

British Carbide Tins

by Mick Corbridge

Whilst checking out some of my American carbide tins, I noticed that none of the related reference books show any examples of British manufacturers of carbide supply tins. I don't have detailed information on the British suppliers that were used in the past, but I thought that showing a few from my collection may be of interest to other tin collectors. These tins are all pre mid 1960's, after which suppliers used rather dull, (but cheaper), plain tins having paper labels describing their product; these are, (all but one), elaborately colour painted.

The first four are all of the tall standard pattern one pound in weight tins.



'OVOLO'

Supplied by 'Brett's Oil & Grease Co. Ltd.' which had branches in Gateshead on Tyne, and in London. The tin shown is printed on a background colour of yellow with red, gold & black detail.

'THE NORTHERN STAR'

Supplied by 'The Halford Cycle Co. Ltd.' which had branches in most major towns. The printing is in black on a background colour of red.

'EGGROE BRAND'

This is off an unknown supplier. The printing is in brown, on a background colour of yellow.

'BOSPHORUS'

Of Bristol, the printing is in white and red, upon the background colours of yellow and red.

The next two tins shown are in the form of the short but wider one pound in weight tins, these appear to be much more uncommon over here in Britain:

'T.B.'

This is, to me, of an unknown manufacturer, but I remember this make still readily available for use in mining and caving up to the mid-60's.

'MERIDIA'

Supplied by 'Radio' and packed in Britain, this tin is unusual in that the weight is stated in grams. The printing is in blue and black on a mainly blue background coloured tin.



The next two tins shown are:

'MERIDIA'

Similar to the one above and supplied by 'Radio', but this example is an earlier tall thin pattern tin. It is in yellow and black printing on a black and yellow background.

'XL'

This is a seven pound weight tin of carbide supplied by 'James Jamieson's - (Aberdeen) Ltd.' This is a paper labeled plain tin on which the label has suffered with time somewhat.



These last two tins shown are both supplied by 'The County Chemical Co. Ltd.' of Birmingham. One is a standard tall pattern one pound weight tin, whilst the other is the rarer half-pound tin. The printing on both tins is in black and yellow, upon a yellow, gold and black background. I have a few examples of this tin, and each have printed on the back:

'F.C. Fell' - Lincoln

&

'Reliance Engineering' - Nottingham

