

WASC 2138  
(FROM WASC 0008)

Extract from  
Capt. F.M. Smith  
Handbook 1870  
Showing Barrel  
Marking

Commissary to assume charge of the powder in accordance with its existing state and condition.

17. At stations where no Artillery are located, the Commissary will personally examine all powder contained in the original packages as soon as received into store. If no sign of deterioration present itself, he may assume charge of the powder under its original classification, and may re-issue it accordingly; but should there be any reason for doubt, the powder will be taken in charge and marked as under Class IV., and the circumstances reported to the Controller, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, who will communicate the order of the Controller-in-Chief.

18. Powder from broken-up cartridges, and powder emptied from shells, will in all cases be sifted *before* being returned into store, so that all extraneous articles may be detected. Barrels of powder "emptied from shells" should be distinguished as such.

19. The sizes of sieves used in sifting powder before returning it into store, will be as follows:—

For R. L. G. powder, a sieve of 3 meshes to the inch.

L. G.	"	"	6	"	"
R. F. G.	"	"	8	"	"
F. G.	"	"	12	"	"
Pistol	"	"	16	"	"

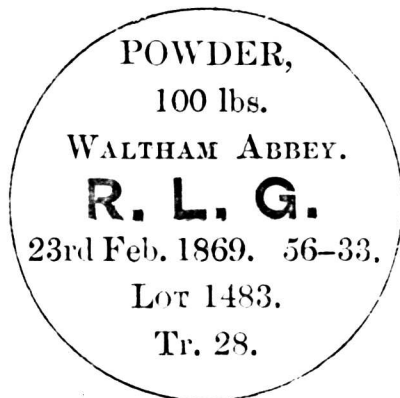
*Storing, Uses, and Issue of Powder.*

20. On receiving powder, commissaries will look to the distinguishing marks showing the description of powder, maker's name, and dates of stoving; and will arrange the barrels in the magazine accordingly, carefully keeping the powder of each date of stoving together as far as practicable.

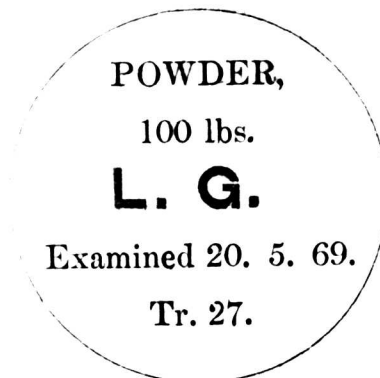
21. In issuing service powder, care should be taken to issue, as far as possible, the powder of the same maker, and of the same date of stoving.

22. The annexed examples will show the manner in which the heads of barrels will be marked in future.

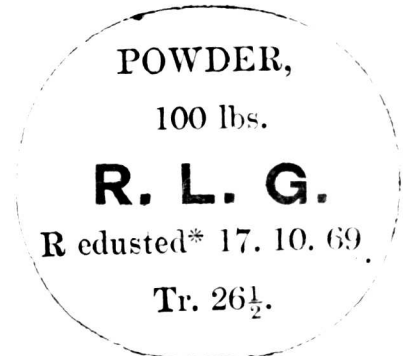
No. 1.



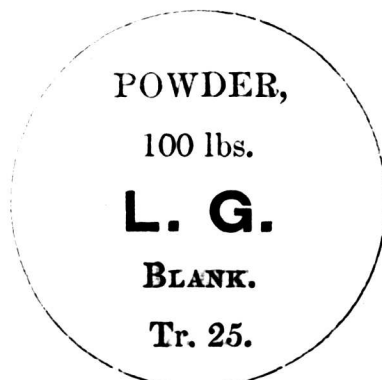
No. 2.



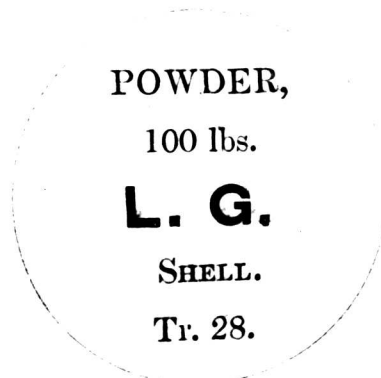
No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.

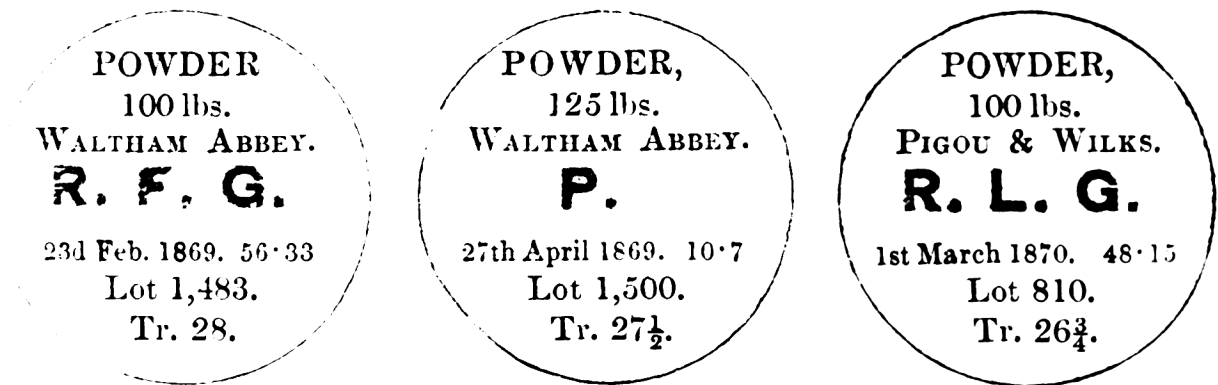


\* Or "repaired," as the case may be.

New powder when it leaves the maker's hands for transmission to Purfleet, the great depôt where all new powder is received, is marked as follows, in *seven* lines—

- 1st line, "*Powder.*"
- 2nd „ Quantity in barrel.
- 3rd „ Maker's name.
- 4th „ Description of powder in RED.
- 5th „ Date of stoving, number of barrels in stoving, and number of barrel.
- 6th „ Number of lot.
- 7th „ *Tare*, or weight of barrel.

A few specimens of actual markings are given underneath to show more fully the meaning of the above. Let the reader observe that at present only the markings of *new* powder, or powder that has never been out of the barrels in which it was first placed, are under consideration.

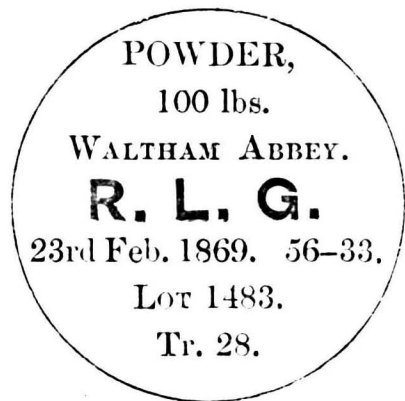


Specimens of markings of *New Powder.*

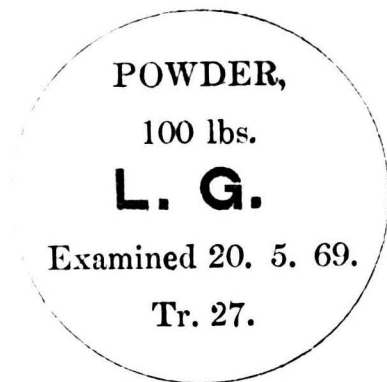
The fifth line is the only one which requires explanation. It contains, first, the date of stoving (*e.g.*, as above, 23d February 1869, 27th April 1869, and 1st March 1870); second, the number of barrels in the stoving (56 in the first, 10 in the second, and 48 in the third); and third, the number of the individual barrel; the first barrel is the 33d of the whole 56 stoved; the second is the 7th of the 10 stoved; and the third is the 15th of the 48 stoved.

All powder manufactured at Waltham Abbey as soon as it is proved and marked is transmitted to Purfleet, where it is stored till issued as required. Powder supplied by contractors is delivered at Purfleet also, for proof and examination. This is always carried on by the officers of the Royal Gunpowder Factory. Some of the old contracts being still unfinished, the powder supplied under them undergoes no other firing proof but the old mortar one. Provided it passes that, that is to say, provided it ranges not more than five per cent. less than standard Waltham Abbey powder fired at the same time, and provided it cubes and flashes correctly, and is of the proper colour, and free from dust, it is admitted into the service. All powder, however, supplied under recent contracts must undergo exactly the same proofs as the powder made at Waltham Abbey. The proper appliances for conducting this not being as yet erected at Purfleet, samples of each lot of 100 barrels of the contractor's powder are sent to Waltham for firing proof, and examination as to density there. Ten per cent. only of the barrels are opened, and a half-pound sample taken out of each.

No. 1.



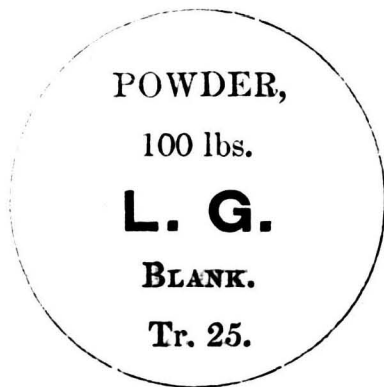
No. 2.



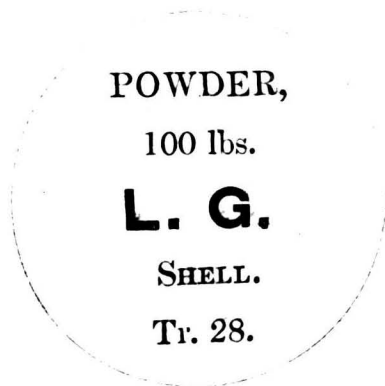
No. 3.

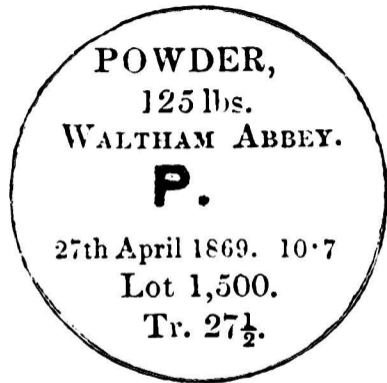
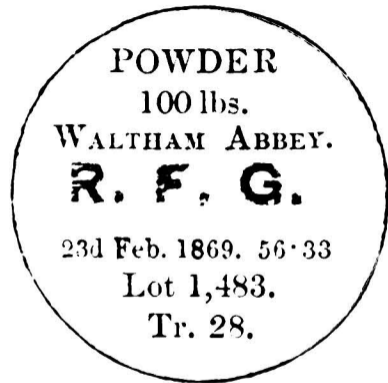


No. 4.



No. 5.





Specimens of markings of *New Powder*.

POWDER  
100 lbs.  
WALTHAM ABBEY.  
**R. F. G.**

23d Feb. 1869. 56·33  
Lot 1,483.  
Tr. 28.

POWDER,  
125 lbs.  
WALTHAM ABBEY.  
**P.**

27th April 1869. 10·7  
Lot 1,500.  
Tr. 27½.

WAI 1578  
POWDER,  
100 lbs.  
PIGOU & WILKS.  
**R. L. G.**

1st March 1870. 48·15  
Lot 810.  
Tr. 26¾.

Specimens of markings of *New Powder*.