

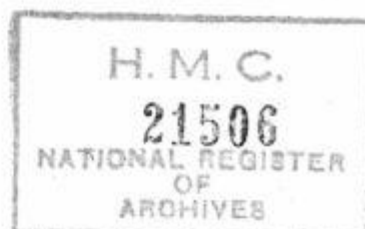
Northamptonshire Record Office

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Records of
The Wellingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
Manufacturers of Sports Footwear,
Herriotts Lane, Wellingborough.

Accession 1978/10

The Wellingborough Boot and Shoe Company was founded in 1891 by a group of local businessmen, to manufacture men's boots and shoes in premises in Herriotts Lane, Wellingborough. These premises, which occupy half of the present site of the factory, included the use of an old chapel which became the closing room. Mr. Morgan, a solicitor of Silver Street, Wellingborough became the first Managing Director. In 1907 he became Chairman and Mr. Sharp became Managing Director, with Mr. Beale as Company Secretary. It was in this year that the business became a Limited Company, changing its name to the Wellingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company Ltd. At this time the building was also enlarged to its present size.

By 1919 Mr. Beale had died and Mr. Saddington, the Managing Clerk at Mr. Morgan's firm of solicitors, became the Company Secretary, Mr. Warren had become Chairman and Mr. Rowe, who joined the Company in 1913, was Manager.

During the first World War, heavy army boots were made, however, during the 1920's the Company suffered a period of depression. More shoes were then made than boots, as boots went out of fashion about 1925. Mr. Rowe saved the Company from the worst of the depression by introducing the manufacture of football boots. Ordinary boots were still made, notably black and yellow boots sent to the West Coast of Africa.

About 1930 Mr. Sharp died and Mr. Rowe became Managing Director of the Company. He built up the production of sports footwear, introducing cricket boots and very cheap men's footwear.

The factory was requisitioned by the Ministry of Aircraft in 1941 and the Company therefore moved in with Glover Bros. of Stanley Road, Wellingborough, where they produced some troop footwear, utility footwear and a restricted amount of football boots. The Company did not receive their Herriotts Lane premises back until 1947, when the building received alterations to modernise it. After the war, Mr. Rowe became the Company's Manager and subsequently, Managing Director and Chairman.

Mr. Rowe was Chairman until 1958 and then Mr. Warren became Chairman until his death in c.1965. The present Chairman, Mr. J. Idiens and Director, Mr. G. Little are both sons-in-law of Mr.

(cont.)

The Wellingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

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Warren, who was the grandson, by marriage, of one of the original founders of the Company, a Mr. Neale, a farmer from Twywell. The current Managing Director is Mr. G. Jones.

The Company is notable for its long serving employees, Mrs. A. Clarke, who joined the Company in 1919 in the office, later becoming Company Secretary and a Director, retired after 55 years service in 1974. Mr. Tom Roberts, who joined the Company in 1910 working on the production of shoes, retired in 1971 after 61 years service.

Today the Company produces sports footwear, mainly training shoes and football boots.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Accession 1978/10

1 Directors Minute Books:

(These books are retained by The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.)

- a) 1890-1894
- b) 1895-1909
- c) 1910-1925
- d) 1925-1949
- e) 1949 onwards

*Further records incl
directors minutes
1890-1975 deposited:
Northants RO Report 1985-86*

2 Purchase Account Ledgers:

Gives the date and type of goods purchased, the date of payment by cheque, including any discount allowed.

- a) July 1919-March 1929
- b) April 1924-Dec 1933
- c) Oct 1931-May 1941
- d) July 1940-Nov 1953
- e) May 1951-Nov 1961
- f) June 1959-Feb 1970

3 Invoices Received Book:

April 1920-Aug 1922

Gives the date invoice received by The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd., from whom, for which goods and the amount paid for them.

4 Weekly Purchase Invoice Book:

Oct 1941-April 1944

Gives the values and total value of weekly purchases of goods from Glover Bros. Ltd. of Wellingborough.

5 Purchase Analysis Books:

Gives the name of the firm from whom goods were purchased and the cost of

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

5 cont. the goods, which is broken down for analysis into categories of types of uses of the goods.

- a) Jan 1929-Aug 1933
- b) Sept 1933-Feb 1938
- c) July 1943-March 1947
- d) Sept 1947-Oct 1952
- e) Oct 1952-Sept 1957
- f) Oct 1957-June 1962

6 Purchase Analysis Book: Jan 1934-March 1937
Gives a daily account of all equipment purchased and their cost, divided up amongst the various rooms in the factory.

7 Petty Cash Purchases Analysis Books:
A daily list of all the petty cash items purchased, with their individual prices. The costs are broken down for analysis into categories of use.

- a) Feb 1926-May 1929
- b) June 1929-Oct 1931
- c) March 1947-July 1954
- d) Aug 1954-Dec 1958

8 Order Record Books:
Shows the date order received and the goods delivery date. Gives the name and address of the customer, the numbers of pairs of shoes required and the shoe number, the manufacturer's selling price and any other details. Stock lists are also contained in these volumes.

- a) Sept 1937-Oct 1941
- b) Oct 1941-Jan 1948

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

- 8
cont. c) Jan 1948-Aug 1954
d) May 1954-May 1960
e) April 1960-July 1967
- 9 Receipts and Payments Books:
Gives names of firms being paid by and paying money to The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd. for goods, etc., with the date of payment.
- a) May 1918-June 1923
b) July 1923-Aug 1928
c) Oct 1928-June 1937
(Oct 1928-June 1932 is a wages book only)
d) July 1937-June 1946
e) May 1947-June 1955
f) July 1955-Oct 1963
g) Nov 1963-Oct 1970
- 10 Wages Books:
Gives names of employees, wages paid, amounts of deductions for insurance, etc. and amount of employer's contributions, with summaries at the end of the month.
- a) Jan 1925-Sept 1928
b) April 1934-Nov 1937
c) Dec 1937-July 1941
d) April 1944-July 1947
e) Dec 1950-Nov 1952
- 11 Record Book of the Finishing and Packing Department: Oct 1941-Oct 1945
Gives the shoe number, sizes, orders and values of all shoes going through this department.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
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- 12 Shoe Costing Book: no date
Gives the shoe number, its description and totals up the cost of each process in its production.
- 13 Production Book and Returns to the Ministry of Supply (Leather Control): June 1945-Oct 1948
An account of the totals of production, equipment and stock
- 14 Customers Accounts Ledgers:
a) Nov 1931-Feb 1949
b) March 1946-Sept 1959
c) 1963-1970 (retained by the company)
- 15 Sales Cash Books:
Gives names of customers, numbers of pairs of shoes bought, with sizes and types and price of goods.
At the back is a list of the numbers of wartime coupons needed to buy various types of shoes.
a) Dec 1939-July 1948
b) Aug 1945-Feb 1949
- 16 Leather Profit and Loss Account Book: Nov 1946-June 1958
A weekly account of the leather coming into the factory, its cost and the profit/loss made by the company after shoe sales at home and abroad. Calculated per factory room.
- 17 Departmental Profit and Loss Account Books:
Gives the numbers of pairs of shoes going

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The Wellingborough Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

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- 17
cont. through each department per week, the total out-payments of each department in wages, insurance, etc. and the value of the shoes produced to calculate the cumulative profit/loss of the department.
- a) Sept 1947-June 1951
 - b) July 1951-June 1955
 - c) July 1955-June 1959
 - d) April 1963-Nov 1966
- 18 Home Sales Summary Book: Jan 1949-Aug 1959
A monthly account of the numbers of pairs of shoes sold and their value divided into Men's, Boys, Women's and Girls.
- 19 Two cardboard advertisements for the shoes of the Wellingborough Boot and Shoe Company. no date
- 20 Articles and Photographs retained by Mrs. A. Clarke of 4, The Broadway, Wellingborough:
- a) Evening Telegraph article and photograph about the presentation of gold watches by the Company to long serving employees. 1950's
 - b) Evening Telegraph article and photograph of Tom Roberts receiving a T.V. set from the Company for 50 years service. 1960
 - c) Photograph of Mrs. Clarke receiving a T.V. set from Mr. Howe for 50 years service to the Company. July 1969
 - d) Evening Telegraph article and photograph about Tom Roberts retiring after 61 years of service to the Company. Feb 1971