

# Hand Lanterns

There were a variety of hand lanterns in use during the Victorian period.

In the List of Changes the following is recorded  
**§2147 Magazine, Lanthorn** approved 17th. March 1871

Hand Lanthorn, copper, for magazines, with arrangement for keeping the handle cool, more space at the top, door fastened with a brass bolt instead of a copper latch and oblong handle.

The bullseye lantern is a general purpose lantern for use wherever a hand lantern is required. Lewis (1898) states that a hand lantern was necessary for gun commanders to illuminate the range dials at night.

The Department of the Director of Artillery reported the approval of the Director of Artillery 30/07/84 for the sealing of a pattern of Mark II Lamps, Signal Bullseye.

The List Of Changes for 18/12/1886 gives :-

## **5223 Lantern Bullseye (Mark I)**

*Police, also for "laying back" R.A. Siege equipment*

*The Bullseye lantern, shown at page 42, priced vocabulary of stores, hitherto employed for police purposes, having been found suitable for "laying back" in siege batteries at night, the pattern lantern (no description of which has appeared in list of changes) has been re-sealed as above to govern supplies for both services.*

*The lantern is of the ordinary bullseye pattern. When required for siege train purposes it will be used in conjunction with the "box, lantern, bullseye" described in §5214.*

*Approval of the use of the "lantern, coloured, marquee, hospital" for "laying back" in siege batteries (§4599) is hereby cancelled.*

By 1896 there was a need to alter the bullseye lantern to provide a special for Siege purposes only.

**9237. - Lantern, bullseye, siege. (Mark I)**  
*with burner and reservoir; for laying back purposes. 2nd. March 1898 57/Gen. No. 9017*

*A pattern of the above-mentioned lantern has been sealed to govern future supplies for siege service only.*

*It differs slightly in dimensions from the 'lantern, bullseye, police' (§5223), hitherto used for this service, and also in the following particulars:-*

*The burner is wound from the outside and takes a 1/2-inch flat-cotton wick for parafin.*

*The shutter is worked from the outside by a button, and an outside conical reflector is provided.*

*A mixture, consisting of two parts, by volume, of rape oil, and one part, by volume, of parafin oil, will be used with this lantern.*

*The oil and wick will be supplied by the Army service Corps on demand.*

The special box for holding this lantern had to be altered for the new pattern.

**9236. - Box, lantern, bullseye (Mark I)**  
**Alteration** 2nd. March 1898 57/Gen. No. 9017

*The above-mentioned box (§5214) will require alteration to enable it to take the 'Lantern, bullseye, siege' (§9237), which is slightly larger than the lantern hitherto used for siege purposes.*

*This service will be carried out locally, as may be necessary, in accordance with instructional print C.I.W. 310A, which will be supplied to officers concerned on demand*



### **Extant lamps**

A box shaped hand lantern, designated **Lamp. Hand, Magazine**, with bullseye lens, can be found in the N.A.M. collection, (no. 40432 - 40433) originating at Didcot Q.A.D. It bears the number 3621 in white paint and the maker's plate 'C & J Oliter manufacturing Wapping London 1880'. It has holes pierced around the bottom for ventilation and has an oil burner shaped like a truncated square pyramid. One side has a door for removing the burner. a carrying handle is hinged to the sides. it has a conical fluted hood on top.

**Lamp. Hand, Magazine**



**Magazine Hand Lamps, part of the PFS collection at Fort Nelson.**