An early UK pioneer was J & E Hall of Dartford founded in 1785.

This cold-air machine was patented in France by Paul Giffard in 1873. It produced a cooling effect artificially by the compression and expansion of air. A Giffard machine was obtained by Everard Hesketh of Halls and adapted for the freezing and transporting of meat on board of ships.

(The invention of a cold-air machine has been ascribed to John Gorrie of Florida in 1844, being improved upon by Dr Alexander Kirk in 1863)
An early cold-air machine patented by Windhausen of Germany

Giffard’s improved machine of 1877
A Hall’s advertising poster of 1884
Two designs of cold-air machine of 1880 by Sir Alfred Seale Haslam
A third Haslam cold-air machine design of 1880
FROZEN MUTTON FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS,

Per S.S. "Seembria," fitted with

J. & E. HALL’S COLD AIR MACHINES.

S.S. "Seembria"—3041 TONS REGISTER.

Extract from "THE TIMES" of the 16th July, 1886.

FROZEN MEAT.—The importation of frozen meat to this country continues to increase, and the recent arrival in the East India Docks of a cargo of over 30,000 frozen carcases of mutton in excellent condition is the latest and as yet the most extensive contribution that has been made in the form of a single cargo to the meat supply of this country. This has been brought by the steamer Seembria from the Falkland Islands, and when one considers that East Falkland was only colonized by British subjects in 1838, and West Falkland in 1841, and that there are now nearly 200,000 sheep on the islands, it seems indeed, little short of marvelous. These brought over are described as being of prime Canterbury type, well fleshed, and with no superfluous wasteful fat, and they average from 60½ to 70½ each. Sides have been offered of portions of the cargo at over 5½ per pound. The steamer Seembria, charted by the Falkland Islands Mail Company, who have entered into agreements with the owners of sheep for the supply of 69,000 per annum, in a steamer of 3,041 tons register, and was fitted out completely by Messrs. J. and E. Hall, of Dartford and London, for this trade. She left England in December.

Messrs. J. & E. Hall,
London.

DEAR SIRs,—The Cold Air Machines fitted by you in the S.S. "Seembria," froze very satisfactorily 30,000 carcases of mutton on the voyage at and from the Falkland islands, the whole cargo arriving here in perfect condition.

Yours faithfully,

CROW, RUDOLF & CO.
Lightfoot cold-air machine of 1886
Hall's No.6 cold air machine of 1886

Coleman cold-air machine c.1877