Biscuit Time

A brief history of Huntley & Palmers

1822 J. Huntley & Son biscuit bakery opens in London Street
1832 Joseph Huntley junior opens tin making and ironmongery shop (later Huntley, Boorne & Stevens) opposite the bakery
1841 George Palmer becomes Thomas Huntley’s partner. Business renamed Huntley and Palmer
1846 Kings Road factory opens
1847 London office opens
1857 Thomas Huntley dies
1857 William Isaac and Samuel Palmer join George as partners. Business renamed Huntley & Palmers
1861 London Street shop closes
1865 Joseph Leete becomes continental representative
1867 H&P receives Royal Warrants from Leopold II of Belgium and Napoleon III of France
1878 H&P awarded a first prize at Paris Exhibition
1898 becomes a private limited company and renamed Huntley & Palmers Ltd
1900 awarded two first prizes at Paris Exhibition
1911 supplies Captain Scott’s Antarctic expedition
1914-18 makes army biscuits and artillery shell cases during World War I
1918 buys Huntley, Boorne & Stevens, tin box makers
1918 King George V visits factory
1921 H&P forms Associated Biscuit Manufacturers Ltd with Peek Frean of London
1923 opens factory at La Courneuve near Paris
1924-5 exhibits at British Empire Exhibition, Wembley
1926 Prince of Wales visits factory
1937 new office building opens in Kings Road
1939-45 H&P makes army biscuits during World War II
1955 opens a branch factory at Huyton, Liverpool
1960 W. R. Jacob of Liverpool joins Associated Biscuit Manufacturers Ltd
1969 biscuit production of Huntley & Palmers, Peek Frean and Jacobs reorganised as Associated Biscuits Ltd
1975 factory used as location for the film Bugsy Malone
1976 biscuit production ends at Reading
1982 Nabisco, North American based multinational, acquires Associated Biscuits Ltd
1983 Huyton factory closes
1985 former Peek Frean factory in Bermondsey closes (check)
1989 Nabisco sell UK biscuit companies including Huntley & Palmers, Peak Frean and Jacobs to BSN/Danone, a French food group
1991 the head offices of what is then known as the Jacob’s Bakery move from Kings Road to premises in the Suttons Business Park, Reading
1996 Jacob’s head office moves from Reading to Liverpool