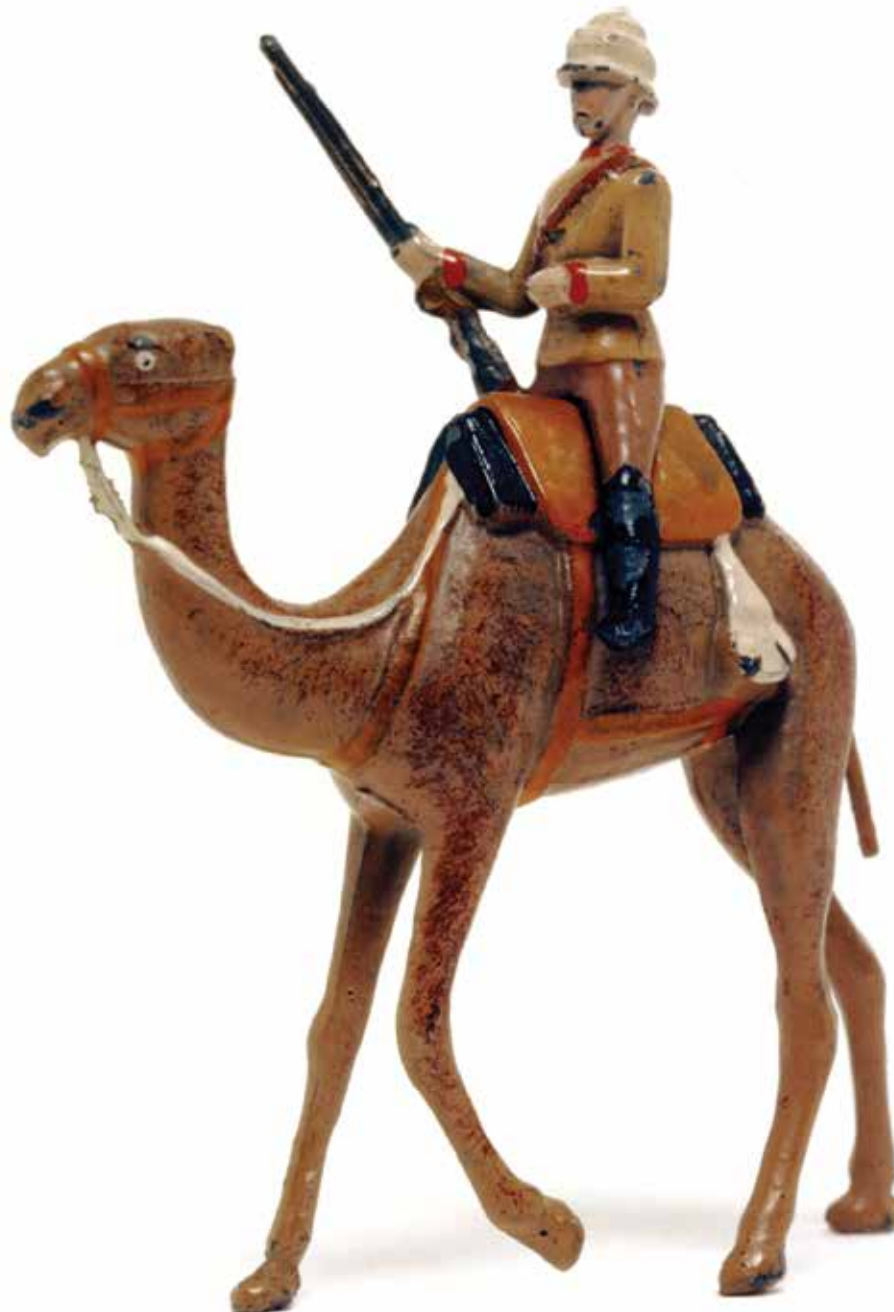
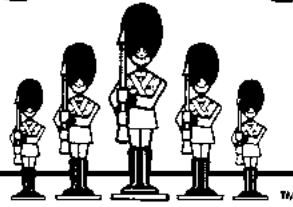


Spring  
2017

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 41 Number 1  
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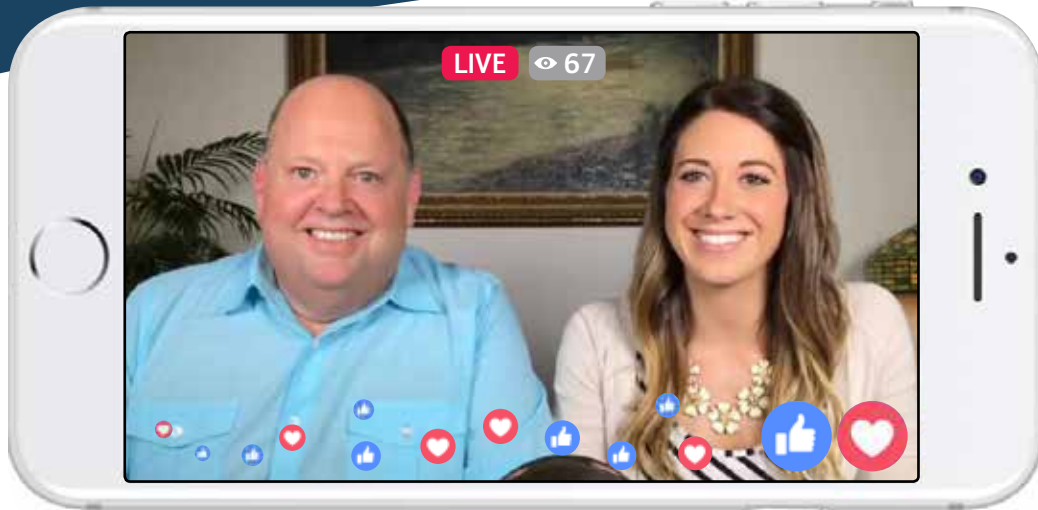


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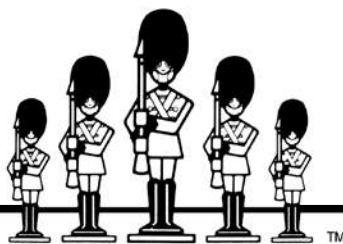
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BRITAINS CAMEL CORPS

Photograph courtesy Old Toy Soldier Archives

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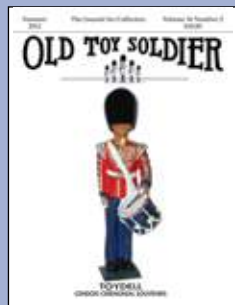


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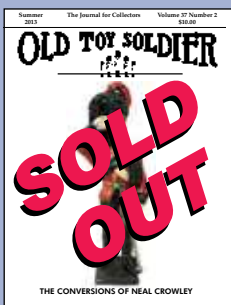


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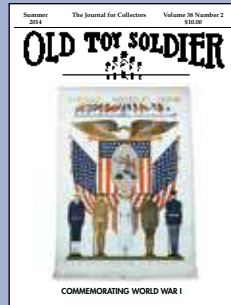


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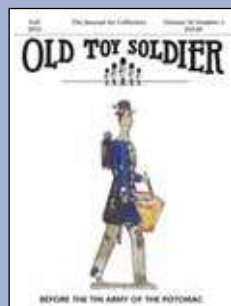
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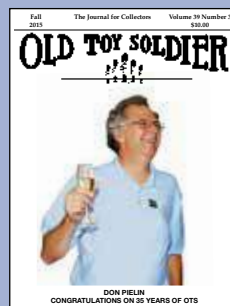
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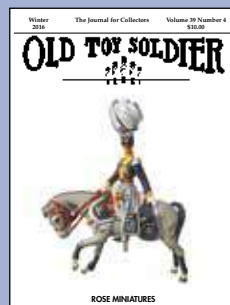
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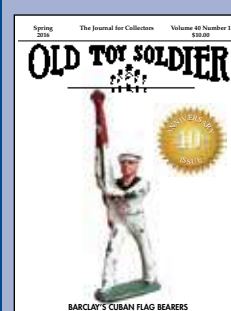


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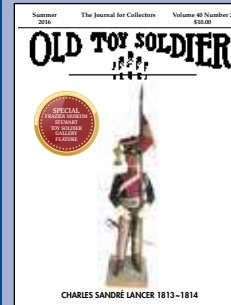


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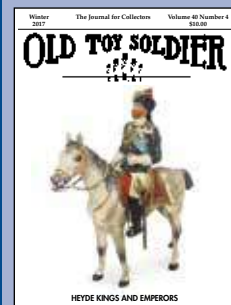
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# HOBBY NEWS

## *Louis Sheldon Steinberg* AUGUST 13TH, 1930 - MARCH 13TH, 2017



Louis S. Steinberg, 86 years old, died Monday March 13th, 2017, at Kaiser Hospital in Woodland Hills, California. He was born in Chattanooga Tennessee, son of Max and Clara Steinberg. In his youth he attended McCaullie Military School. He went on to serve the U.S. Coast Guard on the Voice of America Ship during the Korean War.

In the mid 1950's, traveling abroad and while in Sweden, he met Parsla, a beautiful ballet dancer with whom he would spend the rest of his life. Back in America, they married in 1956 in Georgia, came to California for their honeymoon and never left – staying to raise three children in the San Fernando Valley. Through the years, the love they shared together was truly a blessing. Every anniversary was shared by dancing together to their favorite song, As Time Goes By.

His career was primarily in Hollywood's entertainment industry, behind the scenes managing operations of

studios and related events. He was involved with the popular Soul Train and while working at KTTV, a career highlight was landing the Norman Lear account, initially bringing to the studios and air waves All in the Family, Maude, and Good Times. Later, he held executive positions with Merv Griffin Inc., and Compact Video. In Addition, he proudly served on the Los Angeles Film Development Commission.

After a successful run in the entertainment industry, he switched gears and with his sons, opened a retail family hobby store. In 1986, Classic Hobbies & Toys opened in Northridge and thrived for 20 years. It was during this time, he developed a strong passion for Toy Soldiers.

At first, his fascination drove him to acquire a big collection of Toy Soldiers. Next, he began to make his own originals, privately referring to these original masterpieces as what should have been, or "shudabins".

With his raw talent, attention to detail and drive for perfection on these little original figurines, he became a Master Soldier Sculptor. His precise works have a natural Dimestore presence. They shine with life, show feeling, and are sprinkled with that identifiable "Lou" style.

Soldiering and everything related to this hobby, and everybody involved in this hobby was what made him thrive. ***He loved the hobby and especially all of you guys.*** Examples are below of some of Lou's unique creations.

He is Survived by Parsla, his loving wife of 61 years, his sons Michael and Stefan, and his daughter Lisa. He is also survived by Stefan's six boy's, his wonderful grandchildren - Max, Luke, Nick, Kurt, Josh, and Colten.

Rest in Peace – We love you and miss you very much.



**Lou Steinberg's Unique Dimestore Conversions World War I Wounded.**



**Lou Steinberg's Unique Dimestore Conversions Sailor with Duffle Bag.**



**Lou Steinberg's Unique Dimestore Conversions World War I Military Policeman with Baton.**

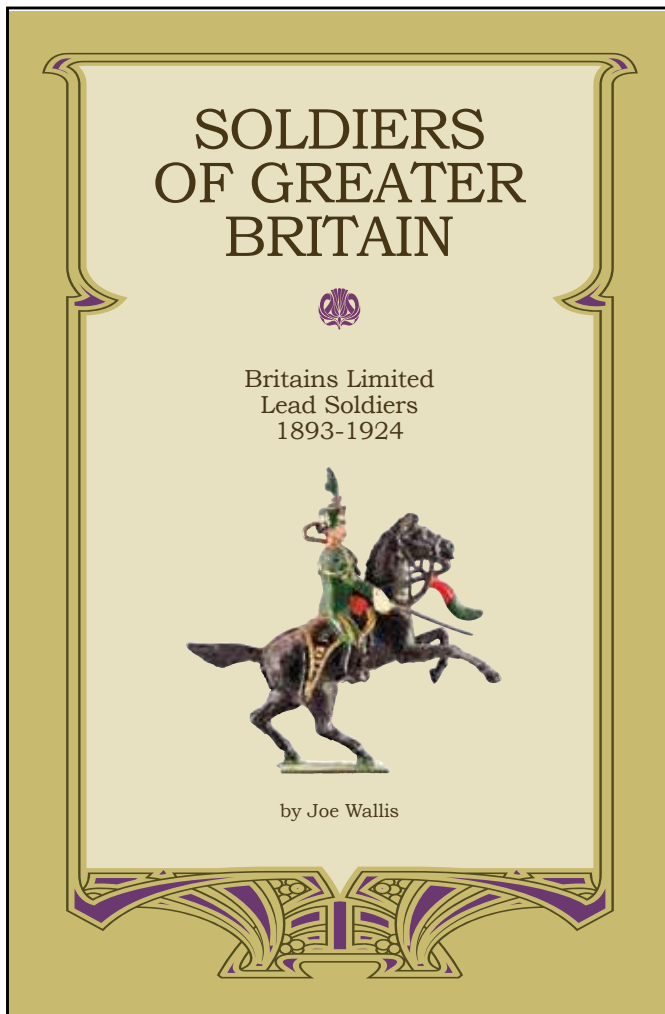


**Lou Steinberg's Unique Dimestore Conversions Red Cross Ski Trooper.**

## ***Soldiers of Greater Britain***

*By Joe Wallis*

*Soldiers of Greater Britain* is the third volume of Joe Wallis' in-depth history of Britains Limited Lead Soldiers. It deals with the era between 1893 and 1924 when the firm developed the distinctive style and quality that made Britains toy soldiers the most popular and recognizable in the world. This intensively researched book answers questions about early mechanical toys, "ancient" Britains figures, sources of their designs, accuracy of their models, the small-scale B Series, the little-known Paris Office, and Fred Whisstock's wonderful box labels. *Soldiers of Greater Britain* along with *Armies of the World, 1925-1941* and *Regiments of All Nations, 1946-1966* provides a thorough and authoritative record of Britains traditional lead lines. See [www.leadsoldierbooks.com](http://www.leadsoldierbooks.com).



- 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*.

See ordering details ad in this issue.

# BRITISH CAMEL CORPS REGIMENTS 1884 AND THE POSSIBLE BRITAINS CONNECTION

*By Norman Joplin*

*This unpublished article was submitted to OTSN in 1984 by Colonel Donald R Pudney .  
Lord of Hinderclay with additional, subsequent research by OTS magazine editor Norman Joplin.*



As the under-bidder at the Len Richards Toy Soldier Auction in London at Phillips Auctioneers in 1981, for the very rare Camel Corps figure issued only in Britains display set #131. I have, up to the time of writing this article in 1984, failed to find another.

I have researched the possible connection between the Britains figure and the actual Camel Corps regiment, having noted James Opie's comment in the auction catalogue his assertion that the item possibly represented a Royal Horse Guard (Blues and Royals as they were later named).

The letter reproduced in this article from Lt. Colonel. A.D. Meakin, Commander and curator of the Household Cavalry Museum at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, Berkshire outlines and explains to a certain degree the story of the formation of the Camel Regiments in England and Egypt, together with the possible inspiration for the Britains figure.

The Centenary of the Household Cavalry took place in 1984, as was documented in "Acorn" the Regimental Magazine of the Life Guards.

In the 1882 Campaign in Egypt, the 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards each sent two squadrons, mounted on their normal horses, and in the process earned Battle Honours at Tel del Kebir in that year.



## BRITISH CAMEL CORPS REGIMENTS 1884 (Cont.)

In 1884 due to the deteriorating situation in the Sudan where General Gordon was stationed at Khartoum, The British Government decided to form up an expedition for his relief under the command of Lord Wolseley (of Wolseley Helmet fame).

The expedition was formed by detachments from each of the Cavalry Regiments\*\* stationed in England and Egypt. Comprising a Heavy Camel Regiment, a Light Camel Regiment, a Foot Guards Camel Regiment and another from British Infantry Regiments already stationed in Egypt.

Each detachment consisted of 2 Officers, 1 Corporal Major, 4 NCOs, 1 Trumpeter and 38 men. The regiment as a whole was commanded by Colonel, the Hon. R. Talbot of the 1st Life Guards, Regimental Headquarters staff and supplemented by Major Hon C Byng, 1st Life Guards, Major Earl Dundonald, 2nd Life Guards and Major Lord A. Somerset, Royal Horse Guards.

The U.K. element assembled at Aldershot and sailed from England in September 1884. On arrival in Egypt they encamped at the Pyramids then proceeded by train to Asswan where they took over their Camels.

The mind boggles at the likely scene of the training camp in Asswan, and in a lighter vein, the initial association of footguards with Camels must have been a sight to see. The Cavalrymen probably took to the Camels with much greater ease.

Matters deteriorated quickly following a slow boat trip up the Nile river as they set off to dash 150 miles\*\*\* across the desert to relieve General Gordon without even waiting for their baggage or tents.

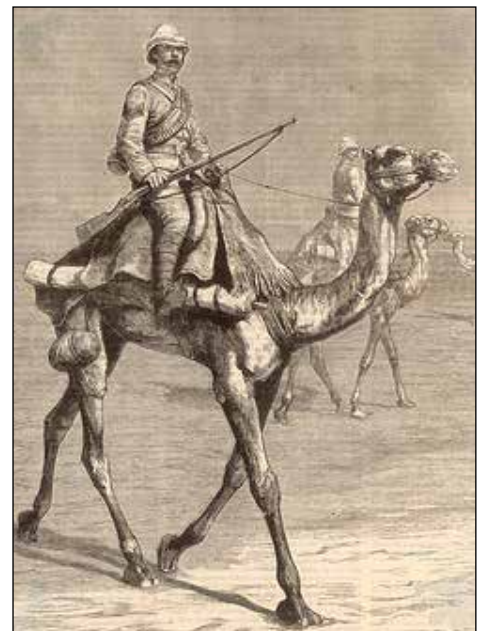
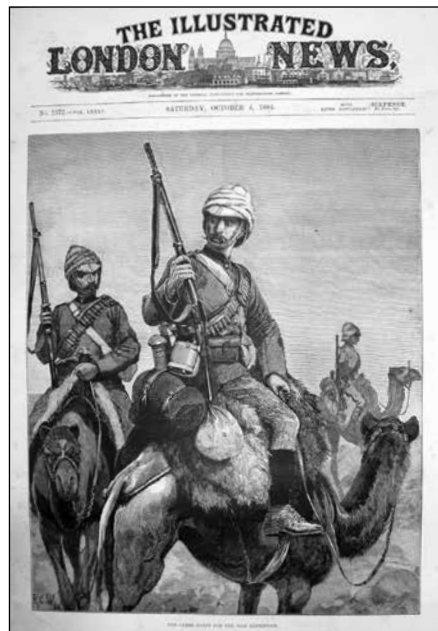
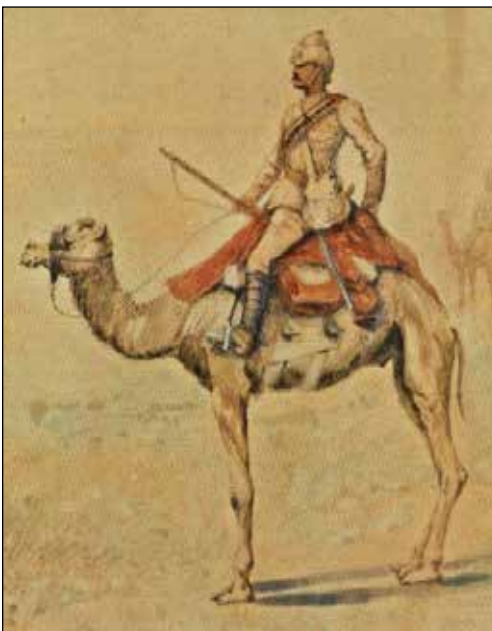
They reached the wells at Aber Klea on 17th January 1895, and encountered a very large force of Arabs numbering some 16.000. Forming quickly into a traditional square they fought, in many cases to the death. The British



General Gordon



Colonel R. Talbot



Artwork courtesy of Corporal Will Perry who served in the 2nd Lifeguards.

## BRITISH CAMEL CORPS REGIMENTS 1884 (Cont.)

Expedition sustained losses of 74 dead and 94 wounded \*\*\*\*.

News reached the troops that Khartoum had fallen and General Gordon had been killed. Following skirmishes with the Dervishers for three or four months the British Government recalled the expedition in May 1885 and abandoned the Sudan until 1898 when Lord Kitchener returned to avenge General Gordon.

It is possible that William Britain saw a watercolour of the Camel Regiment painted by Corporal Will Perry of the 2nd Life Guards who took part in the campaign. The Perry painting, as of 1984 was displayed in the Household Cavalry Museum in Windsor Berkshire.

The Camel Regiments, despite their bravery, received no Battle Honour from the expedition, presumably in view of the small numbers involved, but on their return to England on 14th July 1885, they were personally welcomed home by Her Majesty Queen Victoria and later received their much deserved campaign medals. The 2nd Life Guards had the great distinction of having their medals affixed to their tunics.

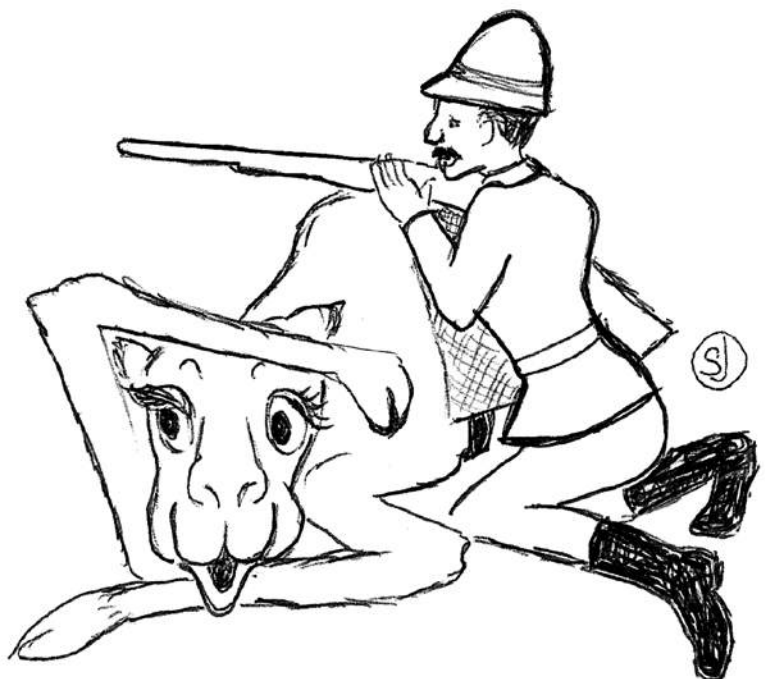
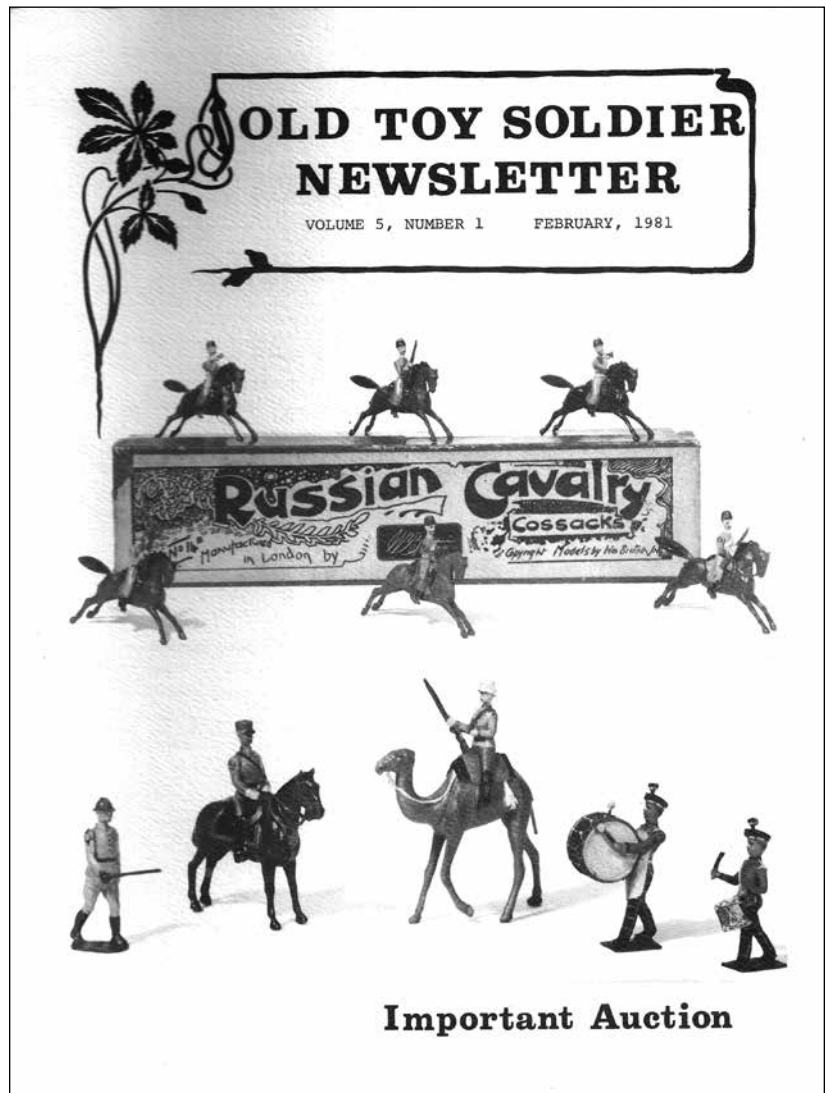
How I wish I had not decided that \$500 was more than enough for a bid on a single figure and what a pity the fine figure was only included in Set 131.

### Editors notes.

\*\*In both the Letter from Lt Colonel A. D. Meakin and the article by Colonel Pudney stating that the Camel Regiments detachments were formed from each Cavalry Regiment serving in the British Isles, it must be assumed that this indicates Household Cavalry Regiments only.

\*\*\*Presumably all on Camels.

\*\*\*\*Camel Regiment Casualty details. 10 Officers and 92 men died either in action or because of disease.



# BRITISH CAMEL CORPS REGIMENTS 1884 (Cont.)

Curator :  
Asst. Curator :

Lt.Col.A.D.Meakin.



7535

Telephone: WINDSOR 68222 Ext. 203

## *Household Cavalry Museum*

COMBERMERE BARRACKS, WINDSOR, BERKS

3rd May 1984.

Dear Colonel Pudney,

Thank you for your letter of 27th April which has been passed to me.

In the 1882 campaign in Egypt, the 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards sent out two Squadrons from each Regiment to participate in the campaign and they took part in the celebrated "Moonlight Charge at Khassassin". and each Regiment bears the Battle Honour of Tel el Kebir and Egypt 1882. For this campaign they were mounted on their normal horses which they took with them to Egypt.

In 1884 a Heavy Camel Regiment was formed and this included detachments from each Cavalry Regiment serving in the British Isles. The Command of this Regiment was entrusted to Colonel Hon R. Talbot of the 1st Life Guards and the HQ staff mainly consisted of men of the 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards. This was not granted as a Battle Honour to the Regiments of the Household Cavalry, presumably in view of the small numbers involved, although the personnel of the Regiments concerned received the appropriate medal. In our last edition of the Regimental Magazine an article was published, and I enclose herewith a copy with the details on page 46. The photograph is of a water colour which we hold in our Museum, and which was painted by a Cpl in the 2nd Life Guards who took part in the campaign - a Corporal Will Perry.

I hope that the enclosed information will cover the points you require, but if there is any further information you require, please let me know.

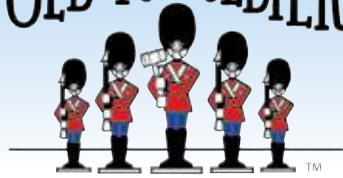
Yours sincerely,

*A.D. Meakin*

Colonel D.R. Pudney,  
Permanent Secretary,  
The Cabinet Office,  
Hamilton 5 - 24.  
BERMUDA.

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King & Country #AF011 U.S.A.F. P-47 Thunderbolt Estimate: \$175-\$250



Britains #1645 Walt Disney's Goofy Estimate: \$1600-\$2000



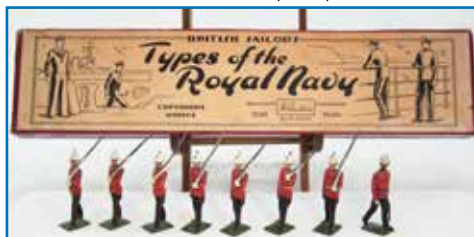
Imperial #H2 Cameron Highlanders in Egypt Estimate: \$600-\$800



Rarity Kibri Braunes Haus Lineol SA Attention Estimate: \$700-\$900



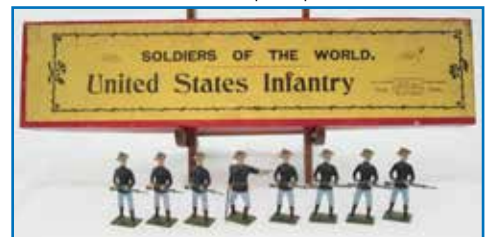
Britains Assorted Footballers Estimate: \$500-\$600



Britains Set #1620 Royal Marine Light Infantry Estimate: \$500-\$800



Britains Set #4MG Miniature Gardening Set Estimate: \$300-\$400



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Britains Set #1413 British Police Car Estimate: \$800-\$1200



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## ***AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)***



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**Lineol Kubelwagen with PAK Cannon**  
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**Britains Set #1315 Salvation Army Band**  
**Estimate: \$2500-\$3500**



**Lineol Motorcycle Tin Wheels**  
**US Soldiers with Flag**  
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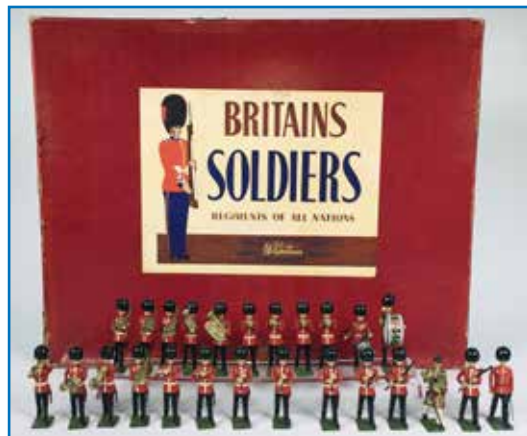
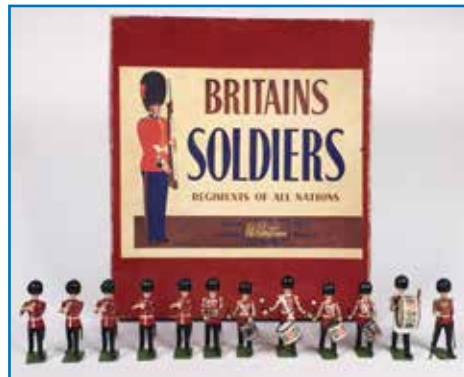
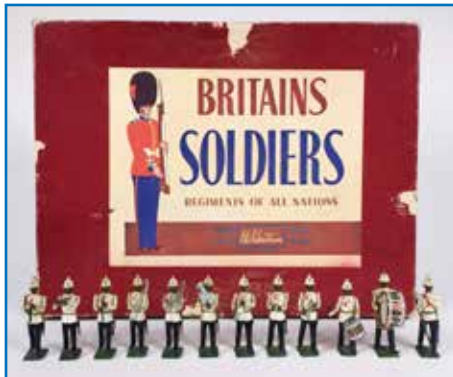


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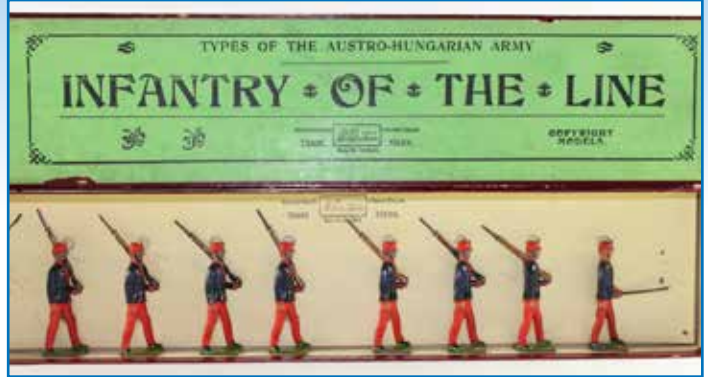


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# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



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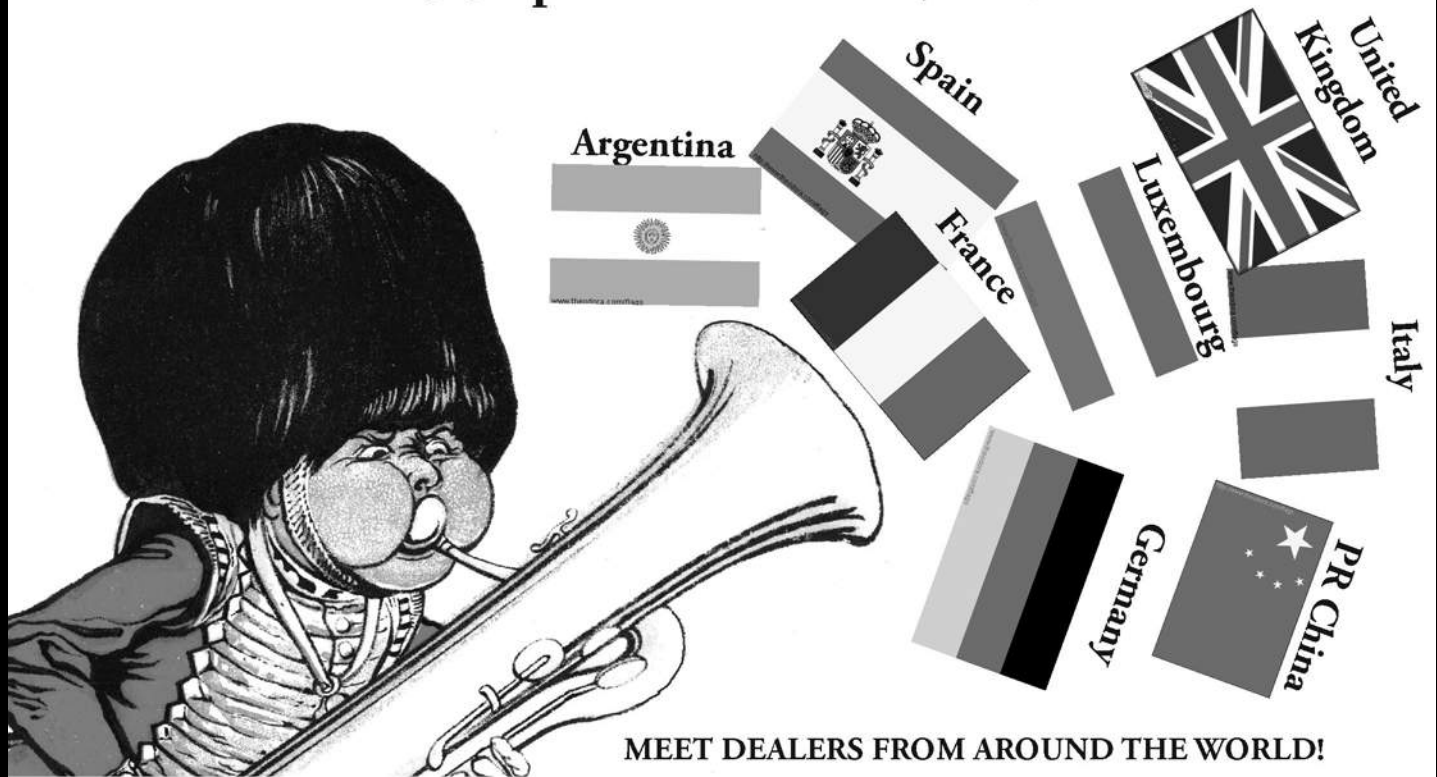
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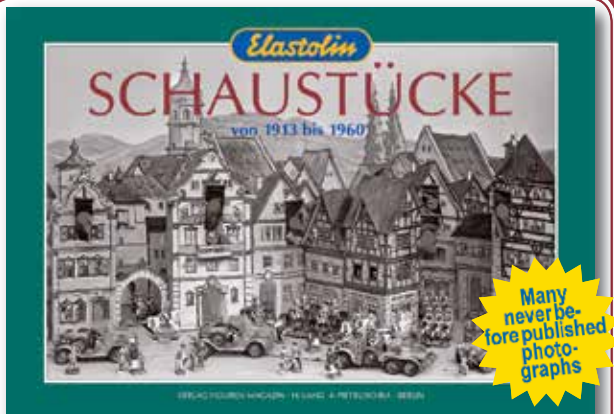
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# SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS

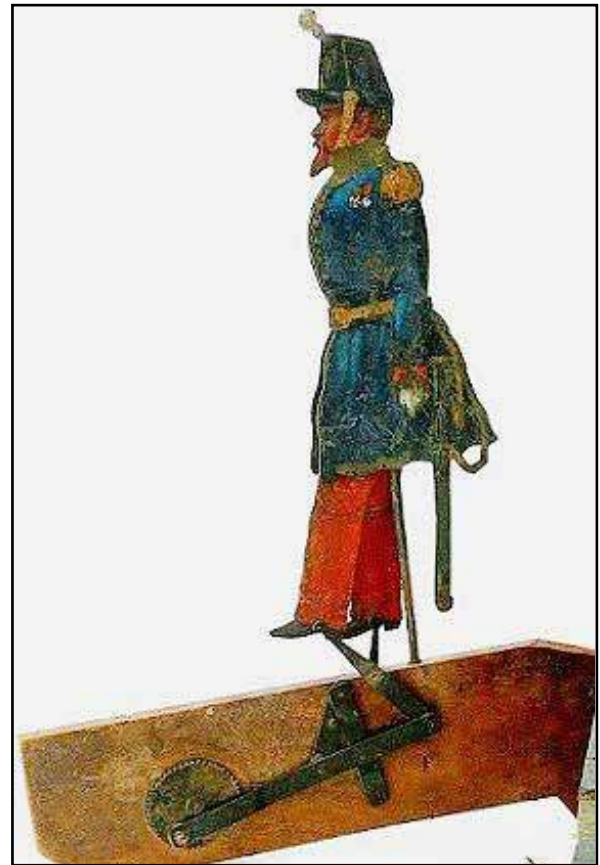
## A SURVEY OF 19TH CENTURY MECHANICAL MOTION TOY SOLDIERS

By Earl Jorgensen

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(Above) 1. An illustration of a hand powered toy soldier drill frame (Photo by author). (Right) 2. A painted metal soldier silhouette from a broken 19th century mechanical toy soldier motion toy (Photo used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).



What exactly are 19th century mechanical motion toy soldiers and how do they differ from the early 20th century toy soldier drill frames previously described in the Spring 2016 issue of *Old Toy Soldier*?<sup>1</sup> The early drill frames were appliances that were specifically designed to provide uniform movement to small groups of lead toy soldiers which allowed them to imitate basic military drill maneuvers. Five such appliances were commercially produced in the early 20th century and all required human hands to push, pull or slide them over a flat surface to power their movement. In contrast, 19th century mechanical motion toy soldiers relied on simple combinations of springs, cranks, cams, levers, never-ending belts, cords and chains, sprockets, worm-screw drives and even toy music boxes to generate specific repetitive motions. Only a few examples of these toys are known to have survived and they are highly prized by specialty collectors but are virtually unknown in today's community of toy soldier collectors. Their story represents an interesting period in the development of our hobby.

In 1796 a Swiss clockmaker produced the world's first mechanical music box which utilized a small, comb-shaped arrangement of pre-tuned steel

strips. Each strip was sized to produce a specific musical pitch when plucked by pins set in place on a revolving cylinder. The cylinder could be powered either directly by a hand crank or by a spring which was wound-up by a hand crank. Woodcarvers from the Erzgebirge region of Germany soon started to combine their hand-carved mechanical motion toys with small toy music boxes. Early engraved illustrations of such toys can be found in the children's section of the 1803 "Crafts and Other Useful Things" catalog published by the Nuremberg firm of Georg Hieronimus Bestelmeier. They depict figures placed on box-shaped bases with small cranks which are described as "mechanical" and "clockwork."

Today such mechanical motion toys are generally referred to as Erzgebirge toys. Noted toy historian Constance King refers to such toys as "automata of the most basic kind...The majority of them perform simple actions such as lifting their arms, movements that are controlled by wires and cords...a simple

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS *(Cont.)*

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3. An Erzgebirge-type Rearing Horses motion toy, circa 1840's (Photo used with permission of [www.auctionauction.com](http://www.auctionauction.com))

mechanism concealed in a box with a small crank on the side which sets the figures and, sometimes, music in motion.”<sup>2</sup>

If you are interested in learning more about Erzgebirge toys the complete 1840-1842 catalog of Louis & Eduard Lindner can be seen on the website of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London<sup>3</sup> and a video “German Toys in America” produced by the Abby

Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum can be viewed on You Tube.

A variety of mechanical toy soldier motion toys was manufactured in Europe during the 19th century. Each had its own unique combination of materials and components creating more complicated and elaborate presentations of marching toy soldiers but, much like the Erzgebirge motion toys that preceded



4. A tin mechanical soldier motion toy, circa 1880's (Photo used with permission of eBay seller [bondjamesbondoo7](https://www.ebay.com/str/bondjamesbondoo7)).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS *(Cont.)*



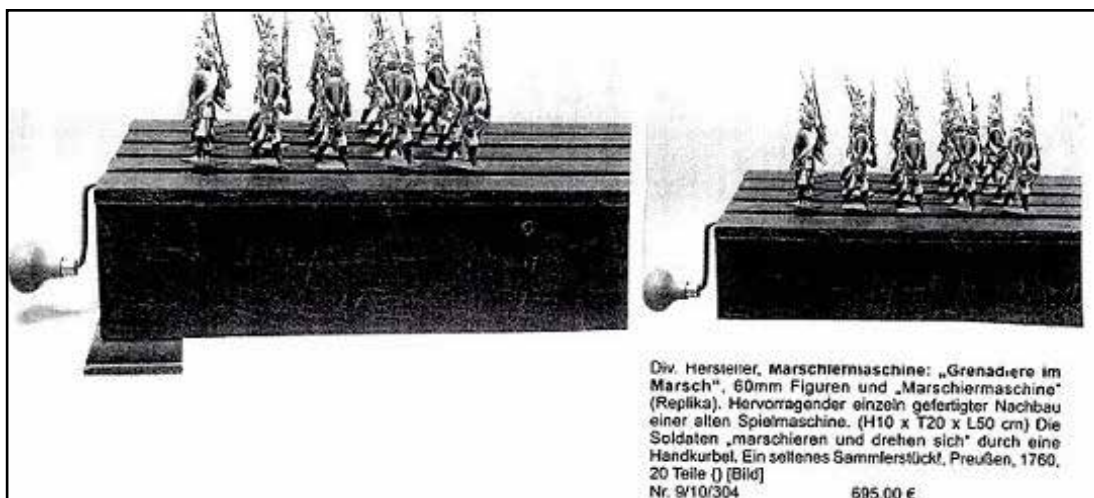
5. A modern replica of a 19th century mechanical toy soldier marching machine (Photo used with permission of Rob Wilson).

them, their movements remained basic, pre-determined and usually (but not always) activated by a simple crank. Based on photos and descriptions of surviving examples it is possible to gain a basic understanding of how they worked.

Cranks were essential components in both early clockwork and non-clockwork (hand-powered) mechanical toy drive mechanisms but served a different purpose for each type of mechanism. The non-clockwork mechanism was powered directly by turning the hand crank. Each rotation

produced a single repetitive motion. The speed of the motion was determined by how fast the crank was turned and the motion could be reversed by simply turning the crank in the opposite direction. The type of motion produced was determined by the components used in the mechanism. As seen in the accompanying photos, hand-powered mechanical drive mechanisms powered many types of 19th century mechanical motion toy soldiers.

The Erzgebirge rearing horse mechanical toy pictured in photo 3 was offered on the Live Auctioneer site



6. A 2011 Ettlinger-Zinnfiguren catalog illustration showing the mechanical marching machine (Scan courtesy of Bernhard Schwarz).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS *(Cont.)*

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7. A second example of a modern replica toy soldier mechanical marching machine (Photo used with permission of Dieter Schwarz).

in 2008. It was produced in a variety of sizes and configurations. Based on the high quality carving and painting it likely was produced during the first half of the 19th century in Germany. A wooden drive-shaft can be seen protruding from the front of the box along with the disconnected crank handle. Each turn of the crank pulls the rear legs of a row of horses down into the box which causes the front legs to rise in a rearing motion. The next turn repeats the motion in the next row. Another version with four rows of horses was offered on the same site in 2010. Neither

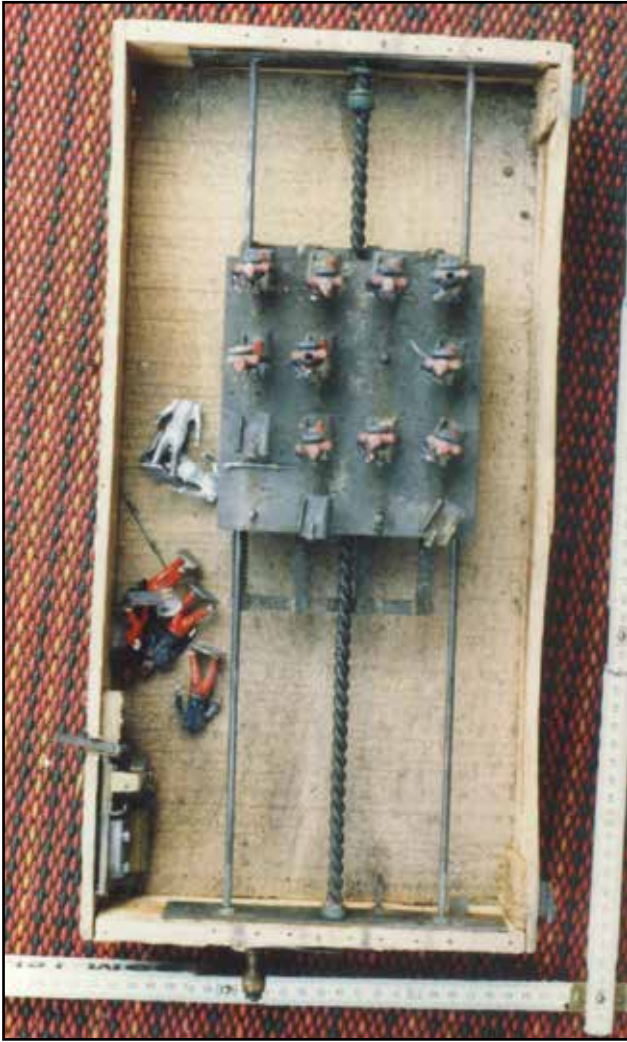
of the accompanying descriptions made any mention of a music box component.

The mechanical tin soldier toy pictured in photo 4 was recently offered on the eBay USA internet auction site. The toy originally contained a row of six tabbed tin figures standing on small circular tin bases with a flat hand crank centered in the rear. It is unmarked and was likely produced as an early penny toy. Each rotation of the crank causes the row of soldiers to uniformly perform a simple about-face motion.



8. A side view of the original damaged toy soldier mechanical marching machine showing the brass plaque, wind key, worm-screw drive and figure mount mechanism (Photo used with permission of Dieter Schwarz).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS (Cont.)



9. An overhead view of the original damaged toy soldier mechanical marching machine. Note the metal music box mounted near the bottom of the left side and the worm-screw drive mechanism (Photo used with permission of Dieter Schwarz).

The mechanical marching machine pictured in photo 5 is a rare example of a more complicated toy soldier motion display that is powered by the simple hand crank. The toy is unusual in that it both utilizes actual cast lead toy soldiers and also is a modern replica from the workshop of Dieter Schwarz at Ettlinger-Zinnfiguren.<sup>4</sup> It replicates a badly damaged original mechanical toy believed to have been produced in France around 1880. The only known photos of the original toy are those taken by Mr. Schwarz in preparation for building his replica which he graciously provided for this article along with a detailed explanation of how the toy worked. It should be noted that the original toy marching machine toy contained only sixteen lead figures. Mr. Schwarz intentionally added an extra row of four figures to distinguish the replica from the original.

Based on his observations we know that the toy bore no makers mark but, as seen in photo 8, had a small oval brass plate marked with the words “BREVETE” (patent) and “DÉPOSÉ” (registered) separated by four numbers which may or may not read 3.9.8.2. In either case, the corresponding patent could not be found. The photo also shows a small ring crank which powers a separate clockwork music box mounted on the lower left inside panel. According to Mr. Schwarz, it plays a selection of “French march music”. Photos 9, 10 and 11 show the hand cranked iron worm-gear drive mechanism and raised trays mounted on an iron plate which hold the toy soldiers in place as seen from above, side and front.

How does it work? As with any hand cranked motion toy, each rotation of the crank produces a simple repetitive motion. In the case of the mechanical marching machine a continuous rotation of the crank would cause the sixteen soldiers to slowly “march” forward. When they can no longer move forward the crank activates gear wheels mounted beneath the raised trays of each individual toy soldier. The next rotation of the crank causes the figures to uniformly turnabout and when the direction of the crank is reversed, the soldiers “march” back. “Soldiers march, guards change and the music tinkled forth”.<sup>5</sup>

It should be noted that in 1892 the firm of Gebrüder Märklin also produced a prototype design of a hand cranked mechanical motion toy soldier marching machine depicting an 1892 American western fort. An image of this one-of-a-kind toy soldier mechanical motion toy can be seen on the back cover of Märklin: Militärspielzeug aus Blech by Dr. Ing. Otto Höllerer.

The function of the hand crank changes in clockwork powered drive mechanisms. It is often found in the form of a ring or small key and only serves to wind the spring which powers the drive mechanism. Clockwork power also provides a distinct advantage over the hand crank. When combined with a balance wheel the rate at which the spring releases its energy can be regulated into a prolonged, even flow of power. Depending on the size of the spring a 19th century mechanical motion toy could provide movement for an extended period of time.

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS (Cont.)



10. The original damaged toy viewed from the side (above) and (right)  
11. from the front.

(Photos used with permission of Dieter Schwarz).



Unlike the previously described examples, the 1895 #1244 Märklin Metal Toy Soldier Carousel Castle pictured in photo 12 is well documented and at least four examples are known to have been listed on internet auction sites. A description from the 1895 Märklin catalog refers to the castle as a “clockwork metal fort with music and turntable.” It is also a very impressive example of a clockwork powered mechanical toy soldier motion toy. The carousel

castle was first produced by the firm of Ludwig Lutz in 1885. The firm of Gebrüder Märklin purchased the firm in 1891 and simply added the Lutz design to their production catalog.

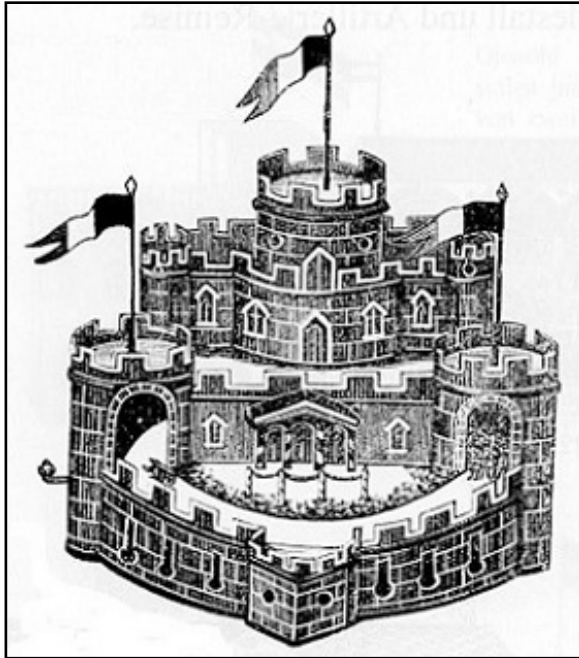
How did it work? A 2006 auction listing noted the presence of the original music box that accompanied the marching soldiers. An 1895 Märklin catalog illustration (photo 13) shows a small hand crank on the lower left side of the castle which likely powered a music box while a second clockwork drive mechanism provided the power for a revolving ring “around which troops of the player’s choosing could parade.”<sup>6</sup> “The ring consisted of a rotating disc placed under a fixed, somewhat smaller disc. The combination provided a small revolving carousel surface upon which the soldiers marched “round through the opening on one side, through the castle and out the opening on the other side.”<sup>7</sup>

The next example is technically not a mechanical motion toy but rather a unique example of what the French refer to as “*tableaux mouvementés*” (photo 16). It also represents a 19th century clockwork drive mechanism which powers a “melodious music box activated by the same mechanism that propels the soldiers.”<sup>8</sup> Such tableaux were often specially designed to commemorate a specific event. This tableau was listed in a 2012 internet auction as a “Soldiers on Parade Automation” and was described



12. The Märklin Tin Castle or Fortress which featured a revolving toy soldier carousel (Photo used with permission of the RSL Auction Co).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS (Cont.)



13. An image of the castle from the 1895 Märklin catalog. Note the hand crank at the lower left side (Scan courtesy of Bernhard Schwarz).



14. A Märklin castle showing the rotating carousel area in more detail (Photo used with permission of Landenburgerspielzeugauktion).

as follows: "Opening this embossed paper covered and fringe trimmed box reveals a painted wood parade ground in the bottom half while the lid presents a colorful lithographed panorama of three enclosed viewing stands filled with spectator and surmounted by waving French flags and pennants."<sup>9</sup> A second description including a photo can be found

in the Spilhaus book which refers to the tableau as "Napoleon III and the Parading Zouaves", circa 1860. It provides a few more details including that "It was also possible to identify the Emperor and some of his ministers by comparing the faces in the hand painted background with pictures in books."<sup>10</sup>

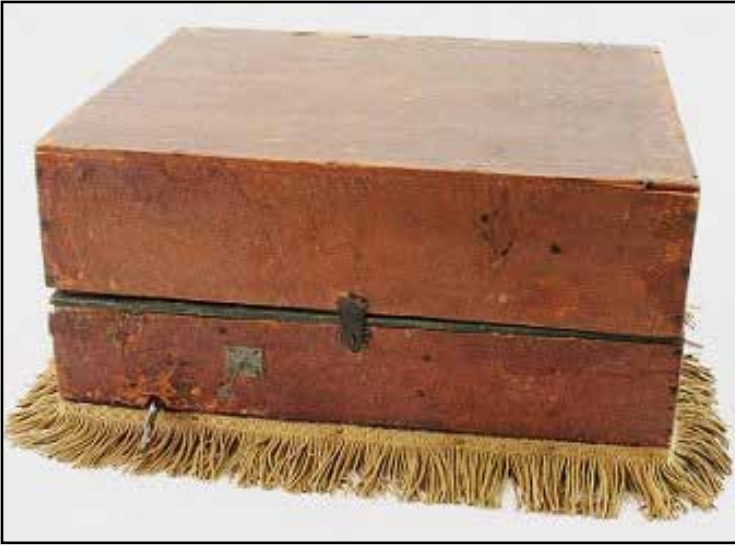
The New York Times, Sept. 7, 1862, described such an event: "A Grand Review held in Paris on August 14, 1862. 80,000 French troops passed in review before the Emperor accompanied by the Empress, Prince Imperial and Prince Napoleon."<sup>11</sup> Napoleon III reigned from 1852 to 1870 and such reviews were annual events. The tableau was likely created to commemorate one of them.

How does it work? According to the auction description the tableau was powered by "a complex clockwork driven chain mechanism which moved the massed and beautifully lithographed tin soldiers, marching and on horseback, wending their way along a circuitous route before the grandstands."<sup>12</sup> The Spilhaus book describes the motion as "an endless chain following an intricate path around five sprocket wheels."<sup>13</sup>



15. Toy soldiers marching on the rotating ring of a Märklin castle replica produced by Ettlinger-Zinnfiguren. (Photo used with permission of Dieter Schwarz).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS (Cont.)



(Above) 16. A simple wooden box that opens into the (Right) 17. “Napoleon III and the Parading Zouaves” tableau. Note the single winding key indicating the both the music and motion components are powered by a single clockwork device. (Photos used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).

A second example of a *tableau mouvementés* was found on the Getty Images website under the title “Automated Battle Scene Mechanical Toy.” It portrays a Franco-Prussian War battle field with two toy lead soldiers armies doing battle on a well decorated slotted surface which allows both armies to advance and retreat. As with the previously described tableau it features colorful hand painted battle scene on the inner surface of the lid which also includes small fortifications located on each of the rear corners for

the toy soldiers to defend. An image can easily be accessed by a simple Google search for “automated battlefield toy”.

The finale example of a mechanical toy soldier motion toy is pictured in photo 20. It was also listed in a 2012 internet auction and differs from all of the previously described examples in that it is not powered by a crank. The listing described it as “A squadron of 19th century costumed French soldiers made of primarily



18. A detailed photo of the tableau showing the painted metal silhouette figures and their slotted paths (Photo used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS *(Cont.)*



19. A detailed view of the hand painted tableau background.  
(Photo used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).

painted sheet steel that are mounted on three moving armatures encased in wood which, by some mechanical means, would impart marching action... Uncertain as to origin or how (they were) originally used...A museum quality heavy steel base has been crafted for display.”<sup>14</sup> In his book Lead Soldiers & Figurines, Marcel Baldet also describes “articulated soldiers in silhouette cut from sheet metal and painted”<sup>15</sup> along with a photo of a nearly identical

toy which retains its original base intact. The text provides a detailed description of the mechanical drive mechanism. “The articulated subjects are caused to march by a set of rods connected to toothed wheels of a diameter slightly greater than the thickness of the wood base.”<sup>16</sup> How does it work? The articulated legs move up and down in a marching motion when the toy is pushed by human hands.



20. An early mechanical motion toy with articulated painted metal soldier silhouettes and has no crank mechanism.  
(Photo used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).

## SPRINGS, CAMS, CRANKS & SPROCKETS *(Cont.)*

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21. Another view of the articulated painted metal silhouette marching toy soldiers.  
(Photo used with permission of Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett).

Photos of similar hand driven articulated mechanical motion toys depicting an impressive mounted figure of Napoleon III and a group of six Chinese Infantry can also be viewed in the following cited publication.<sup>17</sup> The examples are believed to be of French origin

and were produced during the 1860's. Based on the precision, detail and overall quality of workmanship it is unclear whether the mechanical motion devices were intended as children's playthings or as presentation pieces.

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<sup>1</sup> Jorgensen, Earl. *March as Commanded (Old Toy Soldier*, Spring, 2016) pp 18-27.

<sup>2</sup> King, Constance. *Metal Toys & Automata* (Chartwell Books, Secaucus, NJ., 1989) p.39.

<sup>3</sup> [www.collections.vam.ac.uk/item/0726781](http://www.collections.vam.ac.uk/item/0726781)  
[www.ettlinger-zinnfiguren.de](http://www.ettlinger-zinnfiguren.de).

<sup>5</sup> Remise, Jac & Fondin, Jean,. *The GoldenAge of Toys* (Edita S.A. Lausanne, Switzerland, 1967) p.234.

<sup>6</sup> Hickling, Allen. *Toy Forts & Castles* (Schiffer Publishing Ltd., Atglen, PA, 2015) p.149.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett, Liveauctioneers, 11/17/12, item 392.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Spilhaus, Athelstan and Kathleen. *Mechanical Toys: How Old Toys Work* (Crown Pub. New York, NY, 1988) p.5.

<sup>11</sup> Google Documents.

<sup>12</sup> Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett, Liveauctioneers, 11/17/12, item 392.

<sup>13</sup> Spilhaus, Athelstan and Kathleen. *Mechanical Toys: How Old Toys Work* (Crown Pub. New York, NY, 1988) p.83.

<sup>14</sup> Pook & Pook with Noel Barrett, Live auctioneers, 11/17/12, item 393.

<sup>15</sup> Baldet, Marcel. *Lead Soldiers & Figurines* (Crown Publishers, Ltd, New York, NY. 1961) p.91.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Sulzer, Alfred R. *Spielzeugfiguren des Ersten und Zweiten Empire* (Arenenberg, 1996) p.19.

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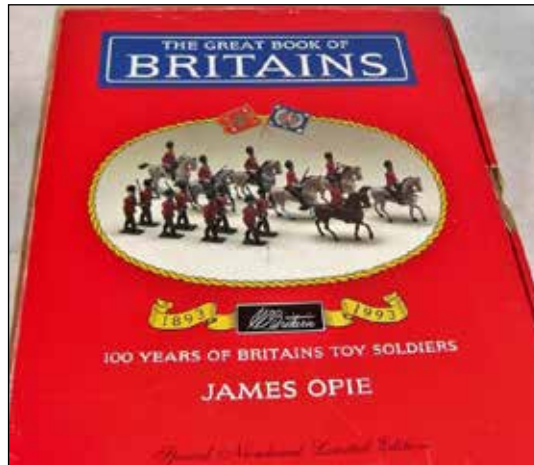
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# AUCTION REVIEW

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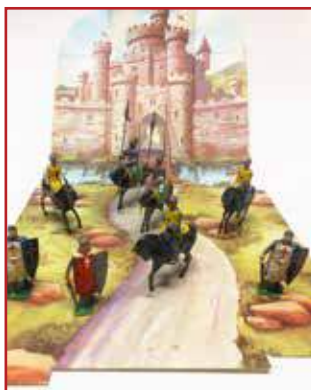
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# BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH

*By John Franklin*

I acquired 23 prewar Britains Black Watch marching figures in 2014, Fig 1, and I have been pondering ever since which Parade Series sets they came from. It is reported that Black Watch set 449 had 13 figures and Black Watch set 480 had 18 figures, such numbers are as included in the books both by Joe Wallis, *Armies of the World, Britains Ltd, Lead Soldiers 1925 – 1941*, and James Opie's book *The Great Book of Britains* (TGB), both 1993.

With such set content numbers it is clear my 23 figures arise from 2 sets of the Parade Black Watch, either from two sets of 449, or one set 449 and one set 480, or, two sets of 480.

Marching Black Watch were the most interesting of the Parade sets since they were the only sets prewar whereby you could obtain soldiers from this regiment marching at the slope to take part in a full dress ceremonial display. Indeed all other figures (except mounted Officers) and regiments or groups portrayed in the Parade sets were available in other Britains sets, except again, the Grenadier Guards, though they would appear as a Colour Party for a short while a couple or so years later in the general list.

So to try to pin down which sets my 23 Black Watch figures, 21 marching at the slope and two pipers, belonged to I started to look at source information in the public domain, which falls primarily into two forms, Literature and descriptions of lots passing through Auctions.



FIG 1 23 Parade Series Black Watch

## Literature

1 Joe Wallis's book, reference above, has a date of 1993, and whilst being definitive on the numbers in all the Parade Series sets, (presumably obtained from Britains Records) he is not always definitive about the composition of the individual sets, there are various words included like, 'may' or 'possible', or 'or' as to the constituents.

Joe reports sets 438 – 459 were brought out in 1932, and sets 479 – 490 in 1933.

He says about set 449, 'The contents were 13 marching Highlanders in feather bonnets. It is possible that an officer on foot using the casting from 437, or a piper was also offered in this box. Black hatching on dark green kilt. Issued 1932 – 35.'

## BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

He says about set 480, 'This 18 piece Parade Series set may have contained two mounted officers with a base added to the rear legs: two pipers with the feather bonnets introduced about 1930 for the Scots Guards Pipers of 75; and a foot officer or two based on 437. Completing the box were up to 13 marching Highlanders in feather bonnets painted with a red plume and the Black Watch tartan on their kilts (black hatching on dark green). In the prewar period Black Watch marching were only available in the Parade Series. Listed 1933 – 35.'

The other significant point of interest in Joe's book are the two Parade illustrations, both black and white, one for set 446 Scots Guards, showing 8 men and an officer, and both base and lid of the box. Secondly that for set 459 USA Infantry and Cavalry (Service Dress) and the picture shows 8 doughboys and one spindly horse mounted figure, maybe 'Officer', with the doughboy hat. Here only the base is shown for the box. For another picture of this 'Officer' see the colour picture 413 in James Opie's TGB. (Also shown in 413 are the mounted Officers for the Middlesex Regt, and the Grenadier or Scots Guards. In passing this figure of a 'Guards' mounted Officer is an anomaly in itself since the pricing of sets 438 or 446 would not appear to cover for a mounted Officer as part of the set. Or, this Officer could be a Fusilier Officer for the 7th Royal Fusiliers in sets 440 and 448, but again the pricing does not include for this. All three Officers appear best quality painting.)

2 Britains repro catalogue, flagged Copyright C 1968 Ladd Publications, Inc, with a USA address, would appear to be for 1933 by its set number coverage. It has Parade sections in both the Best Quality series and the 'A' Series. In both sections there is an illustration of 9 figs. on the special base as included in the Parade Series boxes, both showing 8 men and an Officer, both Officers on foot.

This repro catalogue has all the set numbers and titles, and all the prices for each box, but does not say how many figures there are in any box.

However the key bit of information is the price against each set number. The Best Quality section is the one of real interest and the following details pertain. (Remember 20s to the £ and 12d to the s.)

- a) Sets 438 – 445, 454, 456 ..... were 2s 0d
- b) Set 459..... was 2s 1½d
- c) Sets 446 – 453, 455, 457, 458 .. were 2s 10d
- d) Sets 479, 484 ..... were 3s 9d

- e) Sets 481, 483 ..... were 3s 11d
- f) Set 480..... was 4s 9d
- g) Set 487..... was 5s 3d
- h) Sets 486, 488, 489 ..... were 5s 6d
- i) Sets 485, 490 ..... were 5s 9d
- j) Set 482..... was 6s 6d

In these sets, by and large the presumption is all figures are on foot, except for 480, 481, 482, 483, 485, 490 wherein Mounted Officers are flagged. Foot officers are flagged in sets 483, 485, 486 and 487, however see below for this not being totally exclusive. Pipers are flagged in 480 and 482, but again this may not be totally exclusive, see below. Buglers and drummers are flagged in 481 and 490. Cavalry, per se, are flagged in 458, 459, 486 and 487.

3 James Opie's *The Great Book of Britains*, 1993, presumably uses the same Britains factory records/ references for the numbers of figures in each set, being the same as in Joe Wallis's book as covered in 1 above, except in one instance, see Sixthly in Mismatches below. However James's book records sets 438 – 459 being issued in 1931 and sets 479 - 490 in 1932. There is also one other mismatch between the books by Joe and James, which may or may not be of interest to us. Joe says the Black Watch pipers are in feather bonnets as introduced in 1930 for the new Scots Guards pipers for set 75. James records that in 1934 the new feather bonneted piper is brought out for the Scots Guards, which infers feather bonneted pipers would not be in Parade series Black Watch sets. See below for further commentary on pipers for the Black Watch in Parade Series sets.

There is one colour picture, No 384, in James book, that for set 446. Scots Guards, showing the base and lid. It has 14 figures and he notes that an extra figure has been added. This is a different picture but the same lot as shown in Bonhams sale in Nov 2004 as in 7 below.

James reports 4 box sizes for the Parade Sets, and it is reasonably easy to see which sets fit into which size.

All sets in 2 a) & b) above comprise 9 figures, (as the two photos in Joe Wallis's book).

All sets in c) above comprise 13 figures and are in the box size as in James's book.

All sets in d), e) and f) are effectively twice the size of the 9 figure boxes

All sets in g), h), i) and j), are effectively twice the size of the 13 figure boxes.

## BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

While boxes have been seen for 9 and 13 figure contents, none has surfaced for 18 and 26 figure contents. It is surmised that the boxes for 18 and 26 figures are the same lengths respectively as the 9 and 13 figures boxes but twice as wide.

4 James Opie's book *Britains Toy Soldiers, The History and Handbook, 2016* shows in picture No 138 the box for set 449 and 11 marching Black Watch men, no piper. This is the same picture which covers the items up for auction at Bonhams in June 2004, see 5 below.

### Auctions

5 Bonhams, June 2004 has lot 19, 11 No Black Watch marching at the slope, from set 449, these are the figs. from the picture in James's book 4 above. Picture in web catalogue. Lot 20 in this sale is the box for set 449, again as shown in the picture in James's book in 4 above. Picture in web catalogue.

6 Bonhams, June 2004, lot 26, set 490 Middlesex Regt. 12 men marching, 6 buglers, 4 side drummers, bass drummer and mounted Officer, and reported that two figures are missing. But is this indeed set 490? The mounted Officer does not look right, there is no green base between the horse's rear legs, as well as it not being the spindly legged type. Picture in web catalogue.

7 Bonhams, Nov 2004, lot 1313, Scots Guards, lot as covered in 3 above, picture in web catalogue, but different picture to that in 3 above, both box base and lid here. As the caption notes there are slots for 14 figures and an extra man has been added (to the normal complement for this set of 13). Note the presence of an Officer, not referred to in the set description in catalogue in 2 above.

8 Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA, May 2010, lot 102 Black Watch. Illustration in catalogue, Fig 2 shows 12 marching men at the slope, 7 pipers and one broken, spindly legged, mounted figure, presumably the Officer. This has the rear legs/base missing. The pipers here are feather bonneted, (non swirling kilts), and in the colour photo they look like set 69, Scots Guards pipers. The mounted figure in this set would presumably have had the base between the rear legs of the horse, and it has been cast with a special head, that of the charging highlander. It is not the mounted Scottish Officer from set 437.

9 Bonhams, Dec 2013, lot 1044, Black Watch, 13 figures pictured, 12 men and one piper. Picture in web catalogue.

10 Special Auction Services, Jan 2014 lot 308, Black Watch, as per Fig 1, 21 men marching at the slope with two pipers.



FIG 2 OTSN Auction May 2010 Lot 102

# BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

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## Mismatches

So from what is out there at the moment all is not totally compatible, we have some mismatches.

- Firstly between the two books, Joe says 439 – 459 issued 1932 and 470 – 490 issued 1933. James says 439-459 issued 1931 and 479 – 490 issued 1932. Joe says pipers have feather bonnets for pipers, (like for Scots Guards), with this new figure introduced 1930, James says new feather bonneted pipers introduced 1934, hence I opine they couldn't be in Black Watch Parade Series sets in 1931/2, or 1933 if this date is correct.

- Secondly it would seem the assembling of lot 102 in 8 above has mistakenly included seven Scots Guards pipers in feather bonnets, as would have been a set 69, Pipers of the Scots Guards.

- Thirdly all is not clear in the Britains catalogue in 2 above, seemingly for 1933; there are descriptions of sets which do not record including an Officer but which are seen in a picture to have one, like the Scots guards in 7 above, or include a piper, as seen in pictures but without saying so in the catalogue, like the Black Watch in 9 above. This latter bit of the jigsaw though is less strong than the Scots Guards photo/box in 7 since the 13 Black Watch figures could have come from set 480, but probably not.

- Fourthly, Joe's description for set 449 states 'It is possible that an officer on foot using the casting from 437 - - was offered in this box.', well the new Scottish marching foot Officer did not appear till 1933, according to James's book when set 437 was issued. I can not see such a fine figure being included in the Black Watch set of an earlier issue date, (1931/2?). Such a figure would have deserved and awaited its fanfare introduction in set 437 in 1933. On the other hand foot Officers could have been included in set 480, if Joe's issue date for this set was 1933, we know set descriptions in the Britains catalogue in 7 were not totally exclusive. See stab at contents of 449 and 480 below. Against set 437 in Joe's book he states positively that 'The officer on foot was also supplied in such Parade series sets as 441, 449, 480 and 482.' I'm not sure this is true, seems unlikely in 441 and 449.

- Fifthly, a mismatch may be in 6 above, set 490. As well as the picture in the catalogue there is another different picture in James's TGB, 108, as James says the (Middlesex Regt) mounted officer does not look

right. Further the real anomaly is probably the base drummer and James goes on to state definitively '- the standard issue for this set was sixteen at the slope, four buglers and four drummers with two of the mounted officers with bases between the rear legs -'. So 6 above/picture 108 is short of a few figure but also has extra at the slope and buglers, a bass drummer and wrong Officer. So maybe the real question is, is this indeed a Parade box complement? In actual fact the figures in 6 above and picture 108 look remarkably like the contents of a Gamages box which came up for sale at Vectis in Sept 2010, lot 2806, picture in web catalogue, stated to be set 1461. This shows the Middlesex Regt constituents of 13 marching men, 8 buglers, 4 side drummers, bass drummer. mounted Officer like 6 above/picture 108, a drum major, and two foot Officers, one with a colour, 29 figures compared the 24 in 6 above/picture 108 in TGB.

- Sixthly there is a mismatch for set 458, Joe says 13 figures, (with 4 more marching men say added to set 459, same set title), so should be 10d more than set 459 at 2s 11½d but is only 2s 10d. James does say 12 figures, ie 3 more marching figures say but then the cost should be 2s 9d! So here it is as a 2s 10d box with a mounted Officer included, but not so noted.

Now really without the boxes for some of the purported lots at auction etc, we are a step away from set confirmation or tracking down actual contents. But as ever on boxes there is a watch point, and previous warnings pertain, there is no guarantee in this second hand, pre-owned market that what you see in a box, where-ever, was in that box when it left the factory. Soldiers, here, there and everywhere just get put away/assigned in the wrong box from time to time.

## 'Black' Black Watch piper

But to return to Fig 1 and the two 'black' Black Watch pipers. If James is correct and the new feather bonneted Scots Guards piper did not appear till 1934 Britains must have had to think about a piper to go in Parade Black Watch sets. They have the glengarry pipers available to date for the Gordon Highlanders set 77, the Cameron Highlanders set 89 and the Seaforth Highlanders set 88. Not a hard commercial decision, Commercial Expediency indeed pertains, and Britains decide to use their existing piper figure with the glengarry, - 'and we know the Black Watch tartan, it is black vertical and black horizontal stripes on the dark green kilt'.

## BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

So there we have it, pipers in 9 and 10 above are the 'black' Black Watch pipers, as per Fig 1.

There is one other strong bit of evidence that the 'black' Black Watch piper was that used for the Black Watch at this time. Probably the best and most well known collection of Britains Special painting figures was that assembled by Mr H L Pottier Smith. The Black Watch marching figures made for him, see Fig 3, used the 'black' Black Watch piper. The narrow plaid piper was in use till 1937.



FIG 3 Pottier Smith Black Watch pipers and men.

### Analysis of Sets & Figures/Stab at 449/480 contents

So to try to work out what the contents were of some of the Parade series lets have a look at the Catalogue prices in 2 above, with the number of soldiers in each box as given by Joe and James.

a)	Sets 438 – 445, 454, 456 .....	were	2s	0d	9 figures
b)	Set 459 .....	was	2s	1½ d	9 figures
c)	Sets 446 – 453, 455, 457, 458 .....	were	2s	10d	13 (12 458?) figures
d)	Sets 479, 484 .....	were	3s	9d	18 figures
e)	Sets 481, 483 .....	were	3s	11d	18 figures
f)	Set 480 .....	was	4s	9d	18 figures
g)	Set 487 .....	was	5s	3d	24 figures
h)	Sets 486, 488, 489 .....	were	5s	6d	22, 26, 26 figs
i)	Sets 485, 490 .....	were	5s	9d	26 figures
j)	Set 482 .....	was	6s	6d	26 figures

The other bit of maybe significant information, as above, is in James TGB, he reports that the highland Officer was issued in 1933 and, appearing in set 437 Officers of the Gordon Highlanders, are four foot and one mounted.. What that means is that, if we go with James dates for Parade set issues, 1931/1932, the Scottish foot Officer would in all probability not have been in the 1931 or 1932 sets.

## BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

So looking at the pricing/figure numbers is there anything we can glean as regards contents. For a start though it seems from Britains approach to sets that many general list un-officered sets comprised 8 men, ie two ranks of 4 troops as was the rank format in the British army for many a year. So I believe sets in a) and b) here include 8 men and possibly a foot Officer or piper but not always, like the West Point Cadets and US Sailors. Set c) we know has 8 men and a mounted figure, Sets in d), e) and f) probably have 12 men and maybe the same approach to the 'extra' 13th figure as to the 'extra' figure in the sets with 9 figs.

As for sets with 18 figures sets 479 would appear to be 444 + 458, and 484 would appear to be 443 + 454, and 482 to be twice 459. But 480 and 481, we'll come back to below.

Other 22, 24 and 26 piece sets would again suggest either twice a 13 piece set or be based on ranks of privates in multiples of four.

It should be noted in passing that the set description in the Britains catalogue for the two Black Watch sets with contents of 13 and 18 figures, are the same as for the two Gordon Highlander sets with contents of 9 and 26 figures.

Sets with the 18 piece contents, 480 and 481 say, respectively are titled

480 Black Watch with Pipers and Mounted Officers  
481 Middlesex Regt with Buglers, Drummers and Mounted Officers.

James in his History and Handbook, 2016 gives a clue to a stab at the Middlesex Regt contents in 481 with

his definitive statement as above for set 490 of 16 at the slope, 4 buglers, 4 side drummers and 2 mounted Officers. So a similar approach for 481 could well be 12 at the slope, two buglers, two side drummers and two mounted Officers. As here and other Parade series set titles, the 's' on Officer has been taken to define there is more than one mounted Officer.

Two other hints/bits of info aiming for sets 449/480 contents. Foot officers are not included in any GB set titles here, but we know they appear in some sets. See 7 above. Similarly it would seem that pipers were not in some Catalogue set descriptions but would appear to be in set 449, see 9 above. Also there does not seem to be a price premium for non-Scottish foot Officers or pipers. however look at set 437 Officers of the Gordon Highlanders. It is priced at 2s 4d in the catalogue in 2 above, (much more than the 1s 7½d for normal 8 figured single row sets of infantry). So for this how about 5d per Scottish foot Officer and 8d for a Scottish mounted Officer (both new castings). So no Officer in 449, not out yet, and no set price premium pertains. The mounted Officer in 480 is not however the same as that in set 437. We know from set 459 that a mounted Officer cost about 4d. At the end of the day he might have had a cost premium to other mounted Officers but lets use 4d for the moment.

Now an attempt by priced contents to look at set contents, we know pipers do not have a price premium attached (non added for the piper in set 75 Scots Guards), and at this time ordinary 8 figured box sets cost 1s 7½d, for ease of maths lets say 2½d each figure. Thus a 9 figure all foot Parade box has a 1½d price premium for its clever base/much larger box, and the same premium applies to 13 figure boxes.

So as a bench mark lets see how we get on with set 490, Middlesex Regt.

James has given us the contents here:

16 at the slope figures.... at say	2½d	ea	3s 4d	
4 buglers ..... at say	2½d	ea	10d	
4 drummers..... at say	2½d	ea	10d	
2 mounted Officers ..... at say	4d	ea	8d	
Box premium..... say 2 x small box premium of 1½d	3d			Total 5s 11d

This is 2d more than the list price in the catalogue in 2, not bad, quite close to 5s 9d. Maybe Commercial Expediency came into play to fit in with the prices of other Parade series boxes.

## BRITAINS PARADE BLACK WATCH (Cont.)

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Now for set 480 Black Watch, I'm guessing but how about

12 at the slope .....	at say	2½d	ea	2s	6d		
2 pipers .....	at say	2½d	ea	5d			
2 foot Officers .....	at say	5d	ea	10d			
2 mounted Officers .....	at say	4d	ea	8d			
Box Premium .....	as above say			3d	Total	4s	8d

Again near enough 4s 9d to be a reasonable stab at numbers/types/costs for set 480. Here it does look like the 4d for a Parade mounted Scottish Officer is not far from being right. We still have a mismatch though if the information in James's TGB is correct that set 480 was issued in 1932 and the new Scottish foot Officer did not come out till 1933.

So it is certainly seems to be true that there is a premium for some Scottish troops above others, 5s 9d for 26 figures of the Middlesex Regt set 490 compared with 6s 6d for 26 figures of the Gordon Highlanders in set 482.

For interest lets apply the rates for the Black Watch per figure above to a guessed contents of set 482 Gordon Highlanders.

16 at the slope .....	at say	2½d	ea	3s	4d		
4 pipers .....	at say	2½d	ea	10d			
4 foot Officers .....	at say	5d	ea	1s	8d		
2 mounted Officers .....	at say	4d	ea	8d			
Box Premium .....	as above say			3d	Total	6s	9d

Not bad, fairly close to 6s 6d. Again Commercial Expediency might have pertained to curtail what might be seen as too large a price in comparison to other Parade boxes. The comment on mismatch on set 490 here also applies to this set's foot Officers.

The final watch point here is we are indeed trying to apply mathematical analysis to prices of set components and overall set prices which of course are determined by commercial considerations, both in the manufacture and then the market where these sets will be sold.

Well now my 21 marching Black Watch Highlanders and 2 'black' Black Watch pipers. Nothing above has evinced anything definitive, but we know the figures came from two sets of Parade Black Watch, and I surmise that for what ever reason, they came from 2 sets of no 490. But that brooks the question why not buy one of the bigger sets 480 and then get Officers

as well. One explanation could be that they were bought in 1931 (James's first issue date) and 480 was not available, and also had not been announced, so it was not known that Officers were coming.

### Conclusions

Well really not very many totally definitive conclusions regarding my 23 Black Watch Parade soldiers can be drawn from my delving as above. At least it was fun trying and also I like my Black Watch at the slope marching, joining the prewar Seaforths and Gordons. Maybe the above shows the pitfalls of trying to analyse sets using a logical approach, from information in books, catalogues and auctions, both descriptions and prices, where there has been significant human input to the information, (never mind Commercial Expediency also being applied overall). Humans can and do err.

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y	o	u	j	c	v	g	u	q	r	h	e	z	y	y	g	q	w	w	o
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p	v	c	x	a	m	f	u	e	l	c	y	c	i	r	t	z	x	c	x
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# MY TOY SOLDIER HOBBY

*By Andre Franz*



Some of my best memories as a child was playing with my toy soldiers. I was born in 1970, so the soldiers I played with were plastic. I used to dig trenches and foxholes in the ground. Occasionally my dad would get a dump truck full of sand delivered, which made the best beaches and bluffs for the Normandy invasion. One summer I started to build a western fort for my cowboys. I had taken the stems of dried daisies and used them to make a picket fence around the fort. I added walkways, buildings and sign posts. I even had a gate with a moat around it. The fun for me was building the forts and battlegrounds. I guess I always had the desire to create.

I started to attend toy soldier shows with my father and uncle when I was about 7 or 8 years old. I can remember the tables filled with these large lead soldiers wondering how big and awkward they

looked. However I understood after my father and uncle shared with me that these were the soldiers they grew up playing with. My father explained the meaning of collecting and how the value of the soldiers varied on desirability and condition.

I began to take an interest in helping my father “spot” the good soldiers. I read and studied Richard O’Brien’s Toy Soldier Books and learned what it meant for a soldier to be GOOD, VERY GOOD, and MINT. I was introduced to the “rare” soldiers and became good at finding the better ones. I was so good, at the age of 9 or 10, that my father began giving me \$20.00 or so and I would go off searching on my own. Here I was haggling with dealers who were in their 50s and 60s. Of course they wouldn’t deal with me, so I would ask them to hold the soldier for me for \$20.00 until I could find my father and bring him to their table.



## MY TOY SOLDIER HOBBY (Cont.)

I began tinkering with my own toy soldiers, models, and dioramas. Occasionally we would come across a "conversion" which was always really cool to look at. They were new, creative, a one of a kind and usually miraculous in detail because they were hand crafted.

As my father and I were admiring a conversion of a prone machine gunner with a belt feeder wearing gas masks, he looked at me and said, "You know, you could probably make some conversions." So I did.

My very first conversions were very simple. They were Barclay B18 Soldier charging where I cut off the end of the rifle and added a tin shovel tip. My next one was a Barclay B 107 Bayoneting where I cut off the rifle tips, added a piece of wire and made a pick axe. Then I realized I could cut two figures apart and rearrange their bodies to make a new pose. I took a prone rifleman and attached it to a pair of standing legs and made erect soldier shooting up. Then we found someone who was producing German helmets



## MY TOY SOLDIER HOBBY (Cont.)

and gas masks and I made a few German soldier conversions.

My most difficult conversion was when I took the legs and arms of one soldier and attached to the back of another soldier. Thus it appeared the one soldier was carrying his buddy. At the time it was a great conversion and I gave it to my uncle. I continued to make a few conversions like these over the next couple of years and gave them to my father and uncle

as Christmas gifts. I became a teenager and, not too surprisingly, I lost all interest in soldiers, collecting, and conversions. Let's fast forward about 20 years.

I attended college in York, Pennsylvania and majored in Criminal Justice. I married my wonderful wife, Daniel, and we have two great children, Reed and Raegen. Although I was born and raised in New Jersey, we have stayed in Pennsylvania where it is cheaper to live and raise a family.



## MY TOY SOLDIER HOBBY (Cont.)

My father passed away in 2003 and I inherited his toy soldier collection. Going through those toy soldiers brought back all those fond memories as a child, searching for the good buys, trying to haggle with old men 5 times my age, and trying my hand at conversions. That's when I thought I might give conversions another try. I thought with new materials, new creativity, and better tools, it might be much easier.

I viewed hundreds of photos and images in books and on the internet and either printed out, copied, or simply wrote down any ideas for a conversion. My first conversions were limited to cutting off arms and legs and reattaching them to fit my vision. This

is somewhat difficult as you are limited to what stock figures you have available to you. Then I was introduced to Bondo. I used it to fill in gaps, holes, and do mild reshaping. But it did not work well as a substitute for arms and legs. Bondo was too brittle and took 24 hours to cure. Next I discovered plumbers putty. It is durable, sand-able, dries in 3 minutes, hardens like steel, and was the perfect substitute for arms and legs, and even entire body halves. This enabled me to create whatever I could imagine. There was and has been no limit. Now I prefer to only purchase broken soldiers. I can take a broken soldier, hold it in my hand, look at it and envision what it is going to become.



## MY TOY SOLDIER HOBBY (Cont.)

My tools are simple. I use an Exacto saw blade for cutting and a Dremel for grinding, sanding, shaping and finish work. The paints I use are craft acrylics and I use a satin finish on every piece. All of my conversions are a one of a kind as I have not created any molds. All of the figures, pictured in this article, are in a private collection. The proud owner of my conversions, has mentioned that he would not mind if I made copies of the ones in his possession. Of course they would not be exactly the same. Many of my figures have never even been seen on eBay. Only I, my wife and their new owner are aware of their existence. This article has made it possible for me to share my creativity with those who appreciate what I do.

I have expanded from one soldier conversions to sets of three of a similar creation and to entire scenes. Many conversionists in the past have focused on the common fighting soldier, and are of great quality. I wanted to create the unique and unusual. The soldier having sex with a prostitute, the soldier using a trench latrine, four soldiers carrying a wounded soldier through the mud, the sexy nurse, or the dough boys taking a swim.

Making conversion, up to now, has just been a part time hobby. My dream is to make my conversion, create molds and begin traveling to all the toy soldier shows around the country. I finally have the chance and time to fulfill my passion! I retired early from my job as a probation officer in York County, Pennsylvania. I told Dennis Socha about my plans to concentrate all my time and effort to making and selling my creations. He said that making soldiers is a hobby and would not bring in enough money without having something else to supplement our family income. My wife is totally supportive with my retirement plans and I will be looking for part time employment. So you will probably see my figures again on eBay.



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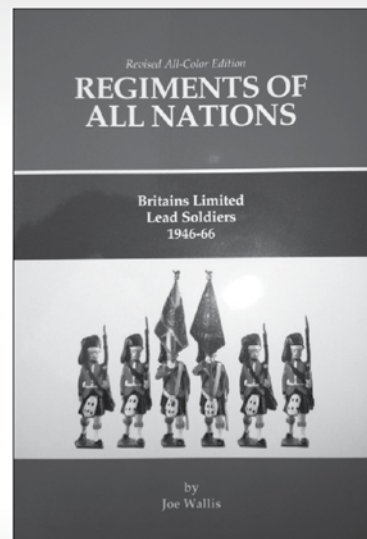
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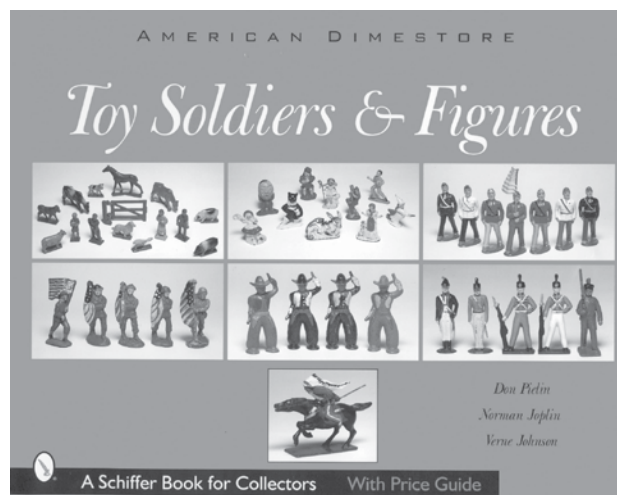


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# INSPIRATION FOUND FOR BRITAINS SETS 105 AND 108

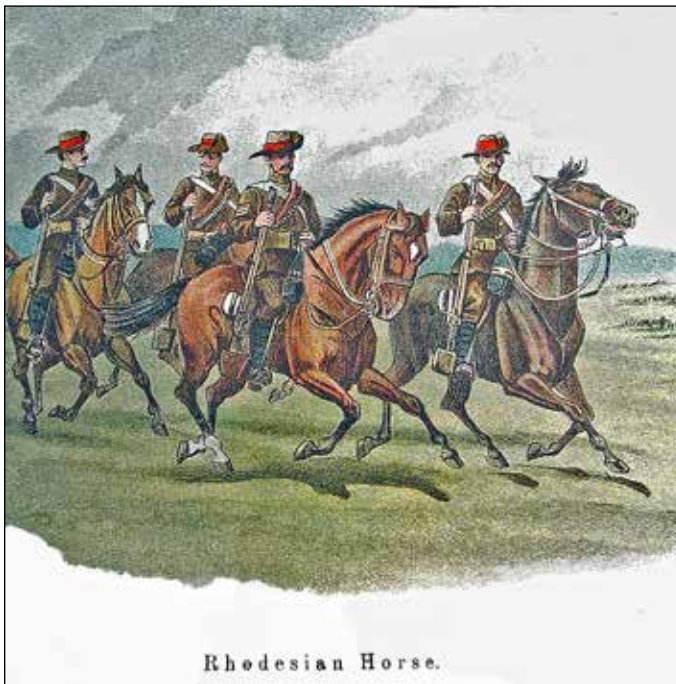
By Joe Wallis



Richard Simkin was a prolific illustrator who lived from 1851 to 1926. His place in toy soldier history is secured by his production of a comprehensive set of 177 lithographed color prints showing the entire British Army (as well as many colonial regiments) at the end of the Nineteenth Century. I have written before about Britains frequent use of these iconic prints (in particular, see my 2001 article in *Old Toy Soldier*, Volume XXV, Issue #3, pages 38-42.)

More recently, during the research on my just completed third book, entitled *Soldiers of Greater Britain, Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1893-1924*, I obtained a copy of *Our Indian and Colonial Forces*. This 12-page publication was part of Dean's Gold Medal Series intended for juvenile readers (London: Dean and Son, 1898). The second page of this rare reference immediately captured my attention as it showed Simkin's drawing of four troopers of the "Rhodesian Horse" on trotting horses (see the accompanying photograph of Simkin's print.)

The Rhodesian Horse was a colonial cavalry unit formed by Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company. What makes this so fascinating and important is that the cavalymen are depicted wearing khaki uniforms with slouch hats, and they are holding their rifles (not short cavalry carbines) placed upright in leather "buckets" on the right sides of their saddles. Britains clearly used Simkin's print of the Rhodesian Horse as their basis in 1900 when they issued Set 105, Imperial Yeomanry, as well as for Set 108, Sixth Inniskilling Dragoons, to represent two of the regiments fighting in the Boer War (see the accompanying photographs of these two models from my SOGB book). These sets were both fixed-arm and rode a rather stocky horse with its tail held up.

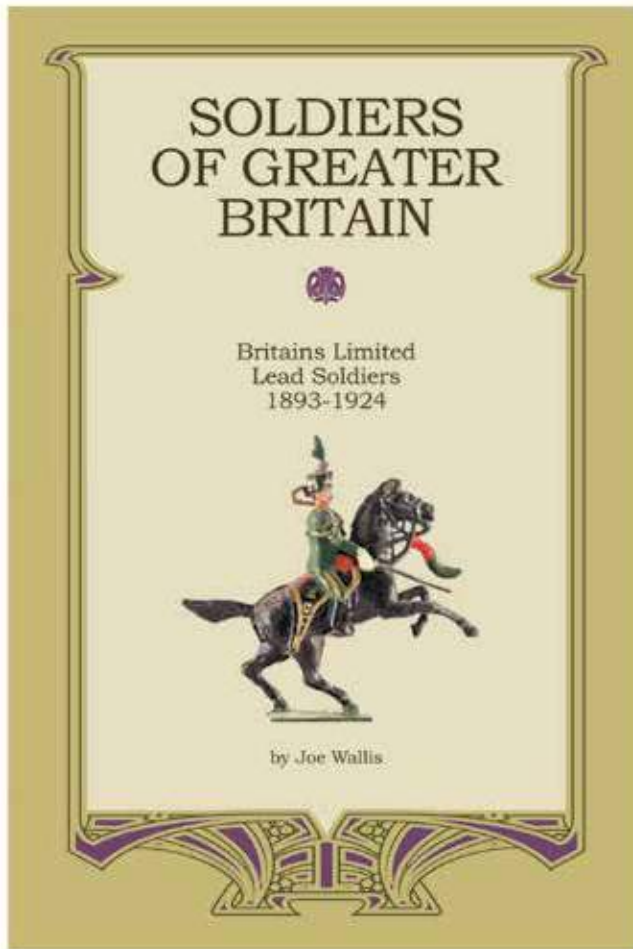


This casting was never used by Britains for any other sets. The Inniskilling Dragoons had Foreign Service helmets but otherwise varied only slightly from the Yeomanry with their slouch hats. Set 105 featured one rider on a grey horse, which typically distinguished the officer in Britains cavalry sets. The commander in Set 108 rode a black horse with white fetlocks, which Britains routinely included up until the very last years of production. The horses of the four Inniskilling Dragoon troopers lacked the white fetlocks.

Thus we now have another tidbit of knowledge about the inspiration for two of Britains early sets. (For information about my books, see my website at [www.leadsoldierbooks.com](http://www.leadsoldierbooks.com).)

# SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN

JOE WALLIS



*Soldiers of Greater Britain* is the third volume of Joe Wallis' in-depth history of Britains Limited Lead Soldiers. It deals with the era between 1893 and 1924 when the firm developed the distinctive style and quality that made Britains toy soldiers the most popular and recognizable in the world. This intensively researched book answers questions about early mechanical toys, "ancient" Britains figures, sources of their designs, accuracy of their models, the small-scale B Series, the little-known Paris Office, and Fred Whisstock's wonderful box labels. *Soldiers of Greater Britain* along with *Armies of the World, 1925-1941* and *Regiments of All Nations, 1946-1966* provides a thorough and authoritative record of Britains traditional lead lines. See [www.leadsoldierbooks.com](http://www.leadsoldierbooks.com).

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

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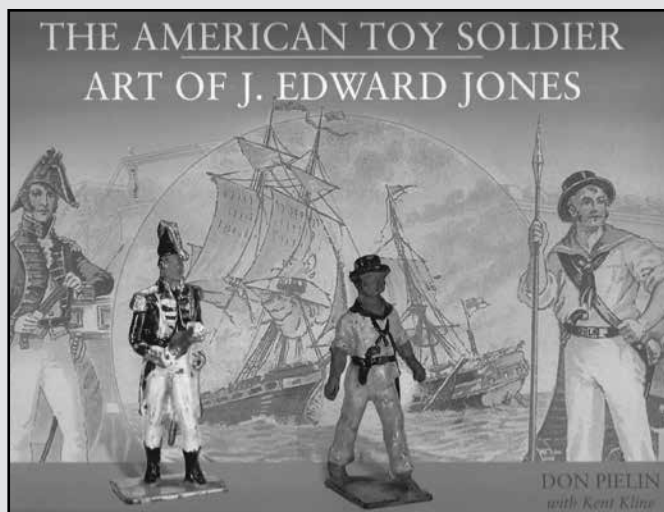
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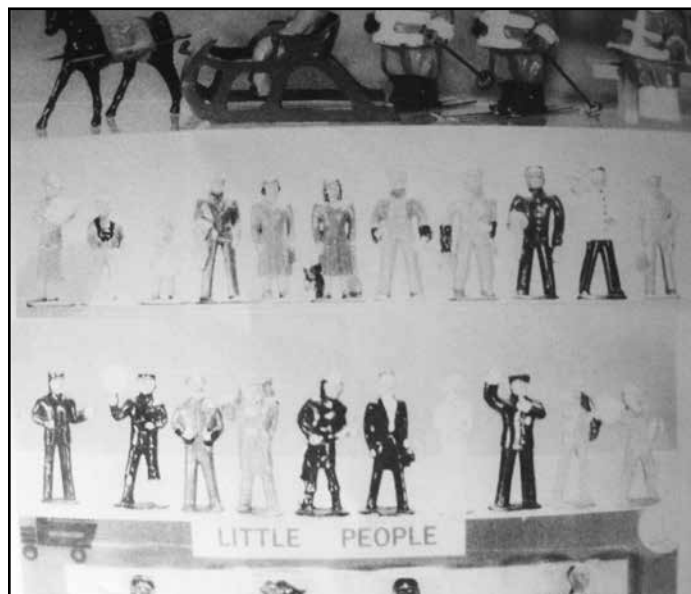
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# THE MYSTERIOUS BARCLAY H.O. WOMAN WITH A DOG

*By Stan Alekna*

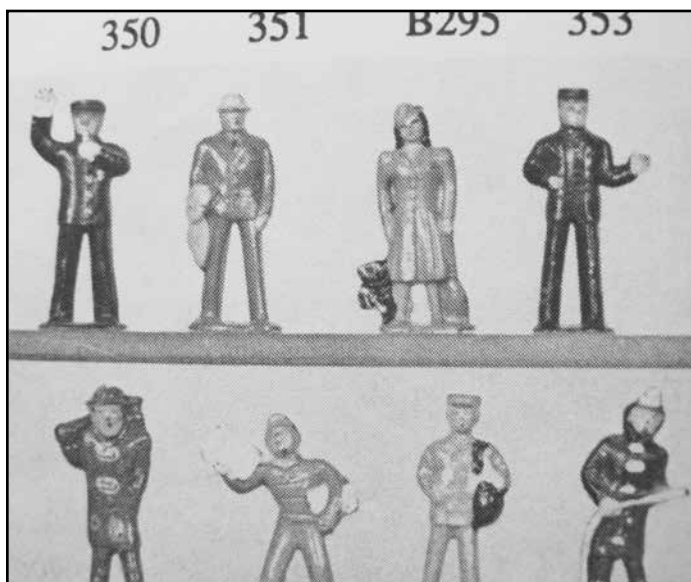
Richard O' Brien's 3rd Edition of Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers and Don Pielin's The American Dimestore Soldier Book each contain a photo of a lineup of Barclay's HO figures that include the Woman with a dog. This figure is a miniaturized version of Barclay's B157 Woman Passenger, with dog (and tennis racquet).

O'Brien pictures the HO Woman with a dog below his number (B295) but does not list a Barclay factory number for the figure which he did for every other HO figure. He then pictures the plain Woman without the dog as an insert photo with Barclay factory number 352. I regret not having discussed these anomalies with Richard while he was with us.



Pielin's Barclay H.O.'s

I had the privilege of reviewing the late Richard O'Brien's Dimestore archives and the only information I found on Barclay's HO figures was an original Barclay catalog page that shows all of the HO figures EXCEPT the Woman with a dog. A photo of this catalog page was included in O'Brien's THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK but there were no other photos or documentation of an HO Woman with a dog in the remainder of his archives.



O'Brien's Barclay H.O.'s

Pielin, who had his own unique Dimestore catalog numbering scheme, assigned number B320 to the HO Woman with a dog and pictures her next to the plain Woman (without a dog) at number B319.

Both are photos of actual figures and not photos of catalog pages so we know that at least two of these super rare figures existed at the time both books were published.



Barclay catalog page

## THE MYSTERIOUS BARCLAY H.O. WOMAN WITH A DOG *(Cont.)*



Riehle's Repros - Photos by Jerry Riehle

This begs the question, why would Barclay have initially produced the “plain”, standing Woman passenger without a dog, along with the other HO figures in the series, and then later, added only the Woman with a dog to their HO series? I’m pretty good at speculating on possible explanations for Dimestore variations but I can’t even guess as to why this figure was made and then in such few numbers.

I have never seen an original HO Woman with a dog figure nor do I know anyone who owns one or has personally seen one. Over twenty years ago when I was building my Dimestore collection, I received a tip that someone had an HO Woman with a dog. I called them and was informed that they planned to make a mold from the figure and then cast and sell reproductions. I never heard anything more about it until recently when a Dimestore collector friend, Jerry Riehle, of Harrison, Ohio, called to tell me that he had a solid cast HO Woman with a dog, as well as solid cast repros of several other Barclay HO figures.

For perspective, the three-inch Woman Passenger, B157, and HO Woman (352) were included in the lineup and are the only original Barclays in the photo. The bases, with no pour holes, and the non-Barclay paint schemes clearly indicate that they are solid cast reproductions. Jerry does not know who made these figures since he acquired them from various dealers at local train shows.

I can understand why someone might reproduce an original HO Woman with a dog because it is so rare but original figures of the other HO poses have always been readily available at nominal prices so what would be the point of making these other HO repro’s?

If anyone has information on this mysterious figure, or if you have an original or repro HO Woman with a dog, I would be interested in hearing from you.

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# GREENWOOD AND BALL'S GERMAN ARMY FIGURES

*By Henry I. Kurtz*



**Officer reading map - Summer Camo**



**Panzer Officer reading Map**



**SS Standing Guard (1939 Pattern Uniform  
as listed on original box)**

Most serious collectors of miniature soldiers in Great Britain and the United States are acquainted with the superb line of model figures created by master modeler John Ambler Greenwood and painted to a high portrait-like standard by his associate Kathleen Ball. Starting in the 1940's, the team produced a wide range of British army and other figures in various scales, including 20 and 28mm models for war games and dioramas and 54mm collector figures.

By the early 1950's, when I began collecting them, the Greenwood and Ball range comprised more than 500 models of British regiments, Royal Navy and Air Force types, units of the Indian army, and some U.S. troops.

Less well known are the figures of the Imperial German army and the later models of the Third Reich period. Greenwood's interest in the German army stemmed in part from his service with the Manchester Regiment in World War I. Later, during the Second World War, he served in a Home Guard Unit in

Wellington, Shropshire. To aid his fellow soldiers in identifying German troops, Greenwood crafted a series of Wehrmacht paratroopers, which were somewhat simpler in design than his later models but well-animated.

John Garrett in his book Model Soldiers for the Connoisseur described Greenwood's production technique as follows: "He cast in a metal of such pliability as to allow arms, legs and heads to be 'positioned'... this was a great advance on the rigidity of other contemporary models. Not only this, but weapons and equipment were not moulded with the figure, but cast separately and soldered on." Ms. Ball was responsible for soldering on the weapons and equipment and painting the figures with the assistance of a small crew of women painters.

The accompanying photos illustrate the various types of German troops produced in the 1950's. Understandably, Greenwood was attracted to the most colorful Imperial German units, including Hussar

## GREENWOOD AND BALL'S GERMAN ARMY FIGURES *(Cont.)*



German Army Colonel - Smoke Troops



regiments, Garde du Corps, and staff officers. World War II figures ran the gamut from bemedaled generals and staff officers to enlisted personnel from the various arms and Panzer officers reading maps.

Although one commentator believed that Greenwood was "ill at ease" producing figures of the World War II era, I find that they have a more naturalistic quality than the formal, Richard Simkin type portrait poses of most of his other figures. As far as this writer is concerned, both types are worthy of collector interest.

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Henry I. Kurtz is the author of [The Art of the Toy Soldier](#) and a dealer and collector of toy soldiers. He can be reached at [henrykurtz@optonline.net](mailto:henrykurtz@optonline.net).



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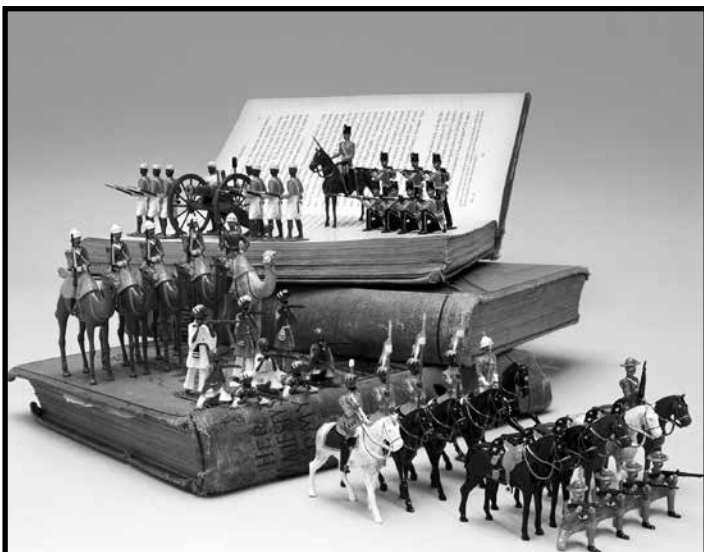


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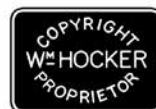
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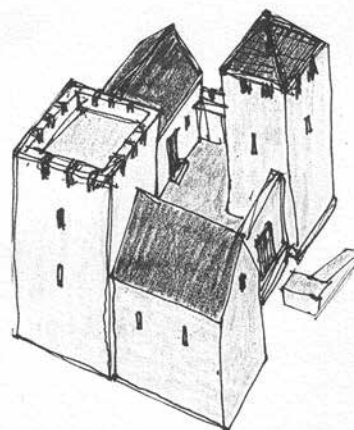
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Toy Soldier Vintage Toy Extravaganza and Auction.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan. Contact josephsaine.com  
419-662-8697

## May 20th - Saturday

16th Annual Toy Soldier Show. Virginia War Museum.  
Contact 757-247-8523

## May 22nd - Monday

Ray and Bre Live on facebook.com/oldtoysoldier

## May 28th -29th - Saturday and Sunday

The 11th Annual Texas Toy Soldier Show.  
Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 11am-3pm.  
The Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza,  
San Antonio, TX 78205. Contact: Kings X Toy Soldiers  
for more information (210) 226-7000 sales@kingsx.com

## June 3rd - Saturday

Annandale Show. Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

## June 15th - Thursday

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## June 16th, 17th, & 18th - Friday - Sunday

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2017

## September 9th - Saturday

Annandale Show. Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

## September 9th - Saturday

Norman Joplins Old Toy Soldier Show London.  
See ad page 74

## September 24th - Sunday

37th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show. 10:00am-3:30pm.  
Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL.  
Contact: Roger Garfield 847-567-5355  
roger@chicagotoysoldiersshow.com  
Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

## December 2nd - Saturday

Annandale Show. Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

2018

## January 28th - Sunday

South Florida Toy Soldier and Collectables Show.  
954-699-6040

*Dates and times are correct at the time of printing;  
however, it is strongly advised that before traveling,  
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