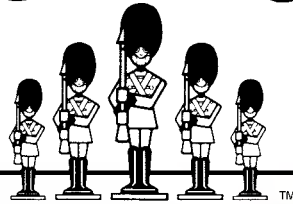


Spring  
2022

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 46 Number 1  
\$10.00

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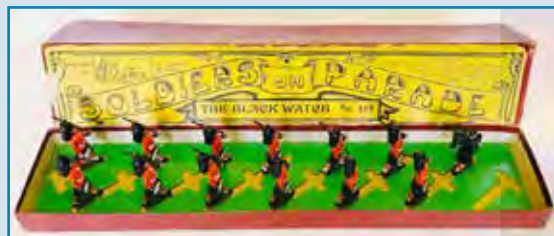
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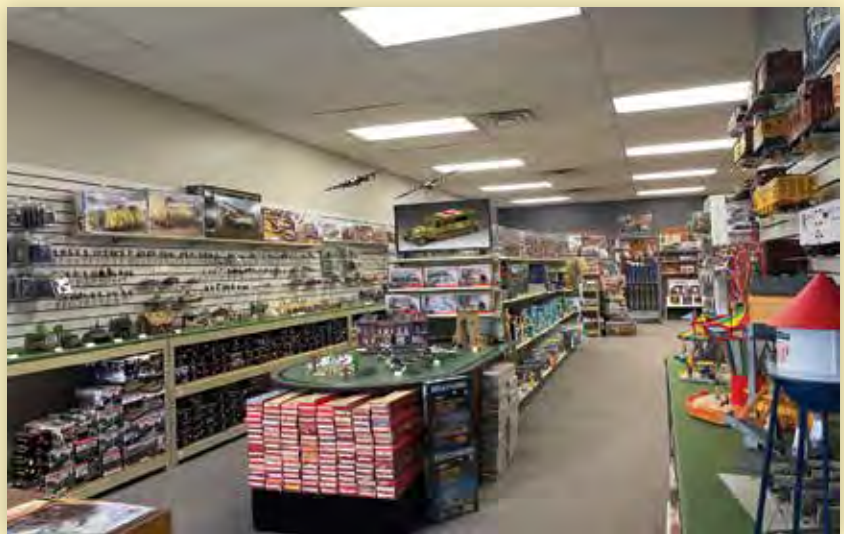
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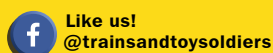


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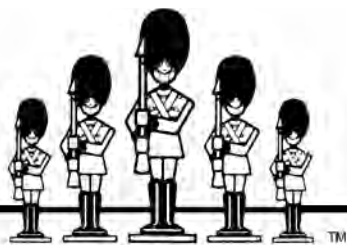


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**ON THE COVER**

Our cover features America's First Female Soldier  
Deborah Sampson

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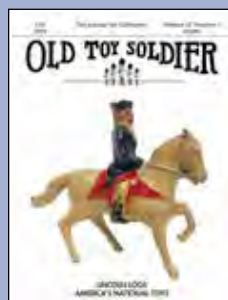
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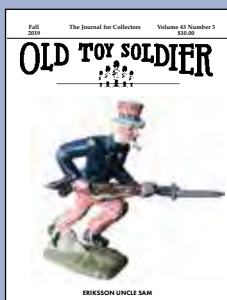
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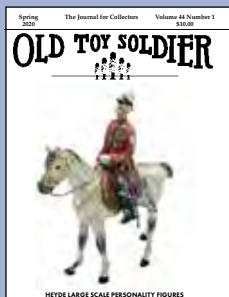


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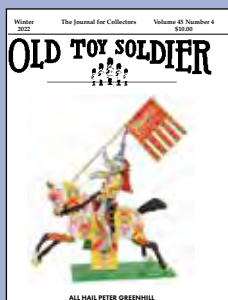
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# EDITORIAL

It's time to "put pen to paper" and draft another introduction to the magazine.

Things at last seem to be getting back to normal following the pandemic with a number of Shows coming back to life and many others scheduled for later this year. Although there have been a few casualties, and some may never return, show organisers are working hard to revive the hobby and its up to all of us to support them. So, get out there and enjoy yourselves and help to make it happen. If you have Shows and events planned, let us know so that we can help to publicise them.

The West Coaster took place at the start of the year and events were also held in Paris and London.



These were all well attended, with many treasures changing hands as illustrated in the pages below.

Kulmbach is scheduled for August and of course the big one, the Chicago Toy Soldier Show, is

happening on Sunday, September 25, 2022, with room trading in the days leading up to the Show.

This issue of the magazine features many different aspects of the Hobby. These include detailed research on one of the smaller postwar UK manufacturers, Lone Star, as well as the art of model conversions. The latter focuses on the creation of one-off items to meet the desires of every taste from the creative mind of James Grancio! Also we have no less than the 52nd contribution to these pages from Stan Alekna. Keep them coming Stan!

Hopefully, all our readers will find something to entertain and inform them in the ever-changing world of Toy Soldiers.



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## CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW #41 PLANNING UNDERWAY

Plans for the 41st annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show to be held on Sunday, September 25th are firing up.

Vendor contracts have gone out and the response has been great!

Vendors from Australia, France and the UK have committed to the Show as well as many of our US regulars.

Once again, the Chicago Toy Soldier Show will be an international event.

Promoters, Jan and Roger Garfield pledge to bring back as many of our pre-show events as possible.

Together with the usual outstanding Sunday Show, the seminars, demonstrations and workshops are what make the event a special one for vendors and attendees.

### ***For more information about the Chicago Toy Soldier Show:***

Roger Garfield:

Phone (847) 567-5355

Email: [roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com](mailto:roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com)

Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show

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[www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com](http://www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com)

## Obituary: Linda Karch



Linda Karch the long time bartender from the Hyatt in Schaumburg passed away after a long battle with cancer.

She was everyone's favorite bartender and friend during the shows, like Sam from Cheers. Over time she became a friend to me and my crew, Don Pielin and others. She would often run free coffee over to us during the shows on Sunday. A few times she slipped past hotel cameras to join us for our legendary pizza parties in Don's room. One night we pulled into the hotel parking lot around 11PM. Linda left 4 pints of beer on the bar to welcome us. Last September she and her husband stopped by to visit us at the Hyatt. We did not ever think it would be our last time together. What a great person, she will be sorely missed. She leaves behind her husband Tom and sons Justin and Lukas.

Matt Murphy

## Update on Britains Set #131

Just before going to press news came in of an almost complete Set #131. Widely regarded as the "holy grail" for Britains Collectors, this was the largest set of Toy Soldiers made by the company. Included in the set was a complete row of 9 British Camel Corps figures. A full article on this important find will be included in the next issue.





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# DEBORAH SAMPSON - THE USA'S FIRST FEMALE SOLDIER

By Rob Wilson

Deborah Sampson Gannett, better known as Deborah Sampson, achieved fame by disguising herself as a man in order to serve in Washington's Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Although she is not the only woman with a documented record of military combat experience in that war, she is probably the most famous.

She came from Massachusetts and joined the 4th Massachusetts Regiment to fight against the British. She was the only woman to earn a full military pension, although this was only granted posthumously following the Committee of Congress's recognition that the history of the Revolution "furnished no other similar example of female heroism, fidelity and courage."

Hermann Mann wrote a romanticized biography of her role as a soldier during the Revolutionary War in *The Female Review or Memoirs of an American Young Lady*.

According to Mann, in 1782, as the Revolutionary War raged on, Sampson determined to join the fight by disguising herself as a man. She cut her hair, bound

her breast, and enlisted under the name of Robert Shurtleff. She was assigned to the Company of Light Infantry serving under Captain George Webb.

She took part in a number of dangerous missions, including scouting to assess British strength in the Manhattan area, which Washington was proposing to attack. She was involved in raids on Tories that supported the British cause, as well as taking part in the siege of Yorktown.

Despite a number of close calls, including at least two occasions when she was wounded, she managed to disguise her true sex. It was not until she became ill during an epidemic, and was taken to a hospital and lost consciousness, that the truth was revealed. Apparently, Washington was not amused by the deception but despite this she received an honorable discharge.

She later married Benjamin Gannet. Although her life after the army was typical of a farmer's wife, including raising 3 children, she also did some lecture tours to publicize her experiences. It was only after her death that her husband petitioned Congress

for "pay as the spouse of a soldier". He was eventually awarded the money, though he too died before receiving it.

The Gannets prospered and became well established in the media and publishing world, responsible for titles such as *USA Today*.



Deborah Sampson as portrayed by Rose, in the uniform of the 4th Massachusetts Light Infantry. This is a studio painted model



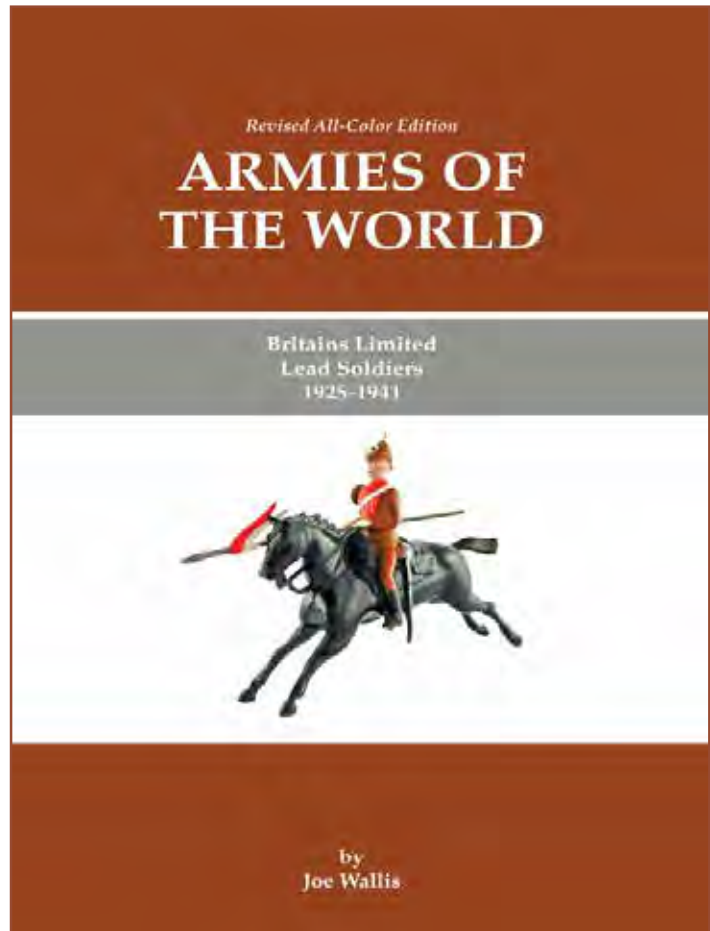
Portrait of Deborah Sampson from the frontispiece and title page from Mann's biography: Nathaniel and Benjamin Heaton, 1797

# THE NEW EDITION OF

## *Armies of the World,*

### *Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1925-1941:*

- 1 Contains 852 outstanding color close-up photographs instead of the 500 black-and-white photographs of the earlier edition;
- 2 Has been expanded from 420 pages to 780 (it now includes the contents of all of the noncatalogued sets from the Factory Records and reflects my research since 1993);
- 3 Is hard cover instead of paperback.



For delivery of an autographed copy, fill out the information below and send a check or money order payable to Joe Wallis (\$89 U.S., \$130 Canada; and \$150 overseas). These amounts include postage. No credit or debit cards. You can pay with PayPal to joewallis@comcast.net (but add \$5 for PayPal fees).

I also published the acclaimed *Regiments of All Nations*, which examines Britains Ltd. production between 1946 and 1966, and *Soldiers of Greater Britain, Britains Limited 1893-1924*. All my books employ the same easy-to-use format. My website is leadsoldierbooks.com. I list my books on Amazon.com (search on Joe Wallis and the titles of my books), but Amazon orders involve added postage cost and sales tax. Forward payment in U.S. dollars using checks drawn on a U.S. bank branch or a postal money order to: Joe Wallis, P.O. Box 3407, Arlington, Virginia 22203-3407.

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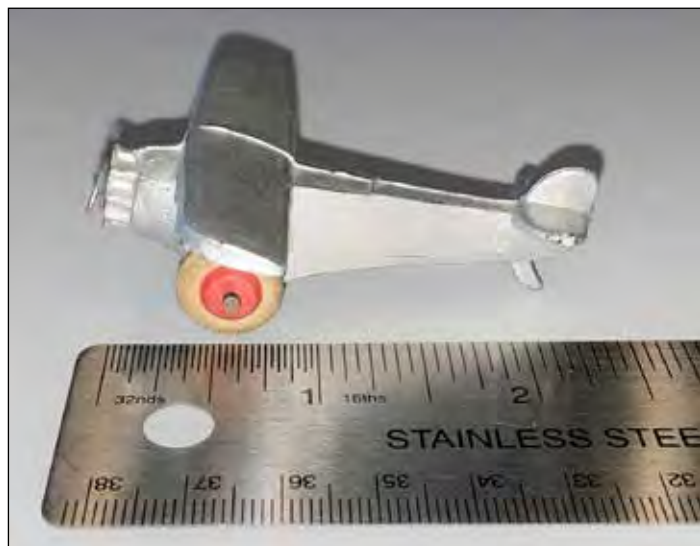
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# SCRATCH ONE BARCLAY AIRPLANE

*By Stan Alekna*

I have researched and attempted to authenticate previously undocumented Dimestore variations over the last thirty-five years and have presented many of my findings in OTS articles. So, I feel obligated to correct an identification error contained in O'Brien's 3rd Edition, that was reinforced by me in my OTS article entitled **THE WINGS OF BARCLAY**, Volume 45, No. 1, Spring 2021. Our error was in confirming that there is a distinct Barclay airplane variant with the unique O'Brien number of BA9.

Thanks to the keen eye and input of Bill Hanlon of **USDIMESTORE.COM**, I have concluded there is no unique Barclay BA9 airplane. The photo on page 103 of O'Brien's book that is labeled (BA9) is, in my opinion, a Barclay BA10 with tires on wooden hubs.



"Barclay BA10's Photos courtesy of Bill Hanlon"

The casting of the fuselage on Bill's three BA10's is identical, and Bill confirmed they all have a 2-1/4" wingspan and a 2-1/2" long fuselage. These are the same dimensions as the BA10's

that were in my personal collection. Richard's description of (BA9) contains the statement that it is "approximately 2-1/2" long" with no mention of wingspan. His photo of (BA9) is not clear enough to determine if the wheels are "over-sized", as described, or not, but I know first-hand that the distance and angle between an object and the camera lens can result in significant distortion of objects in a photo. This is especially true of close-up photos.

The photo below confirms that the tires and hubs on BA10 are not over-sized but are the same size, or even a little smaller, than those on Barclay's Army truck BV76.



Standard Barclay wheels Photo courtesy of Bill Hanlon

After studying Bill Hanlon's photos and data, and reviewing the research materials for my **WINGS of BARCLAY** article, I now believe that what I thought was a BA9 in my personal collection was a BA10 with rubber tires on standard wooden hubs, just like the one pictured above.

While a BA10 with tires on hubs may be somewhat rarer than a BA10 with metal wheels, it does not qualify for a unique O'Brien number, in my opinion. No unique number was assigned to the variant of Barclay's BA1 airplane which can be found with metal wheels and also with rubber tires. So, I would scratch the BA9 Barclay airplane from your "want list", if I were you.

There are lots of documented, valid, undisputed, rare, Dimestores for advanced collectors to pursue without chasing questionable, or unverifiable variants.

It is in the spirit of full disclosure, honesty, and clarification that I am submitting this article to OTS. If anyone has in their possession what they believe is a true BA9 with different wingspan and fuselage measurements from BA10, please contact me to continue the dialog.



# RECONNAISSANCE

## *Previously unrecorded Britains*

James Opie wrote to Joe Wallis at the start of the year with some interesting photos for an opinion as to their suitability for publication in *Old Toy Soldier magazine*.



*"I was first made aware of these figures in 2009, when an inveterate trawler of toy shows asked for help in identifying them; Andrew Rose and I were asked through a third party to help out. I said at that time, and have not since changed my mind, that they are probably made around 1940-41.*

*I have looked through your revised 'Soldiers of the World' from 1938 through 1941 and have found no sign of them. They look to be a standard, best quality, factory finish, post moustaches, with the normal khaki, light green belt and black boots of the British Army at the period. In the absence of a matching non-catalogued number, I conclude that they are either one of the few numbers that you did not fill, a special for a private customer, or something made up in the factory to fill 'Personality' boxes.*

*Anyway, they certainly seem to be something new, very simply combining a standard body at attention with a standard peak cap head.*

*After the recent sad death of the collector concerned, they have come to me for auction, so I thought that you might like to see them, and if you think it worthwhile, to pass them on to Rob, who might make a 'New discovery' paragraph of them. They are only Good-Fair condition, with no intact arms, although the piece of one that remains, points to them having the standard at attention arm. There are only two intact bases, and there are two caps with a small nick in each rim. They look exactly as my father would have looked when he joined the Royal Fusiliers as a private in 1939.*

*They will appear as lot 7 of the C & T Toy Soldier Auction on 1st June 2022."*

Joe replied to us that he has never seen such figures and there is no mention of khaki flat cap figures standing at attention in the Factory Records, so unfortunately we won't be able to fill a missing set number. As James

pointed out there is a remnant of an arm with a rifle being held at attention. It is also worth noting that the casting was used for Set #2087 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (IDG) standing at attention with swords for the 1953 Coronation. This was a similar figure at attention with peak caps, but lacking pouches and with an arm holding a sword instead of a rifle. This is an interesting confirmation of how detail oriented Britains Ltd really was!

When Joe passed the photos and message on to me, I noted that these figures used the same body casting as the Foot Guard at attention with full trousers (Set 111, or the corresponding line infantry figure Set #113), but with a head change. I suggested that it was possibly a special order for one of the Department stores. They certainly reminded me of the Scots Guards marching with steel helmets, which have a similar khaki paint finish (albeit wearing steel helmets), that were introduced just before production ceased as a result of WW II.

Joe then thought he would get out a couple of other figures to compare. He noted that James's Khaki figure and the 5th IDG are separate and unique castings, as the 5th IDG (as cavalry rather than infantry) has no pouch on the belt, unlike the Coldstream Guard and the Khaki figure, which both do.

Subsequently, James reported that *"It suddenly dawned on me that the figure used for the 5th Inniskillings at attention is the Infantry Officer at attention with a peak cap head, so no new figure without pouch is needed for that."*

Fast forward to March 2022, when an interesting lot turned up at a country auction in England. The lot comprised a number of sets, all dating from around 1940, together with 4 more of the figures James had highlighted, this time in very good condition. Two of the other sets came in generic Types of the British Army boxes, with just typed set numbers in the ends as was typical at this time. Unfortunately, there was no indication of what set number these figures might have belonged to!

In any event, this latest find seems to confirm that James's figures are not unique, possibly an attempt to update Set #111 or Set #113 to reflect the move to service dress as war clouds gathered.



# RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)

## Hussars from the 1830s



Does anyone recognise these figures?

I acquired these two figures recently on eBay and would like to find out who made them.

Expertly sculpted and painted in the toy soldier style they are standard 54mm scale.

They depict two Hussars from around 1830, but with many distinctive features. Someone has gone to a great deal of trouble, probably based on Ackerman prints.

I would love to know if the manufacturer made other types!



## Previously unrecorded Paris Office type



Acquired from a recent French Auction, the small b-sized figure, the figure shown in the accompanying images is a Paris Office Grenadier Guard. Like his Coldstream Guard compatriots, he has his plume painted on the incorrect side! The Paris Office seemed to have great difficulty with this particular detail. The base is stamped:

WM BRITAINS

MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN

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all in upper case. The figure was accompanied by 6 others, plus a neatly painted, empty-handed officer.

## Noris New South Wales Lancers



Following up on Bill Anderson's article in volume 45, no. 1, Gisbert Freber sent in some images of two magnificent New South Wales Lancers by the German manufacturer Noris. These are giants, 120mm scale! Moulded in many separate parts, and soldered together, these were very expensive toys for very rich boys!

## Russo-Japanese War

Francesco Marchiandi wrote in to say how much he enjoyed Bill Anderson's piece on the Russo- Japanese War of 1904-5. However, he did spot a couple of minor errors: the caption at the bottom of page 68 illustrating Russian infantry is inaccurate in attributing all the figures to Lucotte. All the kneeling infantry firing are by CBG. Likewise, for the photo on page 69 (bottom left), which is entitled CBG Mignot, Russian Infantry charging, is misleading in that only the three in the front row are CBG, all the others are by Bertrand-Vertunni.



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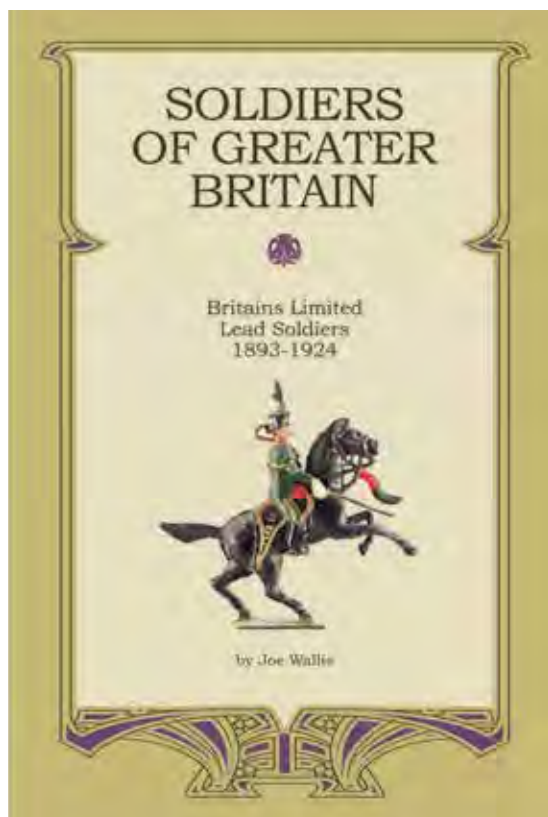


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## SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN - JOE WALLIS



*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](http://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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# LONE STAR “METALLIONS”

*By Will Beierwaltes*

Lone Star Products Ltd. was the brand name used by the British company Die Cast Machine Tools Ltd (DCMT) for its toy products. DCMT was based in Welham Green, Hertfordshire, north of London. Their production dates back to 1939. Among many other products, they included a toy division.

In the immediate post-war era, England went through an American “Wild West” fad, sparked in part by the 1949 hit film “Shane” and the other popular Western films of that era. In response to this, DCMT developed a line of die-cast cap pistols and rifles which proved to be quite popular. In keeping with the western theme, they renamed their toy division, removing its previous name, *Slikka Playthings*, and adopting the new name of “Lone Star”. As Lone Star became immersed in the western theme, they even recruited an actor in 1952 named Roy Green, who took on the persona of Steve Larrabee, ‘The Lone Star Rider’. He toured UK stores in full cowboy regalia, even developing a western drawl, promoting the Lone Star brand. He also took part in a company sponsored promotional western road show. Lone Star even created a monthly Lone Star western comic book featuring the Lone Star rider. This lasted until 1957 when Roy left. Roy immigrated to the American west, became a US citizen in 1961, and passed away in 2005 at the age of 80.

Lone Star was famous for their toy guns, of course, but also produced a line of “Treble-0-Lectric” range of N-gauge die-cast model trains as well as a number of very popular series of model cars in both die-cast metal and plastic.

In 1955, Lone Star began producing a line of plastic toy soldiers named the “Harvey Series” which included a variety of units including British Guards, Royal Marines and Red Beret paratroopers, American Civil War, Robin Hood and his merry men, an African safari, and World War II soldiers



Figure 1:  
The Lone Star “Spudmatic” toy gun



Figure 2:  
Cover of a Lone Star Rider comic book

including various German and British troops. Production of these figures is reported to have lasted until 1976, but they are still avidly collected.

In around 1972, Lone Star started producing a limited line of die-cast (non-toxic, lead free solid-cast metal) 58 mm toy soldiers they named “Metallions.” In keeping with the company theme, these included a group of 6 cowboys and 6 Indians, all identified as real characters from the American West, though the figures were not sculpted to resemble

anything like those whom they were named for. They were not based on any of the Harvey figure poses. All were cast in action poses, with their names cast into a small rock in relief on the base. The figures were coated in a silver metallic “antiqued” finish. *Note to collectors;* these figures were never produced in a fully painted version, though often they appear in collections as such. Painted figures were probably embellished by a previous owner or hobbyist, as most of them paint up quite well.



Figure 3: Lone Star plastic “Harvey” series British Guardsmen

# LONE STAR "METALLIONS" (Continued)

Figure 4:  
Metallions in a Lone Star  
1972 Catalog pg. 17



Figure 5:  
Metallions in a Lone Star  
1972 Catalog pg. 18



# LONE STAR “METALLIONS” (Continued)

The Metallion figures were available individually in individual blister packs or in a boxed set of all 6 figures. The reverse of the 6-figure box included a complete biographical sketch of each personality it was supposed to represent. The reverse of the blister packs has a truncated biography. The cowboys included Pat Garratt, Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Kit Carson, Billy the Kid and Jesse James. The Indians included Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, White Eagle, Black Hawk, Geronimo and Lone Wolf. Each figure was identified with their name embossed onto a small rock on their base. Distribution of the Metallions to the United States was done through Hubley (toy) Division of Gabriel Industries of Lancaster, PA, and the packaging of Metallions from US distributors is marked as Hubley at the top of the blister pack rather than Lone Star. All production and packaging were still done in England. Gabriel purchased Hubley in 1969, but sold them to CBS toys in 1980 (for their line of die-cast and plastic toy cars) and that was likely the end of the US distribution of Metallions by Hubley.

In 1982, the Metallions catalog had added a third boxed set containing three cowboys and 3 Indians. Also, a third line of figures was added to this catalog which included 6 armored “Knights of the Round Table” (Copyrighted production 1981) who were given names from the Arthurian legends. These included King Arthur, Sir Galahad (the Loyal Knight), Sir Launcelot (the Perfect Knight), Sir Gareth (the Truthful Knight), Sir Belivere (the Chivalrous Knight) and Sir Percivale (the Courageous Knight). Like the cowboys and Indians, they could be purchased individually on a folded card pack or in a boxed set of six. Like the western figures, they were also identified by name, embossed on a small rock on their base.



Figure 6:  
Lone Star box of 6 Indians;  
L to R Geronimo, Black Hawk, Red Cloud, Little Crow, Lone Wolf, Crazy Horse



Figure 7:  
Lone Star Metallions (UK) and Hubley (USA) blister pack for single figures.



Figure 8:  
Lone Star Arthurian Knights including King Arthur, Sir Galahad, Sir Launcelot, Sir Gareth, Sir Belivere and Sir Percivale.



# LONE STAR “METALLIONS” (Continued)

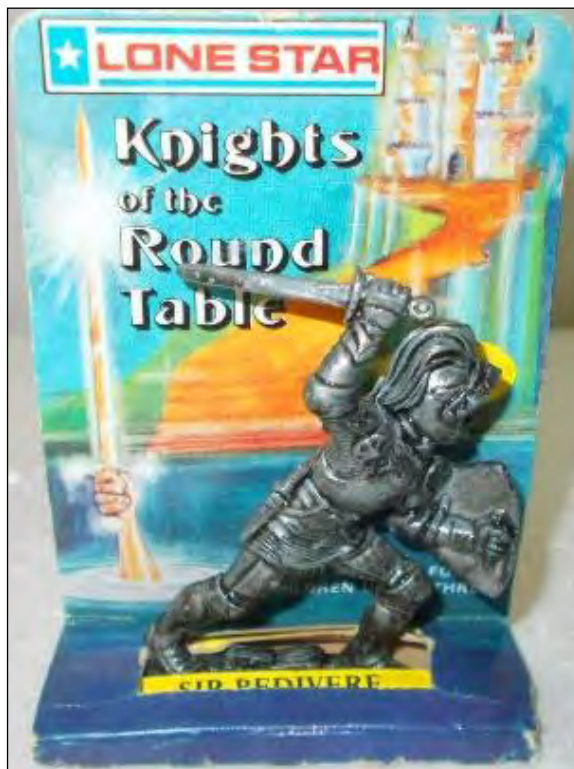


Figure 9.  
Alternative individual packaging for a Lone Star Knight

In 1983, the DCMT Group went into Receivership. The German company Weco; famed for their fireworks and owners of toy company Wicke; bought the Hatfield factory as well as the Lone Star brand. Weco had supplied the amorice caps for Lone Star toy guns via its Wicke subsidiary and wanted to continue this venture, now with their own line of the popular Lone Star guns. Toys (including Metallions) continued to be made at the Hatfield plant, but in 1988 the entire complex closed with production being moved to Hong Kong. The Hatfield factory was demolished a year later. Sohni Esco of Wetherby, Yorkshire, took over the importing and marketing of Lone Star products in the UK, now all made in Hong Kong.

The Metallions line was expanded under its German ownership with the addition of three new figure ranges including “Pirates,” “Vikings” and a selection of “Soldiers of Napoleon” (who unlike all the other figures, are not given names nor any identifier other than a number). All of this production came from the Hong Kong factory. Typical for both Hong Kong and Japanese post-war production, the poses were “borrowed” from existing figure lines. Plastic collectors will recognize that the sculpting of these lines leaned heavily on poses of similar 70 mm figures by the Italian company Fontanini, though done in a 58 mm scale and in die cast metal with the old antiqued silver finish. The new production in Hong Kong dropped the name Lone Star from the packaging except for exports back to the UK, as figures were produced with custom-packaged figures for various markets. For Germany, the Western figures were sold in generic packaging labeled “Cowboy und Indianer aus Metall von ALME.” For the American market, figures were packaged for K-Mart (S.S. Kresge, Troy, MI) as “True-Life Men of History.” Figures were produced in the familiar blister packs but with the new labeling. They also produced a “Big Toy Box” for

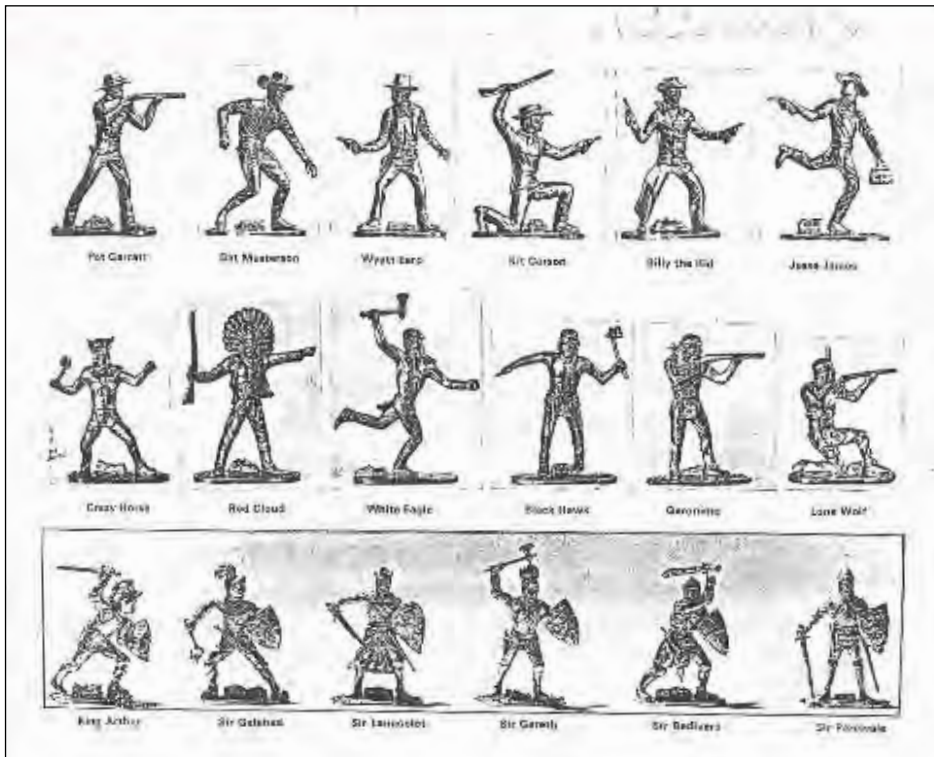


Figure 10: Lone Star 1982 Catalog page

# LONE STAR “METALLIONS” (Continued)

Sears Roebuck & Co. (Chicago IL) as the “True Life Men of the West.” This included all 12 of the Western figures loose in a large package.

The newly added pirates included Black Beard, Red Dog, Long John and Captain Blood. The Vikings included Leif Erickson, Thor Vald, Eric the Red and Karl Refni. I have only found 4 poses in each of these series, but there could be as many as 5 figures as Fontanini produced 5 poses of each of their themes. If so, I have not yet found them all. Like the Lone Star figures, they are all identified in their bases. However, the Napoleonic figures carried only a catalog number on the base. The Napoleonic include #213 (Napoleon in Egypt), #214 (German Grenadier standard bearer), #215 (Old Guard Drummer) and #216 (Grenadier with musket). The identification of the uniforms is my own. For all of these figures, the identifier rock on the base was embossed with “Hong Kong” on the reverse. The figures cast in England have nothing on the back of the rock identifier. Thus, this becomes the easiest way to date loose figures as all Hong Kong production started in 1988. The figures were made to be



Figure 11: Lone Star 1982 Catalog page



Figure 12: Italian plastic Fontanini sculpting vs Lone Star Metallion Pirates



Figure 13: German post-1988  
Blister Pack



Figure 14: K-mart post-1988  
“Men of History” Blister Pack



Figure 15: Big Toy Box at Sears  
“Men of the West” packaging



# LONE STAR “METALLIONS”

## (Continued)



Figure 16: Men of History “Pirates,” including Black Beard, Red Dog, Long John and Captain Blood.



Figure 17: Men of History “Vikings”, including Leif Erickson, Thor Vald, Eric the Red and Karl Refni.



Figure 18: Men of History “Men of Napoleon,” including #’s 213, 214, 215 and 216.



Figure 19: Unauthorized copies of Men of History by unknown manufacturers. Note the bases lack the identifier rock.

sold inexpensively, as the list price at K-Mart was only forty-six cents, and often old gummed sale price tags may be in the low 30 cent range.

It is perhaps poetic justice that these later figures were “pirated” by other unknown companies. Figures which look like Metallions but without the proper base or finished in gilt rather than the antiqued silver have turned up. Most notably, they all miss the “identifier rock” on their base which is characteristic of all the Metallions and Men of History.

By 1998, Importing of Lone Star branded products into the UK was controlled by Sohne-Wicke GMBH (Hattingen, Germany). Sohni Esco of Wetherby, Yorkshire, who had earlier run the importing and marketing of the Hong Kong True Life products closed down in 2001. It is not clear exactly when the production of the Hong Kong figures ended, but probably some time prior to 2001.

It is somewhat surprising that the well-known brand of Lone Star was not used for the Hong Kong exports

except for sales in the UK, but they were clearly changing the marketing strategy, catering to the desires of the American (and German) companies to carry (semi) exclusive lines for their own stores. Intellectual property of the ‘Lone Star’ brand is owned by the Heinrich Bauer group and the Lone Star toy guns are sold under their Sohni-Wicke Armforces und Spielwarenfabrik divisions. This company was still active in the international toy market in 2020.

### Acknowledgement:

The author would like to thank Paul Morehead, the editor of *Plastic Warrior* magazine, who provided me with personal insight, the catalog pages and a number of vital book and web references without which I could not have completed this article.

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[www.lone-star-diecast-bk.com/whitewebbs.html](http://www.lone-star-diecast-bk.com/whitewebbs.html)

# AUCTION PREVIEW

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



### TRADE MARK AUCTIONS USA

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## 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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# ONIROPOLIS TOY EXHIBITION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS

By Kyriakos Sofroniou

Oniropolis is a Toy Exhibition designed and curated by S.O.F.I.A. Foundation, housed at the *State Gallery of Contemporary Arts*, in Nicosia (a four-floor building with a total exhibiting area of 500 sq.m.)

The S.O.F.I.A Foundation owns one of the biggest toy collections in the world, manuscript archives, books, magazines, an array of many collectibles, and unique historical objects. The Foundation aims, through its collections, to expand the field of research and attract academics, collectors, and friends of arts and literature.

One of the main targets of the Foundation is to educate the newer generations through the remnants and teachings of history, as well as to promote the creative and free expression of children. What has to be underlined about S.O.F.I.A. Foundation's Toy Collection is that it can give a complete overall approach to the history of Toys as it includes representative and rare objects for every aspect of toys. Indeed, the S.O.F.I.A. Foundation has reached an agreement with the Interstellar Foundation (CY) to promote these goals in a permanent toy exhibition.

Additionally, the collection is accompanied by important publications, magazines, and archives which give information on the History of Toys and sometimes important details for particular toys. It represents a unique collection in terms of rarity, overall approach, and information on the history of childhood.

At the *Oniropolis* exhibition rare and unique toys have been chosen from different categories such as aiming to enable the visitor to learn the history of the toys and the several construction materials, as well as the small secrets of the creators. For example, how important it is: when a toy's box is preserved; if a doll wears its authentic clothes; in what condition it is, if a toy has gone through repairs, etc. S.O.F.I.A. Foundation aims, also, to entertain and educate the public taking them through an exciting journey – a unique experience for all ages.

The Toys are exhibited following a chronological order covering a wide range of categories as, *Transportation Toys, Space Toys, Shadow Theatre, Dolls, Teddy Bears, Toy Soldiers and Castles, Mechanical toys, etc.*

**Some of the extremely rare and important exhibits include:**

**Märklin paddle wheeler “El Copitan”, No. 5033, around 1906.**

A 40cm paddle wheeler in its original condition with its colors intact.

There is no doubt that in this specific color combination this is one of the best paddle wheelers Märklin ever produced – probably made for the Mexican market.



**Märklin Air Carousel no. 8850 Aeropal, around 1909**

This Märklin carousel consists of a tower with 6 gondolas with their figures and seats in an intact original condition, including the original sign «Aeropal». When rotated the carousel plays music.



**Märklin G3 Locomotive, around 1902.**

A Märklin gauge 3, hand painted, locomotive produced for the American market. The locomotive is steam-engine driven, very rare in its original condition (never cleaned).



**Märklin Crocodile Locomotives**

I. Märklin gauge 1 crocodile locomotive CCS66/12921, in green.

II. Märklin gauge 0 crocodile locomotive CCS/12920, in green.

III. Märklin gauge 0 crocodile locomotive, in reddish brown. Normally crocodile locomotives of this size of that period were painted green but this prototype was painted reddish brown after a special order by a shop in Zurich called HOOPLA. Only one in the world exists in this color.

All three locomotives are hand painted and have two double 20 volt electric motors, manufactured in 1935



# ONIROPOLIS TOY EXHIBITION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS (Continued)

IV. A limited-edition crocodile locomotive, made of gold, in gauge HO (only 3500 pieces were made in 2019).

Crocodile locomotives manufactured in the 1930s are the most sought-after locomotives by collectors.



## Märklin Limousine, 1919

A hand painted Märklin limousine, with its original rubber tires. The limousine has leather interior with opening doors. On top and at the rear of the limousine there are small paper boxes and luggage specially made for Märklin.



## Pumpkin Eater automaton, late 19th century

An extremely rare Vichy automaton of a pumpkin eater with papier-mâché head, in original brocaded silk waistcoat with high collar, figured black silk back and mother-of-pearl buttons, apron, chef's hat, breeches and striped wool stockings, on circular base with barrel

movement playing two airs, late 19th century.

One of the rarest figures produced by Vichy, the Pumpkin Eater displays a darker humor than usual in French automata of this period. The figure waves his left arm and lowers his head to watch the pumpkin, the central section of which opens three times to reveal a mouse. On the third occasion he attempts to kill the mouse by plunging the knife into the pumpkin while his hat rises simultaneously. The pumpkin closes and the sequence begins again.



## Pat and Nora

**Pat**, a rare black Steiff teddy bear with short mohair, black boot button eyes, pronounced clipped muzzle, black horizontally stitched nose, black stitched mouth and claws, swivel head, jointed elongated limbs with cream felt pads, growler and hump --14in. (35.5cm.) high, circa 1910 (1in. x 1/2in. hole in one hand pad, small hole in other, very small bald patch to tip of one toe, growler inoperative).



**Nora**, a Steiff teddy bear with pale blonde short mohair, black boot button eyes, pronounced clipped muzzle, black horizontally stitched nose, black stitched mouth and claws, swivel head, jointed elongated limbs with felt pads, growler and hump, wearing white wool skirt, knitted white jumper, underwear and boots with a silk parasol --13 1/2in. (34cm.) high, 1908 (worn, pads recovered and parasol frayed).

A sixty page 'Nature Note Book' with diary entries from Friday 24th (July) to Tuesday 22nd (September) 1914 including pencil drawings and watercolours.

A collection of family photographs relating to Kathleen, Pat and Nora, including:

- a family group photograph of the grandparents' Golden Wedding on 28th October 1917, featuring a twelve-year old Kathleen, holding Nora, who is dressed in a nurse's outfit
- a silver print photograph of Kathleen, holding Nora and her brother, Ivor, playing with their dog
- a view of their home in Oxford and various views of their holidays in Birchington, from 1906 to 1914, many featuring Kathleen, Ivor, Nurse and their many friends playing in the sands, most silver prints on postcard backs.

## Queen Anne Doll – Early Wooden Doll

A very rare and important late 17th/early 18th century wooden English doll with carved head and delicately painted features including three beauty spots, with nailed-on fair hair held by an elaborate banding on the back of the head with a metal clasp, the jointed and painted wooden body in original clothes comprising a white cotton shift, yellow and wool petticoat, spotted brown open robe and underskirt, with pink silk damask fichu above a mid-blue silk boned corset and with wine velvet mittens and shallow-crowned broad-brimmed straw hat with blue ribbons,

# ONIROPOLIS TOY EXHIBITION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS (Continued)

with wine knitted silk stockings and rose knitted garters and suede shoes.

This doll has passed by family descent to the present owner. In the early 18th Century the Wedgeborough family, from whom the doll came, were in partnership with the Hope family as timber merchants doing business in Amsterdam. This doll is believed to have been brought back from Amsterdam at that time.

Only 23 dolls of this type are known worldwide; this doll is described as Figure 2 in the article by Bunny Campione which was published in 'Dolls, The Collector's Magazine' June/July 1992 issue, and also 'Puppenmagazine' December 1992.



## Rattle (Cypriot Antiquities Collection)

Rattle in the form of a stylized pig, wheel made. The front half is covered with a red glaze, the rest is plain white. Trumpet mouth, erect ears with a vertical groove along the middle, impressed circles with a puncture in the center for eyes, short fat tail. Along the back two short crests, one behind the other, from which run engraved lines indicating bristles. L 10.8cm; Ht 7.8cm. The pig rests on four short stump-legs. Inside the rattle there is a spherical clay pellet.

This object belonged previously to the Desmond Morris Collection (Morris 1985:213, pl.241); a small label on its lower part mentions that it was found by Alexander Palma di Cesnola.



Such rattles were placed in tombs of infants 'to keep them amused on the long journey to the other world' (Morris 1985:213). Rattles appear in Cyprus already in the Late Bronze Age, but they become very popular in the Classical/Hellenistic periods. They have been studied by Buchholz (1966), who described 17 in his catalogue of pig-shaped examples (his group II). See also Karageorghis 1982:689-690, fig.9.

## Terracotta figurine of a standing male tambourine player (Cypriot Antiquities Collection)

Hollow, wheel-made, cylindrical body, widely splaying at lower part; two opposed perforations for fixing mobile legs near base; both arms are bent to hold a tambourine, flat against the chest; head tilted backwards; pointed nose; eyes, mouth and beard rendered with black paint; conical headdress bent backwards, pierced horizontally at its base, painted red; transversal strokes on both arms, fingers indicated with black paint. Black and red bands round body, red paint on tambourine. Ht 13.7 cm.

This figurine belonged to the Desmond Morris Collection, Oxford, and was published in Morris 1985: pl. 206 and Karageorghis 1995: 43, no. 20, fig. 22.

The bell-shaped body with perforations near the body suggest that such figurines had mobile legs and were used as toys. The perforation through the crest of the headdress suggest that they were held with a string or a stick of wood or metal (cf. Karageorghis, Mertens and

Rose 2000; 148). Figurines of this type may date to the 7th century BC.

## 'Robby' Mechanised Space Patrol

I. A TN (Nomura) battery-operated 'Robby' Mechanized Space Patrol in dark blue, with gold 'Robby' with black rubber hands, in original box (32 cm. long)

II. A very rare TN (Nomura) battery-operated 'Robby' Mechanized Space Patrol in light blue, gold 'Robby' with black rubber hands, in original box (32 cm. long)





# ONIROPOLIS TOY EXHIBITION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS (Continued)



## Nintendo GameBoy

The GameBoy is a handheld game console which was created and released in 1989 by Nintendo. It was designed by Nintendo's Chief Engineer Gunpei Yokoi who claimed that he could create a handheld game console with interchangeable games. Following the popularity of the Nintendo Entertainment System, Nintendo's President at the time, Hiroshi Yamauchi agreed and thus the GameBoy was created. As the GameBoy gained popularity, newer, more updated game consoles were released, including the Gameboy Advance SP, which was released in 2003.

## Lego Roland McDonald figure

Rare original Lego collectible Roland McDonald store display figure (Ht 18")



## Vitrines with toy soldiers, castles and forts:

Famous miniature toys, military and civilian figures such as farmers, milkmen etc, by Britains and many others, including rare Timpo Toys kitchen set, a Märklin bathroom and Elastolin Zoo with

Tenng Juteriet Stockholm animals set

Rare toy forts and castles from the Allen Hickling collection, donated to S.O.F.I.A.



## Märklin Tinplate Castle, 1902

A hand-painted tinplate castle from Märklin, made in 1902, with towers and working drawbridge as well as extra moat defensive wall section. Extremely rare in an intact condition.

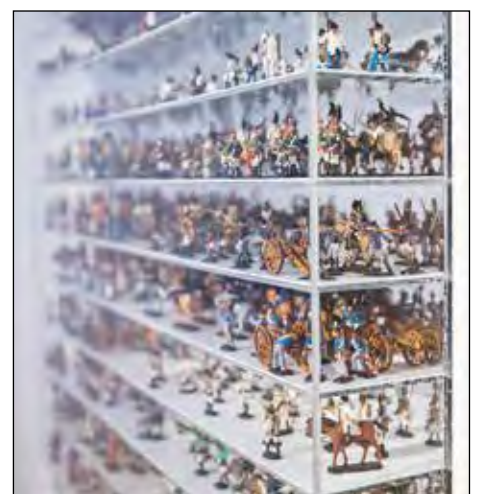


## Britains Famous Football Teams, Tottenham Hotspur & Aston Villa, 1930

With this innovative board game kids were able to play football at home. It is presented in its original box, produced by the British company William Britains in 1930. The two competitors were Tottenham Hotspur & Aston Villa. All UK teams were manufactured. Extremely rare.

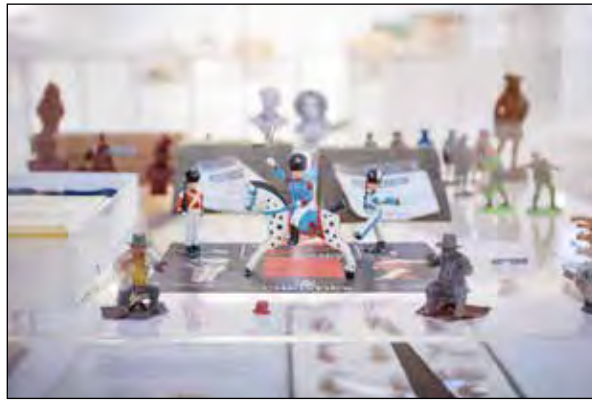


Rare displays of miniature flat soldiers and much more.





## ONIROPOLIS TOY EXHIBITION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS (Continued)



Luigi Toiati  
2022



# SHOW REPORT

## PARIS EUROFIGURINES SHOW

*By Harry Kemp*

**Sunday 19 March 2022**

This show is my favourite road trip of the year. Due to Covid, this is the first time I have been able to attend since October 2019. I have missed French friends and the warm reception from the show organisers Phillipe Albaret and Jean-Marc de Vion. I start with the car ferry from Dover on Saturday morning, stocking up on duty free wine and Belgian beer once I get to Calais, then a leisurely drive to Paris sees me arrive at the hotel beside the venue at 8pm.

Up at 6am next day and I'm 3rd in the queue to be let in at 7.30. Masks are being worn, but not strictly and I am told the French requirements end on Monday the 20th. On this trip I have only taken a few things to sell, being very nervous of the new border regulations and potential VAT charges and import duties!

Table space can be booked for 15 euro per metre. I have opted for just one metre and I'm set up in 4 minutes. To hire a table, you have to be a member of Eurofigurines, which is about 45 euro a year, and which includes a quarterly colour magazine.

The morning goes by in a whirlwind of deals, scouring all the tables several times and catching up with contacts. I buy Mignot mounted knights, Gauls and lots of odd figures, XR, Vertunni, a lovely small French monoplane, a tank, Elastolin large size wounded and numerous other bits and bobs to sell on, including a large box of loose French plastic, which I know nothing about.

Several pre-arranged deals see me acquire 9 beautiful mint mixed Paris Office cavalry and some b size Paris Office, including 4 Highlanders in Khaki (these use the second version of set 23b, fixed arm marching at the slope). I nearly buy 11 lovely Durso Gauls, but my rusty French means I didn't understand the price at first and they are too much for my budget. I spot a mint, boxed Wendal nativity set, but at 850 euros this is too much for a soldier guy to spend!

I even sell a few things, which is very good going as I am only at my table for 15 minutes all morning. I briefly see the erstwhile editor of this journal, but unfortunately only have time for a few words with him. An English plastic collector has also made the trip and as his purchases pile up he confesses he doesn't

know how he will get it back on the Eurostar, or rather how his wife will.

The show is always done by 1pm at the latest and, as everyone is packing up, I buy a three tier Mignot display box depicting a naval expedition to somewhere in Africa, minus its lid, for a give away price. It dates from circa 1900 and needs some sympathetic restoration but it is a lovely item (looking through Blondieau book on CBG Mignot at home I can't identify the set, so if anyone knows please drop me an email).

A sunny afternoon drive back to visit friends in Pas de Calais for a few days has the added bonus that I will be picking up numerous French ebay purchases that have been sent to them over the last 2 years. Basically there are two ways to do this show, either combine it with a holiday break in France or take a day trip on the Eurostar (which means you can get to the show about 10am). My fears about border controls and bringing back several hundred figures are unfounded, the process is more time consuming and involved but hassle free. Nevertheless, the White Cliffs of Dover are always a welcome sight. The next Paris show is Sunday October 22nd, 2022.



Mignot Display box



Paris Office Cavalry and a Vertunni Queen



# SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Collector and author M. Doublet finishes setting up his table



Show organiser, Philippe surveys his army



Durso composition Gauls



Wendal nativity set



Wonderful Bon du Fort fort used as a display by one dealer



The Editor's "find of the show" – Paris Office, British flag bearer



Large scale GRD composition Spahi with scenic base



Mounted Gauls by Durso



# SHOW REPORT

## THE LONDON TOY SOLDIER SHOW

*By Harry Kemp*

**Saturday March 26**

Back to The Haverstock School in Chalk Hill, near Camden. I went to this show with fairly low expectations as I heard a few dealers and collectors were unable to attend for a variety of reasons. However I was pleasantly surprised to see I was next to Philippe Ligeard, a pre-eminent French dealer with two tables of excellent quality vintage stock, predominantly Mignot. Nearby were two soldier dealers I had not met before with a nice selection of Britains, as well as Steve Vickers, a constant at this show.

A nice flow of collectors visit my table, sales are steady and I do better than the December show. A big

box of mixed French plastic bought in France for 10 euro last week provided the most fun for boys both young and old. Priced at 50p each I sell about 150 figures, a very handy contribution to fuel and stall costs. I always give every child who looks at my tables a free plastic soldier, they are the future of our hobby.

The day was also a good buying day for my own collection:

- Boxed mint Britains Bikanir Camel Corps, set 123, circa 1930, second version camels, figures soldered on;
- Madras infantry set 67 in printers flowers box, first version figures on square bases, so a transitional set dated between 1912 and 1916 (2 arms missing);

- Some loose first version Boers set 24;
- A super set of four b size Russian Cossacks, three b size Russian infantry set 26B in a good box;
- A boxed set 1641 Underslung Lorry with Driver;
- An empty box 1407 British Army Display set in Khaki was an interesting purchase, finding the 72 figures shouldn't be too hard except for the two buglers (see page 372 of *Armies of the World* by Joe Wallis, Revised colour version).

So, a really good show, which is well run and set up. Next London Show is Saturday 25 June, hope to see some of you there.



**b-sized Russians**



**Underslung Lorry in its original box**



**Cavalry escort, b-sized Cossacks**



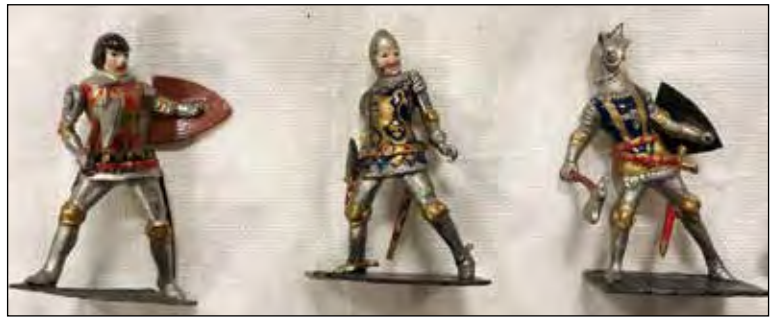
**Early Boers**



# SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Magnificent large CGB display set of Gerbau period Spahis



Three rare Courtenay figures



Early Boers



CBG Giants, 120mm figures in "art deco" style



CBG small sized figures, 25-40mm scale in original boxes



Encouraging the next generation of collectors



Britains Dehli Durbar series



# SHOW REPORT

## WEST COASTER

*By Matt Murphy*

### **California Dreaming**

Matthew Murphy, president of Hobby Bunker and organiser of the West Coaster show, has sent in a report on the 2022 event. Echoing the famous song by the Mamas and the Papas, hobbyists' hopes of gathering for camaraderie and treasure hunting came true at the 2022 West Coaster Toy Soldier Show & Sale Sunday, 27 February at The Delta Hotel by Marriott in Garden Grove, California, USA.

### **Staying Alive**

Echoing another famous song, Hobby Bunker, which is based in Wakefield, Massachusetts, took over organising the show from Woody Lambirth and Craig 'Bubba' McClain beginning in 2020, after a two-year hiatus. That show was a hit, so we were hoping for some momentum going into 2021, but obviously that did not happen. Actually, we had been lucky to pull off the 2020 show, only two weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns began.

Lots of people wanted a show in 2021 and I debated running one in the summer. Due to the ever-changing world, however, I decided against it. I was also pretty skeptical about 2022, but I decided to take a chance and book the hotel anyway. Luckily, the Omicron variant seemed to dissipate leading up to the show, and the mask mandate was lifted.

### **Room Trading**

I arrived with my helper Joe Denoncour on the Wednesday before the show. We were able to have dinner with Woody and fellow dealer Mike O'Donnell. We were able to take our time setting up our rooms and were ready to go Thursday afternoon. Room trading really started on Friday with several rooms open and about 30 people wandering the halls. By Saturday morning, we had fifteen rooms open and dozens of people roaming the halls. Although it wasn't quite like it was, say ten years ago, those who came made it a fun and worthwhile weekend in the Los Angeles area. We were able to set up for the show Saturday night, which was a great help to me.

### **Remembrances**

Sunday's show was prefaced by Woody saying a few words in remembrance of friends who had passed away since the previous show. They included Bob Fisher, who founded the West Coaster, and two great collectors and friends: Bill Connelly and Ed Ruby. Unfortunately, Bubba also lost his son Andy to a tragic car accident last year.

### **Busy Day**

Then we let the crowd come in. Joe and Woody's niece Emily Hanes staffed the front desk.

Collectors Steven Chong, Tom Dubel and Hans Heydrich helped me man the Hobby Bunker booth. Those

poor guys didn't get to see much of the show because I worked them so hard all day (ha!). Actually, it was the customers who kept them hopping and we were quite busy!

King & Country Ltd. founders Andy C. Neilson and Laura McAllister Johnson were in attendance. It was nice to see them since the last time we had encountered them in person was at the 2019 Chicago Toy Soldier Show! Andy had flown out from Hong Kong in late January to meet up with Laura in Texas and attend the official opening of the new King & Country Texas store in San Antonio on Saturday, 5 February. His original intention was to stay in the USA for three weeks, but due to flight bans and travel restrictions he spent more than nine weeks in "exile" in San Antonio enjoying the historic sites, museums, food, weather and friendly people. During his side-trip to the West Coaster, Andy had a chance to meet and talk with movie director, screenwriter and producer John Landis, who he described as a "dedicated K&C collector."

Close to 300 people attended the show. It was only about twenty people fewer than 2020, and those who came were avid collectors and buying big. Every dealer said they had a great show and will be back in 2023.

I have not booked next year's show yet, but I am hoping for the same weekend at the same location.



Carl Nelson also known as "The Tall Swede"



Mark Young

# SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Room Trading Sign



Matt Murphy's Room



Matt Murphy Table 1 with helper Tom Dubel



Matt Murphy Show Table 2



Registration Desk Featuring OTS Magazines



Andy Neilson walking the show



Mike O'Donnell (trading in his room)



Gus Ramos a long time collector and show supporter



# ENHANCEMENTS TO BRITAINS AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS WITH HECO MODELS

*By John Franklin*

Complementing the monoplanes and biplanes made by Britains (as reported in my previous article) were some fine models made by a small UK firm in the 1980s and 1990s called HECO.

The accompanying photos show two planes I acquired to augment any Royal Air Force display I might assemble. These models have HECO impressed on the underside of the fuselage. HECO I understand stems from Hot Engines and Caster Oil.

In one of the model's boxes there was an advertising leaflet, really a mini catalogue, on one side visibly offering 14 such models and on the other a colour picture of 8 of the models. It is clear from this simple sheet there are a few other models available to purchase in addition to the 14 listed, see details in the pictures below (see P5 and P6).

A few words on the leaflet describe the constructions etc. 'This list briefly describes the range of 1/32 scale aircraft - some of which are illustrated overleaf. The models are constructed of tinplate with white metal castings for pilot and observer figures, engines and wheels, rubber tyres are fitted. Military finishes are applied but any model can be "civilianised" on request.'

P1 shows a single seater biplane fitted with "A" type floats (quote). Note the rudders at the rear of the floats. The assignation of this biplane is to the Royal Navy, ostensibly unarmed, probably used for reconnaissance, launched from a heavy warship and able to land on the sea adjacent on its return, from where it would be retrieved by a crane and remounted on its launch ramp.

P2 shows a single seater biplane fitted with armament no doubt as a fighter. Until 1918 the flying arm of the British armed forces operated under the title of The Flying Corps. In 1918 this Corps was reconstituted and renamed the Royal Air Force, and incorporated the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) which operated for the Royal Navy during the war.<sup>1</sup>



**P1 HECO single seater Biplane fitted with floats**



**P2 HECO Single seater Biplane for the Royal Navy, from the rear, showing float rudders**



**P3 HECO Single seater Biplane Royal Flying Corps**

<sup>1</sup> Editor's Note: In 1924 the RNAS became the Fleet Air Arm (FAA). This was still part of the Royal Air Force. The FAA came under the direct control of the Royal Navy in 1939.

# ENHANCEMENTS TO BRITAINS AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS WITH HECO MODELS *(Continued)*



PP4 HECO single seater Biplane from the rear



P5 HECO Catalogue sheet illustrating some of the models in the HECO range

This list briefly describes the range of 1/32 scale aircraft and road vehicles, some of which are illustrated overleaf. The models are constructed of tinplate with white metal castings for pilot and observer figures, engines and wheels, rubber tyres are fitted. Military finishes are applied but any model can be 'civilianised' on request. All models are compatible with 54mm figures.



List No.	Model Description
1	<b>Standard</b> single seat Biplane.
2	<b>Standard</b> two seat Biplane, heavier fuselage. (Illustrated).
3	<b>Standard</b> single seat Biplane fitted with "A" type floats. (Illustrated).
4	<b>Standard</b> two seat Biplane, as No. 2, fitted with "A" type floats.
5	<b>Bleriot</b> Monoplane, single seat. (Illustrated).
6	<b>Bleriot</b> Monoplane, two seat.
7	<b>Bleriot</b> Monoplane, single seat, fitted with "C" type floats.
8	<b>Bleriot</b> Monoplane, two seat, fitted with "C" type floats.
9	<b>D. H. 9</b> , or "NINAK", two seat Biplane fighter/bomber, 1920/30s.
10	<b>Vickers "Gunbus"</b> two seat Biplane, rear engined fighter WWI. (Illustrated).
11	<b>Sopwith Camel</b> fighter WWI. (Illustrated).
12	<b>Sopwith "Triplane"</b> fighter WWI.
13	<b>Fokker DRI Triplane</b> , German WWI fighter. (Illustrated).

P6 HECO catalogue sheet, (the reverse of P5). The 'Sheet' is half A4 size, with the list clearly curtailed after item 13. Models 2, 3, 5, 10, 11 and 13 are flagged as illustrated. With 8 pictures on P15, it is clear a number of others were offered for sale but are not shown here.



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# JAGS TOYS

## By James A Grancio

---

Some time ago the magazine featured an article on my Dimestore Steampunk figures (OTS Magazine Vol 42, #1). At the time I had told Norman Joplin (then editor), that these were not the figures that I make on a normal basis. Norman suggested that an article on my other Dimestore conversions would also be of interest. This article presents an overview of the figures I like to make.

All my conversions are based on original Dimestore toy soldiers. I cut them apart and reconfigure them to produce what I am working on. I also use diecast vehicles which I then reconfigure. All my conversions are soldered together, I use very little glue or epoxy in the making of my toys. All my parts are handcrafted out of nonferrous metals.

What I do follows in the tradition of others, such as Roger Dubois and Bill O'Brien, who work on toy soldier conversions, be it Britains or Dimestore. The aim is to produce figures that original makers might have produced but never did.

I also do restoration work. Although most of my toys are based on Dimestore toy soldiers, I do use other types of figures as well. Taking an original Barclay, Manoil, Metal Cast, etc, figure or vehicle, and turning it into something that was never made before by the original company gives me great pleasure. I hope it will also please the readers of this magazine to see the final fruits of my labors, as well as inspiring others to try their hand.

All the parts that I use are handmade, out of sheet lead, brass copper, and other non-ferrous metals, as well as wood. I also use diecast vehicles such as cars and trucks by various makers, and sometimes I use Dale or Framburg ID models as well. These I use for some of my larger pieces. I also have a small collection of original factory bronze moulds, from soldiers, vehicles, people and animals, all in the traditional Dimestore size.

Whether it be a toy soldier or a vehicle, they first are stripped of all original paint (if needs be). The new part is then soldered onto the figure or vehicle that I'm working on. As noted above, I make little use of glues and epoxys in the making of my toys. By soldering the new pieces onto the figure or vehicle, it makes it a permanent part of the new figure. The figure is then filed and sanded and ready for primer and paint. All my figures are signed with JAG and the date.

Most of the paint I use, I mix the colors myself, so as to get the right color for the figure or vehicle I am working on. Most of the paint I use is of commercial grade. It's an oil based enamel which I buy in gallon cans. I then mix my colors and transfer them into smaller cans (pints, ½ pints, etc).

I use Kester rosin core solder in different diameters from .020 to .125. This solder is used as my glue. It attaches all of my parts and it fills all of my holes. I have a large group of files in all different shapes and sizes, these are used to shape the solder and the parts that I put on to the figure or vehicle. After the rough shaping is done, I go to finer files for my finish work. Then they're blown off and are ready for primer. After they are fully dry, it's time to put all the colors on. The paint is sprayed on (Air compressor

and spraygun), as well as done by hand with a brush.

I make between 20 and 30 figures each month. I sell to a small group of collectors via email, (yeggSAFE@aol.com) and also put some items for sale on eBay. My eBay name is (yeggSAFE).

This article will give the reader a good impression of all the different types of figures and vehicles that I've made. These are all handmade and "one-offs" although I occasionally make duplicates of some of the work I've done on special request! In essence each piece is a prototype. (which most of my collectors like). Even the "duplicates" will be different from the original prototype.

Other people that make Dimestore conversions produce a master figure and then make a mould from that. So, each one produced is exactly the same as all the others. Mine are all unique and "one of a kind".

I also do a lot of custom work so if readers have an area that they collect or an interest in a type of figure not shown here I am always interested in new commissions. For example, I have a customer who works on an oil rig as a medic. I've made figures for him on that theme. I'm happy to think outside of the box, although most (but not all) of my customers like military stuff.





## JAGS TOYS (Continued)

The pictures accompanying this article show some of the many toys I have produced. The first picture shows just some basic tools and materials that I use in the making of my toys. Showing at the far left is a figure cut in half that is ready to be made into a seated or standing figure. The other 3 figures show what this can be turned into.

The figures I make fall into various categories, ranging from simple Dimestore soldiers, doing things that Barclay or Manoil never thought of, to fantasy and science fiction as well as anthropomorphic figures (by adding animal heads, etc to Dimestore soldier bodies!).



The second picture shows just a cannon and a figure to which I added a box of shells.

The 3rd and 4th pictures show a figure I made to sit on a horse with a rifle at his side and a pack at his back. The horse is diecast. The figure was originally a (Barclay) Boy Scout, that I turned into a seated figure, adding appropriate legs and arms.



The 5th and 6th pictures present Aliens that I make. These are based on a Barclay figure. All other parts were handmade.



The 6th and 7th pictures show some wounded animal figures.



These are examples of some of the anthropomorphic animal figures I have produced. The next 4 pictures are of a dog stretcher team. They are based on Manoil figures, with a horse as the wounded casualty. The latter is a Britain horse that was cut apart so it could lie flat. The dogs have their tongue hanging out and a cigarette in their mouths. The stretcher is made from sheet lead and brass rod, all soldered together. Stretcher figures are Manoil with metal cast dog's heads. Tongues and cigarette are handmade brass.

The next images show bulls with machine guns, based on Barclay figures. They have home cast bull heads and brass tails.

The next two images show a horse soldier throwing a grenade.

The last two in this series present a goat soldier with a searchlight.



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



The next pair of images show a science fiction toy - Dimestore soldiers for the 21st century! It is made from a diecast vehicle, that I cut apart. I added the rocket that rotates 360° and the driver. There was also some sheet lead and brass used on this one.



Anti Aircraft truck



The following image shows a Machine gun car, with gunners lying prone. I used wheels from a die cast car. All the rest of the parts were handmade.



AA gunner with L E D searchlight. It has a 9-volt battery box that's not shown in the picture.

The next photo is based on a Dale or Framburg ID model for its tracks. The rocket launcher again rotates 360°. The rockets and launcher are handmade and the figure was an original standing Barclay soldier.



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Movie camera mobile platform on tracks with machine gun team and driver



WW1 German staff car



Flatbed truck with plane



German machine gun car



Mack tow truck



From left two right: Soldier with movie camera, soldier riding cow, soldier running in gas mask firing pistol, soldier kneeling in gas mask firing pistol, Soldier crouching carrying tool bag.



From left to right: soldier with AA gun and searchlight, soldier with field binoculars, soldier on skis in white with machine gun, soldier lying prone with binoculars and soldier lying prone with heavy machine gun



Soldier standing with binoculars.



2 different soldiers with rubbish bin and brooms.



Soldier driving tug pulling cannon



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Soldiers driving model T with barrage blimp



Heavy cannon car



Soldiers running and kneeling with machine guns



German with movie camera



Army Machine gun team on roadster with driver



Soldier fishing with fishing pole



Field radio team



3 Rockets on truck



Soldier kneeling on crates throwing a grenade holding rifle



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Sailor with machine gun



Soldier at water pump doing trays



Soldiers in model T on skis with machine gun



Soldier giving dog a bone



Alien invasion robots



Aliens with ray guns



German entangled in Barbed wire



Rocket truck



Medics on Bicycle trike with wounded (3 variations)



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Navy stretcher team with wounded



Truck with driver carrying 4 bombs



Heavy machine gunner on tracks



Soldier with rocket pack



Model T with machine gunner and driver



Navy Steam launch with machine gun



Dogsled team with soldier and pack howitzer



Soldier on grand piano



Soldier on hang glider with rifle



Medic fishing with dog, sitting on crates and bucket of fish



Cowboy with Lasso



Rocket powered motorcycle



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Soldier on tandem bicycle; I also make one with medics



Tractor with machine gun and two rockets with trailer and three rockets



Fighter jet with 2 missiles and pilot



Large Howitzer on tracks with soldier operator



Submarine conning tower with captain and sailor



Soldiers getting chow; mess hall



Medical Horse-drawn Model T with wounded and driver



Horse-drawn wagon with shells



Rocket test vehicle



Two different versions of pigeon coop car



Command Model T car with driver



## JAGS TOYS (Continued)



Navy blimp



Sailors in launch with machine gun



It's not all bullets! I made this for a Korean War vet who served as a Clerk. The desk & chair are handmade. The figure was a Barclay converted to sit in the chair.



German Political officer



Soldier with bazooka; projectile in flames



Half track with AA gunner and driver



Soldier with flamethrower

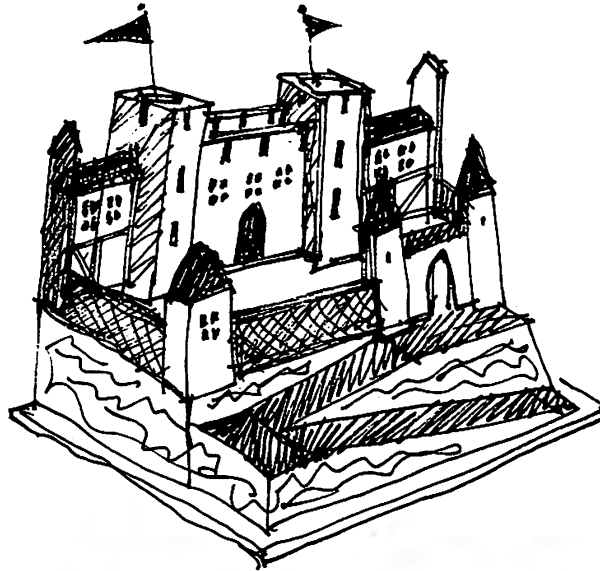


Firing a gun or on truck with driver





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S	G	F	D	B	J	N	R	P	W	E	E	Z	P	Y	M	G	U	L	B	X	D	R
Y	K	F	Y	K	U	I	A	K	I	S	R	Q	V	U	Q	O	E	E	I	B	D	E
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# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS

By Bill Anderson

## The early years - background history

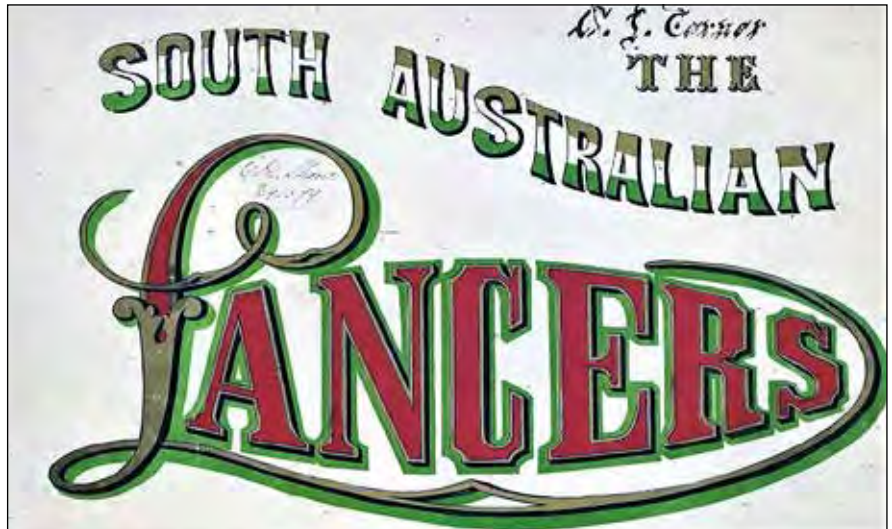
### Introduction

In an earlier article (Vol 45, #1, pp41-50) I discussed the portrayal of the New South Wales Lancers by various toy soldier manufacturers, including Britains. This covered the debate surrounding the so called "South Australian Lancers" – a controversial regiment and a controversial set - existing in name only and immortalized by Britains in the form of set no. 49. This article continues that theme, focussing on "the regiment that never was"!

South Australia was first settled in 1836. The probability of war with Russia in 1877 caused 1000 men to be raised, and Imperial Officers and a small staff of drill instructors were obtained from England. South Australian units fought gallantly in the Boer War. By the end of 1900, the current forces of South Australia included Field and Garrison Artillery, Cavalry, Mounted Rifles, Engineers and other units. In 1900 South Australia became part of the Australian Commonwealth.

The extract from the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, December 1957, by Robert Gray, (JSAHR) provides more detail. Note that the South Australian Lancers are not included, although there was a regiment called the South Australian Mounted Rifles (SAMR).

Nevertheless, the title South Australian Lancers was in common useage, as exemplified by the sheet music cover page.



The title page from a music sheet published in Adelaide in 1899

REGIMENTS RAISED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA	165
<b>REGIMENTS RAISED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1840—1937</b>	
BY ROBERT GRAY	
<b>South Australian Mounted Rifles</b>	
The above unit was raised in 1854 and disbanded in 1856. It was re-formed in 1866 as the S.A. Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry. This title was altered in 1867 to the Duke of Edinburgh's Light Dragoons. In 1870 it was disbanded. In 1886 it was re-formed once more and was known as the S.A. Volunteer Mounted Rifles and became the South Australian Mounted Rifles in 1895. In 1903 the south-eastern squadrons of the S.A.M.R. became the 16th (S.A.M.R.) Light Horse Regiment and the northern squadrons became the 17th (S.A.M.R.) Light Horse Regiment. In 1911 the 16th (S.A.M.R.) L.H. Regiment became the 22nd (S.A.M.R.) L.H. Regiment. This title was changed to the 3rd (S.A.M.R.) L.H. Regiment in 1921. In 1911 the 17th (S.A.M.R.) L.H. Regiment became the 24th (Flinders) L.H. Regiment. This title was changed to the 9th (Flinders) L.H. Regiment in 1921.	
<b>Adelaide Mounted Rifles</b>	
The Adelaide Mounted Rifles was formed in 1877. "A" and "B" Squadrons became the Adelaide Lancers in 1886. This unit was absorbed into the South Australian Mounted Rifles in 1895, but "A" and "B" Squadrons were still known as Adelaide Lancers, South Australian Mounted Rifles. These two squadrons in 1903 became part of the 16th (S.A.M.R.) L.H. Regiment. "A" Squadron in 1911 became part of the 23rd (Barossa) L.H. Regiment. In 1921 a new unit was raised and "A" Squadron was allotted to it. This new regiment took the title of 18th (Adelaide Lancers) L.H. Regiment.	

Extract from the JSAHR, December 1957



# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS *(Continued)*

## Early Illustrations



From a set of cigarette cards issued by W. & F. Faulkner Ltd in 1900



An early example of the Regimental shoulder tab for the SAMR



Adelaide Lancer 1893, 1960s trade card

The colourful image shown in the next image came from a set of cards given away in the 1960s at "Golden Fleece Service Stations" in Australia to the children of motorists as an incentive to buy petrol there. The brief description on the back read "The Adelaide Lancers were one of the country's most iconic units, formerly the Adelaide Mounted Rifles, was raised in 1877". They later became the Adelaide Lancers in 1886. In 1895 the unit was absorbed into the South Australian Mounted Rifles (A Squadron), eventually becoming the 18th Australian Light Horse.



Adelaide Mounted Rifles and 18th Australian Light Horse cap badges.



Richard Simkin prints—Types of our Empire's Defenders, South Australian Lancers

Unfortunately, the title South Australian Lancers was used by Simkin in one of his popular prints. Simkin was one of various well-known and respected artists who specialized in military subjects. But as no Regiment actually named the South Australian Lancers has ever been mentioned in official records, the only conclusion to be reached is that this famous print depicted Adelaide Lancers and was misnamed South Australian Lancers.

This error and the myth of the "South Australian Lancers" was perpetuated by a souvenir pamphlet.



# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS (*Continued*)



Colonial officers from every corner of the empire pose proudly before the parade.

## The 1897 Diamond Jubilee

British interest in the Regiment probably originally started with, and was a result of, the Royal Jubilee Procession 1897. This was held in London to celebrate Queen Victoria's 60 years on the throne. She had by this time become the personification of England and the Empire. Labelled both as "A Parade of Imperial Glory" and "London's great day", Colonial Units from all over the Empire were a feature, "with mounted units from the Australian States - Superb horsemen" who "excited much admiration from the crowds".

The Colonial Escort printed list from the Souvenir Programme included - New South Wales Victoria and Queensland Mounted Troops as well as "South Australian Mounted Troops" in the escort. No specific unit is named in this list. Although another source states that only 3 Officers and 20 Troopers of the South Australia Mounted Rifles were in London in 1887. There was no mention of Lancers. The Programme then goes on to include many pen and ink illustrations of various units, in order of their supposed appearance in the parade. This includes 6 plates depicting Australian mounted figures. These include the New South Wales Mounted Rifles, the New South Wales Lancers, the Victoria Mounted Rifles, the Queensland Mounted Rifles, the South Australian Mounted Rifles and on page 62 "the South Australian Lancers".



The illustrated Program of the Royal Jubilee Procession was printed and sold for one shilling

THE COLONIAL ESCORT	
The Colonial Escort, headed by the band of the Royal Horse Guards, will be formed upon the Victoria Embankment, and will march by way of the Mall along the line of route to St. Paul's Cathedral at 8.45 a.m., in the following formation:—	
Advanced party of Royal Horse Guards, four N.C.O.'s and Men	South Australian Mounted Troops
Band of Royal Horse Guards	Premier of Newfoundland. Premier of Tasmania
Canadian Mounted Troops	Natal Mounted Troops
Premier of Canada	Premier of Western Australia. Premier of Natal
New South Wales Mounted Troops	Mounted Troops of Crown Colonies
Premier of New South Wales. Premier of Victoria	Rhodesian Horse
Victoria Mounted Troops	Band of St. George's Rifle Volunteer Corps
New Zealand Mounted Troops	Colonial Infantry
Premier of New Zealand. Premier of Queensland	Band of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteer Corps
Queensland Mounted Troops	Colonial Infantry
Cape of Good Hope Mounted Troops	Canadian Mounted Troops
Premier of Cape. Premier of South Australia	

The Colonial Escort printed list from the Programme

The inclusion of the Lancer illustration is probably the original source of the controversy and fuelled the speculation of the existence of a unit titled South Australian Lancers. It presented an irresistible subject for Britains and others to take advantage of.



## THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS (Continued)

The caption from the Programme reads as follows: "The South Australian Lancers belong to the Active Militia of the Colony. They were raised with the other Defence Forces in 1886. Following the Detachment in the procession is the carriage of the Premier the Hon. Sir W. V. Whiteway".

The South Australian Mounted Rifles - A pen and ink illustration from Page 64

Another caption from the Programme describing the "South Australian Mounted Rifles" reads as follows: "The South Australian Cavalry in the pageant do not wear the characteristic slouch hat. Their headgear is a brown spiked helmet, with a red puggaree, surrounded by the star and crown. Their uniform is brown, with bandoliers and boots of brown leather, serviceable, smart and good fighting colour."

Another source of information is the Filoscope. The Filoscope was a gadget, small enough to fit in one hand, which was introduced towards the end of the 19th century. By flicking through a sequence of photos an illusion of motion could be created with this device. Memorable events such as the Jubilee Parade could be recalled at leisure by those who had been present and by those who were not. Surviving examples provide further evidence of the procession. The description confirms the wearing of khaki uniforms, but, in contrast to the Programme, this mentions the wearing of Slouch Hats (which seems to be confirmed by the surviving images shown here!).



"The South Australian Lancers"- A pen and ink illustration from Page 62 of the Programme.



The superb fireman of the New South Wales Lancers, like other Australian cavalry clad in slouch hats and khaki uniforms, excited much admiration

The Filoscope and selected photo images from the procession



## THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS (Continued)



Commemorative poster from 1997

### Other Contemporary images

Some contemporary images: Note that in the 2nd photo they are posing in dress uniforms with lances. Old photographs

such as this have been used as a reference for many makers such as Derek Brown with his Australian made

D.B.Figurines. Soldiers of the Queen Range (as discussed in Part 2 of this article).



South Australian Mounted Rifles in training, early 1900, looking more warlike in appearance prior to deployment to South Africa.



This vintage photograph shows the 2nd. South Australian Mounted Rifles in Adelaide 1900.



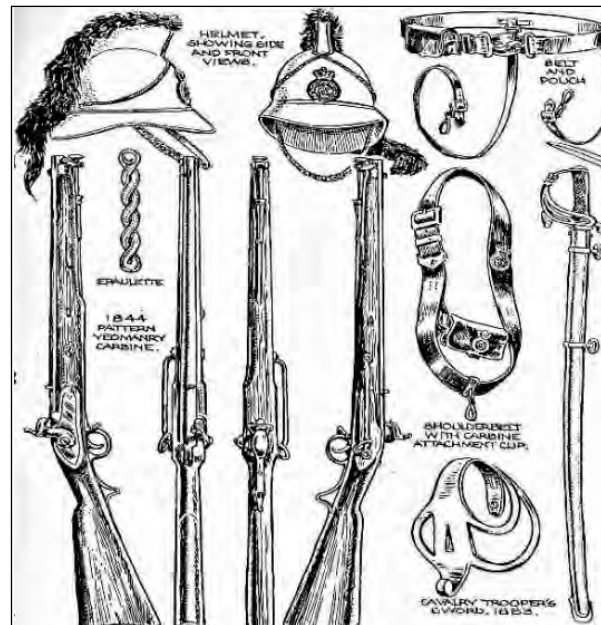
# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS (Continued)

## The background story to the “Reedbeds Cavalry”

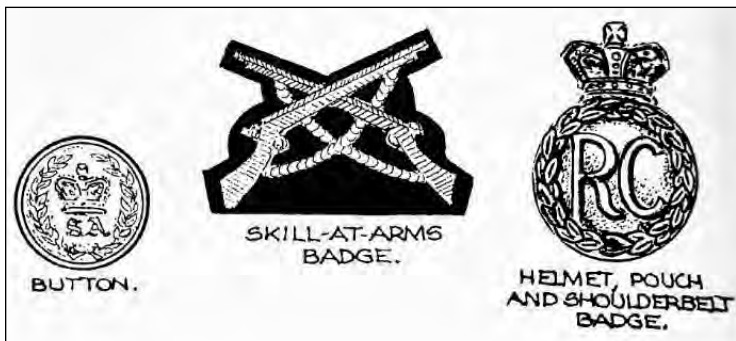
Finally, we conclude on a rather obscure note, but one that is taken up Part 2!

In 1860 residents of Reedbeds district [near Adelaide] South Australia raised a force of mounted volunteers to be known as Reedbeds Cavalry. The original corps consisted of only 32 men dressed in a distinctive uniform of grey doeskin jacket and breeches and high ‘Napoleon’ boots. The headgear was a white helmet with a long black horse-hair plume. Each man provided his own uniform and mount and was required to pay an enrollment fee. Later in 1870 they were disbanded but raised again 16 years later with the new title South Australian [volunteer] Mounted Rifles in 1895. This efficient unit had the privilege of being the guard of honor and escort to the Duke of Edinburgh upon his visit to Adelaide in 1867.

Part 2 of this article in the next issue will describe the attempts by various manufacturers to represent the Regiment in the form of Toy Soldiers.



Helmet, arms and accoutrements of Reedbeds Cavalry



Reedbed Cavalry regimental buttons and badges.



Corporal Reedbeds Cavalry



Corporal with carbine attached to belt





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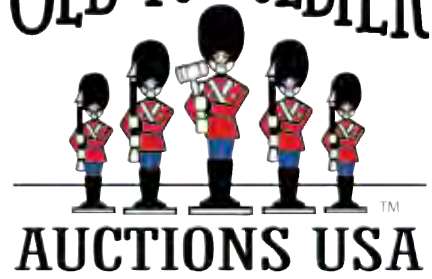
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# AUCTION REVIEW (Continued)



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Lot 63 Greenwood & Ball Somerset Light Infantry Officer. \$475



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# BRITAINS SET 2081

## A postscript by Rob Wilson.

### 1. Another example of set 2081

Since completing the article in the February 2022 issue, and just after going to press, I came across another intriguing reference to a Britain's Coronation Display. While researching one of the other giant Britain's display sets (no 131), I found the article by Bill Miele about Restoring Set 131 to Health in *Toy Soldier Review*, Spring 1988. In the same issue of the magazine there was an intriguing reference to "an amazing find at the 5th East Coast Toy Soldier Show (ECTSS) in November 1987". Full details were promised in the *Winter 1987/1988* issue of the same magazine. After extensive online research I managed to track down and buy a copy of the issue concerned.

What a surprise!

The article by Art Presslaff was entitled somewhat misleadingly *Spotlight on Britains Elusive #1477*. It describes the situation at the 5th ECTSS when two young men asked Art for help in valuing the contents of a large box of Britains soldiers. Although not a specialist Britains collector, Art immediately recognised this was something special. He describes a huge box measuring 24" x 19" x 5" and over 200 figures. Art refers to a complete set as comprising 211 pieces follows:

- 3 officers and 51 Lifeguards as in Set 1
- 4 officers and 51 Horse guards as in Set 2
- 18 figures from Set 1475
- 11/10 piece State Coach
- 5 officers and 62 Royal Marines and Irish Guards from Sets 2071 and 2078
- 7 piece Sovereign's Escort from Set 2067

Art was assisted in his identification by Henry Kurtz, then of Phillips Auction house in NYC, who confirmed that this must be the elusive and uncatalogued Set 2081. The author was obviously aware of the Britains Pamphlet (although the *Toy Soldier Review* article incorrectly refers to this as linked to the 1935 rather than 1953 Coronation).

It is unclear to what extent the list of contents given in the article reflect

the actual composition of the box (as opposed to the information given in the pamphlet). It matches exactly the pamphlet's description.

The author's own pictures in the *Toy Soldier Review* article tell a rather different story. Although only in black and white, and somewhat blurred, the following points can be clearly seen:

1. The box label is the same as used for the pre-war Coronation displays, with a gold on black image of the coronation procession.
2. This is topped by a separate crown in a significantly enlarged label compared to that used for Sets 1476 and 1477.
3. Clearly visible are at least 3 policemen on grey horses, as included in the pre-war Set 1477.
4. Also visible are at least 2 empty handed generals and one ADC as included in the pre-war Set 1477.
5. A number of Horse Guards and Life Guards have the pre-war style sword arm.
6. The coach appears to be the pre-war style, all gold finish and probably fully assembled.
7. Only one lift out tray is visible, but the depth of the box (5") suggests that there might be another.
8. The foot figures are crammed into the compartments (7 per row) normally reserved for single cavalry figures.
9. There are a few extraneous cavalry figures on cantering, galloping and head-up trotting horses.

What can we conclude from all this? The use of the illustrated label, rather than Regiments of All Nations or the Historical Series suggests that this is another example of early attempt to put the complete Set 2081 into a single box. The presence of the police and general figures may indicate that the original plan may have been simply to extend the pre-war Set 1477, but this was revised once Britains researched and published the pamphlet.

If any of our readers can recall anything more about the find at the 1987 ECTSS please do let us know!



### 2. Evidence from the factory records

Norman Joplin has also written in with some evidence from original Britain's Factory Records.

This suggests the following contents for Set 2081

- 1 Set 1470 Coronation Coach - No mention of whether this is the new version with H-clips.
- 1 Set 1475 Footmen, Grooms and Yeomen
- 1 Set 2067 Sovereigns Standard
- 4 x 645B Life Guards Officers, the one on the cantering horse
- 26 x 37B Life Guard Troopers, the standard Life Guards horse
- 26 x 1287B Life Guards Troopers on the walking horse as used for Scots Greys, etc
- 3 x 281B Royal Horse Guards Officers on the rearing horse
- 26 x 280B Royal Horse Guard Troopers on the standard "cantering" horse
- 26 x 1288B Royal Horse Guards Troopers on the walking horse
- 3 x 1285B Irish Guards Officers
- 32 x 1286B Irish Guards Present
- 2 x 1021B Royal Marine Officers
- 30 x 488B Royal Marines Present

The Box is listed as type 52/3 (this might indicate 3 layers)?

This numbered box appears nowhere else in the records

The Household cavalry troopers came with either head # 9H or 112 H (flying or falling plumes).

No details of the arms used are given.

# SPOTLIGHT ON BRITAINS ELUSIVE #1477

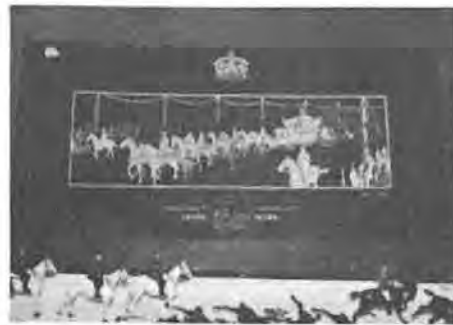
A rare Britains set, can you name it before I finish this article?

Some helpful facts about this set:  
1) This set was never cataloged by Britains. 2) There are over 200 pieces in this set. 3) The box measures 24" long by 19" wide by 5" deep. 4) This set was probably sold only in 1957. Alright, all you Britains aficionados, what do you say. The photos should be a big help also.

The story behind this super find goes like this: It was around 2 o'clock at the great 5th annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show in N.J. on November 8, 1987. The crowded hall was packed with excited collectors buying and busy dealers selling. Two young men came to my table with a huge boxed set and asked the famous question that every dealer at one time has been asked from a non-collector! "Excuse me, I have these soldiers here, can you tell me what they're worth?" I said, "Sure, I'll try to help", (not yet knowing the contents of this box), well aware that he is probably just shopping around for estimates. He opened the box and it quickly took up half my table.

When I looked in the box, the contents were quite amazing even to a non-Britains collector, such as myself. The ten-piece Coronation Coach overwhelmed me, eight Windsor Greys pulling a Gold Coach with four position riders on the left hand horses. There were so many different figures I didn't know where to start. There were foot figures, mounted, lifeguards, yeoman, outriders. At this point, he said to me, "It's a two section box, pull this top section out and there's another level underneath it". I said, "another level underneath?" After we got the box completely open, it took up almost my whole table. At this point, with all the contents in front of me, there was no doubt in my mind that I discovered the "Hope Diamond" of post war toy soldiers. This set is huge,

By Art Presslaff  
Photos by the Author



quite unique, and has to be rare.

The following is a complete list (made up from many other sets) of the 211 piece set: 3 officers and 51 Lifeguards from set #1; 4 officers and 51 Royal Horse Guards from set #2; 8 outriders, 6 footmen, and 4 yeoman from set #1475, Coronation Coach set #1470, 5 officers at salute and 62 Royal Marines and Irish Guards at Present Arms from set #2071 and 2078; sovereigns standard of Life Guard with Escort from set #2067.

At this point, if you still don't know what we have here, you better hand in your Britains reference books and cancel your subscription to Phillips and Christie's Auction House and go back to collecting dinky little toys.

This is "The Sovereigns Escort Coronation of Queen Elizabeth". Her Majesty's state coach has a team of eight Windsor Greys. A model of the coach was built for the Coronation of King George III in 1761. The entire coach with horses measures 20" long.

Mr. Henry Kurtz, of Phillips Auction House in N.Y.C. and fellow writer, offered me some helpful information about this unique set. 1) It was never offered on the auction block at Phillips. 2) This is, indeed, a **very rare** set and probably a variation. 3) When new, in the 1950's, this set sold for approximately \$60-90. 4) The pre-war version of this set only contained about 75 pieces. 5) The current estimated value of this gigantic box set, if it was mint and offered at a major auction house, would be in the range of \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Thank you, Henry. I agree this is a very unique and rare set, but I believe this 211 piece set, if mint, would be valued in the range of \$20,000. This is the **largest** post-war set that Britains ever made. Although it was never cataloged, the idea was expressed in the June 1935 Coronation pamphlet. This set was probably made only in 1935.





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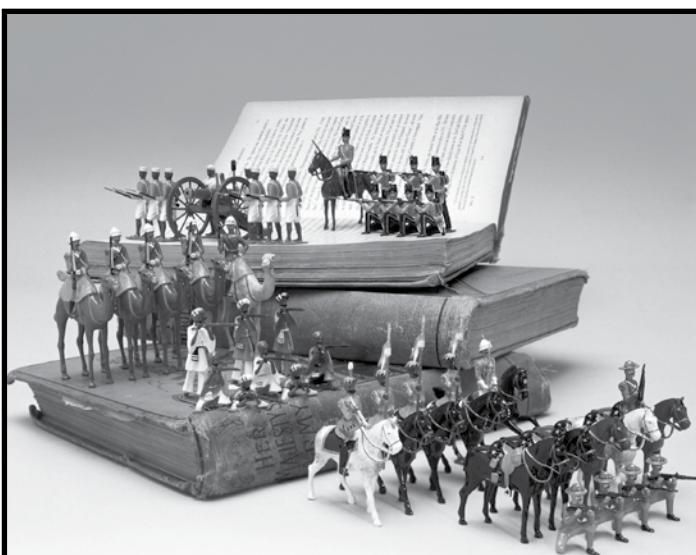
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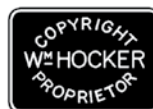
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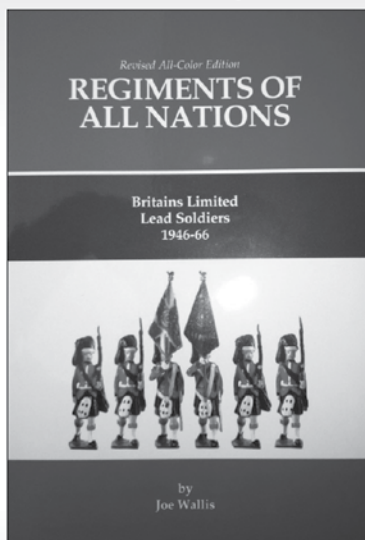
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# TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2022

**May 1st, 2022 - Sunday** - The Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, The Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA. For info.: Steve Connell 734-455-0724, or Rod Chapman 740-924-2531, or Rick Keller 765-430-6289.

**May 13th & 14th, 2022 - Friday and Saturday** - MFCA (Miniature Figure Collectors of America) 79th Annual Show & Mart. Radisson Hotel Philadelphia East. 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, PA 19053. 215-638-8300 [www.MFCAClub.com](http://www.MFCAClub.com)

**May 21st & 22nd, 2022 - Saturday and Sunday** - Texas Toy Soldier Show. The Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas (next to the Alamo!) Martin Vasquez (martinvasquez1836@yahoo.com) 210-757-3463

**May 22nd, 2022 - Sunday** - The Ohio Toy Soldier Show, The Galaxy Restaurant and Banquet Center, Wadsworth, OH. For info: Steve Connell 734-455-0724, or Rod Chapman 740-924-2532, or Rick Keller 765-430-6289.

**June 4th, 2022 - Saturday** - "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show. The Annandale, Virginia Volunteer Fire Department at 7128 Columbia Pike. Contact for more information Ed Greis at 201-257-2687.

**September 10th, 2022 - Saturday** - "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show. The Annandale, Virginia Volunteer Fire Department at 7128 Columbia Pike. Contact for more information Ed Greis at 201-257-2687.

**September 25th, 2022 - Sunday** - Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Illinois. Jan and Roger Garfield. [roger@chicago toysoldiershow.com](mailto:roger@chicago toysoldiershow.com)

**December 3rd, 2022 - Saturday** - "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show. The Annandale, Virginia Volunteer Fire Department at 7128 Columbia Pike. Contact for more information Ed Greis at 201-257-2687.

**DUE TO COVID-19 IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED YOU CHECK WITH SHOW PROMOTERS BEFORE TRAVELING TO ANY OF THE LISTED SHOWS**



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