

WASC 2353

WAI 662

≡ Mails from

Jamestown Coopersage

-  
Proof of Gunpowder

Barrel making

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 16:31  
**To:** imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** FW: gunpowder barrel markings

Ian

This completes the salient e mails. Note the web link.

Peter was involved also in trying to get detail from TNA Board of Ordnance records of Waltham Abbey exports, only to find an early record by a researcher to the effect that to his ' great distress ' BoO clerks had destroyed all the relevant records !, so that was the end of that venture.

We might get a visit from Marshall, but I have doubts that he'll be able to keep up his punishing schedule – e.g. Chatham and Waltham Abbey in the one day !

Regards

Les

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**From:** Marshall Scheetz [mailto:marshall@jamestowncooperage.com]  
**Sent:** 14 May 2014 19:43  
**To:** Les Tucker  
**Cc:** Peter Blake  
**Subject:** Re: gunpowder barrel markings

Hello Les and Peter,

First off, let me start by apologizing for my lapse in reply. Thank you both for your updates and for reaching out to various other museums. This search really is becoming quite troublesome.

Our busy season is upon us at Colonial Williamsburg, so I've been spending more time in the shop coopering and less time committed to the search. I've found numerous court cases and regulation manuals online. They may be of some use. Unfortunately, I'm finding far more information concerning the victualing and provisioning of the Royal Navy and less about the supply of ordinance. I think you may be correct Les in saying that Ms West will probably direct us back to the WO folders that Peter has already searched.

The dates of my trip to London are August 16th through the 30th. I'll be spending the first week at Kew and the second week visiting various museums around greater London. I'd certainly like to pay a visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills. Chatham Historic Dockyard is also on my list of places to go. The Dockyard houses many of the gunpowder casks recovered from the 1758 Invincible wreck.

I wanted to pass this along again. I found the second page of late 18th century gunpowder casks markings. The source is from 2nd Battalion 95th Rifles reenactment society forum page. <http://posting.org/image/vjwt1wqpb/>

<http://posting.org/image/xb0823v49/> The person who posted these didn't cite them. I'm going to attempt to contact the group to see they might be able to help.

I would also like to refer back to another source sent earlier. The Reports of the Commissioners appointed to Take, and State the Public Accounts of the Kingdom, presented to His Majesty,

The appendix on "Proving Gunpowder and Marking Barrels," seems to be unique to this report. I'm searching other "Reports of the Commissioners" for details on ordnance. The first couple paragraphs point to other potential sources for information. Peter, would it be possible to look into the Deputy Controllers of the King's Laboratory at Woolwich and any communications that might be preserved at the Archives?

I've copied the source again below.

Cheers,

Marshall

1781-84.

Proving Gunpowder and Marking barrels.

"Appendix to the Twelfth Report..."

[Part of the proving process is included as it explained terms used in the markings.]

by the Commanding Engineer, and transmitted, with a List of them, to the Office of the Surveyor General.—No contracting Artificer is paid upon the Spot; he is paid by the Treasurer of the Ordnance. He has been informed, by some of the Contractors, that during the late War their Bills have been Eleven Quarters in Arrear.

MATT<sup>w</sup> DIXON.

*T. Anguish,*  
*A. Piggott,*  
*Rich<sup>d</sup> Neave,*  
*Sam<sup>l</sup> Beachcroft,*  
*Geo. Drummond,*  
*Will<sup>m</sup> Roe.*

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N° 19.

The EXAMINATION of Major *William Congreve*, of the Royal Artillery; taken upon Oath, *March* 5th, 16th, and 22d, 1784.

**T**HIS Examinant saith, That he is Deputy Controller of the King's Laboratory at *Woolwich*, during the Absence of the Controller, and was appointed to this Office in *April* 1783. It is a Part of his Duty to attend the Proof of all Gunpowder made use of by Government.—This Proof is made at *Purfleet* only, before it is received into the Magazines as serviceable, or paid for.—The Gunpowder is either newly made, or returned back from Ships of War, or foreign Garrisons, to be re-proved.

When a Proof becomes necessary, the Board of Ordnance direct the Deputy Controller to attend at *Purfleet* at a certain Time; the Officers who attend with him are, the Chief Fire Master, the Assistant Fire Master, and the Three Ordnance Officers at *Purfleet*, the Storekeeper, the Clerk of the Survey, and the Clerk of the Checque.—Formerly the Mode of Proof was the raising a given Weight, in a Frame called a Vertical Eprouvette, by a given Quantity of Powder; but this Mode has, by a Course of Experiments lately made by Order of Lord *Townshend*, been found not to be a certain Proof of the Goodness of the Powder; for a Powder that with Two Drachms raised the Vertical Eprouvette Four Inches and Five Tenths, with Three Pounds, in a Thirteen Inch Mortar, ranged the Shell One thousand One hundred and Three Yards; and a Powder that with the same Quantity raised the Eprouvette only One Inch and Nine Tenths, with Three Pounds, in a Thirteen Inch Mortar, ranged the Shell One thousand

thousand One hundred and Twelve Yards.—A Report of these Experiments, drawn up and signed by him and the Two Fire Masters, he delivered to Lord *Townshend*; a Copy of it, signed by himself, is now before the Board of Ordnance, for them to settle the Mode of Proof for the future.—Hence it appears, that great Quantities of Powder proved by the former Method (the only established Mode to prove the Strength of Government Powder, as appears by the Copies of the official Papers subjoined) which were probably fit for Service, may have been condemned, and either sold as unserviceable, or used in Triumph, or the Saltpetre extracted, to be worked up again at *Feversham*; and near Eleven thousand Barrels of foreign Powder; now in the Magazines, are condemned, great Part of which, when proved by Mortars, may probably be found fit for the heavy Artillery for Land Service, which will save Government a considerable Sum of Money.—After a Proof at *Purfleet*, a Report is made to the Master General and Board of the Quantity of Powder proved, and the State of it; this Report is signed by the Deputy Controller, the Two Fire Masters, and the Storekeeper. The Powder is not received into the Magazines as serviceable, until the Board direct it, in consequence of that Report.

The only Manufactory for Gunpowder, belonging to Government, is at *Feversham*; the rest of the Gunpowder is made by Powder Merchants or Contractors.

The great Deposit for the Government Gunpowder, in this Part of the Kingdom, is at *Purfleet*;—it consists of Five Magazines at the Distance of Fifty-eight Feet from each other; Four of them are calculated to contain Thirty-eight thousand Four hundred Barrels; the other is intended only for laying Powder down for Proof. Should any one of these Magazines be blown up, it is scarcely possible but they must all be blown up.—By the last Return of the respective Officers of the Ordnance at *Purfleet*, dated the 13th Instant, the Quantity of Powder then in Store was Thirty-five thousand Four hundred and Six whole Barrels, each containing One hundred Pounds, and Seven thousand Two hundred and Fifty-two Half Barrels.

REGULATIONS for proving POWDER, by the Honourable Board, the 18th December 1780, and 1st January 1781.

*Dutch*, and Returned.

3, 5 and upwards	—	—	Sea.
2, 8 to 3, 4	—	—	Land.
1, 9 to 2, 7	—	—	Triumph.
1, 8 and under	—	—	Crossed.

*Feversham.*

3, 5 and upwards	—	—	Sea.
2, 8 to 3, 4	—	—	Land.
Under 2, 8	—	—	Triumph.

## New Powder from the Merchants.

3, 5 and upwards	—	—	Sea.
Under 3, 5	—	—	Crossed.
4, 5 and upwards	—	—	Extra.

All Powder to be condemned if abounding with Lights.

Weight of Powder in the Chamber of the Eprouvette, Two Drachms.

Weight of Powder in One Thimble, Seven Drachms and a Half, to be burnt upon Plates, to ascertain whether it was free from Lights or not.

The aforementioned is a true Copy of the Account of the Board's Regulations for proving of Gunpowder at *Purfleet*; which the Store-keeper of those Magazines gave me the Beginning of *May* last.

17th *March* 1784.

The **MODE** of preparing Gunpowder for Proof at *Purfleet*; together with an Account of the Marks made use of at that Office to distinguish it afterwards.

WHEN Powder is received at the King's Magazines at *Purfleet*, whether Merchants, *Feversham*, Returned, &c. it is stacked in Bays separately; the Weighing of the Returned from the Shipping being first attended to by the Clerk of the Survey, allowing One hundred and Two Pounds for every whole Barrel, and Fifty-one Pounds for every Half Barrel; it having been found that One hundred Pounds, being but Six Weeks at Sea, has gained Two Pounds in One hundred Pounds by the Damps, &c. of the Ship.

When a Proof is ordered, it is separately laid down for that Purpose. The Merchants and *Feversham*, Parcel by Parcel, is sent into the Proof House in a Box, with Six Thimbles, from Six Barrels, to burn on the Plates, and the same in another Box to try in the Eprouvette; then a State is sent from the Proof House to the Magazines, specifying which of these Six are passed as Extra, Sea or Land, Triumph, and Crossed; which are marked on the Barrels accordingly. The Returned is first hand-proved; and such as is not condemned by that Method, is sent into the Proof House in the Manner described, and from thence

into the Magazines, to be marked as before—it is then stacked up distinctly, every Parcel of Powder as proved, distinguishing the Passed, Triumph, and Crossed, in order to lay down more for Proof.

The next-Process is to get up the Powder; which is done after this Manner:—The Merchants Powder that is Crossed, is headed up in order to be returned them when sent for: The Passed Powder of the Merchants is, then shifted into King's Barrels, Whole or Half, Copper or Hazle:—The *Feversham* and Returned, Passed and Triumph, the same.—The Barrels that the Crossed Powder is in are tared, and the Powder shifted back again into them—then the Clerk of the Survey attends the Weighing, &c. of the Whole, both Passed, Triumph, and Crossed, allowing to a Whole Barrel One hundred Pounds, and to Half a Barrel Fifty Pounds. The Passed for Sea and Land is sent to *Tilbury* with the utmost Dispatch, by a General Order of the Board, and elsewhere, if a particular Order; the Extra to *Woolwich*, or the *Tower*, as demanded; the Triumph and Crossed as demanded.

THE following is the Method that was pursued in marking the Barrels, when the Powder was got up for *May* Proof 1783; and which will serve as a Specimen for all others, by an Example of *Feversham*.

N. B. The Letters signify the Place, or Makers Names: R, Returned Powder; and the \*\*\*, Extra, at all Times.

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
F  
Sea Service.

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
\*\* F \*\*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Extra .

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Corned Powder.  
17th May 1783  
F  
Land Service.

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TR (Triumph)  
17th May 1783  
F  

---

X (Crossed)  
17th May 1783  
F

*T. Anguish,*  
*Sam<sup>l</sup> Beachcroft,*  
*Geo. Drummond,*  
*Will<sup>m</sup> Roe.*

W M CONGREVE.

“No. 19.

The Examination of Major William Congreve, of the Royal Artillery; taken upon Oath, March 5th, 16th, and 22d, 1784.

This Examinant saith, That he is Deputy Controller of the King’s Laboratory at Woolwich, during the Absence of the Controller, and was appointed to this Office in April 1783. It is a Part of his Duty to attend the Proof of all Gunpowder made use of by Government. - This Proof is made at Purfleet only, before it is received into the Magazines as serviceable, or paid for. - The Gunpowder is either newly made, or returned back from Ships of War, or foreign Garrisons, to be re-proved.

...  
[Description of the proving procedure and a recently detected flaw, finding the eprouvette to be unreliable when compared against testing with a mortar.] “Hence it appears, that great Quantities of powder proved by the former Method (the only established Mode to prove the Strength of Government Powder, as appears by the Copies of the official Papers subjoined) which were probably fit for Service, may have been condemned, and either sold as unserviceable, or used in Triumph, or the Saltpetre extracted, to be workd up again at Feversham; and near Eleven thousand Barrels of foreign Powder, now in the Magazines, are condemned, great Part of which, when proved by Mortars, may probably be found fit for the heavy Artillery for Land Service...”

[Note: “Triumph” is an odd name apparently for low-grade powder, perhaps for exercise or saluting.

“The warrant for ammunition for the Surrey militia is dated 9th July, 1759, and orders the following to be served... ‘18 barrels of serviceable, and 36 barrels triumph, powder, to every nine hundred men...’ [Citing King’s Warrant Books, (Tower), vol. iv, pp. 92, 93.]” p. 90.

“Historical Record of the Second Royal Surrey, or Eleventh Regiment of Militia.” Marcus Ward, London and Belfast. 1877. [Google Books.]

“Regulations for proving Powder, by the Honourable Board, the 18th December 1780, and 1st January 1781.

Dutch, and Returned.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.  
2, 8 to 3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.  
1, 9 to 2, 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Triumph.  
1, 8 and under \_\_\_\_\_ Crossed.

Feversham.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.  
2, 8 to 3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.  
Under 2, 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Triumph.

New Powder from the Merchants.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.  
Under 3, 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.  
4, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Extra...”

“The Mode of preparing Gunpowder for Proof at Purfleet; together with an Account of the Marks made use of at that Office to distinguish it afterwards.

When Powder is received at the King’s Magazines at Purfleet, whether Merchants, Feversham, Returned, &c. it is stacked in Bays separately; the Weighing of the Returned from the Shipping being first attended to by the Clerk of the Survey, allowing One hundred and Two pounds for every whole Barrel, and Fifty-one Pounds for every half Barrel; it having been found that One hundred pounds, being but Six Weeks at Sea, has gained Two pounds in one hundred Pounds, by the Damps, &c. of the Ship.

When a Proof is ordered, is is separately laid down for that Purpose. The merchants and Feversham, Parcel by parcel, is sent into the Proof House in a Box, with Six Thimbles, from Six Barrels, to burn on the Plates, and the same in another Box to try in the Eprouvette; then a State is sent from the Proof House to the Magazines, specifying which of these Six are passed as Extra, Sea or Land, Triumph, and Crossed; which are marked on the Barrels accordingly. The Returned is first hand-proved; and such is not condemned by that Method, is sent to the Proof House in the Manner described, and from



thence into the Magazines, to be marked as before - it is then stacked up distinctly, every Parcel of Powder as proved, distinguishing the Passed, Triumph, and Crossed, in order to lay down more for Proof.

The next Process is to get up the Powder; which is done after this Manner: - The Merchants Powder that is Crossed, is headed up in order to be returned them when sent for: The Passed Powder of the Merchants is then shifted into King's Barrels, Whole or Half, Copper or Hazle: - The Feversham and Returned, Passed and Triumph, the same. - The Barrels that the Crossed Powder is in are tared, and the Powder shifted back again into them - then the Clerk of the Survey attends the weighing, &c. of the whole, both Passed, Triumph and Crossed, allowing to a whole Barrel One hundred Pounds, and to half a Barrel Fifty Pounds. The Passed for Sea and Land is sent to Tilbury with the utmost dispatch, by a General Order of the Board, and elsewhere, if a particular Order; the Extra to Woolwich, or the Tower, as demanded; the Triumph and Crossed as demanded.

The following is the Method that was pursued in marking the Barrels, when the Powder was got up for May Proof 1783; and which will serve as a Specimen for all others, by an Example of Feversham.

N. B. The Letters signify the Place, or Makers Names: R, Returned Powder, and the \* \* \*, Extra, at all Times.

[The marks below are aligned on center; the month is rendered in italics.]

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
F  
Sea Service.

---

Corned Powder  
17th May 1783  
F  
Land Service

---

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
\* \* F \* \*  
\* \* \* \*  
Extra

---

T R (Triumph)  
17th May 1783  
F

---

X (Crossed)  
17th May 1783  
F

Wm Congreve.

T. Anguish,  
Saml Beachcroft,  
Geo. Drummond,  
Willm Roe." p. 648-51.

Lane, John; "The Reports of the Commissioners appointed to Take, and State the Public Accounts of the Kingdom, presented to His Majesty, and to both Houses of Parliament." 1785. Volume II. His Majesty's Printers for T. Cadell, London. 1785. [Google Books.]

On Mon, Apr 14, 2014 at 3:06 PM, Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Hello Marshall

Thank you for your e mail.

By copy of this, thank you again Peter.

Looking at the WO 55 series copied one can begin to see the relationship between the statements in the sections in Jenny's book Distribution to North America

1755-57 and 1758-63 and the content of WO 55.

In other words if we asked her would she merely refer us back to WO55 and the details she gave in her book Ps. 108 -115.

If for the moment we take it she has included all references to North America, there are references to Virginia on Ps. 109-110, covering 1755, none after this.

Harking back to Ron's original enquiry, was this the entire supply to Virginia over 1755 to 1763 ?

What about 1764 – 1775. Detail in WO55 ?

Before attempting to contact Jenny it would seem desirable to be able to demonstrate that we have looked at the sources, rather than just go straight in and ask her for the information.

I think, thanks to Peter's efforts, we can now fairly claim this and on barrel marking you would be able to cite the information you have previously given us.

Did you want to contact Brenda Buchanan yourself to see if she will give you contact details for Jenny ? ( although I suspect on quantities shipped Jenny's, answer will be as above ).

Regards

Les

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From: Marshall Scheetz [mailto:marshall@jamestowncooperage.com]

Sent: 10 April 2014 21:45

To: Peter Blake

Cc: Les Tucker

Subject: Re: gunpowder barrel markings

Hello Peter and Les,

Thank you for your previous emails. The photos of the sources is very exciting!

Unfortunately, not too much to report on my end. I found a few documents of note that make me think we may need to approach this from several different angles.

I happened upon a dissertation by De Witt Bailey, *The Board of Ordnance and Small Arms Supply: The Ordnance System, 1714-1783*. The paper mostly details small arms, as it states, but there is a section on the use of original sources, i.e, Board of Ordnance records.

Bailey states there are 'gaps in the records' due to policy and decision making being done verbally. Another discouraging observation reads as follows:

The most distressing discovery made in the course of researching for this study was a single folder at the Public Record Office, WO 44/304: 'Weeding of Ordnance papers and books lists 1834-5' This contains correspondance and lists from various Ordnance clerks working in the 1830s relating to the examination of masses of old ordnance records which were being evaluated for possible disposal. Among the items listed for distruction were the following:

Days books: 120 books

Accounts and Vouchers of stores received and issued at the Outports, 1718-1776: 200 books

Entries of Bills 1648-1780; 33 books.

Among many others.

Bailey lists the primary records he used to research small arms. He identified the following which may be of some use:

ADM 1/4001-4013. Letters from the Ordnance Office.

CO 5. America. Original Correspondance with the Secretary of State

SP 41. Domestic, Military. Papers from War Office and Board of Ordnance to Secretary of State.

WO 1 War Office. In-Letters, 1755-1783.

WO 3 War Office Out letters

WO 48 Ordnance Treasurers Ledgers

WO 49/234 Imprest Book 1729

WO 51 Bill Books 1715-1783

WO 55 Reports, 1753-83.

WO 55 Kings and Board of Ordnance Warrants.

I'm drafting a letter to Dr. Bailey to ask for any suggestions on where to look in the Ordnance records. Let me know if this link comes through. It was posted by Kings College.

[https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/the-board-of-ordnance-and-small-arms-supply--the-ordnance-system-17141783\(9342501a-ccdc-4619-b57d-4c2d27e424ea\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/the-board-of-ordnance-and-small-arms-supply--the-ordnance-system-17141783(9342501a-ccdc-4619-b57d-4c2d27e424ea).html)

Our library here at Colonial Williamsburg has access to some online records at the British Library. I'm searching law suits and depositions on officers of His Majesty's Navy, Ordnance Board, etc. I'm finding very interesting details regarding coopering but still nothing on gunpowder cask markings.

In the following case, Josias Carlton was recorded as 'Cooper to the Hon. Board of Ordnance 6, June, 1745. It might be helpful to find some of the cooper's account/day books.

Case of Charles Moore, Late Master Cooper of the Victualling-Office, Published in London, 1749.

The Royal Navy-Men's Advocate. Wherein, From a collection of several original and authentic Tracts, are fully set forth The Corrupt Practices of Victualling the Royal Navy.. etc... by William Thompson, Citizen, in Little Tower-Street, and late inspecting cooper of the Pickle-yard of His Majesty's Victualling Office, London,

Witnesses of note included,

Thomas Stevens, Later Lime-street, Cooper to Hon. East-India Company.

Stepehn Tyers, Eastcheap, Cooper in the West India trade

Josias Carlton, Greenwich, Cooper to the Hon. Board of Ordnance.

6, June 1745.

Today I just found the 1747 publication of the Practical Sea-Gunner's Companion: or an Introduction to the art of gunnery etc...

There is a section noting standard sizes for a barrel and half-barrel of gunpowder, but no markings.

Inline image 1

Hopefully, there may be information in the Admiralty Records. If I find any specific references to Gunner's books in the ADM records I'll pass them along.

Have you been able to contact Barbara Buchanan or Jenny West?

All the best,

Marshall

On Sun, Apr 6, 2014 at 12:03 PM, Peter Blake <moirablake@waitrose.com> wrote:

Dear Les and Marshall

WO 49 and WO 55, some background

WO 49 is mainly the minute books of the board of Ordnance. It records the frequent meetings where the business of the day or week is dealt with. An index was kept cross referencing the different subjects and brief notes of the outcome. I have copied a few of the indexes and you can see that you will get no detail of individual barrels from them. The minutes are kept in large bound books, the 1757 book has over 600 pages and covers 6 months business, some books cover a longer and more peaceful period.

WO 55 is the incoming business that the board would deal with. The two examples that I enclose are a Warrant from the King to buy 7,000 barrels of gunpowder from Holland and a letter from the Prime Minister to provide munitions and workmen for the expedition against Louisburg in 1757. Again, no use to us.

I found a picture in Google images, not our period, but in the marking is in red letters. RLG is Rifle Large Grain apparently

I note Marshall's remark about gunners records. I will have a look at The National Maritime Museum index, they have some lower level records such as midshipmens logs which makes it a possibility.

Peter

On 26/03/2014 13:09, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Peter.

Thank you for yours of 23-3-14. I was glad to see you will be able to continue your efforts.

One or two things.

1. WO 47 references in Marshall's of 14th. January.

These cover extracts, Survey Reports, from the Virginia Colonial Records Project in which, at the time of the 350th. anniversary of the founding of Virginia a team

recorded all the references in the PRO to Virginia. They must have picked up on WO47, but not WO55 ?

WO 47 appears to cover private export licensing and CO the military, but this is possibly just fortuitous from a small sample.

2. Could you copy your future e mails to me to Marshall. I will ask him to do the same to you.

3. Could you quote the WO file reference as well as the computer references in attachments.

Good luck with the next stage.

Regards

Les

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From: Peter Blake [mailto:moirablake@waitrose.com]  
Sent: 23 March 2014 12:54  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: gunpowder barrel markings

Dear Les

Thank you for a new way forward.

I will tackle it in the following order

WO47

I will look up the references in Marshall's e-mail

WO 55

I will try to extract the TNA list of contents and print them.

I will look up the references in Marshall's e-mail and Jenny West's book

I will begin a trawl through the indexes (indices?) focussing on times of war first

Best wishes

Peter

On 17/03/2014 19:50, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Peter

I would like to bring you up to date on the above.

I thought the easiest way of letting Marshall know what you had discovered in WO47 was to forward your e mail of 7-12-2013 with attachments

I am now forwarding his reply ( I didn't at the time as he was engaged in his whaler exercise ).

Interesting – the extract from the Greenwich magazine account book which you thought might be of little consequence caused his heart ' to miss a beat ', which is heartening, pun intended.

Apart from anything else they demonstrated that WO 47 although interesting wasn't the holy grail giving shipment details, which is our main object, particularly for Virginia in terms of answering Ron Potts, who is in charge of the Military / Magazine section at Williamsburg.

( Re your comment that the Ordnance Board was more concerned with strategy, I think they were in fact concerned with everything, including all operational matters, the administration of shipments, quality control, testing and so on ).

My conclusion is now that the last possibility for our purpose is WO55. This is based on a reading of Jenny West's book.

Although tantalisingly she doesn't quote a source for her shipment data, WO55 can be deduced from some footnotes. Also see references in Marshall's e mail.

On Friday I am sending you extracts from Jenny's book which further support this.

( As the head of the Williamsburg cooperage, Marshall's interest is in barrel markings, rather than shipment amounts / destination. However the two could well interlink )

Would you be willing to have a go at WO55 ? , at least to get the feel of whether it is a possible.

You are under no obligation whatsoever and it may be that the exercise is too great for our set up, in which case we will just say so. ( At one point Marshall mentioned that he has got a grant to research over here. If this is confirmed maybe we could wait to see what transpires – e.g. a joint visit to Kew ).

I will look forward to your news.

Regards  
Les

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From: Marshall Scheetz [mailto:marshall@jamestowncooperage.com]  
Sent: 14 January 2014 20:08  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: FW: gunpowder barrel markings

Hello Les,

Thank you for passing along Peter's message and the images of the documents. Seeing that page from the Greenwich Magazine account book made my heart jump a beat. It reminded me why I'm in the history field.

If Peter is still working at the National Archives might I suggest he look at the following references for some guidance.

Public Records Project info

Jenny West references. "The King might send via Loudoun 'a large present to the Indians in the British interest in seeking Indian Allegiance 90 barrels of powder 700 guns bullet and lead bars." WO 55/356 pp 20, 48, 7 april, 6 may 1756

p. 81. is somewhat vague on inspection of powder and Office coopers, but it offers a glimpse of what might be in the records. "Gunners had to provide an account to the Ordnance board officers of all powder expended, were charged for any unaccounted for, but were paid one shilling for each serviceable barrel returned. Whenever a ship returned to port for refitting or with sick men all remaining barrels of powder were opened by the office coopers.

Ms. West does not cite this statement directly, but the following citation further down the paragraph is WO 47/51, p. 232, 7 march 1758. The preceding citations relating to gunpowder in the Royal Navy are as follows WO 55/1739, Ship Establishment Book, 1716; WO 55/1743, Ship Establishment Book, 28 April 1743;

On page 86 Ms West cited that "In January 1755 all Ordnance storekeepers of garrisons, forts, and castles were ordered by the Board to report their state of stock,...." "The Plymouth officers reported in February that thirty two barrels of powder at St Nicholas Island were clodded and the hazel hoops worm eaten." I'm hoping that the other reports will yield greater detail pertaining to casks. WO 47/45, p. 108, 14 February 1755; WO 47/47, p. 295, 19 march 1756.

On page 231 Ms West notes Ordnance miscellanea (WO 55) holds a wide range of records, several sections of which are among the most important regarding the ordnance Office:

WO 55/2, 3 Ordnance reports, 175 and 1762 (This one is ringing bells for me)

WO 55/354-63 Entry Books of Orders in Council, and Warrants, 1753-62;

I think there are also Entry books for the Board of Ordnance Coopers but have yet to find any strong references to these documents.

I have not contacted Barbara Buchanan as of yet. I'm still finishing up my project on coopers in the whaling industry. I should be done with it in the next week or two at which time I'll be able to throw myself completely into the gunpowder project.

Our American Indian Initiative department would certainly be interested in any mention of the Cherokee. Please don't go too much out your way though.

I want to pass this along to you as well. The Colonial Records Project took place several decades ago. Many historians visited the National Archives and Public Records Office before they merged, to find as many records as possible relating to colonial Virginia. The database entries only give highlights of information contained in the original document. We have the microfilmed versions of the originals in our library. Most of the originals are at the British National Archive. This may help in our search for relevant records.

[http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file\\_name=find-b-clas27&local\\_base=CLAS27](http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas27&local_base=CLAS27)

I've attached few survey reports relating to the Colonial Office and the War Office/Board of Ordnance.

Please let me know if the link came through.

I'll be in touch again soon,

Best,

Marshall



On Mon, Dec 16, 2013 at 10:05 AM, Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Hello Marshall

The easiest way of letting you know the result of Peter's latest foray to Kew is to forward his e mail to me.

This followed my suggestion that he should try WO 47 Ordnance Board Minutes. I had based this on references in Jenny's book.

He had previously made some forays to Kew without much luck, although there is one gem, signed by members of the Board to the Master of Ordnance, about attitudes to an enquiry from Virginia on decayed powder. Unfortunately earlier than the time of the present review. He again hasn't had much luck. I think when he says the Board didn't deal with the issue of shot and shell he means the Minutes only cover policy and admin. As you know the Board closely controlled all aspects.

The next step ? I think I'm going to have to track Jenny down and ask her. It is plain from her book that she has had access to information on

quantity / destination. Unfortunately the tables provided at the end don't quite cover our interest.

When I say our, I'm hoping that as well as quantity there will be information on marking.

I recall that you asked if I had any suggestion as to how you could contact her and I suggested you send an e mail to Brenda Buchanan to forward.

Did you do this ? I'm asking as I don't want to duplicate.

I'm afraid the Invincible markings baffle me. Going by later practice, they should refer to maker, powder type etc, but the abbreviations don't seem to tie in with this.

Grateful thanks for the marking image. From the Waltham Archive point of view, it's now the earliest record we have of Waltham markings.

Interesting that the representative date chosen is 1789. After purchase from the Waltons in 1787 it took Congreve to 1789 to get done the building, machinery

Installation, improvement of water supply etc. that he wanted. Was someone interested in emphasizing this ?

We will see what the New Year brings. We'll continue scouring the internet and doubtless you will be doing the same. I think maybe a lot is going to hinge on what Jenny provides. At least Peter has got out of the way his initial effort.

I should explain that we're aged pensioners working as Mills volunteers, so we are fairly relaxed as to length of break and of course we're part time..

Have a great Christmas.

Les

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From: Peter Blake [mailto:moirablake@waitrose.com]

Sent: 07 December 2013 17:52

To: Les Tucker

Subject: Re: gunpowder barrel markings

Dear Len

Thank you for the copy of the new printing of the Superintendents book, it is a better size and the additions are a good improvement

I attach a thin harvest from TNA. They come from an indexed summary of instructions from the board of ordinance to its outlying divisions 1736 to 1746.

The page on Greenwich is my first sighting of anything to do with this magazine so I am sending it to you even though it is of little consequence.

The two pages on Annapolis Royal were addressed to that port which I believe had an artillery garrison.

I think we can assume that the Ordnance Board was not dealing with the detail of the issue of powder and shot, but rather the strategic matters of the establishment and its rights and duties.

I found several pages of dispatches from Virginia from forces (Regular UK Battalions) in the field fighting the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina but nothing of current interest. The court martial reports showed a ferocious discipline, desertion was a hanging offence, or 900 lashes if leniency was shown. The sick list was 25 % hospitalised. I have not copied them as they were of poor legibility but I can try harder if there is any interest.

I had a look through WO 47 but it was mostly after 1800. I could do with some assistance, any suggestions for a way forward would be appreciated

Peter

On 05/12/2013 10:41, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com <<http://les10tucker@btinternet.com>> > wrote:  
Peter

I have just chanced across this from Marshall in my computer's junk mail list.  
I will e mail him explaining why I didn't acknowledge.  
I have to go out just now so will read it to night.

Regards

Les

---

From: Marshall Scheetz [mailto:[marshall@jamestowncooperage.com](mailto:marshall@jamestowncooperage.com)]  
Sent: 23 October 2013 20:30  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: gunpowder barrel markings

Les,

I was just speaking with Ron about our interests regarding gunpowder, casks, etc. In case you didn't know, Ron and I both work for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He works for for the Military and Magazine site and I work in the cooperage, hence our mutual interest.

I have several other sources I would like to send along. I'm still digging up some of them. This source is outstanding and is dated 1784. It is still a little late for what I'm looking for, but probably spot on for you. The markings mentioned may have been stenciled. This source is also on Google books at this  
<<http://books.google.com/books?id=5NZDAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA651&dq=%22may+proof+1783%22&hl=en#v=onepage&q=%22may%20proof%201783%22&f=false>> link.

I've transcribed some of the most relevant information below.

Best,

Marshall Scheetz

1781-84.

Proving Gunpowder and Marking barrels.

“Appendix to the Twelfth Report...”

[Part of the proving process is included as it explained terms used in the markings.]

“No. 19.

The Examination of Major William Congreve, of the Royal Artillery; taken upon Oath, March 5th, 16th, and 22d, 1784.

This Examinant saith, That he is Deputy Controller of the King’s Laboratory at Woolwich, during the Absence of the Controller, and was appointed to this Office in April 1783. It is a Part of his Duty to attend the Proof of all Gunpowder made use of by Government. - This Proof is made at Purfleet only, before it is received into the Magazines as serviceable, or paid for. - The Gunpowder is either newly made, or returned back from Ships of War, or foreign Garrisons, to be re-proved.

...

[Description of the proving procedure and a recently detected flaw, finding the eprouvette to be unreliable when compared against testing with a mortar.]

“Hence it appears, that great Quantities of powder proved by the former Method (the only established Mode to prove the Strength of Government Powder, as appears by the Copies of the official Papers subjoined) which were probably fit for Service, may have been condemned, and either sold as unserviceable, or used in Triumph, or the Saltpetre extracted, to be workd up again at Feversham; and near Eleven thousand Barrels of foreign Powder, now in the Magazines, are condemned, great Part of which, when proved by Mortars, may probably be found fit for the heavy Artillery for Land Service...”

[Note: “Triumph” is an odd name apparently for low-grade powder, perhaps for exercise or saluting.

“The warrant for ammunition for the Surrey militia is dated 9th July, 1759, and orders the following to be served... ‘18 barrels of serviceable, and 36 barrels triumph, powder, to every nine hundred men...’ [Citing King’s Warrant Books, (Tower), vol. iv, pp. 92, 93.]” p. 90.

“Historical Record of the Second Royal Surrey, or Eleventh Regiment of Militia.” Marcus Ward, London and Belfast. 1877. [Google Books.]

“Regulations for proving Powder, by the Honourable Board, the 18th December 1780, and 1st January 1781.

Dutch, and Returned.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.

2, 8 to 3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.

1, 9 to 2, 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Triumph.

1, 8 and under \_\_\_\_\_ Crossed.

Feversham.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.

2, 8 to 3, 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.

Under 2, 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Triumph.

New Powder from the Merchants.

3, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.  
Under 3, 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Land.  
4, 5 and upwards \_\_\_\_\_ Extra..."

"The Mode of preparing Gunpowder for Proof at Purfleet; together with an Account of the Marks made use of at that Office to distinguish it afterwards.

When Powder is received at the King's Magazines at Purfleet, whether Merchants, Feversham, Returned, &c. it is stacked in Bays separately; the Weighing of the Returned from the Shipping being first attended to by the Clerk of the Survey, allowing One hundred and Two pounds for every whole Barrel, and Fifty-one Pounds for every half Barrel; it having been found that One hundred pounds, being but Six Weeks at Sea, has gained Two pounds in one hundred Pounds, by the Damps, &c. of the Ship.

When a Proof is ordered, is is separately laid down for that Purpose. The merchants and Feversham, Parcel by parcel, is sent into the Proof House in a Box, with Six Thimbles, from Six Barrels, to burn on the Plates, and the same in another Box to try in the Eprouvette; then a State is sent from the Proof House to the Magazines, specifying which of these Six are passed as Extra, Sea or Land, Triumph, and Crossed; which are marked on the Barrels accordingly. The Returned is first hand-proved; and such is not condemned by that Method, is sent to the Proof House in the Manner described, and from thence into the Magazines, to be marked as before - it is then stacked up distinctly, every Parcel of Powder as proved, distinguishing the Passed, Triumph, and Crossed, in order to lay down more for Proof.

The next Process is to get up the Powder; which is done after this Manner: - The Merchants Powder that is Crossed, is headed up in order to be returned them when sent for: The Passed Powder of the Merchants is then shifted into King's Barrels, Whole or Half, Copper or Hazle: - The Feversham and Returned, Passed and Triumph, the same. - The Barrels that the Crossed Powder is in are tared, and the Powder shifted back again into them - then the Clerk of the Survey attends the weighing, &c. of the whole, both Passed, Triumph and Crossed, allowing to a whole Barrel One hundred Pounds, and to half a Barrel Fifty Pounds. The Passed for Sea and Land is sent to Tilbury with the utmost dispatch, by a General Order of the Board, and elsewhere, if a particular Order; the Extra to Woolwich, or the Tower, as demanded; the Triumph and Crossed as demanded.

The following is the Method that was pursued in marking the Barrels, when the Powder was got up for May Proof 1783; and which will serve as a Specimen for all others, by an Example of Feversham.

N. B. The Letters signify the Place, or Makers Names: R, Returned Powder, and the \* \* \*, Extra, at all Times.

[The marks below are aligned on center; the month is rendered in italics.]

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
F  
Sea Service.

---

Corned Powder  
17th May 1783  
F  
Land Service

---

Corned Powder,  
17th May 1783  
\* \* F \* \*  
\* \* \* \*  
Extra

---

T R (Triumph)  
17th May 1783

F

---

X (Crossed)

17th May 1783

F

Wm Congreve.

T. Anguish,  
Saml Beachcroft,  
Geo. Drummond,  
Willm Roe." p. 648-51.

Lane, John; "The Reports of the Commissioners appointed to Take, and State the Public Accounts of the Kingdom, presented to His Majesty, and to both Houses of Parliament." 1785. Volume II. His Majesty's Printers for T. Cadell, London. 1785. [Google Books.]

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 8:50 AM, Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com <<http://les10tucker@btinternet.com>> > wrote:

Hello

I was very interested to see from your informative website that you have recovered 18th. century copper bands from British military gunpowder barrels.

Could I trouble you to say whether, apart from the WD broad arrow, you have been able to see any other markings and whether you have come across any surviving stencilled markings.

This is probably out of your period of interest but I would be glad to send an image showing Waltham Abbey marking from about mid 1800's if this is of any interest.

Best Wishes

Les Tucker  
Archivist  
Royal Gunpowder Mills Waltham Abbey

--

Marshall Scheetz, Master Cooper  
Jamestown Cooperage, LLC  
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[www.jamestowncooperage.com](http://www.jamestowncooperage.com)

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 16:10  
**To:** imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** FW: Barrel marking  
**Attachments:** purfleet testing 4.jpg; purfleet testing 3.jpg; purfleet testing 2.jpg; Purkleet testing 1.jpg

Ian

The next one.

Les

---

From: Peter Blake [mailto:moirablake@waitrose.com]  
Sent: 17 November 2013 15:42  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: Barrel marking

This time I do attach wthe copies of 4 pages of a book of about 40 pages. The first page details the test mortars and carbine. The heading of the pages detail wind, personnel etc.  
Peter

On 15/11/2013 19:27, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Peter  
Again a very useful extra dimension to the Archive.  
We can now say with certainty which proof methods were used at Purfleet.  
You mention an attachment. My e mail doesn't seem to have one. Was this the whole book ?

Regards

Les

---

From: Peter Blake [mailto:moirablake@waitrose.com]  
Sent: 14 November 2013 13:32  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: Barrel marking

Dear Les

As I said I have nothing of the activities at Greenwich. I have something from Purfleet which I attach., my copy is near illegible so it needs TLC from an expert. I am adding a commentary below

TNA reference SUPP 5 118

Purfleet gunpowder proof testing book beginning December 1796

#### Method of testing

1. firing an 8" mortar loaded with a 66lb ball, presumably with a weighed or otherwise measured quantity of powder and measuring the distance sent, eg 162 feet, This is quite a short range, so a small charge 2. firing a carbine with a ball of weight 10 drams at a target and measuring its effect (penetration?), eg 12 and 1/3 (the unit of measure is not given)

#### Quality considerations

The same two mortars used for all tests

Average of three firings taken

Careful documentation

Weather/wind noted

A different powder also fully tested for comparison,

#### Manufacturers

RGF Waltham Forest is prominent

Also	Mill	Office
Mr Pijou	Dartford Mill	34 Throgmorton St
Edmond Hill	Hounslow	1 Savoy Garden
Messrs Bridges	Ewell	33 Swithins Lane
Wm. Taylor	New Malden	6 Birchin Lane
Taylor and Co.	Hounslow	Old Broad Street

The RGF samples emphasised the charcoal, eg Alder from cylinder, and compared it with Willow. At this time it would have been the research stage for improvement of powder.

The commercial manufacturers were compared with RGF powder.

Best wishes

Peter

On 29/10/2013 09:42, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Peter

Many thanks for this.

In my e mail I referred to the proof testing of gunpowder shifting to Woolwich. Gunpowder should have read guns and the following sentence should have been included.

The proof testing of gunpowder was carried on at the Tower until 1694, when the Ordnance Office moved it to the new magazine at Greenwich.

Therefore from 1694 Greenwich became the centre to which gunpowder was taken for proof testing and from which shipments then went to British and overseas destinations in what was becoming the Empire.

To recap therefore :

The elements of the investigation are

1. Details of gunpowder shipments from Greenwich to military destinations

Vessel, date, tonnage, type of container – barrels, kegs etc., name of manufacturer, destination ( including installations in Britain itself ).

From 1694 to as far as possible, i.e.1768 when the Greenwich magazine closed and Purfleet was built ( there will be more than enough to do with Greenwich

but it would be very interesting to at least discover whether there are also records for Purfleet ).

Within this there might be information specific to Williamsburg, but we need the whole picture for the Archive.

2. Are there separate records for inspections made by the recipients and do these include Williamsburg.

3. Did the recipients return ' bad ' gunpowder to England.

4. Within the above is there any information on barrel markings.

---

I will come back to you whenever I have anything concrete on the other possibilities I am looking into.

Regards

Les

From: Peter Blake [mailto:moirablake@waitrose.com]  
Sent: 28 October 2013 13:36  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: Barrel marking

Les

This is not a reply, I just thought you should have this in your archive

Peter

On 27/10/2013 12:39, "Les Tucker" <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Peter

This is a further from Ron which sets out his interests more clearly.

The hope is that within any more generalized information which might be uncovered Williamsburg is included - our interest is in adding another dimension overall to the Waltham Archive Regarding possible sources, I earlier mentioned the Clavell Library as a possible. This was as an extra to what would presumably be the main point of examination – the minute books of the Board of Ordnance at Kew.

These are presumably voluminous and I wonder whether any attempt has been made to categorise them and, as a precursor, if so whether this is available from Kew.

On the proof testing of gunpowder, until the 1680's this was carried on at the old Tilt Yard of the Royal Palace at Greenwich and after that gradually shifted to the new Royal Laboratory at Woolwich.

In the meantime I am searching for other possible sources and will let you know if anything crops up.

Regards

Les

---

From: Ron Potts [mailto:colonialron@yahoo.com]  
Sent: 14 October 2013 02:53  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: Barrel marking

Dear Les

Hello again,



My main interest is in the military side of gunpowder shipments to Virginia from around 1750 to the beginning of the American Revolution. Also how often was it inspected and were reports sent back to the Board of Ordnance from the Magazine in Williamsburg? What happened to powder that had gone bad; was it picked up by British ships here in Virginia and taken back to the powder mills in England? I have read that there was about 80,000 pounds of gunpowder in all 13 colonies for their defense when the war began in 1775, I'm assuming most of this gunpowder came from England. Could some of it been left over from the French and Indian War? And, of course, what did the barrels look like when marked to be sent to Virginia for the purpose of her general defense?

Again Thank you so much for your help!

Regards

Ronald Potts

On Friday, October 11, 2013 2:49 PM, Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com> wrote:

Dear Ron

Further to my earlier e mail. I read your enquiry as having two parts – the military dealt with in my reply and the image sent by Ian and a more general part in your enquiry on gunpowder sent to the American colonies and any book or report, which I assumed to be relating to the civil sector.

However in view of your position it may be your interest is solely confined to the military side

Before I forward the enquiry to Brenda, could you please clarify.

Regards

Les

## Ian MacFarlane

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**From:** Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 06 August 2014 16:16  
**To:** imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com  
**Subject:** FW: Barrel marking / gunpowder proof

Ian

Another.

Les

---

From: Marshall Scheetz [<mailto:marshall@jamestowncooperage.com>]  
Sent: 11 December 2013 20:31  
To: Les Tucker  
Subject: Re: Barrel markoing / gunpowder proof

Hello Les,

No worries! I'm glad you were able to get the source. I hope it will be useful.

I'm trying to finish up an article on coopers in the American Whaling industry before I throw myself completely into the gunpowder research. It would be very helpful to hear what Mr. Blake finds (or does not find) in file WO 47.

I will keep you posted regarding my visit to the National Archives and the Royal Gunpowder Mills. I will most certainly be emailing with more questions in the near future.

And jovial tidings for the holidays to you, your family, and the staff at the Royal Gunpowder Mills.

Best Regards, Marshall

Please see below for some more information regarding markings on gunpowder casks.

Here is an excellent source of material culture, a database of artefacts from the HMS Invincible, 1758. I know it's a little out of the time period you're looking at but it may be of some use. Any thoughts on what the markings may represent: GC, G/PC, G/IC, U/RP etc?

<http://www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/mapguide/invincible/artefactssubimages.php>

Gunpowder Barrel Notes. (No image available.) 87/0096. "Some degradation. Broad arrow and U/RP & G/PC other end." 80/0045 "Marked G/PC & broad arrow." 80/0086 "Marked G/PC and broad arrow." 81/0195 "Oak staves & ends, hazel & copper (de-mineralised) hoops. Stamped G/IC & broad arrow." 81/0196 [head only] "Stamped 'GC' and broad arrow." 87/0039 "Height 21", mid dia. 16"" 87/0041 [ditto] 87/0042 [ditto] 87/0043 [ditto] 87/0083 [ditto] 87/0087 [ditto] 87/0088 [ditto] "Stamped with broad arrow and G/PC. 87/0095 [ditto] 87/0096 [ditto] "Some degradation. Broad arrow and U/RP & G/PC other end. 87/0104 [ditto] "Markings G/IC and broad arrow. 87/0105 [ditto] 87/0106 [ditto] 87/0142 "Height 21½", mid dia. 16"" "Marked: G/PC and broad arrow." 87/0151 "Height 21", mid dia. 16"" "Marked G/IC." 87/0145 "Height 21¼", mid dia. 16"" "Marked: C/IP and broad arrow." 87/0161 "Height 21", mid dia. 16"" 87/0166 [ditto] "Marks: R/RP and broad arrow." 87/0183 [ditto] "Stamped G/PC and broad arrow." 87/0194 [ditto] 87/0203 [ditto]

A friend of mine passed this image along. I'm trying to backtrack to the original source. It may have come from you guys at the RGM.

<http://postimg.org/image/xb0823v49/>

Another source for your own edification; not British.

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/AMALL:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(bdsdcc+01301\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/AMALL:@field(NUMBER+@band(bdsdcc+01301)))

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013 at 3:45 PM, Les Tucker <[les10tucker@btinternet.com](mailto:les10tucker@btinternet.com)> wrote:

Marshall

From time to time I have a quick look at my computer's Junk Mail section to see what has been listed.

To my mortification for some unknown reason amongst it was your e mail of 23rd. October giving a very helpful list of sources.

So whilst I replied to yours of 22nd. It would have appeared that I churlishly did not acknowledge yours of 23rd.October.

This I do now very belatedly with many thanks.

Doubtless you will be pursuing barrel marking in particular.

Peter Blake our researcher will be concentrating initially on data covering shipments to North America.

I am waiting to hear from him whether TNA file WO 47 is the one which will provide the information.

I take this opportunity of wishing you and Ron a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014.

Les

--

Marshall Scheetz, Master Cooper  
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# The distinguishing Marks used upon Powder Barrels



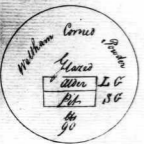
Corned powder from Mill Lake & dust of Green  
Composition prepared the large grain and small mixed  
and glazed.



Corned powder from first dust prepared without being  
reworked under the runners, the large and small  
grain mixed



Corned powder from second dust prepared without  
being reworked the large and small grain mixed



Corned powder from the Mill Lake and dust  
of reworked dust prepared the large and small  
grain mixed.

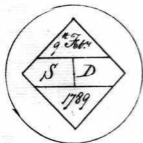


Corned powder fine grain, which has been separated from mixed grains of powder made of green Composition



Corned powder fine grain which has been separated from powder made of different sorts of Dust

The word Alder in the upper part of the Figure denotes the Charcoal to have been made of Alder Wood; and the word pit signifies that the Coal was made after the Common pit Method; and when the word Cylinder is written under the Name of the wood it signifies that the wood was made by distillation in an Iron Cylinder



This Mark is to be put upon the Bottom of each Barrel, SD means stove dried on such a day and Year as may be expressed at the Top and Bottom of the Figure