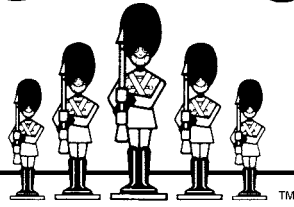


Spring
2014

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 38 Number 1
\$10.00

OLD TOY SOLDIER



BRITAINS TERRAIN TERRIER

THE GREAT SOLDIER AUCTION



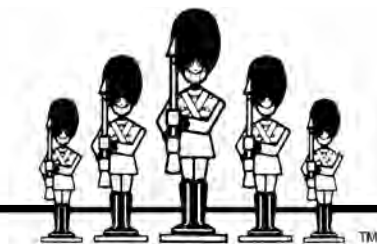
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Britains Terrain Terrier

Photograph courtesy of Sue Joplin

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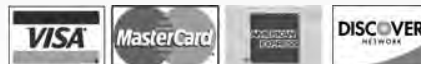
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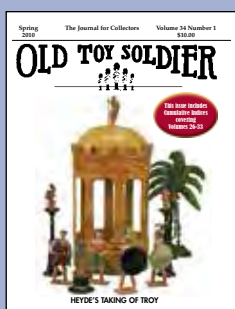


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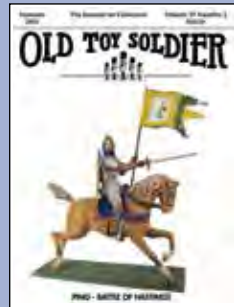


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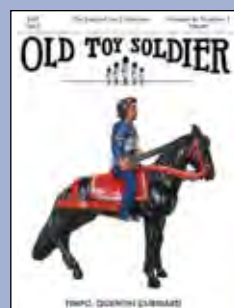
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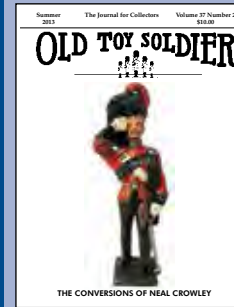


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Obituary ~ Alan Kelsey 1926 - 2014

On January 25th, 2014, Alan Kelsey, master modeler, artist, art teacher, and proprietor of the Essex Regiment, died in his sleep at the age of 88 in Bradenton, Florida.

Alan was a renowned master modeler and artist. He was also a long-time art teacher. Alan's one of a kind small dioramas and handmade metal vehicles, boats, and airplanes were well known in the hobby.

The young Alan Kelsey had an amazing WWII RAF Bomber Command Service.

Alan joined the RAF at age 17 in 1943. He received his sergeant's stripes and the coveted Air Gunner's Brevet. As a top turret gunner, he flew dozens of Bomber Command Missions over Germany in the Lancaster Heavy Bomber.

After the war, Alan worked for a time as an aircraft mechanic and flew in several famous planes. He humorously said that after all the wartime flights where he was being shot at by German flak and Messerschmitts, the "most frightful" flight he ever took was on an Aeroflot Russian civilian plane from Shannon to Montreal!

Alan and his family immigrated to the US in 1957, finally retiring to Bradenton, Florida in 1990 where he taught art and continued his model making and painting of military subjects.

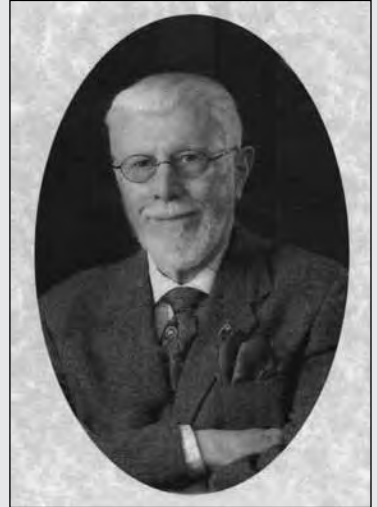
The photo of Alan in his Flight Sergeant Uniform shows him wearing the ribbons of the 1939-45 Star, scarce Air-Crew Europe Star, and Defense and War medals.

Alan's family includes his surviving wife Jacqueline, one son, 3 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Paul Bradtmiller
Jack Matthews

Obituary ~ Jim Hoskins

Our friend passed away on April 16, 2014 in his home in Cleveland, Tennessee at the age of 75. He was a collector of toy soldiers. But more than that he was a modeler. His fascination with history, particularly WWII led him to spend many years creating his own WWII collection known as Jim's Armies. In it he had one or more sets of custom painted and frequently custom



cast figures from every nation that participated in the war. He also created a large and detailed diorama of the Battle of Kings Mountain in which one of his ancestors was a participant.

Jim was a master painter. His joy was figure conversion and diorama creation. He was always willing to share with fellow hobbyists. He was known to provide detailed, hand-written notes describing exactly how to proceed in any given project.

Jim maintained close ties with the South Carolina Military Miniatures Society. He frequently visited member friends in the club when he was in the area, talking history, modeling techniques and ideas. He always attended the annual SC show in Columbia. Over 30 years he traveled to many of the various national shows, but he was always in Chicago and was a vendor for most of those years. His wife, Gaby, always traveled with him and was well known and liked by all.

Jim always cut a dapper figure in a navy blue blazer, a pocket-handkerchief, his greying goatee, his favorite pipe, and his never-ending repertoire of stories. He also was a fan of a neat, single malt scotch, with ice on the side. His friends and acquaintances will miss him greatly.

Bill Schneider and Steve Snyder

HENRY ALAN GWIN - A TRIBUTE

Our hobby has lost one of the most gentlemanly, devout, and decent men I've ever met. Alan Gwin, age 76 of Ocklawaha, Florida, recently passed away after a brief illness, surrounded by his family. Alan and his wife Judy, after 48 years of marriage, were annual regular attendees at many toy soldier shows east of Chicago for over thirty years. They sold and traded several varieties of vintage soldiers.

Alan, whose many grandchildren called him, "Grandpa Cow", owned a large cattle ranch in Central Florida raising beef cattle with his sons Justin and Chris.

But what a life he led early on! After graduating from the University of Florida in 1959 with a degree in Animal Husbandry, Alan, with the encouragement of his stepfather, traveled the world throughout Europe and the Middle East where he worked for a time in a kibbutz in Israel. Next was a trip through Southern Asia, working at various jobs along the way.



How many of us oldsters can say that we worked as an armed Inspector in the Australian Bureau of Animal Husbandry or as a contractor employee in New Zealand, hunting high mountain sheep on his days off? In 1964, Alan returned home to America, married the love of his life, Judy, an Elementary School teacher.

Then they got the travel bug.

After a while, they left Florida, drove to Alaska in a 35-foot-long Spartan Travel Trailer and stayed four years.

Finally coming home to Florida, Alan over the years bought parcels of adjacent properties to expand the ranch where he lived and raised his family for the rest of his days..

Alan was a happy, contented man. Everyone who met him at soldier shows liked him and his modest, smiling personality. His love of collecting, painting, selling and trading toy soldiers started in his childhood and lasted his whole life.

What a life. What a guy! He was blessed and he knew it. And we were equally blessed and privileged to know this cowboy. Rest in peace, Alan, you will be sorely missed.

Jack Matthews



OTS AUCTIONS APRIL 2014

A NEW CONCEPT AND A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE EVENT

The first 3 day online only auction held by Old Toy Soldier Auctions in April proved so successful that further online auctions are planned together with the twice yearly catalog/live auctioneers auction

THE WARREN LINES REDUX

By G. Scott Morlan & S. Mark Young

A New Collection of Warrens Surfaces

In the late 1980's, Steve Balkin, noted toy soldier expert and proprietor of the recently closed Burlington Toys in New York City, wrote the seminal articles on John Warren's toy soldiers in the pages of this magazine. Historian Richard O'Brien later expanded on Balkin's work on The Warren Lines in the third edition of *Collecting American Toy Soldiers* (1997) providing missing details and catalog information. But while interest in these 60 mm figures and their associated artillery and vehicles has escalated and attained almost mythological status, virtually nothing has been published on Warrens for over 15 years.

Recently, a newly surfaced collection of Warrens has given us something to write about. In addition to spectacular gun teams, vehicles, mounted band, and flag bearers included in the collection is an extremely rare nine-horse team and what is believed to be the largest group of Warren American Legion figures ever assembled. These pieces were a favorite part of the toy figure collection of the late Gene Johnson. While the bulk of Gene's collection was sold at auction in 2011, he kept those things that he cared for most including this spectacular grouping of Warrens. Talk of his collection sparked renewed interest in these highly desirable toy soldiers and was the impetus for this article.

History

Of all the American-produced toy soldiers in the first half of the 20th Century, Warrens are considered to be the most detailed and finely sculpted. Because John Warren only produced his toy soldier line for about three years, and in limited quantities, Warrens are very difficult to find and thus, highly prized. Of particular note, the gun teams, staff and scout cars and mounted band are very rare indeed.

The Warren Lines are distinguished for several reasons. First, unlike Dimestore competitors Barclay and Manoil, Warrens are sculpted more in the Britains tradition. The 60 mm figures are long and lean with ample uniform detail and movable arms like Britains, and plug-in heads similar to Heyde. Many of the infantry are in unusual poses. They brandish pistols, sabers, rifles or troop guidons and regimental standards in their hands and came in a variety of stances. Steve Balkin distinguished five groups of infantry (1) at attention; (2) marching, (3) charging, (4) sharpshooters (prone



Warren flag bearers at attention and marching



Warren flag bearers marching and running



Warren cavalry in a variety of seated positions including flag bearer



Warren gun team with riders. All gun teams had two riders on the limber

THE WARREN LINES REDUX (Cont.)

and kneeling) and (5) a machine gun unit. Gun team cannons have a Britains-like firing mechanism, while the intricate and fragile harnessing system is similar to those of Heyde.

The three body positions of mounted cavalry figures included leaning forward, sitting upright and thrusting forward in a “hell bent for leather” charge. The horses are one of the best features of the figure line, and come in seven different poses and a wide variety of colors including a spectacular series of Palominos.

In the final edition of *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers* (1997) Richard O’Brien exhaustively listed 173 individual poses, 12- and 17-piece infantry bands, an 8 piece cavalry band, four, six and nine-horse gun teams (all in one of three horse variations), two cannons, a staff car and a scout car (both built on a modified body of a Kenton 1930’s roadster).

The Sculptress

For those who follow toy soldier lore, the development of The Warren Lines provides a key link among the creators of Barclay, Tommy Toy and Warren. As readers may recall, Olive Kookken was one of the major sculptors of Barclay and Tommy Toy’s toy soldiers, having started sculpting as a young girl. Her high school friend, and later roommate, Margaret ‘Margo’ Cloninger (pronounced KLAH-nin-ger), also worked for Barclay and Tommy Toy. While the two had a long time friendship, Cloninger actually began her career as a Broadway actress. As life in the theater became increasingly difficult, Margo, no doubt influenced by Kookken, took up sculpting and found that she had natural talent. In particular, she loved creating horses. Together the two women worked with the Eppelsheimer Mold Manufacturing Company of New York who constructed the molds for The Warren Lines.



A Warren prototype gun never put into production



A rare Warren mold of an arm with rifle



Warren staff car. Warren used a Kenton roadster and over-sprayed the yellow paint olive



Underside of an original Kenton roadster.



A prototype of a Warren ambulance never put into production. The ambulance uses an Arcade panel truck body

THE WARREN LINES REDUX (Cont.)



Perhaps the only known Warren 9-horse caisson



A prototype of the Warren Legionnaire 4-horse caisson

During the course of her work, Cloninger developed a relationship with, and later married, John D. Warren, then the vice-president and general manager of Eppelsheimer, whose father was owner and president. John Warren went on to found The Warren Lines. Margaret was brought back into service to improve the look of Warren's horses, and is responsible for the high level of animation and attention to detail on each pose. Many collectors believe that Warren horses evince the finest sculpting of any American lead toy manufacturer.

According to Steve Balkin, John Warren lived in Manhasset, New York, and was a true patriot. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion Halls were popular gathering places during Warren's tenure as a toymaker. Warren supported these patriotic organizations by creating displays for the local Halls, such as the VFW Hall in Manhasset.

Steve noted that he has possessed VFW figures in maroon jackets with peak caps, and American Legion figures in light blue jackets with silver helmets. He also remembers having seen a parade group dressed in uniforms complete with red jackets with gold helmets. In Steve's many years of collecting he has owned a substantial number of these VFW and American Legion figures. Steve mentioned that he gave many of them away as gifts to friends, since he preferred the more versatile postures of the khaki figures.

Today, the Warren brand continues to excite long-time and new collectors alike. Perhaps the fascination lies with the interwar years' uniforms, evocative of those worn by the National Guard and militia as remembered in everyone's hometown parades of the 1930s. Steve Sommers notes that while American Dimestore figures are stylized, static and almost "comic" in nature, Warrens' crisp sculpting, movable arms and

THE WARREN LINES REDUX (Cont.)

plug-in heads give them a lot of play value. En masse, the mere sight of Warrens brings the inner child out in grown men. Don Pielin recalls an early Chicago Old Toy Soldier show in which a massive group of Warrens turned up and were stored in the hospitality suite by one of his friends. Scott Morlan convinced Don, Steve, and Will Beierwaltes into going up to the suite, unpacking every figure and setting up the battalion of Warrens. The four then engaged in several hours of fun, battling it out on their hands and knees.

Unfortunately, production costs, the timing of their toy soldier venture, and the high prices of the figures led to Warren's early demise. That John Warren created such an outstanding product line in only a three-year period amplifies the possibilities lost. We can only speculate what might have been created if Warren had been able to duplicate Heyde's six decade long history of toy soldier production. One last project does hint at things to come as Steve Balkin turned up a photo of a prototype khaki motor ambulance with a Red Cross insignia adapted from an Arcade panel truck.

John Warren closed shop in 1939, and in 1941 sold off his remaining stock to Comet Metal Products Company of Richmond Hills, New York, a company already well known for its Brigadier soldier line. As Steve Balkin notes, Warren's transferable stock consisted of 3000 horses for which Comet was to produce riders. As WWII escalated, the government commissioned Comet to make military identification models for them, but with the shortage of metal, Comet was compelled to melt down the horses in order to fulfill the government's request, thus explaining the scarcity of Warren horses in today's market. Margo Cloninger must have been heartbroken.

After World War II, Comet employed a Swede named Holger Eriksson who designed a new line of toy warriors of the world. Comet developed an advanced centrifugal spin casting process that allowed the molten metal to flow into the mould's cavities much more evenly than previous methods. They named the process and the new line 'Authenticast' since the new manufacturing process created a much higher level of detail and realism for each figure.

Today, few Warrens ever come to market and there is very little in the way of records and catalog history to fully document the history of the Warren Lines. But with release of Gene Johnson's collection, we now have much more information that we have had previously and can only hope that over time, more information and examples will surface.

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Mounted legionnaires at the gallop



Extremely rare mounted Warren band on standing horses

WOODEN TOY SOLDIER DISPLAY

By Nancy Jo Fox

Toy soldiers and pull toys have ancient lineage as survivors of Egyptian, Greek and Roman origin. They were made of clay, slate or stone and can be viewed in museums of childhood throughout the world.

Medieval and Renaissance times evidence finely molded toy soldiers of gold, silver and polychromed metals and were created for royalty and nobility. Castles, forts, horses, swords, guns and cannons completed the assemblage.

The 18th and 19th centuries saw the rise of the toy industry primarily in the German towns of Nuremberg, Oberammergau, Thuringia and Berchtesgaden. Abundant forests, a history of wood carving and a large peasant labor class created a cottage or family industry.

There were carvers and painters which led to the creation of specific guilds. Soldiers were hand or lathe carved, given to another to apply stick arms, a sword or gun or left in the round to be used as a ten pin or skittle or bowling with a ball. These went to a painter who used primary and secondary colors. The quality of the faces, hat and uniform depended on individual talent.

Wooden toys were featured at the big feasts of the church and began travel via the trade routes to central Europe, England and to America. Holiday fairs still exist to this day. Air borne travelers venture to Europe to obtain crafted wooden toys including the ever popular toy soldier and soldier nut cracker. So ingrained is the image that it appears in artwork, the decorative arts, jewelry, cookie and chocolate molds, dolls, banks, Christmas cards, note cards, textiles and toys such as pull toys.

Currently featured at the Spencer Doll and Toy Museum is a delightful display of old wooden toy soldiers and related items. The variety will certainly pique the interest of visitors. We're sure they will enjoy the collection.

"Toys are a side door to history, reflecting all aspects of current time-a sort of mini mirror of the world. While we now have high tech robots and space ships, it is the humble wood toy soldier who has crossed cultures and time to become and remain an icon childhood toy."



1. Wooden puzzle type castle. Pieces fit together to make a 3 D representation of a castle with drawbridge high on a hill. Small soldier in one corner. Do not know if this is German or British.



2. English calliope toy features the queen's guard with famous bear skin hat. Two golden lions flank either side of soldier.



3 and 5. These lithographed soldiers were created prior to WWI.

WOODEN TOY SOLDIER DISPLAY (Cont.)



4. Six small 3 inch soldiers with multi colored wooden soldiers and a wooden ball tied in between. Probably used for a skittles game.



6. Skittles type of wooden turned soldiers - some with wooden white plume in hat.



7. Long tall soldier is made in Czechoslovakia and part of a set.



8. Wooden soldier with windmill type arms. Red hat and large shoes, Hand painted face. Buttons on vest and green pants.



9. Very happy faced oilcloth fabric soldier with blue hat and pants, red shirt with white criss-cross belt on chest. Note his large brown shoes.



12. This Teachem pull toy was made in England by Lines Bros of London 1950s.

Nancy Jo Fox, A.S.I.D., I.S.C.C, I.F.D.A, is a designer, author and toy collector. She resides in North Carolina and is on the board of the Spencer Doll and Toy Museum, 108 Fourth St, Spencer, NC 28159. spencedollandtoymuseum.com or info@spencedollandtoymuseum.com

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BRITAINS 1910 CATALOG

By Joe Wallis

In 1972 Britains Limited reprinted and sold a limited edition of an early Britains catalog from their files. It consisted of 20 large pages measuring 11 inches wide by 17 inches tall. The date "1905" was written in towards the bottom of the front page, which featured an ornate Art Nouveau border. This 20 page reprinted catalog went through Set 191, French Turcos Charging. Therefore it was clearly misidentified as having a 1905 date of issuance. Britains was notified of this and added a notice on the back page stating that "Britains Ltd regret a possible error in the date of this catalogue. The evidence of certain items in the contents would point to the probable print date of the originals being about 1910." Below that notice, Dennis Britain then signed each of the 1,000 copies of the limited edition that were printed. This notice failed to rectify the error, for Set 191 was issued in 1915, with Sets 192-194 being publicized as New Lines in the October 1916 issue of *The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader*, so instead of 1905 or 1910, the catalog ending in Set 191 is really the 1915 catalog.

However, another large format catalog encompassing 14 pages ending with Set 161 has emerged. Rob Wilson was contacted by Tim Buchanan in reaction to Rob's recent article in the Winter 2014 *Old Toy Soldier* (Volume 37, Number 4, pages 30-33) concerning the Horn & Sons 1896 catalog. The collector emailed photographs to Rob of a catalog labeled on the front as a 1906 Britains catalog. This catalog was reprinted in 1994 by MiJoy Publishing in Beverly Hills, California. The same 11 inches by 17 inches format was employed. Of course the best method of

establishing the date of prewar Britains catalogs is to examine their contents. In this case, one can determine that the 1906 date attributed to the 1994 reprint is incorrect, for the highest set number attained in it is Set 161, Boy Scouts. This would normally suggest a date of 1909 because the Boy Scout hiking is dated 20-7-1909 and their Scoutmaster has a date of 19-8-1909 underneath his base. (Britains dates are given in a day-month-year mode.)

Rob asked my opinion of the proper date for the catalog, but then he pointed out that it includes small busts of not only King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, but also of King George V and Queen Mary. Edward died on May 6, 1910 and his son George became King then—even though his coronation ceremony was not held until June 22, 1911. Accordingly, the 1906 reprint can be identified as having been originally distributed sometime in 1910 (the Boy Scout kneeling in Set 162 is dated 1-8-1910 and Set 162 would not have been released until 1911).

Having determined the actual date, an examination of the catalog's contents is always of utmost interest. The 1910 reprint done in California includes the Boer troops in Sets 6 and 26, as well as the Salvation Army types found in Sets 10 and 14 (see accompanying photograph of page 13 of the catalog) and Japanese and Russian B Series sets. None of the Boer or Salvationist sets appear in the 1915 catalog, nor do B Series sets of the Japanese and Russian armies (Sets 11b, 14b, 25b and 26b). Both the 1910 and the 1915 catalogs contain Set 25, Soldiers to Shoot, and

Types of the Salvation Army.



No. 10 Officers, Band and Colours. Price 1/-



No. 14. Women Officers, Timbrel Band, and the "War Cry." 1/-

Bust of General Booth (Lifelike Model) Price 1d.

Manufactured by



in London.

BRITAINS 1910 CATALOG (Cont.)

Cheap Toys and Novelties.

Intending Purchasers are respectfully requested to notice that the following Models and Designs being Copyright and Registered, they can only be obtained under the name **(W. BRITAIN)** which should be specified when ordering.

No. 8. Gilt.
Bust of King Edward VII.
Bust of King George V.

Gilt Tea and Coffee Pots.
14. each. Registered Design.

No. 10. Gilt.
Bust of Queen Alexandra.
Bust of Queen Mary.

No. 13. Gilt.
King Edward VII in Home-back.
Price 14. each.
(Copyright Models.)

Miniature Sauspan.
Finished in Black Enamel with bright Metal lid.
Actual size.
Price 14. each.

Race Horses
(assorted colors). 14. each.

GILT SOLDIERS.

No. 2. Price 24. each. (Copyright Models.)

Resembling Model of the Football Association Cup.
Registered Design. Silver or Gilt.
Actual Size.
Price 14. each.

Miniature Watering Pot.
Finished in Red Enamel.
Actual Size.
Price 14. each.

Rocking Chairs.
14. each.

Gilt Bust of the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain.
This is a splendid Porcelain Model and is copyrighted.
Price 14. each.

Miniature Kettle.
In Gilt of this is Enamel.
Registered Design.
Price 14. each.

Gilt Kettle on Stand.
(Registered Design).
Actual Size.
Price 24. each.

Manufactured by **W. Britain** in London.

Shaver's Oil.
The America Cup Challenge.
Artistically designed in a column.
Price 14. each.

LATEST ADDITIONS.

Railway Station Staff.

STRIKING NOVELTY.

No. 155. Containing Station Master, Ticket Collector, Porters, Trudgers, Luggage, &c. Copyright Models. Price 1/-.
PLEASE NOTE:—The porters are so designed that they will push or pull the trunks, loaded or unloaded, and can carry luggage as shown in accompanying illustration. N.B.—No Gratuities allowed.
No. 158. Contains all above, and, in addition, Passengers, Engine Driver, Stoker, Guards, Policemen, and extra Luggage. 2/6.

Red Indians.

No. 150. North American Indians (Unmounted).
No. 152. " " (Mounted).
Price 1/- Copyright Models.

Territorial Forces.

No. 156. Infantry. Price 1/-.
No. 160. Infantry. Price 1/-.

Types of the German Army.

No. 151. BOY SCOUTS. Price 1/-.
No. 151. Royal Naval Reserve. Price 1/-.
Copyright Models.

No. 151. BOY SCOUTS. Price 1/-.

Manufactured by **W. Britain** in London.

Set 72, Life Guards as at Waterloo and at the Present Time. Britains displayed its tendency to frugality by continuing to use wood-block illustrations of versions of sets that often predate 1903 in both of the large format catalogs. Sets 4 and 5 (the Germanic plug-shoulder lancers shown in the 1896 Horn & Sons catalog); the undocumented Set 70 (said by L.W. Richards to be Scots Guards running at the trail); and Set 103 (purported to be a mounted band of the Royal Horse Guards) are missing from both the 1910 and the 1915 catalogs. Interestingly, Set 143, French Matelots; Set 156, Royal Irish Regiment firing; and Set 157, Gordon Highlanders firing are not to be found in the 1910 catalog. They were probably available but omitted for some reason as Sets 143, 156 and 157 all appear in a catalog I have seen that contains photographs (not wood-block illustrations) and ends at Set 161.

Other items included in the 1910 reprint catalog comprise small scale B Series Sets 1b, 6b, and 10b through 26b; a half dozen of the mechanical toys that had been the stock in trade of the firm (including the Equestrienne, the Two-Horse Race, the Miniature Road

Roller, two Model Cranes, a pea-shooting Machine Gun on wheels, and two Automatic Railway Signals), as well as what are forthrightly labeled "Cheap Toys and Novelties" featuring gilt figures, busts of royalty and of Joseph Chamberlain, and pots and pans. The popularity of Football (Soccer) was demonstrated by the inclusion of 12 Famous Football Teams for a shilling each, Football Favors costing a penny each, and a small rendition of the Football Association Cup (see Norman Joplin's article in the Summer 2007 issue of *Old Toy Soldier* Volume 31, Number 2, page 23).

This "1906" (actually 1910) catalog reprint by MiJoy was sold in the 1990s. Many collectors may have passed it by with hardly a glance, thinking it was simply a reissue/copy of the 1915 catalog reprinted and distributed by Britains in 1972. This article clarifies the differences between the two catalogs. It is remarkable and gratifying that documentation about Britains continues to turn up and add to our knowledge about the firm's products.

(Note the photographs for this article were taken by Bill Lebovich.)

15

SHOW REPORT

25th ANNUAL WEST COASTER Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show MARCH 9, 2014

By Noel Schlageter & Scott Morlan

Several days before Sunday, March 9th 2014, dealers arriving at the Irvine Marriott Hotel set-up shop in their rooms in anticipation of Sunday's 25th ANNUAL WEST COASTER Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show sponsored by Old Toy Soldier Home. Collectors roamed the corridors of the 7th and 8th floors seeking open doors of dealers' rooms where they might find longed for additions to their collections, including new products presented by Britian's, Figarti, King and Country, Bill Hocker and Toy Soldiers of San Diego. To collectors' delight, by week's end some 50+ rooms had treasures on offer, and folks came to buy, as many were seen with brimming bags being taken to their rooms or cars only to return for more of the soldier hunt.

As usual, Mark Young's room displayed an enormous mountain of plastic figures, which visitors mined as they sought treasures to add to their collections. A prewar mint boxed set of Britian's Mammoth Circus as well as boxed Heyde figures awaited those who entered Bill Richardson's room. In the Irish Toy Soldier Museum room, Sam Watson presented a Hunt diorama with country pub background. Patrick and Caroline Willis had come from England with their marvelous Sarum Soldiers, featuring charming California Gold Rush miners. Bruce Hebron, proprietor of Metal Shed offered exquisite scratch built model vehicles, planes and boats. King and Country exhibited several new dioramas, including one of a WWII aerodrome with a hanger, control tower, planes, vehicles and personnel. From Germany, Thomas Fink brought a selection of figures. Ray Haradin, as always, offered rare sets of Britians and Heydes. An extensive display of German composition filled a table in Joe Saine's room, and Scott Morlan offered a bed-full of his ubiquitous bargain bins.

After three glorious days of room sales, everyone gathered downstairs at the Saturday afternoon Dealer Reception where a variety of culinary delights including a 25th Anniversary cake were served. In addition the 25th edition of the West Coaster figure was unveiled. A musical ensemble, Blackthorne's Maritime Band, provided rousing 19th Century Sea Shanty entertainment as drawings were held for gift baskets, toy soldiers and a gag gift or two.

On Sunday morning at 9 A.M., as in past years, Woody Lambrith's bagpipes led a parade of re-enactors, including many 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, past the lines of show attendees and around the assembled dealer tables. Then the 600+ ticket holders entered the show. Each attendee received a canvas bag compliments of King & Country and complimentary copies of OLD TOY SOLDIER magazine until the limited supply was exhausted. Outside the entry to the exhibit hall re-enactors set up displays of their equipment to explain & demonstrate soldiering in eras past.

Show attendees found 62 dealers and 165 tables chock full of figures and related items. Vintage figures in composition, metal and plastic were displayed. Brunton's Barracks, Roy Easton and Scott Morlan displayed "mint tied-in the original box" sets. A multitude of single figures were available throughout the hall. Contemporary manufacturers – Britains Ltd., William Hocker, Front Line Figures, Edmund's Traditional Toy Soldiers and Northcoast Miniatures offered an extensive variety of their products including newly released figures. As always, attendees were delighted to see Hobby Bunker, St. Petersburg Collection, and Lead Army. Several tables also displayed a wide selection of books on military history and toy soldier collecting. Toy Soldiers of San Diego and Build A Rama were among dealers featuring completed buildings and/or kits and materials to create dioramas. Britains Ltd. provided a table with soldiers, paints & brushes for youngsters to "paint & take" soldiers of their own creation. Drawings were held all day long with the grand prize of a Toy Soldiers of San Diego Iwo Jima playset going to a 10 year old named Hunter (a very happy young man indeed!).

With such numerous & varied offerings from so many participating vendors, the 25th West Coaster was a show to delight young and young at heart. Old Toy Soldier Home's Craig McClain & Woody Lambrith report that 67 tables are already reserved & paid for in anticipation of West Coaster 26! As always, the West Coaster is a soldier show NOT to be missed!

Noel Schlageter & Scott Morlan
JNS 3/31/2014

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Joe Saine and Ed Ruby



Clarke Volbrecht and Brian Cornall



Britains Mammoth Circus



Piper Woody Lambrith



Michael O'Donnell and Hockers Large Zulu Set



Ray Haradin and Judiann and Bob O'Connell



Irish Toy Soldier Museum Hunt Diorama

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Thomas Finck



Ray Haradin with Salvation Army Set



Sergei Ilyashenco - Lead Army



Roy Easton and Wife



Bob Philips Room



Frontline Figures



Britains/First Gear Ken Osen

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Matt Murphy Hobby Bunker



Helen and Bob Bailey



Nick Verseeg



William Hocker



Joe Saine's Trading Room



"Bubba" McClain



King and Country Andy C. Neilsen

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Adrian Little

Telephone: 01635-30535

e-mail: info@mercatortrading.com

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Lucotte Napoleonic First Empire Austrian soldiers, offered for sale in five lots and sold for a combined £14,875 in our 5 December 2013 sale.



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AUCTION PREVIEW

THE JAMES A. HENDERSON COLLECTIONJUNE 27TH, 28TH & 29TH, 2014



MANUFACTURERS

Britains Pre War Boxed
 Britains Pre War unboxed
 Britain Post War Boxed
 Britains Post War unboxed
 Britains Paris Office
 Britains Special Paints

Blenheim
 British Bulldog
 Carman
 Dorset
 Ducal
 Fusilier
 Guards Toy Soldier Centre
 Haffner
 Harold Pestana
 Heyde
 Hocker
 HM of GB
 Imperial
 Imrie & Risley
 King and Country
 Lucotte
 Marlborough
 Mignot
 Monarch
 Northern Ireland Toy Soldier Museum
 Regimental Collectibles
 Ruffles and Flourishes
 Soldiers of the World
 Spenkuch
 Stadden
 Steadfast
 Tradition
 Trophy

Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA are proud to give advance notice of an exceptional one-owner toy soldier collection to be auctioned in June 2014. The James A. Henderson Collection. Britains, Britains Paris Office, Heyde, Mignot, Lucotte, King and Country, Trophy, Ducal, Fusilier, Steadfast, William Hocker, Stadden, Monarch, Imrie & Risley, Imperial, Etc., Etc.

Many lots carry excellent Provenance i.e. Britains Archive, Ed Ruby Collection, Malcolm Forbes Collection, and The Property of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester.

The collection consists of representations of the above manufacturers products, over 250 of which are in their original boxes.

The provenance of some of the items is world class, Britains Archive Auction, Malcolm Forbes Sale, Ed Ruby Collection and property of HRH The Duke of Gloucester.



Britains items from the Great Book of Britains



HRH Duke of Gloucester Collection Scots Guard Pipe Band



Britains South African King



Britains Paris Office



King and Country Rough Riders

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Kingcast Indian Army Colour Party



Trophy Gatling Gun & Crew



Stadden Napoleonic Band



Salvation Army Flag Bearers and Females



Somerset Ltd Bikanir State Forces



Mignot Cavalry Barracks Diorama



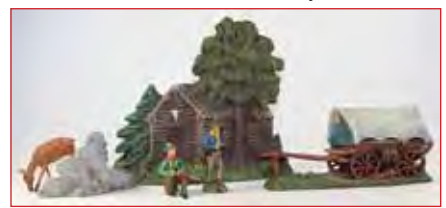
Britains Aircraft



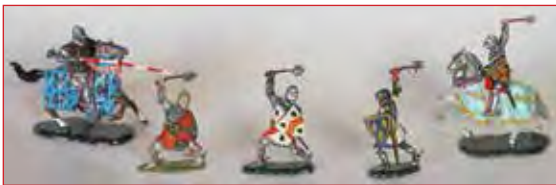
Stadden Colonial Infantry



Bill Hocker Musical, Band Stand



Elastolin Wild West



Selwyn Smith Knights



Lucotte Napoleonic



Nostalgia Kossoo Swordsmen



Britains "Special" Royal Fusiliers Band



American Dimestore Assortment



Britains VERY RARE Toy Town Figures



Imperial American Civil War



Near Mint boxed Greenwood and Ball figures



Frontline French Foreign Legion Column



Mignot Mounted Napoleonic Band



Tradition Sharps Rifles



Labayen Standard Bearers



Britains Mobile Police Car with Box



British Army Bearskin



Britains Set # 16 Sussex Regiment, Territorial Infantry and Set # 8 Rifle Brigade



Britains Waterloo Winter Cloak



Gamma T60 Tinplate Tank



Salco Mickey Mouse Fire Engine

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Marlborough Deli Durbar



Heyde Romans and Greeks in unusual French Department store boxes



Mignot Napoleonic Cavalry



Augur Mignot Flag Bearers



Comic Baseball Players Made in Italy



Ducal Gordon Highlander Column



The Old Guard Prussian Army



Britains Half Set # 2135 Danish Army



Rare Britains Texas Rangers



Alymer WWI German Army Caisson & Cannon



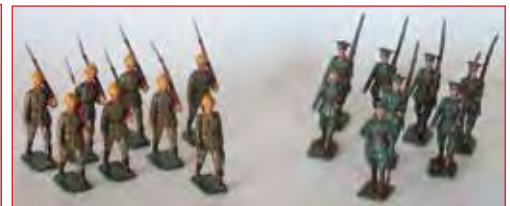
Heyde Large Size Chinese and African Figures



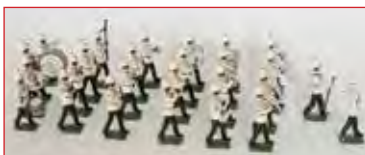
Cherilea Cowboys and Indians in Original Box



Heyde German Sailors



RARE Set #1837 Argentinean Troops and Britains Set # 1603 Irish Republican Army



Bahamas Police Band with box (Not Shown)



All the Queens Men Mounted Hussar Band



Moko/Perfect Toy Milk Float, Horse and Milk Crates



East of India Japanese Troops



Salvation Army Blue Band.



Caberfeigh Christmas Dinner



Imperial Napoleonic Memelukes



Britains Set # 1913 Cameronian's



Royal Marine Infantry Band with Box (Not shown)



Britains Special Berkshire Regiment Fifes and Drums Provenance Ed Ruby.



Britains Paris Office Figures

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Set # 101 Life Guards Mounted Band- Red



Ping Medievales



Haffner German Hussars



Britains Set # 135 Japanese Cavalry- RARE Dark Blue Uniform



Britains Bahamas Police in original cellophane box



Courtenay Foot Knights



Britains Sets 2115 Royal Marine Drums and Bugles- Two Versions



Heyde RARE Italian Display Set



Britains Traffic Police in Original Box



Britains R.A.F Colour Party



US Army Cavalry Helmet



Fusilier Gurkha Pipe Band



Heyde Nodding Cat Conductor for Band



Britains Italian Infantry Specialists with Bugler



Britains Set # 276 US Cavalry, Set # 2149 Gentlemen at Arms and Set # 255 Green Howards



Britains Set #114 Cameron Highlanders and Set # 88 Plug Handed Highlanders



Timpore RARE Hopalong Cassidy Set



Britains previously unknown Terrain Terrier



Blenheim Line Infantry Band



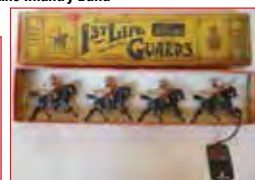
Britains Special Paints



William King Napoleonics



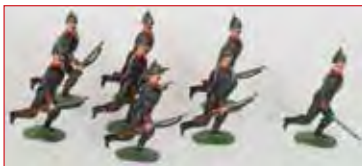
Heyde Turkish Infantry



Britains "B" Series Set # 1 Life Guards in Original Box - Provenance Christies Britains Archive Sale



Britains Set # 1908 RARE Infantry Officers, and Argentine Sets in Original Boxes



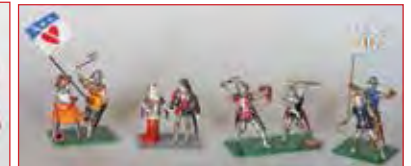
Kings Royal Rifle Corps



Star Camel Gunners



Britains Paris Office Infantry De Ligne with foot and mounted officer



Greenhill Knights and Special Commissions



Britains Set # 101 Life Guards Mounted Band- Blue



Britains Salvation Army Red Uniforms



Britains Royal Engineers Limbered Wagon RARE Steel Helmeted Version



Taylor and Barrett Decontamination Set and WW2 Firemen



Forbes / Pestana Gun Boat



Britains Unique Clyde Model Dockyard Displays -- Provenance The Ed Ruby Collection and Pictured in Opie's Great Book



Lone Star Plastic Paratroops in RARE box



Courtenay Mounted Knights



Wm Hocker Band of the Royal Artillery



King & Country German Half Track w/Crew



Stadden Waterloo Highlanders



King and Country Gloss Highland Piper Band



Soldiers of the World British Napoleonics

THE LAST RESTING PLACE OF WILLIAM BRITAIN

By Harry Kemp



Ever since Joe Wallis's excellent article on the history of the Britains family in the Spring 2001 edition of the OTSN (pages 6-13) it had stuck in my mind that in c1928 William Britain had retired to Birchington, Kent, 4 miles from where I live, and passed away there in 1933. Fred Britain took over running the company at this time.

Ten years went by before I got round to contacting the Birchington Heritage Trust and after some correspondence I eventually received a letter saying 'we have got him but who is he'? Accompanying the letter was a hand drawn plan of All Saints graveyard with his plot carefully marked and a transcription of his headstone memorial (figure 1). I explained his significance but this had gone completely unnoticed locally at the time of his demise; the parish magazines of winter 1933/34 make no mention of him. (See Joe Wallis's 2001 article for his obituary which was originally published in *The Palmer's Green and Southgate Gazette* on 1st December 1933).

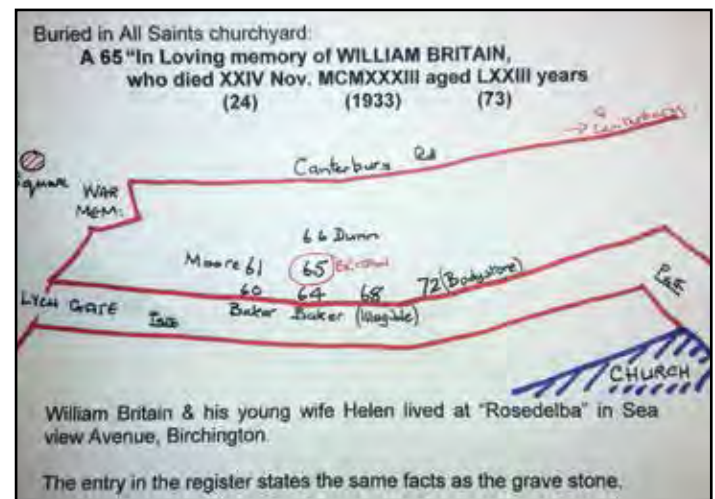
The next step was for me to examine entries in the Kelly's directories for the Ilse of Thanet, which revealed that in 1933 William Britain and Helen Britain were indeed residing at Rosedelba, Sea View Avenue, Birchington although by 1931 Helen Britain had moved to the nearby Gallwey End, Gallwey Avenue.

Life is what happens to you whilst you make plans and my intention to pop to Birchington the very next weekend took four years. So one bright sunny March morning this year I set forth armed with maps, Kelly's directories and the google map app. A 10 minute search of the All Saints graveyard lead me to the head stone of the great man. Solid granite, a fine but rather austere memorial in very good condition, in a well tended and sunny spot (figure 2).

Next stop was Sea View Avenue only half a mile away. The 1933 Kelly's guide listed only three houses on the south side of the Avenue but I could count nine when I got there. As I peered through various hedges I inadvertently disturbed a lady who was tending her garden. When I told her I was looking for Rosedelba she laughed and told me I had found it. I explained my quest and she let me in to photograph the house (figure 3). A small modest bungalow fifty yards from the cliff top, originally standing like its neighbours on triple plots, which have all subsequently been built on.

I shall return to Birchington to give the owners of Rosedelba and the local museum a few nice dated Britains figures and a facsimile of the 1915 catalogue, so a least a few more people will learn the achievements of William Britain and the company he contributed so much to.

Many thanks to Jenny Burgess (Birchington Heritage Trust) and Joe Wallis. For help visiting the grave please feel free to email me at harrykemp@hotmail.com



FILLING IN THE LINE BRITAINS TERRAIN TERRIER

By Norman Joplin

It is a rare occurrence when a previously unknown Britains set is discovered. Filling in the line has in the past traditionally been the title in Old Toy Soldier's magazine of newly discovered Britains items.

The boxed Terrain Terrier illustrated at right; A Bren Gun Style vehicle with white tires, forms part of the James A. Henderson collection to be auctioned over the weekend of June 27, 28 & 29 by Old Toy Soldier Auctions.

The Terrain Terrier comes with its own War Time Austerity type Britains box and has pencil details which indicate the catalogue number to be Britains Set #1204. It consists of a Driver, Machine Gun and Gunner, the machine gun being a much more sturdy item used for the other Bren Gun Carrier sets.

The Britains Factory record numbering system updated and devised by Dennis Britain around 1937 does not allocate a catalogue description to # 1204. It seems logical therefore that an item destined for production just prior to World War II should follow on from other similar items by Britains i.e # 1202 Carden - Loyd Tank and # 1203 Carden - Loyd Tank with Machine Gun.

The Post War Bren Gun Carrier # 1876 carries a driver and 2 men.



The Terrain Terrier



Britains Set # 1876 Post War Bren Gun Carrier



Carden - Loyd Tank



Pre War examples of #1876 Bren Gun Carrier



Your one-stop shop.

Toy soldiers-new or old, plastic or metal, assembled or kit. Rare finds from shows & trades. Finishing supplies, diorama & scenery accessories, military books & magazines.



25 PDR. FIELD GUN (BRIT.)
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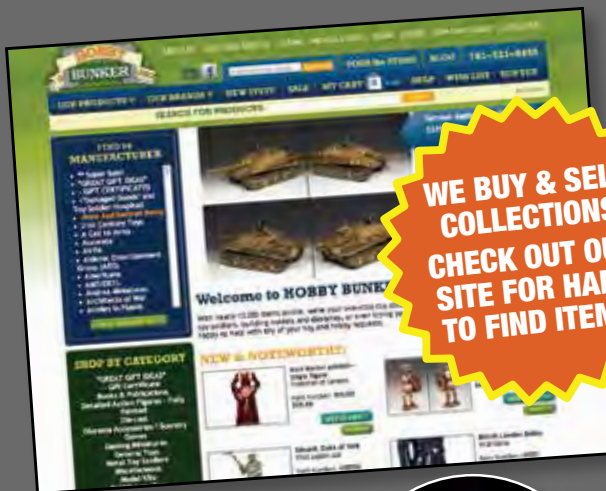


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FOREIGN FLAGS FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS

By Roger Dubois

In the last three articles that I wrote for *OTS*, I lamented about major manufactures of Dimestores not producing foreign figures representing troops found along the Western Front of World War I. Without these figures, kids who played with Dimestores attired in WWI uniforms could not create play scenes of the Western Front because all they had were American figures; neither ally nor enemy combatants could be purchased.

For some hobbyists, myself included, the frustration of not having enemy troops during our childhood never left us. When as adults we returned to our passion for collecting Dimestores, some of us decided to remedy that frustration by converting several of our tin helmeted Barclays into German soldiers. We did this by merely replacing the tin helmets with German helmets purchased from vendors and repainting the figures in colors that matched the uniforms of the Kaiser's troops.

For a time these German conversions satisfied my appetite for enemy troops, but after a while I felt a need to expand my collection of foreign figures. That's when I decided to make my own foreign headgear by finding a way to craft a German Pickelhaube, a French Army Kepi, and a Scottish Glengarry. How each headpiece was constructed is respectively described in the following *OTS* issues: v. 35, n. 2, 2011; v. 36, n. 2, 2012; and v. 37, n. 2, 2013.

Some time later after having made lots of troops wearing the headgear of three different countries, it was only natural to take the final converting step that showed the true nationality of these figures: make flag bearers carrying German, French, and British flags.

There are three ways of coming by foreign flags for Dimestore conversions; however, only two will be discussed in this article.

The first is fairly straightforward: convert a Dimestore flag bearer to a German, French, or British soldier, and then paint an appropriate flag on the figure.

The second way is to buy a flag, and then secure the flagstaff to a Dimestore conversion. Here, the challenge is in determining how to secure the flagstaff to a figure.

The third way is to scratch build one. There are different types of materials and different ways to

construct a flag; however, describing all materials and methods for making them goes beyond the scope of this article.

What follows is a description of the materials, tools, and steps that I use to paint the German, French, and British national flags and to attach purchased flags to three Dimestore conversions.

Materials: A&B Epoxy Putty; glass of water to wet the blade of a hobby knife; two-part epoxy glue with a drying time of five minutes; gap-filling putty; and red, white, blue, black, and gold hobby paint.

Tools: toothpicks to spread gap-filling putty; a razor saw; motor tool with cutter bit and a one-sixteenth inch drill bit; hobby knife; a fine sanding stick or fine sand paper; and a small paintbrush that does not shed hairs.

All fresh putty is cut, shaped, and trimmed using the wet blade of the hobby knife.

Before employing a razor saw, the blade is oiled to make the job easier.

Safety precautions as described in an earlier issue of *OTS* (v. 31, n. 1, 2007) are followed to the letter; this includes wearing safety glasses and a dust mask, and washing hands with a scrub pad immediately after kneading two-part epoxy putty.

Painted Flags

A foreign flag can be painted on any Dimestore flag bearer, but the two flag bearers that I convert most often are the Barclay B6 and the Manoil M3 as labeled in Richard O'Brien's book on *Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers*, 1997.

Before starting, I find a picture of each of the three flags to use as a guide. The first painted flag will be that of the German national flag followed by the French national flag; both flags will be painted on B6 Barclays. Lastly, the Union Jack will be painted on a M3 Manoil.

Although the following description of the three paint projects is in reference to the front of a flag, the back of each flag is painted in the same sequential steps as the front.

FOREIGN FLAGS FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS *(Cont.)*



Photo 1. Converted Barclay Flag Bearers.



Photo 2. Back view of converted Barclay Flag Bearers.



Photo 3. Converted Manoil Flag Bearer.



Photo 4. Back view of Manoil Flag Bearer.

The eagle and tassels at the top of a flag are painted gold on both sides.

German Flag: The German national flag flown during the Great War is composed of three colors set in three horizontal stripes of equal widths with black at the top, white in the middle, and red at the bottom.

1. After a figure is cleaned, primed, and made ready for painting, work can commence on the flag. I begin by applying a coat of black paint along the top third of the flag, and then paint a coat of red along the lower third of the flag.

2. Once the paints have dried, white paint is applied to the remaining middle of the flag.

3. After the white paint has dried, a second coat of all three colors is applied in the same sequence as the first coat.

The result of this work is shown by the left figure in Photos 1 and 2.

French Flag: The French national flag is composed of three colors set in three vertical stripes of equal widths; the inner stripe next to the flagstaff is blue, the middle is white, and the outer is red.

1. With a figure ready for painting, I begin by painting the inner third of the flag blue and the outer third red.

2. Once the paints have dried, the middle third is painted white.

3. A second coat of all three colors is added after the white paint has dried.

The painted French flag is shown by the figure on the right in Photos 1 and 2.

British Flag: The last painted flag is the British Union Jack, which is basically composed of red stripes on larger white stripes resting on a blue field.

Because the flag on the Manoil is not fully unfurled, only half of the flag will be painted.

1. With a prepped figure in hand, work begins by applying a blue coat of paint over the entire flag.

2. After the paint has dried, a white vertical band is painted along the flagstaff followed by a white horizontal band running midway across the flag.

3. Then two smaller diagonal white bands extending outward from the inner middle of the flag are painted in.

4. Once the white paint has dried, smaller red bands are painted over the white bands.

The painted Union Jack is shown in Photos 3 and 4.

Purchased Flags

My talent for painting flags is very limited. I can handle national flags composed of stripes, but when it comes to painting military flags with complex color patterns, that is way out of my league, and that's when I prefer to leave that kind of painting to professional artists.

FOREIGN FLAGS FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (Cont.)

Years ago, I discovered that Carl Hoegermeyer, proprietor of Quartermaster Corps, sells a variety of flags including the types flown during the First World War. The flags are made of high quality paper, and each is mounted on a metal staff with a thickness of one-sixteenth of an inch. When ordering, buyers specify the length of the staff that's painted in a wood color. The dimensions of the flags are scaled for 54 mm figures, but since flags in reality vary in sizes, I found the scale of these flags works well for Dimestores.

Once a flag has been purchased, the challenge now comes in properly securing the staff to a figure. To do so, a Dimestore needs to be converted. Fortunately, there are a couple of figures that require only a bit of modification before they can accept a flag.

The following is an explanation of how I convert three Dimestores to accept flags with staffs one-sixteenth inch in thickness.

Barclay Drum Major, short stride (B33): With this figure (Photo 5), all that is needed is to remove the baton and drill a hole through the hand.

1. Work starts by removing the exposed portions of the baton with a razor saw.

2. The part of the baton resting on the arm is erased with a motor tool cutter.

3. Once the baton has been removed, gap-filling putty is applied over the work surface to fill in scratches and even-out the surface (Photo 6); the putty is sanded when dry.

4. Using a one-sixteenth inch drill bit attached to a motor tool, a hole is drilled through the hand (Photo 7).

5. A brass rod is passed through the hole to insure clear passage for the painted flagstaff.

6. To insure that the end of the flagstaff resting on the figure's base does not slide off, a small indentation is cut into the base with the cutter.

7. The work area is primed and inspected after the paint has dried. No uneven marks are found.

8. The Dimestore is then converted to a Prussian; after completion, a World War I German Battle Flag with a six-inch flagstaff is added to the figure (Photo 8).

Barclay Advancing (B106): In this case (Photo 9), the rifle needs to be cut away and a hole drilled through the hand.

1. The same first five steps used to change the Drum Major to a flag bearer are employed to convert the Advancing figure.

2. Photo 10 shows the work completed after Step 5. In Photo 10, the brass rod fits snugly so that the flag will not slide down when the figure stands upright.

3. After the work surface is primed and the paint has dried, the job is inspected. Once again, no flaws are found.



Photo 5. Barclay Drum Major (Short Stride).

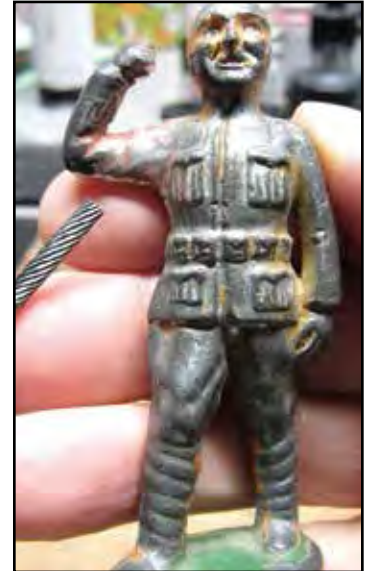


Photo 6. Baton removed.



Photo 7. Drilled hole through hand.



Photo 8. Converted Barclay Drum Major.

FOREIGN FLAGS FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (Cont.)



Photo 9. Barclay Advancing figure.



Photo 10. Rifle removed and hole drilled through hand.



Photo 11. Converted Barclay Advance figure.

The figure is converted to a French poilu with a French flag added to his hand (Photo 11).

Barclay At Attention (B22): As seen in Photo 12, I'm in the process of changing this figure to a French soldier as he might have looked at the beginning of the Great War. I also want to convert him to a flag bearer, but his rifle is in the way of a flagstaff, and so the rifle has to go.

Unfortunately when the rifle is removed, holes appear in the figure's leg, arm, and torso. These holes need to

be filled with epoxy putty, and in turn, the putty must be shaped to match the surrounding contours of the figure.

Converting this figure to a flag bearer will require some work, more so than what was done to the first two figures, but the outcome will be well worth it.

1. Work commences by sawing off the portion of the rifle below the hand with a razor saw (Photo 13).

2. Next, the part of the rifle above the hand is cut away with the motor tool cutter (Photo 14).

3. A one-sixteenth inch hole is drilled through the hand, and a brass rod is placed through the hole to ensure easy passage of a flagstaff (Photo 15).

4. Where the rod touches the figure's base, an indentation is cut with the cutter to make sure the flagstaff doesn't slide off the base.

5. Now to fill the holes. Some two-part epoxy putty is kneaded and then rolled back and forth on a clean hard surface. Using a hobby knife, a segment of the roll is cut and laid lengthwise over the leg holes.

6. The putty is flattened a bit and the edges are feathered onto the leg. I work to match the curvature of the putty to that of the leg.

7. Where the fresh putty sits next to folds in the pant leg, the folds are extended onto the putty by lightly pressing down on the putty with a wet round toothpick or the wet handle of my paintbrush while rolling the tool back and forth in the putty, making sure not to go too deep into the putty. If a sharp groove is made, the upper sides are rounded off so that in the end, the worked putty appears as smooth, gentle folds of cloth.

8. Steps 5 and 6 are repeated to fill the holes above the hand.

9. Once the putty has hardened, it's sanded, and then the work is examined.

10. There are some slight surface irregularities that need to be evened out by spreading gap-filling putty over work surface; this putty appears red in Photo 16.

11. After putty has dried, the work area is sanded and primed.

12. Once the primer has dried, the work area is again

FOREIGN FLAGS FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS *(Cont.)*



Photo 12. Barclay Soldier at Attention.



Photo 13. Removed rifle below hand.



Photo 14. Removed rifle above hand.



Photo 15. Drilled hole through hand and inserted brass rod.

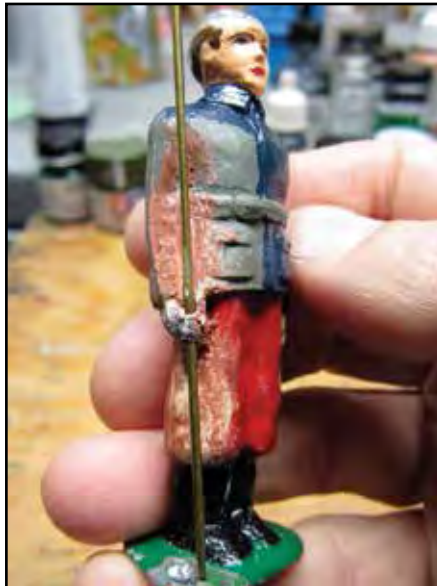


Photo 16. Patched holes in leg and torso.



Photo 17. Converted Barclay Soldiers at Attention.

examined for blemishes that suggest patchwork has been done on this figure; none is found.

13. A final coat of paint is applied, and the finished conversion, holding a French national flag, is seen in Photo 17.

Closing Comment

From my viewpoint, the easiest way to make a conversion carrying a German, French, or British national flag flown during the First World War is simply to convert a Dimestore flag bearer and paint a flag on it. It's not a difficult job.

Adding a purchased flag to a Dimestore requires a bit more work. The short stride Barclay Drum Major or the Barclay Advancing can be changed to accept a flag with minimum converting skills. I feel sure that hobbyists, after giving it some thought, could find other Dimestores that are relatively easy to convert to flag bearers.

In closing I hope this article will be of some help to those of you who have converted Dimestores to foreign troops and are now looking for a way to add flag bearers to your collection. Good luck with your projects, and if you have questions or comments, e-mail them my way at dimestore4u@verizon.net or save them until you see me at the Chicago show or other shows on the East Coast. I'm always happy to chat with fellow hobbyists.

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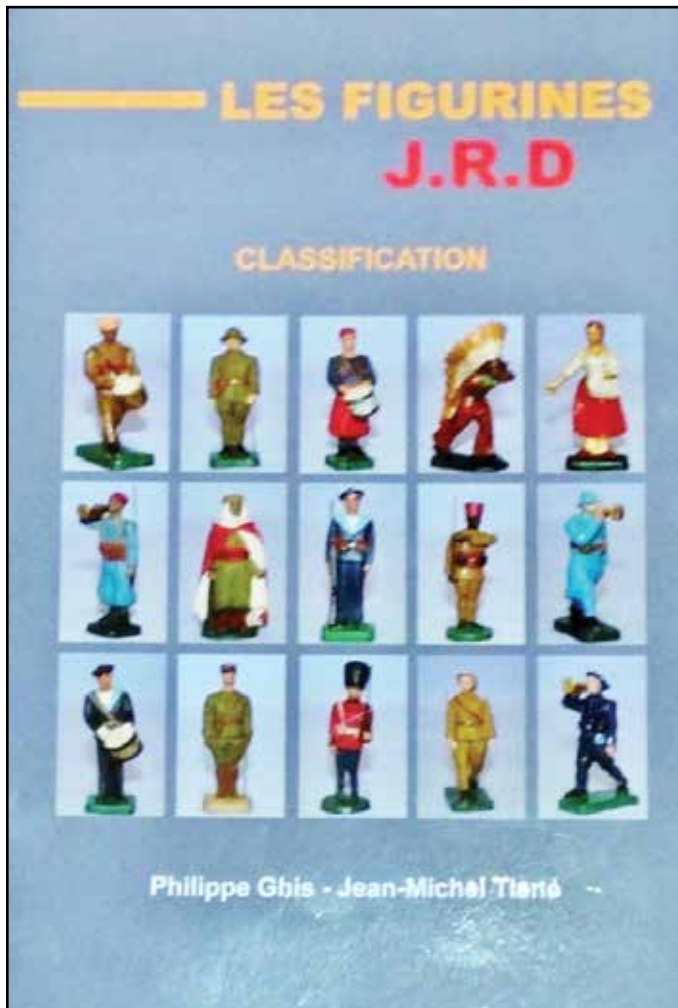
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BOOK REVIEW

LES FIGURINES J.R.D

By Philippe Ghis and Jean-Michel Tisne'

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek



of France's Second Empire, going out of business around 1870. Celloso began in 1930 manufacturing 75 mm and 80 mm figures of the contemporary French Army in khaki and horizon blue uniforms. Resistex existed from 1930-1939 specializing in 65 mm figures of Napoleon's army. Even the famous French doll company, S.F.B.J, jumped into the composition race producing impressive 12cm figures representing several World War I armies. The French company J.R.D created and produced composition figures that were unique and unlike any other maker.

The history of J.R.D. and an examination of their truly unique composition figures is the subject of Jean-Michel Tisne's exciting new book, *Les Figurines J.R.D. Monsieur Tisne'*, in collaboration with French collector Jean Doublet, is perhaps best known for his groundbreaking study of French hollow-cast figures; the trilogy, *Les Figurines en Plomb Creux Vol. 1, 2, 3*. Tisne' continues in *Les Figurines J.R.D* to use the successful format of the *Plomb Creux* series; color photographs, heavy gloss paper and a spiral binding, all of which are extremely collector friendly and a pleasure to handle. With the help of French enthusiast Philippe Ghis, Tisne' begins with a brief history of the J.R.D. company, followed with a discussion of production methods, materials and identification criteria. What follows next is a visual feast of J.R.D. figures. Each chapter is devoted to figures of a specific theme; L'Armee D'Afrique, L'Armee Metropolitaine, nativity scenes, farm scenes and more. J.R.D. was mostly known for the toy cars and trucks they produced. Collectors are treated to numerous pages of vehicles specifically created to be used in conjunction with the composition figures. In addition to the common troop transport truck, J.R.D. manufactured several versions that included a spotlight and cannon mounted toward the rear of the vehicle. Some vehicles were so large that they could easily accommodate 8-10 figures including drivers. Accordingly, J.R.D. created seated figures representing various branches of the French army. Production was not limited to military subjects. A farm and Nativity series were available along with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. After World War II the Cowboys and Indians series proved to be very popular.

What made the figures of J.R.D. so different and why?

Heavily influenced by the "art deco" trend that was sweeping through France in the 1930's, the creator of the

The German firms of Elastolin and Lineol are easily the most recognized names of composition toy soldier makers. These two German manufacturers dominated the market for decades prior to the outbreak of World War II with their composition figures and related items. A simple recipe of sawdust and glue pressed around a metal armature was an inexpensive and swift manner to produce figures. The offerings of both firms were exhaustive in terms of subject matter and historical periods, obviously appealing to an enormous collecting base. Manufacturers in other countries, most notably the Belgian firm of Durso, and Italian producers Fontanini, Chialu and Confalonieri all attempted to capture their share of the composition market.

The French also had produced composition figures for some time. Giroux created exquisite figures

BOOK REVIEW (Cont.)



J.R.D. masters remains a mystery. The most likely case is that the sculptor attended the *Ecole des Arts Decoratifs*, the prestigious art school that promoted the use of art in business. J.R.D. figures are unmistakable; their silhouette is very angular and stark, their beauty is in their simplicity. First offered in 1936, the initial release of J.R.D. figures was influenced by the 1931 Colonial Exposition of Paris. The Exposition was held to show the world and French citizens the wealth and power of France's culturally diverse colonies. Specific to each colony were displays of food, art, clothing and music, including their distinct military units belonging to either the Armee D'Afrique or Armee l'Orient. Outfitted in their colorful and exotic looking uniforms, the Zouaves, Spahis, and *Tonkinois* captured the imagination of the Paris populace. Colonial military fashion became popular especially for children's clothing and soon adaptations and interpretations of colonial uniforms became commonplace. Attempting to capitalize on the "colonial craze", J.R.D. produced figures of every colonial regiment from 1936-1939, which explains their scarcity.

The material J.R.D. used in fabricating its figures was vastly different than Elastolin and Lineol. J.R.D. used a fine paste plaster and pumice mixture to create a figure that needed no metal armature for strength, unlike their German counterparts. A mixture of powered slate is also mentioned in J.R.D. production. Rifle barrels and swords are represented by a one millimeter in diameter metal rod inserted into the plaster casting. Many parents saw the rod as dangerous and cut it off flush to the plaster for the

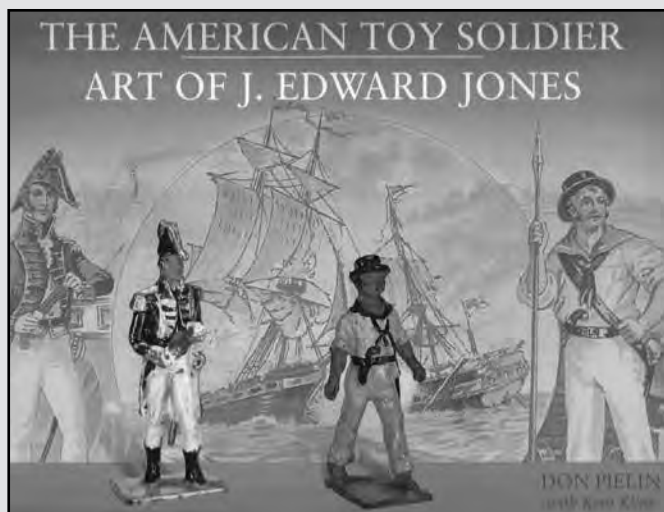
safety of their children. As a result, collectors should not be deterred from obtaining figures without the rod as this was a common occurrence. Sadly, flag staffs also suffered the same fate. Original flags are rare and the flags found on most figures have been replaced, but this should not factor into the collector's decision to buy.

While *Les Figurines J.R.D.* is short on text, (French only), it contains a wealth of information for collectors. The last ten pages include portions of the 1936, 1937 and the entire 1939 catalogue; the later is invaluable. Included in this 109 page study are over 400 color photographs on heavy 8"x 12" paper of individual figures both military and civilian. Pictures taken from the catalogues depicting various sets and vehicles are a welcomed addition. Collectors should not be concerned about the French only text as this is truly a visual reference guide; the beauty is in the pictures. Given Monsieur Tisne's masterful treatment of the subject matter, it will be interesting to see what will be the subject of his next book. Highly recommended, *Les figurines J.R.D.* is available directly from Monsieur Tisne', who accepts Paypal.

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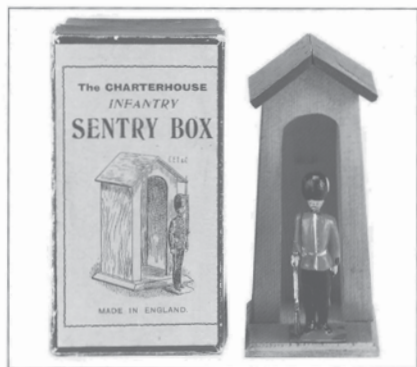
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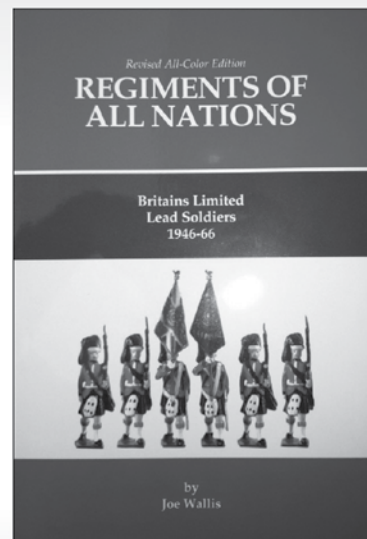
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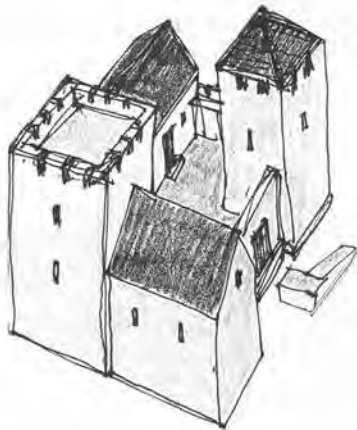
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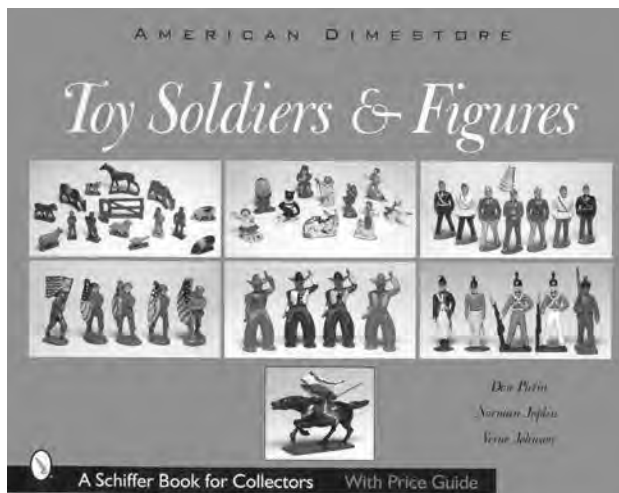
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ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD PART III: NEWLY DISCOVERED PRE-1918 GERMAN-MADE AVIATION SETS

By Earl Jorgensen



The flying machines from the "Chicago" set as displayed at the 2013 OTS show: (L-R) a military observation balloon (circa 1890's), a German military Zeppelin (circa 1909), the Wright Flyer III (circa 1908) and the Bleriot monoplane (circa 1909). (photo by author)

The two part series Above the Battlefield (OTS, Spring, 2012 & Fall, 2012) presented a brief history of early military aviation as recorded in sets of toy tin soldiers produced in Germany prior to 1918. Although such sets are rare, previously unknown examples are occasionally discovered.

The first example was photographed as displayed by Francois Beaumont (La Boite de Soldats) at the 2013 Chicago Toy Soldier Show. The set is constructed in a style reminiscent of the very early German-made aviation themed sets which depicted flying machines as flat silhouette shapes mounted on springs which would vibrate at the slightest touch which first appeared in the early 1880's. Such sets were designated as *Luftschiiffer-Abteilung* or Airship Battalion sets and included representations of observation balloons and dirigible airships along with an assortment of flat or semi-round military support figures. The first flat silhouette depictions of airplanes appeared shortly after Orville Wright successfully demonstrated the Wright Flyer to a skeptical Europe in 1908.

The "Chicago" set includes representations of the Wright Flyer and Louis Bleriot's monoplane which successfully crossed the English Channel in 1909 along with an early military observation balloon and a semi-round casting of a military Zeppelin. Additional clues for dating the set can be found in the dress and activities of the accompanying figures.

Mechanics are carrying petrol cans while a soldier is talking on what appears to be a field telephone. Pilots are interacting with military officers and most importantly, the mechanics are dressed in military uniforms. The set represents the birth of German military aviation. In 1910, Germany committed to building a large fleet of military Zeppelins, selected a prototype design for a standard military airplane and established a program to train military pilots. The following year, *Die Fliegertruppen des Deutschen Kaiserreiches* or The Imperial German Flying Corps was established. The "Chicago" set commemorates these events and was likely produced between 1910-1911.



The "Chicago" set as displayed in the dealer's hotel room prior to the Sunday show. (photo by author)

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD

PART III: NEWLY DISCOVERED PRE-1918 GERMAN-MADE AVIATION SETS (Cont.)

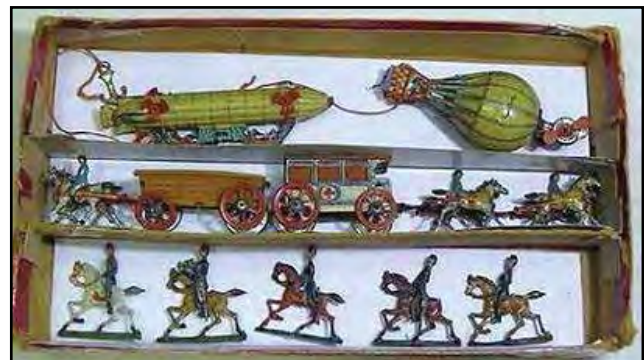
The next example started with the discovery of a small illustration of a *Luftschiffer* (airship) set in a 1910 French toy catalog.¹ The set was listed as “*PARC AEROSTATIQUE*” and included both a balloon and a Zeppelin along with two horse-drawn wagons and five mounted figures. A second illustration of what appeared to be an expanded version of the set was discovered in the 1911 edition of the same catalog listed as “*PARC AEROSATATIQUE MILITAIRE*”. The set pictured in the 1911 illustration included a second Zeppelin, a third wagon, seven infantry and two horse-drawn field artillery units. The airships pictured in both illustrations were identical and appeared to be tinplate penny toys.

Penny toys were small, colorful, inexpensive tin toys which were mass produced from thin tinplate stampings that were bent into shape and held together with tabs. They were widely distributed and sold in both toy shops and by street corner vendors between the years of 1895 and 1914. Many were often equipped with basic rudimentary drive mechanisms that set them in motion: carousels turned, mules kicked and propellers spun on flying machines that moved up and down on a rubberized strings. According to noted toy expert and author David Pressland, “The vast majority of penny toys were produced in and around the area of Nuremberg (and) the most important manufacturer was J. Ph. Meier”.²

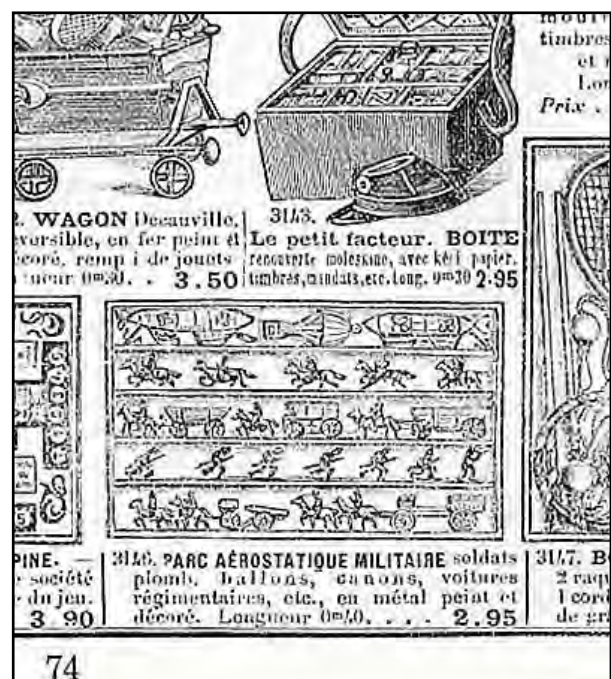
An internet search based on the name “Meier” along with such key words as “penny toy,” “tinplate” and “balloon” resulted in the discovery of a recent color photo of a “*Luftschiffer*” set that was identical to the original illustration found in the 1910 catalog. The photo also provided a link which lead to a German based antique toy site offering a boxed set described as a “Meier Tin-Penny Toy Original Carton presumably for France with One Captive Balloon”.³ The listing included numerous photos of both the full set and the individual components which clearly showed that while both airships and wagons are tinplate penny toys, the five mounted figures are period German-made painted lead castings.



The illustration of the “*PARC AEROSTATIQUE*” set as found in the 1910 Ville de St. Denis toy catalog. (photo by author)



The “Meier Tin Penny Toy Captive Balloon” set as found on the internet. (photo used with the permission of www.historytoy.com)



The illustration of the “*PARC AEROSTATIQUE MILITAIRE*” set as found in the 1911 Ville de St Denis toy catalog. (photo by author)

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD PART III: NEWLY DISCOVERED PRE-1918 GERMAN-MADE AVIATION SETS *(Cont.)*

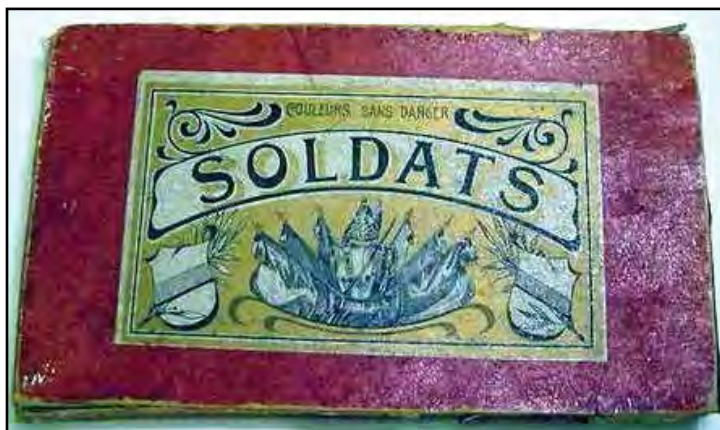


An example of a Meier cast pewter figure from the internet set.
(photo used with the permission of www.historytoy.com)



Another example of a Meier cast pewter figure from the internet set.
(photo used with the permission of www.historytoy.com)

Many old German toy soldier makers, including such firms as Spenkuch and Rupprecht, are known to have included examples of penny toy airships in their *Luftschißer* sets,⁴ but such airships were always utilized in limited numbers. The Meier set, as described above, appears to reverse the formula by showcasing the firm's penny toys and included a few lead-cast figures to complete the set. Since the previously mentioned photos offer little evidence as to the maker of the five mounted lead-cast figures, one must wonder if Meier also produced the cast figures or if they were purchased from an outside source.



The unmarked box label from the Meier Penny Toy Balloon set found on the internet which simply reads "**SOLDATS, COULEURS SANS DANGER**" or "Color Safe Soldiers".

(photo used with the permission of www.historytoy.com)

Based on documents tracing company history, the firm of J. Ph. Meier was founded in 1883 for the production of tin toys. An 1891 notation indicates that production also included "ordinary, medium fine, fine and massive tin figures."⁵ The firm produced both tin toys and pewter figures including both the "*PARC AEROSTATIQUE*" and the "*PARC AEROSATATIQUE MILITAIRE*" sets. It should be noted that France established the "*Aeronautique Militaire*" in 1910.

The last example is a rare and very interesting Heyde-type Airship Display set which was offered as lot 3557 in the recent Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA "Toy Soldier Extravaganza".⁶ The set includes a large tinplate toy dirigible with a rather unique design. The vast majority of German-made tin toy airships were produced with the clockwork drive mechanisms concealed inside the body and the propeller shaft extending out through the back end. The dirigible from the set features an exposed clockwork drive mechanism mounted beneath the rear of the airship's body, a technique often found on many of very early examples of such toys. An illustration found in the *Luftschißen* section of the 1908 A. Wahnschaffe toy catalog⁷ shows both types of airship styles for comparison.

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD PART III: NEWLY DISCOVERED PRE-1918 GERMAN-MADE AVIATION SETS (Cont.)



The dirigible balloon from the "Heyde Airship Display" set. (photo by author)

Another interesting feature of the set is the presence of a winch wagon which was traditionally used to launch and recover military observation balloons. Although not normally associated with dirigibles, it is a brilliant addition to the set. As seen in the photo, the set includes a sturdy length of L shaped steel wire. The longer side fits into the hole located on the tallest part of the wagon while the shorter side, which is now on top, becomes a support for the dirigible. When the drive mechanism was activated the dirigible would be pushed forward and fly in a circular pattern over the wagon.

The figures from the set appear to represent either American or British soldiers. History tells us that the United States Signal Corps obtained its first dirigible in 1908 and conducted tests through 1912 when it was scrapped. History also records that Great Britain's Royal Engineers School of Ballooning built its first dirigible in 1907. Given these dates and the 1908 date of the Wahnschaffe catalog illustration, it would be easy to conclude that the set represents pre-war production but such a conclusion may not be correct. An illustration of a *Luftschiffer-Abteilung* set found in a post-war Heyde catalog clearly shows



An illustration from the "Luftschiffen" section of a 1908 toy catalog from the firm of A. Wahnschaffe. Note the variations of the drive mechanism placement on the two dirigibles. (photo used with permission from www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com)



An illustration of a "Luftschiffer" set from a post war Heyde catalog. Note the placement of the airship's drive mechanism. (photo by author)

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD PART III: NEWLY DISCOVERED PRE-1918 GERMAN-MADE AVIATION SETS *(Cont.)*

that airships with exposed drive mechanisms were still being used in such sets after the conclusion of WWI. The key to determining the set's production date sits on top of the figure's heads. They are all

wearing a type of steel helmet known as "brodies" which were not introduced until the Fall of 1915. Based on this one small fact, the Heyde-type Airship Display set is definitely of post-war production.



Lot 3557, "A Heyde-type Airship Display set" as pictured in the Nov. 2013
Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA Toy Soldier Extravaganza catalog.
(photo used with the permission of Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA)

¹ Toys-Dolls-Games:Paris 1903-1914, (Hastings House Publishers Inc., New York, 1981)

² Pressland, David, The Art of the Tin Toy, (Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, 1976) p.113.

³ www.historytoy.com

⁴ Jorgensen, Earl, Above the Battlefield PART I (Old Toy Soldier, Vol. 36, No 1) p.39

⁵ www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com

⁶ Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA, TOY SOLDIER EXTRAVANGANZA, NOVEMBER 22, 23 and 24, 2013 (Auction Catalog)

⁷ www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com

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June 27 - Friday, June 28 Saturday. June 29 Sunday. Old Toy Soldier Auctions THE JAMES A HENDERSON COLLECTION. www.oldsoldierauctions.com Email otsauctionsusa@yahoo.com Tel 1-800-349-8009. Email raytoys@aol.com or info@normanjoplin.com.

July Date to be Announced Vectis Auctions Contact 44 1642 750 616

July 19 - Saturday Toy Soldier Extravaganza Auction. Holiday Inn Livonia Michigan. Contact Joe Saine Tel 419-662-8697. www.josephsaine.com

July 20 - Sunday Toy Soldier Extravaganza TOY SOLDIER SHOW. Holiday Inn Livonia Michigan. Contact Joe Saine Tel 419 662 8697 www.josephsaine.com

August 30th - Saturday Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London
Contact Adrian Little mercatortradingltd@gmail.com Telephone 01635 30535.

September 27 - Saturday Old Toy Soldier Auctions BARGAIN ROOM. 10 am 4th Floor Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg, IL Contact Raytoys@aol.com 1-800-349-8009 or Info@normanjoplin.com 262-692-3913

September 28 - Sunday OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW CHICAGO Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg. OTSN'S 34th Year Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239 or Steve Sommers 708-383-6525
Email dimestores@aol.com or www.toysoldiershow.com

October 12 - Sunday LA Plus Grande Bourse Internationale Paris, France Contact Tel 06 14 61 16 18
Or www.eurofigurines.com

November Date to be confirmed Old Toy Soldier Auctions, USA. Contact Ray Haradin 1-800-349-8009 or Norman Joplin 262-692-3913

November 2 - Sunday Cantigny Toy Soldier Show. Wheaton, Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese 920-261-1323.

November 2 - Sunday 9am-3pm. 32nd Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show & Sale.
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack, NJ. Tel: 973-831-8900 Email: bill@vintagecastings.com
www.eastcoasttoysoldiershow.com

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).

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