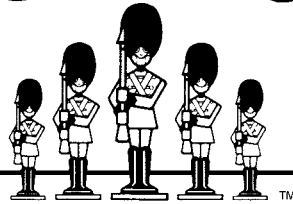


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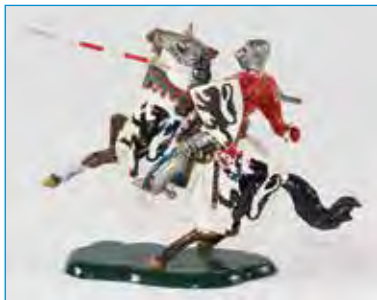
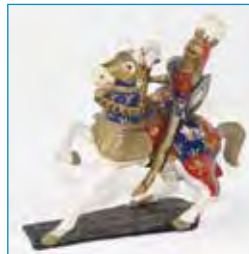
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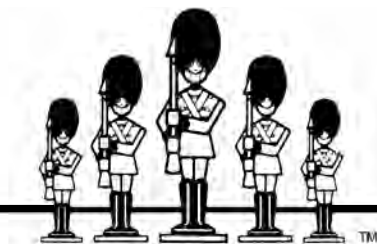
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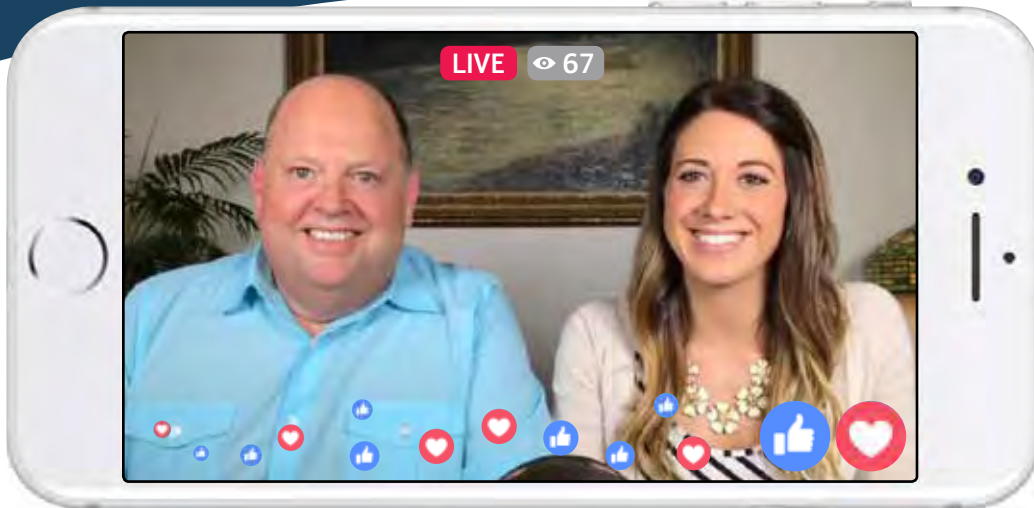


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HOBBY NEWS

Obituary ~ Bill Nelson 1955 - 2017

Bill Nelson was an avid toy soldier collector with a particular fascination for the products of Trophy Miniatures of Wales. Bill and his wife Madeline visited to the UK on a number of occasions and traveled to Wales and visited late Len Taylor at the Trophy factory. A strong friendship developed giving Bill the opportunity to tour the Trophy Factory and see the process of Trophy being manufactured first hand.

Bill was a regular attendee at the Chicago Toy Soldier Show each September. Bill's dedication to the toy soldier hobby and his friendship will be sadly missed.

Norman Joplin



Bill & Madeline with Len in Wales



Bill at Trophy

W. Britain 125th Anniversary Edition: The Frazier History Museum Historic Miniature Masters Friday, February 23, 2018, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Join the W. Britain team at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, KY during the 2018 Show of Shows. 2018 marks 125 years of W. Britain and the Frazier History Museum boasts one of the largest and most important collections of historic toy soldiers and figures from 1770 to the present day, including many iconic pieces made by W. Britain.

- * The Masters Series is a curated conversation among a renowned panel of experts and enthusiasts.
- * Ken and Ericka Osen, W. Britain, will share stories of Britains then and now with a focus on the history of figures and Civil War roundtables.
- * Charles Stewart, Collector and Donor, will share the breadth and depth of the Frazier Collection and feature highlights from the W. Britain Collection.
- * Roger Garfield, Chicago Toy Soldier Show, will share stories about the present and possible future of the toy soldier collecting hobby through the 37-year perspective of the Chicago Toy Soldier Show.
- * Tour the Stewart Collection of Historic Miniatures at the Frazier numbering over 20,000 figures from 80 countries and over 125 different makers.
- * Guests will also enjoy inspired pairings from premium caterer Wiltshire Pantry, and bourbon truffles from Art Eatables, the world's first Bourbon certified chocolatier. And this is Kentucky, so a wee dram of premium Kentucky Bourbon is sure to be on the menu. Join us and raise a glass to W. Britain's 125th!

General Admission: \$28 Frazier Members: \$22

Tickets for this program are available for purchase online at www.fraziermuseum.org/wbritain.
Please call 502.753.5663 should you have any questions.

HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

Flats by J.C. Allgeyer.


The Book about Allgeyer

A Fürther dream factory in the 19th century




CD incl.

- Over 340 pages including approx. 430 colour plates. The collectors Ignaco Czeguhn, Martin Schabenstiel, Erhard Schraudolph and Alfred R. Sulzer provide a fascinating overview of the production range of this important manufacturer of flat tin figures.
- Enclosed CD containing the inventory of the Allgeyer collection from the 'Stiftung Zinnfigurensammlung Alfred R. Sulzer', Zürich.
- For orders, please use the following link: www.allgeyerbuch.com



BOOK CONTENTS

- History of the Allgeyer factory
- Medieval knights
- Idyllic scenes
- Markets and fairground artists
- Parties and celebrations
- European and exotic hunts
- A historic time travel through the 19th century:
 - Battle of Leipzig 1813
 - Battle of Izy 1844
 - Siege of Sevastopol 1854-55
 - American Civil War 1862-65
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 - Paraguayan War 1864-70
 - Cretan Revolt 1866-69
 - Battle of Abyssinia 1867-68
 - Third Carlist War 1872-75
 - Austrian Campaign in Bosnia 1878
 - Death of Prince Louis Napoleon 1879
 - Battle of Tel-el-Kebir 1882
 - French Conquest of Indochina 1884-85
 - French Conquest of Dahomey 1882-94



Two new books from Germany! Book Reviews in the next Old Toy Soldier Magazine

Die Glorreichen Drei

Gehr, Schneider, Diezmann & IDEAL



Gruner & Hefmann

Inklusive CD mit dem Katalog

Dick Gumpert Christensen

2018 CTTs DATE



It was in the late 19th century that W. Britain Limited (also known as Britains and William Britain) first enjoyed success in the business of making toy soldiers. From 1893, W. Britain began producing hollowcast figures, a method by which molten lead was poured into a mould and some was poured back out again before all of the metal could set. With these beautifully painted products, the company dominated the market until the 1950s, when plastic figures made by firms such as Herald grew popular.

W. Britain bought out Herald in 1959 and began a new phase manufacturing 1:32 scale figures in plastic. Sold individually or in packs, the brightly painted toys, including Trojan and Greek warriors, British infantry and Wild West cowboys, fired children's imaginations and became playroom essentials.

During the same period, W. Britain changed the way it made toy soldiers, using plastic to mass-produce inexpensive colourcast figures that delighted generations of schoolboys. The unpainted toy soldiers produced by Airfix featured an impressive level of detail, as did the company's plastic model kits. Toy car brands such as Dinky introduced in 1934, Matchbox (launched in 1953) and Corgi (first manufactured in 1958) solidified another of the most enduring toy categories.

By the early 1960s, Britain was exporting more toys than all but three other countries, with annual exports valued at over £2 million.

The heyday of the British toy industry remains a magical era, one that shaped childhoods across the generations. And with many of the best-loved playthings from the past still with us, or perhaps relunched after temporary absences, the children of today can still have fun with some of the world's most iconic toys.



W. Britain COLLECTORS' CLUB



W. Britain gets the Royal Stamp of approval!

In 1993 a third-century-old independent company William Britain celebrated its hundredth birthday. And to mark an historic milestone, for almost 125 years (William has been hand-casting (and) producing, producing some of the most treasured, hand-cast and highly detailed figures the world has ever seen.

The 30th birthday has become synonymous with excellence and is celebrated in its own British issue. The very first issued to have a royal stamp of approval (one of the first hand-cast will be exhibited in a new 100-page book, The Royal Mail, Royal Mail philatelist Philip Parker said, "With its unique royal approval, this stamp is a testament to the company's long history and its commitment to excellence."

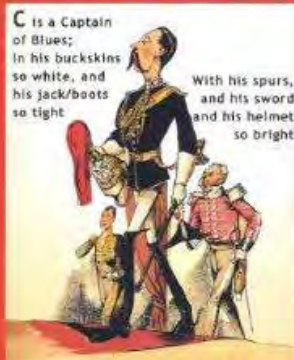
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38th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show

Chicago Toy Soldier Show

Building, Sept. 28, 2018 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

C is a Captain of Blues: In his buckskins so white, and his jack-boots so tight. With his spurs, and his sword and his helmet so bright.



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Classic Toys



CHELSEA PENSIONERS

By Norman Joplin



Summer Uniform



Faberge example owned by her majesty Queen Elizabeth



Winter Uniform

As the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War one approaches, Old Toy Soldier Magazine will be featuring toy soldier articles with a connection to the Great War.

Toy Soldier/ Chelsea Pensioner figures are very colourful and it has always disappointed me that none of the British Hollow Cast

Toy Soldier companies produced any examples.

Chelsea Pensioners and the Royal Hospital Chelsea is a subject that modern toy soldier makers have covered. But the only "Old Toy Soldier" Chelsea Pensioner that I have come across, ironically was produced in Germany by Heyde.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea is a retirement home and nursing home for some 300 veterans of the British Army. It is a 66-acre site located on Royal Hospital Road in Chelsea, London. It is an independent charity and relies partly upon donations to cover day-to-day running costs to provide care and accommodation for veterans.



Reference to Nell Gwyn

CHELSEA PENSIONERS *(Continued)*



Heyde 60mm



Anthony Fermor



Britains

Any man or woman who is over the age of 65 and served as a regular soldier may apply to become a Chelsea Pensioner (i.e. a resident), on the basis they have found themselves in a time of need and are "of good character. They must not, however, have any dependent spouse or family and former Officers must have served at least 12 years in the ranks before receiving a commission.

King Charles II founded the Royal Hospital in 1682 as a retreat for veterans. The provision of a hostel

rather than the payment of pensions was inspired by Les Invalides in Paris. The site for the Royal Hospital was an area of Chelsea which held an incomplete building "Chelsey College", a theological college James I founded in 1609.

The Royal Hospital opened its doors to the Chelsea Pensioners in 1692 for "the relief and succor" of veterans. Some of the first soldiers admitted included those injured at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685. Sir Wren expanded his original design to add two additional



Chelsea Pensioner 1804



Blenheim



Sentry Boy



Toy Del



Ken Kearsly



Little Lead Soldier

CHELSEA PENSIONERS (Continued)



Assembling for Armistice Day Parade



Founders Day Gathering

quadrangles to the east and west of the central court; these were known respectively as the "Light Horse Court" and the "College".

The Wonder Book of Soldiers Edited by Harry Golding- Published by Ward Lock & Co Limited - 1914 shows a picture of an aged Chelsea Pensioner with a caption indicating that King Charles II may have been influenced by his mistress Nell Gwyn to open the hospital for ex service men.

Today Pensioners can either be permanent residents in the hospital, or live out of the hospital, but still receive the facilities that the hospital offers. The hospital, until 2009 was a male bastion, however women were permitted to be Chelsea Pensioner "out" residents, living at home and being a member of the Royal Hospital. 2014 saw the first female pensioner, Barbara Whildes, aged 68 admitted as an "in" resident after the building had undergone extensive refurbishment.

Chelsea Pensioners are familiar to tourists and public alike in and around Chelsea and outside of the hospital.



Public House Chelsea



Barbara Whildes

CHELSEA PENSIONERS *(Continued)*



Nell Gwyn



S&S Miniatures



William Britain



King Charles II



Great Britain and the Empire

They perform many ceremonial or semi ceremonial events each year and are easily recognizable in their scarlet coats, blue in winter. The world famous Chelsea Flower show is always well attended by the pensioners.

At the annual remembrance services each November they march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall. They are allowed to march with their former regiment's detachment or as a Chelsea Pensioner commanded group. The evening prior, a detachment of Pensioners marches at the Royal

Albert Hall Remembrance Service attended by the Queen and other members of the Royal family, all proudly wearing their Poppies.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea has its own gift shop and on line shopping facility where models of the pensioners may be purchased.



Chelsea Pensioner Toy Soldier Makers

Sentry Box.
Heyde
Great Britain and the Empire
Trophy
Blenheim
Britains
S & S Miniatures.
Little Lead Men
Frontier by Anthony Fermor Ireland.
RHC Gift shop.

RECONNAISSANCE

Filling in the Image Line

By Frank Leo



Britains Set # 1910 Royal Army Medical Corps, Field Hospital Staff with Wounded (Battledress).

Britains Set # 1910 Britains Set # 1910 Royal Army Medical Corps, Field Hospital Staff with Wounded (Battledress) is considered one of the rarest late pre World War two sets. The set was only issued 1940/41 and contained only 24 pieces (See *Armies of the World* by Joe Wallis).

Having researched many toy soldier reference books it appears that a picture of this full boxed set has never before been illustrated.

This set rarity throws up the question as to why very few have been found? especially since according to Joe Wallis two versions were issued. With the assistance of Norman Joplin, who is in possession of the Official Britains Factory records, soon to be issued in his new book *Behind the Scenes at Britains*, I have compiled a breakdown of the contents of the set. This breakdown

using the "B" suffix number from the factory records enables collectors to give an individual identity to each figure in the set.

251B Royal Army Medical Corps Nurse, two figures issued in each version.

431B Wounded lying, Khaki steel helmet hands behind head, three figures included in version one and two in version two.

589B Khaki Stretcher, 3 in each of the two versions.

787B Wounded lying arm in sling, three in version one and two in version two.

1053B Battledress Officer with cane/baton, two in each version.

1056B Royal Army Medical Corps Orderly, two in each version.

1058B Stretcher Bearer, 6 in each version.

1059B Wounded Lying, head bandaged, issued only in version two. (Assumed to be the steel helmet figures with hands behind head as in this set.)

1060B Auxiliary Female Territorial Service, two in each version.

1075B Officer in Battledress with book in moveable arm. (this figure utilizes the book from #593 Clergyman in the farm series. The Officer only being available in one other set, #1909.

It appears therefore that the version in my possession is version two. Anyone have version one ????

Contact me via *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* with information or to talk in general about toy soldiers.

**Sunday, March 4, 2018
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

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IN THE HOTEL ROOMS!**

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SHOW REPORT

37th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show Sunday, 24 September, 2017

“...room trading (the hunt), meeting fellow collectors, sharing stories, the excitement of Sunday’s opening, all the special displays and surprises. . . .that is the real sizzle”

This e-mail message from an Indiana attendee describes the 2017 Chicago Toy Soldier Show very well.

You could feel the energy and enthusiasm among vendors and attendees when the doors opened on 400 tables staffed by more than 300 vendors and table helpers. Throughout the Show, over 800 visitors

attended. Where else can you find over 1,000 people engaged in the toy soldier hobby in one place at one time?

CTSS staff were able to poll the first 180 attendees waiting in line after they were checked in. We were pleased to see many first-time visitors, many of whom had responded to our new online and social media efforts. We were also happy to find that more families with children attended the Show.

The Sunday Show was preceded by the usual 3 days of “room-trading” during which the vendors previewed their Sunday wares, traded toys, swapped stories, and got reacquainted with old friends.

NEW IN 2017:

NAME TAGS:

Show attendees quite often contact us to ask about a specific vendor who had a certain item, but the attendee did not know the vendor’s name. Our solution: Every vendor was given a name tag in his/her 2017 packet. A good friend and fellow vendor shared this: “Thank goodness, I have known that vendor for over 20 years and never before knew his name!” This year’s name tags also allowed CTSS an opportunity to affix our new loyalty pins. See below.

LOYALTY PINS:

We knew how very loyal our vendors have been to the Chicago Toy Soldier Show and how proud they are regarding their years of participation. We understood that it was time to recognize publicly and thank our vendors for their loyalty to the Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Soon after CTSS 2016, we contacted some of our vendors to begin to brainstorm how to carry out our goal of recognizing the loyalty of our vendors. The result was the Loyalty Pins, distributed for the first time in 2017. Vendors arrived to

find their name tags decorated with bronze 10-year pins, silver 20-year pins, and gold 30-year pins.

It was a task to research attendance histories for so many people and still keep the loyalty-recognition initiative mum, because we wanted to surprise vendors when they arrived at the Show. Just asking vendors how many years they have been doing the Show provided many wonderful stories and allowed us to get to know many of participants much better.

Yes, there is a small band of collectors who have been to all 37 Shows. Should we name them after Napoleon’s “Old Guard”?

We now have a database that will allow us to continue to award the appropriate additional pins each year. We want to keep the loyalty program rolling. A word to new vendors: Your loyalty pins await you!

INCREASED SIGNAGE:

This year, we continued to add signage to help room traders find one another before the Sunday Show. We are continuing to add signage to the Hyatt Lobby to increase awareness of our annual event. We feel that branding our event with the

easily recognized CTSS colors and logo creates a sense of unity among us and awareness among people who are new to the event.



HAPPY HOUR(S):

This year we moved the Saturday hospitality party to Gallagher’s Bar in the newly remodeled Hyatt lobby. CTSS partnered with Frank and Robert Way of Trains and Toy Soldiers (Lincoln, NE) to launch our new CTSS Happy Hour(s). Each vendor received two coupons for \$5 each in the vendor packet. Coupons were redeemable during Happy Hour(s) at the bar. Our new social event was a great success, judging by the number of coupons submitted in return for refreshments. We want to thank Frank and Robert for helping us provide this new extra

SHOW REPORT (Continued)

for our Vendors. We have a new Chicago Toy Soldier Show tradition in the making!

THE FRAZIER HISTORY MUSEUM:

Earlier this year we were invited to The Frazier History Museum, a well-known Louisville, KY institution. We met museum staff and viewed the famous Stewart Toy Soldier Gallery. We invited the Frazier to CTSS 2017 to promote the Museum and Collection. The Frazier brought two young ladies in reenactor costume who were quite a hit!

THE RE-ENACTORS:

Frazier re-enactors helped CTSS Hand out our 2017 Kids' Treasure Maps (see below). Not only did the young ladies hand out the treasure maps, but also, they assisted kids throughout the Show with the fun of finding their treasure hunt items. The involvement of teenagers really seemed to make history cool for our young attendees. Later Sunday afternoon, the same re-enactors handed out chocolate toy soldier pops. We are not sure the additional energy was needed, but our two re-enactors were very popular and very much appreciated.

TREASURE HUNT:

Once again this year we had Treasure Maps on clipboards ready for the youngsters who attended the Show. This year, we commissioned popular artist and CTSS vendor Doug Dearth to create the map. Doug created a wonderful activity for the kids that kept them engaged and visiting tables to ask adults about the figures they found. Jan says, "I could not believe that hours later the youngsters were still in the Show working on their hunt."

If you know Doug and his sense of humor, you will not be surprised to know that there was a trick question in the hunt. It became known among the young treasure hunters that there simply was not a platypus to be found in the Show, until you were directed to Doug's table where you

found an excellent cartoon of. . . a platypus!

PHOTO BOOTH:

In response to people's love for their smart phones and for taking selfies, we introduced a photo booth at 2017 CTSS. On Sunday, people had the opportunity to step into a photo booth to take a selfie in military gear against a colorful background and with props such as a cannon and our now famous 6-foot toy soldier (nicknamed "CT"). We had adults on hand to help suit up our subjects, and photographers to take a picture with the subject's phone and with permission to take a photo for our CTSS website. Wait until you see the results on our website and Facebook. . .selfies are definitely not just for kids!

SHOP WITH A COP:

Over the years, many vendors have become acquainted with the worthy Shop With A Cop charity sponsored by the McHenry Chamber of Commerce. Shop With A Cop allows youth in need to shop for personal items with a local law enforcement officer. Many vendors, including those from out of town, have adopted Shop With A Cop as the Show charity. CTSS was able to present two checks at the annual fundraising event held at the Show by our vendors. One check was from CTSS, Inc., and the other was

from CTSS in the name of Ed Miller, who passed away shortly before CTSS 2016.

VFW and AMERICAN LEGION ATTENDEES:

This year CTSS reached out to local VFW and American Legion Posts. Post members were invited to attend the Show free of charge. We contacted Post Commanders to let them know that we and our vendors were anxious to honor them and have them view toys that portray real-life soldiers. One veteran wearing his Post cap and with grandchildren in hand told us to expect a lot more of his comrades to attend the 2018 show

2017 VENDOR SURVEY:

This year, we distributed a survey polling our vendors about the past, present, and future of our hobby and the Chicago Toy Soldier Show. We were overwhelmed by the response. We will publish the results on our website this year. Our vendors really care about the hobby and their Show. Thank you.

WGN-TV CHANNEL 9, CHICAGO:

We even had a surprise visit from this well-known local television station. The WGN visit was included in Sunday evening's Evening News Program.



Judy, Jan, Frank Way, Roger Gillian and Graham. CTSS Team

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY



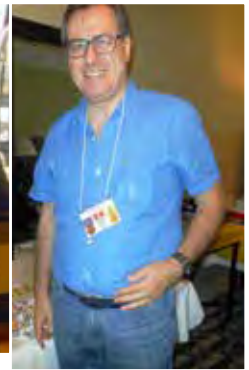
George Guierro Minute Men



Crown Military Miniatures
Nick Cameron



Jose, Floriberto, Juan R, Jose R, Israel and James
with nearly 30 years service at the Hyatt



Stephano Allorin (Italy)



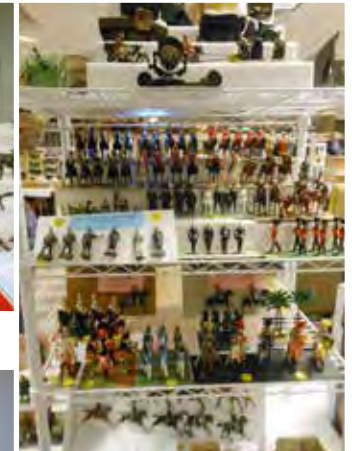
UK trio Peter Gareth and Steve with a picture of
their absent friend Adrain Little of Mercator Trading



First Legion



Dan Jones displayed these unusually
large wooden figures by Arthur



Britains and Timpo by the score



Britains Royal Army Medical Corps



Historical dress from the
Frazier Museum Kentucky



Ken Ciak and Family with Trojan horse



Britains Farm Display



Hobby Bunker and Matt Murphy



A table FULL of Britains Deetail



Taylor and Paula Maladra from the
Old Toy Detective



Julie Abrahams of Treefrog Treasures



Jodi Lewis representing the Frazier
Museum with display stand featuring the
Charles Stewart Toy Soldier Collection



Show report Ken Ciak
LOD Enterprizes with his inovative
Trojan Horse Product.

SHOW REPORT PRE SHOW ROOM TRADING



Bob Hornung's impressive room display above.



CTSS Hospitality Saturday evening in the newly refurbished Hotel bar sponsored by Frank Way.



William Britains Ken Osen left.



Joe Wallis shows his new book *Soldiers of the Greater Empire* to Michael O'Donnell.

SHOW REPORT SUNDAY SHOW DISPLAYS



Kids at the photo booth pre show.



Christmas Figures



Rare Dimestores



Alymer Representatives from Spain



Roman Chariot



Mignot Firemen



Militaria



King and Country



King and Country



Iwo Jima Display



Union Troops



D Day

OLD TOY SOLDIER ANNUAL BARGAIN ROOM



Photos by Noel Schlageter and Dan Crews

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: MILITARY AVIATION 1794-1918 AS DEPICTED IN PERIOD TIN TOYS & LEAD SOLDIERS

By Earl Jorgensen



A Muller & Kadader clockwork toy airship, c. 1905. (Photo courtesy of Dan Morphy Auctions).

In the fall of 1914 the world went to war and, for the first time in history, the battlefield was extended into the sky. Human pilots in untried flying machines observed, engaged, and destroyed the enemy, forever changing the way that future wars would be fought. The story of early aviation has been well documented in countless history books but few people are aware that the developmental years of both civilian and military aviation were also chronicled in the tin toys and sets of toy soldiers of the day.

On November 21, 1783, two men crowded into a wicker basket hanging beneath a massive balloon filled with hot smoke and lifted into the sky over Paris marking the first manned flight. The balloon was constructed by the Montgolfier brothers and human

passengers were tasked with feeding bundles of damp straw to an onboard fire pit to keep the smoke hot and to extinguish any fires caused by the flaming embers with a wet sponge. The twenty-five minute flight covered a distance of nine kilometers and was viewed by thousands of onlookers.

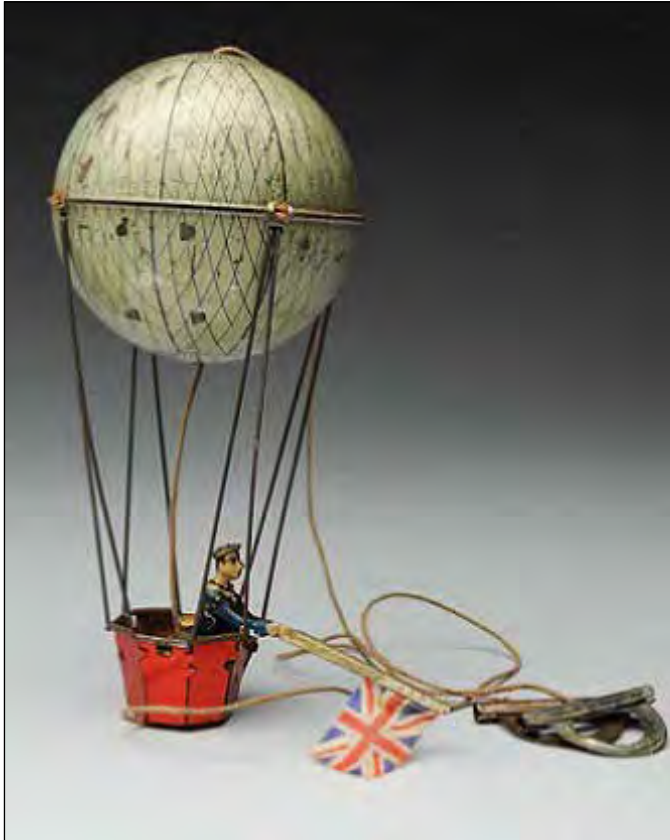
The Montgolfiers' success inspired other would-be aeronauts to experiment with flight which lead to advancements in balloon technology. In January, 1785 a hydrogen-filled balloon crossed the English Channel and on April 2, 1794, the French committee for Public Safety authorized the creation of an Aerostatic (balloon) Corps to be known as the *Compagnie d' Aérostiers*. On June 2 the *aérostiers* launched their hydrogen-filled balloon over the battlefield of



(A) A 1906 box label from the firm of J. G. Rupprecht depicting military operations on land, sea & air. (R) A detailed image from the label illustrating the *Compagnie d' Aérostiers* military balloon during in the 1785 Battle of Fleurus. (Photos by author).



HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



(A) A Lehmann Mars tin toy balloon with a British flag. (Photo courtesy of Dan Morphy Auctions). (R) A Hot Air Balloon with parachutist attributed to Muller & Kadader. (Photo courtesy of Bertoia Auctions).



Mauberge marking the first deployment of a military observation balloon and on June 22 they provided an aerial observation platform from which General Marlot commanded his French troops to a victory over the Austrians in the Battle of Fleurus. In spite of their initial success the *aérostiers* also suffered some serious setbacks including the loss of a balloon which remains on display at the National Military History Museum in Vienna to this day. The *Compagnie* was officially disbanded by Napoleon in January, 1799.

Were toys depicting the above events produced? Surprisingly, the answer is yes. An 1801 merchandise catalogue printed by the firm of George Hieronimus Bestelmeier¹ contains an offering of the “Balloon of Montgolfier” but included no description or details. Antique toy historian Constance King states that small family workshops began to produce metal toys from leftover bits of scrap during the late 18th century.² There are no known examples of period depictions of toy soldiers during the Battle of Fleurus, but it certainly is possible that they could have been produced. The catalog also contains numerous offerings of what appear to be flat tin soldiers.

The 19th century was the realm of the professional civilian aeronaut, a mixture of scientists, adventurers and above all showmen who used their balloons as an aerial performance stage. Aerial acrobats, trapeze artists, bicyclists, fireworks and parachutists became the norm and the public flocked to watch. They referred to themselves as “professors” and quickly learned that the presence of a fearless attractive young assistant increased the size of the audience. One such “professor”, Thaddeus Lowe, was selected by President Abraham Lincoln to serve as the Chief Aeronaut of the newly formed Union Army Balloon Corps in 1862. The unit was made up of civilian aeronauts and was attached to the Army of the Potomac. The group served with distinction

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



during McClellan's 1862 Peninsula Campaign providing aerial observation, artillery spotting, and pioneered air-to-ground telegraphy but was undone by a general military distrust of civilian-gathered intelligence. The Corps was officially disbanded in 1863. While it is technically possible that toys representing the Union Balloon Corps could have been produced no examples of such toys are known to exist.

Unlike their American counterparts, European military powers, particularly the British, had a more favorable view of military aerial observation. In July, 1863 the British Royal Engineers conducted several successful experimental observation balloon ascents on behalf of the British Army but they were deemed too expensive to pursue. Military interest in aeronautics was not limited to the observation balloon. In 1852 a new type of balloon was introduced that offered the possibility of controlled flight. The new airship was called a dirigible, a semi-rigid balloon equipped with a steering rudder and a steam engine that powered a propeller to push it through the air. It was designed and built by Henri Giffard, a visionary French engineer. On September 24, 1852, he successfully piloted his invention over a seventeen mile course but strong headwinds prevented the underpowered craft from making the return trip. In 1884, the French military dirigible *La France*, powered by the newly-invented electrically rotated propeller, became the first airship to successfully fly against the wind and complete the return trip. In 1887 a dirigible powered by a Daimler high-speed internal combustion engine was successfully tested in Germany. Although dirigibles were undependable and prone to crashing they offered the possibility of fully controlled flight and were quickly adapted for military use.



The development of 19th century tin toy production was driven by the industrial revolution. In 1810 the tin can was patented and by 1846 tin cans were being mechanically mass produced. Why is this important? Because they were made of tinplate, thin sheets of steel coated with a thin layer of tin which could be recycled and made into tin toys. "Tinplate was

(T) An early cardboard toy dirigible modeled after Giffard's airship. (M) A rare example of a mechanical tin "ornithopter" (flapper) dirigible by Muller & Kadader. (Photos courtesy of Bertioia Auctions). (B) A mechanical toy dirigible modeled after a Santos Dumont design, c. 1910. (Photo courtesy of Dan Morphy Auctions).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



(A) A rare Luftschiffer-Abteilung (Airship) box label from the firm of Georg Spenkuch. (B) A Heyde Coastal Defense set with a Zeppelin. (Photos courtesy of Ladenburger Spielzeugauktion).

easily cut, stamped or molded, either by hand tools or by power-press.”³ Hand painted decoration was soon replaced by offset lithography which allowed colorful designs to be applied directly onto the tinplate. As a result “tinplate replicas of the latest cars, aeroplanes, ships etc. were often produced within weeks of their introduction.”⁴ As stated by Spilhaus, “Toys faithfully reflect the society of their times as a whole, if they didn’t, they wouldn’t sell” and during the 19th century, tin toy balloons and dirigibles were produced in abundance.

Many 19th century aeronautical tin toys were whimsical, some were rather crude, but all were

designed to mimic flight. Some were produced as hollow shells designated for use on mechanical roundabout or carousel toys but most were equipped with simple mechanical devices designed to produce specific movements. Balloon toys were designed for up and down motion and were often equipped with propellers that would spin when activated. Once the top hook or loop was attached or held, the toy would be activated by pulling down on the string which also wound up a simple clockwork mechanism. When released the balloon would slowly lift back up and the propellers would spin. Depending on the design of the toy, acrobats would somersault or parachutists would lift up and down. Dirigibles were simply designed to



HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



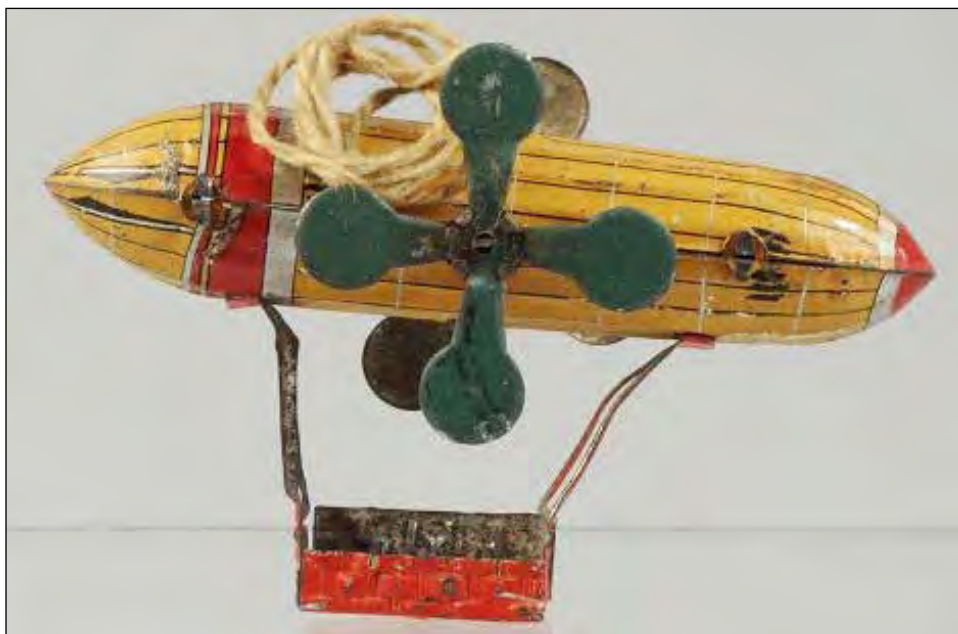
A mechanical toy depiction of the French Military Dirigible La République. On Sept. 25, 1909, the airship suffered catastrophic mechanical failure and crashed to earth killing the entire four man crew. (Photo courtesy of auctions@wallisandwallis.org).

fly in a forward motion. They were equipped with a top hook or a pulley (sometimes both) and powered by a simple wind-up clockwork motor to drive the propeller. When suspended from a string or pylon and activated, they would push forward, flying in a circular pattern or forward on a pulley suspended on a wire.

Toy soldier manufacturers also took pride in their ability to produce sets in a timely manner. As the first toy soldier pricelist published in 1853 by the firm of Theo Krause clearly states, "Infantry, cavalry, foot artillery and riding artillery with all the armed forces at all times. The latest battles...and all accessories."⁶ The British deployed military observation balloons during the Sudan and Bechuanaland campaigns of 1885 and again during the Second Boer War (1899-1902). While

most of the old German toy soldier makers produced sets depicting these campaigns, none are known to have included a depiction of a military balloon. Production of military observation balloon sets did not begin until the turn of the century.

On July 2, 1900, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin introduced a revolutionary new type of airship design which replaced the balloon with a row of seventeen large rubberized gas cells contained within a cloth covered cylindrical steel frame. The craft was appropriately called the Zeppelin. It featured forward and aft rudders for steering and was powered by a pair of Daimler internal-combustion engines, each rotating two propellers. The first two Zeppelins were plagued with design flaws but LZ-3 which first flew



A Meier tin penny toy airship. The firm of J. Ph. Meier produced a variety of penny toy airships with simple up and down motion. They were often sold as souvenirs at International Air Meetings or combined with penny toy vehicles and tin soldiers to create Meier military aviation sets. The firms J.G. Rupprecht and Georg Spenkuch occasionally incorporated Meier airships into their Luftschiffer-Abteilung sets. (Photo courtesy of Dan Morphy Auctions).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*

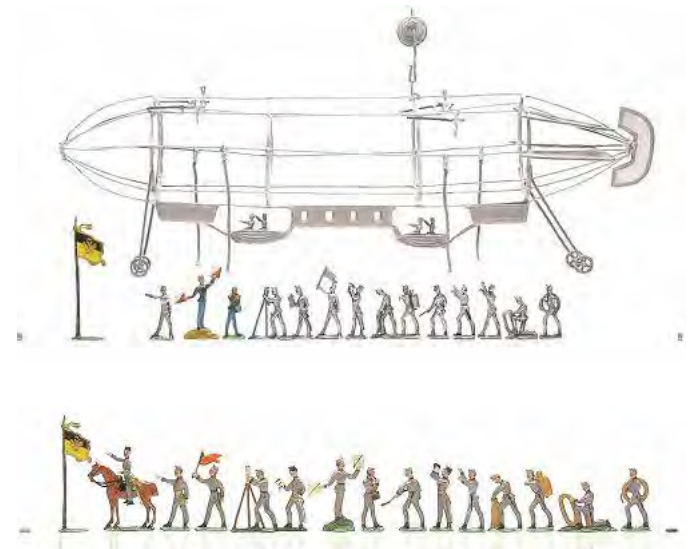
in October, 1906 was a success. After many miles carrying passengers and freight, it was purchased by the German Army in 1908, modified for military use, and served as a training ship until 1913 when it was decommissioned. Germany introduced its military Zeppelin to the world during the 1909 Autumn Military Maneuvers with a dramatic encounter between the Zeppelin and a recently invented airplane. The underpowered airplane could not attain enough altitude to reach the giant airship which continued its flight and successfully bombed a designated target. The impressed Kaiser soon ordered the creation of a fleet of the seemingly invincible airships.

Man's first powered flight in a heavier-than-air craft occurred on December 17, 1903, when two bicycle mechanics, Orville and Wilber Wright, took turns lifting from the dunes of Kitty Hawk, NC. They shared a total of four flights, the longest covering 852 feet over a period of 59 seconds. When finished they packed their equipment, sent a message to their father requesting that he inform the press of their success and prepared to return to Dayton to refine their invention into a practical flying machine. As it turned out, the requested press announcement consisted of a short acknowledgement congratulating the "Two Ohio boys for demonstrating that a flying machine can be constructed without the use of a balloon"⁷ which appeared in the March 1, 1904, issue of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. Fortunately, the local telegraph operator also passed the message on to a local newspaper reporter who wrote a more in-depth story of the event which "made its way onto the Associated Press newswire and into several newspapers across the nation and overseas."⁸

By 1905 the brothers had developed Flyer III into an airplane capable of flying a 24.5 mile course over 40 minutes which both turned and landed with ease. Their offer to sell it to the U.S. Army was rejected because it had "no intention of financing devices of mechanical flight that had not yet been brought to practical operations."⁹ On August 1, 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established a committee to study flying machines and the possibility of adapting them for war purposes. In February, 1908 it offered to purchase Flyer III contingent upon a successful demonstration of its flight capabilities. The brothers decided that Orville would travel to Ft. Meyer, VA for the Army demonstration and Wilber

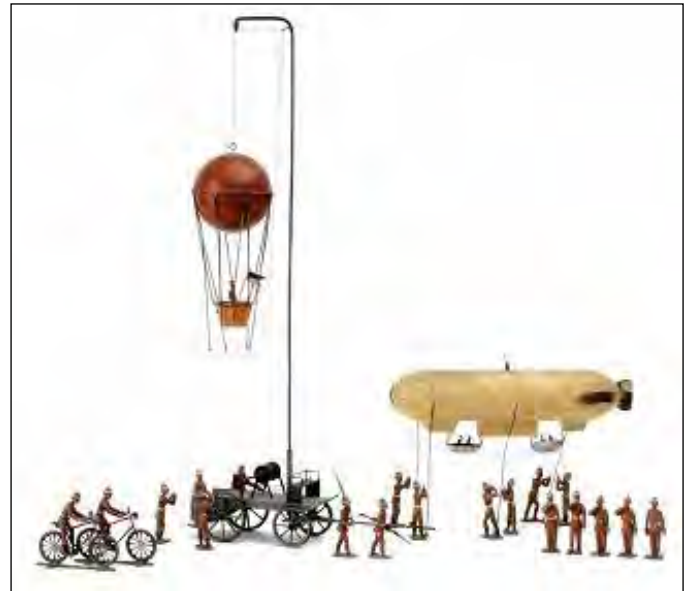


(A) A mechanical toy Zeppelin by Ernst Plank, c. 1908. (Photo courtesy of Bertoia Auctions). B) A unique toy Zeppelin from the firm of Michael Wollner. The support crew figures were sold separately. (Photos courtesy of Robert Lonsing).



Heyde LZ XIII with hanger, c. 1910. The LZ XIII was a successful commercial passenger airship which was purchased by the German government for military use at the beginning of hostilities in 1914. (Photo courtesy of Ladenburger Spielzeugauktion).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



Examples of Heyde Luftschiffer-Abteilung sets: (A) A Balloon Wagon. (Photo courtesy of Landenburger Spielzeugauktion). (TR) The English Balloon Detachment. (Photo courtesy of specialauctionservices.com). (BR) A Dirigible Unit. (Photo courtesy of Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA).

would travel to Europe to promote their airplane overseas. Orville's first flight occurred on August 8 and was a complete success, eliminating any doubts of the airplane's capabilities. In June, 1909 Flyer III was purchased for the sum of \$30,000 and on August 2, 1909, it was officially re-designated as U.S. Signal Corps Airplane #1.

On August 8, 1908, Wilber climbed aboard Flyer III in front of a small crowd of some sixty skeptical onlookers in La Mans, France. He lifted into the air, flew two flawless figure eights and executed a perfect landing. The stunned crowd erupted into cheers. He repeated the demonstration on August 10 before an enthusiastic crowd of two thousand onlookers who swarmed onto the field to congratulate the pilot. Much like the Montgolfier balloon, the Wright brothers' successful flights inspired other would-be-flyers and, in the case of Wilber, also provided them an opportunity to closely examine the craft and learn some of the brothers' closely guarded design features.

On June 25, 1909, Louis Blériot became the first person to cross The English Channel in an airplane. He claimed his prize money and started commercial production of his monoplane design. August 22, 1909, marked the beginning of the world's First International Aviation Meeting. The seven day event took place in



A Spenkuch Dirigible Unit.
(Photo courtesy of Landenburger Spielzeugauktion).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



The design of early airplanes presented a challenge to mechanical toy manufacturers as seen in this wire-framed, windup pusher biplane. (Photo courtesy of The RSL Auction Co.).

the French city of Reims and attracted an estimated 300,000 -500,000 spectators who were treated to a breath-taking array of aerial acrobatics making such events “the leading form of public entertainment in the early 20th century.”¹⁰



Tin toy manufacturers quickly added both Zeppelins and airplanes to their production. A 1908 pre-Christmas toy advertisement from the A. Wahnschaffe Company included a clockwork mechanical Wright Flyer III, a mechanical tin toy balloon, a clockwork dirigible and a *Luftschiffer-Abteilung* (Airship Battalion) set of toy soldiers. Clockwork Blériot monoplanes were also produced by several manufacturers shortly after his historic flight. Both clockwork airplanes and Zeppelins were equipped to fly as previously described.

The production of toy soldier sets depicting military aviation units could not begin until such organizations actually existed. France did not re-establish its military aeronautical corps until 1877. Germany followed suit in 1884. Great Britain established a balloon section as a permanent unit of the Royal Engineers in 1890 and the United States Army Signal Corps did not re-establish an aeronautical division until 1907. The earliest catalog reference to such sets is found in the 1900 Ullmann & Engelmann toy catalog which lists two *Luftschiffer-Abteilung* sets containing mechanical tin toy dirigibles. One set featured 33mm semi-solid figures along with a small mechanical penny toy



(TL) A pusher biplane produced by the firm of Ernst Plank. (Photo courtesy of Bertoia Auctions). (LB) A clockwork driven Wright Flyer. (Photo courtesy of The RSL Auction Co.). (R) An early hand painted clockwork pusher biplane. (Photo courtesy of Bertoia Auctions).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



(L) A Spenkuch International War box label & (A) a Rupprecht World War advertisement. (Photos courtesy of www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com).

airship while the other used 52mm solid cast figures and a larger mechanical tin toy dirigible. Both were offered in multiple set configurations.

Balloons, dirigibles and Zeppelins were all classified as airships, so the *Luftschiffer* designation applies to sets of all three types of airships. A 1902 listing from the Gamage Toy Catalog offered a Heyde “English balloon section, complete with wagons, bicycles, trees etc.” which included both a tin toy observation balloon attached to a movable winch-wagon and a mechanical toy dirigible. It should be noted that not all *Luftschiffer* sets utilized mechanical tin toy airships. Many manufacturers used small semi-solid castings depicting the basic shapes of the airships which were

mounted on lengths of wire to create the illusion of flying in the sky or over the tree line. The Austrian firm of Michael Wollner created a unique toy Zeppelin outlined by the uncovered rigid outer framework with wheels. A fourteen piece ground crew was offered separately.

The toy soldier industry certainly produced small cast depictions of both the Wright Flyer III and the Blériot monoplane. They were likely combined with similar castings of balloons, dirigibles and zeppelins for aviation sets sold as souvenirs at the hugely popular International Aviation Meetings. As with the *Luftschiffer* sets, production of military toy soldier airplane sets was necessarily delayed until military



A battle scene with a Zeppelin set by the firm of Georg Spenkuch, c. 1914. (Photo courtesy of Landenburger Spielzeugauktion).

HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*



The Iron Cross marking was adapted early in the war for ground identification purposes. The other markings indicate that the Airship is from the 8th Battalion. (Photo courtesy of Bertoia Auctions).

use of airplanes became a reality. Both the Imperial German Flying Corps and the French *Armée de L'Air* were established in 1910 and the Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers was established in 1911 and incorporated into the Royal Flying Corps in 1912. A 1913 price list from the firm of Georg Spenkuch included "a military flier department with attractive flight apparatuses, gasoline sheds and a large airplane hangar." Spenkuch was unique in that the firm actually fabricated tin replicas of the *Rumpler Taube*, a monoplane with dove-shaped wings, and a double-decker biplane. Military airplane sets were designated as *Flieger-Abteilung* (Flight Battalion). Other toy soldier manufacturers produced similar sets which relied on small castings depicting basic monoplane and biplane designs, either attached to

wires to mimic altitude or pictured on the ground as preparing for takeoff.

In August, 1914 the world went to war and quickly discovered that barbed wire and machine guns made cavalry reconnaissance impossible. The need to know what the enemy was doing forced military commanders to turn to the untried flying machines to supply the information. The war quickly settled into the stalemate of trench warfare. Observation balloons were deployed by the thousands but they could only observe what was in front of them. Dirigibles and Zeppelins made excellent targets for ground fire. They were quickly withdrawn from the frontlines but proved to be highly effective in anti-submarine warfare. Desperate for intelligence, military leaders on



(A) A show display which includes a 30mm military aviation set with airplane and airship castings mounted on wires. (Photo by author). (R) A Haffner Flieger-Abteilung label with an example of a silhouette biplane casting. (Photo courtesy of www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com).



HISTORY CAST IN TIN: *(Continued)*

both sides were forced to rely on the tiny airplane with the unique ability to fly over the trenches and to see beyond the hills as their primary source of intelligence.

Were tin toys and toy soldiers produced during the war? The answer, surprisingly is yes. In 1914 department stores throughout Germany, England and France created large Christmas window displays featuring toy soldiers in realistic battles which often included flashing lights to simulate artillery fire and flying machines circling overhead. They were created both to generate support for the war effort and to entice buyers into the store. The belief was that time spent playing

with toy soldiers contributed to the development of the virtues of patriotism and national pride. In Germany the government actually provided the raw materials necessary to sustain toy soldier production for local consumption. As the war progressed the needs of military munitions production outweighed the value of the propaganda provided by toy soldiers and access to raw materials was eliminated. "By the end of 1916 the demand for military toys had declined considerably, possibly induced by a growing disenchantment with the war."¹³ German made toy soldier sets depicting the war were designated as either *Weltkrieg* (World War) or *Völkerring* (International War).



An impressive Heyde set combining a clockwork ship and naval landing force with a Zeppelin. The airship is marked LZ-XII Marine and displays the Iron Cross identification mark. (NOTE the wire & pulley operation.) Photo courtesy of Ladenburger Spielzeugauktion).

-
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 - ¹¹ Mr. Gamage's Great Toy Bazaar, 1902-1906 (Hastings House Publishers Inc. NY 1982) p.59.
 - ¹² www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com.
 - ¹³ Levsen, Sonia. www.encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war_toys.

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BRITAINS DISMOUNTED CAVALRY STANDING TO HORSE

By Joe Wallis



Set 182

Britains Limited issued several sets of infantry standing at attention as early as 1901, but it was not until 1914 that Set #182, Eleventh Hussars, was produced representing dismounted cavalry. The set contained an officer with a drawn sword held down at the salute, three empty-handed troopers with moveable right arms, and four riderless horses. The black or brown horses featured saddles and bridles. Fred Whisstock designed an attractive illustrated box label that was used until 1949, when it was replaced by the Regiments of All Nations label. Set #182 was last produced in 1963 as Set #9114 (with only six pieces instead of eight in a cellophane-fronted "window" box).

The Eleventh Hussars had the distinction of being the only British Hussar regiment with differently colored

breeches than the customary dark blue breeches. Their scarlet ones earned them the nickname of "The Cherry Pickers." The regimental uniform consisted of dark blue tunics with yellow frogging, yellow collars as well as yellow braid at their wrists, scarlet breeches with yellow stripes, and black fur busbies with red busby bags and white-and-red plumes. The officer's plume was taller than the other ranks' plumes. Earlier sets wore brown gloves, but by the postwar period the officer had white gloves while the men were often gloveless (to reduce painting time and therefore production costs).

The position of men standing by their horses was known in the British, and other armies, as "standing to horse." It was used when a cavalry regiment was on the parade ground and entailed the dismounted



Set 2120

BRITAINS DISMOUNTED CAVALRY STANDING TO HORSE *(Continued)*

cavalryman standing on the left side of his horse with reins held in his right hand about six inches from the bit. Cavalrymen mounted their steeds from the left side. The pose represented a regiment standing at attention, which necessitated the horse's reins being tightly held to keep the horse at the halt and stationary. (The rider's scabbard was worn on the outside of the rider's left leg because it would otherwise interfere with or complicate the rider swinging his right leg over the horse when getting into the saddle. The Britains dismounted Hussar lacked a scabbard because Britains displayed the scabbard attached to the left side of the horse's saddle, which also avoided any impediment to swinging the rider's right leg over the saddle when mounting the horse.)

Britains employed the empty-handed dismounted figure again in prewar Set #270 Eleventh Hussars mounted and dismounted, and in postwar Set #2120, which was a three piece "half box" only offered from 1957-1959. Set #2120 held Third Hussars with light blue busby bags and dark blue breeches easily distinguishable from the Eleventh Hussars.

Besides the empty-handed Hussar figure on foot, Britains initiated dismounted sentries holding drawn swords vertically beginning in Set #2029 and #2118 Life Guard Sentries, in Set #2119 Royal Scots Greys, and as Picture Packs #1198-B Life Guard, #1340-B Royal Horse Guard, and #1343-B First Dragoon Guard. None of the postwar sentries were supplied with the riderless horse used in Sets #182, #270, or #2120 (although it was included as part of Set #1907 Khaki Staff Officers and Civil War half boxes #2140 and #2141). Nor is it appropriate to say that these dismounted sentries were "standing to horse" because they were holding a sword and could not be grasping a horse's bridle.

I have not found any of Richard Simkin's prints that might have inspired Britains to make a dismounted "standing to horse" cavalryman, but it is certainly possible that there was some other artist's work that gave them the idea. In any event, it is an out-of-the-ordinary model that belongs in every Britains collection.



Dismounted Sentries

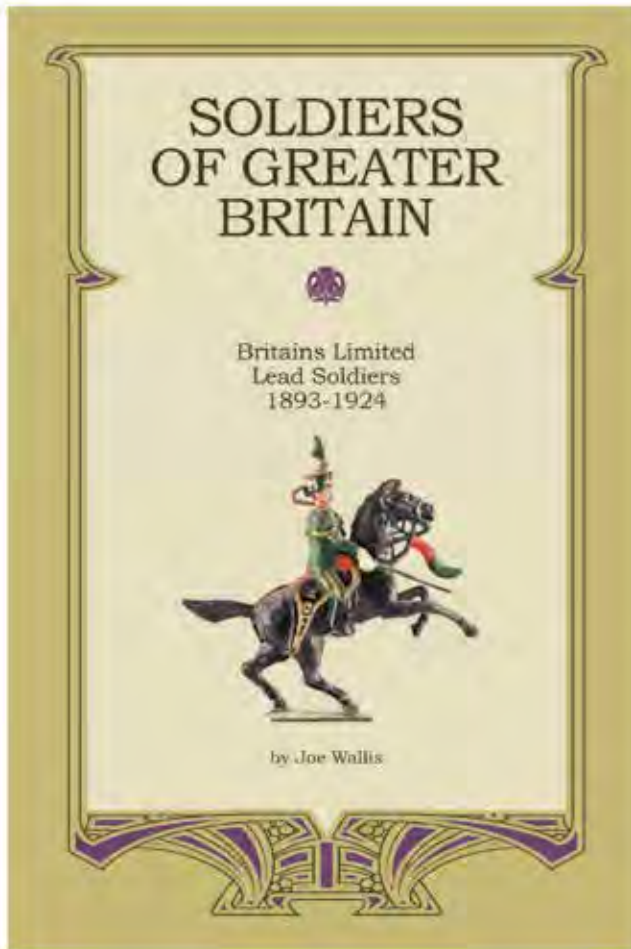


Life Guard Sentries of Set 2029

"All photos taken by Joe Wallis and are from his 2011 hardcover edition of *Regiments of All Nations*. See advertisement in this issue."

SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN

JOE WALLIS



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- Features 782 close-up color photographs placed in numerical order throughout the text by the corresponding set descriptions
- Contains 453 pages providing: color schemes, changes in the composition of sets, cross references to other sets with the same figures, and the years during which each set or item appeared prior to 1925
- Includes a Company History, a chapter of Basic Identification Hints, a Glossary, Appendices listing sets made after 1924, and a Topic Index

Joe Wallis is a noted authority, having written over 150 articles published in the *Old Toy Soldier* journal.

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DIMESTORE UPDATE

By Stan Alekna

In my recent OTS article on Barclay's B295 H.O. Woman with a Dog, I stated that I had never seen the figure nor did I know anyone who had one. Well I have since learned that there are at least two and maybe three, of these figures in existence. Dimestore collector Ken Wittenrich of West Falls, New York sent me the following photos of B295, and the common B277 Woman (without a dog), that he acquired some time ago.

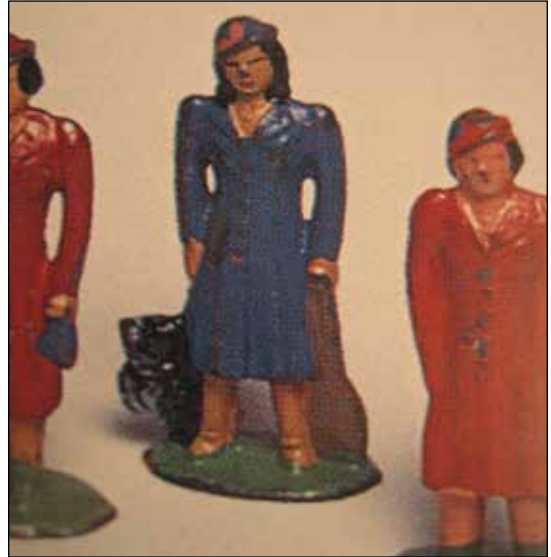


B295 Barclay H.O. Woman with a dog- Photo courtesy of Ken Wittenrich



B277 and B295-Photo courtesy of Ken Wittenrich

After seeing my OTS article, Don Pielin pointed out to me that there is a photo of a B295 on page 29 of the book that he, Norman Joplin, and Verne Johnson authored entitled *"AMERICAN DIMESTORE Toy Soldiers & Figures"*.



Don Pielin's B295

The figure is painted almost identically to Ken Wittenrich's B295, even to the splash of pink paint on her hat that was probably meant to represent a feather. All figures pictured in the book were from Don Pielin's personal collection which he sold through a third party several years ago, so he has no idea who acquired his B295. Don also told me that he knew of the existence of one other H.O. Woman with a dog. So, we now know that there are multiple castings of this super rare figure although we will never know why so few were made.

I was recently contacted by the folks who manage the very impressive Frank Ward museum of toy soldiers and military dioramas in Colorado and they graciously emailed me photos of two of Frank's very rare American Dimestore figures.

In the OTS article in which I revised my ranking of the top 20 rarest Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron soldiers, I placed the Manoil nurse pushing a wheel chair with a wounded soldier as the second rarest Manoil soldier figure. I knew the figure existed because I had personally seen it. I ranked O'Brien's M48a "Sniper, shorter rifle, angle different on underside of rifle", as the rarest Manoil because it was in the "bible", although I had never seen one and did not know anyone who had one. The M48a pictured in

DIMESTORE UPDATE (Continued)

Richard's 3rd edition of "Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers" could simply have been the result of the rifle tip being broken off an M48 figure when it was removed from the mold. Otherwise they look identical to me. We know that there are many of the same slush cast soldiers with rifles of varying lengths due to factory flaws. Also, since multiple molds were used to cast most figures, and since each mold was handmade or chased, no two molds of the same figure are identical. If I ever update my Rarest of the Rare rankings, I would drop M48a entirely and move the nurse pushing the wheelchair to the top spot.



Manoil nurse pushing wheel chair with wounded soldier-
Photos Courtesy of the Frank Ward Collection

Previously, I dropped B18a, "soldier charging", from my rankings because I believed that it was a simple mold variant of B18 and I still believe that today. Warren Mitchell and I vigorously debated the validity of B18a for years. He held that it was a true variant because of the "sling around hand" and the larger head. I maintained that the "sling" was nothing more than lead flashing that was not removed, and that the head of B18a was made a little larger than that of B18 because it had to accommodate the "fish hook" of the

pinned tin helmet when the transition from the glued tin helmet of B18 occurred. I offered to sell Warren a B18a for \$750.00, \$100 less than O'Brien's published price of \$850.00, but he declined. I know he would get a chuckle out of the story of our B18a debate, if he were still with us.

Richard O'Brien was never convinced that the Manoil nurse pushing a wounded soldier was made by Manoil, but he did acknowledge her existence in his 3rd edition of Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS. A photo of the figure and accompanying narrative is on page 627 of the book, a long way from the Manoil section and in the MISC. SOLDIERS section where few collectors would ever see it. Furthermore, I did not see any information or correspondence on this figure when I had the privilege of reviewing Richard's archive files last year.

Also from the managers of the Frank Ward collection, I received a photo of yet another B8 Barclay Cuban flag bearer with a tin helmet. This brings the tally of known Barclay Cuban flag bearers with a tin helmet to three while the count of Barclay Cuban flag bearers with a cast helmet, and Barclay sailor flag bearers with a Cuban flag, remain at one, each. (See my article on Barclay's Cuban flag bearers in the Spring 2016 edition of OTS). Call or email me if you have any of these three Cubans in your collection so I can update the count.



B8 Barclay Cuban flag bearer- Photo courtesy of the Frank Ward collection

DIMESTORE UPDATE *(Continued)*

Lastly, fellow collector Scott Freeland from Texas passed along a very interesting discovery related to Grey Iron's G48 Chief attacking. Scott was browsing through some old books and on page 21 of the book entitled "*Indians of the Americas*" by National Geographic, (4th printing- 1958) he found a photo of a painting of a Mohawk warrior by artist W. Langdon Kihn, from the mid 1930's, that Scott believed was the inspiration for Grey Iron's G48 Indian.



G48 and inspiration painting. Photo Courtesy of Scott Freeland

The pose, facial expression, buckskins and loin cloth of G48 and those of the painting are nearly identical. Until Scott pointed it out, I had never noticed that there were two feathers cast into G48 on his right arm, in the exact position that the two feathers are in the painting, yet only one feather on G48 was painted white. I always thought that the small dab of white paint on the arm was a painter's accidental smear as is found on so many Dimestores. Check your G48 and see if it has one of the two feathers painted white, as have every one that I have checked since Scott's discovery. Why would only one of the two feathers have been painted on every figure? The only noticeable difference between the painting and G48 is that the Indian in the painting is wielding a typical Mohawk war club whereas G48 is brandishing a stone-headed tomahawk. Obviously, this minor difference was because there was no way to reliably create the finely detailed war club out of cast iron. Incidentally, the painting was very appropriately named "A War Whoop Rings Out". An historical fact is that the Mohawks were one of several tribes of the Iroquois nation known for their savagery and their practice of torture and even cannibalism. They waged war with their longtime enemies, the Mohicans and it was the Mohawk's annihilation of the Mohican tribe that inspired James Fenimore Cooper to write "*The Last of the Mohicans*" in 1826.

My quiver of OTS article "arrows" is just about empty. As I talk with Dimestore collectors around the country, I find that many of them have at least one figure or vehicle with unique characteristics that has never been documented before. It does not have to be an earth shattering variant to be interesting. Just look at some of the minor variations that Richard O'Brien considered to be sufficiently unique to merit an individual O'Brien number, or an alphabetic suffix. We, like the Mohicans, Chingachgook and Uncas, are the last members of our Dimestore "tribe" so please share your special treasures with the rest of us by submitting OTS articles.



G48 raised arm with feathers. Photo by Stan Alekna

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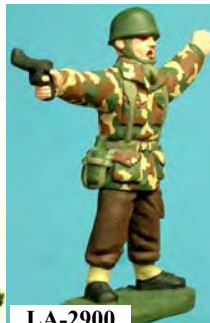


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CAVALRY REGIMENTS OF THE BRITISH ARMY AS PRODUCED BY BRITAINS LTD, 1893-1914

In 1914 the regular cavalry of the British Army included three regiments of Household Cavalry, seven of Dragoon Guards, three of Dragoons, twelve of Hussars, and six of Lancers a total of thirty-one. A typical regiment consisted of about four hundred officers and men, divided into three squadrons further subdivided into four troops of about thirty-five.

Of these thirty-one regiments, Britains Ltd had, by 1914, produced twenty-one. Only two more would follow: the 16th Hussars in 1929, and finally the 7th Hussars, not until the formation of R. M. Chaudhry in 1975. In addition to the twenty-one regiments of the regular cavalry, Britains offered two regiments of Yeomanry, four Colonial units, and six regiments of cavalry from the Indian Army. Last, but far from least, they included the Royal Horse Artillery, actually the second senior unit in the entire British Army.



A number of regiments appear in different forms, e.g. both heavy and light dragoon regiments, or as different forms of cavalry, or with different weapons. Such differences from the mass added variety to the overall picture, and clearly represented the standard versions. The dates given below each figure indicate when that figure was first introduced, and when it would have been removed from production.

Included on the bottom row, in addition to the Field Marshal, are some of the larger display sets, or even examples of Britains' small size figures, the "N" series. These figures are all shown, rather than the standard form, and were issued in first quality paint style. They were produced from 1893-1914.



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SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS

By John Franklin



Britains Toy Soldier production has been of interest to a fair number of collectors over past decades, not only the sets that appeared in the annual Catalogue but also others which fall into two further branches. Firstly, those numbered sets not in the annual Catalogue but as listed in the Britains archives and documentation, which records came to light 15 or 20 years ago, and secondly those sets or groups known as Specials, not in Catalogues or the numbered list but available to special order or available if you knew about them and could ask for them direct from Britains, or went to Hamleys, Gamages, etc. This article is exploring and reporting on a few of these Specials in the second branche, those which are non catalogued Britains special orders.

This article stems from looking at and participating in the Britains scene for over 40 years but does not claim to be definitive, they are notes, reports and pictures of figures as seen by me and of figures owned by me. There are no doubt lots of other sets and groups of Britains Specials which other collectors are able to

report on, and any subsequent articles and submissions by them will increase the knowledge, examples and logging of this area of Britains Toy Soldier production.

But the problem with Britains Specials is where to begin, how to give some categories into which a myriad of examples known about can be put. There are a number of relevant facets and features of Britains soldier production, as below, and a fair number of Specials fall into more than one slot.

We have

- a) Pre-war (1939-45): Post-war
- b) Standard Painting:
Higher grade painting
- c) One off: Generally available
- d) Military Units:
English Infantry
English Cavalry
Scottish Infantry
Indian army
Artillery
- e) Squads, or bands, or
colour parties
- f) Full dress: service dress:
steel helmeted
Etc, etc

So indeed where to begin. As the title says 'Some' Britains Specials. This article does not set out to be a definitive report of the whole range of all of Britains Specials, probably an unrealistic aim in any case. It is a coverage of some that the author is aware of and which readers might like to see.

Lets have a stab at a first overall category breakdown and see how we get on.

A first split might be

- A) The Pottier-Smith (P-S) Collection
- B) Some other specific one off Collections
- C) Some 'One-off' examples
- D) Some generally available examples
- E) Miscellaneous

So here goes:

A - The Pottier-Smith Collection

The Pottier-Smith (P-S) collection is probably the most well known and best, comprehensive assembly of Toy and Model Soldiers, which incorporates Britains Specials, seen in the last 40 or 50 years. Mr P-S, a

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS *(Continued)*

member of BMSS, assembled his collection primarily in the 1930s. He bought not only catalogued boxed sets but also a range of Specials across the board, he ordered the best painting Britains could do, which turned out to be superb (see P14 on page 48). Three-quarters of his Britains assembly however were numbered box sets from the Catalogue range. They too however were of an excellent paint standard and style (see P13 on page 48).

When Mr. P-S passed away in the 1950s his collection was held privately then came up for auction at Phillips in the 1970s in four batches;

December 9, 1971

July 20, 1972

Decemeber 14, 1972

April 5, 1973

One could generate a fairly large chapter, for a book on Britains Soldiers, solely devoted to the P-S collection as sold through Phillips. Out of the four sales, with a bit of detective work and knowledge, it was probably possible to pick out the 50 or more lots which were or included Specials. Unfortunately the Auctioneer's catalogue at the time described a fair number of these lots as 'repainted', but a number of bidders thought otherwise! I had been fortunate enough to acquire both at the time, and subsequently, a number of these Auctioneer's catalogued lots had both numbered sets and Specials and below are some examples of the latter, P1 - P15.

Mr. P-S acquired through his selection of his orders an excellent range of Regiments, Units, Countries, et. al, certainly filling in his desired line. In all honesty the standard for Britains painting, the extent of the Collection, the variety of sets etc, was appreciated by very few people at the time, myself included, much indeed to the regret subsequently of a fair number of collectors in those early 1970s. In fact this collection has not been surpassed for range or quality. The first version of this article (unpublished) a few years ago said, "There is one area of Mr P-S's focused ordering not illustrated in P1 - P13 below, but absolutely delights just the same, as small vignettes in their own right, vis



P1 (i) English Infantry Officers



P1 (ii) English Infantry Officers [Centre figure Light Infantry]



P2 (i) English Cavalry



P2 (ii) English Cavalry



P3 Royal Horse Guards

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS *(Continued)*



P4 (i) Scottish Infantry and Officers



P4 (ii) Scottish Infantry Officers



P5 RASC



P6 RE

any one of his Specials bands not illustrated since I have not been able to acquire any of these bands, more's the pity." That bete noire has now been laid to rest, see 9 below. So a few P-S groups and units:

1 English Infantry Officers

Jock Coutts (Under Two Flags shop, London) bought in July 1972 one lot comprising 'Infantry Officers', 31 of them described as 'Series 1908, in original box'. They were not in fact Set 1908 but Specials, all various facings. I acquired from Jock's shop this group of 15, P1. Did I want the box? Jock asked!!

2 English Cavalry

One lot in the 1973 Auction was described as "Repainted Dragoon Guards and two on foot, (26)". A number of these came up for sale subsequently in the 1990s and I was fortunate to acquire 14 of them, P2(i) and (ii). (ii) also includes an Officer of the 10th Hussars, also from the P - S collection, acquired just after 1973 from a dealer as a one off. The groups from L - R in P2(i) are 3 from 1st Dragoon Guards, gold collars

and one with blue collar, together with 3 from the 5th Dragoon Guards. In P2(ii) we have 4 from the 7th Dragoon Guards, 2 unknown and the 10th Hussar Officer. The 2 unknown have black plumes, white facings and white trouser stripes. Are they a colonial regiment or were they a stab at the 2nd Dragoon Guards?

The second group in this category are the Royal Horse Guards, P3. A superb group, all 5 different.

3 Scottish Infantry and Officers

In the July 1972 sale I shared two lots of Scottish Infantry and Officers with a fellow collector, and the group of 31, P4, was my share, we both got officers on foot, officers mounted, men and pipers. At the time there appeared to be an interesting anomaly, the 'supposed' Black Watch pipers, seemingly the same as Gordons etc but with the Black Watch Tartan! Another of Britains hiccups? This is now known to be what Britains produced for Black Watch pipers in the mid 1930s, as in the only sets

of Black Watch marching, those in the Parade series. See OTSN Vol 41 No 1, reporting on the Parade series Black Watch.

4 Corps Troops

P5 shows the full set of RASC troops made for Mr P-S, 15 no, and P6 shows the Royal Engineers, a similar group to the RASC, but 3 Officers got split and sold separately prior to my acquiring the 12 shown here. These 3 officers are out there somewhere.

5 Artillery

P7 shows RFA gunners dismounted with their steeds. P8 shows RHA dismounted and mounted gunners

6 Colonials

There were four groups of Special Britains Indian Infantry in the 1971 sale, these were not catalogued as repainted or specials!

Sikhs
43rd Erinpura Regt
19th Punjabis
42nd Deoli Regt

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS (Continued)



P7 RFA



P8 (i) RHA



P8 (ii) RHA



P9 Erinpura Regt



P10 Doeli Regt



P11 Sikhs



P12 Rhodesia Regt

P9 shows the Erinpura Regt, and P10 the Doeli Regt. While I know the provenance of these two groups and know they are what they are, I do not have the provenance for P11, but believe them to be the Sikhs. I believe the Punjabis are as shown in James Opie's Book 'Collecting Toy Soldiers. 1987, p49. The top set on p49 is actually the Erinpura Regt as per P9.

There were three groups of Indian Cavalry in the four P-S sales. Two in 1971, 'Sixteen Britains Indian Cavalry, three lancers and a foot figure (*all repainted*)' and, 'Britains. Seven Skinners Horse with bugler and other (*repainted*) Indian

Lancers (17)', and a lot in 1973 'Britains Indians, many repainted and converted to represent various Indian Regiments', the number of figures in this lot was not given! I think I would have been interested in these three lots but didn't discern them at the time, and I have not seen anything of the figures from these lots since.

P12 Shows what were catalogued by Phillips as Rhodesia Regt.

7 Other

P13 shows one of the normal listed Britains sets from the P-S collection, the Italian Infantry in Tropical Dress set 1436, as can be seen a high

standard of painting, together with the Special Officer to go with these ordinary ranks, Britains did not normally provide an officer with this Set 1436.

8 11th Hussar Officer

I acquired the 10th Hussar officer P2 (ii) 40 years ago from a small dealer following the P-S sales at Phillips, this was my lone cavalry officer till 20 or so years later when I bought some groups of Dragoon and Dragoon Guards figures, as 2 above, with 4 fine officers, as shown above P2 (i) & (ii). I always thought the lone 10th Hussar would appreciate another P-S Hussar or 6th Dragoon Guards officer for company. to hold his own

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS *(Continued)*



P13 Italian tropical dress Officer



P14 11th Hussar Officer

amongst all those red coated chaps. Last year on e-bay the 11th Hussar officer was offered for sale by one of the e-bay toy dealers. It was clear to me he matched my 10th Hussar officer and I was fortunate to acquire him, and these 2 Hussars make a splendid pair, P14.

9 Drums & Fifes of the Durham Light Infantry

For many years I thought the Holy Grails of Britains Specials collectors were the bands and colour parties. And the holiest of the Holy Grails would be a P-S band. There were 11 bands in the July 1972 sale of the P-S collection, some tagged 'repainted'. One lot was described as 'Britains Band of the Line (repainted) including Drum Major, movable arms. (17)' At auction a couple of years ago this set was offered, and together with provenance, it was

correctly identified and confirmed by the cataloguer with the painting style and exquisite standard to be a P-S Special, and then from the green helmets and green facings to be the Durham Light Infantry, P15. And it was not a band per se but drums and fifes, with the classic composition of Britains Specials drums and fifes, see P29(i). Such sets also included a bugler and cymbals player in the 17 pieces, not present in Britains standard Sets 320 or 321.

I was fortunate enough to acquire the set and it is a fine product of Britains Specials painters. There are 10 other P-S special painting bands out there, so keep your eyes peeled. However having only seen or been aware of one, this P15, coming onto the market in 40+ years they are not all that common!



P15 Drums and Fifes of the Durham Light Infantry

B - Some Other Specific One Off collections

I know of three other Collections with some Specials orders in them which have come onto the Auction market in London in the last two or three decades.

1. The most comprehensive of the three would seem to be what was known by some folk as the Isle of Man Collection which mainly came up for Auction at Sothebys Belgravia in Sept 1980, and then some the following year.

A number of these lots, about 20, were described as 'Collector Models' or 'Collector Series', these were primarily English Cavalry and some Indian Army. Some conventional sets were described as 'Collector Series' and these usually included an officer or trumpeter, not normally issued in that set, examples were the Sudanese Infantry or Middlesex Yeomanry.

I did acquire some 7th Hussars at the halt at the time but the paint seemed to flake from the reins so I didn't keep them. The sale catalogue, (some copies are still around), is quite interesting with a fair number of interesting black and white photographs.

Also in the same Auction was a series of lots described as 'A Collection of Britains Lead Soldiers

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS *(Continued)*

some specially commissioned by the previous Owner' It is not clear whether these were part of the same Isle of Man Collection or not. There were about 25 lots in this group and included Indian Cavalry, English Cavalry, various Gun Teams etc., etc. A number of these are featured in James Opie's Big Book, pp. 325,328,331 etc.

After the Auction I managed to acquire some Indian Cavalry P16, four 18th (King Georges) Bengal Lancers and six 25th Punjab Frontier Force. Subsequently I acquired some of the Royal Engineers P17. Both groups are from the second series of 25 lots in this Sotherby's sale.

2. Two other smaller collections came up for sale though Phillips in 1991 and 1993.

The 1991 sale comprised 19 lots, reportedly for an Australian Collector. They were of British Cavalry regiments and included an Officer and trumpeter, some are shown in P18.

The 1993 sale lot was of a special order of the Hampshire Regt which included a Colour Party, P19.

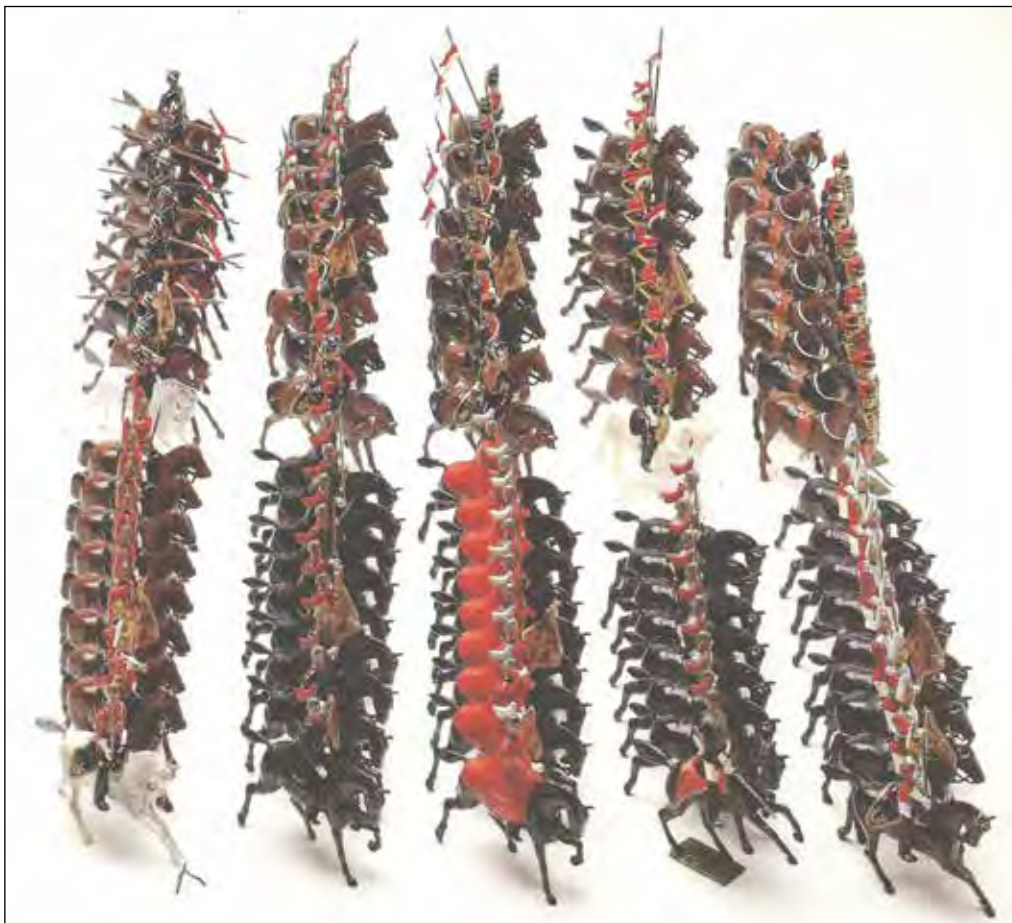


P16 Officer and 5 sowars from 25th Punjab Frontier Force & 4 sowars from 18th (King Georges) Bengal Lancers



P17 RE Limbered Wagon & Escort

SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS *(Continued)*



P18 British Cavalry from the Australian Collection



P19 Hampshire Regiment



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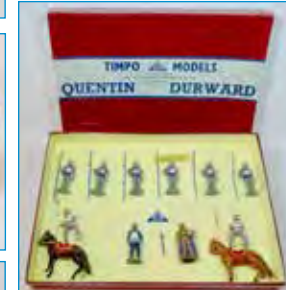
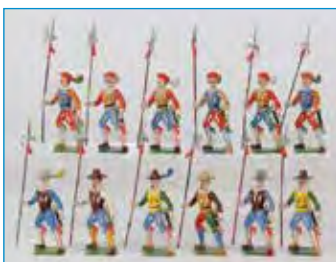
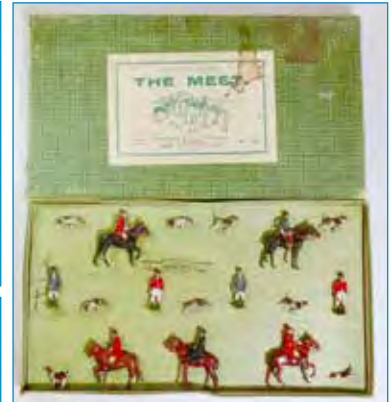
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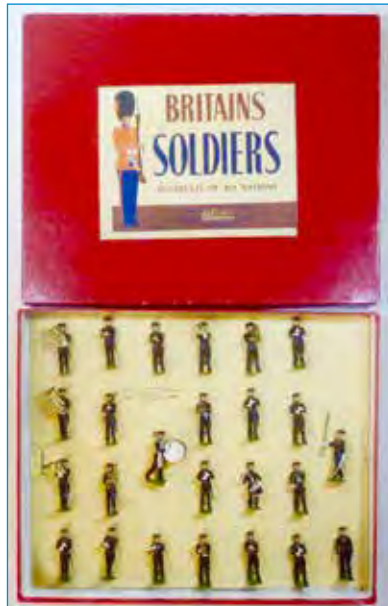
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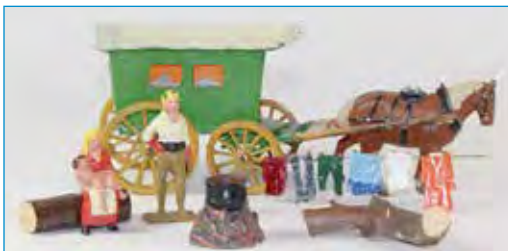
AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)



AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



EDWARD JONES EPHEMERA AND THE GEORGE KEESTER LETTERS

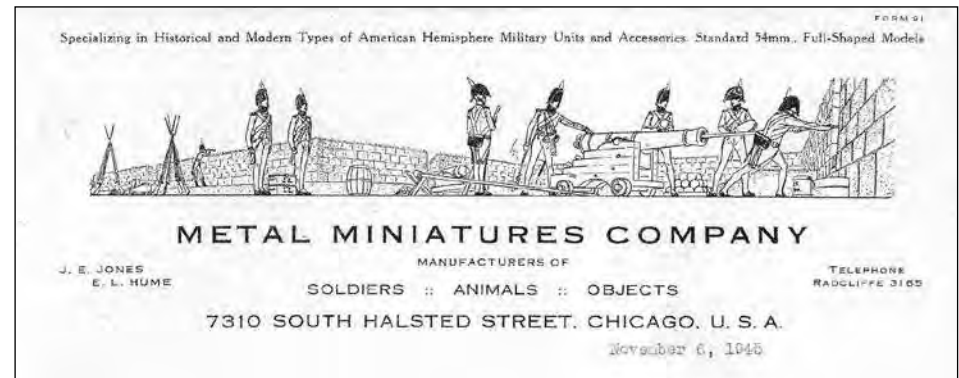
By Don Pielin and Lou Sandbote

When researching for a non-fiction reference book, every author has to make the decision as to when to stop looking and start writing. When the piece is completed and sent for publication, the author's instinct often tells him that there is more out there waiting to be found.

Such was the case with my The Toy Soldier Art of J. Edward Jones when my good friend and colleague, Norman Joplin provided me with a series of letters between Jones and George Keester and Holger Erickson. These letters which span the years from 1945 to 1955 give some insight into Jones' struggles with post war problems. Jones seemed to be torn between expanding the company or streamlining it.

The letterhead Jones used in 1945 advertised that Moulded Miniatures made not only standard size (54mm) toy soldiers but also had a line of architectural and interior detail items such as machinery, office furniture and fixtures, as well as employee and customer figures. These were the specialty of Authenicast, which also produced toy soldiers, mainly sculpted by Holger Ericksson.

The letterhead also lists Ella Louise Hume as his partner. Hume had joined Jones in the late 1930's when he formed Metal Miniatures. That company closed its doors in 1942 when the Government restricted the use of lead to war industries. In earlier letters Hume mentioned that she felt she would never see the money she had invested



Some of the many letterheads and address' used by Jones

with Jones, she may have had a change of heart. Jones stated in a letter to George Keester that he now had new funding and was ready to release new figures. Of course Jones was always going to release new figures within the next few days, weeks, months or in the new year coming.

While Jones seems to be expanding operations, he also tells Keester in his letters that he is looking to sell some of his molds.

Reading these letters, it is difficult to determine what direction he is actually trying to move.

The first new figures Jones talks about releasing after the war (his 1945 letter says "wartime restrictions on lead toy soldiers are only partially removed") were to be a Civil War Federal Captain with head turned to the side, A highlander with bag pipes opposite of the Britains pose, and a Mohawk Chief with

EDWARD JONES EPHEMERA AND THE GEORGE KEESTER LETTERS *(Continued)*

his rifle across his thighs. The Federal officer was based on the McBarron illustration often found on letterheads, the piper has only been found in the Jones Collection that was donated to the Chicago History Museum and as far as we know the Mohawk was never even committed to paper. While these new items are being discussed in one letter, in another he is talking about selling period groups of molds, such as the Revolutionary war or the western series or the Khaki group.

Jones began his correspondence with Holger Ericksson in 1948 after Erickson had made figures for Jones' rival Comet Toy Soldiers. In the first letter he asks Erickson if he would be interested in making figures for Jones company.

Included in the request for models was a running Civil War Zouave officer with a sword raised in his right hand and pointing forward with his left hand. This description matching the pose of the running highland officer from the Moulded Miniatures set.

Also requested was a mounted 1775 British Major General Lord Percy in a crested hat on a walking white horse, this description matches the figure of General Pike from the Miniature Figures line. The balance of what Jones asked for were British 17th Lancers or Hussar of various periods from 1845 through 1943 and British 21st Lancers from 1861 through 1906. No small request on his part.

Erickson responded that he could not make as many figures as

were requested because he had a day time job and could only make a few at a time. He agreed with Jones' request to change his bases to match Britains and did pen and ink drawings of the figures, (this was for Jones to use in his catalog) that he was able to make. The models and drawings he submitted were of the Zouave Officer and the Mounted British Officer. He apparently also sent along some research on Swedish uniforms and units. We know by the letter that accompanied the shipment that these two models were received by Jones. Replying to Erickson, Jones complains that the cost of the models were quite a bit higher than the models he could get here. The models were \$4.00 for foot and \$7.00 for Mounted, these were master figures from which casting molds were to be made. The tone of the rest of the letter seems to calm down and Jones ends by asking Erickson to make several other models.

Jones' other instructions were about not giving anyone a copy of the model and that all test models had to come to the company. One last letter was exchanged and contained mostly pleasantries about research and painting. This was the last letter, dated 1950.

The vast majority of the content in the correspondence between Jones and Keester entailed the buying and selling of figures and research materials. Jones often asked Keester to make master models for Moulded Miniatures, which he refused to do. Keester was prolific in his writing for various publications and did

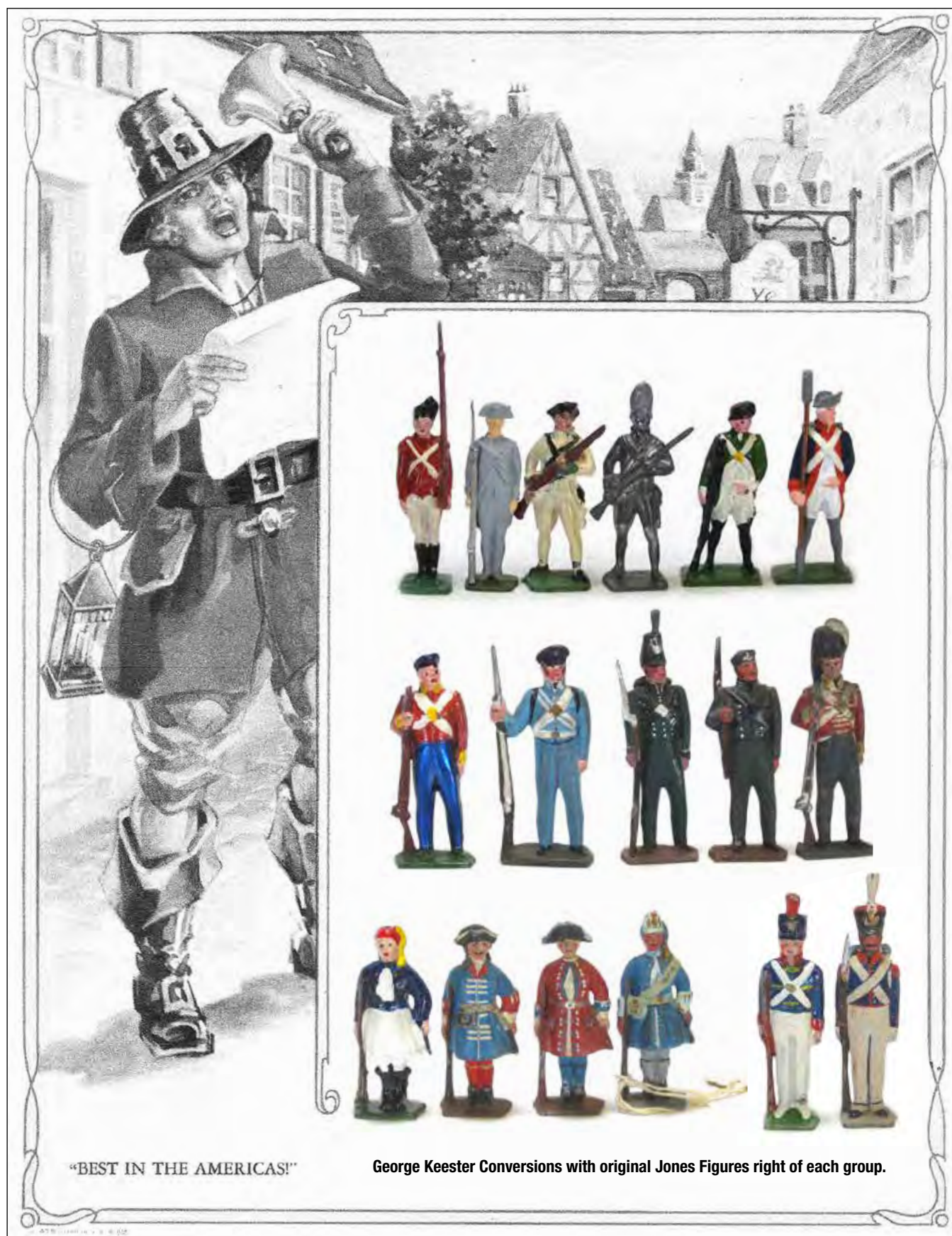
a great deal of converting and painting toy soldiers in matte paint. These matte painted figures were coveted by Jones and he let Keester know that.

No one knows what happened to Jones' collection of post war figures and according to the letters he didn't get many from Keester. After Keester passed away most of his painted figures made their way to the Chicago Toy Soldier Show and were bought by collectors there.

After his divorce, Jones had a hard time keeping his business together. He embarked on the Varifix Brand which utilized separate head, torso, legs and arms to make interchangeable figures. He, along with his partner in the business at the time, Owen Regan, began to experiment with separate heads in order to make several different soldiers out of a single body style. The last new figure that he produced was in 1955, when he had a model made of a 1775 British Royal Artilleryman holding a lighted match with a rifle slung over his back. A single example of that soldier exists in the Chicago History Museum collection. Jones' health was suffering through all this and he died in 1960.

While this new information helps to put a few pieces into the puzzle, it does not answer all the questions that remain about J. Edward Jones. Now to sit back and wait for the next chapter in the saga, hopefully it will not take as long as it did to finish the Game of Thrones books.

EDWARD JONES EPHEMERA AND THE GEORGE KEESTER LETTERS *(Continued)*



EDWARD JONES EPHEMERA AND THE GEORGE KEESTER LETTERS (Continued)

The correspondence was obtained by
Lou Sandbote and generously provided
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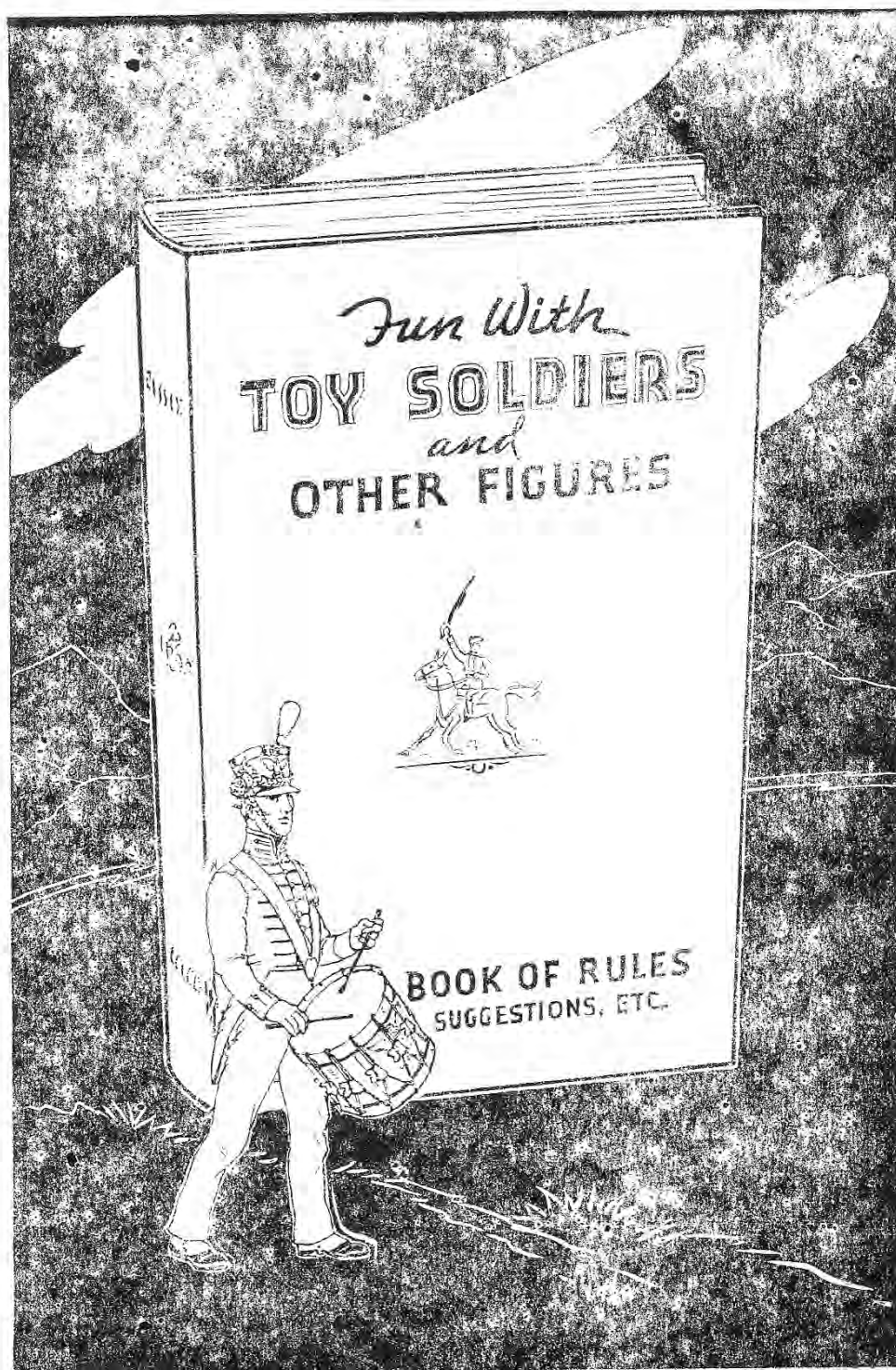
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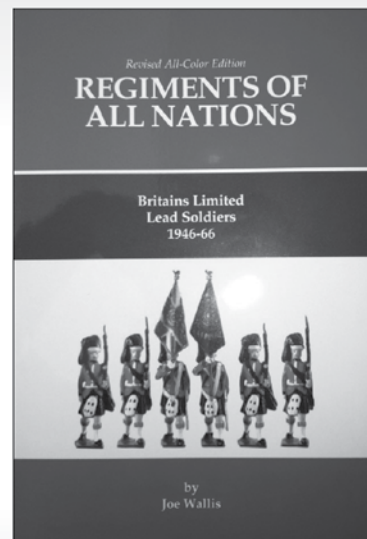
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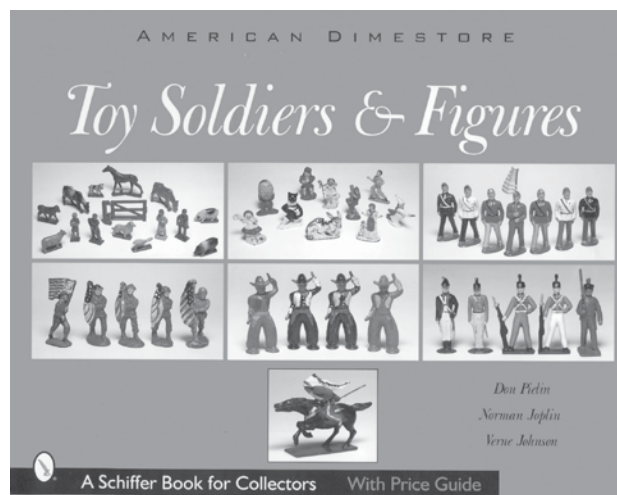


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r	s	c	o	t	s	g	u	a	r	d	s	k	h	a	r	r	o	d	a
f	e	e	t	a	r	e	d	e	f	n	o	c	i	n	m	i	r	r	t
j	j	e	t	m	y	w	w	v	e	m	b	a	g	n	r	c	e	a	b
n	l	e	f	s	u	r	r	s	e	f	b	p	h	o	i	c	t	u	w
u	h	r	n	j	y	z	g	q	n	g	i	e	l	i	q	v	g	g	r
x	o	s	e	y	w	e	m	u	s	k	m	r	a	g	n	d	y	e	u
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s	a	a	b	m	x	f	j	n	i	o	w	c	n	z	a	z	i	t	e
z	r	p	c	i	m	g	a	o	f	a	j	c	s	x	i	k	c	z	k
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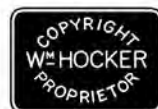
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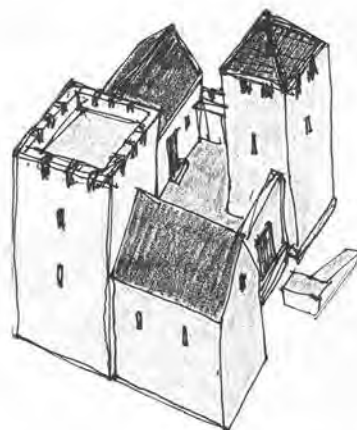
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See Advertisement in this issue.

November 29th- Wednesday Ray and Bre Live on
Facebook/oldtoysoldier

December 1st, 2nd, 3rd - Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
OTS Auctions The Wonderful World of Toy Soldiers.
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*Dates and times are correct at the time of printing; however,
it is strongly advised that before traveling, contact is made
with show organizers to confirm date(s).*

2018

January 19th- 28th - Winter Antiques Show-
winterantiquesshow.com

January 28th - Sunday South Florida Toy Soldier and
Collectables Show. 954-699-6040

February 23rd - Friday 125th Anniversary Symposium
at the Frazier Kentucky History Museum.
829 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202.
General Admission: \$28 Frazier Members: \$22
www.fraziermuseum.org/wbritain 502.753.5663

March 4th- Sunday 29th Annual Westcoaster Toy Soldier
Show- www.thewestcoaster.com

September 23rd - Sunday 38th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier
Show. 10:00am-3:30pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Scha-
umburg, IL. Contact: Roger Garfield 847-567-5355
roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com
Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

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