices down below a reasonable level. Costs of labour and material were rising and the decision was made to phase out lantern manufacture and production finally ceased in Parkstone on the 15th April 1970.

After that date we were the sole distributor in the UK for Feuerhand Lanterns from Germany. This carried on until the mid eighties when we sourced lanterns from the Czech Republic and the brand names Tropic and Far East were produced under licence there on our behalf.

During the nineties we decided to buy these lanterns from a company in China for sale mainly in the African countries but the logistics and quality made selling these somewhat difficult, so that business has ceased.

We still supply Chalwyn Tropic and Far East Lanterns made in the Czech Republic to the home market, but due to competition from China and the ever increasing cost of raw materials once our stock here has run out trading in lanterns will finish and we will be concentrating on other products.

I hope that the information given above will be of assistance to you."

As you may be aware Chalwyn have now ceased trading in all oil fired lamps / lanterns / heaters etc.

Regards, Dave.

- On Jan. 28, 2007 @ 05:07, Arthur Brook (ajbrook@optusnet.com.au) wrote:
Thanks Dave for the very useful information about the company.
Regards, Arthur.

- On Jan. 08, 2007 @ 00:29, Woody (woody@lanternnet.com) wrote:
Arthur,

The Chalwyn "New Pilot" is a late production (revised) version of the "Far East" model. The standard finish of both models was metallic blue, very similar to the finish used by Dietz. The

"New Pilot" model has an oversized (#2) crown and a slightly different tank as compared to the "Far East." The Chalwyn factory in England produced lanterns from 1947 into the 1960's when they started outsourcing from the Orient. All current Chalwyn lanterns are made in China. (The Chalwyn "Tempest" is the only model that I can verify as being made by Dietz in Hong Kong in the 1960's on the #90 "D-Lite" tooling, although other Dietz/Chalwyn models are possible, and likely.) The "New Pilot" and "Far East" both take a 5/8" wick and use a globe that is interchangeable with the Dietz "Junior," however, the burner and fuel cap are unique to Chalwyn lanterns made in England. The "wagon lamp" style reflector on your lantern appears to be home made, as a factory produced item would have either a hemmed or wired edge, and would connect to the air tubes under the bell, not above it. Also, the reflector is lacking the wire clip to attach it to the dash of the wagon.

Best Regards,
Woody Kirkman

A Side Note: When I dealt with the Chalwyn Co. a few years ago, there was no one there that had any knowledge of the company or product line when they produced lanterns in England. It is not surprising to me that there has been no reply to your e-mails.