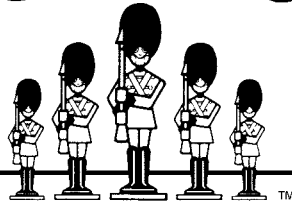


Summer  
2022

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 46 Number 2  
\$10.00

# OLD TOY SOLDIER



**H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS**

# TRAINS AND TOY SOLDIERS LLC

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

AIRFIX  
Alymer  
Authenticast  
Beau Geste  
Blenheim  
Conte  
Del Prado  
Ducal  
Elastolin  
Frontline  
Garibaldi  
Hornung  
Imperial  
Johillco  
John Jenkins  
King & Country  
Kingcast  
Leddy & Slack  
Lineol  
Marlborough  
Mignot  
Rolf W. Nelson  
ShelfScapes  
Steadfast  
Thomas Gunn  
Tradition of London  
Trophy Miniatures  
TSSD  
Vertunni  
WBritain  
WM Hocker



Mignot



King & Country



Alymer

**Buying Collections  
Big and Small**

**800.786.1888**

[sales@trainsandtoysoldiers.com](mailto:sales@trainsandtoysoldiers.com)



John Jenkins



WBritain



**Always FREE SHIPPING on orders of \$50 or more\***

**3130 South 6th Street • Suite 104 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68502**

***Shop our 3,000 sq. ft. store filled with pure joy!***

**800.786.1888 • [sales@trainsandtoysoldiers.com](mailto:sales@trainsandtoysoldiers.com)**



**Like us!**  
**@trainsandtoysoldiers**



**Follow**  
**@trainsandtoysoldiers**

\*Free shipping to lower 48 states only.



# frazier

KENTUCKY HISTORY MUSEUM



## THE STEWART COLLECTION

AT THE FRAZIER KENTUCKY  
HISTORY MUSEUM

The Stewart Collection at the Frazier Kentucky History Museum is one of the finest collections of extremely rare antique historic figures in the world. With over **40,000 figures** and well over **500 major world class rarities** in it, this outstanding collection is one of the largest collections of its kind on permanent public display in the world. Over **175 famous, historic manufacturers** from the mid 18th century to the early 20th century are represented. One of the major highlights of the collection is what many consider to be the finest antique small scale naval collection in the world with over **200 antique lead boats** and naval figures.

FRAZIER HISTORY MUSEUM  
829 W MAIN STREET  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202

[www.fraziermuseum.org](http://www.fraziermuseum.org)



## THE STEWART HISTORIC MINIATURES GALLERY



# Advertising Rates

## Display

All display advertisements should be submitted on disc in MAC or PC format or as camera ready artwork. If submitted on disc, please include fonts and images used in layout. PDF files are acceptable with fonts embedded and images included. Photos should be CMYK with resolution of 350 ppi or grayscale with resolution of 266 ppi. Typesetting and layout are available at additional charge.

Advertisers must supply a full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address before advertisements will be accepted (no box numbers). Old Toy Soldier is not responsible for the accuracy of description or authenticity of items advertised for sale or trade. We reserve the right to reject advertising.

## Color

Full Page .....	\$550 .....	7.5"w x 10"h without bleed 8.75"w x 11.25"h with bleed
Half Page .....	\$325 .....	7.5"w x 5"h..... Horizontal
Half Page .....		3-1/2"w x 10"h..... Vertical
Quarter Page....	\$250 .....	3-1/2"w x 5"h

## Black and White

Full Page .....	\$240 .....	7.5"w x 10"h without bleed 8.75"w x 11.25"h with bleed
Half Page .....	\$150.....	7.5"w x 5"h..... Horizontal
Half Page .....		3-1/2"w x 10"h..... Vertical
Quarter Page...	\$ 80 .....	3-1/2"w x 5"h
Eighth Page.....	\$ 50 .....	3-1/2"w x 2-1/2"h

Advertising Deadlines	Submission Date	Issue Date
Spring Issue	March 10	May 10
Summer Issue	June 10	August 10
Fall Issue	September 10	November 10
Winter Issue	December 10	February 10

## Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements

20 Words \$5, plus \$5 for each additional 20 words.

Advertising deadlines as outlined above.

Periodical Postage paid at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Old Toy Soldier

P.O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324.

Old Toy Soldier (ISSN 1064-4164) is published quarterly for \$40 per year.



# Subscriptions

**You may now  
subscribe online!  
oldtoysoldier.com**

## U. S. Subscription Rates - Four issues per year.

First Class Mail ..... \$60 - 1 Year

Second Class Mail ..... \$40 - 1 Year

## The difference:

First class mail will arrive in approximately 2-3 days.

First class mail will be forwarded. First class mail will be held at your post office if temporarily away. Second class mail may require up to a month to be received; however, usually delivered within one to two weeks. Second class mail is NOT forwarded. Second class mail will NOT be held if temporarily away.

## International Subscription Rates

Four issues per year.

Canada, Mexico Airmail ..... \$65 - 1 Year

Overseas Airmail ..... \$90 - 1 Year

Sample Issue \$15.

Subscription payments should be in US dollars.

Checks payable to:

Old Toy Soldier

P.O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, PA 15243-0324.

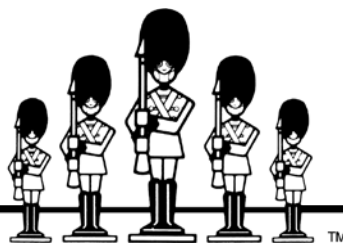


Master Card, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards accepted. Please complete enclosed subscription form and submit with your credit card details to above address.

• Subscriptions are non-refundable.

**Subscribe online  
oldtoysoldier.com for \$20**





**f** facebook/oldtoysoldier

oldtoysoldier.com

**t** @oldtoysoldier

**ig** oldtoysoldier

**Old Toy Soldier** is published quarterly.

**Publisher**

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

**Editor**

Rob Wilson r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk

**Manager**

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Advertising**

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Circulation**

Nancy Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Breanne Day bremarrieday@gmail.com

**Technical Production**

Banksville Express Printing

**Copyeditor**

Roberta Haradin

**Staff Photographers**

David Haradin

Noel Schlageter

**Show Reports**

Ray Haradin, Rob Wilson, Noel Schlageter

**General Inspection-Book Reviewer**

Russ Bednarek

*Old Toy Soldier* is printed by  
Banksville Express Printing  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

**Specialist Contributors**

Rob Wilson and Joe Wallis, Britains Military

Stan Alekna, Dimstore Figures

Norman Joplin, whatever takes his fancy

Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and  
Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements and all  
general inquiries, should be forwarded to:

Old Toy Soldier

P. O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324

Telephone (412) 343-8733

Fax (412) 344-5273

E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**VOLUME 46 NUMBER 2 -SUMMER 2022**

**ARTICLES**

**JOHN HILL & COMPANY,  
THE EARLY YEARS** .....11-25  
*By Richard Forrester*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS  
REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER  
MANUFACTURERS** .....27-31  
*By Bill Anderson*

**DISTINGUISHING BRITAINS  
AND HANKS FIGURES** .....33  
*By Rob Wilson*

**SPACE TOYS: AN UPDATE** ..... 35-37  
*By Steve Balkin*

**BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131  
DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE** ..... 39-45  
*By Rob Wilson*

**BOB WALKER'S OPEN HOUSE, MAY 2022** ..... 51  
*By S. Mark Young*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF  
OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE  
COLOUR (THE SEQUEL)** ..... 53-59  
*By Will Beierwaltes*

**FEATURES**

Subscriptions/Advertising ..... 2

Editorial ..... 5

Hobby News .....6-8

Auction Preview ..... 10, 32

Reconnaissance ..... 47

Letters & Reader's Messages .....48-49

Show Reports ..... 61, 62-63, 65

Book Review ..... 65-67

Auction Review ..... 69, 71

Toy Soldier Market Place ..... 73

Toy Soldier Show and Auction Calendar ..... 74

Advertisers Index ..... 74

**ON THE COVER**

Our cover features H.M. Queen Elizabeth II  
Colonel-in-Chief of the Guards

Copyright 2022, Old Toy Soldier. Publisher Ray Haradin. All rights reserved. Entire Contents Copyright 2022, Old Toy Soldier. Copyright includes, but is not limited to, print media, microfilm, and electronic media, such as CD-ROM's and online computer services.

ISSN1064-4164

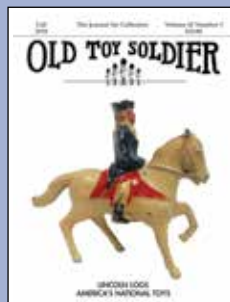
# VOLUME 42



NUMBER 1



NUMBER 2

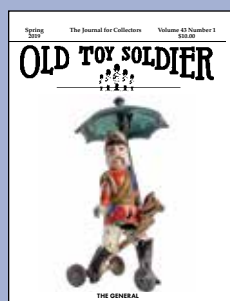


NUMBER 3



NUMBER 4

# VOLUME 43



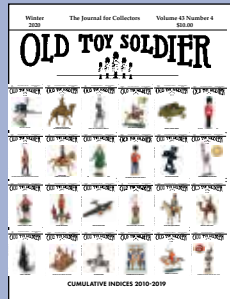
NUMBER 1



NUMBER 2

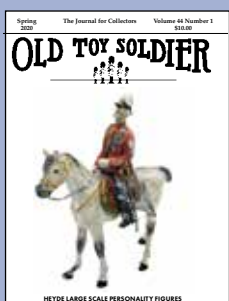


NUMBER 3

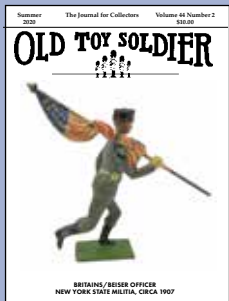


NUMBER 4

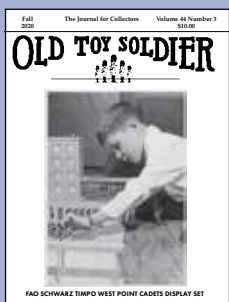
# VOLUME 44



NUMBER 1



NUMBER 2



NUMBER 3



NUMBER 4

# VOLUME 45



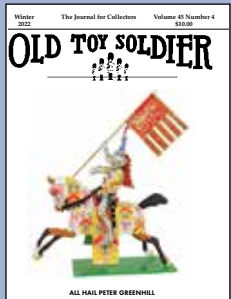
NUMBER 1



NUMBER 2



NUMBER 3

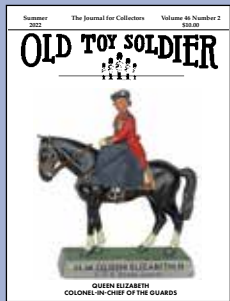


NUMBER 4

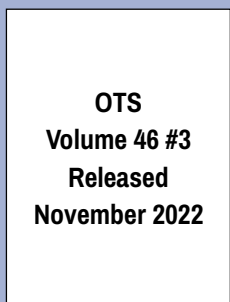
# VOLUME 46



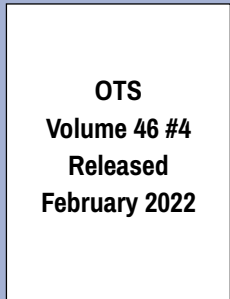
NUMBER 1



NUMBER 2



NUMBER 3



NUMBER 4

## OLD TOY SOLDIER BACK ISSUE ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Back issues are \$20.00 each, postage included. All international subscribers add \$35.00 to order total. Four issues for \$60.00. Only a limited supply of back issues exist. Order today! Back issue payments should be in US dollars.

Subscribe online and have access to ALL back issues  
oldtoysoldier.com

Volume 42 ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3 ☐ #4

Volume 43 ☐ #1 ☐ #3 ☐ #4

Volume 44 ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3

Volume 45 ☐ #2 ☐ #4

Volume 46 ☐ #1 ☐ #2



Checks payable to: Old Toy Soldier  
P.O. Box 13324  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243-0324

Email: raytoys@aol.com

MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards accepted

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# EDITORIAL

It's time to put pen to paper again.

I am delighted to report that there have been a number of shows and events taking place that suggest the hobby is getting back to normal after the many problems caused by the pandemic. We have Show reports from both sides of the Atlantic which show that collectors are still determined to search out that elusive treasure.

Auctions are also getting back into their stride, and it was one of these that supplied a particularly rare find for a lucky buyer in North Yorkshire, England (see the article on Britain's set #131 below).



It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Steve Balkin, who many readers will have fond memories. Steve was active right

up to the end and we are pleased to include two pieces from him in this issue that were completed just before he passed on.

Richard Forrester, returns in this issue with another piece of detailed research, this time on the origins of John Hill and Co. This fills an important gap in our knowledge of this company, which Seamus Wade famously described as "second to none". Will Beierwaltes also writes, reminding us the 2022 marks the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, with an extensive piece on various companies efforts to portray her in miniature.

June 30th 2022



**Mercator**  
dealers in interesting toys

## Mercator Trading

Buy online...

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

***Probably the best vintage  
figure website in the World.***

- The uncommon figures
- The widest range of makers





## Obituary

### Steve Balkin by Dan Jones

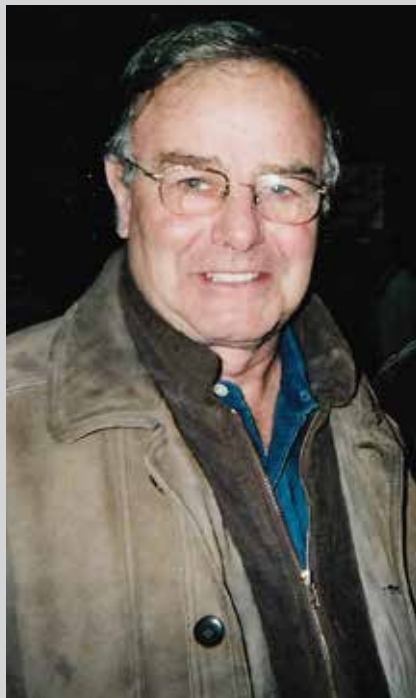
Steve Balkin, an inveterate toy soldier collector, known to many in our hobby as the longtime proprietor of a Manhattan antique toy shop, died April 16 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He was 83. The cause was a heart attack.

He was born May 4, 1938, in The Bronx, N.Y., and began collecting toy soldiers when he was five years old, buying them at a Woolworth's store in the borough's Woodlawn neighborhood.

He also had a lifelong interest in art, photography and painting, kindled by a boyhood gift - a paint set and brushes - from an uncle. He graduated from the School of Industrial Art (now the High School of Art and Design) on Manhattan's East Side in 1956. He then attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, initially studying architecture but ultimately turning to painting and photography. He continued to paint and make photographs for the rest of his life.

As a young man, he worked as a model, actor, nightclub manager, merchant mariner and photographer. The celebrities he photographed included artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Among toy soldier collectors, he was a fixture for many years at major East Coast toy soldier



shows. He worked for a time in the early 1970s in The Soldier Shop, which sold militaria, art, toy soldiers and military miniatures, on Madison Avenue on Manhattan's Upper East Side. He also contributed many articles for early editions of Old Toy Soldier Newsletter.

But Steve is perhaps best known to collectors for the shop he opened at 1082 Madison Avenue in 1978. It was described this way in an April 6, 2008, article in The York Times: "Quirk No. 2 is the business hiding in the basement: Burlington Antique Toys, essentially a smoke-filled room stocked with all kinds of antique

toy soldiers and the painting studio of the owner, Steve Balkin. It has to be one of the strangest stores in Manhattan."

A Sept. 16, 2010, Times article ("At Burlington Toys, A Sanctuary for Nostalgia") called the store "a bizarre basement wonderland crammed with collectibles." Until the shop closed in 2011, it was the brick-and-mortar place to go in the New York metropolitan area to find old toy soldiers.

Steve's mind also was crammed with memories that he could recall in detail right up to the end. Between puffs of Prince Albert pipe smoke, he could tell a customer where and when he obtained a particular set or figure and often could identify makers and vintages with ease. As his daughter says "He knew everything about those little guys".

He lived in Manhattan for many years before moving, at about the time the shop closed, to Wassaic, N.Y., just over the state border from Kent, CT.

Burial was in the family plot in Cedar Park Cemetery in Paramus, N.J, attended by his wife, children, other family members and friends. He leaves behind his wife and 3 children.

## Stephen Balkin Memorial By Nat Bohrer



Stephen Balkin, the owner of Burlington Antique Toys, passed away peacefully on April 16th, 2022, a few weeks before his 84th birthday. Steve lived life to its fullest and his journey enhanced many of our lives.

He had an encyclopedic knowledge of toy soldiers, sports, history, art, film, and literature, a true renaissance man. Steve often talked about his life's adventures. He was born in the Bronx and began buying toy soldiers at the age of five from his local Woolworth. He became a Merchant Marine which at the time was under the auspices of the U.S. Coast Guard, exploring foreign shores. Steve also served time in the ROTC while in art school. He was a graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn where he met his close friend and fellow artist Al Hanson. He was a regular at the Art Student League. Steve's passion for painting remained with him his whole life creating works that reflected an abstract idyllic and yet haunting world reminiscent of the Bible's Eden from Genesis. His first exhibition received positive reviews from the NY Times, describing his work as "lyrical expressionism". In 1983, The NY Times recommended seeing his "Fauvish" landscape work in a group show. Steve was also an early participant in the Fluxus Movement which embraced experimental art forms such as performance art. While on his way to taking acting classes he met Andy Warhol and became a fixture of the

Factory. Warhol filmed Steve in one of his most iconic films as one of the 13 Most Beautiful Boys. Steve worked as a model, actor, graphic designer, teacher, artist and photographer during the 1960s and 1970s. He photographed and documented art giants of his time including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Indiana and Jasper Johns. His good looks lead to several modeling jobs for the advertising industry. Modeling led to acting in small roles and most famously losing out several times for large films to an up-and-coming actor, Warren Beatty. "What was beautiful about Steve is how he always saw the best in everyone and because of his belief in us and his encouragement, we all rose to the occasion. He had a childlike wonder and sense of curiosity and joy that charmed us all, and an absolutely infectious laugh. It wasn't a conversation with Steve if we weren't laughing until our stomachs hurt and were gasping for air. Much as Steve will always be one of Warhol's "Thirteen Most Beautiful Boys" and a Fluxus producer and one of the icons of the 60's NYC Art World, he was so much more than that." said art historian and friend Robyn Tisman.

Steve loved toy soldiers and became a renowned collector and dealer. Steve honed his toy soldier entrepreneurship skills working for Peter Blum at the Soldier Shop when it opened in the 1960s. Steve also photographed and cataloged for toy sales at Sotheby's, Phillips, Christies, Doyle's and other auction houses. In 1978, he opened Burlington Antique Toys in the basement of a bookstore at 1082 Madison Avenue in NYC. It was a joyous place! The NY Times called the shop "a bizarre basement wonderland crammed with collectibles" and "a friendly oasis where you can sit and schmooze." Steve enjoyed smoking his pipe, talking to customers about toys, Yankees, and life in general. His client roster included celebrities such as Robin Williams, Dan Aykroyd, Bruce Springsteen, President George

H.W. Bush and many others. Steve contributed to the development of toy soldier collecting, writing articles for the O'Brien Guide, Old Toy Soldier Magazine and other periodicals. Notably, he wrote the seminal piece on the Warren Line of Toy Soldiers. Steve was a frequent visitor to toy shows, flea markets and tag sales where he uncovered many old toy soldier lines. Steve was the first to encourage new toy soldier creators, buying the figures for his store. "He knew everything about those little guys", remarked his sister.

After Steve closed his store in 2011 he retired to Wassaic, NY, living on a pond where he continued to paint and take photos. In the last several years, I enjoyed many lunches and dinners with Steve in nearby Kent, CT. and I will miss him dearly. The toy soldier community lost one of its greats.





## EUROMA 3-4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

*by Francesco Marchiandi*

This year one of the largest Italian events dedicated to Modelers and Collecting Figures and Toy Soldiers will be held in Rome, organized by ALFA MODEL.

This event will be held on 3rd and 4th September 2022 at Hotel Villa Eur Parco dei Pini - Rome.

Each branch of our hobby will be represented, both by the numerous Commercial Sponsors (various producers and traders) and by other commercial and private subjects, each with its own stand/table.

For Modelers, in particular, contests will take place, in various specialties (figures, AFVs, ships, airplanes, etc.), according to the regulations which can be found at:

<https://www.alfamodel.eu/euroma/regolazione-2021-en-2/>  
English version

<https://www.alfamodel.eu/euroma/regolazione-2022-en/>  
Italian version

For both the modelling and collecting branches, pieces of particular value will be exhibited in numerous showcases, specially loaned by modelers and collectors.

Highlights among the many Commercial Sponsors present for the full two days of the event, will be the Bottega del Soldatino of Lorenzo Antonini, grandson of Francesco Antonini, founder of the company in around 1910.

For those wishing to actively participate, tables of 2metres by 1metre are still available at a cost of € 90.00

For details, reservations or registration for the modeling contest, please contact Messrs.

Alberto Fabri – President - [alberto.fabri@tiscali.it](mailto:alberto.fabri@tiscali.it)

Massimo Ruggeri - Deputy Chairman - [romainsieme@tiscali.it](mailto:romainsieme@tiscali.it)

Giulio Centanni – Treasurer - [giulioicento@libero.it](mailto:giulioicento@libero.it)

Mr. Giulio Centanni can also be contacted via WhatsApp at the number: ++. 39.3288836409 or directly via the ALFA MODEL Club, organizer of the event, (present on Facebook and on the website: <https://www.alfamodel.eu/>)

To view all the commercial sponsors see the site:

[https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/euroma2022sponsor?\\_\\_gid\\_\\_=368061026691855](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/euroma2022sponsor?__gid__=368061026691855)

The two posters shown here show two of the many Commercial Sponsors.

Please disseminate this information to all your collector and modeler friends, who might be interested.

Thanking everyone for your attention, I extend a cordial greeting and look forward to seeing you in Rome,

Francesco Marchiandi





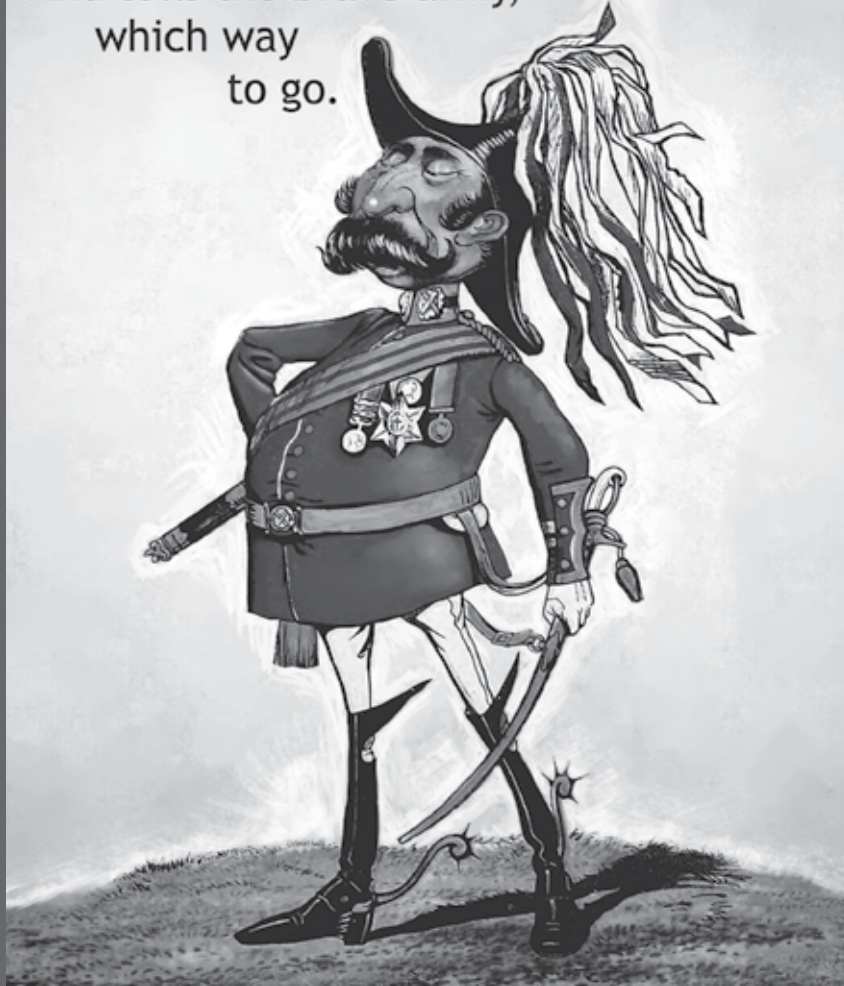
# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual

## Chicago Toy Soldier Show

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022 10 am - 3:30 pm



**F** stands for Field Marshal,  
who points his baton toward the foe,  
And tells the brave army,  
which way  
to go.



**ALL THINGS TOY SOLDIER!** Vintage, Model, New Production

Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois USA

Roger Garfield: Phone 847-567-5355

Email: [Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com](mailto:Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com)

Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show

Contracts, photos, and more information on our website!

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



# AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



Ray Haradin  
raytoys@aol.com  
412-343-8733  
Fax 412-344-5273

Bre Day  
bremarieday@gmail.com  
412-841-0623

## BRITAIN SOLDIER BRIGADE

AUGUST 26TH, 2022 AT 10AM EST



Lot 273 Heyde Prussian Infantry, Band & Hussars



Lot 567 Wm. Hocker #151 Continental Infantry Column  
From The American Revolution series



Lot 518 Britains RARE #83 Middlesex Yeomanry



Lot 437 Britains #98 King's Royal  
Rifle Corps



Lot 332 Britains #26 Boer Infantry



517 Britains #170 RARE Greek Cavalry



631 Mignot Special The Internment Napoleons' Return



335 Britains #16 The Buffs



509 Britains #94 Empress Of India's 21st Lancers



454 Britains #49 South Australian Lancers



433 Britains Set # 218 SCARCE Spanish Cavalry



View this auction and purchase catalogs on  
our website: [oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)



#oldtoysoldier



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS

By Richard Forrester

## Summary

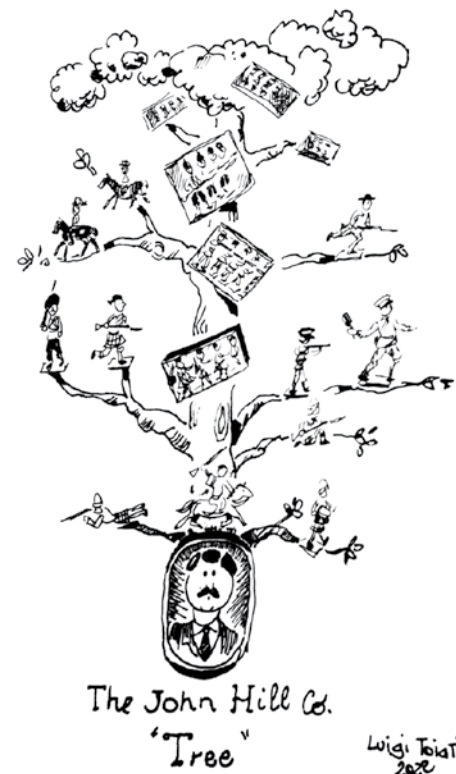
The John Hill toy soldier company managed not only to get started on the eve of the Great War but were able to thrive as a business through the tough economic conditions of the inter-war period in Britain when others such as B.M.C., Hanks Brothers and the REKA Company failed. The company developed out of a close association between John Thomas Hill (a Hawker of toys) and the Wood brothers. The success of the company was largely due to the Wood brothers' knowledge of their working-class customers, and the fact that their business model did not waiver from producing low cost, cheaply painted, but largely well animated toy soldiers that were distributed by very affordable means. In this way, John Hill & Co. were able to establish themselves as the predominant toy soldier manufacturer in their own low-cost niche and did not have to compete directly with Britains.

## The face of the company

The face of John Hill & Company was Frederick Howe Wood, and according to the company's own statements it was formed by Wood in either 1898<sup>1</sup> or in 1901<sup>2</sup>. However, as is the case with most of the early British toy soldier companies, there is much more to the story than the basic facts presented in the toy industry trade articles.

Frederick Howe Wood was in fact baptised Frederick How Reuss, as shown by the probate record<sup>3</sup> below, following his death in 1956. Note that his middle name 'How' was originally spelled without an 'e'.

The present-day value of Frederick. H. Wood's estate would conservatively approximate £1,600,000, and while he had clearly accumulated considerable wealth by the time of his death, he originally came from very humble beginnings.



Frederick was the second son of English born Augustus Frederick William Reuss and Sarah Ann Luxton. He was born in Clerkenwell, inner-north London, in 1881.<sup>4</sup> Frederick How Reuss's grandfather was a German immigrant who worked as a tin-plate worker and died in 1865 at the early age of 37 years.<sup>5</sup> Frederick's father, Augustus Reuss, was only able to find

work in itinerant occupations such as bottle washer<sup>6</sup>, cook's assistant<sup>7</sup> or porter<sup>8</sup> and consequently the family lived in semi-poverty. The 1889 Charles Booth Poverty Map<sup>9</sup> (shown below), although dated a little later than Frederick's birth year of 1881, nonetheless shows that the area where the family lived included a mix of residents ranging from semi-criminals

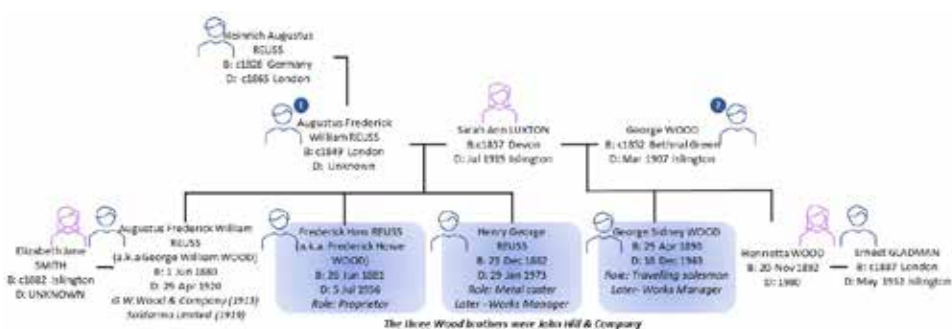


Extract from Charles Booth's 1889-1891 Poverty Map of London. ©London School of Economics & Political Science.

1. 1932 'Cast Metal Toys', Games & Toys Trade Directory, February 1932, Page 64.
2. 1951 'Things I See and Hear', Toy Trader Magazine.
3. 1956, England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995. Ancestry.com
4. 26 June 1881 at 2 Ann St. Certified Birth Certificate, Reg. District - Holborn, Sub-District - Pentonville, Entry No. 296. General Register Office.
5. 1866, England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995. Ancestry.com
6. 1861 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 9; Piece: 61; Folio: 112; Page: 39; GSU roll: 542566. Ancestry.com
7. 1871 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 10; Piece: 142; Folio: 72; Page: 72; GSU roll: 823293. Ancestry.com
8. 8 1881 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 11; Piece: 354; Folio: 62; Page: 17; GSU roll: 1341076. Ancestry.com
9. 9 Charles Booth Poverty Map- North London. LSE Library.



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



to the merely poor. The eldest of Frederick's brothers, William, was born in 1879 and was baptised as Augustus Frederick William Reuss (Junior).<sup>10</sup> Their younger brother, Henry George Reuss, was born in 1882.<sup>11</sup>

By the late 1880s Augustus Reuss (Senior) had either died or the couple had separated. In 1889, Sarah Ann Reuss then remarried George Wood, an 'artificial florist', somehow describing herself as a *spinster* on the marriage record.<sup>12</sup> George Wood and Sarah Ann had two further children, George Sidney born 1890 and Henrietta born 1892.

When all the children were baptised on 1 January 1893<sup>13</sup>, apart from William who had been baptised years previously, Frederick How (aged 12 years) and Henry George (aged 11 years) are specifically recorded as being the sons of 'William REUSS', while George Sidney and Henrietta are recorded as the children of 'George and Sarah Ann Wood'.

The new stepfather, George Wood, was evidently to have a significant impact on the brothers William and Frederick in particular. By 1891 the household had moved to 32 Parkfield Street, Islington,<sup>14</sup> which was located a short distance to the north of The Angel, Islington, and was a more prosperous area. It appears that this was a happier time for the young boys and it is likely that

it was George Wood's influence and family connections which led to how the toy soldier company came to be known as "John Hill & Company".

In 1901, the census record<sup>15</sup> of March that year shows that 21-year-old William describes his occupation as an *employed* metal worker and 19-year-old Frederick as an *employed* 'case worker' or packing worker. For reason of their young ages and employed work status, immediately the 1898 or 1901 commencement dates for John Hill & Company as a manufacturer of toy soldiers are called into question. Their younger brother Henry's occupation in 1901 of *potman*, which is a person employed by a public house to serve beer, is even less relevant to toy soldiers, and George Sidney, the youngest brother, was aged only 10.

On 26 May 1901 William married Elizabeth Jane Smith. On the marriage record shown below<sup>16</sup>, William records his occupation as

'metal worker' and not 'toy maker' or an occupation that would suggest he was part-owner of a toy soldier manufacturing business. Note also that the father's name is a blend between his stepfather's and his natural father's names.

Interestingly, on the March 1901 Census record<sup>17</sup> 19-year-old Elizabeth Jane Smith's occupation is shown as 'toy painter'. At the time of the census Elizabeth was living with her parents at 45 Alsen Road (now part of Seven Sisters Road), which was less than a mile from Britains' Hornsey Rise factory.

It seems clear from the above that the suggestion William and Frederick in 1898, at age 19 and 17 respectively, or in 1901 would have had sufficient capital, skills, or sales distribution arrangements to maintain a commercial toy soldier business cannot be sustained. Although there is no specific documentary evidence yet available, the indications are that Frederick and William Wood were likely working at a metal toy maker, probably Britains, in 1901 where they gained the necessary experience before starting to manufacture their own toy soldiers. Although this author is unaware of the specific source, several writers have stated that William<sup>18</sup>, Frederick<sup>19</sup> or both did indeed work for Britains. Accepting that there are strong suggestions to support this to be correct, in all

1910 Marriage solemnized at <u>The Parish Church in the Parish of St. Mark, Rd. St.</u> in the County of London.								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
811	Twenty-sixth Mar. 1910.	Augustus Frederick William Reuss Wood Elizabeth Jane Smith	21	Bachelor	Metal Worker	32, Radnor St. George Reuss Wood	George Reuss Wood	Metal Worker
			19	Spinster		G. Gastagna Pl.	Thomas Smith	Builder
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by <u>Alfred Ross</u> of the <u>Parish</u> Banns by me, <u>W. J. Day &amp; White</u> , Vicar.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Augustus Frederick William Reuss Wood</u> and <u>Elizabeth Jane Smith</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Ada Ellen Cobble</u>								

1901 Marriage record for George. W. Wood shows the transition of how he renamed himself from Reuss to Wood

1901 Marriage record for George. W. Wood shows the transition of how he renamed himself from Reuss to Wood

10. 1880. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p76/pau2/034. Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917. Ancestry.com  
 11. 1893. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p76/pau2/008. Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917. Ancestry.com  
 12. 1889. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p79/jn1/091. Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932. Ancestry.com  
 13. 1893. Baptism. Op cit.  
 14. 1891 UK Census. National Archives. Class: RG 12; Piece: 151; Folio: 13; Page: 20; GSU roll: 6095261. Ancestry.com

15. 1901 UK Census. National Archives. Class: RG 13; Piece: 193; Folio: 99; Page: 18. Ancestry.com  
 16. 1901. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p91/mrk/019. Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932. Ancestry.com  
 17. 1901 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 13; Piece: 167; Folio: 80; Page: 48. Ancestry.com  
 18. Rose, A. *The collector's all-colour guide to Toy Soldiers*. 1985 Salamander Books Ltd., Belgium. Pg.104.  
 19. Joplin, N. *The Great Book of Hollow-Cast Figures*. 1993 New Cavendish Books, London. Pg.134.

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)

likelihood William and Frederick were later joined at Britains by their half-brother, George Sidney Wood, after he turned 13 in 1903, being the age from which the *Factory and Workshop Act 1901* allowed children to be employed in a full-time job. Their other brother, Henry George, appears not to have worked in metal toys until much later.

## Why “John Hill & Company” and why did the company claim a start date of 1898 or 1901?

The precise reason for the business being named John Hill & Co. continues to be unable to be proven beyond doubt.

As suggested above, certainly, one explanation for the stated commencement dates for John Hill & Company of 1898 or 1901 is that up to 1911, while working for another toy soldier maker, the Wood brothers may have been experimenting with producing their own moulds and toy soldier figures and so considered themselves to be in ‘the business of toy making’. However, this provides no reasonable explanation or context for why the business would be named ‘John Hill’.

Equally, it is entirely possible the reason could simply be that at the time the company was registered around 1918<sup>20</sup> the business name was available and was appropriately British sounding in an environment of increasing anti-German sentiment. However, as will be shown below, the name John Hill was being used in 1912, five or six years before the company was registered.

However, the documentary evidence outlined below suggests very strongly that the influence that George Wood, the stepfather, had on

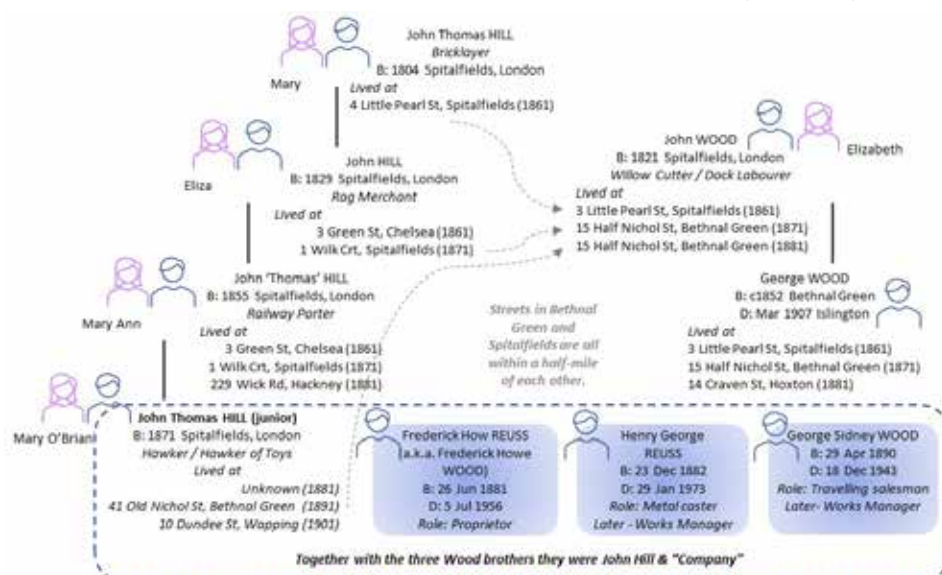
the young Reuss brothers provides a much more probable reason for both the company’s name and the 1898-1901 commencement dates. A family connection to George Wood, borne out of the shared bonds of poverty, is suggested to be the reason for the name “John Hill” and “company”.

George Wood (stepfather to Augustus William, Frederick How and Henry George Reuss (the Wood brothers)), grew up in the east London boroughs of Spitalfields and Bethnal Green in the 1860s and 1870s. In the 1860s<sup>21</sup> he lived immediately next door to the family of John Thomas Hill, a bricklayer, and then in the 1870s and 1880s, when George Wood’s family lived in the immediate vicinity of the notorious Old Nichol slum in Bethnal Green,<sup>22</sup> the Hill family members lived nearby or within the same Old Nichol slum area. The suggestion is that the families of George Wood and John Thomas Hill formed a strong bond of friendship living in what, at the time, were extremely hard living conditions. Even though George Wood was able to move out<sup>23</sup> of the East London slums to Islington the suggestion is that he maintained a

close connection with the Hill family.

While there is no primary documentary evidence to validate this suggestion beyond doubt, the Hill family connection through George Wood and therefore to the Wood brothers is through John Thomas Hill, born 1871, who is designated ‘junior’ in the diagram below.

In 1891<sup>24</sup> and 1901<sup>25</sup> John Hill Jnr.’s occupation is described as a “Hawker”, and in 1911<sup>26</sup> he is a “Hawker of toys”. The Hawker’s Act of 1888 required that persons acting as hawkers had to be of good character, by insisting that they held an annually renewable licence after having first obtained references from their local clergyman and two householders, or from a Justice, or superintendent or inspector of police. The hawker then also had to ensure their name and the words ‘licenced hawker’ were clearly displayed on whatever they used to transport their goods or whichever building they sold their goods from. Later, in 1921<sup>27</sup>, John Thomas Hill was working as a warehouseman for toy importers Eisenmann & Co., which demonstrates his continued connection to the toy industry.



20. per Companies House, UK Register of Companies. Email dated 8/4/2010 to N. Joplin.  
 21. 1861 England Census. National Archives. George WOOD Class: RG 9; Piece: 256; Folio: 89; Page: 15; GSU roll: 542603. John HILL Class: RG 9; Piece: 256; Folio: 96; Page: 29; GSU roll: 542603. Ancestry.com  
 22. 1871 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 10; Piece: 474; Folio: 45; Page: 35. Ancestry.com  
 23. 1891 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 12; Piece: 151; Folio: 13; Page: 20. Findmypast.co.uk

24. 1891. British Army Service Records. National Archives. Attestation date 9 Feb 1891; Service No. 2827; Ref. WO 96; Box 1257; Box Record 58. Findmypast.co.uk  
 25. 1901 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 13; Piece: 317; Folio: 41; Page: 75. Findmypast.co.uk  
 26. 1911 England Census. National Archives. Archive series: RG 14; Piece: 1544; Ref: RG14PN1544 RG78PN54 RD20 SD1 ED15 SN152. Findmypast.co.uk  
 27. 1921 England Census. RG15/1030 Dist10/Sub7/Enum1\_0179. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk.

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (*Continued*)

In 1898, Augustus William, Frederick How, Henry George, and Sidney were aged 18, 17, 15 and 8 respectively and there is no evidence to support the idea that they were anything other than employees of another business at this time, possibly working for Britains, or were too young to be employed workers at all. It is also essential to keep in mind that the Wood family had only by 1891 been able to elevate themselves out of surroundings mired in poverty.

Therefore, it is suggested that between 1898 and 1901, and for several years thereafter, John Hill Jnr. 'employed' Augustus William, Frederick Howe Wood and his younger brothers to work with him as hawker's assistants, and that the working association (friendship) and the name stuck. They were, therefore, John Hill *and company* and remained so when the toy soldier business started in 1911 or 1912.

The 'business' of hawking toys explains two things about John Hill & Co. Firstly, it explains the apparently too early date of 1898 for the company stating its commencement of the business, when Frederick H. Wood was only 17 years old, and his younger brothers Henry George and George Sidney were just 15 and 8 years old respectively.

Secondly, it provides an underlying explanation for why John Hill & Co. chose to distribute their toy soldiers principally for individual sale, rather than in branded boxed sets. It was the form of product distribution with which they were most familiar, and which most suited their customers' purchasing ability. Unfortunately, hawkers' licence records have not survived that would provide the necessary evidence to support the suggestion presented.

## The commencement of toy soldier manufacture

At around the time of their stepfather George WOOD's death in 1907, both William and Frederick decided to complete the anglicisation of their names. Augustus Frederick William REUSS junior, who had always been known as 'William', took the name George William WOOD, and Frederick How REUSS renamed himself Frederick Howe WOOD. In the early 1900s there was no legal requirement to register a change of name, and no such record exists for either man.

The likely reason for the name change was out of respect for George Wood, however the two brothers may also have wished to appear less German in a public environment of growing British nationalism. It is interesting to note however that when their younger brother, Henry George, was of age he continued to use his birth surname and remained Henry George REUSS all his life.

By the next census in April 1911, the documentary evidence still does not conclusively support a view that the Wood brothers were operating a toy soldier manufacturing business. In the census return<sup>28</sup> for 30 Parkfield Street, where Frederick Wood and his younger half-brother, George Sidney, were living, they described their occupation and status on their census return as being 'Metal Worker (Toys)' and as being 'workers' not 'employers'. Their elder brother, George William Wood, in his census return<sup>29</sup> describes his occupation as 'metal worker' and his working status as 'worker'. Of note however is the entry<sup>30</sup> recorded for George William Wood's wife, Elizabeth Jane Wood (née Smith), where she describes her occupation as 'assisting in Business'; the possible implication therefore being that George William

Wood was in fact running a business that Elizabeth was assisting him in.

As such, it is certainly a possibility that by early 1911 John Hill & Co. had begun to operate as a small family run toy soldier making business and the Wood brothers may simply not have considered themselves to be employers, if they were working together in partnership at this time.

However, again referring to the April 1911<sup>31</sup> Census, the records show that the buildings at 30, 31 and 32 Parkfield Street where the Wood family lived or were buildings that they leased, were all at that time fully occupied with residential tenants, which would not have allowed sufficient room for any larger scale toy soldier metal casting or painting. In addition, Sarah Ann Wood, the Wood brothers' mother, operated a chandlers shop<sup>32</sup> from 31 and 32 Parkfield Street which occupied the larger part of the ground floor space. The building at 32 Parkfield St did have a basement that had previously been used as a bakery<sup>33</sup> and this could possibly have been used for manufacturing toy soldiers. However, while it is not known whether the candles, soap, or other produce for the chandlers shop were produced on site, if this was the case then the available space left for manufacture of toy soldiers would naturally be further reduced.

There is therefore no evidence to suggest that any form of commercial scale metal toy manufacturing business was operating in 1911.

The first confirmed reference to John Hill & Co. as a business is 14 February 1912, when the brothers started to advertise in the *Islington Gazette*<sup>34</sup> for workers to cast and paint metal toys from the home address of 32 Parkfield Street, Islington.

28. 1911 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 14; Piece: 963. Ancestry.com

29. 1911 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 14; Piece: 914. Ancestry.com

30. Ibid.

31. 1911 England Census. F.H. Wood. Op cit.

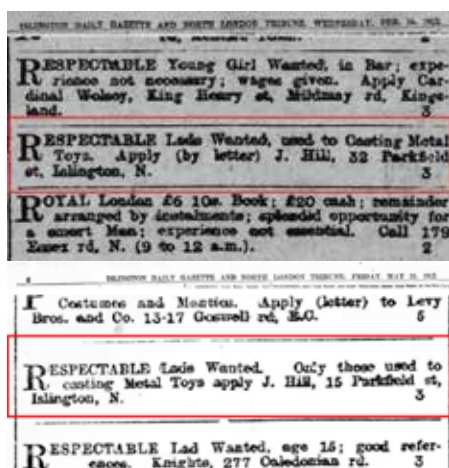
32. Kelly's Directories Limited. The Post Office Directory for 1910. Part1: Street & Commercial Directories, pg530. Trade, residential & telephone Records. The Genealogist.co.uk

33. 'Lloyd George' Survey 1915. 1910 Valuation Office Survey, 1910-1915 [database online]. Recordset: IR58; Piece: 42944; Islington pg67 TheGenealogist.co.uk

34. 1912. Islington Daily Gazette & North London Tribune. Wednesday February 14, pg6. British Newspaper Collection, The British Library Board. Findmypast.co.uk



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



This advertisement was followed by similar ones on 29 February, 1 March, and 4 March.

On 31 May 1912 the same advertisement was again printed, however the address had now changed to 15 Parkfield Street, a building located directly opposite to numbers 30 to 32.

The suggestion from these advertisements is that toy soldier production must have been of a small scale up until early 1912, when it had built to the point where additional labour was required to fulfill demand.

The evidence presented therefore from the 1911 census records and the Islington Gazette advertisements leads to only one possibility, that John Hill & Co.'s commercial toy soldier manufacture did not commence until sometime after April 1911 but before February 1912.

## The first John Hill & Co. toy soldiers

Accepting that John Hill & Co. commenced commercial manufacture of toy soldiers around mid to late 1911, the inevitable question is then 'what were the first figures that they produced?'. Due to an absence of early catalogues or other similar documents we find

that for John Hill & Co. the answer to this question is very much less than certain.

The first toy soldiers that can be positively identified as being John Hill & Co. figures are the designs that were registered with the Board of Trade on 14 September 1914; a prone firing Highlander (Reg. 641962) and a drummer in foreign service helmet (Reg. 641963).<sup>35</sup>

These figures were followed by a 'European' infantryman with a moveable arm registered 9 October 1914 (642681), and then a mounted Arab (643831) and a kneeling Highlander (643842) both registered 17 November 1914.<sup>36</sup> The final J Hill figure to be registered with the Board of Trade on 13 January 1915 was a charging Highlander (645163).<sup>37</sup>

*Highlander, foreign service helmet*  
Figure reg. 641962  
Hill catalogue ref. 202/45/39



*Pictured: John Hill & Co. design*  
registration image

## 14 September 1914

This first registered figure proved to be a robust and enduring toy with large numbers surviving and so obviously was in continual production. Depictions of Scots soldiers have always been popular, and this figure is proof of that. The figure has the letters 'J.H' and the registration number marked on the figure's stomach. The figure was finally replaced with the similar looking post-war Johillco prone Highlander with crossed legs.

*Drummer, foreign service helmet*  
Figure reg. 641963



*Pictured: John Hill & Co. design*  
registration image

## 14 September 1914

This 60mm scale drummer is a reasonably rare figure and only a very few are marked with the registration number. It was eclipsed in terms of production volume soon after this registration date by the peak capped khaki drummer that Hill collectors will be very familiar with.

*Hanoverian Prussian infantryman#*  
Figure reg. 642681<sup>38</sup>



*Pictured: One of a lot of eight -*  
Bonhams Auction 16 Nov 2011

## 9 October 1914

Hanoverian Prussian: Exactly which army this figure represents is unlikely to be definitively identified. James Opie<sup>39</sup> pondered whether it was an Austrian infantryman, however it is more likely to represent a Hanoverian Prussian pre-WWI uniform because, while the pre-WWI uniforms of the

35. N. Joplin G.W. Wood & Co. The Forgotten Manufacturer Part2. Old Toy Soldier Journal Vol.36 No.1 Spring 2012 Pg.8

36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. Bonhams Toys, Doll and Lead Soldiers Auction, 15-16 Nov 2011. Lot 1279. bonhams.com

39. Opie, James. *Collecting Toy Soldiers in the 21st Century*. (2011) Pen & Sword, Barnsley. Pg.67

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)

Austrian and Prussian infantry were almost identical, the trouser colour of the Austrian uniform was a lighter blue. The trousers of Hanoverian uniform were the black or indigo blue colour shown.

This thought is supported by the fact the Wood brothers' grandfather was born in the town of Warfleth, near Hanover<sup>40</sup> which after 1866 became part of Prussia and perhaps this nicely sculpted figure was created as an homage to the Wood brothers' ancestry. In any case the figure's production was likely short lived due to the outbreak of World War I, when not only was the German Army uniform standardised but the depiction of German infantry as toys was also not popular. As such it is a very rare figure, and also because it is the only J. Hill pre-war depiction of a European infantryman.

The figure is marked with the registration number on the base.

*Mounted Arab*  
Figure reg. 643831  
Hill catalogue ref. 202/45/36



*Pictured: John Hill & Co. design  
registration image*

## 17 November 1914

This figure, named 'mounted Arab' in the 1935 Pink catalogue, likely represents the Mahdist Sudanese forces who fought against General Kitchener, culminating in the Battle of Omdurman in 1898. The figure is marked with the registration number on the horse's right flank.

*Highlander, foreign service helmet*  
Figure reg. 643842  
Hill catalogue ref. 202/45/30



*Pictured: John Hill & Co. design  
registration image*

## 17 November 1914

Demonstrating the popularity of Scots troops, this is again, a fairly common figure and was painted in a range of different colour schemes. The figure is marked with the registration number on the back left shoulder blade.

*Highlander, Glengarry bonnet*  
Figure reg. 645163



*Pictured: John Hill & Co. design  
registration image*

## 13 January 1915

This charging Scots figure remains an enigma with no actual examples having been located, to the best of the author's knowledge.

It is possible that further John Hill & Co. designs were registered, however the Board of Trade records from mid-1915 are incomplete<sup>41</sup>. In the same year J. Hill figures that are marked and dated but with no registration numbers begin to appear. As such, it is suggested that there were no further J. Hill figures registered with the Board of Trade.

To date, eleven dated examples have been identified from a simple Fusilier and a khaki infantryman, both at slope and dated 27.02.15, through to a khaki infantryman figure charging with fixed bayonet likely dated 23.10.16, although the final digit of the year on this figure remains uncertain.

The complete list of known marked dated figures is as follows:

1. Fusilier at slope, movable arm.  
Dated 27.2.15 on base



Rob Wilson collection

2. Khaki infantryman at slope, movable arm.  
Dated 27.2.15 on base



Rob Wilson collection

40. 1861 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 9; Piece: 61; Folio: 112; Page: 39; GSU roll: 542566. Ancestry.com

41. N. Joplin G.W. Wood & Co. *The Forgotten Manufacturer Part2*. Op cit.



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)

3. Infantryman standing firing.  
Dated 20.05.15 on base



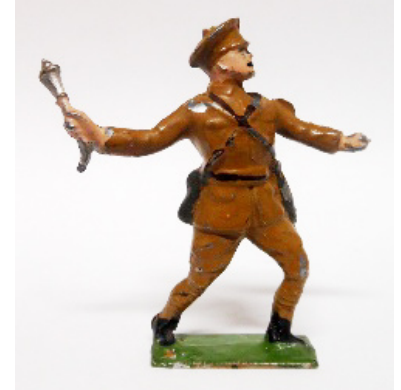
Author's collection

6. Mounted Lancer with  
moveable arm.  
Dated 23.10.15 on horse's belly  
Hill 1923/24 sheet ref. 202/45/35



Author's collection

9. Khaki peak cap drummer  
Dated 25.03.16 on base



Featured in Philip Dean's book  
'Johillco Second to None'

4. Khaki 'Bandolier' Infantryman.  
Dated 08.08.15 on base



Norman Joplin collection

7. Sailor at attention  
Dated 1.12.15 on base



Norman Joplin collection

10. Khaki peak cap drummer  
Dated 25.03.16 on base



Featured in Philip Dean's book  
'Johillco Second to None'

5. Sailor 'Bluejacket'  
kneeling at guard.  
Dated 11.09.15 on back



Norman Joplin collection

8. WWI prone infantryman.  
Dated 11.12.15 on stomach



Norman Joplin collection

11. Charging infantryman. Dated  
23.10.16 (possibly 23.10.18) on  
inside of right leg



Rob Wilson collection

## JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS *(Continued)*

The Copyright Act 1911 no longer required the toy sculptor's name and the date that the original work was made to be specifically marked on a 'work', as had been required following the 1902 legal case when Britains sued the Hanks Brothers for copying their figures. However, it is lucky for us that many toy soldier makers were unsure of the protection afforded to them by the 1911 Act. As such, makers like Britains, REKA, Hanks and John Hill continued for several years to produce toy soldiers with names and dates marked, providing us with a chronology for the release of their early figures.

In answer therefore to the question '*What were the first John Hill & Co. figures to be produced?*', considering the variation in the quality of sculpting of the sixteen registered or dated figures shown above, and on the basis of style and form alone, it is suggested that the Fusilier at slope and the khaki infantryman at slope, both with a movable right slope arm, were likely the first figures that the Wood brothers produced.

## John Hill & Co. – The early years and the parting of the ways

If the eldest brother, George William Wood, did ever work in the John Hill & Co. business it seems probable that very early into starting production, around mid to late 1912, he decided to leave his younger brothers.

As noted in a previous article by Norman Joplin, the business *G.W. Wood and Company* is listed in the 1913 Directory of Toys and Games Manufacturers at an address of 139 New North Road.<sup>43</sup> In order to be able to be listed in the 1913 Directory it would be necessary to make this arrangement with the publishers of the directory by late 1912.

George W. Wood established this business with a William Hubert ROSE. Of the latter nothing certain has been established at this time, but he is likely to have been a pawnbroker located at 175 New North Road.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the brothers going their separate ways was that George William Wood wanted to distribute and wholesale his toy soldier figures as boxed sets instead of as single figures. This is what he did when he started G.W. Wood and Co, although it must be acknowledged that there are no boxes known to be specifically printed with the name G.W. Wood. A very small number have been found containing figures registered to him, as has also been found to be the case for some boxed sets produced by Brushfield Manufacturing Company (B.M.C.). For this reason, it is assumed that G.W. Wood moved to work for B.M.C. in around 1915, as his business *G.W. Wood and Company* ceased to appear as a toy maker from this time. There is no indication

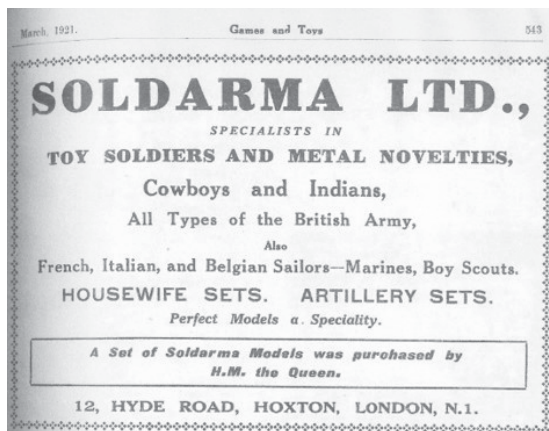
that George Wood, at the age of 35 in 1915, joined either the British army or navy during World War I which might have otherwise explained his company ceasing to exist. It should be noted that B.M.C. figures ranged in scale from 54mm to 60mm and 70mm, whereas the registered and dated John Hill figures shown above are all around 54mm scale.

Frederick Howe Wood and his younger brother Sidney, on the other hand, appear to have chosen to distribute their figures as single figures, probably in simple cardboard boxes for safe transport and display, and John Thomas Hill is likely to have continued his association with the Wood brothers as one of their distributors. Only later did John Hill & Co. begin to distribute a limited range of *Britannia's Soldiers* boxed figures through toy stores. For this reason, no early branded John Hill & Co. boxed sets have been identified, and few *Britannia's Soldiers* boxes have survived.

In January 1919 G. W. Wood registered another company, *Soldarma Limited*, of which he was the main shareholder.<sup>44</sup> The purpose of *Soldarma Limited* appears to have been to promote George Wood's own range of toy soldier figures. An advertisement for *Soldarma Limited* in *Games and Toys* dated March 1921 proclaims proudly that Her Majesty the Queen purchased a set



## 1914 Kellys Trade Directory



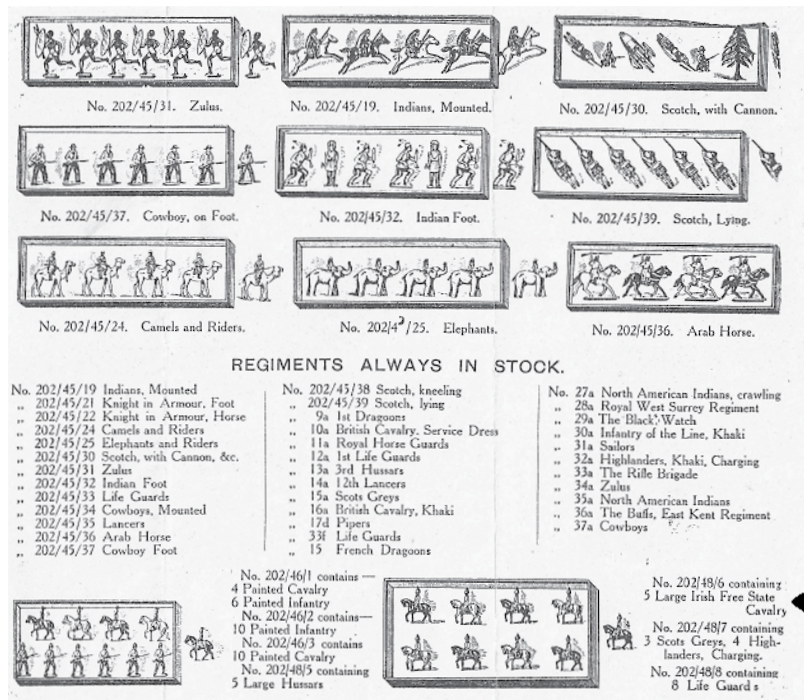
**March 1921 Soldarma advertisement, 11 months after George. W. Wood's death.**

43. Joplin, N. G.W. *Wood & Co. Part 1 The Forgotten Manufacturer*. OTS V35N4 Winter 2012 Pg 16.

44. UK National Archives. Ref BT 31/24341/152669.



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



1923 or 1924 Hill catalogue sheet

of Soldarma models. It is likely that this purchase took place at the 1921 British Industries Fair which was held between 21 February and 4 March at White City, Shepherd's Bush, London. However, unfortunately, George Wood had already died suddenly on 29 April 1920<sup>45</sup> and, although his wife Jane Elizabeth ran the business for a further year, by October of 1921 the *Soldarma Limited* company had been wound up. Possibly due to George Wood leaving *Brushfield Manufacturing* to start up *Soldarma Limited*, B.M.C. also went into receivership and was liquidated in May 1921.

Following George Wood's death and the liquidation of both B.M.C. and *Soldarma*, it appears that his brothers at John Hill & Co. acquired the inventory of stock and possibly also several moulds either from B.M.C., or from George's estate, or from both.

This possibility is considered for several reasons. Firstly, a John Hill & Co. catalogue sheet lists figures that were in the B.M.C. range but have never been identified specifically as Hill figures. This sheet must be dated from 1923 or 1924 (shown at left) because it includes a reference to Irish Free State figures. The individual figures numbered 202/45/XX listed on the sheet are John Hill & Co. original figures, for example the Arab Horse figure. Those numbered 9a, 10a, and so on, are thought to be G.W. Wood and / or B.M.C figures. The sheet also refers to 'large' scale figures that had been more associated to this point with B.M.C. but not with Hill, such as the Hussar figure shown to the left which was produced in 60mm scale.

Further, the fact that there are duplicate figures listed, such as Zulus and Cowboys, also strongly supports the idea of a recent merging of product lists, as does the two different numbering formats on the catalogue sheet.

The Irish Free State cavalry figure, painted in the green uniform colour of the Irish Free State army to coincide with the new nation's proclamation on



3rd Kings Own Hussar and Irish Free State cavalry figures, items 202/48/5 and 202/48/6 in the catalogue sheet above (Norman Joplin collection)

Hill Sheet listed toy soldier reference and corresponding B.M.C. figures

5 French Dragoons



17d Pipers



31a Sailors



33a The Rifle Brigade



Boxed sets above are from Rob Wilson's collection

45. 1921 England Census. RG15/886 Dist10/Sub3/Enum14\_0013. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk.

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



John Hill & Co. Black Watch figure is same scale as B.M.C. figures. It is thought to originally have been a George W. Wood design.  
(Author's collection)

6 December 1922, has a movable arm that is very similar to the Hussar but again is slightly larger than standard 54mm scale. These two figures therefore also strongly suggest the association between B.M.C. and John Hill & Co., the Hussar by its larger scale similar to B.M.C. and the Irish trooper by its John Hill & Co. 54mm scale but movable arm almost identical to the Hussar.

The four boxed sets pictured above are all examples of B.M.C. toy soldiers that are listed, but not illustrated, on the John Hill & Co. sheet also shown above.

For these examples, no toy soldier with J. Hill & Co. markings has ever been found. This is despite the fact that for around seventy five percent of known pre-war Hill toy soldiers, there is a version either marked 'J.H', 'J. Hill', 'J. Hill & Co', or 'Johillco'. This obvious distribution of the B.M.C inventory of finished stock by John Hill & Co. is best explained by an association between the two companies through George. W. Wood, although once again it must be acknowledged that no specific evidence has so far been found to confirm that G.W. Wood was indeed employed at B.M.C.

It does also appear that the Wood brothers at John Hill acquired one or more moulds, most likely from their sister-in-law, as the *Soldarma* business was being liquidated. The Black Watch Highlander figure, which is suggested to be Figure 29a

in the catalogue sheet above, is the obvious example. Larger in scale than the usual 54mm scale John Hill & Co. figures, it was an enduring figure in the company's toy soldier figure range through all the pre-war period.



Several versions of this (approximately 60mm scale) figure have been identified. These are:

1. Rectangular base marked 'AU', 'N' and 'ENGLAND', as shown above. Does the 'AU' stand for 'Augustus' being George. W. Wood's baptism name?
2. Rectangular base similarly marked to the above, but also marked 'MADE IN ENGLAND' on the figure's back.
3. Base with a rounded right front corner (centre figure shown above) marked 'COPYRT', 'JOHILLCO', and 'ENGLAND'.
4. Khaki version with a taller bonnet (shown above) with neither the base nor figure being marked at all.

Other figures listed on the 1923 / 1924 sheet above that may have been moulds inherited from George W. Wood include some smaller 43mm scale figures (being out of character to the John Hill & Co. 54 mm standard). B.M.C. are also known to have made and distributed a number of 'B-sized' figures, generally fixed arm designs.

Returning now to May 1912, having originally commenced production from 32 Parkfield Street, Islington, the John Hill & Co. business moved across the street. First, they moved to 15 Parkfield Street, then by the 1916 *Kelly's Trade Directory* the business had expanded to be located across 15, 16, 17, & 32 Parkfield Street, Islington. At that time all these premises, in what was a short street, were mid-Victorian terrace house style buildings.

By 1922 the company had consolidated to 11, 12, 16 and 17 Parkfield Street, Islington<sup>46</sup>, and the buildings were by then collectively known as the *Britannia Works*.

1924 / 1925 Sheet	1935 Catalogue	
16a British Cavalry, Khaki	4½ Khaki Cavalry	
33f Life Guards	4P Cavalry (Lifeguard)	

46. 1922 British Standard Exporter catalogue. Publisher: The Standard Catalog Co Ltd, London, Great Britain. Pg 12



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



Left: Parkfield Street in 1975. The King Edward VI public house is pictured at right, with Nos. 30, 31 and 32 Parkfield St. being the next block of buildings in the street. John Hill & Co. later manufactured from several buildings in the space occupied by the post-war building pictured at left of the photo. Image © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London)



Right: Nos. 29 (left of picture) and 28 Parkfield St in 1983, shortly before their demolition, are representative of the buildings that John Hill & Co. occupied in the same street for the manufacture of their toy soldiers. Image © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London)

around the early 1920s to an almost brown shade. Economic conditions in Britain deteriorated through the 1920s, with the unemployment rate between 1921 and 1929 not dipping much below 8%. In response John Hill & Co. reduced costs and increased productivity by reducing the number of paint colours used on their toy soldiers. A further change in the colour used for the khaki was made from the late 1920s with a return to a lighter shade. This transition in paint quality and colour can be seen below in the picture of the khaki standing firing figure.

It is thought that the company, having initially sold all their toy soldiers individually, did begin from the early 1920s onward to make commercial arrangements with toy distributors to produce boxed sets of cheaper figures under the brand *Britannia's Soldiers*.

Sets of Britannia's Soldiers have been found with and without the name 'Johillco' stamped inside the box. Boxed 'Britannia Railway Set' figures have also been identified.

By distributing most of their figures in unbranded boxes for single sale and only retailing boxed sets of toy soldiers in a limited and second grade painted range, John Hill & Co. were able to compete with the market dominant toy soldier maker, Britains Ltd, whose toy soldiers were better sculpted and painted in more detail, but sold for a higher price and were therefore mainly purchased by

1910	1914	1921	1925
<b>Parkfield street, Islington (N.) (ISLINGTON), 16 Liverpool road. MAP M 6.</b> 1 Cunnigham & Co. printers 1 Steel William, furniture broker 2 Williams Mrs. Amelia, chndr. 's' sh 11 Longley & McArthur, printers' auctioneers 11 & 12 Austin Letter Foundry Ltd. (The), typefounders 31 & 32 Wood Mrs. Sarah Ann, chandler's shop ... here is Liverpool street... 23 Hannam Vincent, coal dealer 44 Platt Daniel, shirt & collar drsr	<b>Parkfield street, Islington (N.) (ISLINGTON), 16 Liverpool road. MAP M 6.</b> 14, Verdi & Writers, drapers' hand makers 1 Die George Richard, lamp ma 2 Daley Miss Mai, chandler's shp 11 & 12 Austin Letter Foundry (A. Roddick & Co. proprietors) typefounders 21 & 22 Wood Mrs. Sarah Ann, chandler's shop ... here is Liverpool street... 23 Hannam Vincent, coal dealer	<b>Parkfield street, Islington (N.1) (ISLINGTON), 16 Liverpool road. MAP M 6.</b> 1A, Verdi & Writers, dress stand manufacturers 2 Pearce Archibald, Ernst, poultry dir 11, 12, 16 & 17 Hill John & Co. metal toy manufacturers 31 & 32 Wood S. A. chandler's shp ... here is Liverpool street... 33 Hannam Vincent, coal dealer	<b>Parkfield street, Islington (N.1) (ISLINGTON), 16 Liverpool road. MAP M 6.</b> 1A, Verdi & Writers, dress stand manufacturers 2 Pearce Archibald, Ernst, poultry dir 11, 12, 16 & 17 Hill John & Co. metal toy manufacturers 28 & 29 Hunnisman & Co. chains, glass & earthenware dealers 32 Wood S. A. chandler's shop 33 Hannam Vincent, coal dealer 44 Taylor Mrs. Es. her, firewood dir

Extracts from Kellys London street directories showing how John Hill & Co. came to dominate Parkfield Street, Islington.

As the 1923/1924 catalogue sheet shows, John Hill & Co. did sell their figures in boxes. However, the important point to note is that the greater number of their figures were not sold in branded labelled sets, as Britains and other makers figures were, but were sold in plain cardboard boxes to toy distributors such as C.E. Turnbull & Co. or Whyte Ridsdale & Co. for repackaging into department store branded boxed sets, for the counters of the new phenomenon of toy stores, or to

London's Street vendors who worked the city's various markets for sale of individual figures. For this reason, very few examples of John Hill & Co. boxes from this period exist.

John Hill toy soldiers manufactured in the first ten or twelve years of production are generally found to have been painted to a 1st grade quality, as seen by the examples of the dated figures shown above. Further, the khaki paint colour that the company used was at first a lighter colour, which then was changed



Old Toy Soldier Auction21, May 2015. The Mike Endres Toy Soldier and Military Miniatures Collection. Described as 'Britannia- Johillco Soldiers Line Infantry Post War in original box. 8 pieces'.



The toy soldiers in this box are the same figures as those in the box at left however note that the box insert is stamped 'Johillco'. Rob Wilson's collection

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)

THE OXFORD CHRONICLE.  
FRI. DAY. 7 DEC. 1923

**BUTLER'S**  
Large Assortment of Pleasing Toys for Boys and Girls.  
You are invited to come and bring your children.



**BRITANNIA'S SOLDIERS.**

TOY SOLDIERS in a variety of sizes.  
Prices 6d., 10½d., 1/3. and 1/6.

TOY SOLDIERS in a variety of sizes.  
Prices 6d., 10½d., 1/3. and 1/6.

ASSORTED RUBBER DOLLS, practically indestructible, an attractive bath toy 10in. long. Price 1/6.

Cowley Rd. and Chapel St.

10 THE TOY TRADER. August, 1929

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

**JOHN HILL & CO.**

the old established Metal Soldier Manufacturers, etc., beg to announce to the trade in general that owing to the greatly increased demand for their well-known "Britannia" series of metal toys they have found it necessary to acquire more commodious premises situated at



**2/22 BRITANNIA ROW, ESSEX ROAD, ISLINGTON, N.1**  
3 minutes from the "Angel"

which they will occupy on and from August 12th, where we trust we shall be able to satisfy our customers increased demand for our goods.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 3816.

Say you saw the advertisement in "THE TOY TRADER."

Around the middle of 1928 the problems inherent in producing toy soldiers across 4 or 5 separate buildings along Parkfield Street must have started to impact on production and so John Hill & Co. briefly relocated to larger premises in Tyssen Street, Dalston, Hackney.

However, in August 1929 the business announced in *The Toy Trader* publication that it had relocated to newly constructed premises at 2-22 Britannia Row, Islington. Having previously called their factory 'Britannia Works' and stating in the advertisement that they were well known for their 'Britannia' series of metal toys, the move to the Britannia Row location may have been planned to reinforce their claim over the 'Britannia' name. Strangely the company chose not to take up this branding opportunity, although the business remained at Britannia Row until World War II.

wealthier families for their children's nursery.

A 1923 advertisement<sup>47</sup> for Butler's Toy store in Oxford pictures a box of *Britannia's Soldiers* and shows that boxes containing between five and twenty figures sold for from 6d. to 1s.6d. By contrast, in 1921 a box of ten Britains Grenadier Guards was selling for 1s. 5½d.,<sup>48</sup> a thirty to fifty percent higher price.

It has been commented on by other writers that John Hill & Co. focused on selling their toy soldiers to the children of the lower-middle and working classes. This is now very

understandable considering the Wood brothers' early life was one of poverty and struggle. They clearly knew what their customers wanted and what they could afford. The predominantly khaki palette of the pre-war Hill range of toy soldiers, together with there being only two John Hill & Co. marked khaki clad officer figures available to command a young boy's company of toy soldiers (451C – 54mm scale and 575A – 80mm scale), reflected the fathers, uncles, and older brothers who were, or had been, the real-life soldiers that the working-class boys would have been familiar with.

In a February 1932 *Games & Toys* feature article<sup>49</sup>, the more modern sounding company name of *Johillco* is first mentioned, and sometime after this date the *Britannia's Soldiers* range of boxed soldiers was phased out and boxed sets of toy soldiers under the grey *Johillco* brand were issued thereafter. The boxed sets pictured below are an example of the transition in this period.

The illustrated 'Johillco' branded catalogue, reproduced with the pink cover well-known to collectors, is thought for the following reason to



Boxed Hill figures, sold in one lot at a 2012 Bonhams auction, demonstrate the change in brand from Britannia to Johillco.

47. Butler's, *The Oxford Chronicle*, 7 Dec. 1923. Pg17

48. Kennards Toys, *Surrey Mirror*, 11 Nov. 1921. Pg6

49. *Games & Toys*. (Trade Journal) February 1932. Pg 64.



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



Infantry of the Line at guard: L to R –smaller 2nd class paint version marked 'J. Hill & Co'; Royal West Surrey figure marked 'J. Hill & Co'; 2nd class paint version, 'squared' base marked 'Johillco'. Norman Joplin collection



Charging Australian. The first figure is painted in the earlier lighter khaki colour, and the base is marked 'J. Hill' but is not listed in 1920s sheet or the 1935 catalogue. Author's collection (L) Norman Joplin collection (R)

date from 1935. On page 63 of the catalogue a 'Belisha' traffic beacon (item 656) is illustrated. This was named after the Minister of Transport, Leslie Hore-Belisha, who introduced the beacons to pedestrian crossings, which were at the time only marked on the road with thin chevron like stripes and large metal studs. The first beacons were installed to pedestrian crossings from October 1934 and rapidly deployed to the point where, by early 1935, some 10,000 beacons had already been installed.

Only a small number of 'John Hill' marked figures have been found where the mould, usually the base,

was recast for the transition across to the 'Johillco' branding. This is not to say that figures that are marked 'John Hill & Co', or 'J.Hill' were no longer produced once the 'Johillco' brand became pre-eminent. The aforementioned officer figures are examples that continued to be cast with the marking 'J. Hill & Co'. However, it is likely that some Hill figures (with obviously out of date uniforms) were phased out as newer 'Johillco' figures were introduced. Other 'John Hill' marked figures were however later specifically re-cast with the 'Johillco' marking.

The classic Infantry of the Line figure at guard is the first example. In the

picture below the central figure is likely to be the Royal West Surrey Regiment figure 28a listed in the 1923/1924 catalogue sheet because of the figure's black cuffs. The majority of later John Hill line infantry at guard figures were not painted to a standard where the uniform could be clearly distinguished between the Royal West Surrey or 'The Buffs' East Kent Regiment (figure 36a also listed in the 1923/1924 catalogue sheet).

In addition to the figures shown above, there is a fourth version of the Hill Infantry of the Line toy soldier; a 'squared' base figure marked 'J.Hill & Co' which has also only been found to date in 2nd class painting.

A second example is the charging Australian figure. Strangely, although it appears with both 'J.Hill' and 'Johillco' marked bases, the figure is not listed in either the earlier 1923/1924 sheet or the 1935 catalogue. It does however appear in the 1940 Update Sheets as a figure included in sets 17/31 and 32/20.

In a similar way to the 60mm Black Watch figure pictured on a prior page, the earlier 'J.Hill' version of the Australian also has a unique '8 BTC' marking that does not appear on other Hill figures. This marking does not correspond to any catalogue numbering and its meaning is currently unclear.

A further interesting figure is the transition seen with the khaki standing firing figure. The picture below shows that in fact the figure changed when the Johillco brand came into effect. Despite retaining the same general appearance with



Khaki standing firing figure: (from left to right in chronological order) Original 1915 dated version; darker khaki uniform colour version simply marked England on base and leg; later lighter khaki uniform colour; Johillco version in lighter khaki.



# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)

the peaked cap and puttees, the more upright angle of the soldier's stance and lower elevation of the rifle can be seen.

Although toy industry publications on John Hill & Co. only ever feature Frederick Howe Wood, (such as the Feb 1932 *Games & Toys* article and the photograph of Frederick Howe Wood<sup>50</sup> shown above), the records show that other members of the Wood family were very much involved in the business.

In 1921, for example, George Sidney Wood and Henry George Reuss, F. H. Wood's two younger brothers, were employed respectively as a travelling salesman and metal toy caster for John Hill & Co. Their cousin, George Luxton, was also employed as a toy caster.<sup>51</sup>

By 1939, records show George Sidney Wood's occupation now to be *Works Manager*, and Henry George REUSS's occupation was now *Metal Toy Manufacturer Foreman*. The two sons of Henrietta Gladman, who was Frederick Howe Wood's younger half-sister, also worked at John Hill & Co. In the 1939 records the Gladman nephews are living at the old Wood family home at 32 Parkfield St, Islington and their occupations are both shown as *General Metal Worker*.<sup>52</sup>

## The last pre-WW II John Hill & Co. toy soldiers

After war was declared on 3 September 1939, John Hill & Co. continued to operate as a toy soldier business. An undated letter on Johillco letterhead, which accompanied a three-page list of alterations, deletions and additions to the product and price list, confirms that the business carried on production in the face of the 'unfortunate circumstances prevailing' and that despite the likelihood of difficulties the company would continue to try to 'fill all orders we receive to the satisfaction of all concerned'. The letter is considered to date from early 1940, as it makes no suggestion of the business being required to assist the war effort and retool to production of military materiel. In the case of Britains Ltd, the company was able to continue toy soldier production up until May 1941, after which the factory's output was required to convert to producing war materiel.<sup>53</sup>

The list that was attached with the letter shows price changes, additions and deletions to the illustrated catalogue with box and toy soldier references that match to the pink illustrated Johillco catalogue.

The list shows Set 17/35 R.A.F. Cadets, a set number that is blank in

the 1936 catalogue which suggests that the figure was first introduced between 1936 and 1940. This figure is more generally found painted as a Home Guard. Since the Home Guard was only set up from May 1940 it is reasonable to suggest that the R.A.F. Cadet paint version was produced first.

The list also records the last pre-1945 toy soldiers to be added to the range. These last John Hill & Co. figures are 'pictured below'.



947C Marching Highlanders (Post-war version show above)



950C Captain, with revolver, steel helmet



951 Grenade Thrower, khaki



952 Sentry with anti-gas uniform



953C Infantry in battle dress



954C Infantry, charging, khaki



Rare R.A.F. Cadet figure introduced between 1936 and 1940, then also painted in greater volume as a Home Guard. (Norman Joplin collection)

50. Featured in N. Joplin and P. Dean 'Old Toy Soldiers & Figures 1900-1938: Four Decades of British Advertising', Self-Published (2011), Pg.84

51. 1921 England Census. RG15/999 Dist10/Sub6/Enum38\_0585. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk

52. 1939 England and Wales Register. National Archives. 139 Register; Ref. RG 101/272G. Ancestry.com

53. Opie, J. *Britains Toy Soldiers. The History and Handbook 1893-2013*. (2016) Pen & Sword Military, Barnsley. Pg 156.

# JOHN HILL & COMPANY, THE EARLY YEARS (Continued)



955C Infantry, charging, steel helmet



956C Infantry, marching, steel helmet



957C Infantry, kneeling, steel helmet



958C Infantry, marching, with slung rifle

During the Luftwaffe's bombing blitz, on 15 October 1940, a German parachute mine bomb landing near the Britannia Row factory exploded causing catastrophic damage to the building, equipment and stores. According to Shamus Wade<sup>54</sup>, the site was hit a second time by incendiary bombs on the night of 16/17 April 1941 completing the devastation.

This is usually cited by others as the reason for the business, including the moulds that survived, being sold to Mr J. M. Standing and Mr. J. Cooper in 1945. There is no doubt that this catastrophic damage was likely a major contributing factor for deciding not to continue with the business. However, it was the sudden death of F. H. Wood's younger brother George Sidney Wood on 18 December

1943,<sup>55</sup> at the age of only 53, that was critical. He was the brother who had worked with Frederick in the business from the very beginning. This was probably the main cause for not resurrecting the business after the war had ended. Frederick's age (64 in 1945) and that of his other brother Henry George (62 in 1945) suggest the time had simply come for them both to retire, rather than to pass the business on to the next generation of the Wood family.

In 1946 the John Hill & Co. business was relocated from London to Burnley in Lancashire, and the business was renamed *John Hill & Co. Metal Toy Manufacturers*. But that is another story!

**Richard Forrester**



London County Council Bomb Damage map, 1946, showing that John Hill & Co.'s factory at 2-22 Britannia Row was totally destroyed.  
London Metropolitan Archives.

## Acknowledgements:

*I would like to thank Norman Joplin for sharing his many years of research, his deep knowledge, his guidance, and his enjoyment of our hobby with me, and for contributing photographs of toy soldiers in his collection for this article. I wish to thank Rob Wilson for also contributing photos of rare figures and boxes from his collection that have greatly assisted to bring this article to life, and for his guidance in bringing it to completion. Please also see my previous article 'Hanks Brothers Toy Soldier Manufacturers', Old Toy Soldier Volume 45 Number 2 – Summer 2021.*

54. Wade, S. The Johillco Centenary Dinner. OTS 1998

55. 1944, England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858 – 1995. Pg 510. Ancestry.com

# **ALERT!**

## **NEW BARGAIN ROOM PROTOCOL**

**OLD TOY SOLDIER**

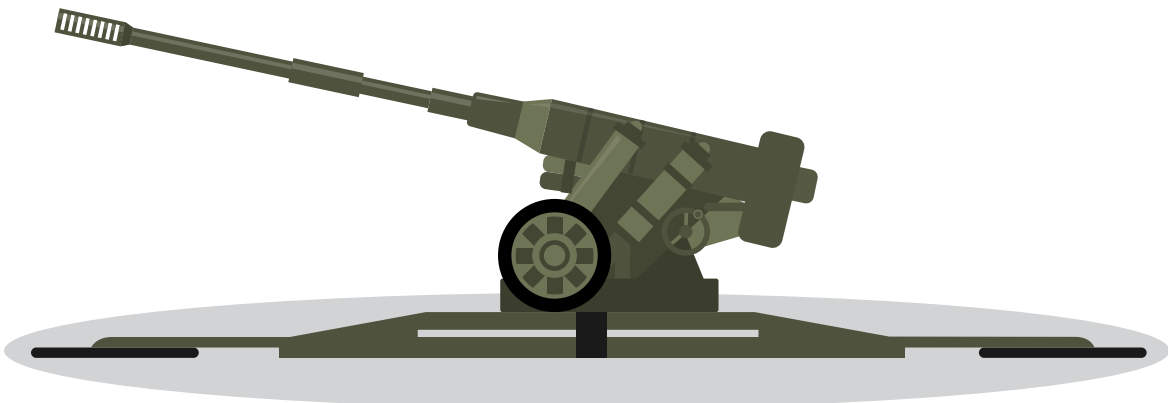


**AUCTIONS USA**

**OLD TOY SOLDIER AUCTIONS  
FAMOUS BARGAIN ROOM  
WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 4317  
AND OPEN FROM  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND  
THROUGH SATURDAY THE 24TH!**

**INVENTORY IN THE ROOM WILL BE REFRESHED DAILY.  
TOY TROOPS OFFERED AT SUPER LOW PRICES.**

**COME JOIN  
THE BATTLE  
AT YOUR LEISURE!**





# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS

*By Bill Anderson*

## 1. BRITAINS



The fact that no Regiment of that title ever existed did not deter Britains from issuing sets titled "South Australian Lancers". Set 49 has received a lot of attention in most toy soldier reference books and no other Britains set has come under such scrutiny.

The books by Joe Wallis provide serious collectors with background information, dates of production, set contents and box details, and he goes into great detail in dealing with this set. His detective work uncovered the story of how the illustration by Richard Simkin, whose paintings inspired many of Britains figures, was probably the inspiration for this set. This could be regarded as one of Britains rare mistakes in terms of accuracy in military matters.

Britains were one of the first makers to produce a set under the name of the South Australian Lancers. Unfortunately, their first version was wrong on various counts! It was depicted wearing a slouch hat and a full-dress blue lancer's tunic with red plastron and mounted on the "rocking horse". This version is one of the rarest of all the Britains early sets. As noted in my previous article, the uniform worn was actually that of the New South Wales Lancers. Britains soon realized their mistake and brought out a corrected 2nd version.

### Britains Set 49, First Version, 1896



Set 49, First Version, 1896



Britains Set no. 49, First Version Trooper, 1896

### Britains Set 49, Second Version, 1897-1901



Set 49, Second Version, 1897-1901, boxed set



Britains Set no. 49, Second version, 1897-1901

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS *(Continued)*

## Britains Set 49, Third Version, 1901-1919



Set no.49, Third version. 1901-1919



Set no. 49, Third version, Trooper, 1901-1919

The 2nd revised version still used the “rocking horse”, but with the new and now familiar ceremonial uniform and helmet to coincide with the Jubilee Procession. This set is also quite rare, being available for just 4 years. Examples can still be found occasionally at auctions.

A third version, using the improved, slightly more realistic, 1 eared galloping horse with a redesigned tail was introduced to replace the older less attractive “rocking horse”. The horse had the date stamped on its belly.

The 4th version, with the further improved “2-eared” horse, was introduced in 1919. This version had no date stamp but was otherwise very similar to the one-eared one. The box label was still without the serial number, which was present on the next version and provides a useful means of determining the age of the set.



Set no. 49, Third version, boxed set

## Britains Set no.49, Fourth version, 1919-1925



Set no.49, Fourth version, boxed set





# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS *(Continued)*



Set no. 49, Fourth version, Officer



Set no. 49, Fourth version, boxed set



Set no. 49, ????????

The paint finishes can also be a clue to distinguishing the vintage of the set. Earlier sets were painted in a brownish khaki hue. Later ones adopted a more grey/green khaki. Figures from the 1920s and early 1930 used the brown hue, and those from the later 1930s the grey/green tones. Very late issues from 1940 had no moustaches.

## Britains Set no.49, Final version, 1925-1941

After 1925, the sets no longer had the date stamped on the horse's underbelly. Apart from this, the only other difference I can ascertain between this and previous issues was the introduction of a serial number no. 459993 which appears under the W. Britain trademark on the box label. Previous sets had the same label but without this number. The set continued in this form until 1941. A cutout insert card was introduced around 1931, but this was not used exclusively, with the traditional tie card also in use.



Examples of the cutout insert card, circa 1931.



# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS *(Continued)*

## 2. OTHER HOLLOWCAST MAKERS



Hanks boxed set



Hanks, pirated copy

The Hanks “pirated” copy of Britains original set 49 was issued in the same year that Britains issued their 1st. version. The Hanks set includes both an officer and a trumpeter. It was a direct copy of the Britains figure with only minor differences. Hanks, along with Renvoize, were sued successfully by Britains for infringing their copyright.

## 3. NEW TOY SOLDIERS

### *Nostalgia*

What became known as the “New Toy Soldier” emerged in the early 1970s to pick up where Britains had left off in 1966, when the production of hollow-cast toy soldiers ceased.

Shamus Wade launched the Nostalgia range, “made in the style of the old toy soldier”, in 1974. Many others followed. His unique range was meticulously researched and sculpted, they represented different and sometimes obscure regiments of the old British Empire and Commonwealth. He almost single-handedly launched the “New Toy Soldier” as we now know it.

They were sold by mail order and produced at a rate of “one new regiment each month”. The figures were produced by the Scrubys who also made the Blenheim and Marlborough figures.

Set N168 is an example of a set

produced by Shamus Wade of Nostalgia fame. They are listed in his leaflet detailing sets produced between August 1975 and 1977. In it, he describes them as taking part in Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897, although the figures in the set are dismounted. This was a limited edition issue of 650 sets.



Nostalgia set - N 168. South Australian Mounted Rifles.

### *Brigadier the Empire’s Favourite*



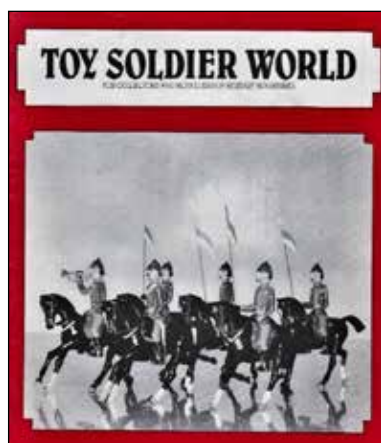
This aptly titled range of Australian made toy soldiers was produced from the early 1980s through to the mid-1990s. Almost all the figures were sold individually. They featured Australian subjects. I have never sighted any of these earlier figures from the 1984 catalogue. They must have only been produced in small numbers. The business was run by mail order from an historic country town, relying on tourists, the catalogue and mailing list for sales. Their product later became more popular later as they became better known.

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANCERS AS REPRESENTED BY TOY SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS *(Continued)*

To add to the confusion, the figures in this mid-1980s catalogue show a Lancer figure and an Adelaide Rifles figure which is similar to the Nostalgia South Australian Mounted Rifles figure. Mounted figures were listed but examples have never been sighted and probably never were produced.

## *D.B. Figurines Soldiers of the Queen*

D.B. Figurines - *Soldiers of the Queen* range, included a South Australian Lancer Officer, Troopers and Trumpeters. These are shown on the front cover of the Toy Soldier World magazine which he produced in 1991 to promote the hobby and also his range of figures. Unfortunately, only two editions of the magazine were ever produced. It was a "bi-monthly journal for collectors and modelers of model soldiers and things military".



Cover of Toy Soldier World Magazine –Issue No.1 December 1991

This mounted D.B. figure first appeared around 1990. Sold as a boxed single figure, they were produced in relatively small numbers and are quite hard to find. In spite of it being an obscure unit, as there is quite a lot of information about the regiment, it seems a pity that this is the only toy soldier example. See the first part of this article for more details.



Reed beds cavalry trooper 1860, No. M7, by D.B. Figurines

## 2.4 South Australian Lancers by contemporary makers

*William Hocker*



William Hocker, Set No. 216

Bill Hocker has been producing a range of "old toy soldier" style figures since 1983 and needs no introduction to readers of this magazine.

Bill had this set available in his extensive Diamond Jubilee series. The set was first introduced in 1998 and is still available. His aim is to have his figures look like and complement the Britains figures of old. In this example, he has the troopers mounted on a Britains style walking horse (whereas they were on galloping horses in Britains own Set 49). They go well together and complement each other.

*Fleurbaix*

Fleurbaix Toy Soldiers, from New Zealand, is a relatively unknown maker. Founded in 2008, this is a family operated, website based, business. They offer an interesting, well-sculpted range of figures. Their Lancer figure is cast in white metal, in 54mm. scale and is unpainted but can be painted to a high standard if required. The figure shown is from their "South Australian Lancer" range, which includes an officer, trooper with bugle, a trooper with rifle and a trooper with sword.





# AUCTION PREVIEW

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



## AUCTIONS USA

Herb Elfvingren was an enthusiastic collector of quality. This Tampa collector built world class collections of coins, stamps, silver and especially Medieval Toy Knights. He mainly concentrated on the master works of Richard Courtenay, Peter Greenhill and Selwyn Smith, amassing a small army. He especially liked Courtenay Tournament Knights, Greenhill Duplex figures and has one of the largest Selwyn Smith collections known. Selwyn Smith designed the highly popular Britains Knights of Agincourt figures. Selwyn personally painted some of these figures for sale. Today, they are prized figures. Fewer than 200 are known to exist.

I first meet Herb at the Valley Forge show in the late 1980's where he and his wife Cheryl would set up a small table, primarily for Herb to gain early access to the show. Cheryl was fascinated by these small works of art. She was so intrigued by the figures that Herb orchestrated a deal with famed British sculptor Al Charles to purchase his figure molds. Cheryl then started producing her own line of exquisitely painted toy knights. The family has chosen to retain these figures but is selling every other figure Herb ever purchased. Herb passed away peacefully at the age of 75, he is survived by his wife Celia and daughters Laura and Brenda.

## HERB ELFVINGREN MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS

AT AUCTION SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2022



View this auction and purchase catalogs on our website: [oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)

Ray Haradin  
raytoys@aol.com  
412-343-8733 • Fax 412-344-5273

Bre Day  
bremarieday@gmail.com  
412-841-0623



#oldtoysoldier

# DISTINGUISHING BRITAINS AND HANKS FIGURES

*By Rob Wilson*

The Hanks copy of Britains first version was undoubtedly piracy. However there are a few distinguishing features that can be used to decide whether you have a genuine Britains figure or a Hanks copy. The three images on the left hand side below show a Britains South Australian Lancer trooper. Notable features are that the horse legs are fully rounded and the lance pennon is quite solid. The lance itself is quite thick steel rod. The metal used for the casting is quite dark metallic grey. The paint finish is typical thick and opaque. The lance pennon is typically red over blue. The scabbard is usually painted silver or not at all.

The three images on the right hand side show the corresponding figure by Hanks. Notable features are that the horse legs are flat on the inside. The lance pennon is much lighter. The lance itself is thinner wire. The metal used for the casting is a much lighter and shinier tone, the paint much more likely to flake off. The paint finish is typically thin and translucent. The lance pennon is typically red over white. The scabbard is usually painted gold.





# Vectis

**Military, Civilian Figures, Equipment & Accessories Sale**  
**Monday 31st October 2022**

*Items shown for illustration purposes only*



Catalogues & online bidding at [vectis.co.uk](http://vectis.co.uk) & [invaluable.com](http://invaluable.com)

## ALWAYS WANTED FOR AUCTION

- BRITAINS MILITARY
- COMPOSITION
- TINPLATE FIGURES
- MULTIMEDIA
- MODERN ISSUES
- MILITARIA
- SOLDIER BOOKS
- PLASTIC
- PRE-WAR ISSUES
- METAL

### Vectis Head Office

Fleck Way, Thornaby  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 9JZ, UK

### Vectis Oxford Office

Unit 3, Hobley Court,  
North Leigh Business Park,  
Nursery Road, Witney,  
Oxfordshire, OX29 6AN, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1993 709424

For more information contact [simon.clark@vectis.co.uk](mailto:simon.clark@vectis.co.uk)

**Tel: +44 (0)1642 750616**

**The World's Leading Auction House for Collectable Toys**

# SPACE TOYS: AN UPDATE

*By Steve Balkin*

Recently, while going through decades of material accumulated during a lifetime spent with much ardor in the hobby that we enjoy, I chanced to come across the December-January 1994 issue of OTSN that contained an article that I put together titled "Space Adventures".

Steve Sommers (editor of the OTSN at that time) had returned the source material and photos I had provided for the piece. The original photos were taken in color, but appeared in black and white in the magazine, probably due to production costs at the time. In addition another facet of the story did not make it to press, that being the Burlington Space Factory which produced space related toys up through the Millennium.

The December- Jan. 1994 issue of OTSN I did on space toys only featured items from my collection and others that I had passed on to other collectors. We never did get to the second part of the story about the Burlington Space project.

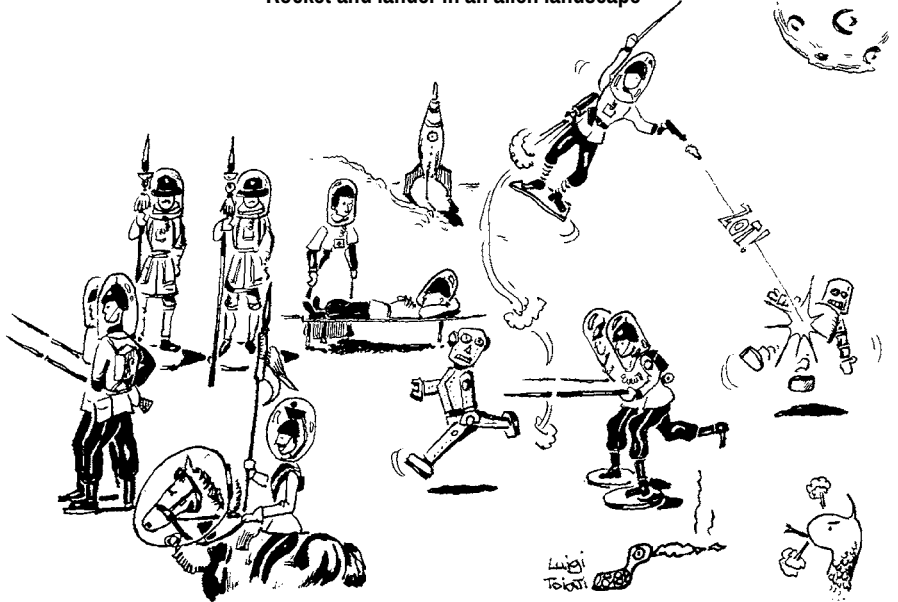
I started collecting dimestore figures from Woolworth's during the Second World War. My fascination with space figures began with viewing the old Flash Gordon serials on the tiny black and white TV screens after the war. This was soon followed by shows like "Captain Video" and "Tom Corbett Space Cadet". While on the silver screen at the local movie house I saw "Destination Moon" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still". Once again I was hooked.

Another aspect, which I did not touch on in the original article, is that I followed UFO-logy for many years, in part due to my 55 year friendship with Budd Hopkins. He was a noted and respected UFO-logist (as well as a fine artist) and authored 7 books on the subject.

In 1966 he spotted a bright light in the sky while driving one evening, just south of Provincetown Ma. I was up there at the time, but did not see it. That evening launched a lifelong interest for Budd, which over the years, he shared with me on numerous occasions. While this may not be especially pertinent to an article



Rocket and lander in an alien landscape



Lunar Space station with figures



## SPACE TOYS: AN UPDATE *(Continued)*

on toys, it just highlights my general interest in Aliens! Over a period of many years I attended many conferences and lectures that Budd organised and to which to a small degree I gave some assistance.

After years of collecting Britains Ltd., Johillco, Crescent and Archer, one day I decided to produce some of my own designs. I first contacted my pal Bill Hunter, another ex merchant marine. Bill had a small machine shop and he could make just about anything with his engineering skills.

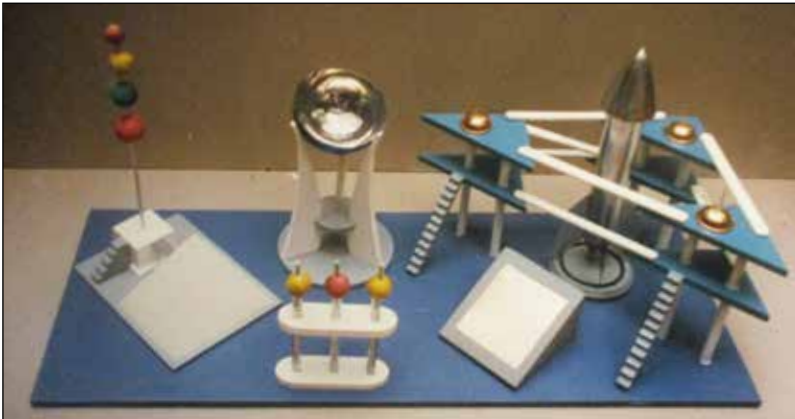
Sadly, after Bill had passed, I was lucky to meet Dan Schnieder a holographic artist. His skills added a new dimension to the work. I was able to get Mr. Pemzec of CBG Mignot to make the Martians from the "War of the World" diorama available to collectors again.



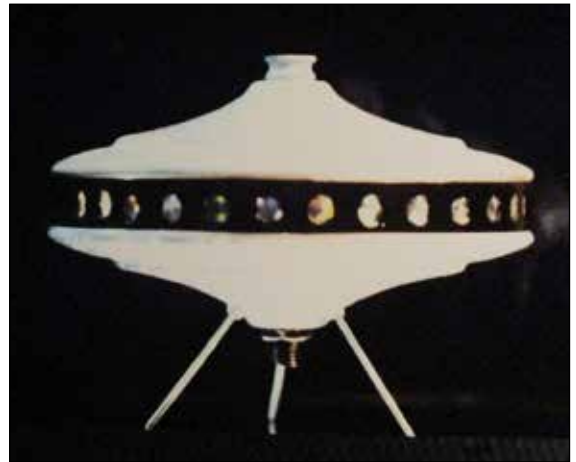
Martian space station



Spacecraft based on "assorted junk"



Another space station - this one more like those produced to accompany Johillco figures



Classic Flying Saucer



And another, coming in to land



Another spacecraft engineered from assorted domestic items

## SPACE TOYS: AN UPDATE *(Continued)*

I also got Ducal to make some aliens as well!

We even displayed an exhibit at the Nassau County Art Museum and shared the bill with Mort Kunstler, the wonderful painter of historical subjects. After Dan passed on, and I

retired, the shop production halted, but I still like to create or restore some of my old space toys from time to time.

A great reference on space figures is the book, "Blast Off" by Mark Young. Mark purchased many of the items seen in the 1993 article, and a great

deal of the material made its way into his book. At any rate it is a good book on the subject.

The accompanying pictures show some examples that Steve sent to illustrate his article. They show his fertile imagination.



Unidentified space figures – two images supplied by Steve to accompany the article but without captions. Does anyone recognize them?



# TRAINS AND TOY SOLDIERS

INTRODUCES

## ShelfScapes®

10" x 30" Museum Quality Backdrops. \$30.00 unmounted, \$45.00 mounted.



#716 Trees in Winter



#1008 European Village



#592 Waterfront (toys not included)



#1221 European Winter

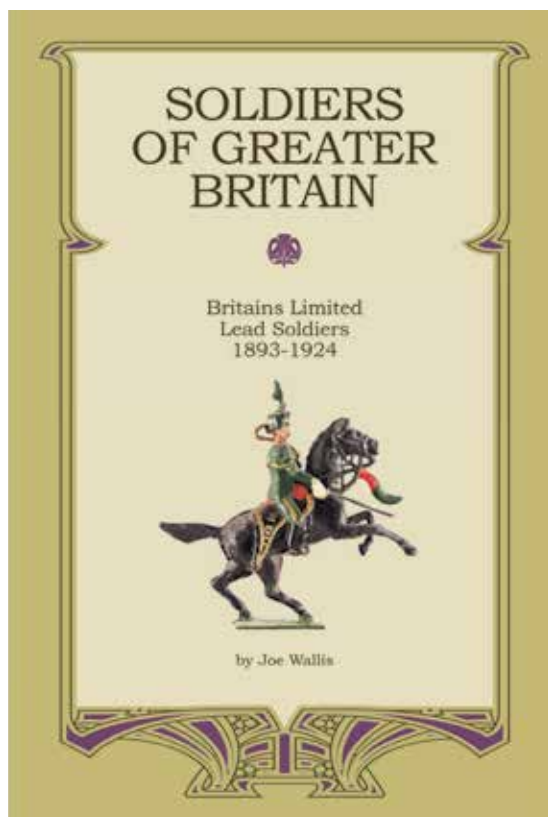


#2661 Passing Storm

Shop our website for a great selection! **800.786.1888**

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

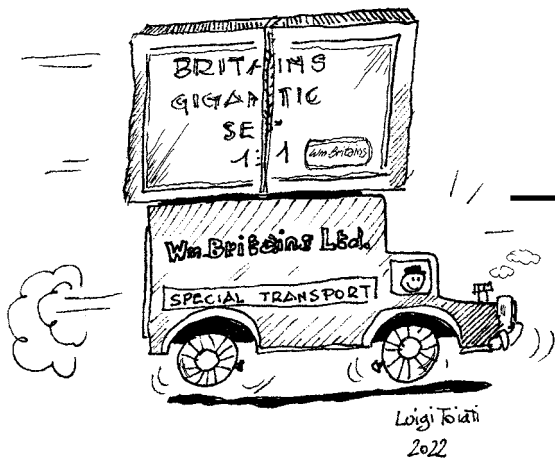
## SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN - JOE WALLIS



*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
- Includes a Company History, a chapter of Identification Hints, a Glossary, Appendices listing sets made after 1924, and a Topic Index/Finding Aid.

To get your autographed copy, send a check or money order in U.S. dollars. Credit cards are not accepted, but PayPal (to [joewallis@comcast.net](mailto:joewallis@comcast.net)) is. Send \$75 for U.S., \$110 for Canada, or \$125 to Overseas addresses (includes postage) to: Joe Wallis, P.O. Box 3407, Arlington, Virginia 22203-3407.



# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

*By Rob Wilson*

While carrying out my regular search of upcoming items for sale in auction, I came across an intriguing entry - "9 vintage Britain's Camel Corps mounted riders and camels and 9 other Britain's figures, one on horseback". While I was not overly optimistic, it had to be followed up.

Ryedale's "Collectors Sale: Railwayana, Militaria and other Collectors items" was a general sale of such items, including a number of toys. Working through to the toy soldiers, I was surprised and delighted to find that the lot was everything I could have hoped for. A full set of 9 British Camel Corps figures from the elusive Set #131!

As I poured over the auction catalogue I gradually realised that, in fact, almost the whole of Set #131 was on offer in the various lots, including an original box! There were 18 lots on offer. Lots 157b-157r contained the following, (auctioneer's descriptions):

157b Vintage Britain's horse drawn field gun (broken) and ambulance sets. Also 3 pack mules, one with cannon.

157c Vintage Britain's field gun and medical Corps ambulance set, 5 mules (1 missing leg).

157d Vintage Britain's 4.7" naval field gun and horse drawn supply wagon.

157e 24 vintage Britain's Coldstream Guards in action, one articulated with field glasses.

157f Collection of vintage metal Britain's Gordon Highlanders marching with pipers.



Lot 157b: RA gun team; RAMC Ambulance and 3 mules from Mountain Artillery set



Lot 157c RA gun team; 2nd RAMC Ambulance and 5 more mules



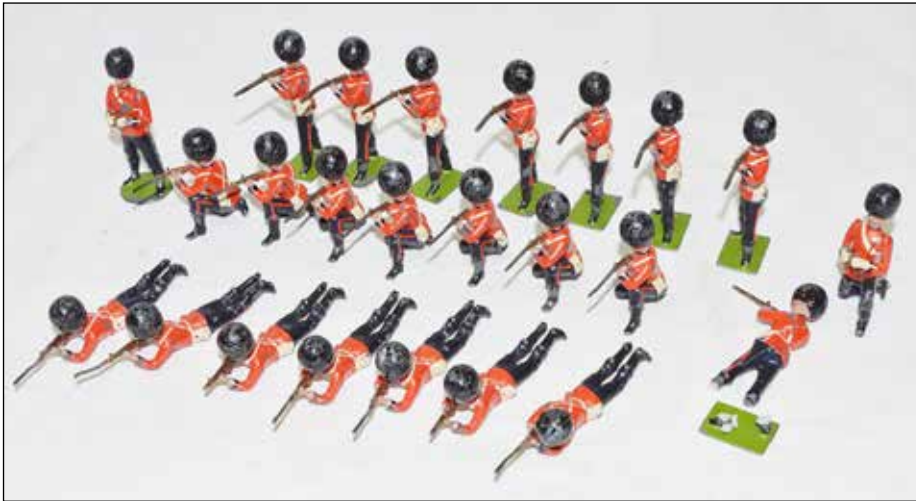
Lot 157 RASC wagon and RN 4.7" gun

157g 27 vintage Britain's/Johillco light infantry figures and separate flag bearer (a/f).

157h 23 vintage Britain's metal toy figures, British army medical Corps, includes 7 stretcher bearers, 3 officers, 4 nurses and 8 casualties. Also 3 stretchers.



# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE *(Continued)*



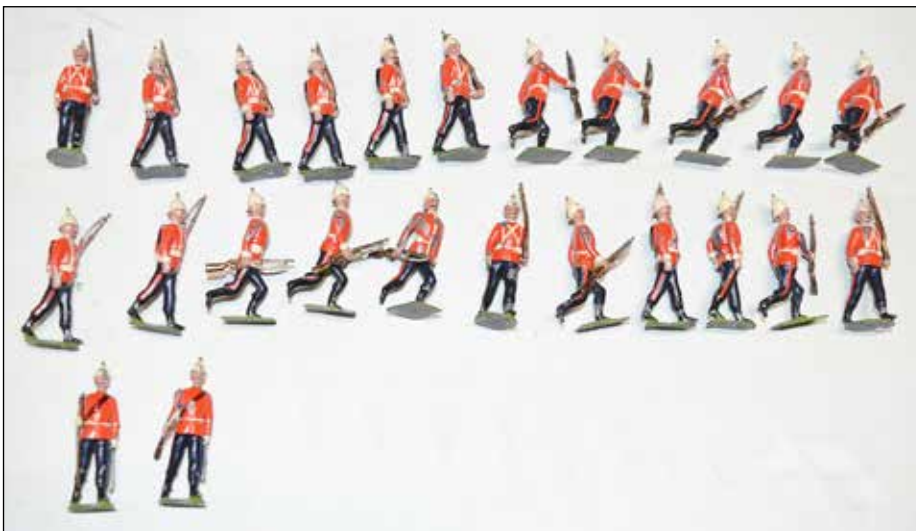
Lot 157e Scots Guards firing with officers (standing officer on an oval base)  
(incorrectly described by the auctioneer as Coldstreams)



Lot 157g RAMC with nurses and casualties (note the paper labels, and two extra bearers)



Lot 157f Gordon Highlanders with pipers



Lot 157g Worcestershire Regiment



Lot 157i Coldstream Guards Band

# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE (Continued)

157i Vintage Britain's band of the Coldstream Guards. 24 standing bandsmen and 3 other mounted soldier figures, all cast metal.

157j 9 vintage Britain's Camel Corps mounted riders and Camels and 9 other Britain's figures, one on horseback.

157k 12 vintage Britain's mounted infantry and officer commanding, with articulated right arms.

157l 12 vintage metal Britain's Dragoon figures.

157m 13 vintage metal Britain's Dragoons with articulated right arms.

157n 12 vintage metal Britain's Lifeguards, all articulated right arms.

157o 13 mounted Scots Guards, vintage metal figures by Britain's.

157p 12 vintage metal Lancers by Britain's. All articulated right arms.

157q 8 vintage cast metal lancers, 2 Hussars and 2 mounted buglers from Britain's toy soldier range.

157f Large three tier wooden box with compartments, housed Britain's collection (empty).

Checking through the photos, I realised that (although not recognised as such by the auctioneers), this was a virtually complete example of one of Britain's rarest sets. In fact it is probably the most complete **original** set ever to come up for auction.

This was the largest set ever produced by Britains, containing over 270 pieces. The composition of the set varied over the 35 year period it was offered (1905-1939). According to Bill Miele, in an article written for *Toy Soldier Review*, Spring 1988, the composition of his early set was as follows:

## Cavalry

- o 7 rows of 12, including Royal Horse Guards, 2nd Life Guards, Scots Greys, 5th Dragoon Guards, and two rows of the 17th Lancers = 84 pieces in total



Lot 157j British Camel Corps together with Mountain Artillery gunners



Lot 157k 5th Dragoon Guards



Lot 157l 11th Hussars (incorrectly described by the auctioneer as Dragoon figures)



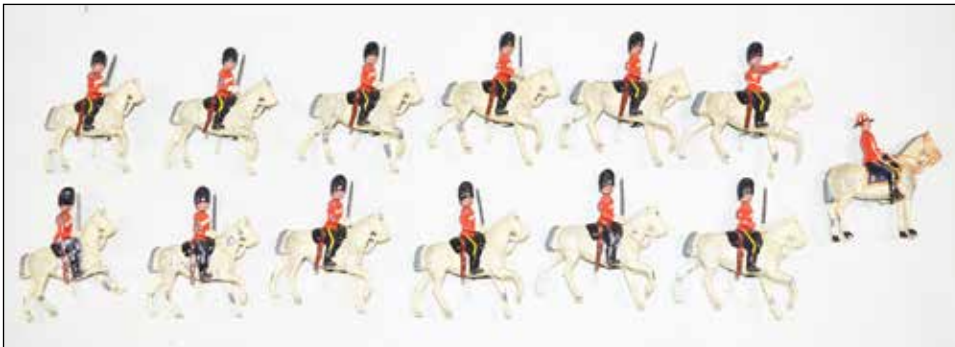
Lot 157m Royal Horse Guards with RA officer (incorrectly described by the auctioneer as Dragoons)



# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE (Continued)



Lot 157n 2nd Life Guards (inaccurately described by the auctioneer as Life Guards)



Lot 157o Scots Greys, plus the General Officer Commanding  
(incorrectly described by the auctioneer as mounted Scots Guards)



Lot 157p 17th Lancers



Lot 157q 17th Lancers with officers and trumpeters

## Infantry

- o 24 each of Worcester Regiment; Gordon Highlanders; Scots Guards in action (firing with officers, oval bases); Coldstream Guards Band = 96 pieces in total

## Royal Navy

- o 24 each Royal Navy Blue Jackets and white jackets = 48 pieces in total
- o Royal Naval Landing Party with Officer, larger limber and (smaller gun) (15 pieces)

## Others, including:

- o 2 4.7" guns (2 pieces)
- o Royal Horse Artillery gun and limber, no riding gunners (9 pieces, including an officer)
- o Royal Field Artillery gun, limber and 4 seated gunners (13 pieces, including an officer)
- o Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC) wagon (7 pieces)
- o Mountain Artillery, 8 men and mounted officer, 8 mules and 2 guns (19 pieces, counting the guns as 1 piece)
- o Camel Corps (9 or 18 pieces depending on whether the riders are counted separately from the camels)
- o General on swayback horse
- o 60 pieces in total, 69 pieces if the camels are counted separately (not normal practice).

Grand total -  $84 + 96 + 48 + 15 + 60 = 303$  pieces (or 312 pieces if the camels are counted separately). This was after he had, as Mr. Miele himself put it in the article, "restored it to health".

The Britains catalogue for 1917 states the contents of Set 131 includes Army Medical Corps, but with no mention of the Royal Navy, apart from a 4.7" Naval gun (in the singular). Britains had therefore modified the composition of the set by this date, dropping the Royal Naval contingent and replacing them by more RAMC figures, as well as a Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) wagon.

# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE (Continued)

The Ryedale set seems to be from around that period, with no sign of any Royal Navy figures, and both RASC and RAMC wagons (2 of the latter).

The set includes a number of oval as well as square based, dated and undated figures, including some with paper labels. This confirms James Opie's suggestion that Britains often made use of some older castings in making up these sets.

Given the square-based figures and the absence of short-reined Scots Greys, the set probably dates between 1908 and 1909.

The wooden box with hinged lid is complete although it has long since lost its red paper cover.

Most of the original tie cards and all the internal packaging is present apart from the tissue pads used to protect the mounted figures.

Although there are a few pieces missing, and a number damaged, the original composition of the Ryedale set seems clear:

- Cavalry** ( 72 pieces in total, including one missing piece)
- o 12, Royal Horse Guards, aiguillettes, movable arms, 1st version Officer on square based rearing horse (1 trooper missing)
  - o 12 2nd Life Guards, single eared horse, short carbines, with trumpeter
  - o 12 Scots Greys, long-rein, dated, with Officer (one damaged)
  - o 12 5th Dragoon Guards, dated, with 1st version Officer on square based, rearing horse
  - o 12 17th Lancers, pony horse, with trumpeter and Officer turned in the saddle
  - o 12 17th Lancers, identical set (just 3 in each set on bay horses)

- Infantry/foot** (120 pieces in total, including one missing piece and ignoring two "extras")
- o 24 Worcester Regiment; oval based, marching at the slope, with 2 Officers, including 10 running at the trail with square bases)
  - o 24 Gordon Highlanders; box packs with 4 oval based pipers
  - o 24 Scots Guards in action (firing with officers, square and oval bases);
  - o 24 Coldstream Guards Band, slotted arm, oval based apart from the side drummer (1 missing)
  - o 24 RAMC oval based, with some paper labels (2 extra figures also present)

- Others**, (70 pieces in total, including one missing gunner, but not counting an extra 4.7" gun nor an RHA officer))
- o 4.7" gun (possibly 1 piece missing, although the space in the box may have been taken up by the RASC wagon)
  - o Royal Horse Artillery gun and limber, no riding or seated gunners (8 pieces, no Officer present)
  - o Royal Field Artillery gun, limber and 4 seated gunners (13 pieces, including a mounted Officer) - gun damaged, 1 seated man missing
  - o Mountain Artillery, 8 oval based men and mounted Officer, 8 mules and 2 guns (19 pieces, counting the guns as 1 piece),



Lot 157r The empty box showing 2nd level trays



Back in the box - The top layer – replaced one Horse Guard



# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE (Continued)

- some damage to mules and 2 men
- o 2 Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC) wagons (14 pieces)
- o Royal Army Service Corps wagon (5 pieces)
- o Camel Corps (9 pieces, not counting riders separately from the camels)
- o General on swayback horse

Notes: The total count is 262 pieces, counting the camel corps as just 9 pieces and the mountain artillery guns as just 2 pieces, but excluding the two extra stretcher bearers included in the RAMC contingent.

The Camel Corps figures have quite dark khaki green trousers rather than the pale ochre or brown observed on

most previous examples. They also lack red facings on collars and cuffs. All this appears to be the original paint finish.

The officer for the 5th Dragoons is on a rearing rather than galloping horse as used in some early sets.

There are no RHA mounted gunners nor an officer, and just one 4.7" gun, which is correct. There are only two compartments for mounted figures which would accommodate the general and the RA officer. The Mountain Artillery Officer, would be tied on the same tie cards as the mules and gunners. There is no space for a RHA officer.

The accompanying images from the online auction catalogue show the various figures as lotted up by the

auctioneer. The final 6 images show the set back in its original box. The last image shows how the set might have looked with just a single 4.7" Naval gun and the RASC in the opposite compartment - a perfect fit!

The lots were all knocked down for a total of around £15,000 including commission (around \$20,000). This was probably a bargain for the lucky buyer. When, if ever, will we see another? Only a few examples of complete sets are known, and these have generally been "restored to health" as Bill Mielie put it. A future article will document all the known sets.



The second layer including the elusive Camel Corps and RAMC figures, (including two extra stretcher bearers)



The bottom layer – one Coldstream Guards bandsman replaced and just one 4.7" gun, leaving a gap to be filled?

# BRITAIN'S GIGANTIC SET #131 DISCOVERED IN NORTH YORKSHIRE (Continued)



The bottom layer reconfigured - a perfect fit?



The officer for the 5th Dragoon Guards on a rearing horse

## Provenance:

The previous owner, Gareth Jones, received the set in 1956 as a birthday present from his father when he was just 8 years old. Lucky fellow! He had no idea where his dad had got it from. He did not realise the box originally came with the set. As a young lad he thought his dad had made it up for him! It looks like it was stripped of its paper covering and any labels at that time and varnished, probably to make it more presentable as a birthday gift. Unfortunately, nothing further is known about its history before 1956. At that time, it would probably have been around 40 years old. Gareth Jones added the following remarks: "When I was young I lived in Rhyl North Wales This is where I was living when I received the soldiers. In those days people did not travel to the extent they do now. Logic dictates that the person who sold the soldiers to my father and mother was known to my father. I got the idea from comments made at the time that this man was much older than my father. This would not be difficult as most people were old or very old to me at that age. In my mid twenties I left home to work in other parts of the country ending up in North Yorkshire, hence the sale at Ryedale Auctioneers.

Angus Ashworth, the Ryedale auctioneer, added:

*"We are always extremely happy to sell personal collections that have been cherished and loved, especially ones in such lovely condition as it is every little boy's dream, young or old to own such a collection. It also makes us proud when collections sell as well as this one did, and I am sure the vendor will be delighted"*



The British Camel Corps – note the dark trousers and the lack of red facings

## New owner identified

The lucky new owner of the set has now been identified as Andy Morant. Andy will be well known to many of our readers as market trader and toy soldier dealer operating out of Portobello Road, London. Andy is very excited about his new find as shown by our cover shot, which shows him in front of his huge set.





# LA BOÎTE DE SOLDATS

Rare and the highest quality toy soldiers. In Paris from 1996.

François Beaumont. Expert CEA.

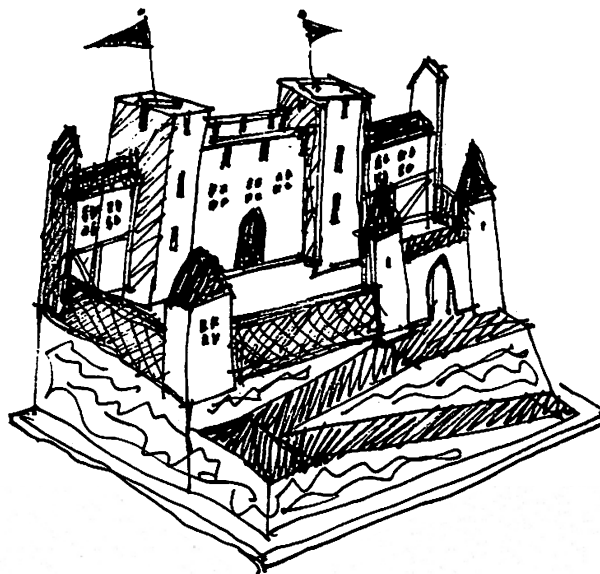


La Boite De Soldats. 28, rue Violet 75015. Paris France.

+33603782882 - [boitedesoldats@orange.fr](mailto:boitedesoldats@orange.fr)

Visit us on : <https://boitedesoldats.fr>

## WANTED



## OLD TOY CASTLES

CALL: PETER CLARK  
[202] 544-3348

WRITE: 516 A STREET, S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

E-MAIL: [psclark@verizon.net](mailto:psclark@verizon.net)

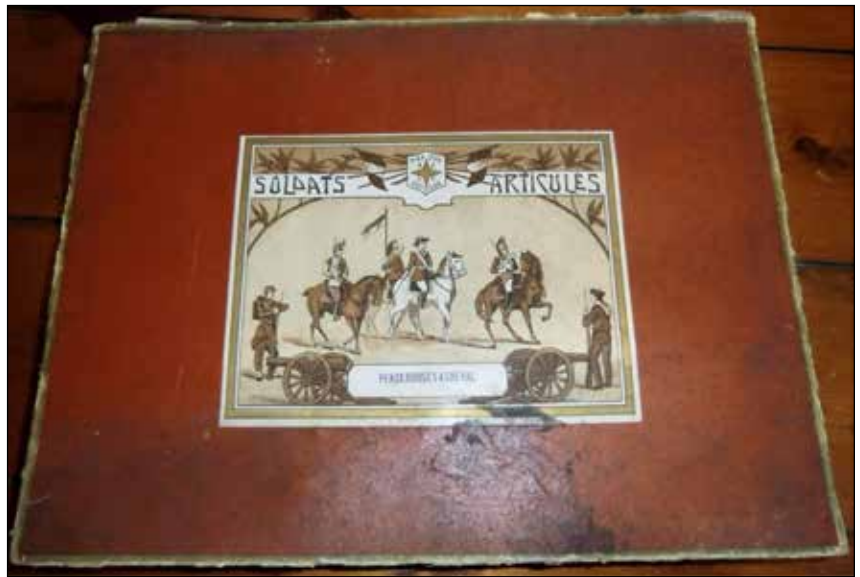
# RECONNAISSANCE

Harry Kemp has reported some more interesting finds on eBay, etc. Here we have a rare Chasseurs à Pieds bugler he found on eBay.



Harry has not spotted any other distinguishing features in the paint finishes that would differentiate them from London production. The figures have the bases stamped:

BRITAINS  
COPYRIGHT  
6-2-1908  
Depose  
GREAT BRITAIN



Another find from Harry was this wonderful set of Paris Office, Peaux Rouges in original box with AAGC label. Note that they are all mounted on the horse with a base.

It is also, interesting that the white horses have painted grey manes and tails. Often, Paris Office figures mounted on greys sold in BL label boxes did not have their manes or tails so distinguished.





# LETTERS & READER'S MESSAGES

## Russo Japanese War

Steve Balkin was inspired by Bill Anderson's article to search through his archives and came up with the following sets by Feix.



No set number but an original Feix box



The contents of the box, including tent and cannon. Note the Department store sticker.



A larger group or possibly two sets of Japanese. Note the flags on the tents and the cannon



Detail showing the Russian flag on the cannon



The equivalent Japanese piece



Finally Norman Joplin sent this splendid image of General Oshima, from a French Chocolate box!

# LETTERS & READER'S MESSAGES (Continued)

## Unidentified Two Cavalry Figures

We received the following reply from James Opie in response to my question about the unidentified two cavalry figures in the previous issue.

"Eric Sanger has provided the answer to your problem, as below:

'Both the figures are from Sarum - now I believe sadly defunct. they sold both painted figures and kits which I have.

The first figure with drawn sword is BC 29 Officer 15th Hussars 1828 the other figure is BC28 Officer 8th Hussars 1828.

Both are based on the Dubois -Drahonnet paintings commissioned by King William IV when all cavalry, apart from the Horse Guards were ordered to wear red uniforms; the hussar regiments in order to save money adopted red pelisses.' "

Thanks to both James and Eric.

Robin Boyes wrote in to comment on the articles about Britain's set 2081, which he found of great interest:

"Britains in all their Coronation Sets, and in the Pamphlet, omitted to include an extra groom to march immediately at the rear of the Coach to act as brakeman. This would then correctly define the immediate escort to the Coach. Set 2081 could have been an opportunity to correct the omission and include the missing brakeman." A rare example of Britains not getting the details right!"

## Is it Edward or is it George?

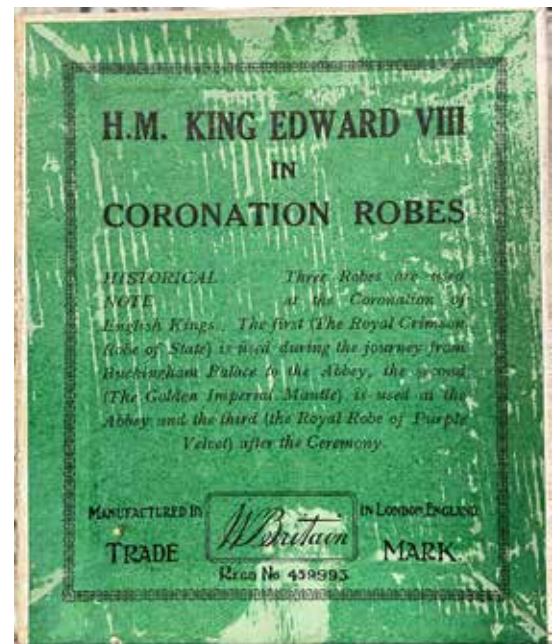
Reader Zeb Baker wrote in:

"I recently reread with interest your 2009 article, "The King That Never Was," in *Old Toy Soldier*. In it, you say that you had only personally seen one example of the King Edward VIII version of Britains set 1473. I am sure you have seen more examples in the intervening years since you published your article, but I wanted to let you know that I recently came into possession of an example, which I bought from a seller in The Netherlands. I have attached the photos. In this example, the outer label was printed green (you can also tell that another label, for the George VI version presumably, was pasted over it). On the inside, a label for the George VI version was applied over the Edward version, which you can faintly make out underneath. The box has some wear and some mild staining, but the figure itself is in mint/near mint condition. Just as you indicated, Edward's robes are painted a deeper shade of purple than those of the George VI figure, which I

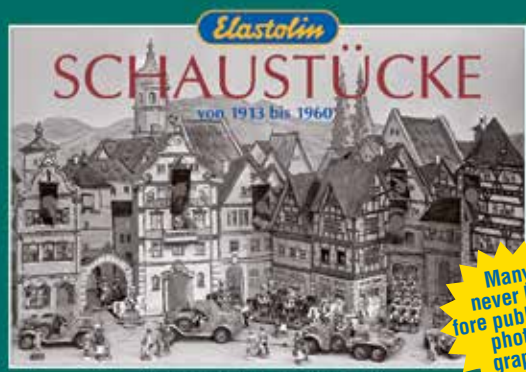


also own. Anyway, I thought you might enjoy seeing this example, which, label color aside, bear up your findings."

Zen accompanied it with the three photos alongside. Obviously originally intended to represent Edward VIII, the relabelling indicates a hasty attempt to catch up with events in the real world after Edward's abdication and George's promotion to next in line to the Throne. The original price sticker of 1 shillings and 6 pence is still attached.







## 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.

### VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN

P.O.Box 210667 · 10506 Berlin · Germany · Tel.: +49 30 392 94 90  
Fax: +49 30 398 48 166 · Email: [redaktion@figuren-magazin.de](mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de)  
Web: [www.figuren-magazin.de](http://www.figuren-magazin.de)



## ELASTOLIN Plastic figures and accessories. All items are listed in a price chart.

This book is a completely reviewed and extended edition of the standard publication from 1993 about the Elastolin figures and accessories (4 cm to 7 cm and other sizes) of the company Hauser. All hard-plastic themes are compiled together in one volume. All items are listed in a price chart and in pictures. Many almost unknown models are documented. Exact description of various versions. The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wild West to soldiers from the periods of the 18th and 20th century, as well as castles, camps, African Safari, domestic and wild animals, farms, zoos, circus, tales figures, advertising and special edition figures, mechanical toys and Bild-Lilli (the proto-type of all Barbie dolls). For the first time and only in this publication one can find 15 additional Elastolin dioramas and scenic arrangements from various historical series. Size 21.5 x 29.8 cm, 208 pages, more than 1,000 objects whereas 500 are in color photographs. Price 45.00 Euro. Shipping: EU 5.00 Euro. Non-EU and World the real costs.

FIGUREN-MAGAZIN H. Lang A. Pietruschka

P.O.Box 210 667 · D-10506 Berlin · Tel.: +49 30 392 94 90 · Fax: +49 30 3 98 48 166  
E-mail: [redaktion@figuren-magazin.de](mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de) · Web: [www.figuren-magazin.de](http://www.figuren-magazin.de)



## FIGUREN MAGAZIN

is Germany's outstanding magazine on composition and plastic figures and related accessories. Each issue is packed with information on old and recent productions, and contains articles written by authors not only from Germany but also from other countries. FIGUREN MAGAZIN's main focus is on "Lineol" and "Elastolin", but also refers to other German and foreign manufacturers.

The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and

Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wildwest to soldiers from the period of the 20th century. Beside toy soldiers there also are vehicles and other accessories, especially for WW II scenarios, as well as civilians, animals and much more. Each issue is very well illustrated. There are four issues per year.

Editors: Helmut Lang and Andreas Pietruschka

Subscriptions rates: Europe 33.00 Euro, Overseas (Air Mail) 39.00 Euro (prices include shipping and postage). Contact:

### VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN

P.O.Box 210667, 10506 Berlin, Germany  
Tel.: +49 30 392 94 90, Fax: +49 30 398 48 166  
Email: [redaktion@figuren-magazin.de](mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de)  
Web: [www.figuren-magazin.de](http://www.figuren-magazin.de)



## ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1960-1983

The most beautiful original dioramas of the famous German toy figure company Hauser. This book on Elastolin will delight both modellers and diorama builders. Due to the great collection of impressive photographs any knowledge of German language is not required. The book is nothing less than a pictorial tour de force of dioramas. All shown dioramas are products of the artist Josef Tonn. Their themes and topics range from the times of Romans, Vikings, Normans, Huns, medieval knights and the Wild West to the battlefields of soldiers from the 18th and 19th century. Castles, farm and zoo scenarios are shown as well as Safari settings. "Elastolin Schaustücke" has 144 pages, mostly in full colour (some double paged photos!). Size 23 x 30 cm. Price 39.00 Euro. Shipping: EU 5.00 Euro. Non-EU and World the real costs.

### VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN

P.O.Box 210667 · 10506 Berlin · Germany · Tel.: +49 30 392 94 90  
Fax: +49 30 398 48 166 · Email: [redaktion@figuren-magazin.de](mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de)  
Internet: [www.figuren-magazin.de](http://www.figuren-magazin.de)



# BOB WALKER'S OPEN HOUSE, MAY 2022

*By S. Mark Young*

Uber collector, Bob Walker, has always been known for his kind generosity and this was certainly evident on a beautiful May day in Southern California.

With the assistance of Mike Tarantino, the event was held at Bob's spacious, beautifully appointed backyard. Bob provided many large tables for sellers all of which were nestled among large trees and flowers. I have been to dozens of toy shows but none have matched the beauty of this setting. Attendees not only were surrounded by a wide variety of figures and toys but were also

treated to a delicious, catered barbecue courtesy of Bob. Helen Philips' world-renowned cookies were the featured dessert.

Sellers this year included, Bob and Helen Philips, Rod and RJ Galati, Greg Urbach and Kwei-Lin Lum, Mike Rodriguez, Mike Duran and Robert Cline, Alan Green, Fred and Caroline McNeil, Vinny Kahlon, Gus Ramos, and yours truly.

Many different types of items were for sale including Heyde, Britains, Mignot lead figures, American and European

plastics, Marx playsets, military books and art, plexiglass display cases, and other toy soldier ephemera.

One of the highlights of the day was an outstanding performance by the Glendora High School Pipe Band. This highly skilled, well-honed group, has won numerous awards and has competed at international competitions in Scotland.

Everyone had a wonderful time this year and we thank Bob for continuing to keep the flames of the hobby burning brightly.



Rod and RJ Galati sold statues as well as a window box display of Vintage Aohna Greeks (see white box in center of table).



Gus Ramos displayed a number of MIB CBG Mignot sets.



Vinny Kahlon brought many figures and toys. Note the "fresh from a garage find," Remco Seaview Submarine from 1968)



The Glendora High School Pipe Band

*Photos courtesy of Mike Tarantino and Joe Berton*





**OLD** and **NEW** metal toy soldiers representing many historical periods from the time of Napoleon through World War II, including the American Civil War.



Figures from such well known makers as Britains (old & new), Imperial, Edmunds, Hocker, and others.



- Write or email for periodic mail list.
- We buy old toy soldiers, Hocker and Imperial collections, including Dimestores.

**Permanent displays on sale at:**

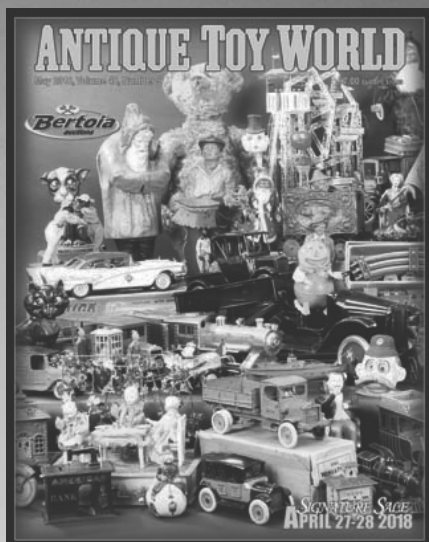
The Depot Antique Mall  
709 North Lamar  
Oxford, MS

Sheffield Antiques Mall  
684 West Poplar  
Collierville, TN

Antique Warehouse Mall  
2563 Summer  
Memphis, TN

Norman Rodriguez 901-218-7046 memphistoysoldier@bellsouth.net  
698 Eaton Street Memphis, TN 38120

**Subscribe To  
Antique Toy World Magazine  
Enjoy 12 Issues for only \$46.95**



**ANTIQUE TOY WORLD**

P.O. Box 34509, Chicago, IL 60634

Call 773-725-0633 to subscribe

AntiqueToyWorld.com

Dale@antiquetoyworld.com

*Unique - Quality -- Always*

## *Counterpane Gallery of Collector's Joys*

*- Established 1985 -*

One of the most trusted names among collectors



Appraisals, Consignments, Resale

Britains, SAE,  
Barclay,  
Manoil, JoHill,  
Elastolin,  
Lineol, Heyde,  
Mignot, Grey  
Iron, Corgi,  
Dinky Toys,  
Solido...

Imperial, Tiffany,  
Rose, Premier,  
Alymer, Banners  
Forward, Wall,  
Tradition,  
Ducal...

- Items offered are original in paint, casting,  
without repair & no longer produced -

**Showroom: Daily 11- 5 pm**  
**Falls Church Antique Center**  
**250 West Broad St. (Rt .7)**  
**Falls Church, Virginia 22046**

**Mail-Order: P.O. Box 6323**  
**Falls Church, Virginia 22046**

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

(703)-536-3064

# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL)

*By Will Beierwaltes*

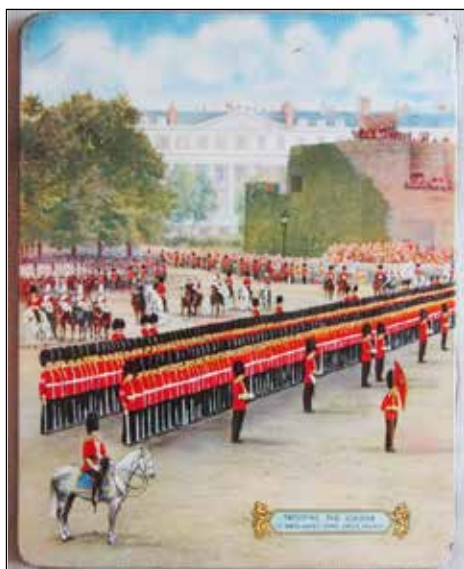
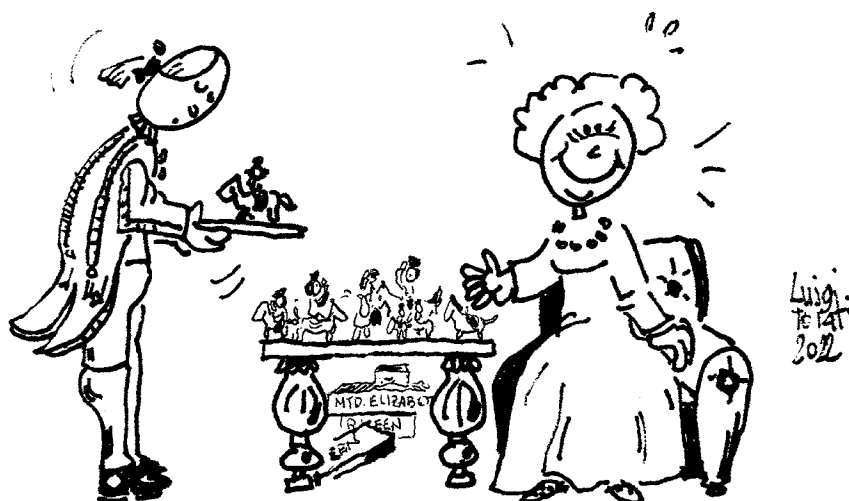


Figure 1. Trooping the Colour pageant from a British souvenir biscuit tin.



Figure 2. Queen Elizabeth in the uniform of the Guards for Trooping the Colour from a souvenir biscuit tin.



The Platinum Jubilee marks the 70th year on the throne of England for Queen Elizabeth II, as of last February 6th. She is the first British monarch to achieve this milestone. England will celebrate with four days of celebrations in June 2022, with events including Trooping the Colour. It is an annual celebration of the Queen's Official Birthday (96!), and this year includes over 1400 troops on foot and on horseback in full parade dress. After much parading and military music, the escorted Regimental Colour (flag) is marched past the ranks of soldiers. The Guards then march past the Colonel-in-Chief (the Queen or her surrogate; this year Prince Charles), who then leads the parade back to Buckingham Palace.

This is a celebration not only of the Monarch, but also the colours of the regiments, as they have traditionally served as a rallying-point for each unit

in battle. This celebration has its roots in London as far back as 1755, and was originally developed to enhance the esprit-de-corps of military units and make the regimental banner a focus of honor and loyalty. While Princess Elizabeth had served as a surrogate for her father prior to her ascension, she wore a rather drab uniform similar to that which she had used in her own military service. In 1953, a new female gender version of the Guards Uniform had to be adapted for the new Queen. Actually, the uniform was first shown in 1951 when she stood in for her father. It is the typical scarlet Guards tunic, but with a full-length dark blue skirt adapted for riding side-saddle. This was quite a novelty, as Victoria had reviewed Trooping the Colour while sitting in an open landeau. Overall, the Trooping of the Colour is one of the most glorious exhibitions of British military pageantry, and a subject whose potential commercial



Figure 3. Four examples of the 54 mm original Britains #2065 as Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards. Left to right: the original version on a brown horse. An alternate version on a grey (white) horse. The Britains "Hollowcast" reissue of the Queen as #40197, and finally the pewterized version released by a Canadian Hobby Shop.



# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) *(Continued)*



Figure 4. The Hummel House of Miniatures exclusive 54 mm model of the mounted Queen by "Chiswell."



Figure 5. the Britains 58 mm "Ceremonial Line" die-cast version of the Queen. 1st version, (left) no base, final version (center) green base, Ducal version on a Britains horse. (right).



Figure 6. Three versions of the Queen in Guards uniform by Timpo (left), Benbros (center) and Wendal Aluminum (right).

impact was not lost on toy soldier makers, especially with this new military uniform of the very popular new Queen.

In 1986 I published a short article in the *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter*<sup>1</sup> on toy soldier representations of Her Majesty mounted side-saddle, dressed in the uniform of the guards for the Trooping the Colour. In the years since, it has been a particular focus of mine to look for additional representations of this classic image by a variety of manufacturers, big and small. Note that the uniform is easily adapted to represent any of the Guards units, so different miniature representations might be for, say the Scots Guards, while another similar piece might be for the Grenadier Guards, but they will look pretty much all the same as a toy except for the color of the plume in her cap.

The most well-recognized version of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief is that produced starting in 1952 by Britains Ltd. It was catalog number 2065, a

single mounted figure of Elizabeth at the salute (figure 3), riding her (brown) horse Winston. The figure, first issued as H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, Colonel, the Grenadier Guards, which had its own box in off-white with red lettering and a flaming grenade. This rare box was replaced in 1953 as Queen Elizabeth, but the figure itself remained unchanged. It was first produced in 1952, entered the catalog in 1953, and lasted until 1966, though it was renumbered in 1962 with the conversion to the 9000 series as #9400. This figure was produced in their classic 54 mm scale. Joe Wallis, in his book *"Regiments of All Nations"*, suggests that the Britains Queen sometimes showed up on a black or a grey horsed version in the souvenir boxes. The grey (white) version has been said to have been produced for the Canadian market, as she apparently paraded in Canada in the uniform riding a white horse. I have never been able to verify that wonderful rumor. The figure also showed up again in a pewter-like finish produced from unpainted castings by a

(yet unidentified) Canadian hobby shop, as apparently you could buy castings directly from Britains. The mold was again used in 2001 as catalog number 40197, as part of a short-lived line of "Britains Hollowcast" reissues from several old Britains molds produced by Britains Petite. Finally, a Britains casting painted in the style of a fine military miniature was produced exclusively for the Hummel House of Miniatures<sup>3</sup> shop in the Burlington Arcade by "Chiswell" (a member of the BMSS), mounted on a circular wooden plinth with a sand base for the cost of 3 pounds, ten pence (they also sold the Britains #2065 version for just 7 shillings and 6 pence).

In 1973, Britains started producing a very limited line of die-cast metal soldiers first referred to as "New Metal" (without lead) in 58 mm scale. However, the company was sold by the Britains family in 1984, after which it went through a number of ownership changes reflected in the diverse styles and quality of their models. Britains again produced the Queen in their "Ceremonial" line (as

# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) *(Continued)*



Figure 7. Box art for the Timpo, and later the Benbros figure of the Queen in Guards uniform

New Metal was now called) as Colonel-in-Chief, in 1985 as a single die-cast figure in a red "Metal Models" box or a red "The Queen" box, both cataloged #7232, riding a black horse with no base. The horse was taken from their household cavalry figure (but a different saddlecloth). This figure was withdrawn in 1989 in favor of the same figure but mounted on a rectangular green base, now cataloged as #8101 (see figure 5). This version lasted until 1991 when she returned without the base but mounted on a wooden plinth as #8107, and this version lasted until 1994. In 1992, she also returned as #8031 mounted on a black horse and again with the green rectangular base. Besides the regular catalog, she also appeared in a special issue green Harrods box only available in 1985 at Harrods as #5473, including the no-base Ceremonial figure with mounted standards of both the Life Guards and Horse Guards, and also another large green-boxed Harrods "London Set" in 1987 as set 5562 with 10 different regimental foot figures. Hamleys also had her in an exclusive set #41060 in 1988 in a brown box with a window front using the green-base version and a mounted Life Guard and mounted officer of the Scots Guards on a white horse. She also appeared in 1987 in #5801 using the no base version with all the colours of all the guards' regiments (with paper flags, really) in the big and expensive Trooping the Colour Book. Many of these varieties can be seen in Norman Joplin's book "Britains



Figure 8. Princess Elizabeth mounted in Service Dress and the Authenticast/Holger Eriksson/Malleable Moldings plastic version of her mounted as a surrogate for her father at Trooping the Colour.

New Toy Soldiers<sup>5</sup>" which documents much of the post 1973 die-cast production until 2007. Note that neither the figure nor the horse changed; only the presence or absence of the base. The sale of Britains to US manufacturers and a change of name to W Britain shifted the ceremonial range to a more limited secondary interest targeting the tourist trade, but the Queen still remains in the catalog today as number 41075, mounted on a black horse with the green base.

Ducal Models is one of the better known recent new toy soldier makers who began their production in 1975. They are probably best known for their regimental bands. In 1990 they contracted with Britains to use their diecast horses for the Ducal mounted models, including a 58 mm model of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief. They painted the horse brown to distinguish it from the Britains version on a black horse, though the sculpting of the Queen is quite different (Figure 5).

Other well-known post-war British manufacturers also produced the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief for the souvenir market. The most well-known of these was by Timpo; a large 58 mm scale Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief, mounted on a standing brown horse, and sold slotted into a very attractive box with a photo of her in full uniform on the cover. The figure is well-sculpted and detachable from its horse where she is otherwise held in place with a tab-

and-slot fixture on the saddle. Besides a fully painted version, they also produced a cheaper version completely painted in a bronze patina. Joplin suggests<sup>4</sup> that there was a version on a walking horse produced in 1953 for a London window display, but it was not a commercial product and the horse lacks the trappings of the real one produced for the catalog. I was also tricked into buying a Timpo Queen riding a white horse only to find it was just a regular Timpo cavalry horse and not one produced for the Queen. Timpo ceased metal production in 1956 and went completely over to plastics. They did not make a plastic version of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief.

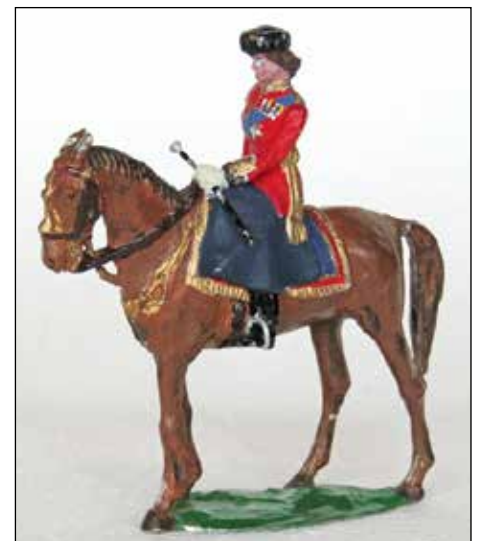


Figure 9. Authenticast/Holger Eriksson metal version of Queen Elizabeth mounted as Colonel-in-Chief of the Guards.



# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) *(Continued)*

A very similar version of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief was produced by the British company Benbros, possibly in 1953. Their version of the Queen is similar to the Timpo version, but a unique casting in 54 mm sitting on a striding brown horse. Unlike the Timpo version, she is fixed to the horse. Norman Joplin suggests<sup>4</sup> that Benbros may have bought up Timpo molds when Timpo converted to plastic production in 1956, and hence the similarity of some (but not all) of their figures. Benbros also used the Timpo box with the picture of the Queen on it. Another mounted Queen very similar to the Timpo was produced by the British company Noble. She is riding a standing brown horse. However, very little is known about this short-lived manufacturer. They may have also had access to the abandoned Timpo molds. Joplin has a small photo of this figure on page 178 of his "Great Book of Hollowcast Figures".

A final contemporary British maker who produced a figure of the Queen was Wendal Aluminum. She is 54 mm, riding a brown walking horse. Typical of Wendal, the sculpting is somewhat amorphous, as is the paint, compared to the other models we have discussed.

Surprisingly, none of the other major post-war British toy soldier companies seem to have capitalized on the huge tourist interest in British royalty, and in particular the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief at Trooping the Colour. Johillco made a number of souvenir royalty pieces but not the mounted Queen. Neither Cherilea nor Crescent produced a mounted Queen, or really any other contemporary figures of British royalty, except for one small (50mm) standing Queen by Crescent in coronation robes, fully painted or in gilt.

An interesting variation of Princess Elizabeth (Figure 8) was produced in painted plastic (presumably in 1951) by Authenticast from their plastic line of Malleable Mouldings, sculpted by Holger Eriksson (marked HE on the underside). It represents Princess Elizabeth mounted, wearing her active service dress (in blue). Authenticast also came out with a version in the full Guards uniform in metal (Figure 9) by Eriksson and marked on the underside



Figure 10. Marlborough (left) and Blenheim (right) versions of the mounted Queen in Guards uniform.



Figure 11. The 120 mm metal version of the Queen in Guards uniform by Sentry Box.



Figure 12. The 120 mm plaster version of the Queen in Guards uniform by Willetts' Matchlock Military Models

"HE". Both of these were produced in 54 mm scale.

Blenheim Military Models was one of the very first new toy soldier makers (1973-1981), and in their catalog they included one very large and ambitious set of 80 foot and mounted figures representing Trooping the Colour. It was so large and heavy, they had to split it up into 3 boxes. The first two (catalog H9 and H10) each contained 32 various Guards on foot, while the third box (H11) contained 16 mounted, including Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards on a standing black horse, saluting. This large set was really produced for major retail outlets (like Hamleys in London), so they also released the mounted Queen as a single figure for the tourist trade and collectors with limited income. Later, after Blenheim ceased its production, the Scrobys resurfaced as Marlborough Military Miniatures, and they produced

another (different) model (catalog C1) of the Queen in Guards Uniform. This time she was on a walking black horse, not saluting, which was only sold as a single piece as part of a "London" line of figures, including 7 other characters and personalities on foot.

One of the more impressive versions of the Queen in Guards uniform was produced by the British Company "Sentry Box." For a complete history and catalog of this company, see my article in the 2021 issue of the *Old Toy Soldier*<sup>6</sup>. Sentry box produced a limited "Jubilee" edition of four figures on the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation which included an impressive 120 mm mounted figure of Queen Elizabeth (J.4) as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards riding her (brown) horse "Burmese," circa 1977. This expensive and very heavy (5 pounds) metal figure was only available in a single pose, fully

# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) *(Continued)*

assembled and painted, and limited to an issue of only 50 pieces. It came on a special black base with a Jubilee tag and limited-edition certification paperwork. This version of the Queen was primarily sold through custom catalog orders from the factory or as complete model by a few expensive gift and military shops in the United Kingdom such as Hummel's<sup>3</sup>.

Similar to the large Sentry Box figure, another British toy soldier company; Howard Francis Willetts and his Matchlock Military Models, also produced an impressive 120 mm portrait figure of Queen Elizabeth mounted as Colonel-in-Chief in a Guards Uniform. While similar in scale to the Sentry Box figure, Willetts produced his figures completely in plaster. Each figure was limited to no more than 70 copies. While these figures were available through mail-order directly from Willetts, they retailed exclusively from Hummel's Catalog<sup>3</sup> of the mid-1960s. For additional information on this figure or the entire line, see my 2021 article on Willetts in the Old Toy Soldier<sup>7</sup>.

In 1981, Derek Cross began producing his diminutive metal 52 mm line called "All the Queen's Men" (Leicestershire). This extensive catalog eventually included regimental figures for the "Trooping the Colour Ceremony." Catalog number TB50 was "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," mounted on their iconic black horse with the head curled down, in the uniform of the Guards. "AQM" ceased its production in 2007.

Several smaller scale figures of the Queen have appeared in 30 mm. the most well-known of these are those of Charles Stadden. To the best of my knowledge, Edward Suren who also worked in 30 mm with his "Willy" figures, never produced a figure of the Queen, as most of his interests lay in history well before the 20th century. I do have a 30 mm figure of the Queen in Guards uniform mounted on a horse with a tin base (Figure 14), similar to the 54 mm figures that are so well known from the Tradition line. I found it advertised as a Stadden piece, but the sculpting is not nearly up to Stadden's quality in 30 mm, and further, his 30 mm horses came with cast-on bases and this figure does not.



Figure 13. "All the Queens Men" 52 mm TB50; Her majesty Queen Elizabeth II next to the original box she came in as part of a Trooping the Colour series of their regimental figures.



Figure 14. A 30 mm figure of the Queen in Guards uniform attributed to Charles Stadden, though it is highly unlikely it was ever created by him.



Figure 15. A 54 mm mounted figure of Queen Elizabeth dressed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Guards by Norman Newton (Tradition), most likely a piece designed by Stadden and painted in "factory paint." The figure is stamped on the underside of the base.



Figure 16. Two 30 mm versions of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief in Guards uniform. The one on the left, mounted on a base, is by Phoenix (PMD). The other (right), without a base, was sold by "Little Lead Soldiers."



# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) *(Continued)*



Figure 17. On the left is a version in 52 mm metal of the Queen mounted on a white horse by the English new toy soldier maker MJ Mode. On the right, a French 54 mm model of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief by CBG Mignot (right) mounted on a light brown horse in gloss paint. She has been removed from her wooden plinth.



Figure 18. An unusual CBG Mignot Boxed set, ca. 1950's, of Trooping the Colour with Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief, 5 Scots Guards, 2 Life Guards and 2 Horse Guards.

So, it is unlikely a Stadden, and has no other markings. The Tradition shop is also known by its name Norman Newton Ltd. of 18 Piccadilly, London. Figure 15 shows a beautiful 54 mm metal mounted figure on a brown horse, very much in the tradition of Stadden, of Queen Elizabeth dressed as Colonel-in-Chief of the Guards by Norman Newton (Tradition). This is most likely a piece designed by Stadden and painted in "factory paint." The figure is stamped on the underside of the base. Tradition/Stadden also produced this version of the mounted Queen in 54 mm in an assembled, primed miniature for the hobbyist painter, though the unpainted primed mounted figures were really very expensive in their day. I remember visiting the Hobby Chest in Skokie in the late 1970s and buying unpainted Stadden foot for about

\$6, but a mounted Stadden casting was \$40 or more, and out of my graduate student price range.

The Military Miniature company Phoenix Model Developers Ltd. (PMD), most well known for their 54 mm Regency and Victorian civilians and horse drawn coaches (and 80 mm saucy ladies), produced an extensive line of 30 mm regimental parade figures and bands including almost every Guards and highland regiment. To complement this, (Figure 16), they also made nice 30 mm models of the Queen mounted in Guards uniform as PG/QHM the Queen in her birthday parade uniform (not to be confused with her in her birthday suit), and a mounted Guards staff officer as an escort. The figure can be identified by the initials PMD on the underside of

the base. Note that these models did not come painted, but were made for the painting hobby trade.

A final 30 mm figure illustrated (Figure 16) of the Queen mounted in a Guards uniform is from a British Company named "Little Lead Soldiers" (Cambridge). They produced an extensive line of 25- and 30-mm regimental and historical Figures. The mounted Queen (singly as catalog A1, or in a set P13 with 2 mounted Guards officers) is part of a 30 mm series called "Paraders" of fully painted 30 mm British Services, mostly marching. They came in sets of 5-6 foot or 3 mounted and packaged in a thin white box, fully painted in a flat finish. The Queen's horse has no base, but otherwise is very similar to the PMD casting, though carries no identifying marks. It is possible Little Lead Soldiers took over the PMD 30 mm molds for this line.

Figure 17 on the left is a model of the Queen in Guards uniform mounted on a dapple-grey horse marked "MJ Mode" on the underside of the base. MJ Mode was started in the mid-1970s along with several other of the earliest new toy soldier makers, but its founder, Jim Johnson, died in 1982. This figure is rather crudely sculpted in about 52 mm, and the quality of the painting matches the sculpting. The base is cast and painted in a light green and inscribed underneath.

An unusual depiction of the mounted Queen in Guards uniform, cast in metal and in 54 mm scale, was made by the French Company CBG Mignot (On the right in Figure 17). It was sold as a single mounted figure mounted on a wooden plinth with a gold paper stick-on label on the plinth. It is done in a gloss finish, unlike the Mignot painting of today. This figure was obviously a post-1953 Mignot item. While it does not appear in Christian Blondieau's exhaustive 1993 book<sup>8</sup> on Mignot (suggesting she may have been created after 1994), Figure 18 depicts a rare Mignot set of Trooping the Colour from Rob Wilson, produced in the 1950s. This set includes the mounted Queen in the center as Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards (white plume), five Scots Guards marching along the

# QUEEN ELIZABETH AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE GUARDS; TROOPING THE COLOUR (THE SEQUEL) (Continued)



Figure 19. A large 77 mm metal model of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards on a black horse, ca 1977 by the company "Scottish Soldiers."



Figure 20. A 60 mm metal version of the Queen in Guards uniform on a black horse by the contemporary maker "King and Country" (Hong Kong) from their "Trooping the Colour" series, ca 2021.



Figure 21. A period post card depicting Elizabeth as Colonel in Chief reviewing the troops parade at Trooping the Colour.

top wearing grey pants (including one officer), two mounted Life Guards (one with a standard) on brown horses, and two Horse Guards in light blue tunics, one on a brown horse, and one (not a bugler) on a white horse. All have saddle cloths rather than sheepskins. An interesting set, rare enough to be missed by Blondieau, probably contemporary with the coronation, with lots of errors, but then who expected the French to worry about accuracy of English uniforms

Figure 19 depicts a large 75 mm version of the Queen mounted on a black horse, and a thick base reading "H.M. Queen Elizabeth II" and a second line reading "C in C Scots Guards". The underside is marked with a two-line logo "Scottish Soldiers" with both words sharing the "S", and the initials TP. Thomas Park

started his small company in 1977, making larger scale figures with this one equestrian figure and additional foot figures in Scottish uniforms. His figures are relatively unusual, especially in the American market.

Figure 20 is a very recent representation of the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief, created by the prolific company "King and Country" of Hong Kong. This company, founded by Andy Neilson, who is also the creative genius behind the many lines of figures, started in the 1980s but today may be the most prolific and recognizable of the commercial fully painted 58 mm miniatures. This particular figure came out in 2020 to complement the newly developed "Trooping the Colour" line of British regimental models. It is beautifully done but quite expensive as a single

piece. Recently, this figure has been complemented by additional mounted figures of Prince Charles and Prince William, both in the uniform of an officer of the Guards, as both have filled in for Elizabeth as her royal surrogate at the Trooping the Colour event.

As the 96-year-old Queen contemplates her legacy and Prince Charles, now in his seventies, paces in the next room, those of us in the toy soldier world who enjoy these British royalty commemoratives look forward to what the next few years might bring. A variety of potential events with great pageantry will fuel the London souvenir market with cheap buttons, linens and pottery, and hopefully inspire some of our current toy soldier and miniature manufacturers to produce some notable additions to the legacy of the British monarchy in miniature.

## Bibliography:

1. Will Beierwaltes. Queen Elizabeth: Colonel-in-Chief. *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter*. Vol 10, No. 1, 1986. pp 2-5.
2. Joe Wallis. *Regiments of all Nations*; Britains Limited lead soldiers 1946-66. Revised, all-color edition. Self-published. 1981. pp 172-73.
3. Hummel; Toys, Models, Miniatures (catalog #6) Hummel House of Miniatures. Self-Published, 1968. pp 11,27.
4. Norman Joplin. *The Great Book of Hollow-Cast Figures*. New Cavindish Books. London. 1993.
5. Norman Joplin and John T. Waterworth. *Britains New Toy Soldiers; 1973-Present*. Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA. 2008.
6. Will Beierwaltes. Sentry Box Models. *Old Toy Soldier; Journal for Collectors*. Vol 44, No. 4, pp 8-16, Winter 2021.
7. Will Beierwaltes. Willets *Old Toy Soldier; Journal for Collectors*. Vol 44, 2021
8. Christian Blondieau. *Soldats de Plomb & Figurines Civiles. Collection C.B.G. Mignot*. Le kepi Rouge, 1993.
9. John G. Garratt. *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*. Overlook Press, Woodstock NY. 1981.
10. Stuart Asquith. *The Collectors Guide to New Toy Soldiers*. Argus Books. Hemel Hempstead, England. 1991.





# CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW

## GEARING UP FOR SHOW #41 IN SEPTEMBER!

*Show owners and promoters Jan and Roger Garfield are hard at work rebuilding the hobbies biggest and oldest show to its pre-COVID glory. They previewed some new and returning events for us.*

**THE TOY SOLDIER DOCTORS**, Helen Bouch and Benjamin Zerbib from France, will be back this year. They will offer an onsite repair service for those special figures that you need to have fixed. The husband-and-wife team will carry out their repairs in a demonstration for you to see. Watching these two restoration experts is extraordinary, as those at the 2019 Show will remember. So bring those rare and special repairs to the Show. Roger says he has some rare Britains Ltd. Boer War patients awaiting Benjamin and Helen's medical care.

**AMERICAN TOY SOLDIERS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR** is the topic of Breakfast with the Experts. The Saturday morning breakfast seminar is returning this year with toy soldier researcher and CTSS Old Guard member Will Beierwaltes. British and European toy soldiers were imported to the US in the late 1800s. We also know about the 1930s rise of US makers such as Barclay and Manoil. How did we get from one to the other? Will is going to explain how that British and European tradition was brought to an American perspective by looking at our nation's earliest toy soldier manufacturers.

**THE SOUVENIR BOOK** was introduced last year and is back by popular demand. Every vendor and attendee received a special 32-page magazine to celebrate last year's 40th Anniversary. We are bringing back the Souvenir Book filled with toy soldier articles and CTSS vendor ads.

**CTSS HATS and NEW CTSS SHIRTS** are what well-dressed toy soldier collectors will be wearing this Fall. We introduced our new CTSS logo hats last year, and they were so popular that we are back this year with additional colors. We will introduce polo and long-sleeved denim shirts to further enhance your collecting wardrobe.

**THE WAR GAME CHALLENGE** was issued by our good friends and fellow hobbyists at Historical Miniatures Gaming Society--Midwest. This charity fund raiser for Wounded Warriors will take place in the Hyatt Hotel lobby during the Chicago Toy Soldier Show. CTSS has taken up the gauntlet and is forming our CTSS All-Star gaming team! Not only will this be a fun event, a great charity fundraiser, and uphold the military honor of the Chicago Toy Soldier Show, but also donors become eligible for drawing of a free 4-night Hyatt free stay at the 2023 Show!

There may be a few more surprises in addition to our usual US vendors and returning overseas vendors.

## THE 41ST ANNUAL CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW WILL BE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 10 AM-3:30 PM

*(with room display/trading and pre-Show events starting Thursday, September 22)  
at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, Illinois*

For more information:

Roger Garfield, 847-567-5355 or [roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com](mailto:roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com)

Website: [CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com](http://CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com) or Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show

YouTube: Tour the Chicago Toy Soldier Show

# SHOW REPORT

## BRITISH MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY 2022 ANNUAL SHOW

*By Harry Kemp*

I have been going to this show and taking a trade stand for at least 10 years. Relocated in 2019 to the Salvation Army Hall in Reading, rather than previous locations in London, the 2020 show was cancelled and the 2021 show was moved from April to September 2021 due to covid.

It is more sparsely attended this time and although the train link to London is usually very good, there was disruption to the normal service on the day that didn't help matters. It's a shame as the hall and facilities are excellent, with table hire at only £40.



A complete and matching set of Arabs on camels

This event is primarily for toy soldier modellers, with many competition categories, however it is always a nice chance to catch up with fellow collectors. Sadly, many older collectors were absent as covid and old age has taken its toll, nevertheless a few stalwart familiar faces were there, along with the ever-present James Opie. Adrian Little, Steve Vickers and I made up the old toy soldier dealer contingent. My conversations with Adrian and James touch upon the reports of a recent very exciting UK auction find, which I am sure will be subject of a future article in this periodical, so I will say no more at this juncture.

This is a mainly a day to socialise; my trades with Adrian add up to more than all my other sales and I think it's reciprocal. I do leave with 2 solid additions to my collection, a lovely mint unboxed set of 6 Arabs of the desert set #193 and a boxed set #1719. The latter had incorrect stretcher and lying wounded soldier. Over the years I have amassed duplicates of every variation of wounded soldier so when I get home I put in the correct matching soldier and stretcher, carefully remove a lot of pencil scribble on the label with an eraser and restring the set, as the original insert was present. I particularly like Britains sets made in the period 1939 to 1941.



Adrian Little looking like he's having fun



Steve Vickers behind his stand



Harry's own table, heavily laden with lead



Hard to find medical set



# SHOW REPORT

## MFCA 79TH ANNUAL SHOW & MART, MAY 13TH & 14TH, 2022

*By Noel Schlageter*

After a hiatus of two years, the MFCA held its annual show and mart on May 13 and 14 at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia East in Trevose PA. Early on Friday morning, both Brad James and Dennis Sosna with others were setting up the rooms for the show and sale which would open to the public at Noon.

In the sale venue dealers were busy setting out their merchandise—figures, books and other items collectors use. As at other shows since the co-vid outbreak there were fewer vendors. However Matt Murphy, Hobby Bunker;

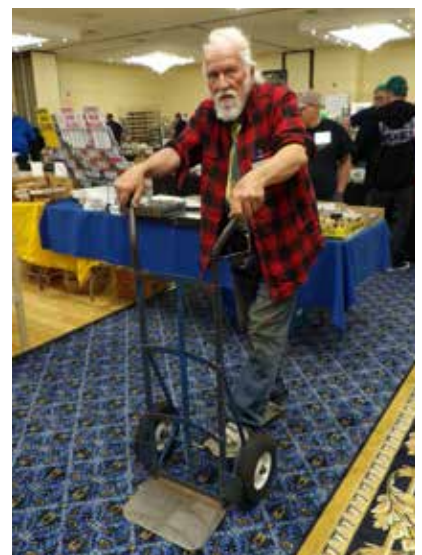
Bill Graver of Counterpane; George Guerriero, Minuteman Toy Soldiers; Chris Keller, Keller Enterprises; were busy setting out their offerings. Others doing the same included Paul Boyd, Ed Gries and Michael Jones. Also Keith Rocco, Traditions Studios, was displaying his work.

Meanwhile in the Exhibit Room modelers were placing their creations on the viewing tables. The entries varied as usual from single figures to groups of figures. There also was one diorama of a Revolutionary War Battle field.

Later in the morning a line formed at the entrance of the show. Then tickets were purchased and attendees were admitted at Noon. Soon there were shoppers in the sale room and visitors in the exhibit areas. This continued till the closing in the afternoon.

Saturday morning attendees arrived around 9AM and purchases were made and visit to the exhibit rooms continued into the afternoon.

It was a pleasure to once again visit the MFCA Show and Mart.





# SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*





# **FIRST ANNUAL NEWPORT NEWS/AMERICAN LEGION POST #25 TOY SOLDIER SHOW**

(formerly Virginia War Museum Toy Soldier Show)

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2022 9AM – 4PM**



### **American Legion Braxton Perkins Post #25**

(within an hour of Williamsburg & Virginia Beach,  
less than 10 minutes from the old Museum location)

**7609 Marshall Ave.  
Newport News, VA 23605**

**Chris Garcia, Show Manager**

757-298-3770

[criostalmiceal@aol.com](mailto:criostalmiceal@aol.com)

**Tom Armentrout, Show Manager**

804-514-5063

[armentrouttom@gmail.com](mailto:armentrouttom@gmail.com)

**Norm Rodriguez, Show Promotion**

**Colin Romanick**

901-218-7046

Full show & dealer information  
Google "ToySoldiersOnTheMove"  
beginning July 1, 2022



**Book signing by Dr. Christian  
Keller, nationally acclaimed  
author of "The Great  
Partnership: Robert E. Lee,  
Stonewall Jackson, and the  
Fate of the Confederacy", and  
"Southern Strategies: Why the  
Confederacy Failed".**

# SHOW REPORT

## THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

*By Harry Kemp*

After missing the last Sandown toy fair due to illness, I decided to spend Friday the 3rd of June with Andy Morant at his stall in Portabello Road in central London. Being a public holiday, the trains and underground were very quiet, and I arrived at Andy's stall about 10am. Two large tables of toy soldiers awaited me, one crammed full of Britain's figures all from c.1953, commemorating the Queen's Coronation. This was a lovely display, all for sale. A second table presented a great mix of single figures by many makers. Boxed Regiments of all Nations sets relating to the Queen were also available, including attendants to the State Coach and the Queen's bodyguard.

The weather was super and trading brisk, at one point 3 Coronation Coach's sold in 30 mins. Friday is a day in the market that is soldier focused, with various collectors coming to say hi throughout the day, one couple had come from Utah. I purchased 2 khaki 'on guard' Beiser figures and a French made figure with two moving arms, possibly by LP.

On a Saturday Andy's stall has more mixed stock, including Dinky toys, trains and other antique toys. Andy is now 'the last man standing' in London to buy soldiers from "face to face". If you plan to visit it is always best to contact him first and let him know what you are interested in.

The day was topped off by a chance to view Andy's newly purchased Britain's Set 131 (reported, in more details elsewhere in this magazine). This is in astonishing condition and in my view the best boxed set I have ever seen, by a good margin.



Beiser "on guard" figures plus another by LP?



Andy peeking from behind his display, with helpers, Harry on the left



Close up of some of the many Britains figures on offer



# BOOK REVIEW

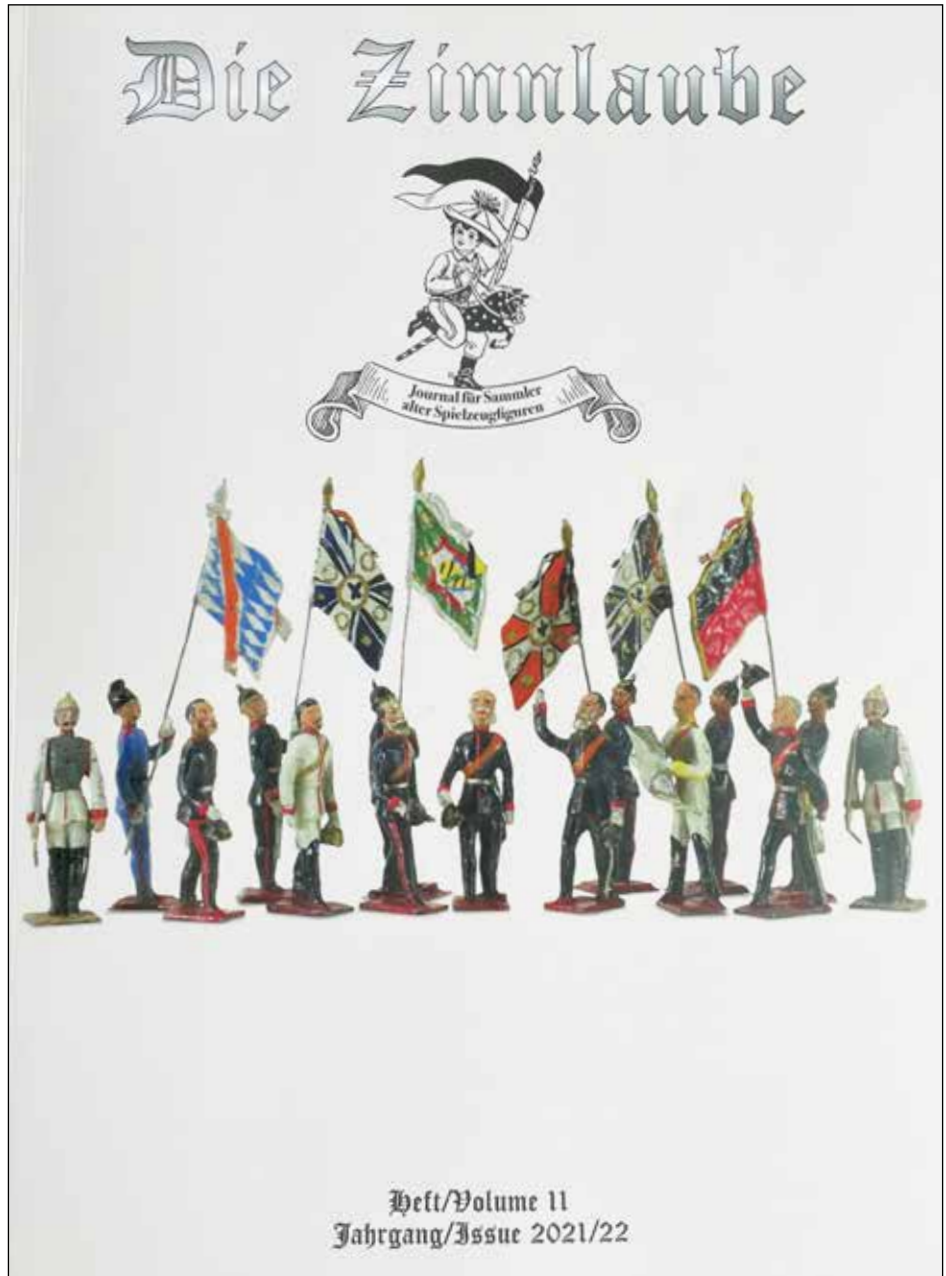
## ZINNLAUBE

*Reviewed By Russ Bednarek<sup>1</sup>*

In true *Zinnlaube* form, Volume 11 did not disappoint. The articles are an interesting balance of military and civilian themes. As is the standard with *Zinnlaube* articles, all are extremely informative, well written and supported by crisp photographs of outstanding figures. Volume 11 contains within its 119 pages, eight articles, two book reviews and numerous advertisements. I will present a brief synopsis of the articles in the following paragraphs.

The first article deals with the figures that appear on the cover of *Zinnlaube*. Fifteen Heyde figures are posed rejoicing in the Versailles Treaty ending the Franco-Prussian War. The different Heyde pieces represent Prussia Prime Minister Bismarck, King Wilhelm I, and various Crown Princes and Dukes. The end of the war enabled Bismarck to achieve his goal of German unification and making Wilhelm I the Kaiser of the newly created German Empire. Included in the fifteen figures are six flagbearers with Bavarian, Wurttemberg and Prussian flags. A detailed analysis regarding the accuracy of the uniforms worn by the circa 1896 figures is the theme of this article.

The next article is the use of “Heyde-like” figures created by Werner Klotzsche to depict the conflicts of 1919-1921 in Upper Silesia. The fight for Annaberg in 1921 by



Germans and Poles was the pivotal event in the conflict. Author Ralf Kroemer uses the two sets Werner Klotzsche made for him to recreate the fight for Annaberg. Penny toys created by Georg Fischer and how they found their way to be included

with Spenkuch toy soldiers sets are explored in this article. Fischer fire engines and ladder trucks were the first to appear in boxed sets of Spenkuch figures. What follows is a fascinating examination of the development and eventual

<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank our subscribers for their patience anticipating my review of *Zinnlaube*. Due to issues with the German postal system, I did not receive my issue in January like most subscribers. As a result, it was not until the end of March that my copy arrived. I would like to thank Dr. Ignacio Czeguhn for his patience and persistence which resulted in my issue's arrival.

# BOOK REVIEW (Continued)

inclusion of the Fischer British Mark IV with Spenkuch boxed sets. Numerous other makers tanks are examined in this photo-laden examination, all in all making this an outstanding article.

The first civilian themed article, the tale of "Dornroschen", (Sleeping Beauty), makes its appearance next. Dornroschen is based on the oral telling of a fairy tale by Marie Hassenplug and differs from the latter version written by the Grimm Brothers. Without giving away the story, suffice it to say that the tale of Dornroschen is told in a series of six scenes or pictures. Figures from various German makers used in telling the story of Dornroschen are shown and examined.

Moving back to the military genre, the next article deals with the battle for British market share between W. Britain and Heinrich Brothers (Noris). The article's focus is the set each company produced for two important current events that occurred in the British Empire; the Proclamation of King Edward VII in 1901 and King George V and the Coronation Durbar 1911. The article examines the Noris made sets of the Proclamation and

Coronation Durbar. The multiple photos of the 54mm pieces of the Proclamation manage to convey the sheer massiveness and beauty of all 22 figures in this boxed set. Fortunately an example of the box survived and is also shown. The Coronation Durbar set is shown with the impressive elephant (eye height 58mm) carrying King George V and Queen Mary accompanied by four musicians, two attendants and five soldiers. The box is identical to that of the Proclamation set.

The first of a three part series on figures representing Swedish kings is the next article. The series begins with figures depicting King Gustav II Adolf (1594-1632), Queen Christina (1626-1689), Charles X (1622-1660) Charles XI (1656-1697) and ending with Charles XII (1682-1718). It is no surprise Holger Eriksson pieces are well represented, including some rare examples of Eriksson's exceptional skill. Figures of Swedish kings up to 1947 will be explored in the next two issue of *Zinnlaube*.

An interesting article regarding the "discovery" of Salvation Army figures among the Spenkuch

dealer lists is offered by Florian Wilke.

The final article is about the forty year history of the OTSN Show in Chicago. Written by one of the five founding members of the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter; Roger Garfield, we learn about the evolution of the Show which has become the pre-eminent toy soldier show in the world. In 2015 when the OTSN partners were looking for a buyer of the show, Mr. Garfield became the new owner of the show. Because OTSN is still publishing, Garfield and his wife Jan chose a new corporate name, Chicago Toy Soldier Show (CTTS) Inc. Under the leadership of the Garfields the show continues to be "the" toy soldier show of the year.

With informative articles supplemented with high quality photographs *Zinnlaube* continues to be a "must have" for all toy soldier collectors regardless of your collecting interests. With 119 pages printed on heavy glossy paper *Zinnlaube* is well worth its 22 Euro price, (postage included). To begin your subscription email Die. [Zinnlaube@gmx.de](mailto:Zinnlaube@gmx.de)



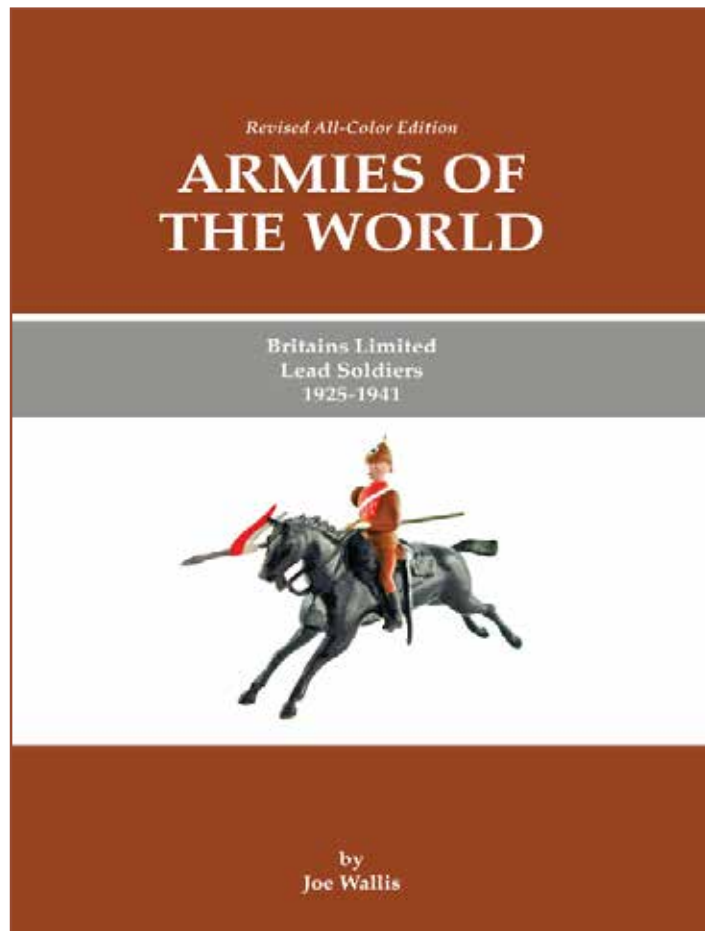


# THE NEW EDITION OF

## *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.

**If you have any questions, my email address is:**  
**joewallis@comcast.net**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip or Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

# AUCTION REVIEW

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



## AUCTIONS USA

### AUCTION #71

## SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH AND SUNDAY, MAY 15TH 2022



Lot 1305 Marx AntiTank Set \$425



Lot 5062 Mignot #705 "Terrain D'Aviation" \$950



Lot 1287 King & Country IF009 Semovente Tank \$250



Lot 5558 Britains Garden With Sundial & Flower Beds \$450



Lot 4084 King & Country Set GC-Gun & 5 Maxim Gun Crew \$425



Lot 5525 Roger Berdou "Train d'Artillerie" 1804-1815 \$2400



Lot 5519 Metayer "Napoleon Astride Marengo" \$500



Lot 1084 Manoil M113 Aviation Mechanic with Prop \$250



Lot 3003 Courtenay No. 22 Sir William Champagne \$750



Lot 5090 Mulberry Miniatures Medieval Knights of 1356 \$300



Lot 3008 Selwyn Miniatures Mace Figure of King Edward I \$750



Lot 5523 Greenwood & Ball Trooper Hyderabad 1st Lancers \$550



Lot 5271 J.G. Miniatures Roman Wall Entry & Lean-To \$425

View this auction and purchase catalogs on our website: [oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)



Ray Haradin  
raytoys@aol.com  
412-343-8733 Fax 412-344-5273

Bre Day  
bremarieday@gmail.com  
412-841-0623

    
#oldtoysoldier





# **HENRY KURTZ**

*Appraisals of Toy and Miniature Soldiers*

Tel: (718) 796-2696, or email: [henrykurtz@optonline.net](mailto:henrykurtz@optonline.net)

## **CONSULT US WHEN CONSIDERING DISPOSAL OF YOUR COLLECTION**

- We also purchase collections and individual items.
- Let us appraise your collection and assist you in determining the best way to dispose of it.
- Reliable and dependable; 30 years in the field of selling toy soldiers (including 11 years as lead soldier specialist for Phillips Auctioneers)

*For further information or to sell items contact:*

**HENRY KURTZ at (718) 796-2696 or email: [henrykurtz@optonline.net](mailto:henrykurtz@optonline.net)**  
*or write to*

Henry Kurtz, 600 West 246th Street, #805, Riverdale, NY 10471

## **ARLEY L. PETT ANTIQUES**

Toy Soldiers and Civilians  
Lead, Garden, Circus, Hunt,  
Farm, RR and Zoo Figures  
Military Vehicles and  
Related items

Arley L. Pett  
12 Beach Road  
Gloucester, Ma 01930  
(978) 283-2612, Fax (978) 283-2496  
E-Mail [APett92117@AOL.COM](mailto:APett92117@AOL.COM)

# AUCTION REVIEW

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



## AUCTIONS USA

### AUCTION #72

## SOLDIERS AFTER SUNSET

THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2022



Lot 1350 Russian Studio English Open Coach Street Scene  
\$275



Lot 1295 Arsenyev Studio Officer of the Horse Guards \$325



Lot 1006 AeroArt Egyptian Warrior Priest \$225



Lot 1075 AeroArt Roman Gladiator "Thracian" \$325



Lot 1275 Russian Studio Emperor Shah Jehan and Bodyguard \$900



Lot 1082 AeroArt Caesar and Vereingetorix Duplex \$200



Lot 1332 AeroArt Confederate Camp Scene Vignette with Dog \$225



Lot 1303 Grudsky Studio ACW Union Horse Artillery Unit \$400



Lot 1074 AeroArt Roman Gladiator "Secutor" \$325



Lot 1266 Russian Mounted Renaissance Knight \$225

View this auction and purchase catalogs on our website: [oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)



Ray Haradin  
raytoys@aol.com  
412-343-8733 Fax 412-344-5273

Bre Day  
bremarieday@gmail.com  
412-841-0623



#oldtoysoldier





## ...the world in miniature

Largest selection of collectable vintage lead civilian toys from all key UK makers including:

Britains • Charbens • John Hill  
Taylor & Barrett • Crescent • Timpo

*"By far the best online site for collectors of hollow-cast lead civilian figures. Rare and unusual items, presented and photographed in a clear and concise way. Service and shipping second to none"*

**Norman Joplin**



**BUY SECURELY ONLINE FOR SPEEDY  
INSURED SHIPMENT TO USA**

✉ [www.lilliputworld.co.uk](http://www.lilliputworld.co.uk) | ☎ 44 7545 620011

**[www.lilliputworld.co.uk](http://www.lilliputworld.co.uk)**

**The Metal Toy Soldiers of Wm. Hocker, Proprietor**

COPYRIGHT  
W. HOCKER  
PROPRIETOR

**Since 1983**

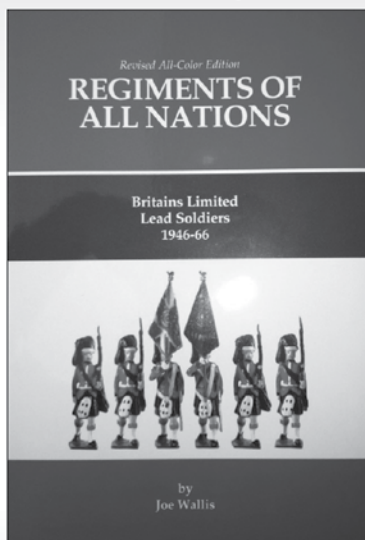
web: [wmhocker.com](http://wmhocker.com) email: [bill@wmhocker.org](mailto:bill@wmhocker.org)

## ALL NEW IN FULL COLOR! *Regiments of All Nations*

by Joe Wallis

Now available is the hardcover, all color, revised edition of the definitive history of Britains Limited lead soldier production between 1946 and 1966. With 415 pages and 500 close-up color photographs even collectors who have the previous paperback edition will want to get this enhanced version.

The text describes the items produced in an easy-to-use format with color photos on the facing pages. The book details the roster of military sets, picture packs, and civilian lines (Farm, Hunt, Zoo, Circus, and Racing Colors), including color schemes, the dates of production, and changes in the composition of sets.



**\$60 USA / \$90 Canada / \$100 overseas; postpaid.**

Get your autographed copy directly from the author by sending a check or money order to:  
Joe Wallis, P.O. Box 3407, Arlington, VA 22203-3407.

Britains, Greenwood & Ball, Mignot, MIM, Johillco, Heyde

Krause, Lineol, Vertunni, Lucotte, Timpo, Courtenay, Minikin, Taylor & Barrett

**THE  
TOY SOLDIER SHOP  
OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
503 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET, S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003**

The Last Real Bricks & Mortar Shop  
**SPECIALIZING in ANTIQUE  
TOY SOLDIERS**

With an ever changing Selection to  
Tempt both the Novice and the  
Most Sophisticated Collector

**Always  
Buying  
Collections**

Neil Rhodes Proprietor

202 546 2201

**TOYSOLDIERSHOP.COM**

Haffner, Wollner, Spenkuch, Noris, Heinrichsen, Allgeyer, Ammon, Elastolin

IF it's OLD and INTERESTING we will stock it

# TOY SOLDIER MARKETPLACE

## FOR SALE

Large group Frontline 1914 Parade Dress Sets, including Canadian. Contact Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or nkrod@bellsouth.net.

## FOR SALE

All sets from IMPERIAL Productions, NZ end-of-the-product line. Counterpane Gallery. 703-536-3064 or www.counterpanegallery.com

## FOR SALE

Large group Imperial Sudan series. Multiple sets for mass display. Contact Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or nkrod@bellsouth.net

## DIMESTORE SILENT AUCTIONS

I offer periodic silent auctions of very scarce American Dimestore figures and vehicles, in fine condition.

If you would like to participate in these auctions, send your name and email address to:

Stan Alekna  
732 Aspen Lane  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
Phone: (717) 228-2361  
Email: salekna1936@yahoo.com

## FOR SALE

Large group Under Two Flags Sudan series made by Trophy. Also early Trophy Napoleonic infantry sets. Contact Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or nkrod@bellsouth.net

## FOR SALE

Wm Hocker Diamond Jubilee set #100 in wooden box. Mint tied in. Never removed from box. All original packing material. Pick up or delivery. No shipping. Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or nkrod@bellsouth.net

## NOTICE:

New EMAIL & POSTAL ADDRESS Regarding the book "The Toy Soldier Artistry of Holger Eriksson - Authenticast, S.A.E. and Malleable Mouldings: Military History in Miniature" Contact lou.sandbote@gmail.com or 3521 Potomac Ave., Dallas, TX 75205



The best in Britains, Dimestore and German Lead. Call for free catalog. 412-343-8733

## FOR SALE

Dimestore supplies and accessories for repairs. Send for Free Illustrated Catalogue Email ecclesbros@aol.com

# WANTED



## BUYING ENTIRE COLLECTIONS OR SINGLE PIECE

Acquiring exceptionally fine quality figures at the highest prices: Especially interested in Britains, Dime Store, Heyde, Lineol, Elastolin, Marklin, Courtenay, Vertunni, American Soldier Company, Auburn Rubber, French Aluminum, Warren and Early Plastic figures. Photographs will be required.

Ray Haradin  
1039 Lakemont Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
E-mail: Raytoys@aol.com  
Fax: (412) 344-5273  
CALL: 1-800-349-8009

## WANTED

Catalogs, sales sheets, etc for UNDER TWO FLAGS and British Bulldog toy soldiers \*NAME YOUR PRICE\* Contact Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or nkrod@bellsouth.net

## WANTED

Britains Paris Office - Toy Soldiers and Catalogs. Contact: Rob Wilson. E-mail: r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk.

## WANTED

Damaged Dimestore toy soldiers and vehicles to repair or restore. We also collect German "Nippes" character figures and items and offer a restoration and repair service for damaged or broken "Nippes" items. ecclesbros@aol.com

## WANTED

Carthaginian War Elephant by Black Hawk Call Dale (616)-772-6277

## Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements Rates.

20 Words \$5, plus \$5 for each additional 20 words. Submit ads to:

Old Toy Soldier  
P.O. Box 13324  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243-0324.  
Fax (412) 344-5273  
E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

## WANTED

Junior casting baseball mold or baseball players Contact Richard Donnelly, 432-682-8058 or trisha1950@att.net

Heyde Nippes and Civilian Sets, also semi solid Spenkuch and Muncklefigures wanted. Please send photos to gisbert.freber@gmx.de



# TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2022

**August 26th, 2022 - Friday** - Old Toy Soldier Auction 74.  
Britain Soldier Brigade. [oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)

**September 8th, 2022 - Thursday** - Old Toy Soldier  
Auction 75. Herb Elfvingren Medieval Knights.  
[oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://oldtoysoldierauctions.com)

**September 3rd-4th, 2022 - Saturday - Sunday** -  
EUROMA, Hotel Villa Eur Parco dei Pini - Rome.  
For details, reservations or registration for the modeling  
contest, please contact Messrs.  
Alberto Fabri - [alberto.fabri@tiscali.it](mailto:alberto.fabri@tiscali.it)  
Massimo Ruggeri - [romainsieme@tiscali.it](mailto:romainsieme@tiscali.it)  
Giulio Centanni - [giulio cento@libero.it](mailto:giulio cento@libero.it)  
<https://www.alfamodel.eu/>

**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 Solder  
Show. Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Illinois. Jan and  
Roger Garfield. [roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com](mailto:roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com)

**October 31st, 2022 - Monday** - Vectis Military Civilian  
Figures, Equipment & Accessories Sale. [vectis.co.uk](http://vectis.co.uk)  
[simon.clark@vectis.co.uk](mailto:simon.clark@vectis.co.uk) Tel: +44 (0) 1642 750616

**November 12th, 2022 - Saturday** - 9am – 4pm  
First Annual Newport News / American Legion Post #25  
Toy Soldier Show. American Legion Braxton Perkins  
Post #25. 7609 Marshall Ave., Newport News, VA 23605  
Chris Garcia, 757-298-3770, [criostalmiceal@aol.com](mailto:criostalmiceal@aol.com)  
Tom Armentrout, 804-514-5063, [armentrouttom@gmail.com](mailto:armentrouttom@gmail.com)  
Norm Rodriguez, Colin Romanick, 901-218-7046

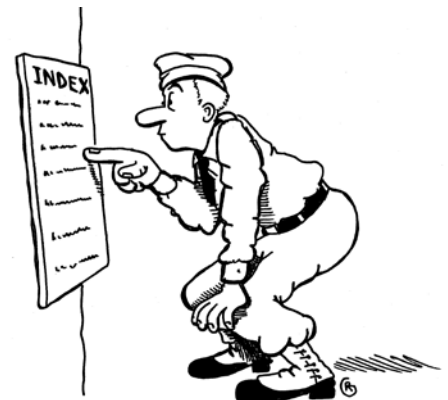
**December 3rd, 2022 - Saturday** - "Heart of the South"  
Toy Soldier Show. The Annandale, Virginia Volunteer  
Fire Department at 7128 Columbia Pike. Contact for  
more information Ed Greis at 201-257-2687.

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



## ADVERTISERS INDEX

Antique Toy World Magazine .....52 PO Box 24509, Chicago, IL 60634	La Boite De Soldats.....46 Tel/Fax (0) 1 45 78 89 44	Toy Soldier Shop .....72 Tel: 202-546-2201 <a href="http://toysoldiershop.com">toysoldiershop.com</a>
Arley L. Pett Antiques.....70 Email: <a href="mailto:APett92117@aol.com">APett92117@aol.com</a> Tel: 978-283-2612 Fax: 978-283-2496	Lilliput World.....72 Contact: <a href="http://www.lilliputworld.co.uk">www.lilliputworld.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.vintageboystoys.com">www.vintageboystoys.com</a> <a href="mailto:gulliver@lilliputworld.co.uk">gulliver@lilliputworld.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:collect@vintageboystoys.com">collect@vintageboystoys.com</a>	Trains and Toy Soldiers..... IFC, 38 Tel: 1-800-786-1888
Armies of the World, Britains Limited Lead Soldiers 1925-1941 Book - Joe Wallis .....68	Memphis Toy Soldier.....52 Tel: 901-218-7046 <a href="mailto:memphistoysoldier@bellsouth.net">memphistoysoldier@bellsouth.net</a>	Treefrog Treasures ..... IBC <a href="mailto:sales@treefrogtreasures.com">sales@treefrogtreasures.com</a> Tel: 507-545-2500
Chicago Toy Soldier Show .....9, 60 Phone 847-567-5355 Email: <a href="mailto:Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com">Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com</a> <a href="http://www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com">www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com</a>	Mercator Trading .....5 Contact: <a href="http://www.mercatortrading.com">www.mercatortrading.com</a>	Vectis.....34 Tel: 01642 750616 <a href="http://www.vectis.co.uk">www.vectis.co.uk</a> Email: <a href="mailto:simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk">simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk</a>
Counterpane Gallery .....52 Email: <a href="http://www.counterpanegallery.com">www.counterpanegallery.com</a> Tel/Fax: 703-536-3064	Newport News/American Legion Post #25 Toy Soldier Show .....64	
Cyber Toy Auctions.....46 <a href="http://www.cybertoyauctions.com">www.cybertoyauctions.com</a>	Old Toy Castles - Peter Clark .....46 Contact: <a href="mailto:psclark@verizon.net">psclark@verizon.net</a>	
Figuren Magazine .....50 <a href="mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de">redaktion@figuren-magazin.de</a>	Old Toy Soldier Auctions .....1 Email: <a href="mailto:raytoys@aol.com">raytoys@aol.com</a> Tel: 1-800-349-8009	
Frazier Museum .....1 <a href="http://www.fraziermuseum.org">www.fraziermuseum.org</a>	Old Toy Soldier Auctions Bargain Room .....26	
Henry Kurtz, Ltd.....70 Tel: 718-796-2696 Email: <a href="mailto:henrykurtz@optonline.net">henrykurtz@optonline.net</a>	Old Toy Soldier Back Issues.....4 Email: <a href="mailto:raytoys@aol.com">raytoys@aol.com</a>	
Hocker, William .....72 Tel: 510-841-4458	Ray and Bre Live.....BC	
	Regiments of All Nations Book - Joe Wallis .....72	
	Soldiers of Greater Britain Book - Joe Wallis .....38	



# ***CEREMONIAL CLASSIC TOY SOLDIERS & SETS AT TREEFROG!***



41071 Gordon  
Highlander Piper



41066 Life Guard



CE073 HRH  
Prince Philip,  
Colonel of the  
Grenadier  
Guards



CE055 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



43208 3 Mounted Blues &  
Royals Command Box Set #2



CE070 The Black Watch Colour Party

***Treefrog Treasures Military Miniatures***

***2416 East River Road NE***

***Rochester, MN 55906-3466***

***507.545.2500***

***[www.treefrogtreasures.com](http://www.treefrogtreasures.com)***





# Hello and Welcome to...

Join us as we celebrate the world of toy soldiers, antique toys and collectibles!



- ★ Ask Questions
- ★ Comment Live
- ★ Watch with Friends



facebook.com/oldtoysoldier

Follow Old Toy Soldier on Facebook  
Subscribe to Ray and Bre Live on YouTube



RAY AND BRE LIVE