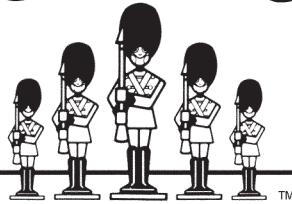


Spring  
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 42 Number 1  
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# OLD TOY SOLDIER



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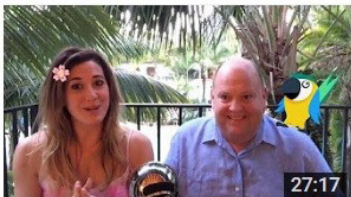
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VOLUME 37

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 4**

**NUMBER 4**

VOLUME 38

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 4**

**NUMBER 4**

VOLUME 39

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 4**

**NUMBER 4**

VOLUME 40

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 3**

**NUMBER 4**

**NUMBER 4**

VOLUME 41

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 1**

**NUMBER 2**

**NUMBER 2**

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**NUMBER 3**

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VOLUME 42

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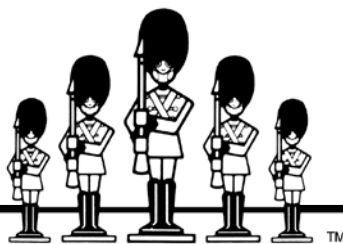
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**Publisher**

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

**Editor**

Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com

**Manager**

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Advertising**

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Circulation**

Nancy Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Technical Production**

Banksville Express Printing

**Copyeditor**

Roberta Haradin

**Staff Photographers**

David Haradin

Noel Schlageter

**Staff Cartoonist**

Sue Joplin

**Show Reports**

Ray Haradin, Rob Wilson, Noel Schlageter

**General Inspection-Book Reviewer**

Russ Bednarek

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Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and  
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Old Toy Soldier

P. O. Box 13324

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Telephone (412) 343-8733

Fax (412) 344-5273

E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

**VOLUME 42 NUMBER 1 - SPRING 2018**

**ARTICLES**

**FEATHALITE WARRIORS -  
AUSTRALIAN PLASTIC**

*By Bill Anderson* ..... 6-7

**JAG STEAMPUNK DIMSTORE CONVERSIONS**

*By Norman Joplin* ..... 14-18

**A TRIBUTE TO THE MASTER  
PONGCHAI JAYANKURA of MONARCH  
REGAILIA PRODUCTIONS**

*By Bill Anderson* ..... 24-25

**THE AMERICAN TOY SOLDIER ARCHIVE  
OF THE LATE RICHARD O'BRIEN**

*By Norman Joplin* ..... 27-29

**REPORT ON LONDON AND PARIS  
TOY SOLDIER SHOWS HELD IN MARCH 2018**

*By Rob Wilson* ..... 35-37

**TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES  
IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS**

*By Rob Wilson* ..... 38-43

**MODEL TOYS UNLIMITED**

*By Norman Joplin* ..... 45-49

**CP MINIATURES - A STUDY IN SCARCE GLOSS  
OF SOLDIERS FROM AUSTRALIA**

*By Bill Anderson and Paul Simadas* ..... 52-54

**CONVERSION PARTS FROM "OVER THERE"**

*By Roger Dubois* ..... 56-59

**FEATURES**

Subscriptions/Advertising ..... 4

Hobby News..... 5

Auction Previews..... 10-11

Book Review Allgeyer..... 20-22

Show Report West Coaster..... 31-33

Word Search..... 50

Toy Soldier Market Place ..... 61

Toy Soldier Show and Auction Calendar ..... 62

Advertisers Index..... 62

**ON THE COVER**

Steampunk Dimstores

Photograph courtesy Norman Joplin

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## Obituary



### Earl Jorgensen ~ April 6, 1945 - April 5, 2018

Earl was an avid toy soldier collector specializing in the production of German and Austrian toy soldier companies from the seventeen hundreds to 1914/1918 World War One.

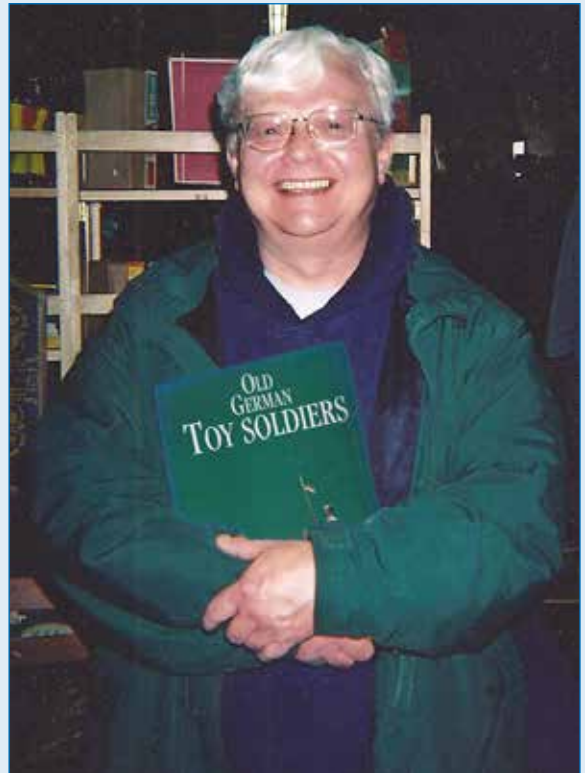
His research was second to none and he was a regular and valuable contributor to *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* for many years. His specialty research resulted in many extensive articles for *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* and he acted as consultant for the world famous Melchior Old Toy Soldier Auction of flat toy soldiers dating back to 1700.

Earl spent most of his working life as a music teacher and some 30 years in education in the St. Francis WI Public Schools.

Earl was not only a toy soldier collector, researcher and hobbyist. He had many other interests and talents including being a saxophone and clarinet player, he was a wood carver and collected whirligigs. Orchid growing was also a passion that Earl enjoyed.

He will be greatly missed by all at *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* and auctions. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Mary and family.

NJ (Editor Old Toy Soldier)



# FETHALITE WARRIORS

## 8 Different Models - Toy Soldiers by Fethalite Plastic Products - Australia

*By Bill Anderson*



Fethalite Plastics produced a range of toy soldiers back in the 1950's that were then considered a poor substitute for every boy's favorite - Britains. As a small boy with limited pocket money, I added to my collection by buying these figures singly in order to build up my collection.

I found the varied colours they came in distracting so I painted them to fit in with the rest of the collection. At the time, I had never seen them presented on the display card and it was only in the late 1990's when offered this carded set by well known Sydney Soldier Shop owner Peter Nathan, that I was prompted to revisit my collection. The first thing I did was to remove my 1950's paint job by soaking them in brake fluid, which seemed to work although one or two shrunk in the process. This brought them back to the original natural finish. I then put them back on display.

It was only recently when I started researching some well known and some more obscure Australian Toy Soldier Manufacturers that my interest was reawakened and although they were not on my enquiry list I thought they were worth investigating anyway.

Since then some controversies regarding their origins have emerged, leading back to the Airfix Company in Britain.

*The Plastic Warrior Magazine* in the UK covered the subject in a publication called *Airfix - The Early Days* with references to a 1949 Trade Price List. Described as being a - SET OF 8 STANDING -model soldiers. - Sold by the gross or singly, at 7 pence each-hand coloured and



## FETHALITE WARRIORS (Continued)

made of unbreakable plastic. They were also available in unpainted form. These are the exact same figures as the Fethalite Australian models.

How they ended up in Australia is a mystery- whether they were pirated or produced under license has not been explained. They certainly were not sold as an Airfix product. Who copied who? Very little background knowledge is known about the figures in both Australia and the UK. Unlike the Airfix figures, the Australian ones were offered unpainted. As this was the Post War era and feelings were still hostile to recent former enemies, the figure described by AIRFIX as being Japanese is called Foreign Legion by Fethalite and the Airfix German Soldier is just called Infantry by Fethalite.

It came down to the fact that whether copied or licensed, they sold well but have all but disappeared from the market in both countries.

The parent company of Fethalite was called Pierwood plastics. They had a start during the war and went on after targeting the post war Asian market in Singapore. This venture proved unsuccessful and they then concentrated on the local market. They became well known for a range of kitchen canisters and containers known as Gayware, which is now highly collectable. They used a plastic called Fethalite which is very similar to Bakelite. A range of toys, dolls house furniture and spaceships were also produced.

In the mid 1950's Pierwood Plastics signed an agreement with Louis Marx [U.S.] to produce their toys in Australia. This may have accounted for the Space oriented toys but little else is known about any other Marx products being sold here.

Pierwood was taken over by Moulded Products Australia in 1954 but was running at a loss at the time and was delisted in

1958 but continued in one form or another until 1965.

The Company had a roller coaster ride over this period and did have to allocate a large sum of money to cover legal costs. Whether this involved a copyright action with Airfix or Marx is pure conjecture but it was in difficulties which led to delisting and did not last much longer.

A sad ending but the products are fondly remembered by collectors as a range that catered to all tastes, toy soldiers being just a fraction of that.



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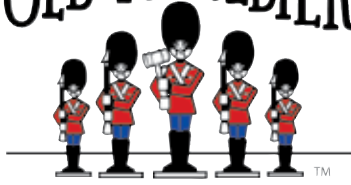


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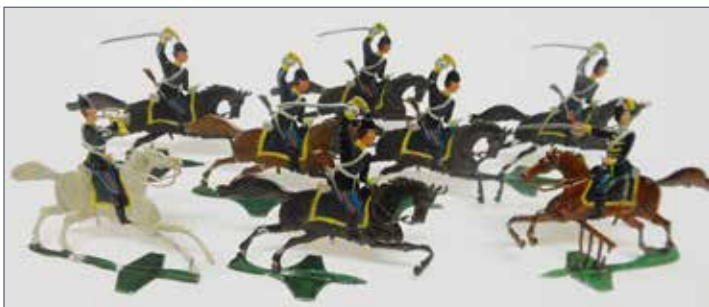
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# EARLY AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



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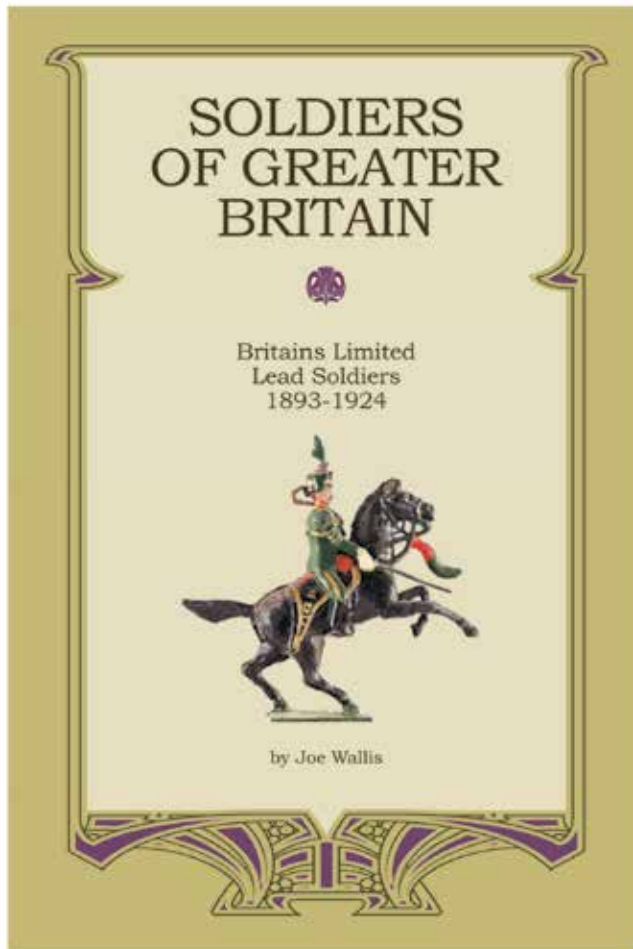
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# SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN

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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# JAG STEAMPUNK DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS

*By Norman Joplin*

James Grancio the maker of these unique Dimestore conversions, lives in New York, he is 53 and has worked as a carpenter for 36 years. His profession lends itself well to his hobby of converting Dimestore Toy Soldiers as he is proficient in all phases of construction in Residential, Commercial and Industrial applications.

He recalls his first Dimestore as being the Barclay Drum Major, purchased when he was 9 or 10 years old, which he still retains.

The East Coast Hackensack, N. J. Toy Soldier Show operated by Bill Lango was always a place for James to find Dimestores for his collection. his favorites being Naval figures, Cannons and Divers. James would buy groups to add to his growing collection and there would always be broken pieces so he would repair and paint them. So if there were holes or missing guns/ rifles or whatever, out would come his tool box.

His early purchases were parts from Ron Eccles, but as time went on he

found that it was easier just to make his own parts and was always on the lookout for original factory moulds.

Home cast white metal moulds were pretty well all that was available, until a visit to the Hackensack show resulted in the purchase of a Metal Cast bronze mold of the WWI flag bearer which makes a solid cast figure. The mold, a 4 piece bronze mould, he at first found hard to use, as he had been used to working with the home cast molds which are easy to use. But eventually he figured out how to use the Metal Cast mold resulting in a brand new Metal Cast Flag Bearer.

The following excerpts are from an interview with James.

"I find it very relaxing, to go into the work shop and sit at the bench and see what I was going to turn this broken figure into.

When I collected my soldiers I would always try to buy the best figure that I could afford. So I was always looking for quality not quantity. I remember buying an American Metal figure



The metal cast figure that inspired James Grancio.



Converted from B91 Charging with Rifle.



Converted from M50 with Barclay Gas Mask Head.



Converted From B52a.

*'B' and 'M' numbers refer to O'briens toy soldier books.*

## JAG STEAMPUNK DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS *(Continued)*

---



Blimp driver converted B259 Marching.



Flag Bearer  
Converted from Manoil M177/45/7



Steam Boat



Converted using B128 Officer and B106 Advancing with Rifle.



Steam driven wheelchair B115.

## JAG STEAMPUNK DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (*Continued*)

---

though at the time it was classified as a Jones figure. The Am6 soldier with rifle, gassed or shot in neck in grey uniform had 98%-99% paint. I had bought it at the East Coast Show from Tony and Jacki Grecco. They sold quality figures and that's what I was looking for. Tony was telling me at the time (early 90's) that he sold figures through the mail, he would send you pictures and you would call to let them know which ones you would like. I bought a lot of figures from him. So between him and the all the other shows, my collection had grown quite large.

I had never belonged to any toy soldier clubs or anything, I was always too busy working. So only my family or friends at the time had seen the repairs and conversions I had made on the figures. As my taste in figures changed, I thought it was a good idea to sell off some of my collection to make room for the new direction I was taking.

Some dealers would come to take a look at what I was selling and make offers on them. They thought that the figures I had re-done were variations or prototypes of Barclay or Manoil figures. I had to tell them that I had repaired and repainted them. The dealers that sold Dimestore figures could not tell my repaints and repaired / converted figures from the originals. It made me think that maybe some of my figures I bought, may have been repainted as well. So I got a little discouraged and just stopped collecting them for a time.

And as time went by I sold off most of my figures and home cast moulds only keeping the factory moulds along with the navy figures and oddball stuff. I still buy figures now and then but nothing like in the 80' and 90's.

Then Ebay came into being in 1998 I think, and I joined in 1999. And I would always look at the Dimestore

soldiers but never really got back into them as heavily as in the past. Then around 2014 I came across a lot of 3 Manoil mechanics with missing props. And I still had a lot of parts from Eccles that I had never got rid of. So I bought the lot of figures. And when they came I got out all my tools for repairing them and set out to soldering the new prop onto them and to repaint and match existing colors. By that time all of the paints I had bought were dried up. I always had a good eye for colors, so down I went to the paint store and bought base colors and set out to mix my own paint colors. When I had finished painting them, I put my usual identity marks to set them (JAG) so that they could be told apart from an original. I always wanted to sell some of the junk that I collected over the years so I started to list some of it on eBay. On eBay I had seen some of the horrible repair jobs on soldiers and that people were buying them, so I thought let me try and see if the Manoil figures that I fixed would sell. And to my surprise I sold them all.

Then when I was looking in the soldier section, I came across a mechanic with prop listed in excellent shape which looked a little like my figure. So I zoomed in on the pictures and yes, that's my figure. This guy was one of the guys that bought one of the mechanics w/ prop and was selling it as a original. So I contacted him, I told him if he didn't remove the listing that I was going to contact eBay and have his listing removed. So since then any figure should have my initials on the bottom of the figure, at that time I was using JAG-13 but now I just use JAG and the date made. From time to time I would list figures that I repaired on eBay. Then in early 2015 I had a buyer that bought all the repainted figures that I had listed. I got a message from this buyer asking if I made toy soldier conversions. So I asked what in particular he was looking for, his

response was, anything Navy.

I got some Navy figures, I put them in different positions and would add some machine guns and the like to them and listed them, he bought them all. I have to say I was a little shocked by it. It just never dawned on me that anyone else would be interested in them besides myself. No one seemed interested in my conversions back then, but then again, only a hand full of dealers had seen them, not collectors.

Don Boyden a Michigan collector contacted me through eBay asking if I could make him some Steampunk figures but based on a Dimestore figure, I told him I would make him a figure to see if he would like it. Now I knew of the people who dress in Victorian era slash scify paraphernalia. It's a mixture of 1800's style top hats and tails, western clothing with goggles, glasses with magnifying flips on the side of the glasses, etc. Ray guns, robotic arms with gears. Clockwork mechanism. Kinda looking like your Star Trek borg but of the 1800's and with more mechanical parts. Most of the colors are used are blacks, gold and silver and normal Victorian /western era colors.

Now the vehicles that they came up with were all very cool, all based on steam engine types of propulsion. They have pipes going in all directions in all type of metals like brass, copper, steel, gear mechanisms and chain drives all rolled up into one figure.

It's a very mechanical type of hobby in a sense. All very elaborately done. After Don's enquiry and at about 11:00 pm at night I went down to my workshop and took a Barclay sailor, striped it of all its paint, made a little pair of goggles with a band to go around its head, soldered it all together and painted it black with silver. By the afternoon of the next day I had taken pictures

# JAG STEAMPUNK DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (Continued)

of the figure and sent it to Don to see if this was the type of figure he was looking for. "Nailed it." was his reaction. I told him I would make some more along those lines. And he was under no obligation to buy any of them that he didn't like. I then made him a blimp and some figures with flamethrowers in top hats. I

have numerous other ideas that I am working on in the same Steampunk, many of which are pictured in this article, vehicles, etc. Then whatever idea I have I will take one or more of the figures and depending what I'm doing to it, I will cut the arms and legs off of the figure and reposition and fabricate new arms and or legs

out of lead, as well any other part I may need then solder them onto the figure.

So God has given me a pair of talented hands that can work in wood, metal and almost any type of material. Which I thank him on a daily basis for that."



## Contact

James A Grancio ( JAG )

On eBay I go by the name yeggsafe

My email is yeggsafe@aol.com

My phone number is (516) 330-1917

## Adam Ironsides.

This is the name of the steam man that commenced to walk for money in this city yesterday, and is still walking. In personal appearance he strikingly resembles Weston, who has recently created considerable enthusiasm in walking circles in England, when he passed into this city at the time of his failure to walk from Boston to Chicago in a given time. We thought then that Weston was a humbug. Ironsides is not. He never pretended he could walk to Chicago. All he ever claimed is that for a man who never was born or "grewed," but was built, he can walk as well as Weston, Payne, or any other pedestrian every hour for a thousand or ten thousand consecutive hours and be as fresh at the end as at the beginning, and we think he can do it. He is now down at the Hasbrouck block. He has a circular track and by the use of steam goes on his winding way, forwards or backwards, just as natural and perfectly as though he was made of flesh and blood and had been well trained. He is a remarkable piece of mechanism, and a quiet, orderly fellow. It is well worth the dime it costs to be introduced to the only man—real walking man—that nobody can say aught against, and always minds his own business.

## The Greatest Invention of the Age.



ADAM IRONSIDES  
THE

## Steam Man,

Will exhibit on the vacant Hasbrouck lot, Ford street,

OGDENSBURG,

Friday and Saturday,

June 9th & 10th.

He is made of iron, operates by steam, and walks as natural as life. Exhibition given every 10 minutes, from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. The exhibitions are visited by ladies as well as gentlemen.

Admission 10 cents.

(je8d8t)

Inspiration for Jag Steampunk. Philadelphia celebrated it's Centennial Year in 1876. Inventor William Far Goodwin had his inventions made by manufacturers who exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition of that year.

Goodwin also patented other steam men, a mechanical horse in 1867 and a walking toy in 1868. There were many other steam men, toys, and contraptions around this period. Example ads are shown here.

## JAG STEAMPUNK DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS *(Continued)*

**WONDERFUL!**

**WONDERFUL!**

**ADAM IRONSIDES THE STEAM MAN**



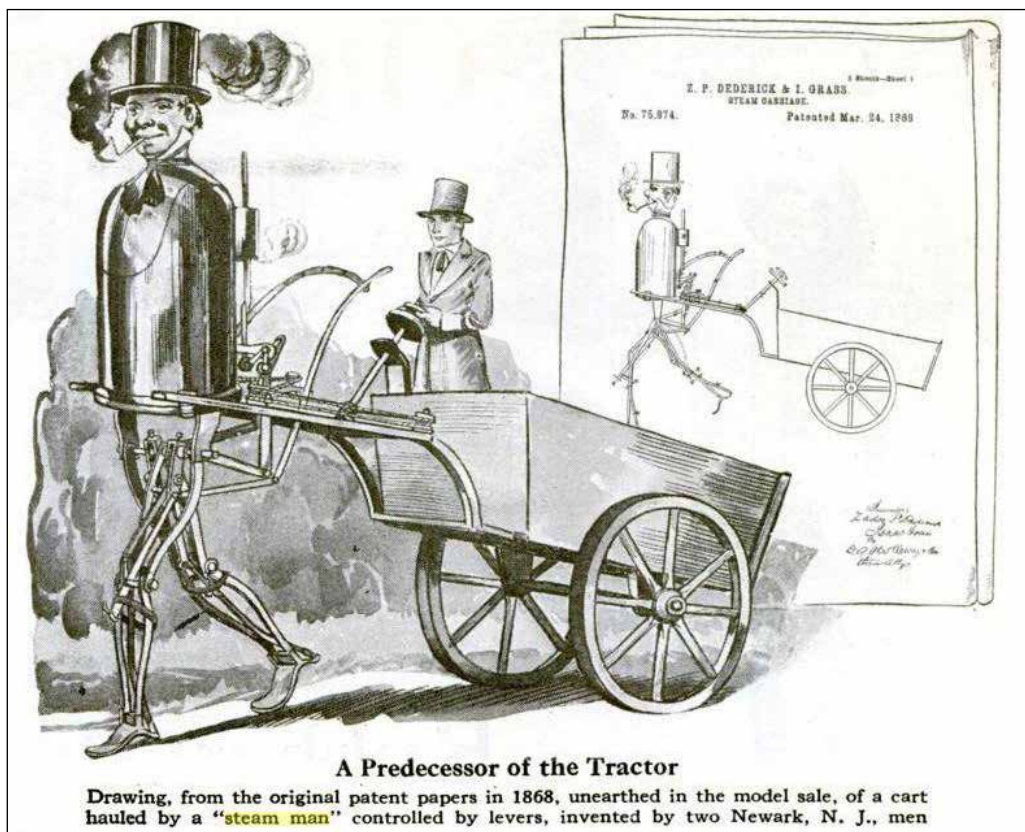
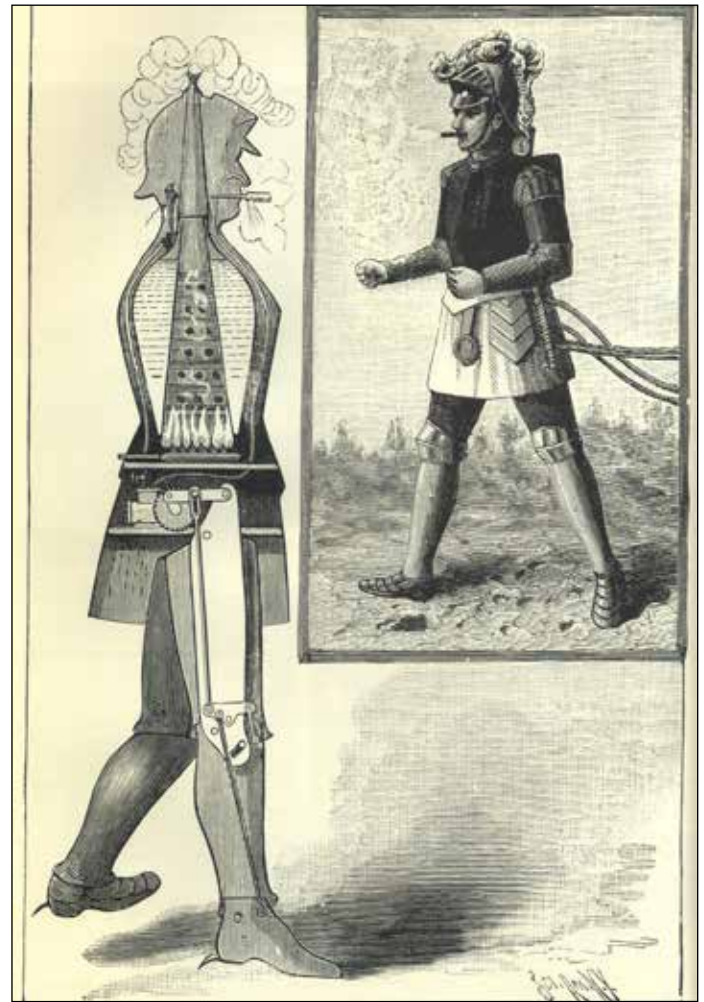
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was ever exhibited before the public.  
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C. C. ROE, Proprietor.

—Recepted & Printed, by J. E. Taylor, 75 & 77 King St. West, Hamilton, Ont.



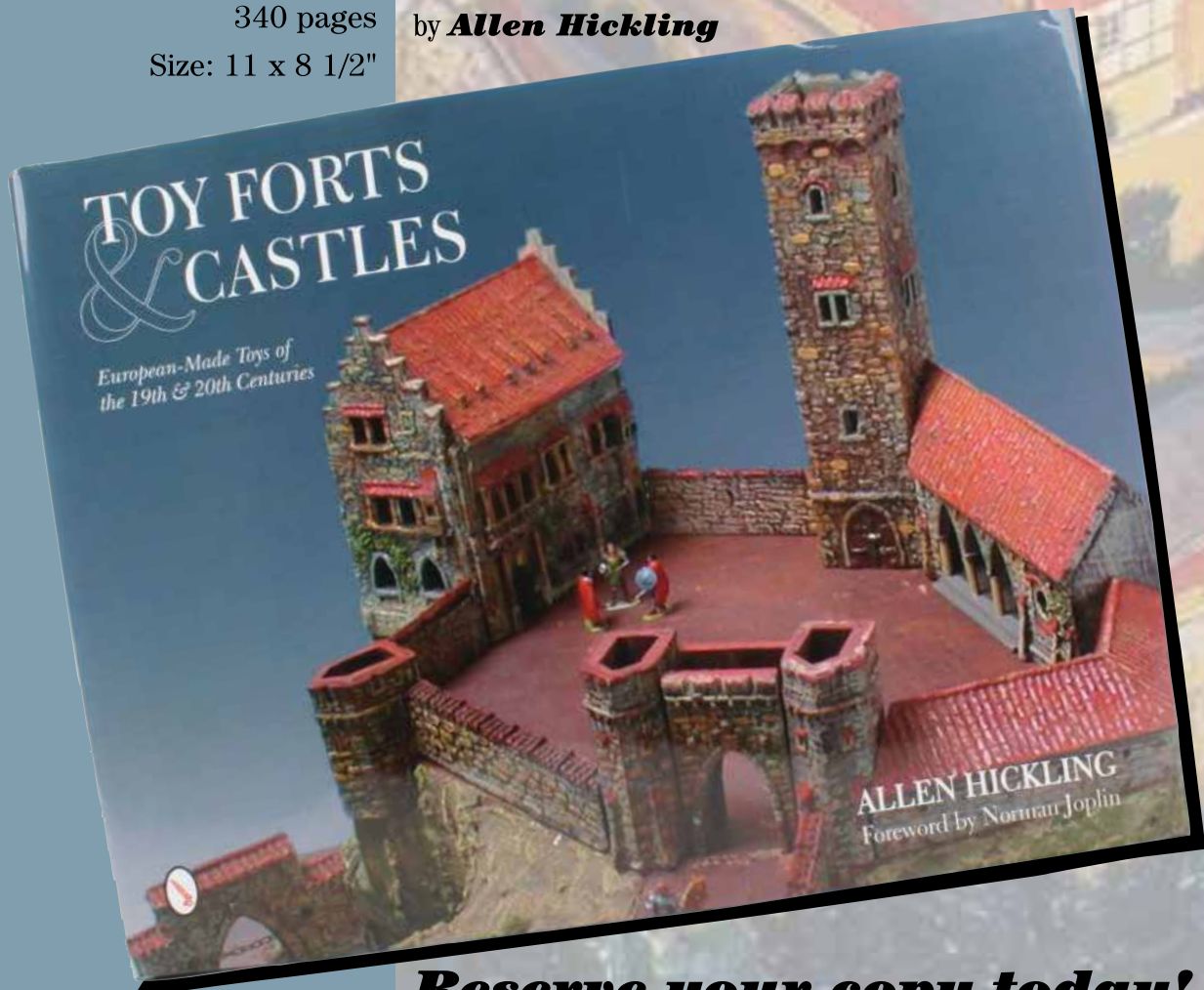
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## COMMENTS ON THE BOOK OF "ALLGEYER"

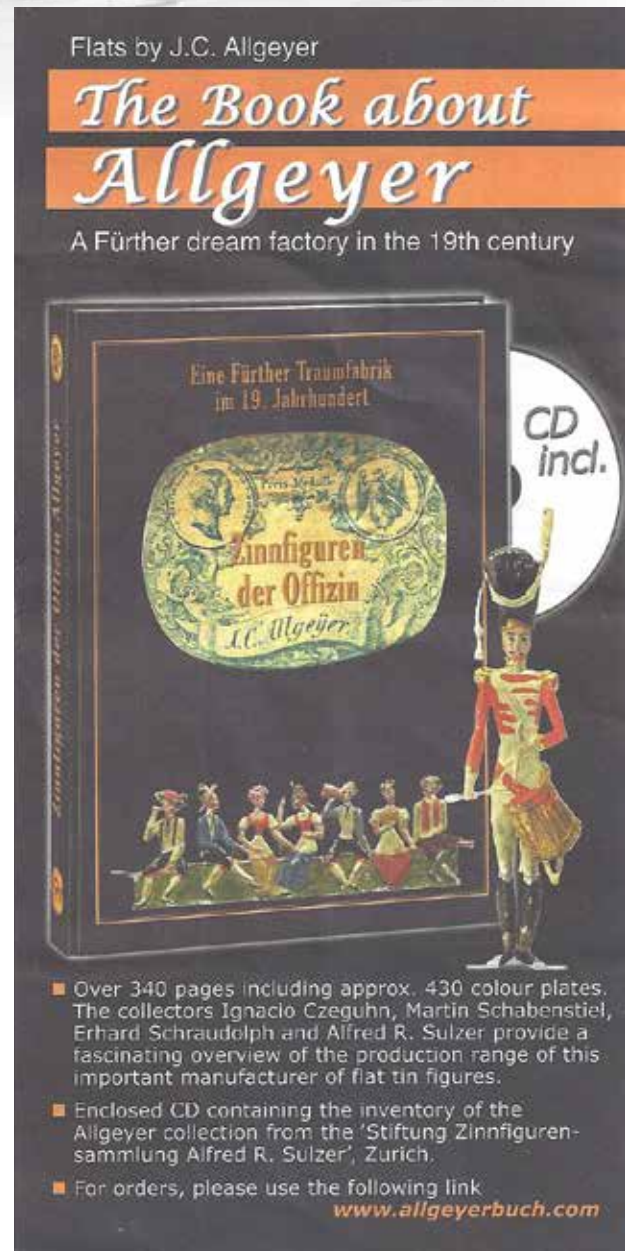
By J.C. Allgeyer  
Reviewed By Michael Henry

Readers may recall the advertisement for this book appearing in *Old Toy Soldier Magazine's* Fall 2017, Volume 41, Number 3 issue under "Hobby News" on page 7. See that article for more information on purchase and a table of contents in English. A series of comments follow for those who do not read German which is the language of publication.

The common knowledge that Allgeyer was a flat maker only is incorrect. Allgeyer was primarily a flat maker. But Allgeyer produced very good flats, semi-rounds and round figures in the ever evolving markets and the depiction of civil and military history. Their quality and quantity was so good and breadth of coverage so large it drew competitors to copy their figures directly or changed the figures in scale to differentiate those copies from Allgeyer products. Copying firms included C.B.G., Ammon, Haffner and Krause. This occurs even today in manufacturing and is at the root of copyright issues. And some say "imitation" is the sincerest form of flattery.

Allgeyer's production lasted over 100 + years and ended in 1897. Four generations of the family ran the firm which set a high bar for tin figure production and the depiction of historical events and play. Military history presentation began with Knights of the Medieval period and then followed with the contemporaneous campaigns and various battles of the 19th century which paralleled the existence of Allgeyer. A total of 14 different campaigns or battles are shown in the book. These include the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, the Siege of Sebastopol in 1854-55, the American Civil War 1862-65, the French intervention in Mexico in 1863, the Death of Louis Napoleon in 1879, and the French Conquest of Dahomey in 1892-94. On the civilian side there are portrayals of idyllic country life including meal preparation and consumption, markets and fairgrounds, parties, various buildings, celebrations and religious processions, circuses, exotic animals, bull fighting, and the de rigueur consumption of beer in true Germanic tradition.

The popularity of Allgeyer figures remains today, a 2004 publication by Deutsches Zinnfigurenmuseum in Passenburgh, Kulbach, illustrates on the cover a parade of Allgeyer Brazilian Infantry along with a box lid. The book is produced by the Deutsches Zinnfigurenmuseum in the Plassenburg in Kulmbach, home of the great international show that a number of collectors make a biennial pilgrimage in odd numbered years. The Plassenburg

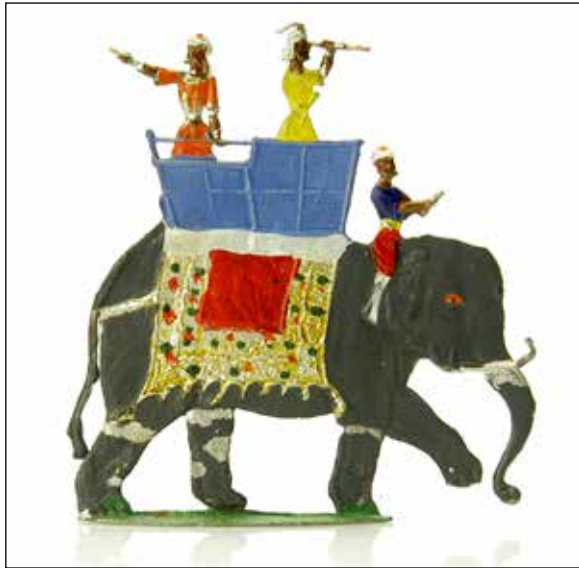


obviously thinks highly of Allgeyer despite it being out of business for over 120 years while at least one of their illustrious competitors from the 19th century is still in business even now. The museum's book title translates as "75 Years of the German Tin Figure Museum, History of the Tin Figure, History with Tin Figures". If one is to open the Allgeyer book to page 233, Chapter 6, one sees Brazilian infantry fighting Paraguayan infantry in the War

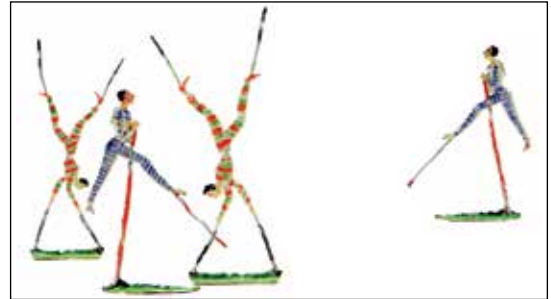
# BOOK REVIEW (Continued)



Chancellorsville Wilderness Church



Indian Elephant



3+1 Acrobats



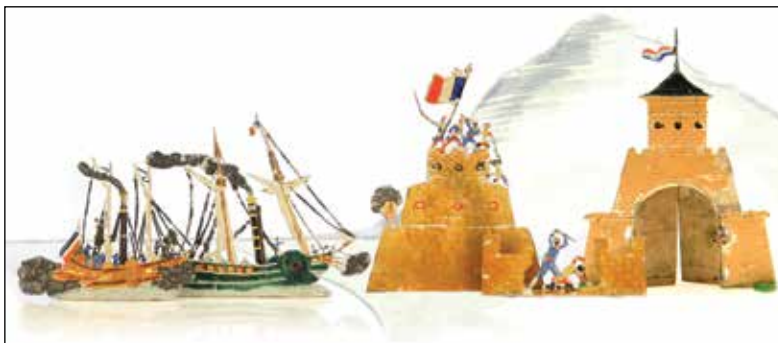
Semi Round Chin. Inf



Chancellorsville Wilderness Church



Juggler In Front of Burg

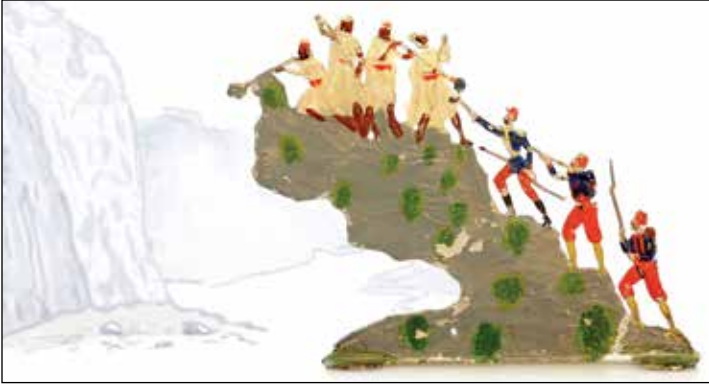


Keelung Harbour



Paraguayan Landscape 1866

# BOOK REVIEW (Continued)



Tunisian Canyon 1881



Austrian Fortress In Bosnia

of the Triple Alliance. Not bad for a firm that disappeared so many years ago.

The Bavarian city of Fuerth where Allgeyer was located shares its eastern city limits with Nuremberg. Nuremberg is famous for its important role in the production and evolution of Germanic tin figures. Both cities became the nexus of production and innovation of figures during the Golden age of Germanic figure manufacture. Over time Fuerth alone had more than 50 different manufacturers according to a German source. Those included Haffner, Heinrich and Rupprecht. Nuremberg had such famous names as Ammon, Besold, Heinrichsen and Spenkuch. All of these manufacturers contributed to the popularity and subsequent growth of tin figures not only in German speaking lands but also worldwide.

One of the book's outstanding values is in its multiple images contained throughout the text and the accompanying CD showing Herr Alfred Sulzer's encyclopedic collection of Allgeyer's production trying to recreate the entire catalog. Admittedly there are some other manufacturer's work lightly sprinkled about for comparison and illustration. The four authors of the text are all well known throughout the German speaking world for their scholarship, expertise, collections and publications. All four of the authors are contributors to the well read "Die Zinnlaube."

The authors Herr Ignacio Czeguhn, Herr Martin Schabenstiel, Herr Erhard Schraudolph are German, Herr Alfred Sulzer is Swiss, and the designer, graphic illustrator and prime photographer Herr Robert Lonsing is Austrian. These gentlemen reflect their homelands' contributions to the Golden Age of Germanic tin figure production and the multiple unique manufacturers in the field of tin figures which ultimately enriches many collectors shelves.

In my opinion just the accompanying CD alone warrants the purchase of the "Allgeyer" book. There are hundreds of photos on the CD. The German text is full of information but the richness of publication design and illustrations overcome the lack of English text. Shockingly there is actually a single English phrase in the text that I have

found. It is up to the other readers to find it. Let us face it, the visual effectiveness does not need to be spelled out. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder...


Readers should also not forget the contribution of Herr Robert Lonsing for his book design, graphics and prime photography which all lend this book its visual appeal. It truly dazzles one's eyes. This is the third and final book that Herr Lonsing has contributed to in the tin figure world. His second book he worked on is called "Wollner" which many readers should be acquainted with. He is in fact the author of that book. It is published in both German and English in a single bi-lingual edition. It too is a gem to gaze at and add to one's collection of literature. His first book which is only published in German is called "Scheibert/Schiller, Geschichte einer Altwiener Zinnfiguren". In English it translates as "Scheibert/Schiller, A History of an old Viennese Tin Figure maker". Scheibert/Schiller was a well known Viennese flat maker of high quality. This book too is visually very appealing and belongs on one's shelf even if one does not read German.

Lastly, I wish to compliment all of those involved in the production of the Allgeyer book, all deserve thanks for such a great effort. Well done gentlemen, well done.

For information on purchasing the Allgeyer book go to: [www.allgeyerbuch.com](http://www.allgeyerbuch.com)

For information on purchasing the Wollner and Scheibert/Schiller books go to: [www.wollner-zinnfiguren.com](http://www.wollner-zinnfiguren.com) or [www.wollner-toysoldiers.com](http://www.wollner-toysoldiers.com)





**ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960**

This book is already the 2nd photo guide on Hausser/Elastolin showroom dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hausser/Elastolin in the troubled period between 1913 and 1960. The documentation's themes are ranging from military scenes and political events via zoological highlights and Wild West topics to certain examples of the early post-war period. The editors were able to share their treasure of high quality old original black-and-white photographs with the readers community on quite a high quality standard and added also some more recent photographic documentations. 112 pages, hardcover, 21 x 30 cm, price 39.00 Euro plus postage: within Germany 3.00 Euro; 5.00 Euro within the EU; Non-EU and World covering the real posting costs.

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# A TRIBUTE TO THE MASTER

## PONGCHAI JAYANKURA OF MONARCH REGALIA PRODUCTIONS

*By Bill Anderson*

It was at the Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show last year that I learned about the sad passing of the master, and thought it should not go by without some notice. It is not often that a collector has the privilege of knowing the maker/creator of a range of soldiers from the very beginning and be able to follow his career over the years starting back in 1992. That was when I first met him in Bangkok. He showed me his range of Royal Thai Guards which were an exclusive offering for an inner circle of friends and never available to the public. There were 13 sets in the range which represented the regiments marching every year in celebration of the King's birthday.

I was fascinated by the subject matter as I was living in Thailand at the time and the Guards paraded for the King's birthday each year. Most people do not associate Thailand with model soldiers but the country has a rich cultural heritage and a tradition of fine workmanship in the arts and crafts.

Working from a home/studio in Bangkok he also produced a range of American Indian, Crimean War and a large range of Samurai figures for which he is best known. Pongchai did the research and

designed the figures then had them sculpted, he then did the casting himself and supervised the small team of painters, insisting on and achieving a high standard of finish.

These have been well received over the years and been described as being 'meticulously crafted, of the highest quality--- although of a true toy-like quality, each figure has a large amount of detail' They don't often come up for sale at auctions or on ebay but the range is carried by Tedtoys and are well represented on the website. I would like to concentrate on the Guards as they are unique and I am fortunate to have them in my collection.

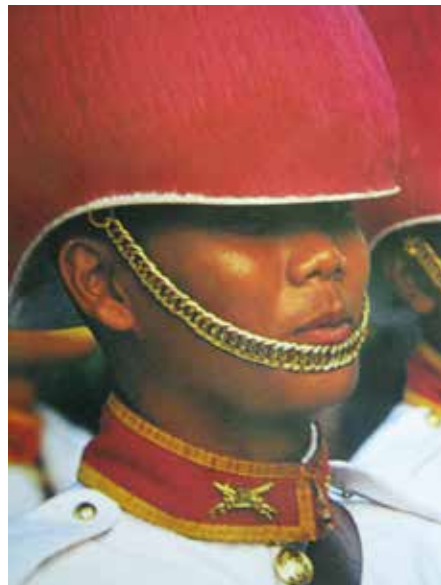
The Royal Thai Guards series was his first endeavor and set a standard which he maintained from then on. The 12 sets of infantry [each with colour party] and one set of Cavalry are representative of the units taking part in the event.

Trooping of the Colours parade takes place each year [Dec. 2] to mark the King's birthday and to show the Military's reverence for their leader. The Thai capital witnesses one of the most colourful military parades in the world. Heralding the Monarch's birthday, elite units of the

Thai Armed Forces march past their King as Royal Guards, each squad distinctively dressed in brilliant ceremonial uniforms, an exotic version of Britain's 'Trooping of the Colours'.

The parade held Dec. of last year will be the last to be held on this date owing to the death of the King and his son, as the new King has his birthday in July but no announcement has yet been made regarding this year's parade. [Feb. 2018.]

The colours here are actually a flag standard assigned to each unit of the Army, Navy and Air Force and came to express the spirit or the unit. The idea came to Thailand in the Mid 19th century as part of a modernizing reform instituted by King Chulalongkorn in 1880 and has remained essentially unchanged ever since. Under the late King Bhumibol who came to the throne in 1946 the ceremony of Taking the Oath of Allegiance was included in the parade also. The pomp and pageantry of the event signifies the bond between the monarch and not just the Armed Forces but the nation as a whole. In a final salutation, at the end of the parade the supreme commander calls out 'long live their majesties the King and Queen.'



## A TRIBUTE TO THE MASTER *(Continued)*

The following are all the units participating in the parade and are represented by Monarch as sets made up of six infantry, colour party and officers, a total of 12 foot and one Cavalry sets.



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**29TH CAVALRY BATTALION**



**ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE ACADEMY KING GUARD**



**ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE ACADEMY KING GUARD**



**3RD BATTALION 2ND KINGS OWN GUARD**



**9TH MARINE BATTALION 3RD KINGS GUARD MARINE REGIMENT**



**9TH MARINE BATTALION 3RD KINGS GUARD MARINE REGIMENT**

Worth mentioning -The TEDTOY website has the full MONARCH range well presented and acts as a good reference point for the product - Bill Anderson

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# THE AMERICAN TOY SOLDIER ARCHIVE OF THE LATE RICHARD O'BRIEN

*By Norman Joplin*

*Old Toy Soldier Magazine* is now in the possession of the Richard O'Brien research archive, which includes catalogues, correspondence, company histories, photographs and patent applications. Much of the material was either published in one of Richard's ground breaking books, *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers* or in *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* during it's 42 years of publication. Other material has

never before been published and OTS will be gathering together a selection of these to publish in future OTS magazines.

The archive has been reviewed and sorted by OTS Editor Norman Joplin, with help from other toy soldier experts, Rodney Hopson, Stan Alekna and John Stewart.

Many of the articles published in the past did not have the luxury of

color photographs. In reproducing articles from the archive, *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* is updating them and adding color to revitalize the American Toy Soldier hobby and Dimestores in particular.

The following was published in OTSN Volume 13 #6 1989/90. Color images have been added herewith.



# THE AMERICAN TOY SOLDIER ARCHIVE OF THE LATE RICHARD O'BRIEN *(Continued)*

## Early American Toy Soldier Makers - Richard O'Brien

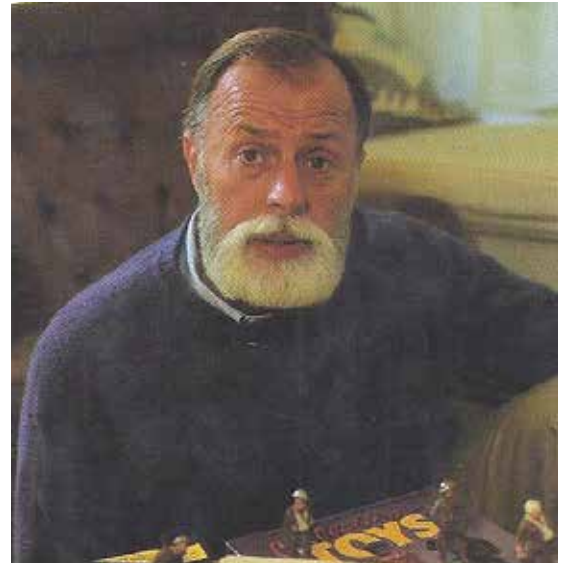
A Novel Toy with action and pep. That's how Ferdinand Gutmann advertised his impressive line of toy soldiers in December 1918 Playthings magazine.

Collectors attending toy soldier shows and poring over a score or so of illustrated sale and auction lists, have probably seen an example or two of the toys in which Mr. Gutmann took such pride. Their artwork is attractive and their color lithography eye catching.

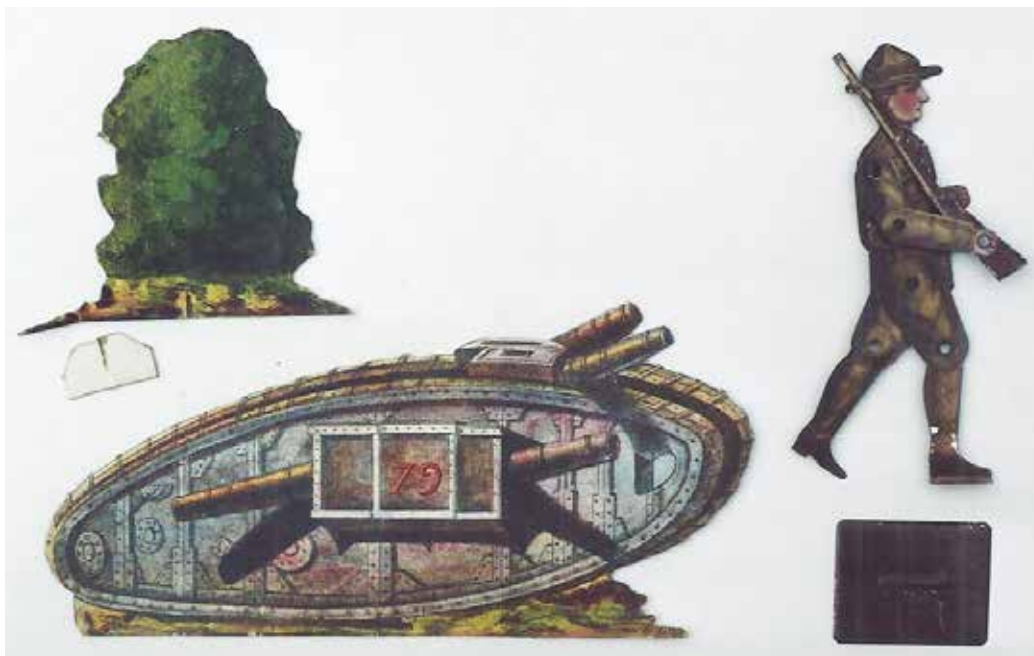
That December 1918 ad is the first I have seen for these soldiers, and its clarion call of the line "The line is now ready for your inspection" suggests that these were new for 1918. Emphasized in the ad was that U.S. Army and Navy and British, French and Italian armies were represented.

The ads shown here give a good indication of how much variety could be packed into a single jointed tin Gutmann. A few adjustments and he'd march, run, present arms, stand and / or kneel to fire etc.

Bill Nutting, who specializes in identification of old American toy soldiers has checked into Gutmann and has found that in 1917 and 1918 Gutmann was at the same address in the ads-134-40 west 29th Street. Ferdinand was president and seemed to be involved in several companies including the Jam Perfecto Cap Company (same address) with Jesse Gutmann as it's vice president. Bill suggests that probably tin bottle caps are what led to the soldiers. He adds the soldiers stand 5 inches high and are stamped "Pat Pending" The tanks, bushes etc. are made of thin cardboard.



The late Richard O'Brien



# THE AMERICAN TOY SOLDIER ARCHIVE OF THE LATE RICHARD O'BRIEN *(Continued)*





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# SHOW REPORT

## A Review of California's West Coaster Toy Soldier Show 2018

*Scott Morlan and Noel Schlageter*

March 4, 2018 marked the 29th gathering for the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show. Woody Lambrith brought the show to the Wyndham Hotel in Anaheim, California in 2017. He has again found his stride in this year's Toy Soldier Show.

Vendors and cognoscenti arrived from far and wide. James Opie came from England, Gerald Prime again came from Hong Kong, Bob Hornung from Indiana, Will Beierwaltes from Minnesota, Larry Nahaghian from Detroit and Don Pieilin from Illinois representing Woody's stable of dedicated dealers from all over the world. From East of the Mississippi came Matt Murphy of Massachusetts, Ray Haradin and Bre Day from Pittsburgh. Ruben Flores came from Colorado and Gene Abravaya (Paragon Miniatures) from Arizona. As in past years there was a strong contingent from the Bay area as well as several collectors hailing from Washington State and Oregon.

Folks found that there were various enjoyable extras in the vicinity of this venue. Great eateries were located just a short walk across the parking lot (parking, by the way, being free for visitors to the Wyndham). In the shopping mall across the road a Target and a 99 Cent Store offered those little necessities, from light bulbs to candy and also California T shirts for those friends who wish they could have attended to show. Disneyland (free Hotel shuttle to and from) is just a mile up the road.

Room trading commenced Thursday morning, March 1 and continued until early evening Saturday, March 3rd. Buyers roamed the halls visiting up to 30 vendors in their rooms each day. A memorable trading moment in Scott's room occurred when a granddad excitedly purchased a plastic pirate ship complete with pirates for his special boy. The special boy was head over heels, excitedly running out of the room to play with his new possession. This is a moment we all seek and remember – a child's enchantment with this hobby.

Saturday afternoon, Woody's Hospitality Suite invited the vendors and guests to gather in a relaxed atmosphere. Two musicians played a variety of melodies while assorted appetizers and drinks were enjoyed. Upon entering tickets for door prizes were distributed to the attendees, as ticket stubs were drawn at intervals, winners were announced. Thanks to Woody a good time was had by all. As evening approached vendors bent to the task of packing up their wares and moving them to the Ballroom in anticipation of the Show opening next morning.

By 9:00 AM Sunday morning a long line had formed in anticipation of the Show's opening. Woody distributed raffle tickets to youngsters who came to the Show. Fifty-five dealers, manning 151 tables, awaited the entry of the public as Revolutionary War re-enactors marched the circuit of the room to the applause of all. Entering the Ballroom the show attendees dispersed to visit

the numerous vendors. Bill Hocker, as usual, had a wonderful selection of his soldier line. In anticipation of his final show, Edmund Fangonolo came "loaded for bear". Bob Hornung's display of sets stole the show. Ruben Flores proudly showed an amazing Tarawa Beach diorama created by his son, Andres. The Holland family displayed Dave Holland's gigantic Paddlewheeler as well as several tables of his other creations. Craig McClain offered lots of the Jonathan Winters Soldier collection. A unique Britians Ltd toyshop display castle circa 1936, a recent Ebay find of Mike O'Donnell, highlighted his 8 tables laden with soldiers.

Sales were brisk all day. Bob Hornung, back after several absent years, reported having a fabulous and very profitable show. Several new collectors to our hobby attended the Show, more it seemed, than in recent years. Woody reported a gate of over 400 patrons with about 50 youngsters adding to the fervor of the day. The excitement of the Show seen in the faces of the young and old, the camaraderie of seeing old friends, good eats every meal, the moment of finding that treasure you never thought you'd find, watching youngsters trying decide on WHICH soldiers to choose, and having the California Disney experience just down the road, all combine to give the West Coaster something special not found elsewhere.

Congratulations to Woody for a very successful West Coaster 2018.



Easing into retirement, Edmund Fangonolo. "See you in Chicago"



Edmund's Figures

# **SHOW REPORT** *(Continued)*



**Edmund Fangonolo**



**Bob and Helen Bailey**



**Holland Boats displayed by Dave Holland family.**



**Craig McClellan (left)**



**British Marines Re-enactors**



**James Opie and Bill Hocker**

# SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



West Coaster Hall Sign



Scott Morlan's room - thousands of Britains.



Plastics Galore



Ray and Bre (Middle), Neil Stroth (Right) and Son (left)



Woody Lambrith - show organizer.



West Coaster Mascot



James Opie and Door Prize



# *CTSS'* **CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW**

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**

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# REPORT ON LONDON AND PARIS TOY SOLDIER SHOWS HELD IN MARCH 2018

*By Rob Wilson*

## London:

The latest in the series of London Toy Soldier Shows took place on March 24th 2018. For the second time, this was held at its new location at Haverstock School in Chalk Farm, London. The venue is a just a walk of a couple of minutes from Chalk Farm underground station.

The show continues in the long tradition of events first instigated by our own Magazine's Editor over 25 years ago. The show now runs three times a year in March, June and December. The December 2017 event was the first in the new venue after the move from the Design Centre (near the Angel Islington). Guideline Publications took over the running of the show from King and Country and moved it from its central London location in the Royal National Hotel to the Design Centre a few years ago. However, although a splendid location in many respects, it was expensive and not popular with all the dealers because of the difficulties of access (getting in and setting up).

The new venue is much easier from a dealer's access perspective, having on-site parking on the same level as the display area. The event takes place in three main spaces, including the school entrance lobby and its main hall.

With over 100 traders in attendance, it is the largest Toy Soldier event currently held in the UK. There are many traders specialising in modern figures, as well as those focussed on the older ones that I am mainly on the lookout for.



The main hall –Tommy Atkins view of a room full of toy soldiers both old and new!



John Jenkins stand



The lull before the storm - Britain's stand just before the doors opened

# REPORT ON LONDON AND PARIS TOY SOLDIER SHOWS HELD IN MARCH 2018 *(Continued)*

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**Charbens Dance Band in rare original box with Dance Hall background**

I was able to attend the first show at the new venue in December very briefly because of other commitments, but my immediate impression was one of a bustling atmosphere, with lots of people having a good time. This assessment was confirmed at the March event where I had the time to take it all in at a more leisurely pace. The new venue reminded me of toy “swap-meets” I attended many

months ago when there was barely room to move between the tables and there was a constant buzz of conversation and action. I found plenty of interest, including a set of 5 Heinrich / Noris 16th Lancers, as well as a group of Britain’s US “doughboys” in action poses from set #1251. Also spotted was a very rare 6 piece Charbens Dance Band in an original box designed to look like a Dance Hall.



**16th Lancer by Heinrich / Noris – part of a set of 5 acquired at the London Show**

For those interested in plastics figures there was also much to enjoy. I spotted a boxed set of “the enemy” which was marketed by Britain Ltd to oppose their British Infantry sets. Not an example of the company’s finest work – essentially they were the same figures as the British sets but painted in German grey as opposed to British khaki uniforms! I guess they were not a great commercial success as very few have survived, making them much prized amongst specialist collectors.

There was also much to admire from modern producers including Britains themselves, John Jenkins, and many others.

James Opie was also in attendance, offering free valuations for those uncertain of what their collections might be worth.

Dealers start setting up at the crack of dawn but “early bird” entrance is available (for a premium) from 9.30am onwards. General entry for the public is from 10.30am.

The next show will take place on the 30th of June. I certainly plan to be there! Others will follow on the 1st of December 2018 and the 23rd of March 2019. Get those dates in your diaries!

For more information, including a full list of traders and detailed instructions on how to get there. go to: <http://www.toysoldiershow.co.uk/> The website also includes a YouTube video of the event.

# REPORT ON LONDON AND PARIS TOY SOLDIER SHOWS HELD IN MARCH 2018 *(Continued)*

## Paris -Eurofigurines

The Eurofigurines show in Paris is run by the French Association of the same name, whose strapline is L'association des passionnés de figurines et petits soldats. The Association publishes a quarterly magazine (in French) focussed on this subject, and runs two shows a year (in March and October). These are held at an exhibition hall on the outskirts of Paris in Nanterre (near La Defence). This is a short drive from the city centre or easily accessible via Metro/RER rail services.

Entry to the show is free for the general public from 8.30 am onwards. Early entry (from 8.00am) is restricted to members of the Association (who also get the magazine each quarter as part of their subscription). Traders with tables are able to set up from 7.30am.

The magazine was first published in 2005 and has just celebrated its 14th birthday with its 53rd edition. Like the show itself, the magazine focuses primarily on French figures (CBG/Lucotte, Quiralu and other aluminium, Starlux and other plastic, and various French hollowcast (dimestore size and other scales). It features many coloured photos, as well as in-depth articles on both civilian and military figures.

For the discerning and determined collector, figures by other makers can also be found. At the most recent March show I was able to find a nice set of Noris 60mm scale Zouaves in action poses, as well as some early Britain's Herald series plastics in their original boxes.



**Barely room to move!**



**Just one of the many tables laden with figures**

Most of the dealers are French although there are usually a few foreigners such as Harry Kemp from England and others from Belgium and Germany. Harry had also managed to find some nice pieces, including examples from Britain's Paris Office.

The next show will be held in October 2018. For details see the Eurofigurines web site: <http://www.eurofigurines.com>

April 2018; Author contact details - [r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk)

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS

*By Rob Wilson*

My first visit to the Musée de l'Armée was many years ago in the late 1990s. I had gone to the museum because of a general interest in military history, but with no expectation of finding any toy soldiers. I was delighted to find a large cabinet displaying various figures, including a few made by William Britain. I recognised these as rarities produced by their Paris Office (set up in the early part of the 20th Century to get around French prejudices against foreign imports from Grande Bretagne!). At that time there was little hint that this small group of toy soldiers was just the tip of a very much larger iceberg.

I returned in 2004 as part of a much more serious expedition to find out what the Museum had to offer. Over the period in between I had begun to do some research into the outputs of Britain's Paris Office and had already established communication with the museum (as well as various others) on this topic.

I was accompanied on this trip by Don Pielin (up until recently main organiser of the Chicago Toy Soldier show), Verne Johnson (Don's right hand man in running the show), and our personal translator and French cultural expert (my long-suffering spouse Jackie Wilson!).

My research had suggested a number of important leads. This had resulted in arrangements to visit to various Museums and Galleries to explore behind the scenes (organised in advance by Mrs Wilson). In particular, we had received a personal invitation to go down into the bowels of the Musée de l'Armée for a special tour of their extensive collection of toy soldiers and figurines.

Our host was Monsieur Jean-Marie Haussadis. He had his own grand office on the 1st floor of the museum, with splendid views of the area. It was a large room containing a large desk and a few chairs but little else. As far as we could ascertain, his sole job was to curate the museum's Toy Soldier Collection.

We were informed that this comprised well over 100,000 figures, of which maybe 1,000 were currently on display in the "special" exhibition (the one large display cabinet mentioned above which had not changed much in over a decade!).

However, thanks to our privileged access we were able to view many more of the 99,000 plus others, all neatly sorted away in the basement of the museum in purpose-built, plan style, cabinets.

At my request, M. Haussadis had kindly dug out in advance anything in the museum's holdings relating to Britain's figures. This included a number of special orders for Colonel Willing who (following a distinguished military career) had become curator of the Museum in the 1960s.<sup>1</sup>

We returned again a few years ago (2012), this time accompanied by Don Pielin's grandson, Evan; Evan's mum Betsy and Don's wife Linda. The display of toy soldiers at that time was much the same as we had seen 12 years earlier!



**First Impressions! - Just a few of the more than 5,000 figures now on display.**



**Britain's 5th Dragoon Guards Paris Office (possibly special order) with trumpeter**

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS (*Continued*)



**MIM Band of the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard**



**Britain's Horse Guards, Paris Office, special order? Note trumpeters on black galloping horses unlike the greys used in standard set #93. To the right 2nd Lifeguard trumpeters (again on galloping horses, in place of the trotting horse used in standard set #43). Both sets include an early Germanic style officer on rearing horse**

I had not been back since. However, in 2015 a major renovation was undertaken. In December 2015, the Museum opened new rooms providing permanent exhibition space for its collections of figurines, artillery models and military musical instruments. On our most recent trip to Paris we decided therefore to take another look.

## ***The Museum's collection of toy and model soldiers***

Nearly 5,000 pieces are included in the new room. These are representative of all the main types of historical figures held in the collection. They present the diversity

of the Museum's holdings, which are now estimated to comprise approximately 140,000 figures in all. Initially these were quite crude childish toys, but they have gradually evolved into much more realistic representations of our collective imagination -the "toy soldier", or as more serious connoisseurs prefer model soldiers.

The large glass fronted cabinets exhibit the four main types of figurines held in the collection. Some of the earliest examples are so called "paper" or card figurines. Printed, or in some cases hand painted, on paper or rigid cardboard

by and for adults, they date from the early eighteenth century onwards. In later years these were printed on large sheets of paper ready to be mounted on card, and then glued to small wooden blocks to enable them to stand in parade formations, as in the huge display cabinet in the museum.

It has a fine collection of hand painted and cut figures dating from the early 1800s. This was based on the collection of M. Wurtz, a Strasbourg printer. In 1899 his grandchildren donated some 16,000 figures to the museum, mostly depicting Napoleon's Grande Armée and its main opponents, circa 1800-1815.

There are also many figurines which the French refer to as "plats d'étain", more familiarly known to English speaking collectors as "flats". Similar to paper or card figures, these were essentially two-dimensional figures (although typically they are painted on both sides). They are usually cast in tin alloy. They began to be produced in large quantities in Germany in the second half of the nineteenth century although they continue to be produced to the present day. They come in every pose imaginable but often in action positions. Most flats are in smaller scales (c. 20-30mm size) but some of the earliest ones were larger in size. The museum has a fine collection of such figures in 55-60mm scales on display dating from the second half of the 19th century. These are all in parade poses. They depict armies of all the Great Powers, France, Germany (recently unified) Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia circa 1870-1880. These examples show British Household Cavalry. However, all arms are represented for each country.

As incomes increased and the size of the market grew, the emphasis gradually changed to fully rounded three-dimensional figurines. Typically, these were cast in lead

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS *(Continued)*

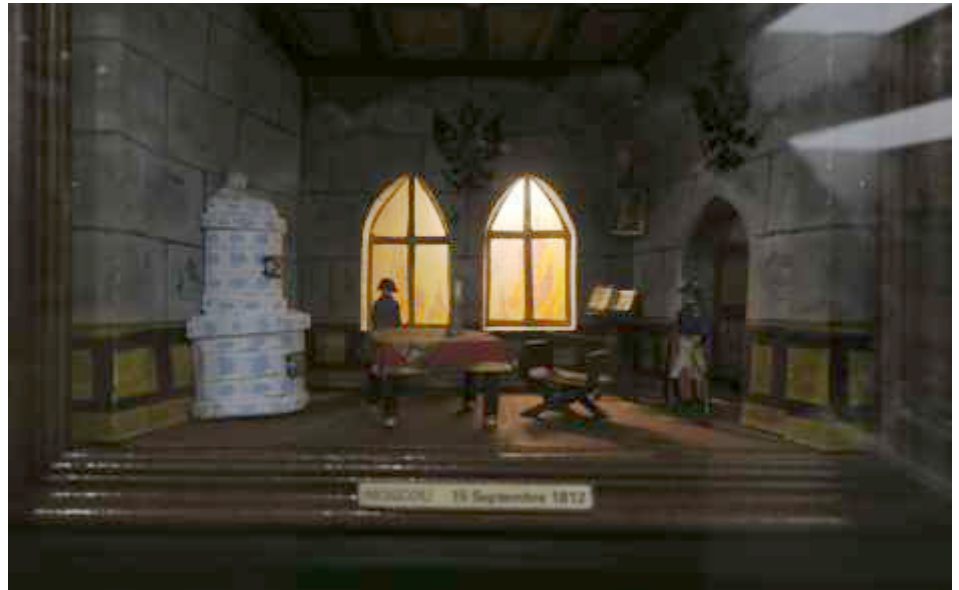
alloy but they were also produced in composition material made from a combination of wood, sawdust and glue. Initially only the very rich could afford such toys, but as real incomes rose manufacturers recognised a wider market, leading eventually to the establishment of famous companies such as Britains, CBG Mignot, Heyde, Lucotte and many more. The Museum has many examples of all the main manufacturers in its collection, including many by less prolific producers. Britain's figures are represented with examples from its Paris Office. Another large cabinet focuses on CBG and Lucotte.

Most recently plastic became the material of choice for toy manufacturers, although those catering for the connoisseur / collectors' market remain attached to metal. The Museum has many examples of all these types, including large numbers of plastic figures produced as give away premia to encourage consumption of coffee, such as those by Mokarex.

The work of individual artists is also represented with a number of examples of connoisseur models also on display.

The units represented cover a very wide period, from Antiquity to the Second World War. Not surprisingly, the most represented period remains the First Empire, around the central figure of Napoleon I. Most of the figurines are exhibited in parade formation.

As well as the figures of collectors such as Colonel Willing, the museum has also benefitted from donations by other collectors such as the late Professor Xavier Lorient, numismatist and Professor of Roman History at the University Paris IV-Sorbonne. This particular collection is highlighted in the new display, including pewter figurines, as well



One of a series of boxed dioramas, in different scales, some using small scale flats, others larger scale fully rounded figures. This depicts Napoleon in Moscow in 1812 watching through a window the results of the Russian scorched earth policy, just before beginning his disastrous retreat through the Russian Winter.



Another boxed diorama, in this case depicting Napoleon at Malmaison, July 1800

as others made of cellulose and many hand-painted connoisseur models. These represent soldiers of all periods, from Greek and Roman antiquity to the First World War, but most of them concern the European armies during the Napoleonic wars including French, English, Prussians, and Russians.

The acquisition of objects, whether by donation or purchase, follows a



Connoisseur models ancient and more modern

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS *(Continued)*



Large 55-60mm scale, mid-late 19th century German flats British Household Cavalry.



More card soldiers: 18th Infanterie de Ligne



Close up of some of the thousands of “paper” or “card” soldiers”. These are Napoleonic Hussars, c. 70mm scale. They are hand painted and cut rather than printed.



Just a few of the many thousands of “paper” soldiers in the museum



Just part of the showcase of card figures from the Wurcz collection on display



Chasseur a Cheval of the Imperial Guard Card Figure

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS (*Continued*)

complex process that aims to ensure the soundness of their entry into this important public collection. The museum states that its policy now is to change the displays regularly, both to give the exhibits on show a rest from the light and to allow visitors to see the full range of the figures available from the museum's archive store.

In an alcove, alongside these traditional figurines, are seven boxed dioramas made by the collector Albert Flammant. These depict various episodes in Napoleon's career. These dioramas help to visualize what it was like to be present at a court scene whether

in Malmaison, or the Tuileries. They date from the beginning of the 20th century. They are like miniature theatres, with their own lighting.

## ***The Models of Artillery***

The collection of artillery models in the Musée de l'Armée is one of the largest in the world, with around a thousand pieces. These are all very detailed models produced by craftsmen. The display begins with royal and princely pieces made as honorary gifts and continues with models bearing other less elevated families' private coats of arms. Also presented are models of weapons and projects which were never adopted. These were designed to

improve the performance of artillery on specific technical points. Some of the models in the collection represent the only evidence of artillery pieces that no longer exist in any other form today.

This part of the exhibition provides an overview of French artillery equipment from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, reproducing faithfully in miniature the key artillery equipment of the times. An entire showcase is devoted to the French Gribeauval system, named after its designer, the first artillery system adopted by the French army, which contributed enormously to the victories of the Revolution and the 1st Empire.



## ***Musical instruments and bands***

The new rooms also feature musical instruments used by the military, especially the French army. A crossover between this focus and the toy and model soldier collection is a splendid example of a Napoleonic band. During the Consulate and the First Empire, the Grenadiers of the Guard were one of the most elite parts of the French army. Imposing in stature as much as in their fierceness in combat, they crossed the whole of Europe with Napoleon, victoriously entering Milan, Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, Warsaw and Moscow. They won victories on each occasion they were engaged, except of course for the final battle when Napoleon "met his Waterloo". A battalion of the Imperial Guard accompanied the deposed Emperor to the island of Elba, in 1814, but he was not afforded the same honour when he was finally despatched to St Helena in the South Atlantic after his defeat by Wellington and Blücher.

The Grenadiers à pied de la Garde des Consuls became the Grenadiers à Pied de la Garde Impériale (the Imperial Guard), on May 18, 1804. This famous regiment is represented in the museum collection in the

# TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURES IN THE MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE, PARIS *(Continued)*

form of lead alloy figures made in the mid-20th Century by the Belgian company MIM (Miniatures in Maximus). The group includes a full band of the 1st Régiment des Grenadiers à Pied de la Garde Impériale, with drummers and woodwind and brass instruments, and other percussion including, cymbals, triangle and Basque drum.

## ***Other things to see – the “Plans Reliefs”***

Of course, there are many other things to see and enjoy in the museum for those with an interest in military history. Military uniforms, weapons and events are all displayed and presented in many interactive and intriguing ways.

One particular joy is the collection of “plans reliefs”. These were models of fortifications prepared during the reign of Louis XIV (the sun King) to illustrate how his kingdom was protected by then, cutting edge, military architecture and technology. These include many works by the famous military engineer Vauban. Some of these models are on a vast scale depicting whole cities in cabinets many metres square. Others, such as the one shown here, focus on smaller areas, in this case an accurate model of Mont-Saint-Michel.

Most of these models are purely architectural, with no attempt to show people or particular events. However, a few such as the one in the next image are in the form of boxed dioramas. These were intended in part as teaching aids for those interested in both attacking and defending such fortifications. They make for a splendid and fascinating display.



**Plans-reliefs: Mont-Saint-Michel**



**Boxed diorama showing attackers, having demolished part of a bastion using artillery at close range, breaking through the initial line of defence.**

April 2018 - Author contact details:  
r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk

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<sup>1</sup> Colonel Paul Willing (1921-2007) led a distinguished military career that earned him numerous French citations and decorations. In 1962 he became Chief of the General Staff of the President of the Republic. Following retirement in 1978 he became curator of the Army Museum, a post he held until 1986. He was involved in many military history associations, including La Sabretache, and the author of numerous works on Napoleon and his army as well as a serious collector of toy and model soldiers.



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## Continuing the research into early British Hollow Cast Toy Soldier companies.

### MODEL TOYS LIMITED

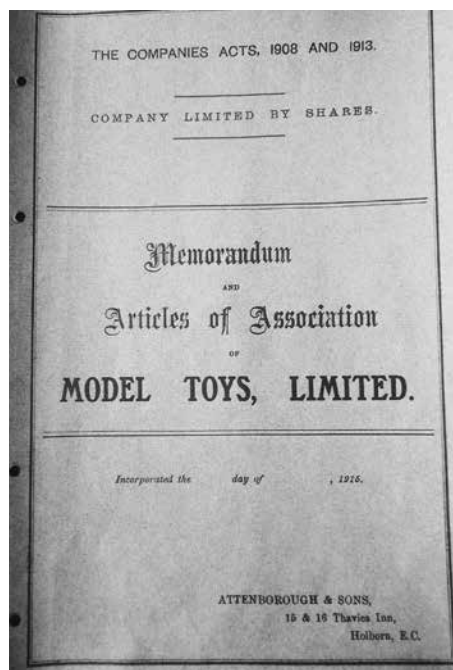
By Norman Joplin

Locating company records from the National Archives in London (See previous issues of OTS) has proved fruitful in tracing a number of early toy soldier manufacturers and their origins. In a number of previous articles in OTS. the following companies have been covered:

Russell Manufacturing Company, Standfast, Cheerio Toy Manufacturing Company, O.H. Unity, Brushfield Manufacturing Company (BMC), G. W Wood, Soldarma, and A Fry and Company and John Hill and Company.

There appears in many cases to be links between a number of these companies. Model Toys Limited company records provides even more evidence of connections between small firms operating between 1900 and 1920.

Solicitors John Arthur Attenborough, Samuel Bernard Attenborough and Naval Architect/ Financier William Herbert De Russett formed Model Toys Limited on June 14th 1915. None of the founders appear to have had experience in toy making.



Model Toys, Limited founded 1915

The three parties further entered into an agreement with Henry William Cartwright, of whom little was previously known apart from an entry in Margarite Fawdry's *British Tin Toys* where he is listed as being the owner of the Cartwright Metal Toy Company in 1922 with an address of 6 Prospect Street, Rotherhithe, Union Road, London.

Mr. Cartwright was producing toy soldiers and figures as early as 1909, if not before, as he owned moulds, tools, finished stock and machinery, Cartwright sold these items to Model Toys Limited in order for them to start producing and in return he received shares in the company and the job of Forman Engineer.

In the document establishing Model Toys Limited it was stated that Mr Cartwright was also in possession of "The Secret process known to be suitable for the manufacture of lead toy soldiers and figures" Cartwright was given exclusive rights to manufacture on behalf of Model Toys Limited after he agreed to sell his assets (and "Secret") to Model Toys Limited.

The Registered Office of Model Toys Limited in June 1915 was situated in the offices of Attenborough Solicitors at 15-16 Thavies Inn, Holborn, City of London. In July of that year the Registered Office was changed to 31 Hornshay Street, Old Kent Road, Peckham in south east London, which was probably the site of the factory. An article in a report of the British Industries fair in *Toyshop and Fancy Goods Trader* of April 5th 1917 lists a number of items on display by Model Toys Limited that have since been identified and are shown in this article.

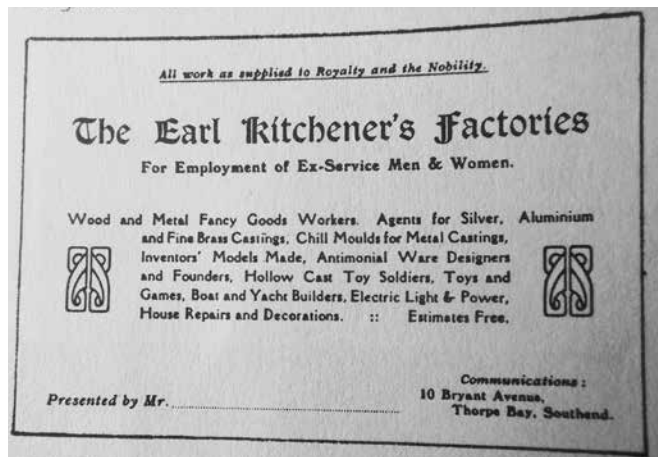
Little is known of Cartwright's production prior to him being associated with Model Toys Limited,

other than a football (soccer) player with a pin inserted into his head acting as a plunger and attached to one of his legs, when the plunger was operated the footballers leg gave a kicking action. The first picture of the footballer and the mention of Cartwright having made it appeared in Len W Richards book *Old British Model Soldiers 1893-1914*. Pictured on plate 44, third row from top. Published in 1970.

The December/January 1989/1990 issue of *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter* magazine Volume 7 #4 1983 an article was submitted by Shamus Wade showing the footballer attached to a card from Earl Kitcheners Factory, for the employment of ex servicemen and women, the card states "Hollow cast toy soldiers are available to Royalty and the Nobility" Cartwright being the supplier of the figures, presumably for the workers to stitch onto cards. The Footballer is pictured in my *Great Book of Hollow Cast* figures page 117 #41 and is reproduced here.



## MODEL TOYS LIMITED (*Continued*)



Cartwright Footballer Game attached to this "calling" card.

Earl Kitchener's Factories are not to be confused with Lord Roberts Workshops for the disabled, See image of business card here (more on this later in this article and in future OTS magazines).

Model Toys Limited listed a number of share holders, one of which was Hugh Russell who started his own company with his brother Hew during the 1915/1917 period, presumably whilst still with Model Toys Limited? They traded as Russell Manufacturing Company (See OTS Volume 40 #4) It seems coincidental that Russell also made footballers with moveable legs, around the same time, although made in a different style and a different wire attachment. Russell Footballers were issued in boxes marked SOCKER and included wire goalposts, a green matting football pitch and a wooden football. These were supplied to Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops for disabled ex servicemen.

The early company history being established it is time to turn to methods of identifying Model Toys Limited products Irritatingly Auction Companies persist in identifying Model Toys figures as FRY. This is not the case as the full Fry inventory of soldiers was published in OTS Volume 36 #4.

Only one box **marked** Model Toys has surfaced, A Royal Naval Gun Team, but it is enough to coincide with the 1917 Games and Toys advertisement, thus the identical unmarked boxes with the reclining British Lion and crossed Union Jack flags that appear on the secondary market are Model Toys, further proof and although not marked the box containing "Mercy Kamerad" matches the description in the same 1917 advertisement.

The following pictures of single figures, all with a distinctive "bent" knee can be safely identified as Model Toys Limited.

A Trench with a novel knock down action, was retailed by James Wisby in 1917 and contains Model Toys Figures.

The demise of Model Toys came in 1920 However Cartwright was still advertising his range of soldiers in 1923 via *Games and Toys* magazine.



Russell Manufacturing / Model Toys



## MODEL TOYS LIMITED (Continued)



British WWI Soldiers



German prisoner



Guardsman



Navy



Horse Guard Officer



Horse Guard



British Camel Corps



Indian Camel Corps



Surrendering Germans with Russian Captor



British Infantry



French Officer



Lifeguard

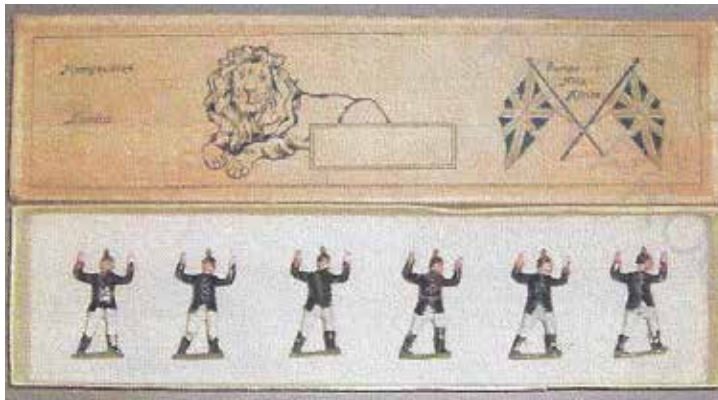


Horse Guard Officer

# MODEL TOYS LIMITED (Continued)



Trench with knockdown soldiers sold at Gamages.



German Prisoners



Naval Landing Party. The only known boxed set containing the words Model Toys.

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**WISBEY'S** HOUNDSDITCH and BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

"The Toy & Fancy Goods Trader" January 1917

A page from the Penny Illustrated Paper of November 30th, 1907. Seems to confirm that Russell Manufacturing Company was operating before 1915.

## MODEL TOYS LIMITED (Continued)



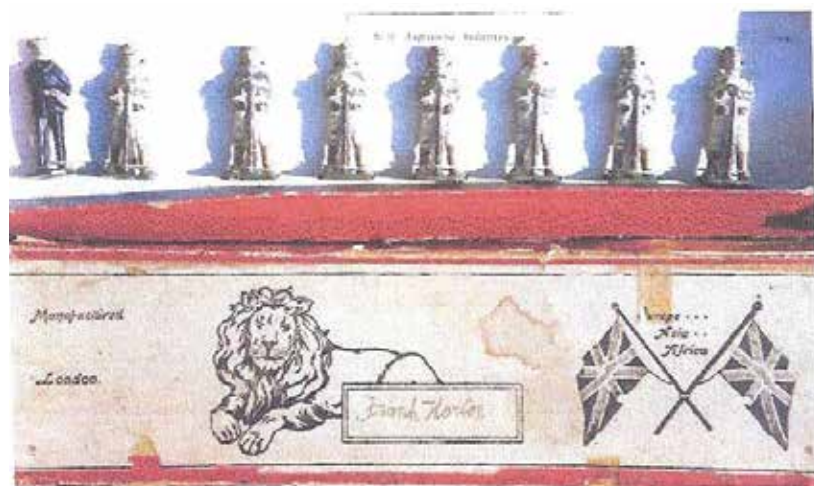
Mercy Kamerad



British Guards



German prisoners with Scottish escort.



Japanese

Model Toys, Ltd., had a nice range of metal soldiers, sailors and other small cast metal figures and toys, including horses, camels, waggons, motor cars, etc. Some unique and out-of-the-ordinary toy soldiers, etc., were seen. We single out, for instance, the "Naval Landing Party" series, and the "Prisoners of War with Escorts." The escorts were bringing in their prisoners of war, and they represented a very striking novelty range that will please all the buyers. Soldiers of the "National Guard" also represented a new and what we thought a keen range.

\* \* \*

Mercy Kamerad

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# CP MINIATURES - A STUDY IN SCARCE GLOSS OF SOLDIERS FROM AUSTRALIA

*By Bill Anderson and Paul Simadas.*



The writers complete their survey of Australian “new” old gloss toy soldiers with a look at CP Miniatures, created by Christopher Johnson. Previous articles covered DB Figurines, Brigadier, and selected Tasmanian makers.

Christopher Johnson operated a toy soldier business in the early 1990s and perhaps even later. He designed and made gloss 54mm figures and they were painted under his supervision. He was based in Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria, but was originally a Sydney-sider.

His Range was reviewed in the British Military Modelling magazine issue of June 1994. Here it is stated that Christopher’s intention was to produce a series of models from the time of Australia’s settlement in 1788 to the then present day. By this time, the range had included both civilian and military historical subjects. Interestingly, CP Miniatures issued a set depicting Aussie beach life-guards in action with a reel. The set could be ordered in club colours. Most sets were released in limited editions of 200 sets. In the UK, these sets were offered for around £60 each. Given the scarcity of most sets now, it is doubtful that

more than a few dozen of each of the sets were ever made and sold. Most of the sets the writers have seen have printed edition numbers on the box that are below 100.

## **2/32 Infantry Battalion AIF set**

There is one notable exception, the commemorative set made for the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Tobruk. This set, “2/32 Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Forces (50th Anniversary of Tobruk 1941-1991)”, is in the collection of the one of the writers. This particular set is numbered 190 in a limited edition of 200. It contains



# CP MINIATURES - A STUDY IN SCARCE GLOSS OF SOLDIERS FROM AUSTRALIA *(Continued)*



six figures in Desert uniform. They are in shorts, carry the 303 rifle and wear the iconic "slouch" hat made famous by the Australian "diggers" in both world wars. The 6th and 7th Australian divisions fought in North Africa as part of the British 8th Army in the Second World War.

Christopher Johnson's toy business ceased due to reasons unrelated to his endeavours as a toy soldier maker. His departure at an apparently young age was a loss to the hobby.

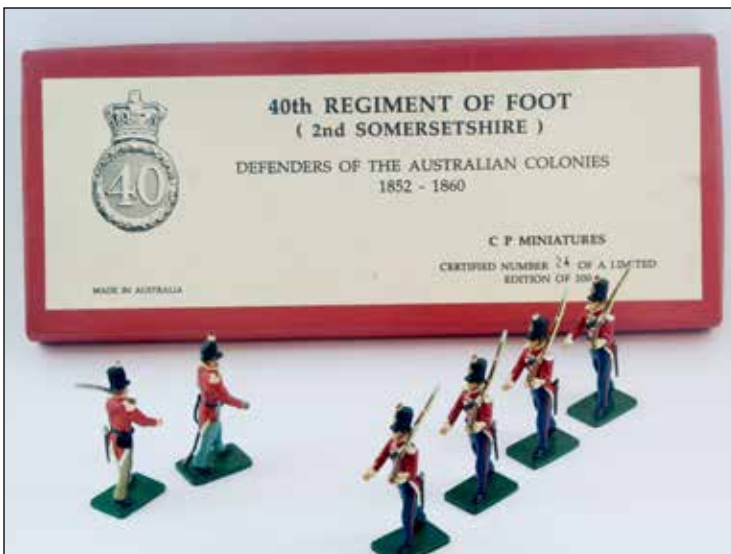
His sets now appear from time to time on **eBay**, mainly for sale from dealers in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The UK distributor in the mid 1990s was Peter Giles on the Isle of Man. Christopher sold his sets in Australia through selected shops but with limited success. This included Peter Nathan's well known shop in Sydney. Some of the sets that are illustrated here were purchased a few years ago at a Sydney hobby auction, for around \$100 each.

CP Miniatures sets are packed into oblong red boxes, not always rarely if ever with a catalogue number displayed, and with an illustrated paper label. The edition number of each set was printed on the label. The label on military subjects often portrayed the "Rising Sun" badge of the Australian Commonwealth

Military Forces. The figures were placed into card inserts, though in some cases the toy soldiers have been tied on cards in the box.

There were three distinct sequences of numbers for the sets. The first begins with CPL and then three numbers (eg CPL001) and are the most common. Two later series followed. One with CPL and then three numbers as its catalogued reference, and the other beginning with CPC and three numbers. The latter two appear to have been very short-lived series, and intended to cover newly chosen historical periods or themes.



# CP MINIATURES - A STUDY IN SCARCE GLOSS OF SOLDIERS FROM AUSTRALIA *(Continued)*



Sets with catalogued numbers include:

CPL003, Corangamite Light Horse 1915

CPL004, 40th Foot (2nd Somersetshire)

CPL005, Collingwood Company of the Victorian Rifles 1863.

(The set illustrated in this article is signed by Christopher Johnson, the maker. His signature is rarely seen on sets and this could be a special production item.)

CPS001, 2nd Division Australian Imperial Forces 1917.

CPC001, Australian Gold Rush 1851-1861

## The Kokoda Trail 1942 set

Most sets were issued without set numbers on the boxes. This includes the Kokoda Trail 1942. This trail was the route along which Australian and American soldiers fought against the advancing Imperial Japanese Army in New Guinea. The set is perhaps the most iconic of the CP Miniatures' sets, and was the subject of some interest on the online Treefrog Forum in 2014. The

set shown here was purchased from an Australian collector in Melbourne a few years ago. It was advertised as the prototype version of the set and is boxed in what appears to be an authentic CP Miniatures box, but without a label on its box lid. The edge has a small label stating "Made in Australia" and "CP Miniatures".

The figures are tied in the box, perhaps because of the unique combination of figure poses in

the set. The set contains several wonderfully animated figures. There are two Australian "jungle-fighters", one of which is carrying the Australian designed and made Owen sub-machine gun. There are two US Army signallers operating a bulky radio. Whereas the US Marine Corps concentrated on the Pacific island-hopping campaign, the US Army initially fought in New Guinea, under the command of General MacArthur. The set is completed by a two man native party carrying a large box of supplies. These men were nicknamed the "fuzzy wuzzies" by the allied soldiers they supported and were essential in moving supplies along the extended Kokoda trail that stretched north from Port Moresby in 1942. This set is unique and admirably displays the capabilities of Christopher Johnson as a figure sculptor.

A small range of CP Miniatures sets are shown here. They include Australian soldiers from both World Wars and the Korean War. CP Miniatures is an example of a small Australian maker. Christopher Johnson's toy soldier sets are now rare and highly desirable to those Collectors looking for unusual sets.





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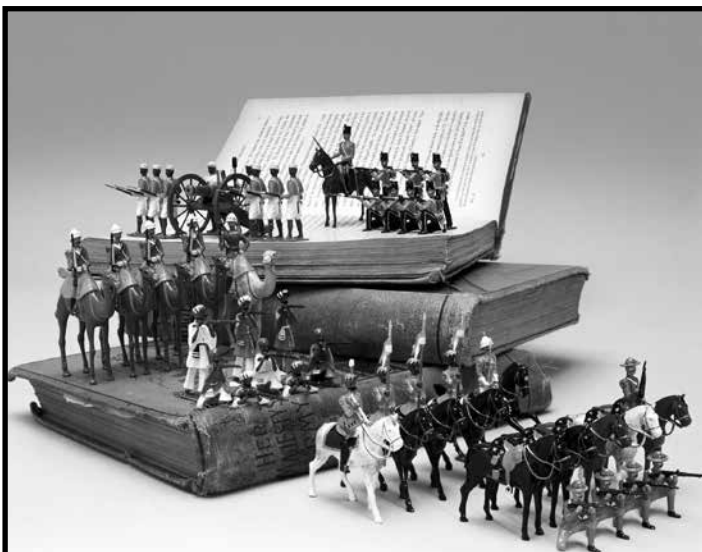
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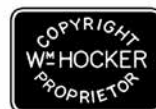
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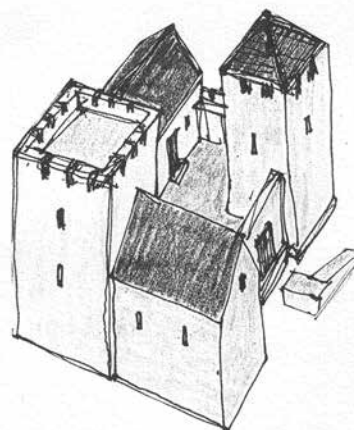
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# CONVERSION PARTS FROM “OVER THERE”

*By Roger Dubois*

Converting Dimestore toy soldiers, by primarily attaching military equipment to them, has been my hobby for nearly three decades. With time and practice, I learned to design master models of assorted military paraphernalia (helmets, backpacks, canteens, etc.) using two-part epoxy putty, make RTV (room temperature vulcanizing) silicone rubber molds of the models, cast metal parts, and secure the parts to a figure.

However, during the early years before I began making conversion parts, I bought them from a New Jersey firm called “Over There”. Purchases could be made by mail order or at some East Coast shows attended by “Over There”. And so besides my figures, I suspect there are a number of conversions out there that were embellished some time ago with parts made by “Over There”.

The purpose of this article is to review the types of metal castings that were available from this firm, which went out of business years ago. By shedding light on these conversion parts, I hope to provide useful information to collectors and dealers so that they can identify and appreciate the attachments found on some Dimestore conversions.

## “OVER THERE”

During the 1980s, toy soldier collector Wayne Daniels of New Jersey lamented about the fact that major Dimestore manufacturers never made enough foreign World War I figures to supplement American troops. To remedy this situation, he decided to make conversion parts that would enable him to change Dimestores into World War I German figures.

Wayne’s conversion parts were well crafted and therefore well regarded by hobbyists. And so some time during the early 1990s, he started a company that he called “Over There”. This hobby-business was a one-man operation: he crafted master models, made RTV molds, cast parts, painted some parts, advertised in the “Toy Soldier Review” magazine, handled packaging and shipping, and displayed his castings at some shows along the East Coast. And because Wayne worked alone, he informed customers that an order of painted pieces could take 6 to 8 weeks before being filled.

Based on my recollection, “Over There” gradually went out of business during the second half of the 1990s.

## TYPES OF SOLID METAL CASTINGS

Wayne made three types of castings: add-ons, accessories, and figures. Add-ons are conversion parts (helmets, canteens, shovels, etc.) that are attached to a figure whereas accessories are equipment that can be scattered over a battlefield or found at a campsite. Add-ons may also serve as accessories. On the other hand, because accessories were designed with a flat bottom so that they could comfortably rest on a flat surface, it can be a bit of a challenge to convert them to add-ons.

Wayne also made solid castings of three World War I German figures. One was of a wounded soldier resting on the ground while the other two were marching. All three were made in the size of a standard Dimestore, about three inches tall (75 mm).

The following is a description of castings found in each of the three categories. Except for a couple of items that will be noted, these castings were advertised in a three-page pamphlet copyrighted in 1992. In the pamphlet, castings were described without pictures. Some castings came painted or unpainted, some only unpainted. I painted the castings seen in the following photos.

1. Add-ons: In Photo 1 the left piece in the top row is a full-field pack while to the right is an assault pack.



Photo 1. Add-on items.

## CONVERSION PARTS FROM “OVER THERE” *(Continued)*



Photo 2. Backpacks and headgear added to Dimestores.



Photo 3. Battlefield accessories.

The full pack was made to fit the back of a Barclay Soldier Crawling (#750, upper left in Photo 2) while the assault pack was designed to fit the back of a Barclay Machine Gunner (#728, center in Photo 2) or a Barclay Prone with Binoculars (#729, lower right in Photo 2). The assault pack can be adjusted to fit other Dimestores with curve backs.

In the center row, there is a Mauser Rifle that can be adapted to replace the rifle of a Barclay Soldier Crawling. The bottom row (l to r) shows an assault shovel, canteen, and stick grenade. The grenade came in three styles: full round, full round with a stem to fit in a locating hole in a figure, and a half round with a flat side that could be attached to a belt.

Headwear is displayed in Photo 2. The Barclay crawling figure in the upper left is wearing a steel helmet while the other two soldiers are each dressed with a field cap. The cap came in two sizes: large (seen on the machine gunner) and regular.

2. Accessories: Items that could have been found on a battlefield or at a campsite are shown in Photo 3; all pieces are flat on the underside. The full field pack at the top left came with or without a mess kit. The pack on the right has flaps opened showing the soles and heels of a pair of boots.



Photo 4. (r) Painted casting of W.W. I German Conversion made from (l) a Barclay wounded soldier.



Photo 5. Back view of figures shown in Photo 4.

# CONVERSION PARTS FROM “OVER THERE” (Continued)

Along bottom row (l to r), one sees a boot, a haversack with canteen, a wine bottle, and a British/American steel helmet that is not included on the 1992 product list. Although not listed in the 1992 pamphlet, I seem to recall that the haversack also came without a canteen.

A water can for a machine gun is also listed in the pamphlet.

3. Figures: On the right in Photo 4 is a wounded German soldier wearing a field cap. The master model used to make the German figure came from a Barclay Wounded Soldier (#762) like the figure seen on the left in Photo 4. The tie and lapels were removed from the Barclay piece and replaced with an opened collar. An opened canteen lies on the ground next to the figure's right thigh. On the back of the figure, a gas-mask canister with sling has been added (Photo 5).

A marching German soldier is seen in Photos 6 and 7. Each piece of equipment on this figure is clearly defined: helmet, bandolier, rifle, gas mask canister, field pack, bayonet scabbard attached to shovel handle, and haversack with canteen are all well formed. I'm not sure what type of Dimestore was used as the stock figure to make the master model for this piece, but my suspicion is that it came from a Barclay Boy Scout Hiking (#801).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Markings: Except for small items such as the canteen and shovel, there are markings on the underside of castings that read “© 1991 WAYNE DANIELS” (Photo 8). I found one exception: markings under the base of the

wounded figure read “© 1992 WAYNE DANIELS”.

In addition, under the base of the marching figure (Photos 6 and 7) there is the mark of “D-2”. “Over There” also produced a figure with the mark of “D-1”. The only difference between a D-2 and a D-1 figure is that a D-2 wears a bandolier while D-1 does not. Both figures are not included on the 1992 product list.

Tips on Converting: “Over There” gave away a two-page pamphlet of “Tips On Converting Dimestore Soldiers” (copyrighted in 1992) with a purchase totaling ten dollars or more. Suggestions were offered on the types of tools that could be used to make adjustments to a cast and/or a Dimestore so that a part would properly fit onto a figure. Then tips were given on how to secure a part to a figure.

Prices: The following prices are from the 1992 three-page pamphlet. The highest price for an add-on part was \$1.50 for a backpack (full or assault). Next was a rifle at \$1.25 (painted \$2.50). A steel helmet or an assault shovel cost \$1.00 while a field cap went for \$0.75. A canteen or a stick grenade came in last at \$0.50 (painted canteen \$1.00).

In regards to the prices of accessory items, the most expensive piece was the opened pack listed at \$2.50 (painted \$3.50). Next came the full field pack and the haversack at \$2.00 each (painted \$3.00 each). A water can for a machine gun was listed at \$1.50. A boot cost \$1.25 (painted \$1.75) followed by a wine bottle at \$0.75 (painted \$1.50). The British/American



Photo 6. Painted casting of a marching W.W. I German soldier.



Photo 7. Back view of figure shown in Photo 6.

## CONVERSION PARTS FROM “OVER THERE” *(Continued)*



Photo 8. Marks on the underside of boot.



Photo 9. Accessories displayed with wounded German.

steel helmet does not appear in the pamphlet, but I believe the cost was around \$1.00.

The wounded figure was listed at \$6.00; however, the two marching soldiers are not listed. Nevertheless, I think these figures also sold for \$6.00 each; all three came unpainted.

**Warning:** In its pamphlet, “Over There” warned customers that all of its castings contained lead and that they were made for adult collectors, not toys for children. Further, “Over There” advised against chewing or swallowing any of its products.

### OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

After examining all add-on and accessory castings, I can’t help noting how well these items were sculpted and cast. The rolls and mess kits on packs are crisply defined, and there are even hobnails and heels on the soles of boots. Four buttons are found on the edge of a canteen cover, which

is correct for this type of cover. Towards the front of a helmet, there is a lug on each side; these lugs were used to secure a steel plate that covered the helmet brow thereby giving the wearer additional protection. The regular size field cap has round cockades on the front. For the large size, cockades are found at both ends of a cap; once one end has been selected as the front, the cockades in the back can be easily removed with a file.

Wayne belonged to the New Jersey Historical Miniature Associates for many years and even served as its president during the late 1990s. I, therefore, suspect that the reason why Wayne was so meticulous in designing and casting his pieces was because of his longtime association with hobbyists devoted to scratch building, converting, and painting connoisseur miniature figures. The fastidious nature of these hobbyists may have rubbed off on Wayne, who in turn used his talent to make exceptionally well-designed conversion parts for Dimestores.

Photo 9 shows an example of how some of the accessories can be combined with a figure to make a pleasing vignette.

Were there other product pamphlets besides the one issued in 1992? There may have been previous pamphlets: at the top of the 1992 pamphlet, a statement reads, “supersedes all previous lists”. After 1992, I don’t believe “Over There” ever published any updated pamphlets.

Is there any chance of seeing “Over There” parts reenter the marketplace? Perhaps. Wayne died in 2012 at the age of 76, and I don’t know what happened to his molds. In recent years, I haven’t seen his add-on or accessory castings at toy soldier shows that I have attended along the East Coast as well as in Chicago, nor have I seen them on eBay. Nevertheless, maybe one day conversion parts made from his molds will resurface somewhere.

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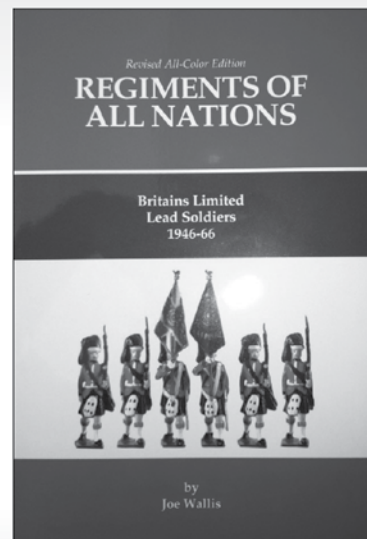
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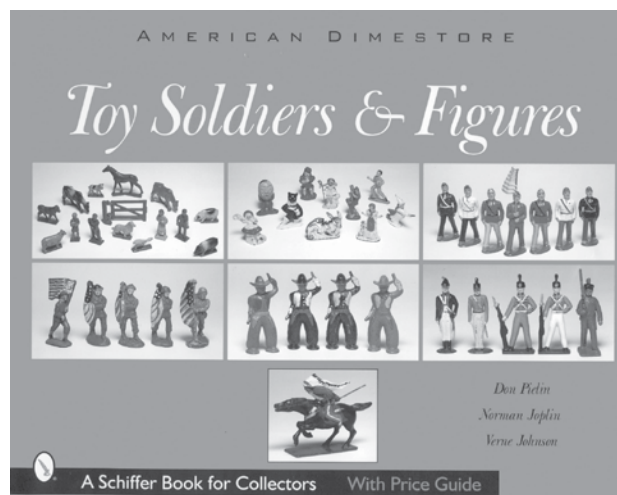


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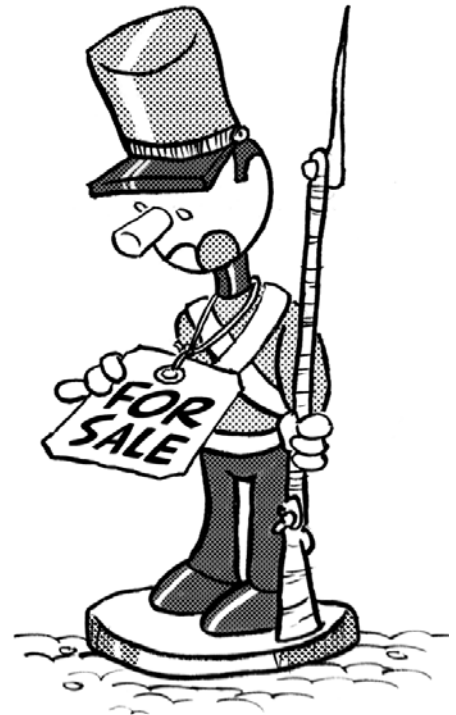
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# TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2018

## May 19th and 20th - Saturday and Sunday

The Good Soldier Show - Auction, Show & Open House.  
Saturday Auction Preview 10:00am to 1:00pm, Saturday Auction 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Sunday Show 10:00am at W. Britain World Headquarters, 10420 Geiser Road, Holland, Ohio 43528  
Contact: Ericka Osen or Ted Deddens (wbinfo@wbritain.com)  
Phone: 419-865-5077 For More Info Visit: <https://www.wbritain.com/shows-events/the-good-soldier-show---auction-show--open-house/>

**May 26th and 27th - Saturday and Sunday** The Texas Toy Soldier Show in San Antonio, TX 210-226-7000  
[facebook.com/TexasToySoldierShow](https://www.facebook.com/TexasToySoldierShow) amber@kingsx.com

**June 2nd - Saturday** 9am - 3pm. "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Military and Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.  
Ed Gries 201-257-2687 or 201-342-6475.

**June 26th - Tuesday** 10:30 am Military, Civilian Figures Equipment and Accessories. Thornaby Auction Rooms.  
Contact: [simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk](mailto:simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk) 01642 750616  
[www.vectis.co.uk](http://www.vectis.co.uk)

**July 15th - Sunday** Old Toy Soldier Auction. raytoys@aol.com 412-343-8733 [www.raytoys.com](http://www.raytoys.com)

**August 11th - Saturday** South Carolina Military Miniature Society 26th Annual Toy Soldier Show. South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC. For more information visit our Facebook page: The South Carolina Military Miniature Society; aka SCMMS

**September 8th - Saturday** 9am - 3pm. "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Military and Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.  
Ed Gries 201-257-2687 or 201-342-6475.

**September 8th - Saturday** Norman Joplins Old Toy Soldier Show London. See ad page 8

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

**DIMANCHE 14 octobre 2018 GRANDE BOURSE INTERNATIONALE COLLECTIONNEURS de FIGURINES ANCIENNES et MODERNES** Tous themes - Toutes marques  
Soldats - Figurines historiques et publicitaires  
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**DIMANCHE 14 octobre 2018** de 8 h 30 a 13 heures - Entree Gratuite - Organisee par EUROFIGURINES

**December 1st - Saturday** 9am - 3pm. "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Military and Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.  
Ed Gries 201-257-2687 or 201-342-6475.

*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).*

## ADVERTISERS INDEX

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Armies of the World Miniatures ..... 26 <a href="http://www.aotwminiatures.com">www.aotwminiatures.com</a>	Mercator Trading ..... 9 Contact: <a href="http://www.mercatortrading.com">www.mercatortrading.com</a>	<i>Soldiers of Greater Britain</i> Book - Joe Wallis .....13
Chicago Toy Soldier Show .....34 Tel: 847-567-5355 Email: <a href="mailto:roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com">roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com</a>	Military Miniature Society ..... 23 26th Annual Toy Soldier Show Facebook page: The South Carolina Military Miniature Society; aka SCMMS	Toy Soldier Shop .....60 202-546-2201 <a href="http://toysoldiershop.com">toysoldiershop.com</a>
Counterpane Gallery .....51 Email: <a href="http://www.counterpanegallery.com">www.counterpanegallery.com</a> Tel/Fax: 703-536-3064	Morlan, Scott G. ....55 Tel: 949-683-3118 Email: <a href="mailto:scotoyz@hotmail.com">scotoyz@hotmail.com</a>	Tradition of London Limited .....BC <a href="http://www.traditionoflondon.com">www.traditionoflondon.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:shop@traditionoflondon.com">shop@traditionoflondon.com</a> Tel +46 8 31 68 92
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