



Leon Paul Equipment Co. Ltd

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Family History

The Paul family, which has been an integral part of British fencing in the last century, began with the arrival in 1905 of a 24 year old French officer from Perpignan, Leon Paul, visiting England as part of his "grand tour" after leaving the army with a fencing diploma. He loved London so much that he settled here as a fencing master. Twenty years later, with his wife Anna, he started the equipment business. "Nana" Paul looked after the clothing side, while Leon or "Papa" Paul as he was known, would come home after a long day's teaching and work into the night assembling weapons and making masks. In this atmosphere of total commitment to fencing, it was perhaps inevitable that their sons, Rene and Raymond, would enter the business and continue its expansion. Today it is a fourth generation company still run by fencers for fencers and is at the cutting edge of fencing technology.

World class Athletes:

Unlike other manufacturers, Leon Paul has always been a family of competitive fencers. 20 Olympic Games and 30 World Championships have been attended by the family and 25 national titles have been won. This gives the company a unique insight into the requirements of fencers. This has also resulted in a stream of innovations over the years.

World firsts from Leon Paul include stretch clothing, micro-processor apparatus, insulated masks, the first F.I.E. approved masks, plastic handles, flexible plugs for body wires, the first foil blade designed for flick hits, the first replaceable scratch layer on transparent masks, budget maraging blades, easy to disassemble spools, light weight carbon fibre handles, battery operated portable club apparatus, ultra thin sectional piste with active rebound, the first to use light weight aircraft alloy for our guards, the Contour-Fit system®, the X-Change® sabre mask and many more.



Leon Paul dedicated to the sport.

Left : Photographs from our factory in Camden and British Fencers Greg Allen and Simon Austin.

Right : photographs from the illustrated sporting and dramatic news in May 1940 showing our old factory, with Leon himself top right, Rene finishing mask in his days in service and Nana sewing jackets.