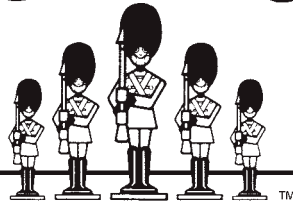


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Volume 44 Number 1
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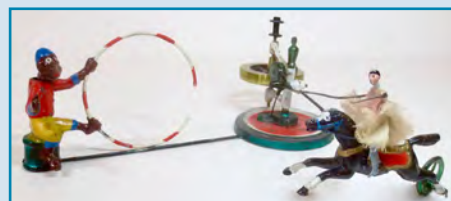
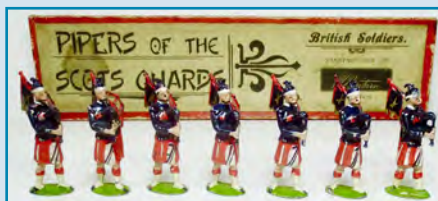
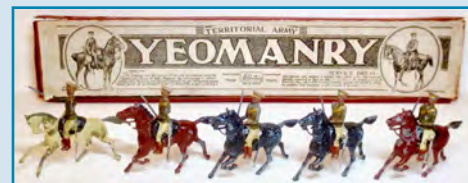
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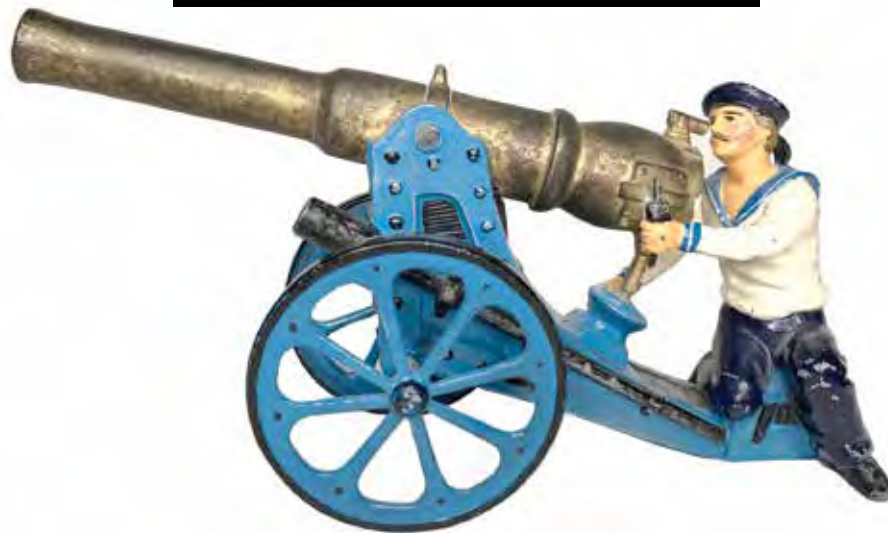
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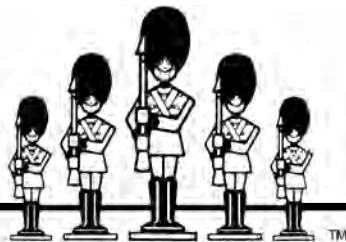
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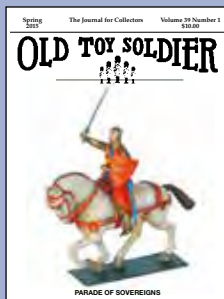
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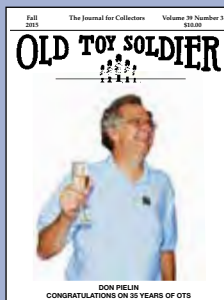
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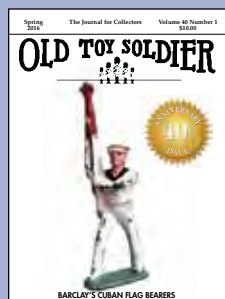


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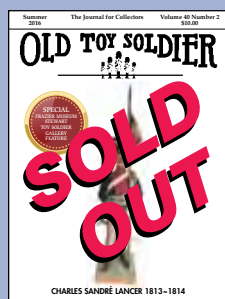


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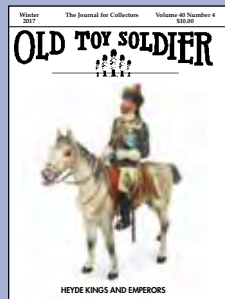
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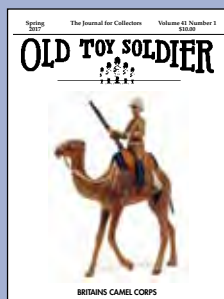


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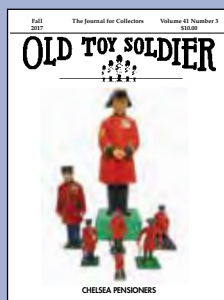
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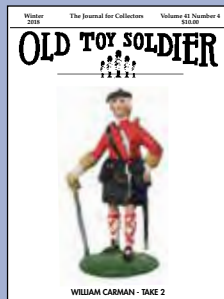
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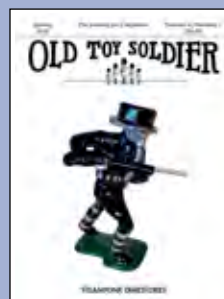


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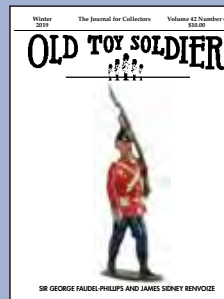
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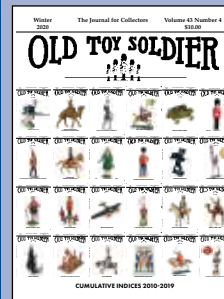
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~ Editorial ~

We live in strange times!

It was an honour to be asked to take over as Editor of the Magazine following 18 years with Norman Joplin at the helm. When I took the job on I did not expect to be trapped on the UK side of the Atlantic because of the crisis caused by Covid19. Fortunately, modern methods of communication mean that a remarkable amount can now be done working remotely. As Editor of the magazine I am one of many millions now working from home. The lockdown has also hit many of the shows that we all love to attend. Fortunately the West Coaster took place before things were closed down. On the Eastern side of the Atlantic we were not so fortunate with some important events being cancelled. Hopefully, it will not be too long before things return to normal. Fortunately, sites like eBay as well as a number of Auction houses are continuing to operate so that we can all enjoy collecting despite the restrictions.

This is the first full issue of the Magazine for which I have been responsible, the contents of the previous one having been largely predetermined by the focus on the Indices that Joe Wallis prepared looking back over the past 10 years.

My main aim in taking on the role was to carry on the fine work done by Norman,

and to ensure the Magazine continues to inform and entertain its readership about our fascinating hobby. Norman has promised to help by providing a stream of new articles based on his in-depth research. The first one of these is included in this issue, focussing on some of Shamus Wade's more obscure Nostalgia figures. I have also been offered other contributions from friends, old and new, so the immediate future is secure. However, we will need a flow of new material in order to maintain the interests of our readership.

Given that so many of us now have some extra time on our hands (as a result of the lockdown linked to policy to defeat the virus), perhaps I can encourage a few more readers to turn the tables and start writing as well as reading? I have been using some of the extra time I have to sort through my own collection, discovering many items I had almost forgotten and turning up a few mysteries that might form the subject of some interesting future articles. Bill Nutting has been doing the same with his collection of Western Forts that provides a major article in this issue. Harry Kemp turned author, to research and describe one of his lucky finds, the Heyde personality figure of Lord Roberts which graces our



cover this month. Joe DeMarco found time to do some interesting conversion work on a battered Britain's Landau, while John Franklin presents some interesting research on variations on one of the rarer Britain's artillery sets.

Perhaps you can do the same? Maybe you have some other ideas about how the magazine might be improved. The door is open to constructive suggestions, so why not let us have your thoughts!

Rob Wilson, April 29th 2020

~ Belated Obituary of Donald Haberman ~ April 15, 1931 ~ July 18, 2016

Don was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and was a lifelong friend of Orville "Old Sarge" Britton, a well known toy soldier customizer and collector.

Don was an expert in Homecast toy soldiers and worked with Richard O'Brien on that section of the Collecting American Made Toy Soldier books.

He always made time to work with all young collectors because he believed the future of the hobby was in their hands.

Don was a Korean War Veteran, attending many war reunions. He participated in countless mid-western toy soldier shows for many years. He was always assisted by his wife Nancy who survives him.



Don and his wife Nancy working at a toy soldier show.

~ Obituary - John Waterworth ~



John T Waterworth (17th September 1942 — 1st November 2019) was an avid Britains collector, hollow cast or new toy soldiers had equal appeal for him.

He started his working life as a metallurgist with the Newcastle Upon Tyne Company Parsons Engineering. His training in that profession was to turn out to be very useful in later life, when he recaptured his boyhood collection of toy soldiers.

John owned a Taxi firm in Northern Northumberland, he was a committee member of the St Benedictine catholic Social Club in his home town of Cramlington Northumberland, married to Jane and had two sons. A larger than life jovial person, he was often seen with a huge cigar and a glass, Whisky, Brandy, Drambuie, John enjoyed them all.

Collecting Toy Soldiers in a major way captured John's enthusiasm in the early nineteen nineties. His Hollow-cast collection consisted of individual Pre War Britains soldiers and he developed and recaptured his former skill in metal work, expertly restoring lance tips, swords, etc. on his figures. All repairs were tagged with a date and a log book was kept of his work. John had the view that any restored items should be noted for the day that he might wish to pass on his collection.

Together with his wife Jane, he participated on many occasions at the London Toy Soldier Show, selling and trading figures.

Britains New Toy Soldiers also featured heavily in his collection. If

not for John loaning his Collection for photography, his joint authored book with Philip Dean and myself could not have been produced. This was just another example of his generosity and love of toy soldiers combined.



An article in *Old Toy Soldier* magazine by John featured the story of the Grants Whisky Highlanders toy soldier promotion which was featured on the cover in Winter 2008, Volume 31 #4.

John will be sorely missed by family and his many friends, RIP.
By Norman Joplin

Soldiers of WWII J. H. Miller Soldier Complete Set New 21st Century Issue

This set is a continuation of the 20 Miller Soldiers of the 1950's. After visiting the old factory in Quincy, Illinois and decades of research, the 21st. Century Series is a continuation of what Tike Miller could have created had his soldier line continued on. Sculpting contributions were made by Chris Monroe, noted California sculptor of soldier figurines. They were hand cast, as were the vintage soldiers in plaster of Paris and are NOT resin, they are the same

scale and exact coloration as the vintage soldiers.

This is a commissioned set meaning that it will come with a certificate of authenticity as well as the buyer's name affixed to the bottom of each figurine.

Offered at an exceptional price and certain to appreciate in value.

Learn the Miller history behind these 21st Century Productions.

Also, I will send you information on pre-order for the soon to be released "*Dime Store Dynasty of J.H. Miller.*" Over 300 pages of the life and history of Tike Miller and the product history of the productions of J.H. Miller in Quincy, Illinois and elsewhere from 1938 to end of his life.

Regards,
J.H. Miller
21st Century Productions

~ Roy Dilley - Obituary ~



Roy Dilley in his role as President of the BMSS.

Roy Dilley will be a familiar name to British readers of this magazine. During the 1960s and 1970s he was a regular contributor to *Airfix Magazine* and *Military Modelling*. He introduced and inspired many people to the model soldier hobby, including the current editor. As well as his many contributions to such magazines over many years, he also wrote a number of excellent books on modelling soldiers and related equipment, as well as reference books on military uniforms.

He was for many years the President of the British Model Soldier Society, providing leadership and service to the Society and the wider hobby over many decades.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the BMSS and in the wider hobby. I am sure that there will, in due course, be full tributes to him in the BMSS Bulletin by those who knew him much better than I did. RIP, the Editor.



Some of Roy's excellent models - an illustration from his Almark book "*Scale Model Soldiers*".



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HEYDE LARGE SCALE PERSONALITY FIGURES - (ONE MAN AND HIS HORSE)

By Harry Kemp

This is intended as an addendum to Rob Wilson's excellent article on *Heyde's Large Scale Kings and Emperors* (OTS Winter 2017, volume 40, number 4). It hopefully offers a compelling argument to identify a figure from this series which I recently acquired via eBay.

Picture 1 shows this 0 scale Heyde figure which I contend portrays Field Marshal **Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts**, VC, KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, KStJ, VD, PC, FRSGS c1900. The horse appears to be the same casting and painting as the Heyde horse ridden by King George V wearing a turban, as illustrated in Rob's aforementioned article. Rob also suggests the possibility of Roberts being the subject of some other unidentified figures in this series.

My first attempt to identify this figure was by review of various auction results and I quickly found an identical figure in poor condition, minus saddle blanket, which had been sold at Vectis a number of years ago for a hammer price of £200; but was identified as George V or Edward VIII, which I didn't feel was right.

At a recent toy fair the name Field Marshall Roberts was suggested and soon, via the internet I found pictures not only of Field Marshall 'Bobs' Roberts but also his faithful grey horse Vonolel.

The horse is 70 mm to the shoulder and it is 110mm to the height of the rider's eyes, with the saddle cloth separately cast.

Picture 2 is a close up of the rider. The modelling of the face and facial hair are very distinctive. The blue sash and decorations clearly indicate membership of the Royal Order of the Garter, which was awarded to Roberts in late 1900 after his return from the second Boer War.

Picture 3 is a portrait of Roberts in full uniform, in advanced years. The facial and other similarities of the figure to this



Picture 1: Lord Roberts and Vonolel



Picture 2: Lord Roberts



Picture 3: Portrait of Lord Roberts

HEYDE LARGE SCALE PERSONALITY FIGURES *(Continued)*

and other portraits of Roberts is a testament to the skills of Heyde's modelling and painting. The Appendix to this article shows a photo portrait of Vonolel.

Roberts was possibly the most famous soldier of the Victorian era. Born in India in 1832, educated at Eton and Sandhurst he was

commissioned into the East India Company despite being at best only 5 foot 4 inches. A more distinguished military career is hard to imagine. He won his Victoria Cross in 1858 during the Indian Mutiny, served in many campaigns including Abyssinia, Afghanistan and South Africa. Extensively decorated, he reached the highest military ranks possible,

including Commander in Chief of the Forces. He lived to see the war he had predicted with Germany, suddenly dying of pneumonia whilst inspecting Indian troops at St Omer in November 1914, still serving his country.

Appendix: Vonolel: the reliable steed

(Pictures courtesy of the National Army Museum, London)



Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts' horse, 'Vonolel', 1885,
(Image number 79144, Photograph by John Burke).

Roberts purchased his Arab charger 'Vonolel' in Bombay while he was still a major, soon after the Lushai Expedition of 1871-1872, during which he defeated the son of a locally renowned chief, after whom the horse was named. 'Vonolel' was Roberts' reliable steed during the 2nd Afghan War (1878-1880) and carried his master on the celebrated 300-mile

(480km) march from Kabul to Kandahar during the Second Afghan War (1878-80). Thereafter he became a familiar sight at ceremonial parades and camps of exercise throughout India. He accompanied Roberts to Ireland, where he later served as Commander-in-Chief from 1895 to 1899.

HEYDE LARGE SCALE PERSONALITY FIGURES *(Continued)*

Vonolel was a nimble grey Arab horse. The pair were a perfect match. Lord Roberts was only 1.2m tall (5 feet 4 inches), while Vonolel was little bigger than a pony. Queen Victoria awarded Vonolel three medals for his service. He also had the honour of being in the procession for her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 this would have been one of the biggest ceremonial events of the era, arguably second only to a coronation. It seems likely to me that this event and Roberts subsequent award of the Order of the Garter in 1900, led to the production of this figure from circa 1901 onwards.

Vonolel died in 1899 and was buried at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin and Roberts rests in St. Pauls Cathedral.

So one man and his horse, both remarkable for their service to Queen and country.



Lord Roberts had this bowl made to commemorate his horse. It is decorated with Vonolel's hooves, 1904



Vonolel's grave at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, c1901

References:

Rob Wilson , *Kings and Emperors* (OTS winter 2017 volume 40 number 4)
National Army Museum www.nam.ac.uk/explore/horse-heroes

Further Recommended Reading - *41 years in India* by Lord Roberts

<https://archive.org/details/fortyoneyearsini00robe/page/n9>

<https://www.abebbooks.co.uk/book-search/title/forty-one-years-in-india/author/lord-roberts/>

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AUCTION PREVIEW

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Lot 1180 Carman War of 1812



Lot 1015 Bill O'Brien Special Paint
Rodeo Cowboy



Lot 1470 Russian Studios #292.2 Mounted
Knight With Axe



Lot 1063 Mignot 1508 Canonniere du Tonkin



Lot 1126 Vertunni Mounted
Polish Lancer



Lot 1373 Rare Britains Picture Pack Store Display



Lot 1390 Britains #2014 US Marine Corps Band



Lot 1007 Bill O'Brien Special
Paint Uncle Sam On Stilts



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AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



Lot 1461 Russian Studios #6397
& #6203 Romans



Lot 1344 Britains #2099 Venezuela Military Cadets



Lot 1489 Alymer Knights
Mounted Sir John Beauchamp



Lot 1152 Vertunni
Marine de la Garde



Lot 1395 Britains #2070 Union
and Confederate 1862



Lot 1408 Britains #1555
The Changing of the Guard



Lot 1407 Britains #73 Post War
Large Display Set



Lot 2227- Heyde Russian and Turk Battle Lot



Lot 2231 - Potsdamer Zinnsoldaten German Beer Garden



Lot 1101 SAE #1284 South African Air
& Scots 1960



Lot 2220 - Somerset LTD Set Lawrence
of Arabia and Camel



Lot 1349 Britains #2134 Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)



Lot 2398 - Conte "First at Manassas"



Lot 2287 - King & Country Set
Lincoln and His Generals



Lot 2226 - Heyde Lot British Guards Band and Troops



Lot 2070 - Britains Lot Royal Artillery Officer
Scots Guard



Lot 2517 - King & Country Set
US Landing Craft with Troops



Lot 2205 - Britains "B" Series Paint Sample Card



Lot 2438 - Britains Set #2110
US Army Band in Yellow



Lot 2180 - JohillCo Set Quo Vadis



Lot 2222 - Spenkuch Set Landsknechts



Lot 2175 - Elastolin Set #118/76/15 American Revolution



Lot 2174 - Hausser Elastolin Noah's Ark with Animals




Lot 2211 - Britains Set #1894 RAF Pilots and W.A.A.F.

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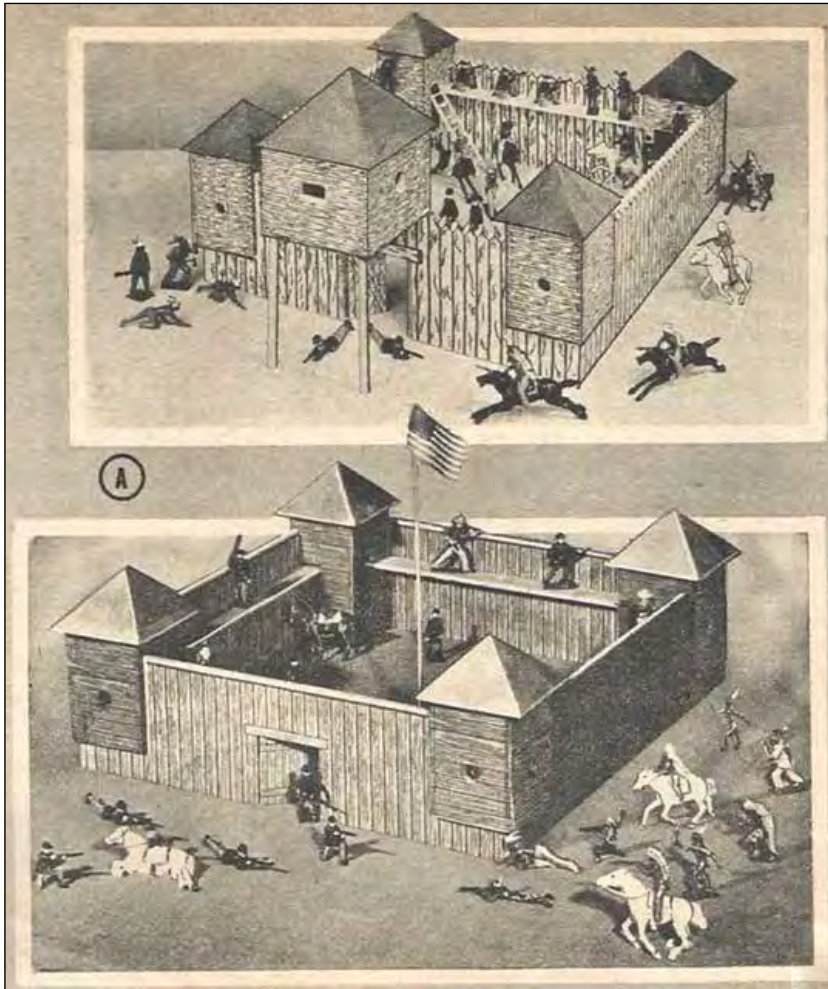
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F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS

By William Nutting



Western fort sets were a mainstay of the F.A.O. Schwarz Christmas catalogs for two decades beginning in 1952 — coinciding with a golden age of Western movies with names like John Wayne in the marquee. The soldiers added to the sets ranged from lively Johillco figures to several lines of Britains plastics. My research says that ten different forts were pictured over the years. There were three different versions of a smaller fort called the **Stockade** and two different versions of a larger fort called **Fort Mohawk**. Two later forts were similar but were renamed. The other three forts were unique designs. Since the forts are a part of many collections and appear regularly but often missing parts, I've opted to reproduce each different catalog cut — and a number of actual examples of the forts — so that collectors have a fighting chance to date the forts specifically and to group or recreate the appropriate figures. Although I've simplified and in some cases taken liberties with the soldiers pictured, the catalog cuts — and in some cases descriptions — will show the soldiers originally included in the sets.

The earliest forts — in the 1952 catalog -- were called **Powder River Stockade** and **Fort Union**, both 16" square made of plywood with a "grained finish." The stockade is touted as "[s]imilar to the one featured in the Technicolor movie 'Across the Wide Missouri'" — a 1951 Hollywood movie starring Clark Gable as a fur trapper. The figures are Johillco Indians and Civil War Union troops repurposed as Plains Wars or Indian Wars U.S. Cavalry. The fort itself is stamped "Made in England" and "Prov. Patent No. 16776."



Powder River Stockade (version c. 1952-1953)



Powder River Stockade (version c. 1952-1953)

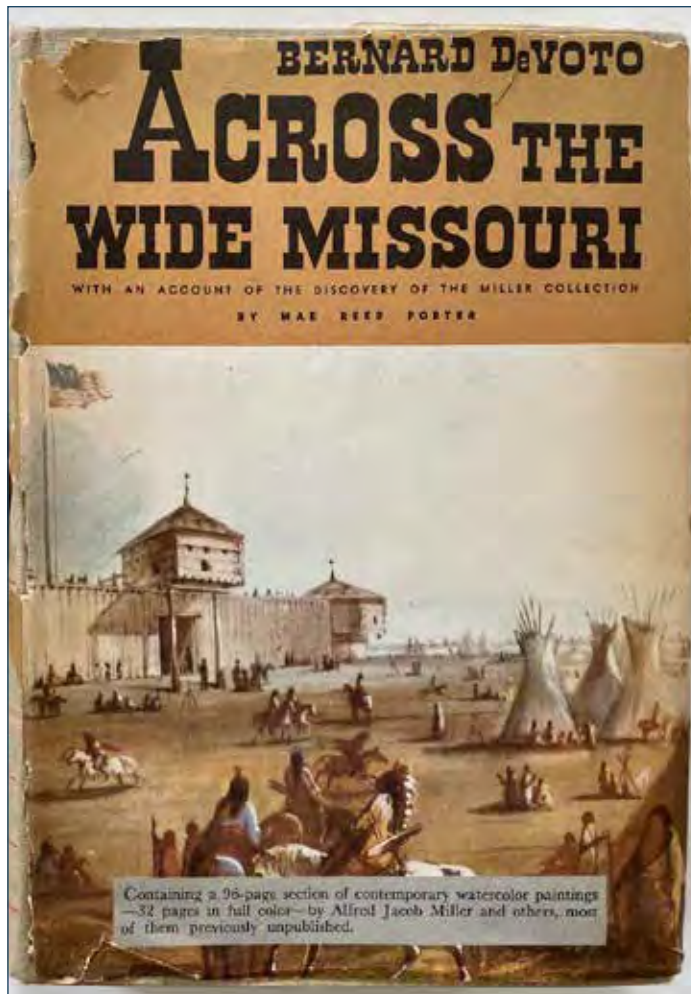
F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS (*Continued*)



Bonhams sold this Johillco boxed set for \$1500 in 2012

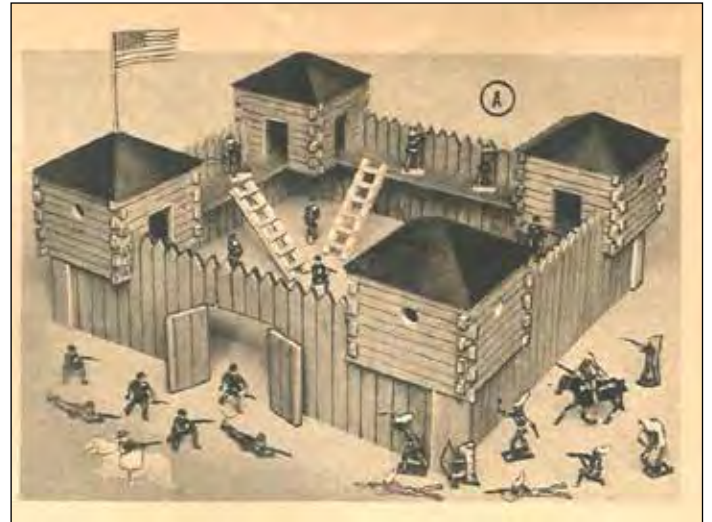
The forts are fairly direct representations of Fort Laramie as depicted in the movie still and in the painting on the cover of the 1947 Bancroft and Pulitzer prize-winning book Across the Wide Missouri (by Bernard DeVoto, a Western historian and conservationist from Ogden, Utah) part of which served as the basis for the movie.

In the 1953 catalog the two forts are the same, but the descriptions have been modified to note that the fort sets are “imported.”



The 1954 catalog introduced a new fort simply called the **Stockade** – a name that would be used for the next

20 years to describe the smaller of the pair of forts offered in the catalog. Appearing in the catalog from 1954 to 1958, this first 16” square Stockade set included 23 Johillcos – in the artwork, a mix of Indians, Union troops standing in as U.S. Cavalry, and one cowboy firing from behind his fallen horse – unfortunately the only horse in this cavalry outpost!



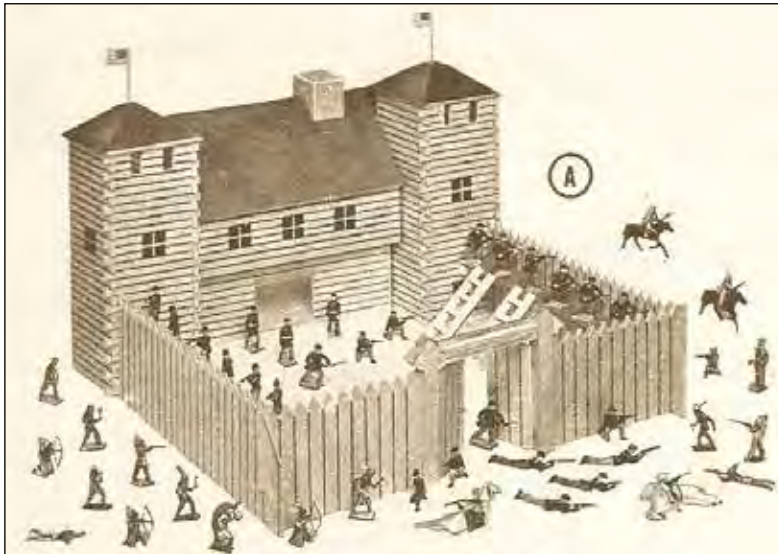
Stockade (1954-1958, possibly 1961)

Fort Mohawk, a larger 24” square fort, was introduced in 1956. A distinguishing feature of this particular fort design is the “block house atop the fort’s ‘powder magazine’”. Described as “large enough for full scale battles,” the fort with soldiers cost \$26.95. While “Drums Along the Mohawk” was a popular adventure book (1936) and color film (1939), the name Fort Mohawk seems an historic mismatch – since the Mohawks were an upstate New York tribe/nation. In turn, Marx’s 1957 “Fort Mohawk” playset had a stockade fort but was always a “Revolutionary War” set with Continentals, British soldiers, and Indians. This version of **Fort Mohawk** – leaving aside the figures – appeared from 1956-62. F.A.O. Schwarz never incorporated Britains lead figures with the Western fort sets, but I’ve taken the liberty of displaying Civil War Union troops (introduced in 1951) plus Picture

F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS *(Continued)*



Fort Mohawk (1956-1962)



Blockhouse Stockade (1959-1960)



Fort Mohawk and the Stockade Illustrations

F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS *(Continued)*



Stockade (possibly as early as 1959 to 1962)

Pack Union Cavalry at the halt (1954-9) to imagine the Western fort sets that might have been created.

The **Blockhouse Stockade** – appearing only in the 1959 and 1960 catalogs – measures 24" x 20" by 13" high and features so-called twin blockhouses and a central barracks, all "made of stained plywood." The set included 48 figures – topping the contemporary Fort Mohawk's 28 pieces. This fort was made by Halsam Products Company of Chicago, founded in 1917 by ("Halsam") Hal Elliott and Sam Goss, Jr. — of the Goss printing press family.

The 1961 catalog features two forts – **Fort Mohawk** and (again) the **Stockade** – both using the cuts that had appeared previously – but with a subtle change in the text to note that the figures were plastic. Elsewhere in the catalog appears a "Swoppet Cowboy and Indian Set" – "a new addition to the Swoppet figure series."

and 32 hand-painted highly detailed metal soldiers each nearly 2" high. Batteries included. Ship. wt. 12 lbs. EXPRESS.

B 804-30 STOCKADE 15.95
(5 yrs. up) — Indians attack this all-wooden stockade while cavalymen defend it. Has lookout and shooting tower in each corner and a ramp on all four sides. 16" square. Includes 18 hand-painted plastic figures in assorted dress and various poses and two 5' ladders. Mounted flag bearer has detachable rifle, field pack, saddle blanket, etc. Ship. wt. 7 lbs.

C 812-8 FORT MOHAWK 25.75
(5 yrs. up) — Attack! Twelve fierce Indians, two on horseback, storm this 23" x 25" wood fort defended by 18 resolute soldiers, including two mounted flag bearers. Hand painted plastic figures strike many action poses. Mounted figures and their saddle blankets are removable. Flag bearers have detachable heads, rifles, field packs, etc. Six movable wood ladders reach the ramp around walls. "Powder Magazine" in one corner. Gates swing open to bring in "supplies". Ship. wt. 10 lbs.

D 811-028 STOCKADE 18.00
(5 yrs. up) — Indians attack this all-wooden stockade while cavalymen defend it. Has lookout and shooting tower in each corner and a ramp on all four sides. Includes 18 beautifully detailed plastic figures and three 5' ladders. Mounted flag bearer has detachable rifle, saddle blanket, etc. Ship. wt. 7 lbs.

E 810-009 FORT MOHAWK 23.95
(5 yrs. up) — Attack! Twelve fierce Indians, two on horseback, storm this 23" x 25" wood fort defended by 18 resolute soldiers, including two mounted flag bearers. Mounted figures and their saddle blankets are removable. Flag bearers have detachable heads, rifles, saddle blankets, etc. Six wood ladders and "Powder Magazine" in one corner. Gates swing open to bring in "supplies". Ship. wt. 10 lbs.



Stockade (1963-1970)

F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS *(Continued)*



Fort Mohawk (1963-1970)



Fort Laramie (1972-1973)



Fort Cherokee (1972-1973)



New illustrations – featuring Britains plastic figures – appear in the 1962 catalog for the **Fort Mohawk** and the **Stockade** — which was redesigned with smooth edges as opposed to the earlier distinctive crossing log ends on the four square lookout structures.

This fort with symmetrical watch-posts with smooth corners is only in the 1962 catalog, but since the set is fairly common I think there's a possibility it was sold earlier — and that the advertising cut in the 1961 catalog was just not updated. I have arbitrarily manned the fort with lead Johillcos guarding a stagecoach — instead of the Britains plastic figures in the catalog.

F.A.O. SCHWARZ'S WESTERN FORT SETS *(Continued)*

Both forts took on new shapes in the 1963 catalog – the blockhouse and back tower changing in **Fort Mohawk** and one corner unit converting to an open-topped tower in the **Stockade**. These new designs would stay in the catalog through 1969 – with color photos replacing the cuts for Christmas 1966. This mid-1960's **Fort Mohawk** – with Britains Swoppets – is the version I saw in an F.A.O. Schwarz catalog as a boy – and the flagbearer pictured is from my childhood set.

Since I'm missing the 1971 catalog I have to jump to 1972 which shows two new forts. The smaller fort is clearly of the lineage of the **Stockade**, but it's been renamed **Fort Laramie** – and the back section has been completely redesigned. The larger fort – looking roughly like the **Fort Mohawk** predecessors – has been renamed **Fort Cherokee**, while three of the four corner structures have been distinctively reworked. The **Fort Laramie** pictured came in an original F.A.O. Schwarz box marked "Made in W . . . Germany." The **Fort Cherokee** shown has small gold stickers saying "Made in Western Germany." Of course there is a long history of wood toys in Germany, and German-made Western forts have been well researched. German expert Jürgen Schüller has cataloged in several books an incredible variety of Western forts and buildings by brands such as VERO, contemporaneous with the F.A.O. Schwarz sets, but he has not yet been able to identify the maker of these forts shipped to New York.

In turn, I believe the F.A.O. Schwarz forts from 1954 through at least 1970 were made in the US. These forts fit well midstream in the long run of American-made Western fort toys. Beginning as early as 1917, Lincoln Logs made wildly popular log buildings and forts designed as construction toys, and competitors like Halsam and Holgate turned out their own versions. (American forts were also made out of cardboard with research started in the OTS Vol. 15, No. 2 (2001) article "Fort Dearborn Toys" noting two cardboard fort models copyrighted 1932.)

Johillco's "Made in England" Western forts are certainly some of the earliest of the wooden Western forts for 54mm soldiers sold by various British firms – in a list compiled by *Toy Forts and Castles* author Allen Hickling – including Binbak Models, Elf Toys, Joy Toys, GeeBee (Tudor Toys), Park Toys, Playcraft (Mettoy), Tiger Toys, and Timpo. Allen's research on the Western forts of Elf Toys appeared in OTS Vol. 31, NO 3 (2007). Among English paper and cardboard versions we would include Britains 1977 **Fort Cheyenne** "designed and produced by Kingsland Workshop, Shepley, Yorkshire."



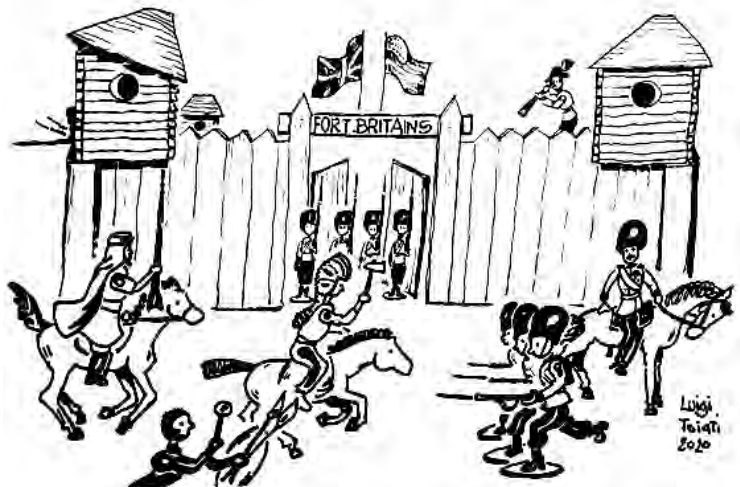
Fort Mohawk (1956-1962) detail with Mignot general and flagbearer



Detail of fort sold in Johillco set and in F.A.O. Schwarz catalogs 1952-1954

A broader survey of wooden Western forts would include a long list of countries from Denmark to Argentina and Brazil. Tin and later plastic forts were produced by Marx and other manufacturers in many countries.

The F.A.O. Schwarz Christmas catalogs are a treasure trove of toy soldiers sets -- with castles, ranches, zoos, farms and RCMP sets – the last of which I have already covered in "F.A.O. Schwarz's RCMP 'Outpost' Sets" in OTS Vol. 32, No. 3 (2008).



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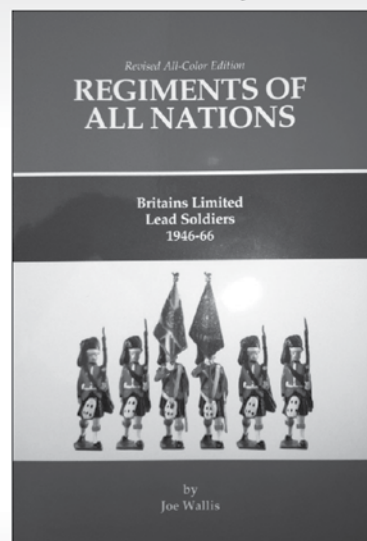
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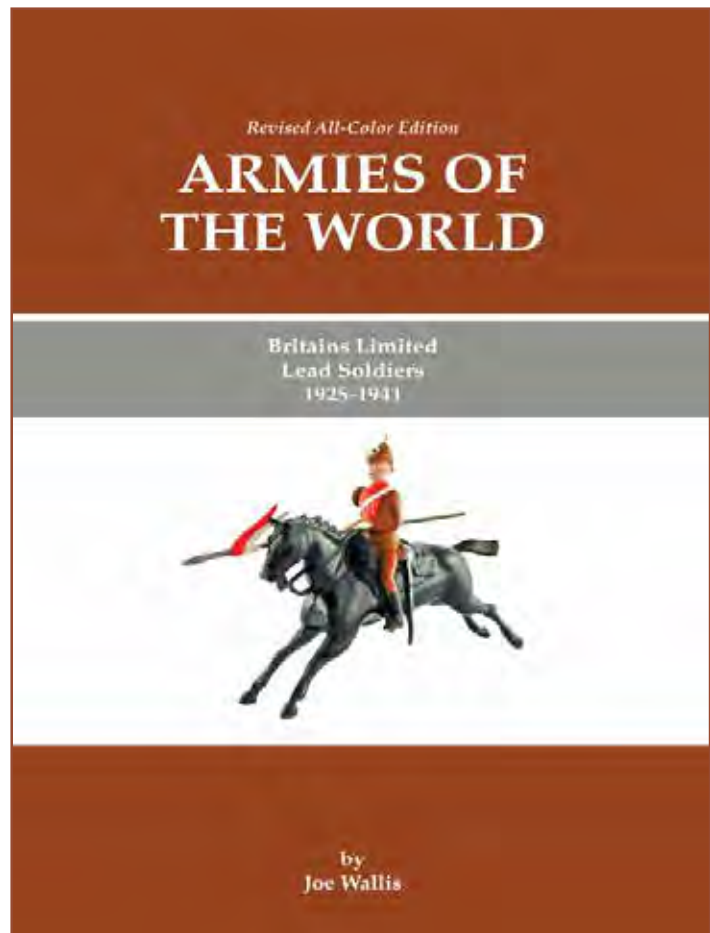
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SHOW REPORT

European and British Show Reports - Sandown, February 2020

by Rob Wilson

I have been attending toy fairs at Sandown Race Course, to the west of London, for more years than I care to remember. The dates of the show, which normally takes place four times a year, are usually one of the first things that go into my diary (immediately after the Chicago Toy Soldier which of course is the no. 1 diary entry). These are events not to be missed. Sandown has evolved into by far the most important toy fair in the UK. Indeed it is generally recognised as one of the best events of its kind in Europe and the world.

Little did I think when I attended the most recent event in February that this might be the last one I would be able to go to for some time. Since then, with the advent of Covid19, all such events have been cancelled in the UK and it is unclear when they are likely to be revived. During my planned trip to the UK and France in March, I had also scheduled in the London Toy Soldier Show and Eurofigurines in Paris, both of which had to be cancelled because of the efforts to control the pandemic.

It is uncertain when such events will be able to continue, we must all hope that efforts to contain and control the virus are successful and that life can return to normal as quickly as possible. For the time being “virtual” events such as auctions on eBay and similar platforms provide some light relief in the continuing crisis.

Returning to Sandown, while not the most successful of my many visits, this latest trip proved once again what a great show this is. With many dealers and punters



One of the many crowded stands at Sandown

coming from overseas, as well as all parts of the UK, this is a truly international event. Of course it does not focus solely on Toy Soldiers, but there are many specialist dealers as well as more general toy collectors who turn up interesting military and civilian figures and related items. In a typical show there are literally thousands of Britain's and other toy figures on sale, including civilian figures and plastics as well as the traditional lead toy soldiers.

My favourite find at the February show was a Noris/Heinrichs, 60mm, early 19th century, Foot Guard Colour Bearer. This is not a period well served by toy soldier manufacturers, who tend to focus on the end of Queen Victoria's reign rather than its beginning. This is a great shame as the uniforms were extravagantly colourful in this period leading up to the Crimean War. The figure had seen some action, with the flag being badly twisted around the figure's head. However, some patient and

careful work managed to restore it to its correct position without further damage. A splendid piece, probably originally part of a much larger display.



Noris / Heinrichs Grenadier Guard Colour Bearer, circa 1837

SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*

By pure chance, I also came across a second Heinrichs figure at the same show. This was another Foot Guard, but this time in uniform from the end of the 19th Century. The depicts a Grenadier Guard (white plume on his busby) sentry at attention, with his original wooden sentry box. This was marketed as a single figure boxed set by CET as the "Charterhouse Infantry Sentry Box", circa 1900. They also produced a similar set with a mounted Horse or Life guard and an appropriately enlarged sentry box.



Noris / Charterhouse Grenadier Guard Sentry with sentry box

Another dealer had some unusual Hollowcast figures made by some of Britain's early competitors. Originally identified in books like Andrew Rose's famous "Toy Soldier" book as made by Abel, subsequent research has identified them as being marketed by Faudel Phillips. These delightful figures are much harder to find than their Britains contemporaries but are none the less interesting in terms of subject matter or quality



Abel/Faudel Phillips figures: From left to right, Infantry of the line on a "drill display" base; Similar figures but with oval bases, the third one wearing a green light infantry helmet; Royal Engineers in tropical dress two slightly different paint finishes

of sculpting and painting. An already successful trip was rounded off by finding a group of the larger scale models made by Johillco in the 1930s. These were probably primarily aimed at the US Dimestore market as they are a similar scale. The quality of the sculpting of these figures is however up there with the very best standards of Jones. The Hill figures turn up fairly regularly, but normally in poor to average condition, often damaged. This group is in exceptional condition, including an officer and 6 other ranks. Hill also made a few other of these larger scale figures,

including a cowboy and Indian as well as a knight. All are hard to find in good condition.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before we have managed to defeat Covid19 and life can return to normal, so that toy soldier collectors can once again get back to hunting for their quarry in shows like Sandown.



Hill large scale British Infantry in WW I service dress at the slope with officer

SHOW REPORT

West Coaster

by Scott Morlan and Matt Murphy

Scott reports that "The West Coaster Toy Soldier Show is indeed alive and well, having been given new life thanks to Matt Murphy of Hobby Bunker in Massachusetts. During the hiatus since the March 2018 29th West Coaster, folks in the West have been lamenting the loss of their yearly toy soldier gathering. Matt stepped up to revive the show as a long-distance promoter, getting the ball rolling in November of last year. In that short time frame, Matt negotiated with Marriott Hotels, found, & sent contracts to, old & new dealers, mounted a huge advertising campaign through Facebook, direct mail, contacting historical societies, VFWs, hobby & gaming shops & shows as well as combined mailing lists. His results literally breathed life into the heretofore defunct West Coaster.

The March 1, 2020 Sunday show was preceded by several days of open room trading. After a slow start, Friday & Saturday room trading was surprisingly brisk in some 20 open rooms. On Sunday the show was held in a slightly smaller ballroom housing vendors manning 95 tables with every imaginable kind of toy soldier. Thor Johnson was offering his marvellous Aero Art renditions, Mike O'Donnell offered everything under the sun on his 10 tables. Greg Urbach had boxed plastics, Roy Easton had mint boxed Britains, Bob Phillips had rare Mignot & Heyde, Mark Young had his usual exotic soldiers you never see anywhere else. As always, the West Coaster had something for everybody.

Attendees topped 300 buyers, and they definitely came to buy. I was surprised to see several collectors who had not attended in several years. We, who manned the open rooms & ballroom tables, were very pleased with how much product was moved.

My experience was that much of what I brought sold straight away, far exceeding my expectations. Carl Nelson "The Tall Swede" had one of his best shows ever. Behind me, Fred MacNeill sold all but 4 of his items in the first 3 hours. Every vendor I spoke with had a fantastic show, several saying this was their best West Coaster in years. Add to all that the spark of excitement and appreciation to have the Coaster back again, there was simply a ballroom full of happy Toy Soldier folks. If you missed it, you missed a good one.

The good news is that Matt will do it again next year on approximately the same calendar weekend at the same location in Garden Grove, CA, conveniently located close to Disneyland! For further information contact Hobby Bunker at matt@hobbybunker.com. See you at the 2021 West Coaster!"

Matt added a personal note - "The show was always my favorite. Heading to California for the first time was pretty cool when I was 23 yrs old to sell toys. Here I am over 20 years later still doing it. I have met so many friends and customers over this time I was sad to see it go. So I said the heck with it..I'm doing it. I would like to add that without Woody's handoff and help it would not have been pulled off. Without the volunteers: Steven Chong, Carlos Codina,



Busy start to the day for Nick & Deanna Versteeg

SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*

Lisa (Ed Ruby's aid) and Nick and Deanna Versteeg (formerly of TSSD) I would not have been able to pull Sunday off - especially in the morning with the mad rush. My daughter, Emmy, was also a big help and managed the front door with Deanna on Sunday. She was a little nervous with the beginnings of the corona scare. We were lucky it went off when it did.



Edmunds Toy Soldiers



Woody Lambirth

Build-A-Rama also made their first show after a 5 year or so hiatus. He also helped advertise on social media as did a few other dealers. I was also able to take my daughter to a few beaches and Disneyland."

The accompanying photos show just some of the action from the 2020 show.



Thor Johnson's Russia-made ancients



Carl Nelson (the tall Swede) Elastolin & Lineol



ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

This book is already the 2nd photo guide on Hauser/Elastolin show-room dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hauser/Elastolin in the 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 the real shipping costs.

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SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA'S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY

By Norman Joplin and Ralph Kimmich

Following the success of his Nostalgia line, Shamus Wade introduced a series entitled **Oojah-Cum-Pivvy** - the translation being "A military equivalent of 'Thingummybob' a word substituted when the proper name cannot be remembered"

The above quotation is from "*The Long Trail, Soldiers, Songs and Slangs 1914-1918*" by John Brophy and Eric Partridge.

The first Oojah-Cum-Pivvy figure was issued on one of Shamus Wades monthly mailing lists # OS-132 - A Mexican Soldier of the Alamo 1836.

Introducing his new line, Shamus made the following statement.

"How it all began is rather a long story. Like most people in the English speaking world I was brought up on the Hollywood version of historical events, not least the Alamo. I was a grandfather before I read a Mexican account of what happened. However, as Hollywood had given me so much pleasure over the past half century, I did not really feel that indignant."

When a highly respected Model Soldier magazine devoted half a page to the unashamed laundering of a particularly unpleasant aspect of Texan History, I lost my temper. The result is a figure of a Mexican soldier at the Alamo.

This is the first of the Oojah-Cum-Pivvy series. As you know the Nostalgia series is limited to the British Commonwealth and Empire from 1850-1910. The Oojah-Cum-Pivvy series will be just what I feel like making. If I don't feel like making anything, then nothing will be issued in that month.

Like Nostalgia, Oojah-Cum-Pivvy figures are made in the style of Old Toy Soldiers (but better painted). Because they are basically designed as single figures, they will not usually have movable arms."

This first figure was a limited edition of 100 and priced at 3 Pounds Sterling."

The Mexican was designated #0.01 with further issues following on in numerical order up to # O.20. There was no figure allocated to #O.21.

The numbering system encountered a hiccup with O.26 as two different figures were issued with that number. There were 36 figures in all. According to Stuart Asquith

the sculptors were Graham Morris and Peter Cowan of Albion Figures and they were commissioned to produce the figures.

The first OCP figure was issued in November 1982 and the last in April 1984. The figures were sold via Wade's lists and the moulds were destroyed after each limited edition was deleted from the lists.

The quality and style of each item is in no way similar to the high quality of the Nostalgia range manufactured by Frank and Jan Scroby of Blenheim.

Oojah-Cum-Pivvy figures often appear as unidentified on eBay, there are no markings on the base other than a very faint number embossed on the underside of the base.

The following is based on a list kindly supplied by Ralph Kimmich. It is hoped that the information and illustrations in this article will finally enable collectors to identify Oojah-Cum-Pivvy figures in their collections.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Flavia Wade, widow of Shamus for her help.

#O.01 Mexican Infantry - The Alama, 1836.



The first Oojah-Cum-Pivvy Figure #0.01

This Mexican soldier is 18 years old, five foot 2 inches in height. He is armed with an old, British army reject, Baker rifle. He may have been lucky with his issued rifle. According to one United States source some of his colleagues were supplied with Brown Bess Muskets.

He has recently marched for two months across the northern desert- two months of cold hunger and

SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA’S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY (Continued)

abandoned corpses marking his route. He is one of an army of raw recruits who occupied San Antonio in February and March 1836. Like most of his comrades he has been in the army for less than six months. He has grown up fast.

#O.02 Irish Kern c 1544.

Kerns were light-armed professional soldiers. The figure could have been fighting for King Henry VIII against the French. He wears the traditional Irish Dress of the period.



0.02 Irish Kern circa 1544. Limited Issue of 150 figures.

#O.03 Irish Galloglass circa 1521.

Irish Galloglasses were professional soldiers, largely recruited in the Hebridean islands, who formed part of the retinue of every chief or noble in Ireland in those days.



#O.03 Irish Galloglass 1521.

#O.04 Soldier of the King of Muli, 1931. Limited issue of 150 figures.



In 1930, the far West of the Chinese Republic, up against the border with Tibet, was inhabited by the aboriginal inhabitants of China. These were not Chinese but “ancient tribes with distinct languages”, some possessing script, even a literature of their own. In the extreme West, the Tibetans in Chinese territory lived with their neighbours, the Charme tribe, in a more or less independent existence. Some tribes up to 1931 were ruled by their chiefs. The boundary of the Muli Kingdom stretched a day’s journey south. The realm of the King of Muli was surrounded by lawless bandits. To the south and southeast was the Lolo robber tribe and to the west and northwest were the Konkaling and Hisangchen territories. Some bandits used the King of Muli’s roads and may have paid road taxes to him in a share of the loot gathered outside the Kingdom. The King managed to keep his domain more or less immune from bandit attacks. The King’s best soldiers were recruited from his Tibetan subjects in the village of Garu. They were said to be “a fearless lot”. In 1931 the commander in chief was the King’s brother-in-law who may have gained military experience as a former bandit.



0.04 Soldier of the King of Muli.

#O.05 Private 2nd battalion, Greek Light Infantry. 1813.

The Greek Light Infantry was conceived by Sir Richard Church, when serving as assistant Quartermaster in the Ionian Islands. The regiment was to be raised for local defence. Many of the officers were Greek chieftains

SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA’S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY (Continued)



from the mainland, and the other rank and file were their tribesmen. The second battalion was raised in 1812 and Church became the Lieutenant Colonel and effective Commanding Officer. The regiment as a whole was disbanded in 1816. The uniform is very reminiscent of the Greek Evzones uniform.

#O.06 Etruscan Soldier circa 550 BC.

The Etruscans were a rather mysterious people who, at the height of their power, (6th to 5th centuries BC) dominated North West Italy and the islands of Elba and Corsica. They had wide trade and cultural contact throughout the Mediterranean and South Europe. Their towns were self-governing. The resulting political instability ended with their defeat by Gaulish tribes (430 to 350 BC) and later the Romans. The relationship with the Romans was not all that simple. The last Roman Kings were Etruscan and many features of Roman civilisation were borrowed from the Etruscans.



#O.06 Etruscan Soldier circa 550 BC.

Byzantine Soldiers:

#O.07 Kataphractor circa 1050.

#O.08 Basilikoi Anthropoi.

#O.09 Patzinak 11th century.

#O.10 Varangian Guardsman circa 1030.



The Byzantine army has received a “bad press” from most Western writers. But in the 10th and early 11th Centuries it was the best organized, best trained, best equipped and highest paid army in the known world. It’s function was the defeat of the enemy, rather than the gaining of fame by important individuals.

#O.07 Kataphractor circa 1050.

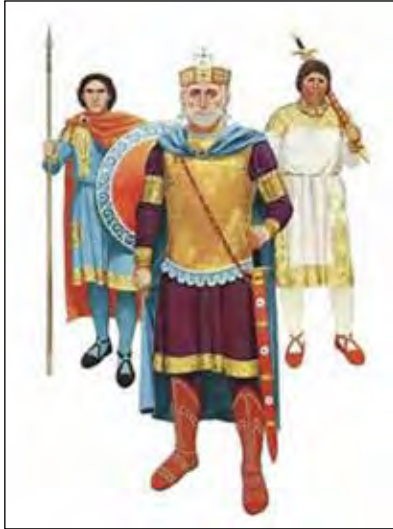
Kataphractors were a form of heavy cavalry used in Ancient warfare in Europe, East Asia, middle East and North Africa. The English name (also spelled Cataphractor) is derived from Greek meaning Armoured or fully covered.



SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA’S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY (Continued)

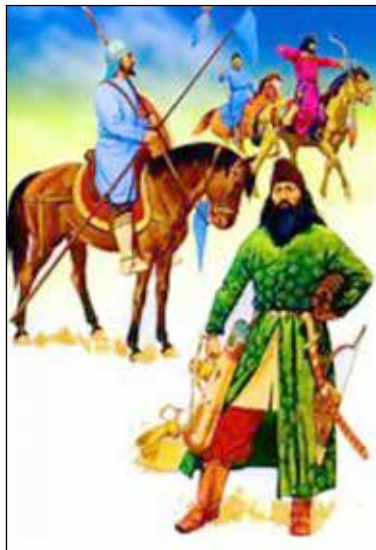
#O.08 Basilikoi Anthropoi

The Basilikoi Anthropoi - “Men of the Basileus or Emperor” were court attendants of a military or semi military nature.



#O.08 Basilikoi Anthropoi

#O.09 Patzinacks



#O.09 Patzinak Mercenary Cavalryman.

Patzinaks were a Turkish people, often to be found serving in the Byzantine army from the late 9th century onwards. They were one of the largest mercenary groups in the army. They were often employed as a sort of provincial police. They kept an eye on the First Crusade as it moved through Byzantine territory. Nomadic people, their original home is not known, but between 8th and 9th Century they inhabited a region between the Volga and the Urals.

#O.10 Varangian Guardsman.

The Varangian Guardsmen were recruited from Scandinavians. But after the battle of Hastings in 1066, Anglo-Danes and Anglo-Saxons joined their ranks.



The Battle of Bosworth Field:

#O.11 “Hand Gone” Man.

#O.12 Man at Arms.

#O.13 King Richard III.

#O.14 Wounded Archer.

The next figures in the series depict characters from the “Wars of the Roses”. King Richard the III (Yorkist, white rose) was born in 1452. He was the youngest son of Richard Plantagenet. After the death of his brother King Edward VI, he was proclaimed Lord Protector and crowned on July 3rd 1483. Henry Tudor (later Henry VII, red rose), the Lancastrian claimant to the throne, invaded the Kingdom in 1485. They met at the Battle of Bosworth Field where Richard was killed.



Scene from the Battle of Bosworth Field 1485.

SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA’S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY (Continued)



#0.11 “Hand Gone” (sic) Man depicts a soldier with an early hand gun.



#0.12 Man at Arms



#0.13 King Richard III



#0.14 Wounded Archer.



#0.15 Mounted Archer fighting on Foot.

Women’s Royal Indian Naval Service (WRINS), 1945:

#O.16 Chief Petty Officer

#O.17 Petty Officer

#O.18 Leading Auxiliary

#O.19 Auxiliary Stripping Gun

#O.20 Auxiliary at Headquarters New Delhi.

The WRINS was formed at the commencement of W.W.2 in 1939. It employed the wives of serving Royal Indian Navy personnel. At the beginning of 1941 it was decided that all European women, provided they were suitable for the work, would be employed. In 1943 all women serving working with the Royal Indian Navy were asked to join the W.A.C. This resulted in an odd situation, as Naval women were now part of the army. The service had been purely European to start with but by 1946 the proportion of Indian women in the WRINS was 43% Officers and 77% Ratings.



The WRINS duties were ciphers and coders, teleprint officers, switchboard operators, stenographers, typists, clerks, drivers, mess caterers and communication officers.



Left to Right 0.16 Chief Petty Officer, 0.17 Petty Officer, 0.18 Leading Auxiliary, 0.19 Auxiliary Stripping Gun, 0.20 Auxiliary at Headquarters New Delhi.



#0.23 Regimental Policeman, Punjab Regiment 1983.
#0.22 Regimental Policeman, Pakistan Armoured Corps 1983.

In the notes accompanying the release of these two figures, Shamus Wade writes “I saw these splendid men when I visited the Pakistan Armoured Corps in 1983, which is the heir to a number of the old Indian Cavalry Regiments”.



SHAMUS WADE – NOSTALGIA’S FOLLOW UP LINE: OOJAH-CUM-PIVVY (Continued)

#O.24 Tristan Da Cunha Defence Force Private 1943.

Tristan da Cunha is an island with a circumference of just 24 miles in the middle of the South Atlantic. The founder of the population (1816/1908) was Corporal William Glass of the Royal Artillery from Kelso in Scotland and his wife Maria Magdalene Leenders. They were joined by voluntary settlers and shipwrecked sailors. In 1943 the entire population was fewer than 200. The Tristan Defence Volunteers were formed in 1943, being possibly the smallest unit in the Allied Forces.



Force saw service in the North West Frontier, but it was in Burma that they played their greatest role.



Left to Right #O.26 Flight Sergeant Zahir-ud din Barber, #O.27 Flying Officer Chadran, #O.28 Flight Lieutenant Chopra, #O.29 Aircraftsman Mathews and #O.30 Aircraftsman Valiram Bhauni.

#O.25 Chiswick Armed Association, 1708-1802.

Chiswick is part of the Nobel Borough of Ealing in London. Shamus Wade resided in this Borough. The Chiswick Armed Association was formed in 1789 for the nation's self-defence, following the wars that ensued during the French Revolution. King George III reviewed the regiment in 1800.



#O.26 Cadet (Southall) Squadron, Air Training Corps Centre 1983

Southall is another part of the historic Borough of Ealing. In 1940, 24 Indian Air Force Pilots came to England to help the UK in the War effort, 8 were killed in action. At the same time the Air Training Corps was formed. The Squadron was made up mainly with citizens of India, Pakistan and a number of West Indians.



Royal Indian Air Force, Burma, 1944:

- #O.26 Flight Sergeant Zahir-ud din Barber
- #O.27 Flying Officer Chadran
- #O.28 Flight Lieutenant Chopra
- #O.29 Aircraftsman Mathews
- #O.30 Aircraftsman Valiram Bhauni

The next series of figures depicts characters from the Royal Indian Air Force in Burma in the closing stages of WW II. The Indian Air Force proper was created in 1933. In September 1940 twenty four Indian Air Force Pilots came to England to help the defence of Britain, 8 were killed in action. At the beginning of the war the Indian Air

Women's Royal Auxiliary Corps India.

Left to right. O.31 Junior Commander D Kapila 1944. O.32 Sergeant A. D 'Silva 1944. O.33 Officer Cadet (Indian). O.34 Officer Cadet (European) O.35 Officer Cadet (Anglo Burmese). O.36. Corporal ceremonial parade dress.



SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN - JOE WALLIS



Soldiers of Greater Britain by Joe Wallis deals with the years between 1893 and 1924 when the distinctive style and quality that made Britains toy soldiers the most popular in the world was developed. This well researched 453-page book answers questions about "ancient" Britains figures, mechanical toys, the accuracy of their models, the sources of their designs, the smaller scale B Series, the Paris Office, and Whisstock's wonderful box labels. See www.leadsoldierbooks.com.

- Features 782 close-up color photographs placed throughout the text by the corresponding set descriptions;
- Provides color schemes, changes in sets, cross references to other sets with the same figures, and the years during which each item appeared prior to 1925; and
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THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN'S LANDAU

By Joe DeMarco

I should start by mentioning that I have been involved in most aspects of the Toy Soldier hobby for over 40 years. I've done military miniatures, war game figures, fantasy, etc. Then about 30 years ago I finally landed on 54mm figures. The style of a gloss painted figure of this size is hard to beat. These attractive little troops have captured the attention of both the old and young for many years. Whether it be hollow cast, as old Britains, solid cast like Erikssons or the new old toy soldiers by present day solid cast manufacturers, they capture attention.

For the last five or six years, the major portion of my work has been restoring and converting old Britains hollow cast figures and a few H. Erikssons. Up until that time most of my projects were working with solid metal recasts of the same size. A good friend, Bill O'Brien, would often suggest, very firmly, that I switch to hollow cast. Bill's collection must be well over 3,000 restored and converted old Britains. Bill's figures are beautifully presented on three very large glass protected shelves, in a parade like display. So I decided to switch rather than fight, but admittedly I do continue to do both. The internet is loaded with old Britains toy soldiers for sale. A search for the least expensive broken items will usually prove fruitful. The hunt on eBay can be very rewarding, as long as you remember when it's time to fold. Whatever you are looking for will certainly show up again in a day or two.

While going through a somewhat recent eBay search I was looking for old Britains figures, when a landau appeared, along with some other figures that I was considering. At this time I hadn't decided on what the project would be with this particular landau set, but it certainly had some possibilities. The horses were not broken, which was a plus, and there was but one outrider, not a problem. Since I had three original landaus already I thought about bidding on this one and doing something totally different with it. After I had won it and it arrived I started searching on the internet for some suitable project. If you ask for a particular area of interest on Google and highlight *Images* a whole host of ideas come to life in the form of pictures. I found a black and white photo of the Emperor of Japan, circa early 1930s, (photo 1). Since Japanese figures are somewhat scarce and for the most part basically ignored in the arena of toy soldiers, I thought it could be a very interesting project.



Photo 1:



Photo 2:

The landau was first stripped of its original paint and the necessary repairs were made. It had to include a seat up front for the horse team drivers. No outriders would be required. The seat was made from thin metal sheet and epoxied to the front of the landau. The whole thing was then primed with a white primer. I repainted the entire landau in a gloss black lacquer, followed by maroon/brown seats and gold trim. The Britains double set of rear riders were given new heads (as per the photo that I was following) and became the drivers. The male figure (The Duke of Edinburgh) from the original set was duplicated and became one of three new passengers with new heads. The Duke's head also went on the drivers and the attendant. Finally, the standing figure, the attendant, at the rear was added as per the black and white photo. That figure began as a Postilion in State Livery. Two of them would not fit so I went with one.

THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN'S LANDAU (Continued)

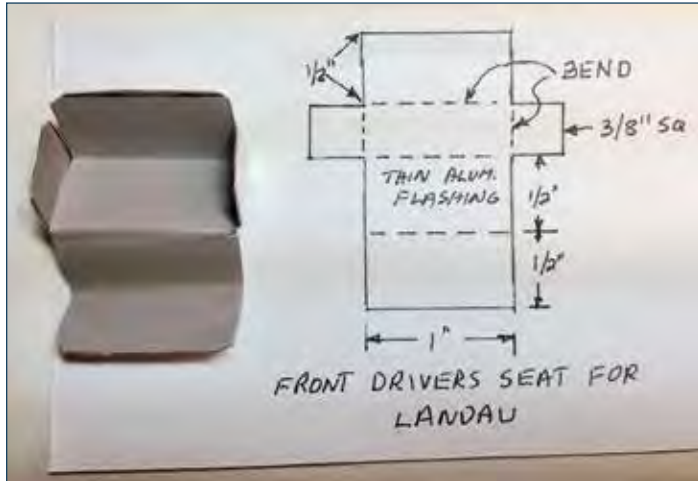


Photo 3:

The four horses that I used are from the original team. Six seemed too many. They too were stripped and repainted in a soft tan color. The harnesses are painted black, which I thought was a nice contrast, the mane and tails were also painted black and the hooves a medium gray. I mix my paint to suit the project that I'm working on. Tamiya flat acrylics are my paint of choice. They mix beautifully to create any special color needed. They also have a great opaque quality due to their excellent pigments. After all the painting was completed the various parts were glossed with an acrylic lacquer spray.



Photo 4:

So here are the steps for the landau project:

1. Obtain a Britains landau set that needs an up grade (photo 2);
2. Strip the paint, Acetone works well on a landau;
3. Make the forward drivers' seat from thin metal sheet (in this case I used aluminum flashing), round off all corners (photo 3);
4. Epoxy the seat to the landau;
5. Spray with a primer of your choice (photo 4);
6. Spray the landau with a gloss black lacquer (photo 5);
7. The upholstered seats were painted in maroon, then glossed;

8. The trim is a bright gold paint by Testors;
9. The horses were painted and detailed as shown in the finished project (photo 6).



Photo 5:



Photo 6:

The next part of the project was the Emperor and his staff, plus the drivers and attendant. Since I make my own molds for drop casting, it becomes a rather simple matter to make some small parts and cast the required figures. Making a mold is another whole story and there is no room for discussing it here. If you're interested, take a look at Micro Mark products.

The head gear worn by the figures is of two types, the chapeau on four of the figures, and the basic peak cap of the Japanese charging figure with a plume added for the Emperor and a staff member.

All six men are painted in a dark navy blue. Some artistic license was taken to add the sashes and medals. The figures were glossed and the gold added. Why add the gold last? Occasionally the chemical makeup of a gloss spray can cause the gold to run, not a good thing, so best to add it last.

A bit of history on the Emperor of Japan: Hirohito was born in 1901 and died in 1989. His reign as Emperor was from 1926 to 1989. After WW II a post war constitution preserved the monarchy but defined the emperor as a symbol of the State. From 1945 to 1951

THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN'S LANDAU (Continued)

Hirohito toured the country to oversee reconstruction efforts. Photo 1 is Emperor Hirohito in 1931.

The final part of this project describes the Imperial Guard that escort the Emperor's Landau.

A mounted escort is certainly a necessary requirement for the Emperor of Japan riding in his State Landau, especially in the world of toy soldiers. Since the escort did not make a good appearance in the black and white photo I needed to find some additional sources and references. A further search on the internet came up empty. I then went to a book bought many years ago titled, "Japanese Military Uniforms 1930-1945". This book is hard to find and pricey. I have found it invaluable though in converting figures into Japanese toy soldiers. I have used the other book in this series, "Japanese Military Uniforms 1841-1929", for several other projects especially Japanese uniforms of the Russo Japanese war. Some of the middle pages of the first book show outstanding color drawings of army officers and the Imperial Guard in full dress uniforms, (see photos 7 and 8).



Photo 7:



Photo 8:



Photo 9:

To create the escort I started with United States Cavalry figures that Britains used in set # 229. They were known as the US Cavalry in Service Dress. That uniform was a greenish khaki. The troopers were on either brown or black horses. A sword and scabbard was cast at the front right side of the horse. These are plentiful and inexpensive at toy soldier shows and eBay. Having bought several lots over a long period of time, I chose the ten that were in the poorest condition from my collection. Eight would become The Imperial Guard, two with flags, and two additional military officers. The cavalry troopers that were in very good to excellent condition went into a display and remain undisturbed.



Photo 10:

I had to strip the original paint off the selected pieces. For a reason beyond my comprehension different paint strippers work on different Britains figures. Acetone works on some old Britains, and that's a very easy cleaning method, but it won't work on others. You may have to experiment with different available paint strippers. Once the casting is cleaned off, the head is replaced with the plumed Japanese head. The next task is to deal with the sword and scabbard. They are dremmeled off. The figures are then primed with a primer of your choice. Mine is Armory white, a fast drying lacquer base primer.

THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN'S LANDAU (Continued)

Next is the actual painting. Everyone has their own favorite horse colors. I like soft browns for this group and vary a little with darkness and lightness. Keep in mind that I did not introduce any white, gray, or black horses. The colors on the riders from the top down are a white plume over a red cap. The face is a flesh color with pink cheeks. Eyes, mustache and black hair are painted next. The tunic is a dark navy blue with green collar and cuffs, white gloves. The trousers are red with a green stripe, and black boots. The saddle blanket is a lighter shade of blue with red trim. All the horses have black harnesses and reins.

The two Imperial Guards that have flags are straight out of the drawings in the book. One is painted red with the yellow chrysanthemum, the royal seal. This is the Emperor's flag. The very fine lines are done with a fine drawing pen in black. A. C. Moore (a craft store) sells these pens in their art department. They come in various thicknesses. I also use one of these pens to apply eyes and mustaches to my troops. The other is a red over white flag. This is the flag of the Imperial Guards. The flags are made from the type of soft metal sheet once used in tooth paste tubes. A quick wrap around the thin brass rod and some super glue keeps it all together.

Here are the steps in producing the Imperial Guard escort:

1. Use toy soldiers from set #229 in need of a new life, photo 9;
2. Strip the paint so that you have a new casting, photo 10;
3. Dremmel off the sword and scabbard and add the new head, photo 10;
4. Prime the old Britain's castings and get ready to paint, using the photos supplied or the book as reference, photos 1, 7 and 8



Photo 11:

5. The flags are soft metal sheet on a brass rod, painted as shown, photo 11;
6. The finished Imperial Guard, photo 12.



Photo 12:

Presently there is a group of Imperial Guard infantrymen under construction to complete this parade. These will be solid cast figures since they are already in my inventory of castings. The knowledge gained with this project has inspired me to attempt a few more similar projects using old landaus. I'm thinking of doing the Kaiser next. That landau has already been prepared and is awaiting a horse team.

An advertisement for HobbyBunker.com. It features a cartoon illustration of a soldier in a brown uniform and helmet, holding up three fingers. The text "HOBBYBUNKER.COM" is at the top in a blue banner. Below it, "Gives You More" is written in a cursive font. To the right, "TANKS", "SOLDIERS", "GAMES", and "SUPPLIES" are listed in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom, there is a logo for "HOBBY BUNKER INC." and contact information: "33 EXCHANGE STREET, MALDEN, MA 02148", "781-321-8855", and "MATT@HOBBYBUNKER.COM".



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BOOK REVIEW

Die Zinnlaube

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

For a toy soldier magazine to be successful it must contain a number of qualities on a consistent basis. The key components of success and longevity are interesting subject matter, articles written by knowledgeable authors, high quality photographs and a consistent date of delivery to its' subscribers. Fortunately for toy soldier collectors the German based magazine, *Die Zinnlaube* ticks all of these boxes.

Die Zinnlaube has flourished during its' ten-year existence under the careful guidance of Gisbert Freber. The expert team of Dr. Prof. Ignace Czeguhn, Markus Grein, Alfred Umhey and Marco Pomsel has made *Die Zinnlaube* one of the premier toy soldier magazines.

The focus of the magazine is primarily on old German metal toy soldiers and their makers. Major manufacturers such as Heyde, Heinrich, Spenkuch and others are usually featured, but lesser known makers also receive equal treatment. Composition and "flat" figures have also been the subject of several articles.

A typical issue of *Die Zinnlaube* is 90+ pages printed on glossy 8"x12" paper. Articles are supplemented with excellent quality photographs of figures, boxes, boxed sets and period artwork/advertisements/photographs. Text is dual German/English and a wide range of advertisers ranging from individual sellers, collectors, shops and auction houses are included. One of the most anticipated articles in each issue is the photo gallery of a collection. Several pages of color photographs containing many rare and unusual sets and individual

pieces from a participating collector are shown.

Die Zinnlaube is printed once a year and is usually available in November-December. The cost including postage for a US subscriber this year was 19 Euros. Payment may be made via PayPal. Considering the quality of articles and photographs within the 90+ pages, *Die Zinnlaube* is an outstanding bargain. I have

frequently referred to various past issues for information. If you are not a subscriber, I urge you to become one; you will not be disappointed. Contact information is provided below so you may be placed on the notification list when the next issue becomes available.

Contact Information
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BOOK REVIEW

Armies of the World

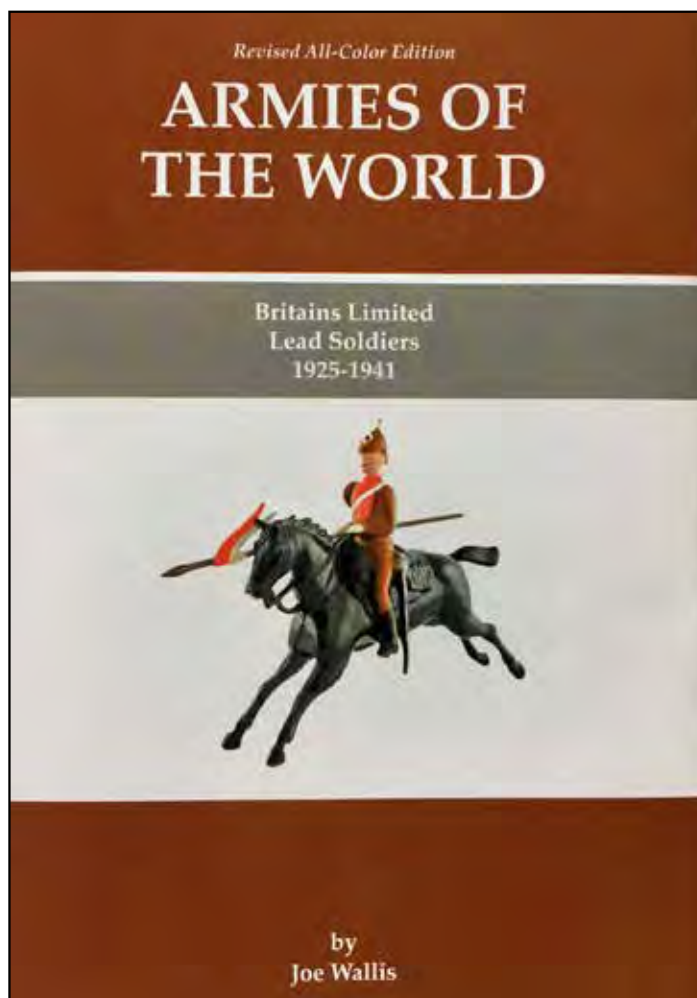
By Joe Wallis

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

Britains collectors will be happy to learn of Britains author/collector Joe Wallis' latest literary effort, a revised and updated edition of *Armies of the World*. Originally published in 1993, *Armies of the World*, *Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1925-1941* was the companion volume to Mr. Wallis' first book *Regiments of All Nations Ltd. Lead Soldiers 1946-1966*. These two volumes examined the composition, painting and dates of production for each set of Britains and proved to be an invaluable reference for collectors. Based on Mr. Wallis' continuing research, in 2011 he published an updated and hard cover edition of *Regiments of All Nations* (OTS V35 #3). Both *Regiments of All Nations* and *Armies of the World* made the list in my article, "Five Books That Belong in Every Collector's Library (OTS V37 #3). To Complete the history of Britains lead soldier production from their inception in 1893 continuing to 1966, Mr. Wallis published *Soldiers of Greater Britain, Britains Limited 1893-1924* (OTS V41 #2).

Armies of the World follows the same easy to use format found in *Regiments of All Nations* and *Greater Britains*. Chapter I deals with the company history of Britains. Chapter II provides information to quickly identify figures and to what regiment/country they belong. To help navigate through the numerous and similar types of British regiments, the author provides a number of informative charts. Within each chart the regiment's number, uniform part, (plume, busby bag, facing, etc.) pose and set number make identification easy. Identifying horses is also simplified as a silhouette of each style of horse Britains used is shown. Rounding out the chapter are helpful drawings of the different musical instruments found in Britains bands.

Chapter III begins the systemic examination of every Britains set produced during 1925-1941. Within the informative text for each regiment or item, collectors will find the dates of production, a detailed description of the composition of the set, specific painting/uniform details and if figures from the set were included in other sets manufactured by Britains. If the set was produced beyond 1941 this is also noted. Excellent color photographs of single figures, boxed sets, box tops and individual items supplement the text. Thoughtful editing made sure that the text and photographs are on the same or facing page, elimination frustrating page turning. Given all the written and visual information that is provided for

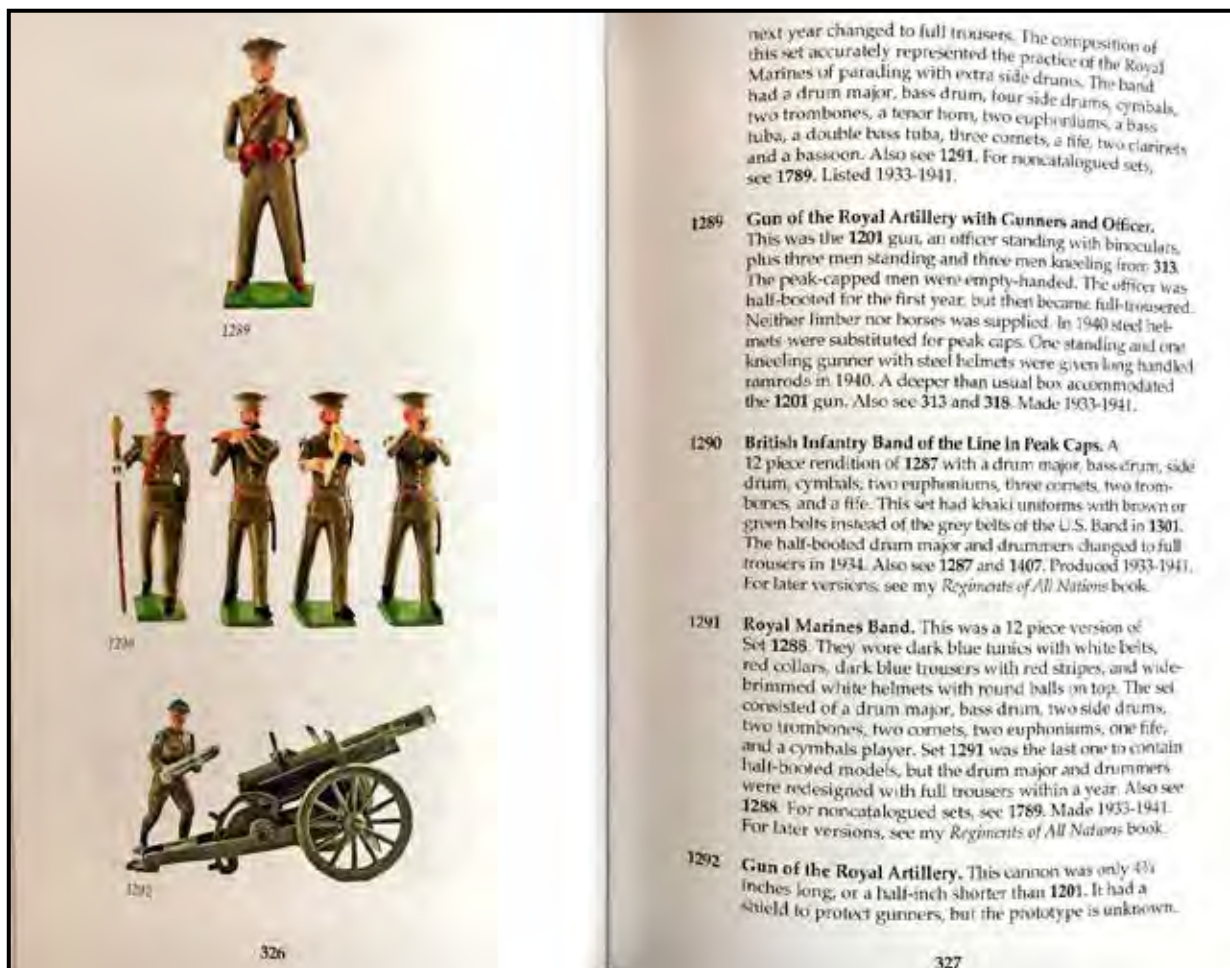


each set, it is no wonder that it took 520 pages to complete the chapter.

Chapter IV is a short but very informative list of prewar new lines of figures, listed as they appeared in chronological order.

Chapters V through VII explore The Model Home Farm, Zoo Series and Garden Series. I found the color pictures included in the Garden Series extremely helpful in identifying the numerous and sometimes similar flowers in this range. Chapter VIII focuses on the Circus, Cococubs, Football Teams, Racing Colours, Railway and Road Signs. All items in these chapters receive the same visual and written treatment as their military brethren in Chapter III. An essential chart of team colors/uniform is provided to help identify which of the 28 football teams you may have in your collection.

BOOK REVIEW (Continued)



Rounding out the 780-page book are two valuable appendices. Appendix A lists sets in production from 1893-1924, and Appendix B sets from 1945-1966. A helpful and informative fourteen-page glossary is also provided.

So, if you own the 1993 edition of *Armies of the World* you are probably wondering why you should purchase the revised edition. A simple comparison will show why;

2020 Edition

- * Hard cover
- * 852 color photographs
- * 780 pages
- * Detailed contents of all Non-cataloged sets from Factory records
- * Additional research since 1993

1993 Edition

- * Soft cover
- * 500 black/white photographs
- * 420 pages
- * Number of pieces in each set

next year changed to full trousers. The composition of this set accurately represented the practice of the Royal Marines of parading with extra side drums. The band had a drum major, bass drum, four side drums, cymbals, two trombones, a tenor horn, two euphoniums, a bass tuba, a double bass tuba, three cornets, a fife, two clarinets and a bassoon. Also see 1291. For noncatalogued sets, see 1789. Listed 1933-1941.

1289 Gun of the Royal Artillery with Gunners and Officer. This was the 1201 gun, an officer standing with binoculars, plus three men standing and three men kneeling from 313. The peak-capped men were empty-handed. The officer was half-booted for the first year, but then became full-trousered. Neither limber nor horses was supplied. In 1940 steel helmets were substituted for peak caps. One standing and one kneeling gunner with steel helmets were given long handled ramrods in 1940. A deeper than usual box accommodated the 1201 gun. Also see 313 and 318. Made 1933-1941.

1290 British Infantry Band of the Line in Peak Caps. A 12 piece rendition of 1287 with a drum major, bass drum, side drum, cymbals, two euphoniums, three cornets, two trombones, and a fife. This set had khaki uniforms with brown or green belts instead of the grey belts of the U.S. Band in 1301. The half-booted drum major and drummers changed to full trousers in 1934. Also see 1287 and 1407. Produced 1933-1941. For later versions, see my *Regiments of All Nations* book.

1291 Royal Marines Band. This was a 12 piece version of Set 1285. They wore dark blue tunics with white belts, red collars, dark blue trousers with red stripes, and wide-brimmed white helmets with round balls on top. The set consisted of a drum major, bass drum, two side drums, two trombones, two cornets, two euphoniums, one fife, and a cymbals player. Set 1291 was the last one to contain half-booted models, but the drum major and drummers were redesignated with full trousers within a year. Also see 1288. For noncatalogued sets, see 1789. Made 1933-1941. For later versions, see my *Regiments of All Nations* book.

1292 Gun of the Royal Artillery. This cannon was only 4 3/4 inches long, or a half-inch shorter than 1201. It had a shield to protect gunners, but the prototype is unknown.

I highly recommend this book for all toy soldier collectors and, if you are a Britains collector this is a "must have". Quality abounds in this book from the outstanding color photographs, to the 780 glossy pages bound in a hardback binding with colorful dustjacket. It is well worth \$89 U.S., \$130 Canadian and \$150 International. All prices include postage paid for this hefty work and is autographed by the author. Mr. Wallis' *Regiments of All Nations* and *Soldiers of Greater Britain, Britains Limited 1893-1924* are available from his website; leadsoldierbooks.com. Thank you to Mr. Wallis who generously submitted a copy for this review.

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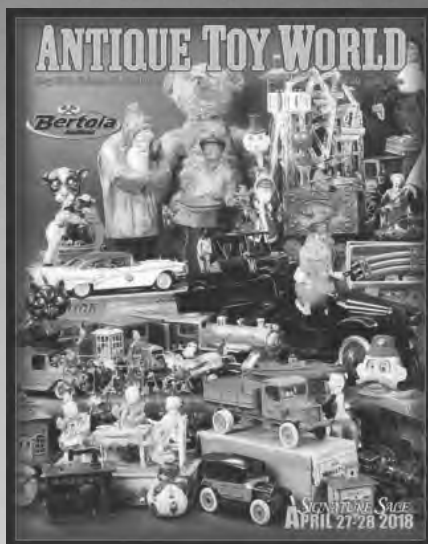
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BRITAINS RFA GUN TEAM AT THE HALT SET 317

By John Franklin

So have you managed to collect all three versions of the RFA at the halt, Britains set 317? Britains in its lead soldier production era, 1893 – 1967, made a feature of their horse drawn gun teams, about 20 in all versions, stances and uniforms, and they were splendid and attractive sets to have as part of your toy soldier display on the play room floor. This article is looking at one genre of the range of Royal Field Artillery (RFA) and Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) gun teams, whether in full dress, khaki or steel helmeted, whether galloping, walking or at the halt.

Set 317 was the RFA in full dress at the halt and started life in 1928. By that time all horse drawn gun teams, wagons, pontoon wagons, etc were all depicted in breast harness, the collar harness sets being superseded some time ago. But the gun and limber of the first version set 317 were still as the standard set 144 gun teams which were being produced at that time, with the old first version gun and limber now in fumed metal finish, (leaving aside the shafted limber for the 1896 RHA set 39).

I am grateful to James Opie's Great Book of Britains for some of this background to the two versions of the RFA at the halt set 317 in my possession. However, there is a slight variance in that book. In the set description he says that set 317 at inception in 1928, did not have seated men but then goes on to show the gun team in picture #566 with seated men!

So the first version of set 317 is as per Photo 1.



Photo 1: RFA gun team at the halt, full dress, First version

Britains RFA sets had an intriguing life and it is interesting to review them alongside Britains RHA sets, and also the real army approach to artillery. Britains brought out set 39 in 1896 with 4 seated gunners as distinct from outriders. The RHA in the British Army had been so designated since the late 18th century. For whatever reason Britains replaced the seated RHA gunners with outrider mounted troopers in 1906. In the meantime, the British Army in 1899 designated the two other artillery branches to be the Royal Field Artillery and the Royal Garrison Artillery, the 3 branches reflecting the calibers of artillery then in use. The RHA were to gallop into field action with their 13 pounders. The Royal Field Artillery were to walk into field action with their 18 pounders, The Royal Garrison Artillery were then responsible for the much bigger size guns for sieges and similar locations and duties, as well as the defence of military establishments and the UK coast. One might surmise that Britains set 211 with the massive gun was meant to portray the Royal Garrison Artillery but that name did not appear in any catalogues or box labels or descriptions under that set number.

BRITAINS RFA GUN TEAM AT THE HALT SET 317 *(Continued)*

Following the UK formation of the RFA in 1899, Britains brought out set 144 in 1906, with 4 seated gunners, at the walk, but Britains sets 39 and 144 had indistinguishable size guns, but that's toy production expediency for you. As reported above, 1906 as it happened, was also the year the RHA lost their seated gunners. The RFA set 144 then moved from 4 seated gunners to 2 around 1919, probably coordinated with the move from collar harness draught horses in Britains horse drawn sets to the use of breast harness horses.



The next bit of intriguing history was that after the first World War, in 1922, a comprehensive review of the British Army and its regiments and services was instigated. This led in 1924 to the amalgamation of all the artillery divisions/regiments into one generic regimental title, the Royal Artillery, except that is for a small number of Royal Horse Artillery batteries. With the mechanisation of the army and 'tractor' towed artillery these RHA batteries were probably retained for ceremonial occasions and the capability to deploy artillery on campaigns where motorised artillery could not access.

So the enigma is what triggered Britains to bring out separate gun teams in 1928, at the halt in full dress for both the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery. Well presumably commercial enterprise, what else? The RFA had 2 seated men and the RHA had no seated men. Understandable since Britains RHA set 39 had indeed lost their seated gunners in 1906. But no other RHA gunners were included in set 316. There were of course a myriad of dismounted gunners for set 318, the service dress Royal Artillery set at the halt.

Sometime in 1929/1930 the second version of set 317, (Photo 2), was issued superseding the first version. This second version now had its seated men removed, but the limber and gun were still the versions used in gun teams of the last 25 years or so. The limber lid was replaced by one which had no slots for seated men. It seems that at the time it was decided to remove the seated men from set 144, the same fate as befell set 317. This removal probably reflected the fact that for some time the British Army itself had had no seated gunners on the limbers. (Those toy soldier gunners on buckets seats in the gun teams had disappeared a long time before). In a way regrettable, but understandable. Regrettable since the gun teams with seated men were quite attractive and indeed looked much better and business like than the gun teams without any seated gunners.



Photo 2: RFA gun team at the halt set 317, Second version (picture courtesy C & T Auctioneers)

BRITAINS RFA GUN TEAM AT THE HALT SET 317 (*Continued*)

In the life of set 317, the 3rd version, (Photo 3), was brought out in 1931 with no seated gunners and the improved limber and gun which was also used for all gun teams from that year (except set 211). This third version was then available until 1941, when war circumstances brought a halt to toy soldier production. Production of set 317 did not resume after the war. There were however minor variations in the 3rd version. The “taches” of the men at initial issue were changed to red lips, probably about 1938, when all Britains soldiers reflected the disappearance of moustaches during the previous 10 – 15 years throughout the UK population. Also the red facings, trouser stripes, etc took on a slightly darker hue, almost a scarlet/maroon colour. My third version set 317 as shown in Photo 3 is this latter variation with red lips and the deeper red/maroon facings. Photo 5 below is the “tached” version with the brighter red facings etc.



Photo 3: RFA gun team at the halt, full dress, red lips, Third version (circa 1940)

Below are additional pictures of the RFA set 317 as they appeared in Auction Catalogues for sales by Vectis Auctions, to whom grateful thanks are due.



Photo 4: RFA set 317, First version, (picture courtesy Vectis Auctions)



Photo 5: RFA set 317, Third version with “taches”, (picture courtesy Vectis Auctions)



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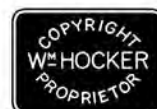
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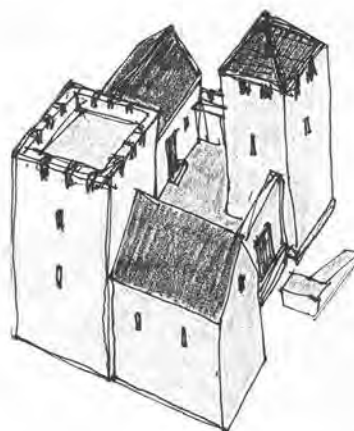
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