

Lamp Fighting Mark I

On 13th. January 1896 (§8381) a new pattern of fighting lamp was sealed. It was designated **Lamp, fighting (Mark I) Copper with reservoir, burner and reflector**. It was to replace the fighting lantern (§§ 5026, 7522, Tremlett's) "*which is found to be unsuitable for modern requirements*"

The lamp is of brass, glazed on three sides and has a circular hinged door on the remaining side. This door serves as the reflector for the burner which is square and sits on a sprung tray. The wick can be adjusted without opening the lantern as its trimming wheel connects with another fixed to the lamp frame. The top of the lamp is flat with three projecting adjusting nuts for the plates of the 'valve' in the top of the lamp. A similar set of plates can be found in the bottom of the lamp with four adjusting nuts. A handle, with wood grip, is hinged to the sides on eyes, for carrying from above.

This lantern is square and seems to be the type employed to fit the later brackets in Fort Brockhurst, Fort Fareham, and the 9.2 inch gun positions at Browdown battery and Fort Gilkicker. (see details following). It is possible to state beyond a doubt that this type of lantern did supersede the Tremletts pattern lantern. The presence of brackets for both types in the haxo casemates at Fort Fareham and in the flanking casemates at Fort Brockhurst confirm the use of both types at the same time whilst the change was made, following the above List Of Changes.

This later type of fighting lantern marked the change from the old pattern of lantern, in which the candle, or burner, was separated from the outside air by slits or holes and a ventilating chimney in the top, to the new pressure lantern. Experience showed that fighting lanterns were prone to being extinguished by the concussion of the gun firing in

a confined space such as below decks on a ship or a gun casemate. In the later fighting lantern a series of plates and springs comprising a 'valve' prevented this whilst ensuring a supply of air.

Extant lamps

The Royal Armouries has one of these lanterns which is the right size to fit extant brackets. It bears the makers plate 'Griffiths and Browett. M. & G. 1897'.

Another one can be found in the R.A.O.C. museum. This bears the label '*P 4871 Lamp fighting Appd 19-2-02 on 57 Gen No. 2009*' This may have been a later modification.

The Royal Armouries report that two more can be found on the wall of a Public house in Canterbury.

Another manufacturer of this type of lamp was G. Polkey Ltd. 126, Pitsford Street, Birmingham.



List of changes §8381 dated 13 January 1896 describes the **Lamp, Fighting (Mark I)** as follows:

A pattern of the above-mentioned lamp has been sealed to govern supplies. It is intended to gradually replace the fighting lantern §§ 5026, 7522 which is found to be unsuitable for modern requirements.

The lamp is constructed to burn a mixture consisting of two parts, by volume, of rape oil, and one part, by volume of paraffin oil, which gives a much better light than the candles hitherto used with fighting lanterns. It is 12 inches in height by 7¼ inches by 7¼ inches. A cross wire drop handle having a large centre wood casing is fitted to it for carrying the lamp. It is glazed on three sides with 3/8 inch plate glass of 5¾ by 4¾ inch size. The edges of the glass are bevelled. A hinged curved door is fitted to the back of the lamp. ventilation is secured by perforated plates at the top and bottom, and also by a valve at the top and bottom. When a gun is fired in proximity to the lamp the violent inrush of air closes the valves and prevents the lights being extinguished. The top and bottom of the lamp are removable; the former is secured by two fixed screws and milled nuts, and the latter by four similar screws and nuts, which form feet for the lamp. A plate platform to receive the reservoir is fixed to a strong spiral spring inside the lamp. This platform has two turned up edges to form grooves into which the reservoir is firmly held securely in position. The reservoir will contain about 1¼ gills of oil which, under ordinary circumstances, is sufficient to burn 7 hours. Its size at the bottom is 31/8 by 3 inches and it tapers towards the top. It is fitted with a winding screw burner for 1-inch flat wick; with a pointed-screw feeder, and with a removable electro-plated reflector. Special arrangement will be made with regard to the supply of oil by the Army Service Corps.



Manufactured by G. Polkey Birmingham





Lamp, fighting (Mark I) Copper with reservoir, burner and reflector. Manufactured by Griffiths and Browett.



Brackets for Fighting Lamp and Tremlett's pattern - Haxo, Fort Fareham.



reservoir and burner

GRIFFITHS AND BROWETT,
General Iron and Tin Plate Workers and Tanners,
MANUFACTURERS OF
TINNED AND ENAMELLED WROUGHT IRON HOLLOW WARE, &c.,
68, BRADFORD STREET,
BIRMINGHAM,
AND 12, MOORCATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.



Fighting Lamp sold on Ebay in 2021
Bulpitt & Sons Birmingham 1900



David Moore :
Update 17/09/22

Jed Byrne found this lamp advertised as a 'Lorry Lamp'. It is made by Bulpitt and Sons Birmingham and dated 1904.

