

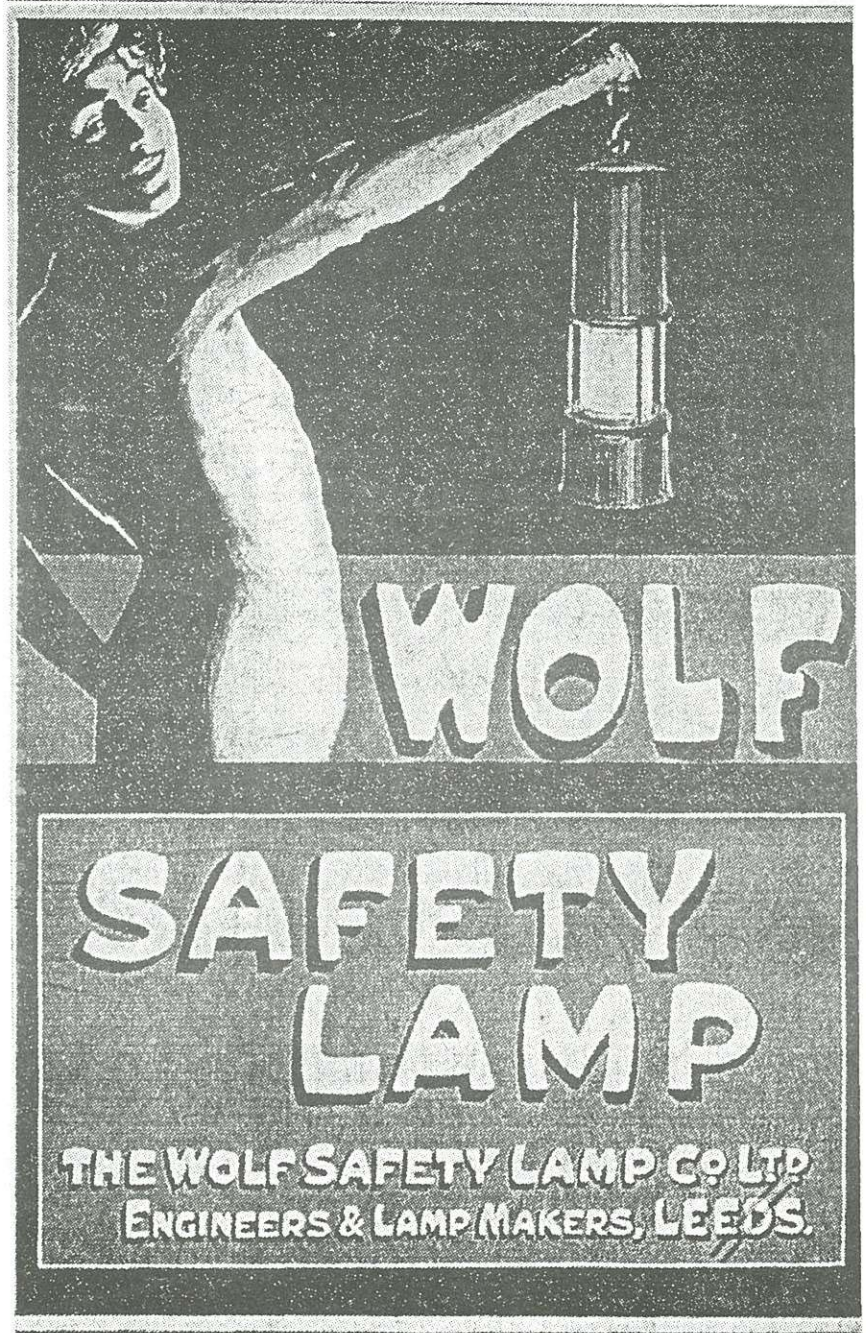
A History of:
**British Carbide Lamp Manufacturers
Founded from the Original Business of
'Friemann & Wolf'**

Part I

by Mick Corbridge

The well known lamp manufacturing company of 'Friemann & Wolf' - Germany was first commercially registered in 1884, and was shortly seen to be a producer of high quality lamps which were distributed to many countries all over the world. At the time of Heinrich Friemann's death in 1898, the British agent for the sale of 'Friemann & Wolf' lamps was 'Fr. Richter & Company' based in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Around this period, another German lamp entrepreneur Mr. Richard Cremer, was becoming involved in the sale and distribution of mining pattern lamps to the British market. We know that later, around 1904, he somehow became involved in the manufacture of several 'Friemann & Wolf' patented lamp patterns, which had been granted to Paul Wolf, the son of Carl Wolf. At this time Cremer, who was living in North Leeds at 5 Lidgett Park Road, had a lamp manufacturing factory at the address of 49 Aire Street - Leeds, England. Shortly afterwards he acquired a separate office accomodation close by at 37 York Place - Leeds; and was trading under the name of 'The Wolf Safety Lamp Company of Leeds.



Cover of an early "Wolf of Leeds" Catalogue, ca. 1908.

THE WOLF SAFETY LAMP CO., LEEDS.

Telegraphic Address :
"CREMER, LEEDS."

Telephone :
No. 395, Central.

AGENCIES :

GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, LIVERPOOL, SWANSEA,
HUGGLESCOTE--LEICESTERSHIRE, REDRUTH CORNWALL.,
JOHANNESBURG, PERTH--W.A., MELBOURNE, CALCUTTA,
VALPARAISO, CHILE.

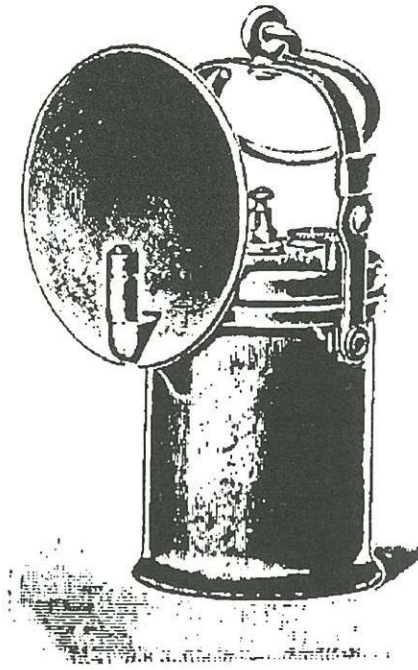
Manufacturers of PORTABLE ACETYLENE LAMPS.

Absolute Safety
and Reliability.

Burning absolutely
free from
Odour and Smoke.

Considerable
Saving in
Burning Material.

Great Simplicity
and
Stability.



Most Brilliant
and
Uniform Light.

Great Cleanliness.

Greater Safety
and more
Hygienic for
the User.

No Regulating
Required.

MORE THAN 70,000 WOLF ACETYLENE LAMPS

Have been supplied within
a short period of time to
MINES, QUARRIES, ENGINEERING WORKS,
and other users.

1909.

Copyright.

Cover of 'Wolf of Leeds' catalog, 1909.

'Friemann & Wolf' did not own Cremer's firm, but did supply the majority of his lamp parts, and many of his lamp design patterns were ones patented to 'Friemann & Wolf'.

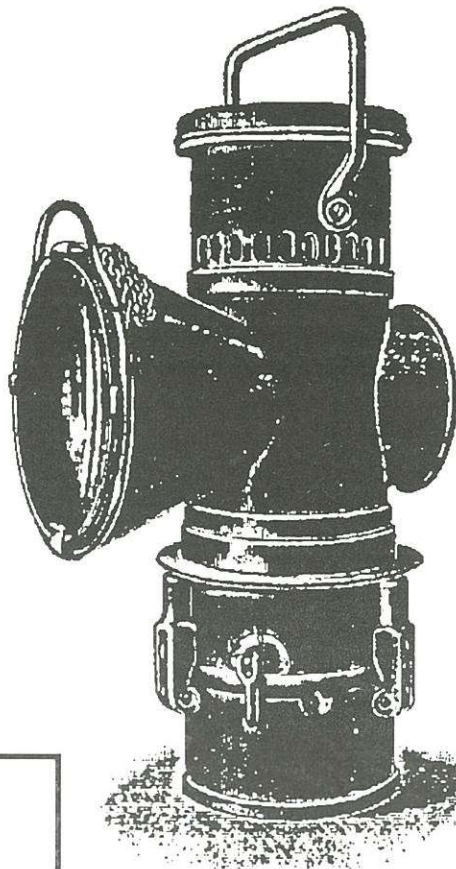
Due to this situation, under the then recently formed 'Companies Consolidation Act' of 1908, Friemann & Wolf were able to force Cremer to sell his company to them, in 1909, for the nominal price of £20,000. This figure covered a value of £13,250 for property, which then included £10,650 worth of plant and stock. The total value was covered by the issue of 2,650 'Friemann & Wolf' £5 shares; 2,300 to be

THE WOLF SAFETY LAMP COMPANY, LEEDS.

ACETYLENE REFLECTOR SAFETY LAMP.

SIZE I.

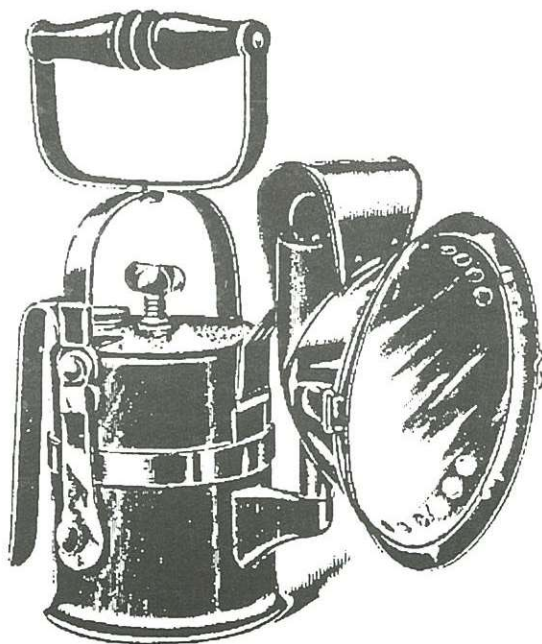
Height, 16 in.
 Weight, 12½ lbs.
 Lighting Power, 30 c.p.
 Burning Capacity, 14 to 16 hrs.
 Consumption of Carbide, 1 lb.
 Burner No. 12½.



SIZE II.

Height, 14½ in.
 Weight, 4 lbs. 10 oz.
 Lighting Power, 12 c.p.
 Burning Capacity, 10 to 12 hrs.
 Consumption of Carbide, 12 oz.
 Burner No. 110.

No. 7 A.R.S.



No. 63A.

WALES PATTERN.

issued to staff nominees, and the remaining 350 for R. Cremer. The written agreement for this company purchase was signed for by R. Cremer and Herbert Harwood, (trustee), and Paul Wolf & Hermann Siebeck for 'Friemann & Wolf - Germany'; the shares were issued on 13th November 1909.

The newly formed company appears to have gone through many unidentified difficulties, and three years later in 1912 the company was stated to be 'a total wreck' and was placed in liquidation in the December of that year. This left

B.—Lamps with Bridle Lever Lock.



No. 73.

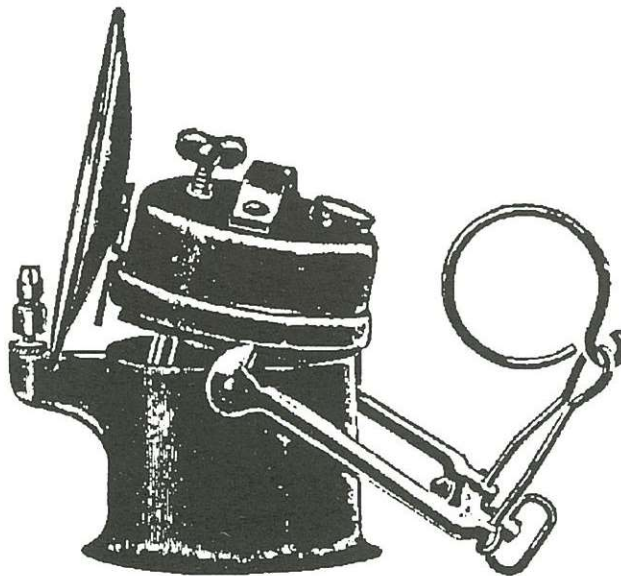
This Lamp differs from our Lamp with bridle lock by the construction of lock only.

Made in three sizes.

Burner No. 101.

For particulars see page 9.

This illustration shows how the bridle when turned over separates water and carbide holder.



Illustrations above and opposite are from a 'Wolf of Leeds' Catalogue, 1909.

'Friemann & Wolf' without a British base, and also left Richard Cremer without a business. Cremer, along with his Works Manager, a Mr. R.L.Woosnam, decided to continue in a Leeds based business of miners lamp manufacturing.

The new company was called 'The Cremer Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd.' and was relocated in a factory a few buildings away at 32 York Place - Leeds. It was funded with a sum of only £2,000 which was obtained as £1,000

... THE ...
Cremer Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd.

ENGINEERS and LAMP
 MANUFACTURERS

MANUFACTURERS OF

MINERS' SAFETY LAMPS
ELECTRIC LAMPS
 ... AND ...
ACETYLENE LAMPS

For Mines, Railways, &c.

ALL MACHINES AND ACCESSORIES
 IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

ABC CODE, 5TH EDITION

Telegrams: "CREMER, LEEDS" Telephone: 395 CENTRAL

REGISTERED OFFICES

32, YORK PLACE, LEEDS, ENGLAND

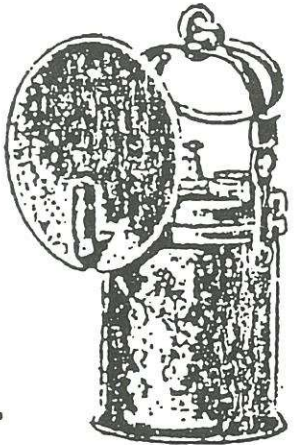
Cover of Cremer catalogue, ca. 1915.

THE
CREMER ACETYLENE LAMP
 WILL GIVE YOU
 SUNLIGHT UNDERGROUND.
 "CRESTELLA."

HALF
 THE
 COST
 OF
 WORKING
 WITH
 CANDLES.

GIVE
 16
 TIMES
 THE
 AMOUNT
 OF
 LIGHT.

SIMPLE. STRONG.



THE CREMER LAMP & ENGR. CO.
 Ltd., 32 YORK PLACE, LEEDS.
 LATE OF
 THE WOLF SAFETY LAMP CO. LTD., LEEDS.
Catalogues and Prices on Application.

'Cremer' Advertisement, ca. 1915.

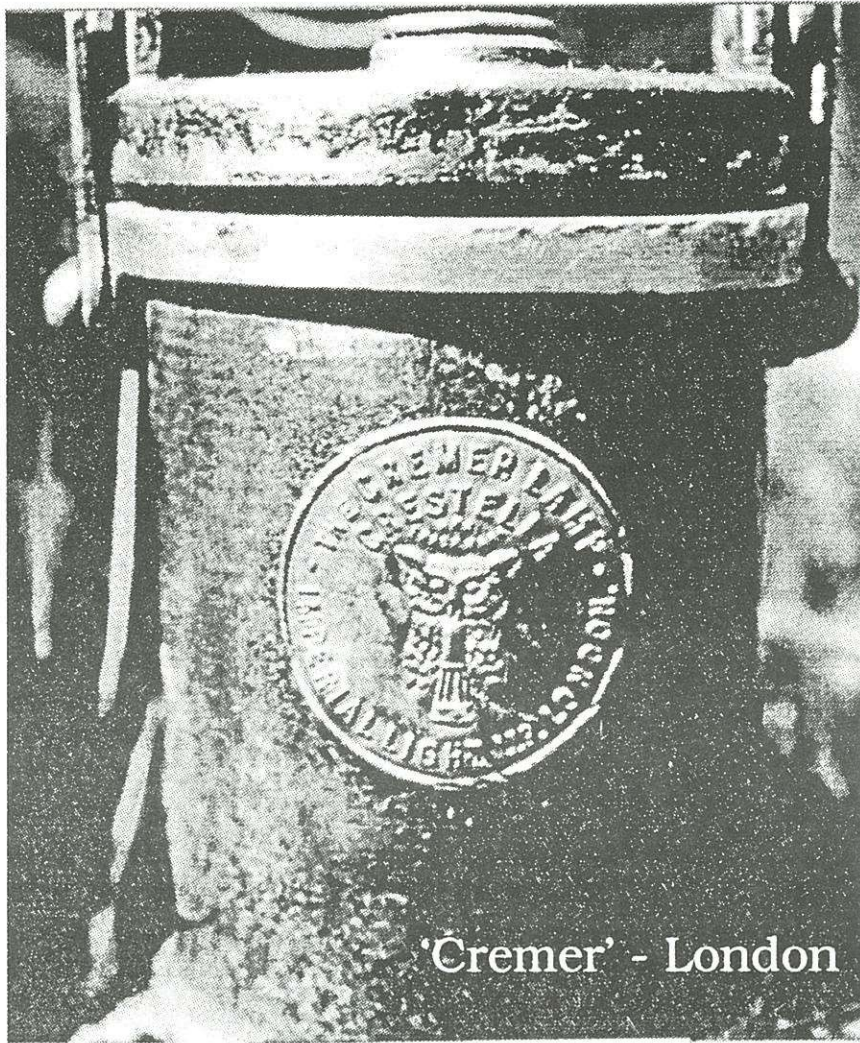
cash and £500 in stock items from W. Seippel of Bochum - Germany, with an extra £500 cash as a 'good will' gesture for R. Cremer's connections with the mining trade.

In the beginning, the newly formed company was a merchant business only, i.e. selling imported mining lamps from Germany to British users; this made use of Cremer's German connections. It is known that shortly after this, Cremer was involved in other British based lamp companies, and examples of lamps having badges displaying his name along with the London based company of 'Imperial Light' exist, (see fig. 1, opposite page).

Other lamps exist displaying 'Imperial light' along with the name of firm of 'Allen Liversidge'

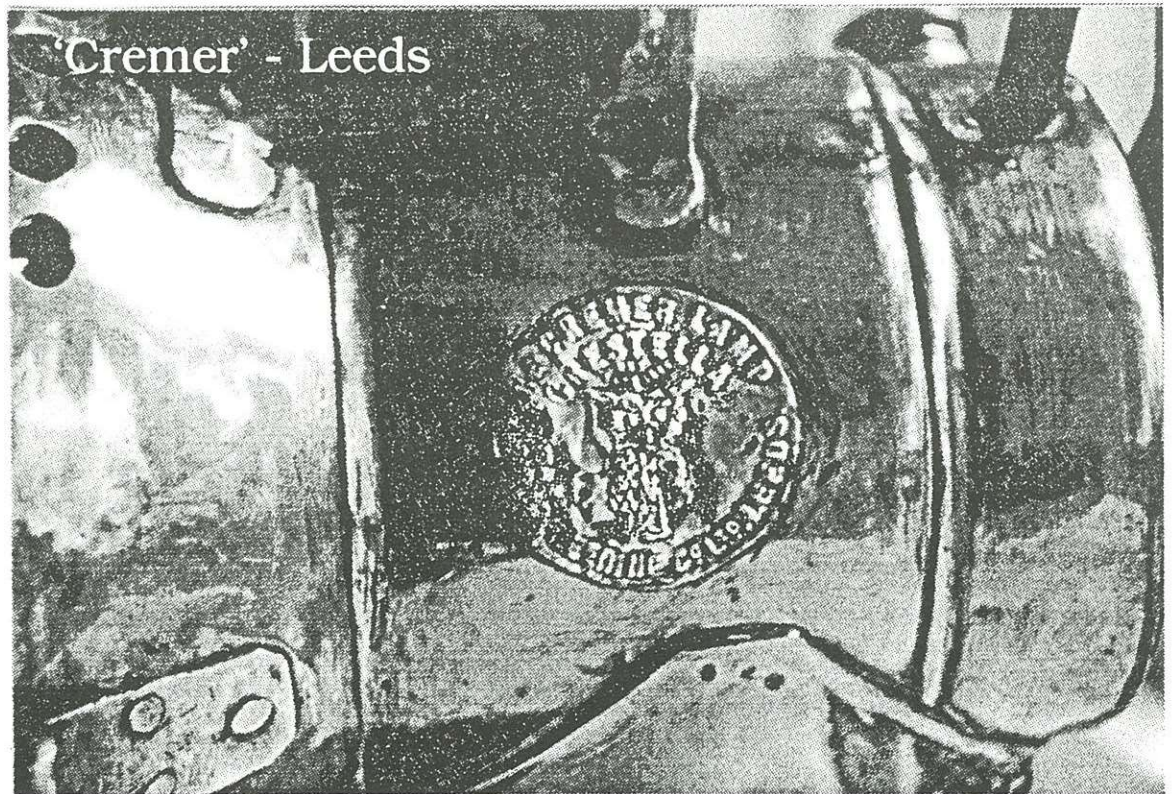
which was another London based lamp manufacturer. Was therefore Cremer also linked with the firm of Allen Liversidge? It could be that these firms were sales outlets for 'Cremer Lamps', or that they offered extra manufacturing facilities to Cremer. (A 'Cremer' badge on a lamp manufactured in Leeds is shown in fig. 1B., opposite page).

Fresh capital of £4,000, and the introduction of new shareholders was made in 1914. Unfortunately, at this time was the outbreak of what was to become the First World War, and as R. Cremer was himself a German, he made a rapid 'disappearance' to the continent and was never involved in the British lamp business again.



'Cremer' - London

When back in 1912, Friemann & Wolf were looking for a replacement British based factory, needed since the collapse of 'Wolf of Leeds'; they corresponded with a Mr. William Maurice then of Hucknall Torkard - England, regarding a possible trading agreement. Wm. Maurice had extensive previous experience in both mining lamps and colliery work, and hence was a ideal possible business candidate. His lamp experience came from 4 years employment, (1890-1894), with 'John Davis & Son's - Derby' where he first trained in electrical engineering. He then went on to control electrical installations at several collieries, and trained in the manufacture of mining pattern safety lamps. He had spent 2 of his 4 years with 'John Davis' in South Africa, where he carried out engineering projects and reported on commercial prospects. In 1894 he became a Assistant Manager for



'Cremer' - Leeds

Cremer

*

Crestella

TELEPHONE 1081 CENTRAL.
TELEGRAMS, ACCOUNTS SHEFFIELD.

J. L. Shuttleworth & Son.
J. L. Shuttleworth, F.C.A.
J. E. Shuttleworth, B.Sc., F.C.A.
G. R. Huter, F.C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

*Royal Insurance Buildings,
Church Street,
Sheffield.*

October, 1916.

Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916.

WOLF SAFETY LAMP COMPANY.

I beg to inform you that the Business of the above named Company and the Goodwill thereof have been sold by me as on the 1st July, 1916, to Mr. William Maurice, who is now carrying on the business on his own account and my responsibility in respect thereof has ceased.

J. L. Shuttleworth

Controller.

Wm. Maurice takes back the company from Germany, in 1915.

the Swanwick Collieries - Alfreton - Derbyshire; and in 1899 he acquired his Colliery Managers Certificate and so transferred as Manager for Tibshelf New Collieries. Four years later in 1903, he resigned from that position and became General Mine Manager & Mining Engineer for Hucknall Colliery, a position which he held up to his negotiations with 'Friemann & Wolf' in 1912.

On the 13th February 1913, an agreement was signed by Paul Wolf & William Maurice. This covered the transfer of patents and selling rights from the now liquidated Leeds firm, to a new Sheffield based office which was initially in Bank Street. The agreement did not allow William Maurice to sell products outside of Britain, and similarly Friemann & Wolf - Germany would not sell lamps to British customers other than through William Maurice. For his services, Maurice would receive a monthly remuneration of £50, plus 15% net profit commission. Only

two extra staff were allowed for in the agreement, i.e. a clerk and a typist. An extra £70 per month was allowed to cover all expenses and wages of both staff. The agreement came into force on March 1, 1913 and required a first year turnover of £4,000 with annual increases in turnover of £1,500 per year up to a maximum of £15,000. If these figures were not achieved, termination of contract could be carried out having given 3 months notice.

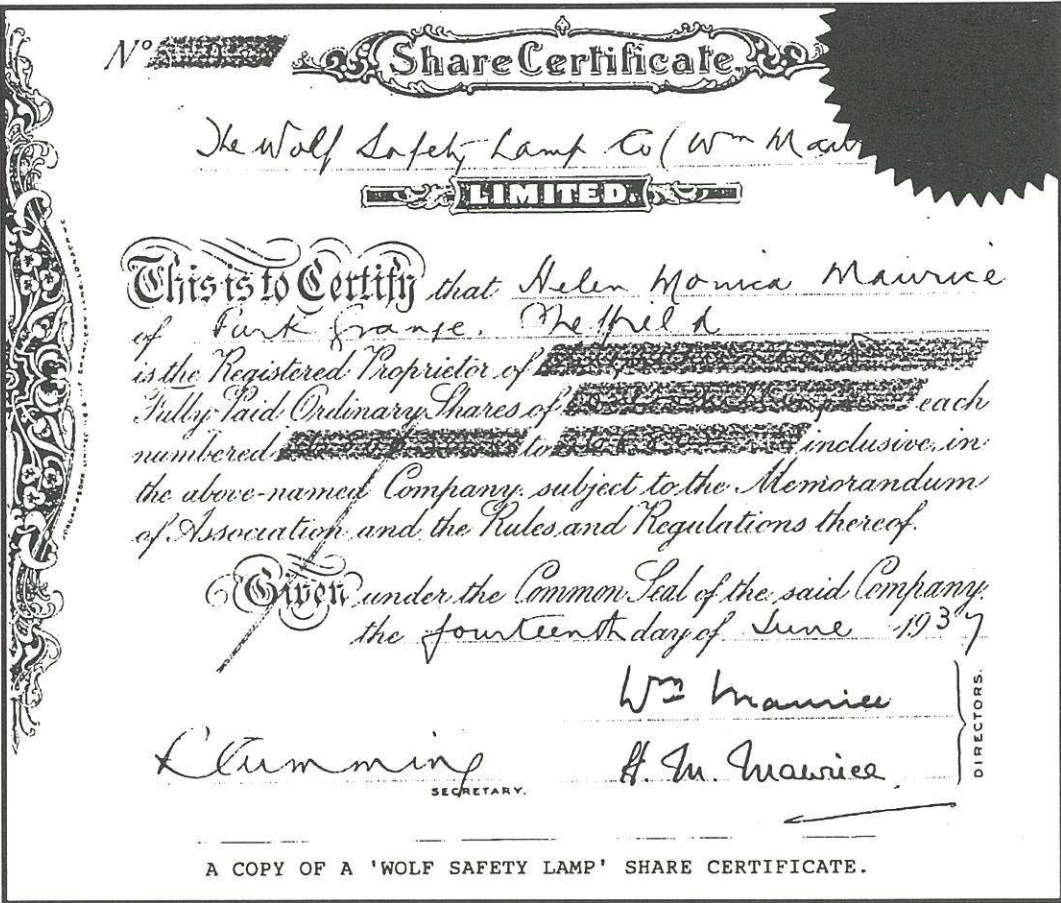
The business appears to have started off well, but shortly after its formation, was the previously mentioned outbreak of the First World War. Under the newly formed 'Trading with the Enemy Act' of 1916, 'Friemann & Wolf - Germany' was 'obliged' to sell all rights of the Company to William Maurice; this was agreed and carried out on 1st July 1916.

Thus the outbreak of the war had affected both company legs formed from the split caused by the liquidation of the initial 'Wolf of Leeds' company. The Sheffield base, which had already moved several times through different small home based addresses, i.e. to Boston Street in 1914, then on to a garage in Mushroom Lane and in the same year a further move to a small factory accommodation in Young Street. It was here that Maurice was able to start his newly owned company of 'The Wolf Safety Lamp Co. (Wm. Maurice), Ltd'.

Similarly, to break off all links with Germany which had created some problems during the

previous war years, 'The Cremer Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd.' of Leeds was renamed in 1919, 'The Premier Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd.' During the few years previous, 'Cremer Lamp & Engineering' had gone through hard times, as with the loss of Cremer, the supply of lamps from Germany had been lost. Also, with the required war effort, 6 of the then 10 employees were away from the company. In December 1914 the Company had moved premises to the larger Moorfield Works situated at Armley - Leeds. They struggled through the war years by maintaining existing lamps that had been previously sold to numerous mines, and were able to obtain high priced new lamp parts from a manufacturer in Birmingham. They also obtained a war contract from the 'Ministry of Supply' to manufacture and supply aeroplane parts.

Thus, following the war years, began a new era for both British based Companies.



A copy of a 'Wolf Safety Lamp' share certificate.

Fr. Richter & Company

1898

Newcastle-on-Tyne

(sold German-made Friemann & Wolf lamps)

1904

The Wolf Safety Lamp
Company of Leeds

Owned by Cremer.

Wolf supplied parts, Cremer made lamps.

*Evolution of the
two dominant
lamp makers.*

1909

Cremer forced to sell business to
Friemann & Wolf - Germany

John Davis & Sons,
Derby

Wm. Maurice was employee for
4 yrs.

company collapses

1912

The Cremer
Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd

Imported German lights
also

Assoc. with Imperial light of London, Leeds.

Wolf contracts with
Wm. Maurice of Sheffield

1914 - WORLD WAR I

1916 Trading With Enemy Act

Cremer flees to Germany

Wolf forced to sell to Maurice.

Company renamed:

1916
The Wolf Safety Lamp Co.
(Wm. Maurice) Ltd.

1919
The Premier
Lamp & Engineering Co. Ltd