

## WILLIAM CARMAN - TAKE 2



# The Dr. Edmund Pellettiere Auction on March 24th and 25th

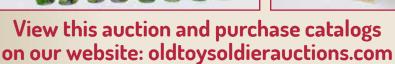














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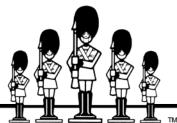
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#### **ON THE COVER**

Often misidentified as Bonnie Prince Charles this figure by William Carman is in fact an officer of the Black Watch, part of George III's forces sent to hunt the Prince down! Photograph courtesy Rob Wilson



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# **HOBBY NEWS**

### A Tribute to Jan Scroby



December 31st, 2017 marked the passing of Jan Scroby, a pioneer and icon of our toy soldier hobby. Jan together with her husband Frank, who passed away November 26, 2016, are recognized as the team responsible for initiating the renaissance of modern metal toy soldiers nearly a decade after the Safety in Toys Act sounded the death knell of leadbased toy soldiers.

Jan and Frank operated a stall on Saturdays in London's renowned antique market on Portobello Road to supplement their regular job earnings. They sold metal toy soldiers, mostly Britains, but were experiencing difficulty in acquiring an adequate number of vintage figures to stock their stall. They recognized that the growing demand had created a shortage and new sources were needed to satisfy the appetite of collectors. They decided to take the plunge and embarked on a venture to make some toy soldier figures of their own. The initial production of a limited line of single figures were truly home made. They used gravity casting of zinc alloy metal melted on the kitchen stove top of their Blenheim Crescent apartment in London.

These first figures were made in December of 1973. The initial line was 14 different soldiers including officer and other ranks of Coldstream Guardsmen, Gordon Highlanders, French Imperial Guardsmen, and Rifle Brigade as well as a single set of mounted Imperial Yeomanry. The final figures made of this initial line was the Princess Louise of Kensington Rifles, not many were made as it was not very popular with customers. With experience came proficiency and in 1974 their figures caught the attention of fellow Portobello trader, collector, and military historian Shamus O.D. Wade. Soon an arrangement was struck to produce a line of "Nostalgia" figures to Wade's specifications. With this contract Jan and Frank left their regular employment to make toy solders full time. The popularity of the Nostalgia range and continued commercial success resulted in outgrowing their London apartment. They applied for and succeeded in receiving a grant from the Welsh Economic Development Board and they relocated to a new facility on January 11, 1975. The new small factory in Wales allowed the Scrobys to expand and they hired additional painters and purchased centrifugal casting equipment. From the humble beginnings of a Portobello

## HOBBY NEWS (Continued)



Silk Road War Elephant

stall, Blenheim was transformed into a true manufacturing organization with widespread distribution of a product line that included Victorian, Colonial and Napoleonic ranges of figures.

The stove top origins of the "New Old Toy Soldier" concept metamorphosed under the management and creativity of Jan and Frank Scroby into a businessss organization that over its tenure included Blenheim, Nostalgia, Brigade American Collection, Marlborough Military Miniatures, Star Soldiers, Delhi Durbar, and Silk Road brand names and lines. Additionally, the Scrobys produced many special commissions and limited edition commemoratives such as the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Iowa set featuring Marilyn Monroe, and the 39 piece Princeton Battlefield Preservation Society that was presented to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and President Gerald Ford and part of the Malcolm Forbes Collection. Unique sets and figures were also sold retail at Fort Henry, Fort Ticonderoga, West Point, and Annapolis, as well as the Under Two Flags Shop in London and Au Grin de Folie in Geneva.

Jan Scroby was the creative force and did all of the research, sculpting of master models and paint specifications. Frank Scroby was the operational arm involving all mold making, figure casting which often involved developing innovative techniques for the intricate casting of the raised detail and poses of Jan's master designs. The Scrobys were the first toy soldier producers



to mass produce figures with raised details. Mike and Star Curley became U.S. Distributers for Blenheim and related output. An outgrowth of this relationship was the launching of a new specialized line by the Scrobys and Curleys known as Star Soldiers. It was comprised of limited edition sets, initially 20 sets but rapidly growing to 100 sets that were subscription based. The sets focused on campaigns such as the Indian Mutiny and Boer War and featured military units not previously available as toy soldiers. A total of 38 separate sets were issued by the time the line was ended.





**Blenheim Boxer Rebellion Special Commission for James Opie** 

# HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

The Blenheim line closed in April,1982 but re-emerged later in 1982 as Marlborough Military Models located in Bridgend, Wales. Marlborough expanded beyond Victorian to include Edwardian, Napoleonic, Indian Army, American Independence, U.S. Civil War, Civilians, Military Institutes, Artillery and Vehicles, the Delhi Durbar and Silk Road. New ventures even extended into producing a line of Charbens figures from the original molds.

The Scrobys moved to France in 1994 due to Frank's health but they continued the business. Eventually the Scrobys sold the Marlborough business and retired and by the early 2000's their last sets were made. The contribution and impact that Jan and Frank have had on the toy soldier hobby is best measured by the scope and variety of today's hobby. Consider the Chicago Toy Soldier Show with its hundreds of dealers and collectors all buying, selling and trading the many

Ralph Kimmich is a long time Scroby collector and friend. He first caught the toy soldier bug as an 8 year old Brooklyn kid in the late 40's and early 50's. The toy soldier passion went into hibernation until it was revived aboard an airplane traveling to Texas in 1978. The inflight magazine had a cover story about grown men playing with toy soldiers. Oddly enough his old toy soldiers somehow survived his mother's purge of comic books and baseball cards. Sound familiar? He was twice bitten by the bug. Initially he sought vintage Britains at auction or brick and mortar shops but another collector introduced him to a list mailed by Shamus Wade and the Nostalgia line. Next came a quest for anything made by Jan and Frank Scroby. As an airline executive he was able to attend toy soldier shows here in the U.S. and abroad. While in London



American Brigade Collection Marion Military Academy Cadet Officer



American Brigade Collection Wentworth Military Academy Color Guard Cadet

makers and styles of toy soldiers both new and vintage. Perhaps this is the

Submitted by Ralph Kimmich

finest tribute to Jan and Frank. There is no question that they will be missed.

WWII Italian African Korps

Trooper

he met the Scrobys and remained in touch with them over the years. Contributing and providing valuable information and background was Star Curley and a regiment of collector friends far too numerous to name, without them this recollection would be incomplete. Ralph is enjoying retirement in the Hill Country of Texas.



Nostalgia Set N.160 Nizam of Hyperabad Camel Gunners

Sunday, March 4, 2018 am. - 3pm

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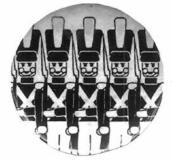
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# Adrian Little

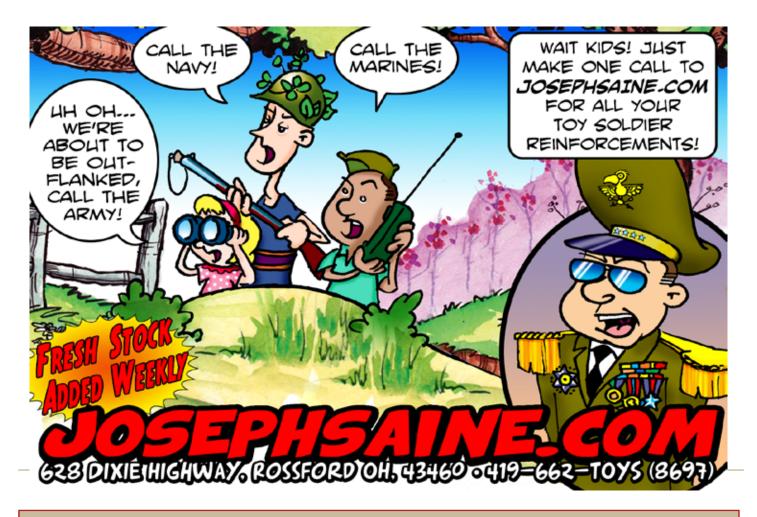
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This is a dateline show for old toy soldiers and figures, pre 1980 vintage



W. Britain 125th Anniversary Edition: The Frazier History Museum Historic Miniature Masters Friday, February 23, 2018, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Join the W. Britain team at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, KY during the 2018 Show of Shows. 2018 marks 125 years of W. Britain and the Frazier History Museum boasts one of the largest and most important collections of historic toy soldiers and figures from 1770 to the present day, including many iconic pieces made by W. Britain.

- The Masters Series is a curated conversation among a renowned panel of experts and enthusiasts.
- Ken and Ericka Osen, W. Britain, will share stories of Britains then and now with a focus on the history of figures and Civil War roundtables.
- Charles Stewart, Collector and Donor, will share the breadth and depth of the Frazier Collection and feature highlights from the W. Britain Collection.
- \* Roger Garfield, Chicago Toy Soldier Show, will share stories about the present and possible future of the toy soldier collecting hobby through the 37-year perspective of the Chicago Toy Soldier Show.
- Tour the Stewart Collection of Historic Miniatures at the Frazier numbering over 20,000 figures from 80 countries and over 125 different makers.
- Guests will also enjoy inspired pairings from premium caterer Wiltshire Pantry, and bourbon truffles from Art Eatables, the world's first Bourbon certified chocolatier. And this is Kentucky, so a wee dram of premium Kentucky Bourbon is sure to be on the menu. Join us and raise a glass to W. Britain's 125th!

General Admission: \$28 Frazier Members: \$22 Tickets for this program are available for purchase online at www.fraziermuseum.org/wbritain. Please call 502.753.5663 should you have any questions.

# **AUCTION PREVIEW**





Kay Civilian Hospital

# Edmund Pellettiere Collection March 24th & 25th, 2018



Heinrichsen Demi Round 40mm



**Britains Wild Horse** 



S.G.D.G. French Tin



**Russell Football Teams** 



Frederick

The Great



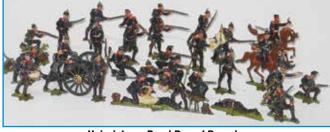
Britains Royal Mail Driver



S.G.D.G. French Tin



**Britains Adult Elephant and Box** 



Heinrichsen Demi Round Prussian



**Mignot Cavalry on Springs** 

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**Haffner British Hussars** 

**Britains Medic** 

# AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)



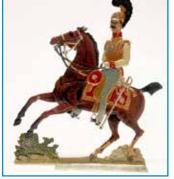


Britains Spanish

**Britains Frontier Force** 



**Royal Scots Pipe Band** 



Large Flat Dragoon





**Mignot French Cadets** 





**Marklin Demi Round Sailors** 



**Krause Austrians** 



**Heyde Bulgarians** 





Mignot Mountain Gun Team



**Britains Territorial** 



**Royal Canadian Regiment Britains** 

#### UCTION PREVIEW (Continued)



**Britains Sailors** 



**40mm Solid Austrians** 



**Britains Indian Army** 



Timpo Hopalong Cassidy Set



**Cherilea Baronial** 



**Britains Territorial** 



**Wollner Turkish Band** 





**Britains ARP** 

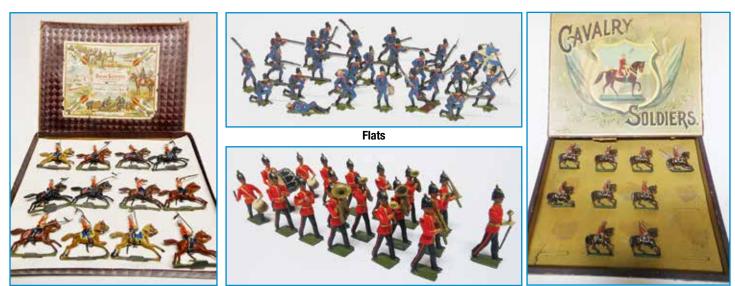
**Britains Boers** 



Heinrichsen 40mm Demi Round Zouaves



Marklin Gun Team



**Lucotte German Lancers** 

Britains Band of the Line #1458

**McLoughlin US Cavalry** 

# **AUCTION PREVIEW** (Continued)



**Beiser 3 inch West Point Cadets** 



S.G.D.G. French Tin



**Britains Clown and Acrobat on Trapeze** 



Pfeiffer US Infantry



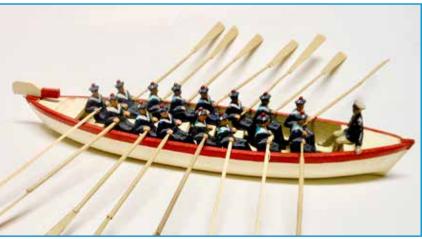
Haffner







Eureka By Beiser Knockdown Set



**Quiralu Matelots Rowing Boat** 

### WILLIAM CARMAN - TAKE 2 By Rob Wilson

Thanks to the many readers who wrote to me to add further information and insight into the contributions of William Carman to our hobby. Many provided additional images, some of which are included in the current article, including a number of his models of personalities. It is clear that I am not alone in recognising his significance to the hobby.



Major Richard Malott was one of number of respondents who came up with personal reminiscences. After 24 years in the RCAF,1950-1974, Richard became the Chief Curator of the Collections at the Canadian War Museum (CWM) 1974-1992, Ottawa, in and concurrently the Executive Director of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, Inc., (OMMC Inc.)1974-2000, which comprised Canadian some 63 military museums.

Each year the OMMC Inc. would hold a week's instructional course for the new and old museum members at various Canadian military bases. They were able to bring to Canada outstanding lecturers from European military museums. William Carman was a frequent guest lecturer. He lectured on British uniforms, military head dress and toy soldiers. As a result, Richard and William (Bill) developed a strong friendship. According to Richard his lectures were very witty, filled with dry humour and lots of pictorial presentations:

"He was indeed a wonderful toy soldier aficionado and a gentleman of the old order".

Some years ago, the CWM located in Toronto two original tailor's books containing information on the facings for British uniforms in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Bill could not believe that the CWM had located such a treasure in Canada. He spent several hours drawing examples from the 2 books and recording the colours. The books are still at the CWM. On another occasion while in Victoria for a course at Royal Roads, Bill received word of a break in at his home and the loss of many of his priceless British cavalry helmets. Richard believes that they were all recovered eventually."

Richard was also lucky enough to be invited to Bill's home. These visits were quite an adventure for someone interested in matters military. According to Richard, every available space was filled with his artefacts, research books and papers. To quote Richard again:

"It was a wonder that his dining room did not collapse. We always ate in the kitchen as there was no other location to do so. After his wife died I believe Bill's congestion became worse." "A visit to his basement was a wonderful experience to see the hundreds of boxes filled to the brim with toy soldiers of various description. He always kindly gave me a few of his own manufacturing on each of my visits."

Our editor, Norman Joplin, located a number of interesting images illustrating Carman's contributions to the Toy and Model Soldier hobby.

Figure 1 shows the master at work on a large-scale Life Guard. While the scan in Figure 2, is taken from *The Sphere* and dated May 19th, 1951. It illustrates Carman's involvement in a major Exhibition staged as part of the Festival of Britain (1951) in the then newly restored Banqueting Hall of the Royal United Services Museum.

The exhibition brought together arts and crafts (the production of the model soldiers) with British history. It is quite hard to make out the black and white images. But it is clear that they show examples of some of the personality figures that Carman was by then marketing, as well as flat and fully rounded figures in dioramas.

At this time "toy soldiers" was a rather derogatory term. To quote from the Sphere article:

"Mr. Carman moulds his own soldiers and historical figures, and when completed they appear as tiny works of art, perfect in every detail, and are not to be confused with usual type of toy soldier."

William Britain would probably have taken umbrage at such an insult, having from the beginning emphasised that their own figures were not just toys but scale models, correct in every detail!

The images from the Sphere article show a range of different figures, including smaller scale flat figures of knights in a medieval battle scene (apparently "home-made"), as well as a larger scale, fully rounded diorama on a scenic base depicting a British Foot Guards military camp scene (circa 1750) and a separate group of figures, Wellington's artillery (circa 1815).

A group of around a dozen important personalities from British history are also pictured in front of a scenic backdrop. These included the Earl of Essex, Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth 1, Madame du Barry, George III and the Duke of Wellington.

Bill Nutting, is also a great fan and collector of Carman's figures. Bill informed me that he first saw examples of Carman's work on trips to London in the 1980s at stalls on the Portobello Road and other London antique centres. Bill Nutting recalls that Bill Kingsman, the well-known British toy soldier dealer always had a good selection on offer. When a significant part of Mr. Carman's collection was sold at Christie's in 2004, Bill Nutting bought a number of the 54mm "Carman range" of



Figure 1: Bill Carman (properly dressed in collar and tie!) puts the finishing touches to another model soldier



Figure 2: Scan of page commemorating the Exhibition Carman helped to organise at the Royal United Service Museum (taken from *The Sphere*, May 19th,1951)

figures, as well as some Britains that he felt were the most important to the Carman story. Moulds were also offered at the same sale.

Well known New York collector, and one-time dealer in toy soldiers, Steve Balkin, is another fan. Steve sent me a number of images (as well as a very kind invitation to visit him to see many other examples in his own collection, which I have yet to take up!). Some of the images are presented here in Figures 3-5. These show the mid-18th Century Grenadier figure standing at ease. They are painted to represent various different regiments of the British Army of that period. William Carman was world authority on British Military Uniforms and was well placed to identify the key features that differentiated one from the other, such as the colours

of the facings to the coats, etc. Bases are painted green, grey and sand colours.

Steve also has similar variations on a theme, but based on the British Napoleonic Line Infantry figure marching at the slope. Carman probably made every possible regiment so there is almost no limit to the collecting possibilities!



Figure 3: Variations on a Theme – 54mm Grenadiers, including the 17th (Leicestershire) and 19th Foot (Green Howards)





Figure 4: Officer of the 30th Foot (Cambridgeshire Regiment); a Foot Guard Grenadier (or from some other "Royal Regiment; 56th Foot (Essex Regiment); and 2nd Foot (Queen's Royal Regiment, West Surrey)

Figure 5: More Grenadiers, including the 43rd Foot (Monmouthshire), 15th Foot (East Yorkshire regiment); the one in a blue coat is probably a Prussian.

Adrian Little, UK dealer in toy figures and organiser of the London Old Toy Soldier show (held in September of each year), is another who appreciates the history of the hobby and likes to cater for those who are looking for more unusual figures (rather than run of the mill Britains or CBG Mignots). Adrian commented on the huge amount of effort that had to go into producing the range of figures produced by Carman, even if he was doing primarily for personal pleasure rather than commercial gain. He was truly prolific given that this was just a side line to his main job as a museum curator.

Adrian finds that some of the figures that tend to sell best (i.e. fetch the best prices) are the ladies in their long gowns. As well as depicting historical figures, Carman also made characters from literature (e.g: Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Dickens). He produced a range of Georgian ladies, as well as those from previous centuries. Figure 6 shows a selection. Whilst some are only poorly painted and cast, the best examples are, in Adrian's' view, almost the equal of Vertunni.

The group of military figures in Figure 7 illustrate how Carman used different heads as well as paint to depict different regiments. The "at ease" figure here now wears a tricorn hat but still representing British regiments. With further modifications and a bicorn hat, we have another Prussian type. The marching figure is also found with variations in head gear. This was apparently a common ploy. For example, Carman produced a small range of Magna Carta knights that were sold through the Burlington Arcade in London that were distinguished by different heads.

Some of Carman's 54mm scale figures were marketed under the Argosy trade name. Occasionally they turn up in such original packaging.

It is not clear if Carman employed others to do some of the painting work. If so this might explain some the variations in quality. See, for example, the 2 Cavaliers in Figure 8. One is fairly crudely painted, the other one, in blue, is quite delicately done by comparison.



Figure 6: A Selection of Carman's Ladies (54mm scale)



Figure 7: Other Military Figures from the 18th Century (54mm scale)

Table 1 attempts a summary of the main historical periods and wars covered by Carman's 54mm range. Table 2 sets out a list of personalities (historical and some from fiction) that I have been able to identify in the range.

As noted in the previous article, there are many variations on the main themes, with separate castings to differentiate officers and men, as well as occasionally musicians and standard bearers (although the latter are much harder to find). Differences in paint finishes were also used to represent particular regiments, and in some cases different nationalities!

# Table 1: Historical periods covered byCarman's 54mm Scale Military figures(primarily British, but a few enemies too!)

Romans

The Dark Ages (Saxons and Danes) The Norman Conquest The Crusades Magna Carta Wars of the Roses Tudor period (Henry and Elizabeth) Stuarts English Civil War Restoration of the Monarchy, 1660 Marlborough's wars (William and Mary, Queen Anne) War of Spanish Succession Jacobite Rebellion, Culloden 1745 7 Years War Napoleonic Wars Early and late Victorian

Readers are cordially invited to write in and add to this list!



Figure 8: Comparison of paint styles (54mm Cavaliers)

Table 1: Carman's 54mm Scale Personality Figures(roughly in historical order)

#### Historical figures

Alexander the Great Alfred the Great Queen Phillipa William the Conqueror Magna Carta Knights (made with interchangeable heads) King Henry VII King Henry VIII Wives of King Henry VIII Mary Queen of Scots. Queen Elizabeth 1 Sir Francis Drake Sir Walter Raleigh Earl of Essex James 1st Charles the First Oliver Cromwell Duke of Marlborough **Bonnie Prince Charlie** King George III Madame du Barry Marie Antoinette Napoleon Wellington Nelson (sold under the Argosy trade name) Lady Hamilton

#### Figures from English Literature

Hamlet Lorna Doone Rob Roy Becky Sharpe



Figure 9: Bonnie Prince Charles dressed in red Stuart pattern tartan

Our cover shot (reproduced here as part of Figure 9) shows (here on the right) an officer of the Black Watch circa 1745. This is often misidentified as Bonnie Prince Charles. Figure 10 also shows (on the left) Carman's model of the Prince, dressed in red Stuart tartan (as opposed to Government Pattern Black Watch!).

As well as working in lead, Carman also produced figures cast in plaster. Adrian supplied the following information on two large scale figures from Carman's personal collection. The French Polish Lancer (circa 1815) in Figure 10 is made from solid plaster of Paris. Its overall height is 22cm. It is marked on the base (at the back of the short wall behind the figure) "W Y Carman". The Royal Artillery officer, circa 1790, shown in Figure 11 is also plaster, but not marked. It is 26cm tall. The repaired sword is not original.

Finally, one reader sent a snap of Castle Green today. As the comparison in Figures 12 and 13 illustrate, Carman's model (as featured in the previous article) captures it very nicely.

Rob Wilson, January 19th 2017. Contact at r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk



Figure 10: Large Scale Plaster Model: probably intended to represent an officer of the Polish Lancers of Napoleon's Imperial Guard (stamped on the rear of the short wall behind the figure, "W Y Carman")



Figure 11: Large Scale Plaster Model: Officer of the Royal Artillery circa 1790



Figure12: Castle Green in modern times



Figure 13: Castle Green circa 1660 by Carman

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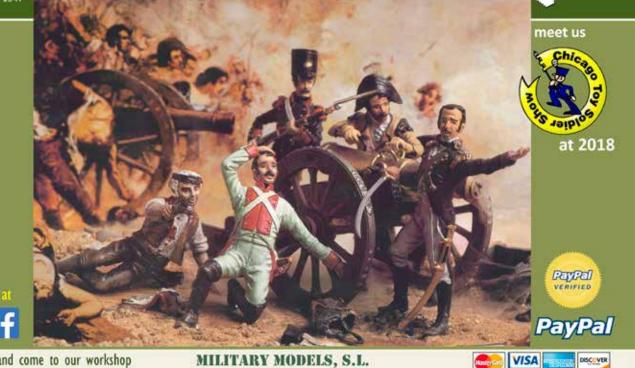


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### **TRICO #1 SIZE VARIATIONS & MYSTERYS**

By Andrew & Barbara McIntyre



The firm of Langfelder, Homma, & Hayward (LHH) incorporated in 1921 imported a variety of toys from Japan in the inter-war years acting both as retail distributer and manufacturer. Some items were from established manufacturers who used the firm as jobbers, e.g. the doll manufacturer Morimura transferred all USA operations to LHH in 1922. However, toy soldiers and civilian figures were LHH's own manufacture from approximately 1933 until the end of 1941 and sold under their registered trademark TRICO (refs 1, 2, 3). There were other Japanese makers of toy soldiers in the 1930s (ref. 4) of unknown provenance and minimal impact on the American market. Previous publications have described the general character and range of TRICO figures (refs. 2, 3, 4 and 5). We concentrate here on variations in the largest size, the #1 figures (see ref. 1 for nomenclature).

The largest size soldiers, #1, averaging 5.5 inches/14 cm from base to peak of hat apparently were manufactured for only a few years beginning with the introduction of the line in 1933. Survival numbers and anecdotal evidence are our only proof. Like fossils in ancient sediments, the larger the original population the greater the number of survivors. The most common TRICO soldiers are the #2 size, averaging 4.5 inches/10.5 cm. The least common are the #1 and #3, the latter averaging 2.9 inches/7.5cm. Andy remembers receiving #2 sets from 1936 thru 1938. The only kid on the block with #1s had received them from his older brother as hand me downs.

Despite this short interval of manufacture there are many variations in #1 forms. As proof we illustrate three flag-bearers with markedly different form (Fig. 1, described in text from left to right). First Flag Bearer, has the normal (marching) stride, 2 cm, and "no wind" so the flag held by the right arm, hangs straight. The flag has a gold border on all edges. It's left arm hangs straight and relaxed at side. Second Flag Bearer, is striding, 3 cm, leaning slightly forward and wind/ motion has unfurled the flag which is held by the left arm. This flag is without a gold border but has gold streamers. The right arm is akimbo with hand at jacket pocket. Third Flag Bearer, suggests an attack stride though it is only 2.5 cm. The flag held by the left arm has only streamers and indicates by the unfurled shape a stronger wind/faster forward motion and this is also indicated by the right arm extended from the body. Thus TRICO supplied three guite different Flag Bearers for the #1 size but only two shapes of moving soldiers, i.e. either normal march with rifle on shoulder or running with rifle-at-the-ready.

While the painting of these soldiers follows the TRICO protocol of World War I (WWI) Brown Uniforms, Indian Brown leather for belts, boots, and flag supports, there are some subtle differences in uniform. The marching Flag Bearer has a closed collar, no tie, 5 button jacket with two breast and two hip pockets. Second Flag Bearer has open collar and lapels, brown tie, 4 button jacket with two breast pockets and no hip pockets. Third Flag Bearer has open collar and lapels, green

### TRICO #1 SIZE VARIATIONS & MYSTERYS (Continued)



tie, no visible jacket buttons and both breast and hip pockets. Note: all TRICO non-commissioned, #1 size soldiers wear high-collar, no lapel, no tie jackets unlike officers who wear lapel and tie jackets. But the second and third Flag Bearers wear officer attire. In neither the US or Jap army was a commissioned officer ever a flag bearer; a mistake!

We have viewed the #1 size First and Second Flag Bearer in sets, but the Third Flag Bearer with the more active stride is new to us and we have never seen it described in print. Why did TRICO produce three Flag Bearers in #1 size but stocked only two figures for the soldiers (marching and running)? Was this a request from the jobbers or did the reverence for the Flag Bearer in Japan cause the manufacturer/Sculptor/designer to do this for their own pleasure. Remember this was the militant Japan of the 1930s, a country yet to lose a war.

One glaring mistake in describing TRICO soldiers is calling the color of the uniform Olive Drab, OD -- it is not. The American uniform in WWI from which TRICO copied their toy soldiers was specified as Brown Wool. According to military historians it was the brown doughy color that led to the soldiers who wore it being called "Doughboys". OD was the basic dye of World War II American uniforms. If you have any doubt, go to the net and call up Pantone and compare OD with the WWI uniforms.



### TRICO #1 SIZE VARIATIONS & MYSTERYS (Continued)



Another fact, TRICO sets were not cheap. Andy sadly remember his Dad's refusal to purchase a large set displayed in the window of the Davis Toy Store in Union City, N.J. because of its cost. That set had an armored car as well as shooting and charging soldiers, in size #2, this was ca. 1938. Dad got an even bigger shock when in 1939 at Macys, Andy demanded (and got) Britains soldiers - the power of a birthday promise!

We have included illustrations of a large early set of #1 US soldiers with peaked caps on both commissioned and non-commissioned soldiers (Fig. 2) but in the elaborate picture on the box lid (Fig. 3) only the officers wear peaked caps. While there is no proof of set provenance (sales receipt, etc.) supposedly it was purchased for Christmas 1934 but never given until it became an attic find in 1997. While the presence of peaked caps is the most important feature of this early set, we draw your attention to the babydoll-likesculpting of the marching soldiers with protuberant abdomens. This feature leads to the question who designed and manufactured these toy soldiers for LHH and to be sold under the TRICO label?

The answer may lie with a business deal that occurred in 1922. Morimura Bros. Inc. of Japan was formed in the 19th Century. Initially involved with china and porcelain production, they began manufacture of dolls beginning in the 20th Century. Morimura was an aggressive business and soon expanded into banking and heavy manufacturing, so that by the end of WWI they were a Zaibatsu; today they are a major producer of industrial ceramics, metals, etc. They had active wholesale and retail operations in New York but as the doll business was no longer their main interest they closed the doll outlet in the USA and contracted in 1922 with LHH to handle their doll products. Which LHH did until 1941. For example Morimura made a line of Shirley Temple dolls for the USA 5 and 10¢ store trade in the mid 1930s that all carried a TRICO label on Shirley's chest. We suggest that when LHH decided to offer a line of soldiers the obvious choice of manufacture would be the Morimura factory that produced the dolls. Thus, the earliest soldiers ca 1933-34 have a doll-like character that was altered within a short time. This can be seen in the #1 size which was recently auctioned by Old Toy Soldier Auction June 2017, lot 3176.

We end this article with another mystery! We have a single example of a prone soldier shooting, wearing a steel helmet, and having painted facial features that are Asian in character (Fig. 4). It differs in size, paint, and attire from the #2 TRICO which is larger and wears a campaign hat (Figs. 5 and 6). The overall length (including rifle) and body length for the TRICO #2 and the unknown are respectively 6 and 1/8 inches/15.5 cm, 3 and 12/16 inches/9.8 cm, and 5 and 5/8 inches/14.2 cm, 3 and 3/8 inches/8.5 cm. Other than the difference in headgear, the unknown has a knapsack on it's back and boots. On the bottom side both soldiers have a trapezoidal indentation below the belt line like that found in German soldiers in the prone position. But, unlike the German soldiers which have name and country in this indentation, the Japanese has no lettering to show company or origin. Finally the brown color is a shade lighter in the unknown example. Does any collector know the manufacturer of this prone soldier with helmet and are there other toy soldiers in this series? We would appreciate any feedback and can be reached on E-mail at barbclim@ comcast.net.

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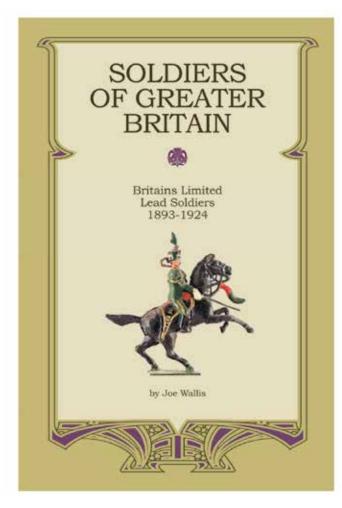
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# **SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN**

#### **JOE WALLIS**



*Soldiers of Greater Britain* is the third volume of Joe Wallis' in-depth history of Britains Limited Lead Soldiers. It deals with the era between 1893 and 1924 when the firm developed the distinctive style and quality that made Britains toy soldiers the most popular and recognizable in the world. This intensively researched book answers questions about early mechanical toys, "ancient" Britains figures, sources of their designs, accuracy of their models, the small-scale B Series, the little-known Paris Office, and Fred Whisstock's wonderful box labels. *Soldiers of Greater Britain* along with *Armies of the World*, 1925-1941 and *Regiments of All Nations*, 1946-1966 provides a thorough and authoritative record of Britains traditional lead lines. See <u>www.leadsoldierbooks.com</u>.

• Features 782 close-up color photographs placed in numerical order throughout the text by the corresponding set descriptions

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Joe Wallis is a noted authority, having written over 150 articles published in the Old Toy Soldier journal.

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## SOME BRITAINS SPECIALS PART TWO

By John Franklin

#### Continuing the review of Some Britains Specials by John Franklin.

Part 2 covers-

- C) Some One off examples.
- D) Some generally available examples.
- E) Miscellaneous examples.

Part one of this article published in OTS Volume 41 #3 Fall 2017 covered.

A) The Poitier -Smith collectionB) Some other specific one off collections.

Copies of part one Volume 41 #3 are available by contacting OTS Magazine Manager Bre Day bremarieday@gmail.com

#### C Some One Off Examples

Fusiliers seem to figure large in Britains Specials production. A number of figures shown in Section D would seem to be generally available, since a number have been seen around over the years, bands, colour parties, etc, but the individual figures in P20 would appear to be 'One Offs', however they are standard paint style, not the high grade painting of P-S Specials figures. Also Scottish Regiments appear to figure large in Britains Specials with again some seemingly available by request shown in Section D. 'One Offs' would seem to be like those in P21, some very attractive Scottish Officers with Colours at the carry. Other 'One Off' specials include the Infantry of the Line Colour Parties and Officers, all in standard paint style, P22 and P23. The colour party in P22 has black facings and that in P23 has yellow facings, flagged on purchase as the Hampshire Regt, but they are different from P19 as illustrated in part one, since the escort do not have white rifle slings.



**P20 Individual Fusilier Figures** 



P21 Scottish Officers with colours at the carry. L to R Cameron Highlander, Seaforth Highlander, Gordon Highlander and 2 Black Watch





P22(i) Infantry of the Line Colour Party, + 3 Officers



P23 Infantry of the Line Colour Party, yellow facings



P24 Staff Officers



P25(i) Steel Helmeted Mounted Band



P25(ii) Steel helmeted Mounted Band



P26 Steel Helmeted Colour Party

One other group of standard painting officers are the Staff officers shown in P24, some very attractive, some showing their age. Two officers have half boots so look like early Specials production.

The last groups in this section possibly raise the question of how many of the steel helmeted sets were Specials? While the 1940 Britains Catalogue included the Service Dress RHA and RFA in Steel Helmets, as also was the RAMC Service Dress Ambulance. there is no mention of the RASC wagon, nor Pontoon wagon, bands, colour party etc etc. Indeed both the 12 and the 21 piece Service Dress Bands (sets 1290 and 1287) are both described with 'Peak Caps' At the risk of being pedantic I might say the Steel Helmeted Mounted Band and the Colour Party fall into this section C, and the Pontoon wagon into Section D

P25 Shows an interesting mounted Steel Helmeted Band with 4 from one band and five from another together with a drum horse I made to have an overall 10 piece band. The 4 are on brown horses and the 5 on black horses, certainly can't be Royal Scots Greys then, and the 4 can't be Life Guards, but then are the black horsed figs Life Guards? Was one group pre-war and one post-war? It is not known whether these groups came from 7 piece bands or 12 piece bands. A 7 piece band did come onto the market through Vectis (Mar 2012). The sale catalogue picture for this shows it boxed but no end label nor set number in the rosette of a standard lid label as appeared on larger boxes. Also the insert card does not look right, 6 brown horse musicians and a white drum horse. Again presumably not the Royal Scots Greys, nor Life Guards.

P26 shows the Steel Helmeted Colour Party.



P 27 Royal Marine Colour Party

**P28 Fusilier Colour Party** 



P29 (i) Fusilier Fifes & Drums, Adult fifers

#### **D** Generally Available

section This covers some productions by Britains which were available through a specific outlet or groups seemingly generally available, probably flagged as such by word of mouth though BMSS, retail outlets. etc.

The prime example of a specific outlet was of course Hamleys in Regent St London, Gamages were not far behind. Reports tell us that from Hamleys the Royal Marine Colour Party, P27, was available before the 1939-45 War, as were the Egyptian Infantry marching which were based on the KAR figure, see James Opie's Big Book p329.

As per Section C Fusiliers and Scottish regiments figured large in sets of specials collectors wanted. 30

P28 shows the Fusilier Colour Party and P29 sets of Fusilier Fifes and Drums, one (i) using the adult fifer figure and one (ii) the boy fifer.

Scottish Regimental groupings included the post war Gordons



P29 (ii) Fusilier Fifes & Drums, Boy fifers

Pipe Band P30 and the Colour Party and troops from the Cameron Highlanders P31. Both post war productions.

Of interest in comparison with P30 and P31 are the two figures in P32,



**P30 Pipe Band of the Gordon Highlanders** 



P31(i) Cameron Highlanders Colour Party



P31(ii) Cameron Highlanders Officers and men

a pre-war rendition of both an Argyl and Sutherland Highlander and a Cameron Highlander, a pair in standard paint style, and to judge by that paint style, produced in the early 1930s. These two could have been part of standard unlisted numbered sets. We might learn so



P33 Khaki Indian Cavalry



P32 Argyl and Sutherland Highlander and Cameron Highlander

when unlisted set names/numbers from the Archives appear ere non. It is interesting to compare the three paint styles of a Cameron Highlander, in P32, early 1930s, P4 the mid 1930s and P31 for postwar. Similarly compare the Argyl and Sutherland Highlander in P32 with those in P4.

Indian Army would also again seem to have been available for purchase. The post-war Indian Cavalry in Khaki with maroon pennants are in P33. Word of mouth says thus group was produced for India's Independence in 1947, but it was not in the Catalogue, nor seemingly did it have a set number. Similarly the group of Madras Lancers P34, but these would appear to be a pre-war production with a splendid English Officer. Both these groups are normal paint standard.

And as regards the grey area of either Section C or D for Steel Helmeted sets, maybe the Steel Helmeted Pontoon Wagon P35 falls into this section as a number seem to be around.



P34 (i) Madras Lancers



P34 (ii) Madras Lancers



P 35 Steel Helmeted Pontoon Wagon

#### E Miscellaneous

We have a few miscellaneous items to conclude with, maybe some queries. P36 shows a limbered wagon at the halt. On balance I think this is a Britains production and it might even be a Paris Office issue. P37 (i & ii) shows some odd figures from a mounted General Officer in Blue, (he could be representing a number of corps), two apparent RMPs, a Seaforth Officer and a single Indian Infantry man, possibly a Baluchi at the trail similar to those on p330 in James Opie's Big Book, a US set 91 figure in service dress and finally in this group a RFA

P36 Limbered Wagon at the Halt

standing officer, and two mounted Coldstream Guards Officers.

P38 shows an officer from the 2nd Bombay Native Infantry, set 68, second version, did this set sometimes include an officer, or is he a special? Two definite Specials are the 2 buglers from a white helmeted drums and bugles



P37 (i) Various Individual Specials L to R Seaforth officer, USA on guard service dress, 2 RMPs Baluchi at the trail, RFA binocular officer



P37 (ii) Various Individual Specials L to R 2 Mounted Officers of the Coldstream Guards and a Mounted General Officer in Corps Uniform



P38 Further Individual Specials L to R 2 white helmeted Buglers and Officer from 2nd Bombay Native Infantry



P39 Austro Hungarian Infantry at ease





P40 (ii) Cameronians

group. I only have these two so I do not know whether they are from a classic 8 piece rendition from before the war like set 30 or whether they are from a 17 piece usual Special drums and bugles set composition, like P29 (i).

P39 shows three Austro Hungarian Infantry of the Line at ease. I suspect these might be Paris Office but they seem to be without the characteristic drooping moustaches from there.

P40, now a real question for readers, are these Cameronians Specials or not? They look and are an excellent paint standard, not far short of the P-S series. But this time, again on balance I would veer away from them being Specials, the rifles and hair do not seem to match Britains normal paint type

#### P40 (i) Cameronians

for these parts. A quite nice set nonetheless. They look very similar to the group of Cameronians on the front cover of John Ruddles 1980's book, 'Collectors Guide to Britains Model Soldiers'. My group though did not come with the mounted officer. And another question, we have seen 12th Lancers with swords from time to time, P41, but were they Specials or Britains just running out of lance arms for an urgent order? Similarly P42 were these Chasseurs a Cheval with swords instead of carbines Specials or a normal order when no carbines were available?



P40 (iii) Cameronians Officer & men



P41(i) 12th Lancers with swords



P41(ii) 12th Lancers with swords



P42 Chasseurs a Cheval with swords

Or are they Paris Office with their droopy moustaches? They are in an English box though, No 139.

So there we have a selection of Britains Specials. I am sure there are 10 times this number of other Specials out there, some of which command high prices. Maybe I should stick with the original Phillips description of 'repainted' for security reasons!

#### **Final thoughts**

None of my acquisitions came with an original box. Apart from the box commented on in section C for the Mounted Steel Helmeted Band, the only other box I have seen elsewhere for these sets covered above was for the Royal Marine Color Party P27. It was the classic colour party box as for the Scots Guards set 460 but with the Navy label as for set 254. In a way this seems logical, Hamleys were selling the colour party so needed the figures in a box for presentation display on their soldier shelves. Conversely it would seem that Specials orders would ordinarily be wrapped up in tissue paper and then packed in a stout box for dispatch through the mail system, thus no red box.

And finding Specials? Trust your instinct and judgement. Keep handling Britains figures for 10 or 20 years, keep looking at stuff at toy fairs and auctions even if there is nothing in the sale catalogue that you want, always look at figures and sets that appear to be out of the ordinary. Then, is that rifle lacquer/varnish right, is the hair lacquer/varnish right, look at the green bases, remember pre-war paint is different from post war paint, black moustache on post war paint, - careful!!

Remember there are lots of collectors out there who have as much knowledge as the auctioneer cataloguer, and this chap may not know all about that group or set of figures. Again use your judgement. I have bought the band of the Middlesex Regt set 1458, yellow facings, at auction when not so listed. Trust your judgement!

And as for the overall rare/specials scene, for 30 years or more from the 1970s onwards the big auction houses in London, Phillips, Sothebys, Christies, Bonhams et. al. had soldier and toy sales. The number of Specials and Paris Office figures that appeared during that time is a pretty small fraction of what has been offered for sale at auction in the last decade or so. So again, Caveat Emptor.

Acknowledgments to Phillips, now Bonhams for P18 & P19

John Franklin - August 2017

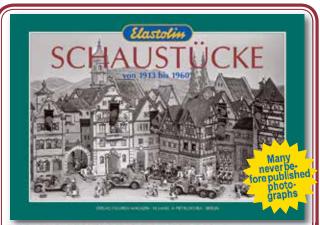
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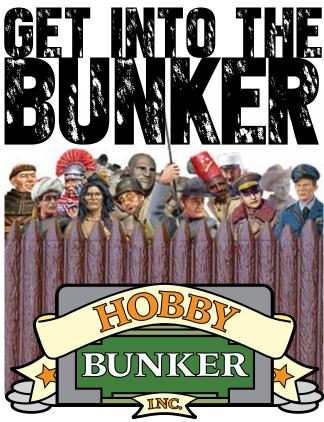
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# RECONNAISSANCE



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Weaver Toys Made in Ireland (Eire) Ebay Find



Phillip Segal Rare Version of Australian Infantry (right) Ebay Find





Britains Mystery Uniform Courtesy Gary Miller





Marlborough Model Company Circa 1920

# **RECONNAISSANCE** (Continued)





Toydell Piper

**Converted Cowboy Band Courtesy Mercator Trading** 

# WHAT BRITAINS COULD HAVE MADE







# **BOOK REVIEW**

Hiriart Toy Soldiers By Diego M. Lascano Reviewed By Russ Bednarek



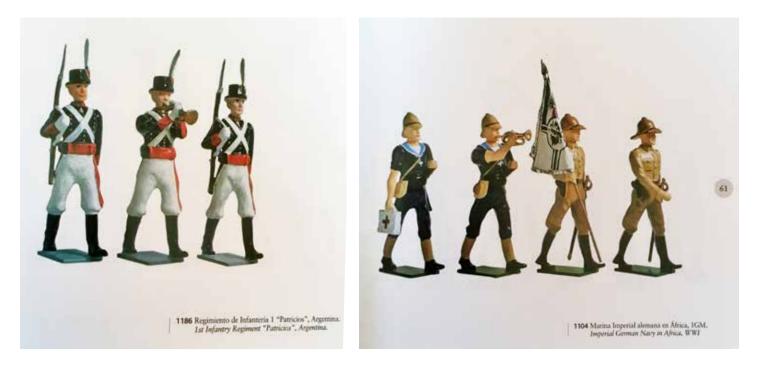
The history of South American toy soldier production is a much under researched topic. The limited amount of information available has been gleamed from numerous miscellaneous sources, often lacking names, dates and photographs. In general, toy soldiers first appeared in South America around the 1900's being imported from several European The 1920's and 1930's makers. dominated bv were Britains. Elastolin and Lineol. The cost of importing increased the price of European toy soldiers making them affordable to only a small segment of the population. Seeking a more profitable alternative, toy shops began to cast their own figures European commercial using molds and painting the figures and flags in local uniforms. More ambitious individuals began to recast the European figures depicted in national uniforms and their accompanying flags. A small number of makers created their own figures, but the vast majority quickly disappeared. Jaime Hiriart persisted in his passion of creating toy soldiers, resulting in one of the true gems of the toy soldier world; Hiriart toy soldiers.

Diego M. Lascano has authored several books on South American toys. Since the mid 1990's Lascano

has focused on examining the toy soldiers of Latin American makers and posting his findings on his blog; sodatitossudamericanos.blogspot. com.uv. Hiriart Toy Soldiers is Lascano's most recent effort and he effectively utilizes both text and outstanding photographs to masterfully tell the story of Jaime Hiriart's toy soldiers. Lascano examines the history of Hiriart beginning with the creation of his own paper soldiers as a child to casting his first figures in 1974. The author examines in chronological order the incremental production improvements implemented by Hiriart from 1974 to the present. Important events that helped shape the company are discussed; for example, an American collector living in Argentina buys Hiriarts figures to send to a US collector that inspired Hiriart to begin to export his work. Later on, there was an order for 7000 figures shipped to France that, upon their arrival and sale, helped establish Hiriart's credibility as a respected artisan. Perhaps the most important event occurred in 1989 when his son Guillermo, age 17, joins the workshop and flourishes to become an integral part of the company continuing to this day. As Jaime Hiriart realized that there was an export market for his product, a shift towards greater diversification of subject matter occurred to increase sales.

Over 100 pages are dedicated to color photographs of Hiriart figures and sets. The first 16 pages focus on the early figures of Jaime Hiriart, beginning with the 70mm balsa wood pieces followed by figures representing the soldiers

# **BOOK REVIEW** (Continued)



of Napoleon, ancient Persians, Uruguayan military academy, World War I Germans and more. The next 88 pages examine a sampling of the current Hiriart catalog. Military, civilian, and personality figures are shown in addition to mechanized vehicles, ships, animals and trees/ The color photographs plants. are outstanding. A typical page will have 2 to 5 figures shown that appear larger than their 54mm size. Foot figures are typically 80mm in height while cavalry are 100mm-110mm in size. This allows the reader to closely examine the quality of Hiriarts work. Catalogue numbers appear beneath each When compared figure shown. to the first 16 pages, we can see how Hiriart developed and improved upon his painting and sculpting skills. Following the pictorial portion of the book is a 2 page study of Hiriart figure bases presented in chronological order, a 2 page reference of silhouettes of cavalry and infantry castings and a page of box art and a set of cavalry and infantry. The book concludes with the current 387 set catalogue.

Hiriart Toy Soldiers is a softcover 143 glossy page book with over 100 pages of high quality color photographs depicting Hiriart figures. Both Spanish and English text share the same page with Spanish on the left side and English on the right side of the Readers are encouraged page. to purchase their copy of Hiriart Toy Soldiers from Mike Tarantino. The largest US distributor of Hiriart, Mr. Tarantino has copies available for \$35+\$5 media mailing rate. Payment may be made with PayPal using only the "Family and Friends" option. Mr.Tarantino does not have a website but interested parties desiring to purchase Hiriart sets should contact Mr.Tarantino. Collectors will find the contact information provided below. Hiriart Toy Soldiers is also available on eBay under "Toy Soldiers", but postage from Uruguay is \$17. A great reference for Hiriart enthusiasts and interested collectors is the Treefrog Treasures website: www.treefrogtreasures. com. On the website is a forum where Hiriart has its own listing.

Here collectors can find posts regarding all things Hiriart and more importantly view numerous photographs of Hiriart pieces and sets. Mr. Tarantino is a regular poster who, when he receives his annual shipment of Hiriart sets, numerous photographs. posts Thank you to Guillermo Hiriart who provided a copy of the book for review, and to Mike Tarantino who made sure that it arrived. Hiriart Toy Soldiers is an excellent study of one of the true gems of our hobby and is highly recommended.

CONTACT INFORMATION Mike Tarantino email: matara42@roadrunner.com



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





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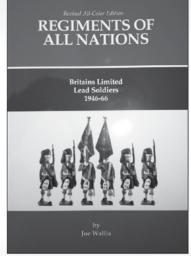
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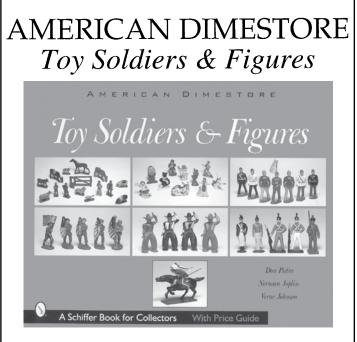
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# Word Search- On the Battlefield 14

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b	0	n	е	е	у	n	а	S	е	m	d	е	t	m	j	r	i	t	i	soldier
W	0	а	L	r	u	е	m	i	i	0	С	е	а	u	У	V	d	0	r	veteran
I	р	h	у	q	V	u	р	у	d	t	е	n	m	W	а	Z	d	Х	i	musketeer
m	е	S	i	V	q	i	u	i	Ι	а	d	t	t	t	i	t	а	t	r	marcher
r	r	b	t	V	у	Х	С	t	0	0	Ι	i	е	n	r	У	u	u	0	trooper
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# AUCTION REVIEW



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Lot 3463 Britains Boomerang Top \$1100



Lot 1088 Britains Set #56 Types of the British Army \$1700



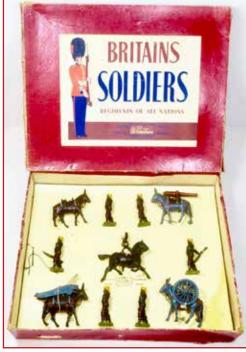
Lot 3621 Heyde 1900 French Artillery Set \$1300



Lot 1007 Britains Set #1855 Balloon Lorry \$950



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# AUCTION REVIEW (Continued)



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# AUCTION REVIEW (Continued)



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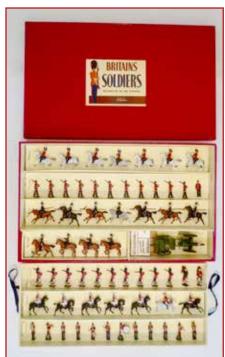
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By Norman Joplin

From the beginning of English toy soldier production in the UK during the late 1800s, through the Boer War and before and after World War One, Toy Soldiers were originally produced as children's toys, although many adult fathers, uncles and brothers would probably confess to playing with toy figures as well. H. G Wells popularized the hobby with his early work *Little Wars*.

Letters to the *Times* Newspaper in 1934 (see text below) could well have prompted the idea to start a "club" for adults to indulge in their toy soldier hobby. A French toy soldier society existed and eventually members were allowed to join and participate in both, perhaps an amalgamation agreement was reached ? hence both societies were up and running in 1935.

The British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers, formed in 1935 probably did more to promote the collecting of toy soldiers in the UK than any other group, The BSCMS members preferred to call their soldiers models rather than toys, nevertheless toys they remained.

British Newspapers gave substantial coverage to the formation of the society and continued to do so after a name change to The British Model Soldier Society. This article shows many of the press reports and photographs connected with the society under both names, and reports on exhibitions and meetings held during the early days of the society in London.

The society thrives today after some 80 years in existence and boasts many famous collectors, authors and authorities on toy soldiers. Leonard W Richards perhaps being the best known. Mr. Richards served as President and Treasurer of the Society and was made a Fellow of the Society in 1968, he also produced the first fully illustrated book *(Old British Model Soldiers 1893-1918)* attempting to identify early hollow cast toy soldiers, the author of this article has attempted to emulate Len Richards efforts by concentrating on collecting coupled with research.

William Young Carman, a past president of the society also authored a toy soldier book, *Model Soldiers* based mainly on his own products and those of the society. (See article entitled Carman take 2 in this issue.)

The extensive collection of toy soldiers accumulated by Mr. Richards was auctioned at Philips in London, see page 4 of this article.

#### LEAD SOLDIERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES Sir,--I wonder if any of your readers could give me any assistance in helping me to locate the address of the International Society of Collectors of Lead Soldiers? This society, I understand, has its headquarters in Paris; there are, I understand, '150 members and it holds regular exhibitions of the members' collections. So far I have been unsuccessful in my efforts to find-it. Perhaps some of your readers will be able to help me. I am yours truly,

ANDREW W. ROBERTSON.

3, Royal Crescent, W.11.

THE TIMES

LEAD SOLDIERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES Sir,-The society which your correspondent wishes to locate is probably the Société de Collectionneurs de Soldats d'Etain, 31, rue Charlot, Paris, 3c. It has Général Mariaux, Directeur du Musée de l'Armée, as its Président d'Honneur. Your obedient servant, I.E.J. TAYLOR. 21, Rue de la Bienfaisance, Paris (viiie),

Jan. 6.

THE TIMES

COLLECTORS OF MODEL SOLDIERS

Members of the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers at a dinner in London on Saturday produced model soldiers from their pockets. One of the most interesting exhibits was a box of soldiers reputed to be the smallest ever made. Its only duplicate was specially manufactured for the nursery of the Queen's Doll's House. It was announced that Lord Greenaway had been appointed patron of the society. The only member present who had no collection of his own was Mr. Britain, who, as a manufacturer, has probably had more toy soldiers through his hands than any other man. Mr. LEICESTER HEWETT, a vice-president, presided.

THE TIMES July 8th 1935



IS LILLIPUTIAN ARMY: Mr. Walter Lockwood, secretary of the newly formed Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers, with a portion of his own collection which was recently on view at the Queen Victoria Soldiers' Home, Woolwich



**Britains Queen Mary's Dolls House Figures** 

Converting and painting original hollow cast toy soldiers, mainly Britains was and remains very popular amongst BSCMS members. Hamley's the famous London toy store stocked unpainted castings supplied to them by Britains, which could only be purchased by BSCMS members, by I assume showing proof of membership of the society.

#### **COLLECTORS OF MODEL** SOLDIERS

NEW SOCIETY TO HOLD PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Enthusiasts from all over the country assembled at a dinner in London on Saturday night to at a dinner in London on Saturday night to inaugurate a society of collectors of model soldiers. Mr. E. K. Milliken, principal of Lausing House School, Lowestoft, was appointed president, and Mr. floülkes, late Curator of the Imperial War Museum, who formed the model collection now being shown at the Tower of London, and Captain Parker, assistant scretary of the United Services Museum, Whitehall, were also present. Mr. Lester Hewitt and Mr. Clerderinn, who were responsible for the collec-tions of the models of the mechanized army and the army in full uniform, were elected vice-presidents. It was decided to affiliate the British Society with the French Society, which now numbers

It was decided to affiliate the British Society with the French Society, which now numbers several hundred members, and from whom a telegram of congratulation was read at the dinner. It is hoped that eventually central premises will be obtained where exhibitions of models may be shown to the public from time to time. Thousands of models are represented in the collections of the members. The society has been named the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers, and Mr. W. Lockwood, of Hilary Gardens, Stammore, Middlesex, has been appointed hon. secretary.

THE TIMES July 8th 1934

Movietone and British Pathe News film clips of the societies meeting etc can be viewed by googling British Pathe DVDs. enter "model soldiers"

Thanks to BSCMS archivist Stephen Dance for providing some of the information details contained within this article.

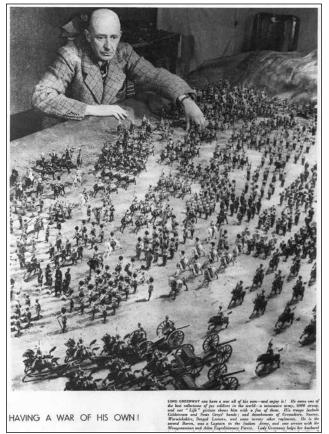
#### EXHIBITION OF MODEL SOLDIERS

#### HISTORIC BATTLES RECALLED

A "Battle for Freedom" exhibition, organized by the Charter Club, was opened yesterday at Hamley Bros., Limited, Regent Street, by Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Street, by Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Browning. It shows the work of the best model-soldier makers in Britain, and includes a scries of dioramas to illustrate the struggle for freedom by the English-speaking people. In all there are 117 glass cases, and the exhibits range from the Sumerian ass drawing a chariot and warriors in 3000 B.c. to the Rhine crossing in 1945. The British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers has contributed to the exhibition, and there are figures from ancient history, fourteenth to twentieth century figures, British and Dominion uniforms, the Brigade of Guards, English and Scottish infantry, and troops of other nations.

of Guards, English and Scottish infantry, and troops of other nations. Among events recalled by the dioramas are the signing of Magna Carta, the battles of Waterloo and the Somme, the Battle of Britain. D Day, and the Rhine crossing. It is hoped to take the exhibition on tour oversea early next year.

#### THE TIMES November 14th 1947



Lord Greenway Patron of The British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers

#### TIN SOLDIERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sit,---May I thank you for your leading article on "Tin Soldiers"? I have collected English-made toy <sup>3</sup> Tin Soldiers "? I have collected English-made toy soldiers ever since the industry was started over 40 years ago, and I still have a few of the original models intact. Most of my collection is in the pre-War full-dress uniform, rarely seen except at ceremoning and tattoos. Our British toy soldiers are the complete model and not flat like the Continental variety. I have spent many hours correcting and adding details, but the knowledge gained of the glorious traditions of our Army has been well worth it. I regret we have no corresponding society in England to the one in Paris (of which I am a member) which night be able to encourage the rising generation in this fascinating and instructive hobby. I remain, Sir, yours obeliendy, WALTER LOCKWOOD. 25. Bescon Hill, Holloway, N.7.

25, Beacon Hill, Holloway, N.7.

THE TIMES February 2nd 1934

#### THE ARMOURY OF LILLIPUT

#### **IMPRESSIONS OF A** GULLIVER

Model soldiers have an appeal far beyond the nursery, as was shown on Saturday when the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers held their annual exhibition at the Grafton Hotel, Tottenham Court Road. The society has a membership of 110, including not only enthusiasts in this country but members in every continent. The collecting of models is a fascinating hobby which apparently is not confined to collecting. Many of the members possess artistic qualities which enable them to remodel figures, to paint them in period costumes and uniforms, and group them in picturesque scenes.

Dioramas formed a feature of the exhibition and a number of these were entered in a com-petition for a trophy presented by Messrs. Britains, Limited. Historical events in war-fare were faithfully reproduced, down to the last button on the soldiers' tunics, while the modern soldier, less picturesque in his khaki uniform, was presented with similar accuracy. A platoon of infantrymen on the march with full equipment, including gas masks, and following a truck carrying ammunition boxes, Bren guns, a mortar, &c., was in striking contrast to a delightful diorama of prancing chargers and their riders representing every cavalry regiment of the British Army of the period immediately before the Great War,

Another modern scene, consisting of mechanized units of the Army, battleships cruising in the distance and a scaplane over-head; depicted "England's Might," while a model of an anti-aircraft searchlight section, complete to the smallest detail, was also shown. A diorama, remarkable for its colouring and detail showed the Naugh of Palpowelaw lead

A diorama, remarkable for its colouring and detail, showed the Nawab of Bahawalpur lead-ing the Camel Corps past the King Emperor at the Delhi Durbar, 1911, and another, entitled "That game of bowls," showed Drake on Plymouth Hoe. The charge of the Scots Greys at Waterloo was the subject of a highly attractive diorama which is going to be exhi-bited later at the Scottish Naval and Military Museum, Edinburgh. Museum, Edinburgh. There were numerous single-figure exhibits.

including one representing a mound-builder of the Mississippi, B.C. 2000; an archer of Darius I of Persia, B.C. 521-485; the trumpeter at Balaclava, Lord Nelson, Queen Elizabeth, and models of soldiers of many periods.

A Pageant of History and Romance is being displayed in Alders Department Store Croydon, Entitled "A Pioneer Exhibition teaching history by means of models". The figures contained in the exhibition were provided by Mr. E K Millikin a prominent member of the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers.

#### WELLINGTON'S ARMY

#### MODEL COLLECTION FOR SERVICE MUSEUM

The British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers has been invited to make models of the British Army at Waterloo for the Royal United Service Museum, Whitehall. The museum already has the Mond collection of the French Army at Waterloo, which is displayed near the large-scale model of the battlefield.

It is expected that about 900 figures will be required, including portrait models of Wellington and his staff, groups representing all the British regiments which took part in the battle, and artillery trains. The model will be the same size as commercial toy soldiers, but will be modelled and painted by hand with scrupulous accuracy of uniform and equipment. Considerable preliminary research will be required, as most of the reference books and colour plates of the Waterloo uniforms are said by the society's experts to be unreliable.

THE TIMES November 26th 1935

# BIG BOOM IN **MODEL SOLDIERS**

From A Special Correspondent

А diers, worth several thou- been spared to get realistic effects. sand pounds and consisting of more than 20,000 specimens of levce at St. James's Polace. Accurate armies of every country and to the smallest detail, every regiment nearly every age, will be shown during the coming weak-and on during the coming week-end on uniform. Mr. Leicester Hewitt, of Hunstanton, Mr. Leicester Hewitt, of Hunstanton, has two

mot toy soldiers—dating
time of the earliest known uniformed
soldiers to the most up-to-date.
The society began a year ago with
a few collectors, and nov it has a
few collectors, and nov it has a
few collectors, and nov it has a
gone into the making and fitting out
correctly of models for many years.
"In mechanical specimens there
are anti-aircraft guns that actually
fire gerfeet replicas of shells—
at to charge them with highexplosive.

COLLECTION of model sol- bandages, stretcher cases , nothing has

One of the most notable collections

during the coming week-end on unitern. the occasion of the first birthday. of the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers at the Mason's Arms, Maddox-street, Westminster. —not toy soldiers—dating from the time of the arritest known uniformed index soldiers at the most un-to-date. Maddox-street, Westminster. —not toy soldiers—dating from the time of the arritest known uniformed soldiers to the most un-to-date. —not toy soldiers to the most un-to-date. Maddox-street, Westminster, Maddox-street, Maddox-st

#### MODEL SOLDIERS

At the Soldiers' Home, Woolwich, to-day Brigadier A. K. Main, the garrison commander, will open the first exhibition of the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers. Soldiers, tanks, aeroplanes, guns, the full band and Colours of the Royal Marines, mounted and dismounted bands in full dress, will be shown. There will also be depicted a levée at St. James's Palace and the Siege of Namur, 1695. In addition, there will be figures in foreign full-dress uniforms of various periods. Lord Greenway, a patron of the society, who was formerly in the Indian Cavalry, claims to have models of all the Indian Cavalry brigades as they were before the War. With the help of his wife he paints some of his models.

THE TIMES December 9th 1935

#### **COLLECTORS OF MODEL** SOLDIERS

#### SOCIETY'S FIRST EXHIBITION

Founded just over a year ago, the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers now has 84 members. Last night they met at dinner at the Rendezvous Restaurant in Soho to celebrate the success of their inauguration and to hold their first competitive exhibition. Anyone who inspected this must have admitted that the hobby of collecting model soldiers is one to be taken seriously. It is true that the majority of those exhibiting acquired their first interest in their adult hobby in early boyhood. The artistry then exhibited in fixing a head to a body with glue and a matchstick is just as useful to them to-day when making their models of soldiers of famous regiments at different periods, models which are made correctly to the smallest detail and are things of artistic beauty and of historic value. All are made and painted by hand.

LOAD GREENWAY, the patron of the society, presided at last night's dinner, and afterwards Lady Greenway presented the awards to the winners of the competitions, for which the judges were Captain Altham, scoretary, Royal United Service Institution, Mr. L. R. Bradley, curator and secretary, Imperial War Museum, and Mr. John Hassali, the artist.

The award in the scenic section was given to Mr. Otto Gottstein for his exhibit "The Death of Wolfe at Quebec." In the figure section the model of the 7th Light Dragoons at Waterloo was successful, and in the group section the first prize was given for the models of the 12 Scottish regiments, the "Set of Infantry of 1912, from the Stand at Ease to Present Arms," the work of the son of the hon. secretary, Mr. W. Lockwood, being highly commended.

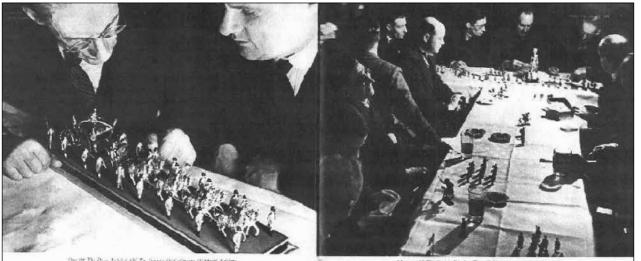


"A meeting, possibly the inaugural meeting ? of the British Society of Collectors of Model Soldiers at the Rendezvous Restaurant in London's Soho Saturday, July 6th 1935" Through the layer of smoke, pipes, cigarettes and cigars it seems that perhaps 18 people were present. Len Richards is left hand side near the chairman.



The balding gentleman in both pictures is the legendary Leonard W Richards





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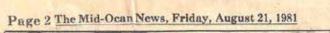
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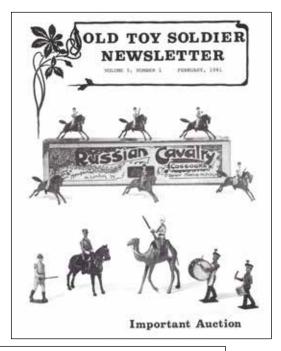
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Hearth Rug Rearmament, Picture Post March 1939.







Mrs. Doris Richards with her late husband Len's toy soldiers at the auction in Londor Story on Page One.

# Len's toy soldiers have a field day

#### By CORINNA HONAN

LEN RICHARDS' regiments of toy soldiers marched to glory yesterday. They brought his amazed widow £69.000

World records seemed to shatter every few minutes as a 100 collectors outbid each other - and another 100 bidding by phone and telex.

A three-inch figure of a British A three-men ngare or a process Camel Corps soldier-original price two old pence-fetched £250 during the two-day auction, and a world record of \$1,400 was paid for a set of 12 mounted bandsmen of the Life Guards.

#### Windfall

The civilian part of Mr Richards' collection brought a dividend too. A small, lead pre-war motorbike and sidecar with a rider and women passengers on pillion and in the side-car went to an American for £920. The fact that such pieces seldom come on the market boosted the price, although one collector said that a similar motorbike, had been sold fort £200 only two years ago. I fills' can't believe IL' sold Mr Richards' 71-year-old widow Dorks as she watched the army auctioned at Phillips in London.

Phillips in London.

As far as Doris was concerned Len, who died of a hear: attack last year, had a hebby which happened to be lead soldiers—17,000 of them in the



The £920 motorbike

### ATTIC ARMY SALE BRINGS £69.000 FOR A WIDOW

attic of their three-bedroomed home In Barking, Essex.

She had her choir singing and her German lessons and they both lived comfortably on his salary as a bank clerk.

'I realised they might be worth something - Len thought about \$3,000-and there was no point leav-ing them rotting in the attle, she explained.

After the auction, she headed straight home to decide how much of her windfall to give to her favour-lte charities, MIND and a Hackney

hospice for the incurables.

That little house in Barking was Mecca to us, said one collector, retired Colone; Donald Pudney, who spent thousands of pounds

Many of us visited Lon Richards and played with his collection and he would often break up sets to give pieces away.

Colonel Pudsey, 54, is already planning a special Richards cabined - with a nice grey background and speial lighting - for the 900 figures he will be taking home to Bermuda as excess hand luggage.

I had an extra wing built on to in had an extra wing built on to iny house with 18ft, by 20ft, Jewel-ler's cabinets to show off my collec-tion, he said. My wile got fed up with toy saldiers all over the place, you know. I've even had a different te'ephone line installed in the room.

#### Beautiful

Like most of the collectors Col. Pudsey, who is Detence Administra-tor on the Island, will not often admit to playing with his expensive toys

Neither will he or fellow-collector Lee Schaffer, a hearing aid specialist from Rochester, New York, tell their wives just how much they've spent at the sale.

T'll tell her 500 dollars, joked Mr Schaffer, 62, who spent more like 4,000 dollars, 'My wife thinks I'm muts.

Lee Schuffer collects them because 'Oh, they're so beautiful.' Then he added : 'You think not're crasy -some people collect barbed wire



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### ALTERNATIVE TOY SOLDIERS TO COLLECT PHOTO GALLERY

By Norman Joplin

Britains, Hyde, Mignot, Elastolin, Lionel toy soldiers and the rest of the mainstream old toy soldiers all have their own individual sizes and styles.

This article/ photo gallery gives an insight into some of the many other styles and sizes of soldiers to be found. The word Monumental has recently started to be used in toy soldier circles, in other words figures that do not compare with the companies listed above.



The above logo is on the bottom base of all of these figures.





Officer Grenadier Guards 1914 Officer Ensign Grenadier Guards 1926 Officer First Grenadier Guards 1912 Made 1923 First Royal Footguards Officer 1790 Made 1925 First Regiment of Footguards 1751 Made 1921 First Footguards Private 1762 First Regiment of Footguards 1800 Made 1925

### ALTERNATIVE TOY SOLDIERS TO COLLECT (Continued)





50mm Dunham White Flat Tin Soldier Circa 1920 Painted Only One Side



Edward Jones Solid U.S. Marine 7 Inches in Height



60mm Bisque Military Related Wedding Cake Topper Hong Kong



1914-1950 Pins and Cake Topper Various Sizes



French 1900 54mm Pressed Tin Painted One Side



Hollow Tin Kings Royal Rifle Corps Maker Unknown 14 Inches in Height

### ALTERNATIVE TOY SOLDIERS TO COLLECT (Continued)



Dewars "Pub" Advertising Figure - Plaster 19 Inches in Height



**Dewars Rubber 9 Inches in Height** 



**Plastic Dewars Whisky Ad 60mm** 





Sentry Box Plaster Circa 1950 7 Inches in Height



Porcelain Figures Made in Germany 12 Inches in Height

## ALTERNATIVE TOY SOLDIERS TO COLLECT (Continued)



Victory Jigsaw with Removable Soldiers



Chad Valley Cardboard Soldiers with Regimental Information Printed on Back



60mm Victory Jigsaw Soldiers



McLaughlin Paper Soldiers 6 1/2 Inches in Height

German WW2 Wooden Folk Art



Lily Marlene 7 Inch Overall in Height



Maker Unknown Highly Detailed 54mm British Army Cardboard Printed Both Sides

verall in HeightPaper With Interchangeable UniformsThe items in this photo gallery are from the Norman Joplin reference collection





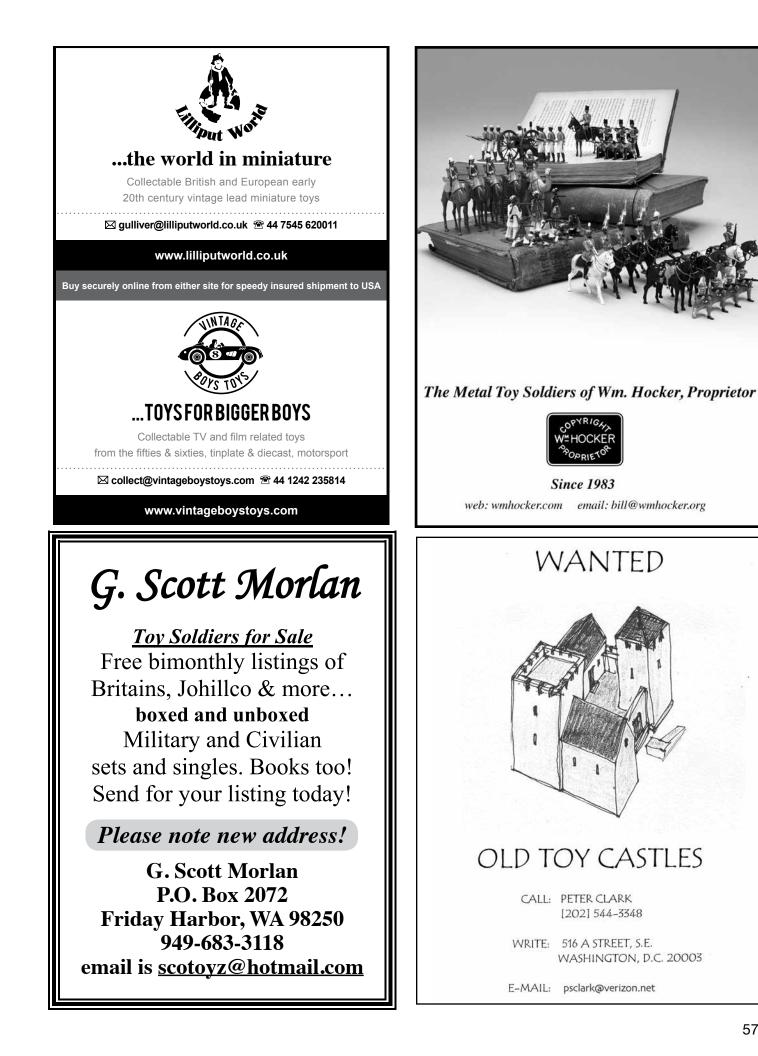
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### ARE THESE THE SMALLEST OLD TOY SOLDIERS COMMERCIALLY SOLD? A FOLLOW UP

By Rob Wilson

Thanks to a couple of readers who took the trouble to follow up on my previous article with some further information. Nobody so far has contradicted my assertion that CBG's 10mm range are probably the smallest toy soldiers ever sold on a commercial scale.

An even larger display set was brought to my attention by Michael Goldenberg. Michael sent me pictures of his set (numbered 500/2) which he thought was the smaller of the two referred to in the previous article. Closer inspection of the photos he kindly supplied revealed that it was in fact the larger of the two. However, Michael had seen an even larger set.

This surfaced at one of the Forbes Collection sales organised by Sotheby's of New York in December 2010. This sale sold off the residue of the collection that had been on display in New York for a few years after the main collection exhibited in the museum in Tangiers had been auctioned by Christies in two sales on each side of the Atlantic in 1997. Sotheby's described the set as shown in the box.

**Mignot Miniatures French, circa 1890** A rare set of 1400 Mignot 20 mm flat figures representing French infantry, cavalry, and artillery on parade during the period of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

THE MALCOLM FORBES TOY COLLECTION 17 DECEMBER 2010 | 2:00 PM EST NEW YORK MIGNOT MINIATURES Mignot Miniatures French, circa 1890 Estimate 5,000 — 8,000 USD

The lot actually sold to some fortunate buyer for \$4,063 (including premium).

Unfortunately, there are just two pictures illustrating the Sotheby's lot. These show only the Artillery and Cavalry. From the Sotheby's count of 1400 pieces, it would appear this is simply a doubling up of the larger set featured in my article (Old Toy Soldier Magazine, (Summer 2017, Volume 11, #2). There do not appear to be any new figures, just twice as many! From the figures pictured, I would guess that the box was the same length but twice as wide. It must make a magnificent centre piece to any collection and probably a snip at the price it was knocked down for, well below the auctioneers estimate. Michael had seen the set on view at Sotheby's and regretted not having had a go at it. It took him 7 years to track down his smaller set.

The Sotheby's description is not entirely accurate. As noted in the previous article, the foot figures measure out at 10mm, while they are semi-ronde rather than "flat". The description suggests the figures represent the French Army at the time of the Franco Prussian War of 1870 and that CBG made the set around 1890. I am not sure what evidence they had for this, probably basing it on the research carried out on behalf of the Forbes Museum.

Closer inspection of the uniforms and, in particular, the equipment suggests a later date for both the army depicted and when the set was manufactured. The artillery looks like it is intended to represent the famous French "75" (Soixante-Quinze, French for "seventy-five") breech loading field gun. CBG also made an excellent model of this in 54mm scale, but this was only introduced around the start of the Great War. This suggests that the set probably depicts the French Army just prior to WW I and was first manufactured around the same time.



Figure 1: The Forbes Collection CBG Revue - an army of 1400 figures (fewer than half are shown in this shot).

### ARE THESE THE SMALLEST OLD TOY SOLDIERS COMMERCIALLY SOLD? A FOLLOW UP (Continued)



Figure 2: The Artillery in the Forbes set – a close up of the horse drawn artillery and ammunition caissons

Another message I received about the CBG article contained images of figures of a similar scale being sold commercially on a small scale in a Dolls House shop in Toronto, Canada. These represented Waterloo period Artillery. Unlike the CBG figures these are modelled fully rounded. They were sold in a box using a Britain's Regiments of All Nations label, although they are unlikely to have been made by that company. The box measures 25 X 25 X 8 mm. According to my correspondent (Brian Holly) other sets were also on offer. He chose to purchase the one shown, which depicts a French Napoleonic cannon crew. Brian recalled that his contribution to the Canadian economy was considerable for such a small package, so I guess they were not cheap!. The US ten cent piece included in the picture gives an indication of scale.

If anyone knows anything more about these figures, especially who manufactured them and when, please let us know.

Other readers pointed out that for a number of years Bob Hornung has produced a Toy Shop display with tiny reproductions of his larger scale figures.



Figure 4: Bob Hornung behind his "Miniature Toy Soldier Shop" at the East Coast Toy Soldier Show, 2016

Finally, another reader spotted the set shown in Figure 5 for sale on eBay – unfortunately too late to put in a bid! It claimed to be a limited edition recast of the Foot Guards, with a reproduction box, made by Britains in the 1970s. It certainly looked the part. The lucky buyer got this set for just \$100.



Figure 3: French Napoleonic Artillery set in a box labelled "Britains Soldiers" purchased in a Dolls House store in Toronto, Canada.

### ARE THESE THE SMALLEST OLD TOY SOLDIERS COMMERCIALLY SOLD? A FOLLOW UP (Continued)

What appears to be the same set was offered for sale by Vectis Auctions in July 2016 with following description.

Britains - Queen Mary's Dolls House Figures, Circa, 1922 [Miniature versions of Standard size figures], comprising: Foot Guards - 2 x Officers with Drawn Swords & 8 x Guardsmen Marching at the Slope. The Set has been Compiled from Spare Castings Stored in the Britains Archive [sold by Christies in 1994]. Generally Mint overall, contained [strung plain replacement insert - notation to inside of lid reads: "Queen Mary's Dolls House. Windsor Castle Cast from the original Britains, Ltd. Moulds/Tools, 1994."] in a generally Excellent [facsimile] Miniature set box. From the Estate of a Highly Distinguished UK Collector. Unique Estimate: £950 - £1,500

The lot apparently failed to sell.

Rob Wilson, January 2018 (r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk)



Figure 5: Britain's Queen Mary's Dolls House Figures on eBay



# TOY SOLDIER MARKETPLACE

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WM HOCKER MASSIVE SETS Zulu set #94 and Diamond Jubliee set #100 in wooden boxes. Mint still tied in box. Pick up or delivery only. No shipping. Norm Rodriguez 901-218-7046 or Memphistoysoldier@bellsouth.net

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#### WANTED

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**February 18th - Sunday** Old Toy Soldier Auctions presents Toy Soldiers in Winter Dress at 10am est. raytoys@aol.com 412-343-8733 www.raytoys.com \*Ray and Bre Live for this auction will be February 14th at 7pm est. facebook.com/ oldtoysoldier

**February 23rd - Friday** 125th Britains Anniversary Symposium at the Frazier Kentucky History Museum. 829 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202. General Admission: \$28 Frazier Members: \$22 www.fraziermuseum.org/wbritain 502.753.5663

**February 24th - Saturday** 9am - 3pm. "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Military and Miniature Figure Militaria Collectibles Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Ed Gries 201-257-2687 or 201-342-6475.

March 4th - Sunday 29th Annual Westcoaster Toy Soldier Show - www.thewestcoaster.com

March 24th-25th - Saturday and Sunday Old Toy Soldier Auctions presents Dr. Edmund Pellettiere Auction. raytoys@aol.com 412-343-8733 www.raytoys.com

April 22nd - Sunday 45th Chicago Toy Show from 8am - 3pm at Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles, IL www.chicagotoyshow.com herb@chicagotoyshow.com 847-800-3009

**May 4th-5th - Friday and Saturday** 77th MFCA Annual Show and Mart at the Radisson Hotel, Philadelphia Northeast Trevose, PA www.mfcashow.com etchells3@aol.com

**May 18th and 19th - Friday and Saturday** W. Britain Vintage Toy Soldier Show and Auction. 10am-4pm Saturday at W. Britain World Headquarters. 10420 Geiser Road, Holland, OH 43528 419-865-5077 **May 26th and 27th - Saturday and Sunday** The Texas Toy Soldier Show in San Antonio, TX 210-226-7000 facebook.com/TexasToySoldierShow amber@kingsx.com

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

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

**September 8th - Saturday** Norman Joplins Old Toy Soldier Show London. See ad page 10

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

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

Dates and times are correct at the time of printing; however, it is strongly advised that before traveling, contact is made with show organizers to confirm date(s).

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