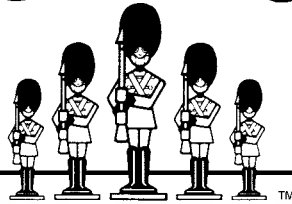


Winter  
2019

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 42 Number 4  
\$10.00

# OLD TOY SOLDIER



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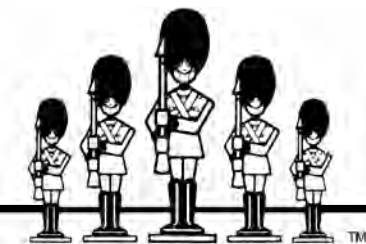


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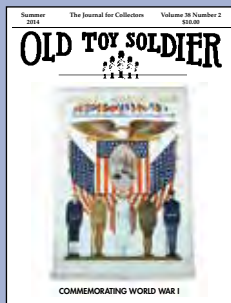
**ON THE COVER**

Sir George Faudel Phillips and James Sidney Renvoize  
Courtesy Rob Wilson

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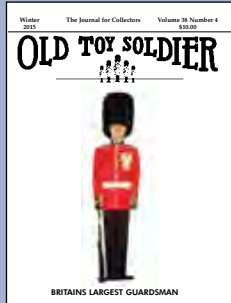
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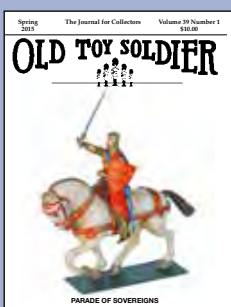


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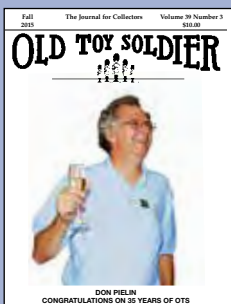
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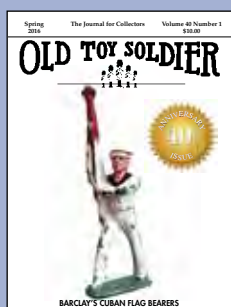


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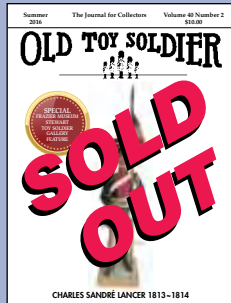


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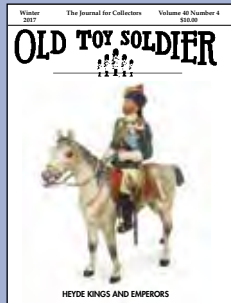
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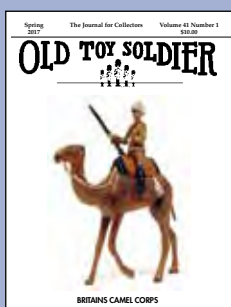


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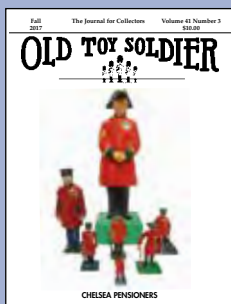
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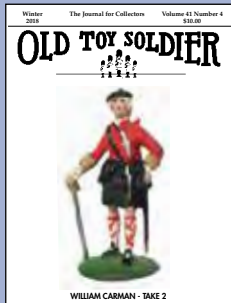
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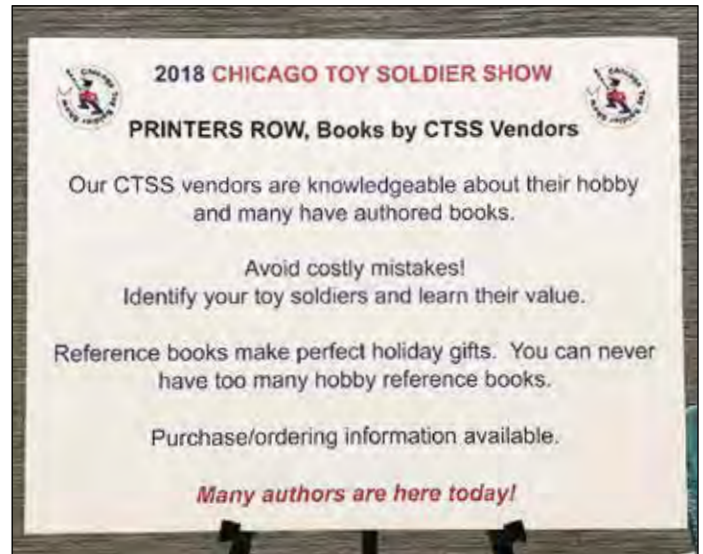
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## 38th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show 2018

*Not only the largest toy soldier show in the world, it also encompasses many fringe events. See below.*

### September 2018 ~ The Pre Show Menu



Kathi Bird (front second from left) with her shadow box 'students'.



Printers row Sunday show.



Shadow Box



Noel Schlageter



Gaming feature.



## HOBBY NEWS (Continued)



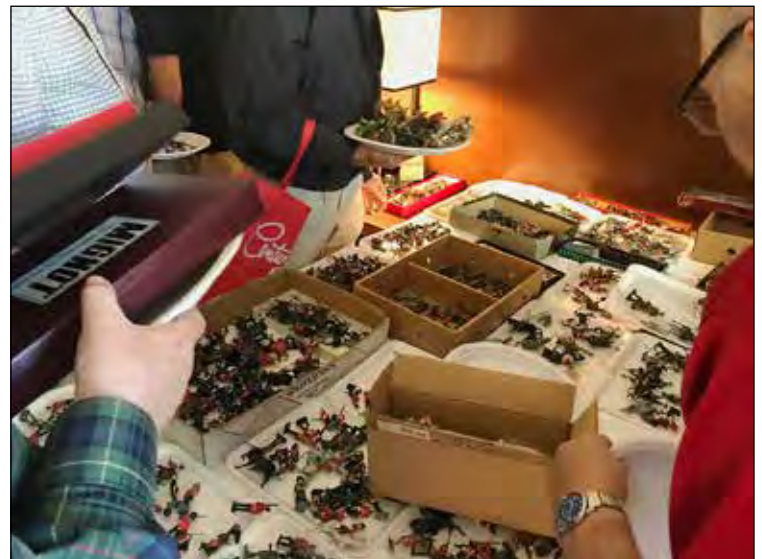
Show chairman Roger Garfield



Painting display sponsored by Michigan Toy Soldier Company.



Ed Borris converting plastic figures.



Old Toy Soldier Auctions annual bargain room - fourth floor, Saturday.



# HOBBY NEWS (Continued)



The OTS organizers.

Mike Kutnick receiving a check from CTSS. Mike is also a CTSS vendor. Mike lives in McHenry County, a neighboring suburb of Schaumburg where he is part of the McHenry Chamber of Commerce. His Chamber supports the McHenry Police Department's charity called SHOP WITH A COP. Disadvantaged youth go shopping for holiday gifts with a law enforcement officer. The program fosters youth trust and a one to one bond with a member of the PD. Mike has been promoting the charity for a number of years at our Show. Because we are all from different parts of the nation, many vendors have adopted the SHOP WITH A COP as our "local charity". This year the Hyatt donated a free 4-night stay at next year's show to be raffled off. CTSS added free tables at the 2019 Show and coupons for free CTSS merchandise as additional prizes. We sold raffle tickets during the Show and were able to raise \$545.00 for the charity. The raffle will continue in 2019. Mike was presented with that check on Sunday at the Show.



Selfie booth fun for the youngsters.





# HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

*Hotel room trading prior to Sunday show.*



Each room trader is provided with an ID sign.



Sunday morning show set up, the lull before the storm.



# HOBBY NEWS (Continued)



Public entry Sunday.



CTSS Souvenirs and gifts.



Show day displays and sales.



Kathy Kerns - Marx Playset books and display.



Show day displays and sales.



Show day displays and sales.



# HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

Show day displays.



Dimestores



# CTSS' CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW

Sunday, September 22, 2019

10 am to 3:30 pm - \$10 Admission

## **SUNDAY**

- 400+ tables
- 180+ vendors
- biggest & oldest international vendors

## **PRE-SHOW EVENTS\***

- demonstrations
- workshops
- happy hour(s)
- seminar
- \*check CTSS website/facebook

## **KIDS**

- 12 and under free
- selfie booth
- treasure hunt
- prizes

## **BECOME A VENDOR**

- for contract information check CTSS website



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1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois

Show Information: Roger Garfield

phone: 847-567-5355

email: [roger@chicagotoysoldiersshow.com](mailto:roger@chicagotoysoldiersshow.com)

Vendor information and more: [www.chicagotoysoldiersshow.com](http://www.chicagotoysoldiersshow.com)

On Facebook visit: Chicago Toy Soldier Show



# WBritain

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### Michigan Toy Soldier Co.

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# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION

By Norman Joplin



Sir George Faudel Phillips

The following is from *The Islington Gazette* June 22nd 1900.

"That we are used seeing and hearing of "Made in Germany," it is a treat to see "Made in London" marked on something.

And that something, boys, as yet is in embryonic form in, Shoreditch, and in course of manufacture for Sir George Faudel Phillips.

Once Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Renvoize, who was once an Islington vestryman, has hit upon a plan for making toy soldiers better and cheaper than they do Germany; and, moreover, more correct in detail than the former. The shilling box of leaden soldiers that you see in the shop goes through a good many processes before getting to the nursery table. From the skills of the melting-pot man. the moulder, the trimmer, the painter, the one who ties each piece on the card, the other who boxes," and others who label and pack.

And in these particular soldiers there is a special department, because each arm that carries the gun is moveable, and, therefore, has to fixed.

When Mr. Renvoize conceived the idea of outdoing Germany in this particular field of toys, Sir George Faudel Phillips took it up, acting as sponsor/benefactor and the contract was signed, sealed, and settled in that

the entire output for five years is to be the sole project for Sir George Faudel Phillips.

The inventor is bent on producing a more well constructed man and horse than we are accustomed to seeing and with far more correct uniform with accoutrements. With over hundred different regiments—English. Irish. Scotch, Welsh, Colonial, & foreign. The articles are sure to out do the foreign article which shows no regard for no strict regard for natural colour or uniforms uniform, but in these things there will be quite new a educational well entertaining toy.

Of course it would cost lots of money if one bought one each of the hundred and odd boxes; that 1 saw in the works at the railway arches Shoredlitch-.

There are secrets of manufacture which must not be divulged, but certain it is that a better and a cheaper product is assured. In this direction Germany has lost valuable monopoly which they have held for many years. 1 have not seen Sir George in person to discuss the subject, but he is in no doubt gleefully rubbing his hands upon securing an exclusively good thing for five years at least.



James Sidney Renvoize



# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

## THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION *(Continued)*

Lord mayor of London (1896-97); second son of Sir Benjamin Samuel Phillips; born in 1840. George Phillips, who derived the name of Faudel from his uncle, was educated at University College School, completing his studies in Berlin and Paris. He then entered his father's business. In 1867 he married Helen, daughter of Joseph Moses Levy, the proprietor of the "Daily Telegraph," and sister of Sir Edward Lawson, its present chief proprietor. His sister Sarah is the Lady Pirbright. He was appointed sheriff of London and Middlesex (1884-85); succeeded his father as alderman of the ward of Farringdon Within (1888); and became a governor of the Honorable Irish Society (1894). The following year he was created high sheriff of the county of London, and in 1896 he became lord mayor of the city of London.

As chief magistrate of the city, Faudel-Phillips received Queen Victoria at Temple Bar on the occasion of the Jubilee thanksgiving service which was held at St. Paul's Cathedral and subsequently at the Mansion House. His year of office was one of remarkable philanthropy. He raised funds which amounted, in the aggregate, to £1,000,000 for the relief of the famine in India and for other charitable objects. He was the recipient of numerous honors at the close of his term of office, when he was created a baronet, and, in recognition of his services to India, received the Grand Cross of the Indian Empire. He also received numerous foreign decorations. He holds many municipal and charitable offices in connection with the city of London.

Sir George Faudel-Phillips, G. C. S. I.

Sir George Faudel-Phillips has served the Jewish community as president of the Jews' Orphan Asylum and of the Society for the Relief of the Jewish Blind. The former institution celebrated its centenary during his mayoralty.



©JewishEncyclopedia.c



George Faudel Phillips *Vanity Fair* caricature.

### Faudels Ltd.

THE march of progress shows no signs of slackening with this old-established firm. Although the bountifulness of its response to the urgings of patriotism created much depleted stocks in all departments, there has been no marked shortage of supplies. The readiness with which Faudels grasped the position experienced by the cutting-off of materials which, prior to the war, came from enemy countries will be appreciated when it is said that they immediately set about the manufacture of many articles hitherto imported, and thus enabled their customers to "carry on." With the prospects of a transition to something like normal conditions in the economical life of the country, we are not surprised that the firm's activities have found additional scope in the opening of a new department for trunks, attache cases, etc. Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. H. J. Davies, managing director, the TOYSHOP's representative was given the opportunity of inspecting this department, which is on the ground floor of the building. It is anticipated that with the tension removed the holiday season will prove the best on record, and provision has been made to meet the demand in travelling and kit bags, leather suit cases, fitted and unfitted, ladies' blouse cases in morocco, beautifully fitted; ladies' bags in cloth, leather, suède, moire; imitation crocodile leather, fibre suit-cases and attaché cases, leather attaché cases, etc., offering one of the largest and varied selections of the kind in London. This department is under the supervision of Mr. Roe, whose advice in the matter of selection will be of great assistance to customers.

World War One advertisement, no mention of toy soldiers.



# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION (Continued)

February 1985

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 9 Number 1

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



— NEWSLETTER —



Soldiers of the Queen

### Reconnaissance

in Early London Business Directories

by Bill Nutting

I used to think it would be impossible for anyone on this side of the Atlantic to research (if not collect) non-Britains Ltd. British-made soldiers. That's just not true! One source of information is the London Post Office Directory, available to us Yanks at the New York Public Library.

**FAUDEL PHILLIPS & SON.** The 1898 directory (I didn't check any earlier) describes this company as "warehousemen, importers of Berlin and other wools, toys, fancy and Japanese and Oriental goods," etc. In 1898 the men behind the company were George Faudel-Phillips and Samuel Henry Faudel-Phillips. The firm's address was 36 to 40 Newgate Street, London, and warehouse space was also listed.

I found four Faudel-Phillips in the 1899 court directory, and George then appeared as Sir George Faudel-Phillips. Apparently the import and warehouse business was a family concern and a successful one.

Over the next ten years a number of import/warehouse firms were incorporated into Faudel-Phillips. By 1915, the name was changed to Faudels Ltd.; therefore, Faudel-Phillips labeled boxes of soldiers can probably be dated prior to 1915.

Throughout this period they are listed as "importers of toys," but there is nothing specific about toy soldiers. This makes me think the Faudel-Phillips soldiers may have been German-made and simply packaged in England, but the two known soldier boxes—"Royal Warwickshire Regiment" and "New South Wales Lancers"—clearly state "Made in London."

The Faudel-Phillips story was presented in OTS Volume 7, #2, page 9 and Volume 9, #1, page 19. A color photo of the splendid box appears in James Ople's *Collecting Toy Soldiers* at page 61. Brian Starling has supplied the accompanying advertisement for Faudel-Phillips from the 1895 issue of *Athletic Games and Toys* magazine.

**Faudel, Phillips & Sons,**  
MANUFACTURERS AND WAREHOUSEMEN,  
36, 37, 38, 39 & 40,  
NEWGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

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Cotton Goods, Toys, Jewellery, Clocks & Colonial  
Goods, Jewellery & Engraved Goods, Bazaar  
Bells, Crystal Goods, Cutlery and Pen, Fancy  
Jewellery, Dolls, etc. Baskets, Fancy China and  
Glass, Household Glass, Brackets, Clocks, Pottery,  
Bells, etc., Flowers and Plant Vases, etc.  
Uppland and Bazaar, Toy Materials, Engraving  
any in Vases, Gilt, Gilt, Gilt, Gilt, Gilt, Gilt,  
Handicrafts, Engraving in Gilt, and other Goods  
Materials, Handicrafts, and Lace

Wholesale Dealers, 36, 37, 38, 39 & 40,  
NEWGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

**RENOVIZE.** James S. Renvoize, the first, early competitor of Britains, paid for extra advertising lines in the directories. Here are some interesting samples: (1903) "Manufacturers of English leaden soldiers, guns, field pieces and drill frames. Renvoize's patent; all regiments represented; any description of metal goods made to order, games, novelties, inventions carried out. 453 Holloway Road."

(1906) "James S. Renvoize Limited, manufacturers of English toy soldiers in lead, guns, field pieces & drill



games, Renvoize's patent; 'living soldiers' is our latest production and is commanding enormous sales;...Armour Works, Moon St., Theobald St. Islington."

Frames vs. games? "Living soldiers?"

### Reconnaissance

Has anyone heard of Faudel Phillips and Sons of London who marketed toy soldiers in the splendid box with multi-colored label pictured below? The box lid was included in a general lot in a Phillips London soldier sale late last year, but neither before or after the sale has any information come to light about his mysterious firm, writes Peter Johnson. The single figure, white-helmeted and red-coated like the soldier illustrated on the label, was found in the same, mixed property and his connection with the box was only assumption. The label's listed battle honours of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment reach only as far as South Africa and include none from World

War I, so it can be assumed that the firm was trading at least in the intervening period.



In the High Court of Justice  
Chancery Division.

1902. P. No. 469.

BETWEEN

BRITAIN AND OTHERS—Plaintiffs.


v.

JAMES RENVOIZE—Defendant.


The Plaintiffs are toy manufacturers, and the articles manufactured by them include metal casts of horses and soldiers. The above action was brought by them to restrain the Defendant, his servants and agents, from making, selling, or exposing for sale, or otherwise disposing of any pirated copies or casts of certain metal casts or models which had been put forth and published by the Plaintiffs, and other relief.

The case came before Mr. Justice Kekewich on the 12th May, 1902, when counsel (Mr. Warrington, K.C., who, with Mr. J. M. Stone, appeared for the Plaintiffs) intimated that it would not be necessary to trouble the Court with hearing the case as the Defendant had admitted to the infringement and consented to the Order following. Counsel (Mr. R. J. Parker) appeared for the Defendant. The Court thereupon ordered and adjudged that the Defendant, James Renvoize, his servants and agents, and each and every of them should be **perpetually restrained from infringing the Plaintiffs' Copyright** dated 1st June, 1900, and known as the "Imperial Yeoman" and being the exhibit marked W.B. 1 in the Statement of Claim in the action. And it was ordered that the Defendant, James Renvoize, should pay damages, deliver up to the Plaintiffs all pirated copies or casts together with the mould or moulds of the said Copyright of the said "Imperial Yeoman." And it was ordered that the Defendant, James Renvoize, should pay to the Plaintiffs the costs of the action as between Solicitor and client.

# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION *(Continued)*



## Update




### *Soldiers of the Queen*

Soldiers of the Queen figures pictured here were part of a large group of soldiers purchased for an OTSN subscriber in London in 1967 or 1968. He had asked a friend, the president of an international corporation, to keep his eyes open for toy soldiers. The actual soldier search was conducted by the London secretary of a friend of the collector's executive friend. She shopped lunch hours for a year and turned up nothing. The American executive came to London on business, and while on the way back to the office from lunch, spotted a group of figures in a local antique shop and bought them all. The embarrassed secretary subsequently mailed the figures to the collector with a note promising that if the figures were unsatisfactory, they should be returned and she would then "clasp them to my bosom and jump into the Thames."

The \$200 purchase included roughly 100 soldiers. Besides the 6 Soldiers of the Queen, the collection included: 2 sets of Boer Infantry at the Trail; Boer Cavalry; 21st Lancers; Gloucestershires; Bikanir and Egyptian Camel Corps; Hodson's Horse; 2nd Madras Lancers; 1st Bengal Native Cavalry; Black Watch (IV); and some early Guards. (For new collectors, the late 60s are known as "the good old days.")

As for the New South Wales Lancers themselves, the castings are not marked with any name or date. The box lid has a strip of paper reading " \* \* \* Tommy Atkins in Lead \* \* \*" pasted over what is presumably the Faudel Phillips name. The basic box art is identical to the box pictured in the Reconnaissance, OTSN, Volume 7, #2, which was clearly a box of Soldiers of the Queen, by Faudel Phillips & Sons.

The collector did not get the box bottom, so he has had no way to determine if six lancers actually came in the box, which is the size of Britains five-figure cavalry box. The reason for the label paste over is open to conjecture. Were the figures from the lead pot of a well-known British manufacturer like Reka, Renvoize, or Crescent, then jobbed out to various sellers? Or could Faudel Phillips have been a short-lived manufacturer? Let us know if you have more information on figures sold in these beautiful boxes.



From *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter* archives February 1985





# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION *(Continued)*

## Renvoize Timeline

**7 Different locations and 4 Company names including Faudal Phillips.**

**Renvoize** (sic) James toy maker  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1901  
43 Kingsland Road.

**Renvoize** was prosecuted for piracy in 1902.

**Renvoize, James**  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1902-1903  
**(The British Toy Manufacturing Company)**  
43 Holloway Road N  
Speciality Our Army in Lead, accurate reproductions of every Regiment modeled and colored (sic) by English Labour; in boxes at all prices; games, mechanical Novelties inventions carried out.

Renvoize. 43 Holloway Road.  
Manufacturers of English Toy Soldiers.  
"Our Patent Living Soldiers, guns and field pieces".  
Kelly's Post Office Directory.  
London 1903.

Renvoize July 1903. In the situations wanted of the Islington Gazette  
"Girls wanted to paint lead figures"  
77 Hoxton Road. London.

Renvoize July 1903. In the situations wanted of the Islington Gazette  
"Lads wanted to cast lead figures"  
77 Hoxton Road. London.

**Renvoize, James S Ltd**  
Kelly's Post Office Directory London 1904  
Armoury Works. 43 Holloway Road N  
Manufacturers of English leaden toy soldiers, guns Field pieces

**Renvoize** Patent, all Regiments represented "Living Soldiers" is our latest production. Any description of metal goods made to order, games, novelties; inventions carried out.  
Armoury Works Moon Street  
Kelly's Post Office Directory London 1905.



Renvoize Japanese Infantry (This is clearly the figure Richards attributes to Abel. Plate # 37 The boxed set has J.S.R Ltd on the label and small sticker inside with Renvoize clearly marked).



Renvoize

Imperial Yeomanry



Russian Cavalry

# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION *(Continued)*

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**Renvoize** October 1906. In the situations wanted of the Islington Gazette "Girls wanted for painting lead figures"

3 St Peters Road, De Bouvior Street, London

**Renvoize James** Limited toy maker  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1907-1909  
3 St Peters Road North. London.

**Renvoize** 15 November 1916, in the Situations wanted in the Islington Gazette. "Girls wanted for painting lead figures"

**Renvoize** First listed as British Toy Manufacturing Company National Archives company records exist for Renvoize incorporated July 22 1909 as the British United Toy Manufacturing Company and at first listing J Renvoize, with joint director being Henry Charles Hudson, J Renvoize junior later joined his father.

No mention of Toy Soldiers, but a list of their directors etc mentions Faudals Ltd (Not Faudel Phillips) with 1000 of the 5000 shares the company had, It also gives lists of sales and who they sold to, only recognizable name is Whisby who made a pop up trench with Model Toys. Last Entry for Renvoize is that of a letter from Inland revenue December 1913 and returned marked "gone away". The main share holder was a lady called Cartwright who had 1500 shares, listed as a spinster of Gravel Lane, London Docks. By November 1911 they were in the hands of the receiver and an auction was held. A letter to Renvoize in 1913 from the Company Consolidation act produced no response from Renvoize. They were struck from the register of manufacturers in December 13 that year (see below) as it seems that they had not been carrying on business since 1911.

The registered address was 77 Hoxton Street London. N

**Renvoize** 15 November 1916, in the Situations wanted in the Islington Gazette

**British United Toy Manufacturing Company**  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1909.

**British United Toy Manufacturing Company Limited**  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1911  
77 Hoxton Street North.  
London made only, Teddy Bears, Esquimos, Rag and Other Dolls, Our Army in Lead reproductions of all Regiments, games, scientific novelties and mechanical Toys, models of every description correctly made from Specifications, ideas and experiments carried out a short Notice.

No entries between 1912 and 1915 in Kelly's Post Office London Director.

**British United Toy Manufacturing**  
London Telephone Directory 1912.  
28 Grove Lane Stamford Hill  
Dalston 2519.  
Union Works Southey Road  
Tottenham 2067  
Union Works Southey Road  
Tottenham 2067 1913 &  
1914 & 1915.  
118 Fore Street EC  
Central 217. 1915.

No entries for **British United Toy Manufacturing Company** in Telephone Directory during 1916-1921.

**Renvoize**, James toy dealer.  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1916-1917  
21 Stamford Hill, Broadway N

**Renvoize James** toy dealer  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1918-1919  
150 Stamford Hill N16.

**Renvoize James**, toy dealer  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1920-1925  
150-152 Stamford Hill N16.

**British United Toy Manufacturing Company**  
Kelly's Post Office Directory  
London 1921-1925.

Article Games and Toys magazine 1926 Stating that **Mr. Renvoize** was founder of **The British United Toy Manufacturing Company Ltd**

Advertisement Games and Toys February 1927 States the firm was established in 1894.

Cartoon Caption Games and Toys April 1927 ( Page 55) Mention is made of **Messrs A. & J Renvoize.**

**The Faudal Phillips boxes are marked with either Faudal Phillips or Tommy Atkins, or Soldiers of the Queen. These boxes have a wallpaper like paper box lid.**

**A Soldiers of the Queen set in a completely different box is also marked Soldiers of the Queen (Courtesy Rob Wilson)**

**The Renvoize boxes are marked J.S.R**

Other scholars have indicated that they believe the figures for **Faudal Phillips** were made in Germany and had some connection with the German firm of **NORIS**. I the absence of solid documentation I am skeptical, however perhaps the issue of a forthcoming book on **NORIS** and its **Renvoize** connection will provide more conclusive information.



# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION (Continued)

N° 21,654



A.D. 1900

Date of Application, 29th Nov., 1900

Complete Specification Left, 29th Aug., 1901—Accepted, 5th Oct., 1901

## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

### "Improvements in and connected with Toy Cannons or Guns."

I, JAMES SIDNEY RENVOIZE, of 42, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London. Toy Manufacturer. do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

The object of this invention is improvements in or connected with toy cannons, guns, or the like, whereby the barrel can be easily raised and lowered for sighting and be held in the adjusted position ready for firing a missile or missiles as well as exploding a cap or detonator, both these actions occurring simultaneously, the operations being performed by any suitable means, preferably by a pull on a string to release the trigger.

For the purpose of my invention I make the gun carriage of any desired shape and mount thereon the axle which carries the wheels and the gun and also the trigger mechanism.

The gun proper is made with projecting lugs having a space between them which also extends to the breech the rear end of which is open. These lugs have holes in them for mounting the gun upon the axle, and between the lugs is pivoted, also on the axle, the trigger which besides striking the cap or detonator also expels the missile.

A block or appliance is provided for insertion into the breech and such block is made with part of a shape corresponding approximately to the shape of the upper or striking and ejecting part of trigger, and capable of retaining a cap or detonator preferably by an under cut in a portion thereof, so that on the insertion of a missile and the block having a cap or detonator affixed, the trigger will at one operation explode the detonator and eject the missile, the block being retained in position in the breech for firing by any means or by its own grip.

The trigger is acted upon by a spring, preferably of the flat kind and secured to the gun carriage for holding it in the cocked position and for forcing it home to strike the detonator and eject the missile, and such trigger is provided with suitable means for operation, but preferably has a cord attached which is carried to the rear of the carriage.

On the carriage I arrange a screwed rod for carrying a nut into a groove on which rides a projecting stud of the gun, so that by action on the nut the gun can be elevated or lowered to suit the firing.

Dated this 29th day of November 1900.

R. CORE GARDNER  
Chartered Patent Agent, 166 Fleet Street, London.  
Agent for the said:—J. S. Renvoize.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### "Improvements in and connected with Toy Cannons or Guns."

I, JAMES SIDNEY RENVOIZE, of 42, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London. Toy Manufacturer. do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what [Price 8d.]

2

N° 21,654.—A.D. 1900.

## Renvoize's Improvements in and connected with Toy Cannons or Guns.

manner the same is to be performed to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The object of this invention is improvements in or connected with toy cannons, guns, or the like, whereby the barrel can be easily raised and lowered for sighting and be held in the adjusted position ready for firing a missile or missiles as well as exploding a cap or detonator, both these actions occurring simultaneously, the operations being performed by any suitable means, preferably by a pull to release the trigger.

My invention will be understood by the following description aided by the accompanying drawings in which

Figure 1 is a part sectional side elevation of a cannon embodying my invention.

Figure 2 is a section on the line a a of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a detached portion of the breech showing the means for raising and lowering the cannon for elevation purposes, and

Figure 4 is a view of the portion of the breech showing the means for fastening the breech block.

For the purpose of my invention I make the gun carriage 1 of any desired shape and mount thereon the axle 2 which carries the wheels 3 and the gun 4 and also the trigger mechanism.

The gun proper 4 is made with projecting lugs 5 having a space 6 between them which also extends to the breech 7 the rear end of which is open. These lugs have holes in them for mounting the gun 4 upon the axle 2, and between the lugs is pivoted also on the axle, the striker 8 which besides striking the cap or detonator also expels the missile.

A block or appliance 9 is provided for insertion into the breech 7 and such block 9 is made with a part 10 of a shape corresponding approximately to the shape of the upper part 11 of striker, and capable of retaining a cap or detonator preferably by an under cut in a portion thereof, so that on the insertion into the gun barrel of a missile and the block 9 having a cap or detonator affixed, the striker will at one operation by actuation on the trigger 12 explode the detonator and eject the missile, the block 9 being retained in position in the breech for firing by any means or by its own grip, but preferably by a catch 13 as at Figure 4.

The striker is acted upon by a spring 14, preferably of the flat kind and secured to the gun carriage 1 for holding it in the cocked position and for forcing it home to strike the detonator and eject the missile, and such striker has pivoted to it at 15 the trigger 12 this being also pivoted on the axle 2 so that on the actuation of the trigger 12 the striker 8 is moved over to cock same and on a pull on the trigger in the reverse direction the striker is released and forced home by the spring 14.

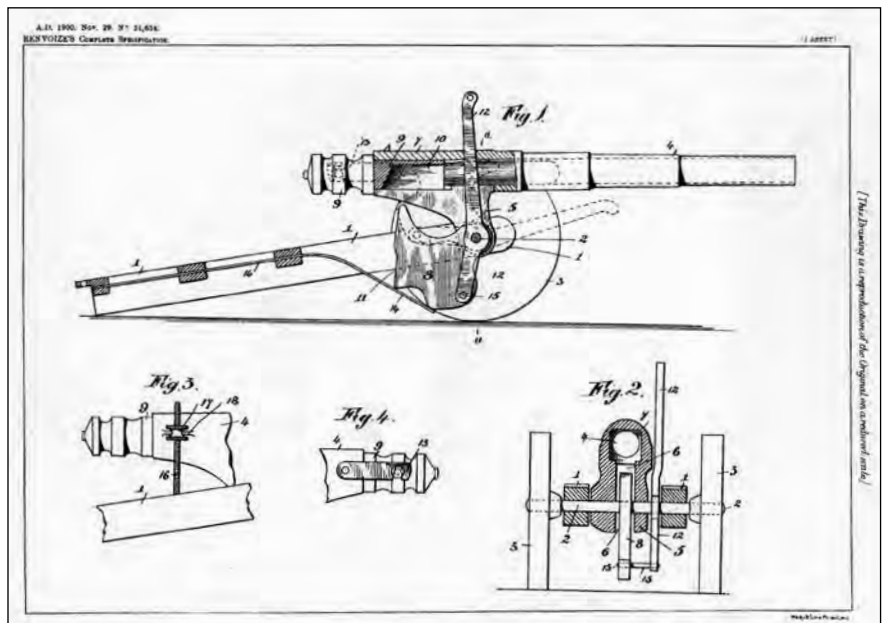
On the carriage 1 I arrange a screwed rod 16 for carrying a nut 17 into a groove on which rides a projecting stud 18 of the gun 4, so that by action on the nut 17 the gun 4 can be elevated or lowered to suit the firing.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. The improvements in and connected with toy cannons and guns whereby the gun, gun carriage and striking mechanism are all pivoted on the axle carrying the wheels substantially as and in the manner set forth.

2. In toy cannons or guns providing the gun proper with lugs, having an opening between them and extending to an open end of the breech, so that the striking mechanism can operate in said opening for exploding a fulminate and ejecting a missile substantially as set forth.

3. In toy cannons or guns constructing a breech block with means for receiving a cap or detonator and capable of being inserted in the breech end of a gun,



[The Drawing is a reproduction of the Original as submitted.]

N° 21,654.—A.D. 1900.

3

## Renvoize's Improvements in and connected with Toy Cannons or Guns.

that the detonator can be fired at the same time as a missile is ejected substantially as set forth.

4. In toy cannons or guns the employment of a screw rod carrying a grooved nut for engaging a projection on the gun for elevating the muzzle end for aiming purposes substantially as set forth.

Dated this 29th day of August 1901.

R. CORE GARDNER  
Chartered Patent Agent, 166 Fleet Street, London.  
Agent for the said:—James Sidney Renvoize.

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Malcomson & Co., Ltd.—1901.

# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION (Continued)

N<sup>o</sup> 12,801



A.D. 1902

Date of Application, 4th June, 1902

Complete Specification Left, 4th Mar., 1903—Accepted, 16th Apr., 1903

## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

### "Improved Means for Actuating Toy Figures."

I, JAMES RENVOIZE, of 453, Holloway Road, London, Toy Manufacturer, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

The object of this invention is to construct an appliance for actuating or moving toy soldiers, figures or the like, in any direction of travel, the figures adapting themselves to face the line of travel at each movement.

For the purpose of my invention, I make a frame of stamped metal, wire, or otherwise, and provide fingers or pieces projecting therein or therefrom, and to the ends of these fingers or pieces I pivotally connect plates, these having pins, clips, or other devices for holding the toy soldiers or figures to them, and being of such a size to suit the size or number of figures to be attached to each plate.

If the device consists of two rows of pivotted plates, and soldiers be connected to them, the soldiers may be made to move in twos, in columns, echelon order, or perform the evolution of wheeling.

When it is desired to actuate cavalry, each plate may be large enough to take two figures, or two plates may be connected to a cross bar of each finger and any number of rows of fingers may be employed in the same appliance.

Dated this 4th day of June 1902.

R. CORE GARDNER,  
Chartered Patent Agent,  
173, 174, & 175, Fleet Street, London.  
Agent for the said:—James Renvoize.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### "Improved Means for Actuating Toy Figures."

I, JAMES RENVOIZE, of 453, Holloway Road, London, Toy Manufacturer, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The object of this invention is to construct an appliance for actuating or moving toy soldiers, figures or the like in any direction of travel the figures adapting themselves to face the line of travel at each movement.

My invention will be clearly understood from the examples shown on the annexed drawings in which

Figures 1 and 2 are plans of the appliance with plates positioned to move in two directions as shown by the arrows.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the plates.

[Price 8d.]



2

N<sup>o</sup> 12,801.—A.D. 1902.

## Renvoize's Improved Means for Actuating Toy Figures.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a plate with a figure in position.

Figure 5 is an edge view of the appliance without a plate.

For the purpose of my invention I make a frame A of stamped metal, wire or otherwise and provide fingers B or pieces projecting therein or therefrom and to turned up ends C of these fingers or pieces I pivotally connect plates D these having pins, clips or other devices for holding the toy soldiers B or figures to them and being of such a size to suit the size or number of figures to be attached to each plate which is provided with turned up edges F or other devices to clip the figure and hold it in place.

If the device A consists of two rows of pivotted plates as in Figures 1 and 2 and soldiers be connected to them the soldiers may be made to move in twos, in column, echelon order or perform the evolution of wheeling.

When it is desired to actuate cavalry each plate D may be large enough to take two figures or two plates may be connected to a cross bar of each finger and any number of rows of fingers may be employed in the same appliance.

G are turned up pieces on the frame A for gripping by the fingers to actuate the frame.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

The improved means for actuating toy figures consisting of a frame having projecting arms with turned up ends in combination with plates constructed to carry toy figures and be hinged to the turned up ends or to bars pivotted thereto substantially as set forth.

Dated this 4th day of March 1903.

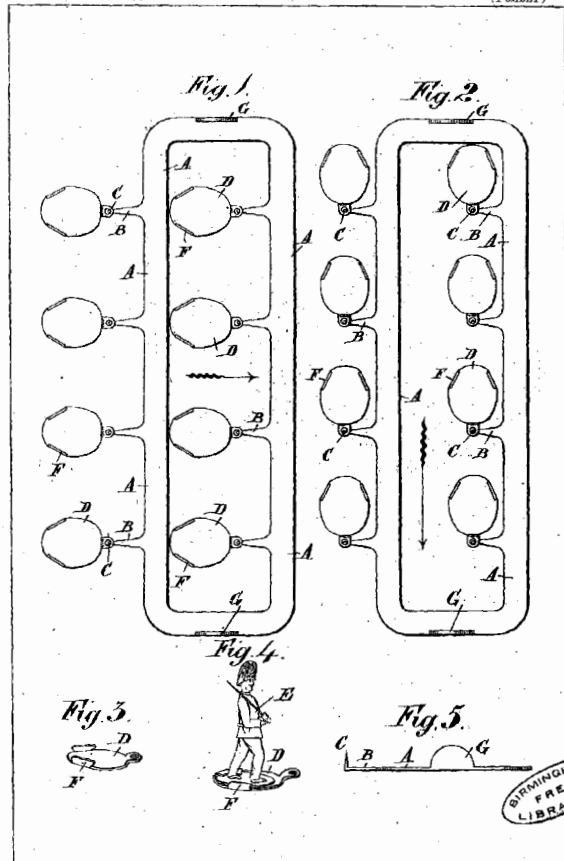
R. CORE GARDNER,  
Chartered Patent Agent,  
173, 174, & 175, Fleet Street, London.  
Agent for the said:—James Renvoize.

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationary Office, by Love & Malcomson, Ltd.—1903.

A.D. 1902. JUNE 4. N<sup>o</sup> 12,801.

RENVOIZE'S COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

(1 SHEET)



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



Mally & Sons, Photo-Litho.



# EARLY BRITISH MANUFACTURERS. THE FAUDEL PHILLIPS/ RENVOIZE CONNECTION *(Continued)*



Fauadel Phillips Naval Figures and Black Watch



Black Watch



Bust of Queen Victoria by Renvoize dated 31st of July 1902.



# AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

## *Fine Toy Soldiers*

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST AND SATURDAY MARCH 2ND, 2019



Russian Miniatures



Britains Canadian Display Pre War



Courtenay



Mignot Aircraft



Heyde



Mignot



Russian Miniatures



Mignot Joan of Arc



Courtenay Greenhill



Russian Miniatures



Britains Girl Scouts Pre War



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Britains Large Boy Scout Set

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# **AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)**



**Britains RHA Gun Team**



**Russian Hanibal Elephant**



**Britains Boy Scouts**



**Britains Royal Horse Artillery**



**Napoleonic**



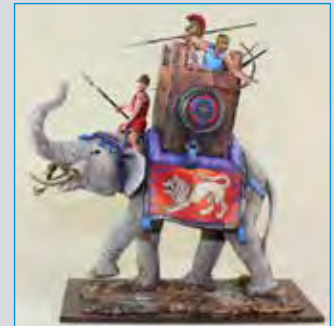
**Flats Naval Battle**



**Napoleonic**



**Britain Cameronians**



**Hanibal**



**Britains 4.7 Gun**



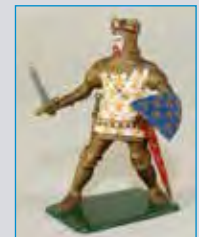
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**Britains Air Raid Wardens**



**Britains World Cow**



**Courtenay**



**Durbar**



**Durbar**



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# A Book Of Forty-Two Old Toy Soldier (OTS) Articles On American Dimestore Rarities from 1987 to 2018

by Stan Alekna

The book contains 104 pages of my published OTS articles and photos on topics ranging from never before catalogued Dimestores such as Barclay's Zephyr Train, Manoil's M24 Sailor in Blue, Barclay's unlisted Moving Van, Tow Car and the Cuban Flag Bearer. Other articles provide in-depth data and photos on several previously confusing or undocumented categories such as Barclay's motorcycles, cannons, race cars and vehicles with a battery powered headlight. Another article ranks the twenty rarest soldier figures made by Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron.

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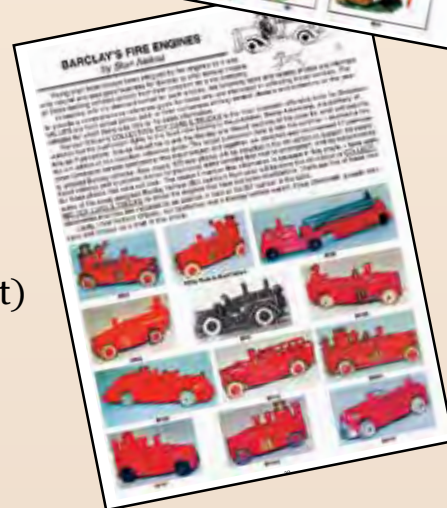
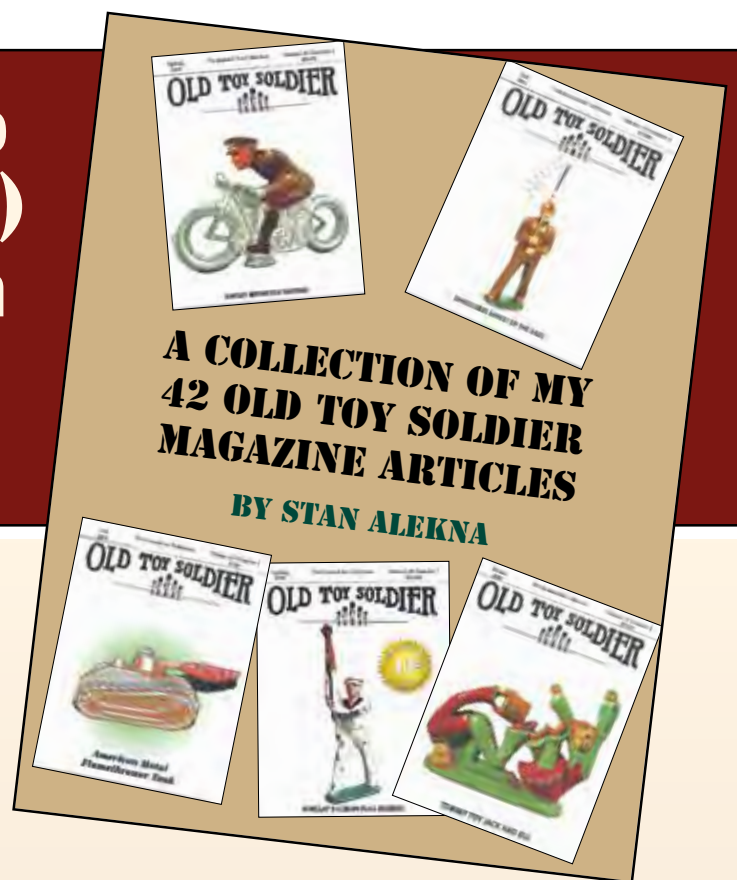
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# AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

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Heyde Centaur



Britains Salvation Army Band



Prussian Ulans



Britains British Army Display



Heyde



Heyde Aerodrome



Britains Buck Rogers



Britains Garden



Warren



Sacul Mickey Mouse



German Gyroscope Toy

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# **AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)**



**Heyde Large Size Medieval Knights**



**Lucotte Old Guard**



**Heyde Mechanical Band Stand**



**N.O.R.I.S.**



**Charbens Gamekeeper & Dog**



**Buck Rogers Robot**



**Johillco Bathing Beauty**



**Auger Mignot**



**Ping James II**



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**Sacul Minnie**



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**Moorish Fort Game**



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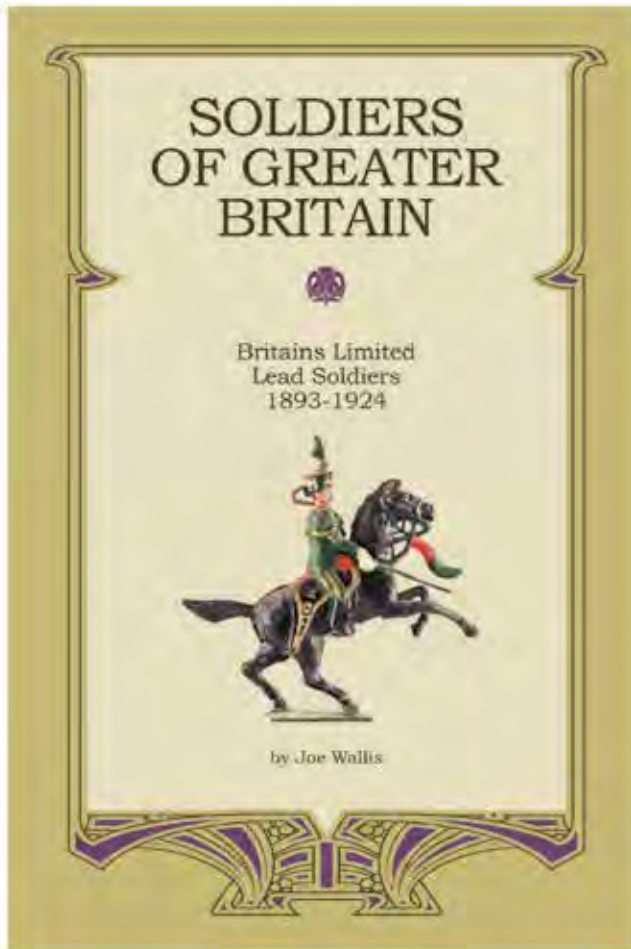
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# SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN

JOE WALLIS



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

- Features 782 close-up color photographs placed in numerical order throughout the text by the corresponding set descriptions
- Contains 453 pages providing: color schemes, changes in the composition of sets, cross references to other sets with the same figures, and the years during which each set or item appeared prior to 1925
- Includes a Company History, a chapter of Basic Identification Hints, a Glossary, Appendices listing sets made after 1924, and a Topic Index

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

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# BOOK REVIEW

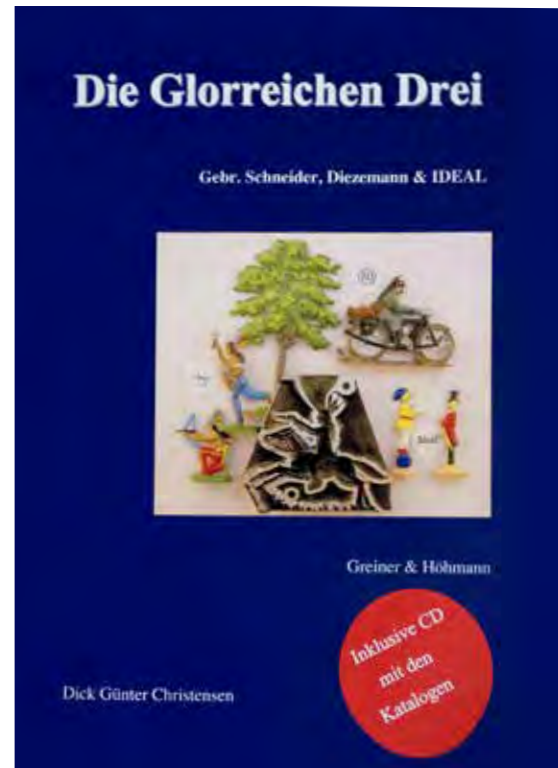
## Die Glorreichen Drei

By Dick Gunter Christensen ~ Reviewed By Russ Bednarek

The success of the German toy industry in the late 19th century provided the impetus for new and innovative ideas and products. From 1900-1920 the German toy market experienced tremendous growth. This was due to the fact that German toys were of high quality and good value. This growth was not limited to local markets, as exportation especially to overseas markets greatly increased. By 1913 the United States and Great Britain accounted for 55% of German exports. The large German manufacturers; Heyde, Haffner, Heinrichsen, Allgeyer and others continued to produce high quality boxed sets of painted figures of varying sizes and themes making it difficult for new companies to gain market share. The German "flat" figure or *zinnfiguren* was tremendously popular in Germany during this period (and remains so today). Molds for the two dimensional figure were etched in slate, then cast, painted and sold in boxed sets. Inspired by the *zinnfiguren* molds, several small companies created molds for semi-flat figures, with a new marketing twist. The molds were intended to be sold to consumers so they could cast their own figures. This was an innovative way to compete with the major makers of toy soldiers. Companies selling the molds eliminated their costs for casting, painting, boxing and shipping figures. The collector could now create any number of figures depicting regiment(s) of any nation they desired for a fraction of the cost of painted boxed sets.

Of all the German firms that produced home casting molds, three companies emerged that made major contributions; Schneider Brothers (1903), Henrich Diezemann (1909), and IDEAL (1921), all located in Leipzig. Because of the popularity of and exportation of home casting molds, several US companies, (Sachs, Rapaport Brothers and Schiercke among others), either directly sold, converted, or pirated the products of these three German companies. The result of these questionable business practices is the difficulty of correctly identifying and attributing items to their correct German companies. Author Dick Gunter Christensen takes on this challenge in his new book; "Die Glorreichen Drei" telling the story of Schneider Brothers, Henrich Diezemann and IDEAL.

The first two chapters focus on the author's collecting history and an examination of how home casting evolved from commercial toy soldier production. Individual chapters are devoted to the Schneider, Diezemann and IDEAL companies. The history of each company is told supplemented with period photographs of people, places, advertisements, catalog listings and covers. Numerous color photographs of actual figures are also provided. At the end of World War II, only Schneider was still in business, but was located in the Soviet occupation zone. For the next 20 years there was little interest in the original home cast molds made by the "Old Masters" from Leipzig. Through trade fairs, exchanges and auctions the figures and molds of the



Old Masters reappear and a renewed interest emerges. The next two chapters are devoted to two "New Generation" of mold/figure makers; Walter Greiner and Adolf Hohmann. Color photographs of their original figures and dioramas are generously utilized to show the talents of these two artisans. The final chapter will be of great interest to collectors as the specific qualities and characteristics of the molds used by the companies are examined. Numerous photographs are invaluable in identifying the molds. Accompanying the book is a CD that has the catalogs of Schneider, Diezemann, and IDEAL, as well as Greiner and Hohmann. The Schneider catalog is actually 364 color photographs of individual figures while the remaining catalogs are black/white line drawings of figures. The catalogs are a great resource and Herr Christensen is to be commended for including them in a CD version rather than print, thereby holding down publishing costs.

"Die Glorreichen Drei" is softbound with 168 pages plus the CD catalog. An English translation is provided at the end of each chapter so collectors will have no concerns with the German text. Herr Christensen has written a most insightful and collector friendly book exploring a previously neglected niche of toy soldier production.

### AVAILABLE FROM:

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28 Euro+post



# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..."

*By Robin Forsey*

Marcus Hinton of Hinton Hunt Figures was one of the first British makers to mass-produce 54mm "model" as opposed to "toy" soldiers. He also introduced a successful line of 20mm figures when the manufactures of smaller scale pieces were few and far between. Marcus also became involved with numerous other activities, including the formation of some of the early reenactment groups in Britain. Unlike many of his contemporaries in the model soldier world, he was an extravert and during the 1960's his rather colorful eccentricities even drew the attention of the press and other news media.

Born in May 1936 in Watford, England, his full name was William Marcus Frederick Hinton. In 1939 the Hinton family moved to Taplow, a small town near Maidenhead, where they setup home in a large rambling Edwardian building called Rowsley. Overlooking the River Thames, it was from here that the young Marcus saw his father off to Dunkirk in one of the little boats, which assisted in the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from France in 1940. He fondly imagined that he was going too because it coincided with his birthday.<sup>1</sup> Marcus was privately educated and in 1956 he wedded an artist's model called Cynthia Joel and they were to have two daughters. Nevertheless, once married they continued to live at Rowsley, which Marcus' mother ran as a boarding house.<sup>2</sup> In 1974 they changed the name of the property from Rowsley to Hinton and in 1975 to Hinton House.<sup>3</sup>

River Road on which Rowsley stood was an interesting thoroughfare and was locally known as "Gaiety Row" because many of the houses had once been rented by the chorus girls from the Gaiety Theatre in London. The most famous of these ladies was Lily Langtree, the



Marcus Hinton outside of his shop at 27 Camden Passage, Islington, London. (By courtesy of Hinton Hunter)

actress and mistress of the Prince of Wales, who was later to become King Edward VII. Marcus, no doubt, was well aware of the street's raffish reputation. In fact, being slightly corpulent and supporting a beard he somewhat resembled the monarch and this likeness was further extenuated by his dress. He often wore a cape, carried a cane and always donned a bowler hat. Also like "Beastly Bertie," he appreciated female beauty, music, good food and wine.<sup>4</sup>

Marcus had a lifelong fascination for uniforms and military history. He purchased his first sword at the age of five and in adult life he became an avid collector, particularly of armor and French Napoleonic items, and it was said that his home was like a strange museum. Besides militaria the house was also full of feline creatures for Cynthia was a cat lover.

His interest in model soldiers also dated back to his childhood and he was first prompted to make them due to their unavailability during World War Two. Although he had been dabbling in turning out military figures for quite a while, it was probably not until he met Simon Hunt that he turned his hobby into a business. Hunt had previously worked with a person called R. Briton-Riviere designing large-scale soldiers for a London based company entitled The Sentry Box. The firm, which Marcus Hinton and Simon Hunt founded, was aptly named Hinton Hunt Figures.<sup>5</sup> There is debate as to when the company was actually formed. While Marcus said it was 1955, others references indicate 1956, but it was probably not until about 1957 that production began in earnest. Perhaps the earliest record of Hinton's manufacturing capabilities

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..." (Continued)



American War of Independence 54mm figure  
N. 292. American Rifleman in buckskin  
hunting shirt 1776.

appeared in the November 1957 issue of *The Bulletin*, the journal of the British Model Soldier Society. The article concerned, which dealt with members' interests, referred to Marcus as a collector and maker of Ancient, Napoleonic, and American War of Independence solid cast figures. Summing up his activities Marcus wrote: "My collection is not very large as yet. I do my own moulding, casting and painting, and am increasing my range as time permits. At the moment I am working on a scene depicting Roman troops capturing Germani, and am also producing figures to cover all the main ancient civilizations. I have also figures representing European infantry regiments of the Napoleonic period."<sup>6</sup> Although this tends to indicate that Marcus was undertaking every stage of the manufacturing process, other sources have suggested that Miss Yvonne Edmunds who managed *The Sentry Box*, originally made all the Hinton Hunt molds.

As for Marcus Hinton's rather illusive partner, Simon Hunt, he was only involved in the venture for

a few months before retiring from the model soldier world to dedicate his energies to a successful career in serious music.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, the company name of Hinton Hunt Figures was still retained until the summer of 1972 when it was changed to Hinton Hunt Figures Marketing Limited.<sup>8</sup>

Throughout the firm's existence all the design and production work was done at Rowsley and often at night. Indeed, one of Marcus' daughters recalls that he was practically nocturnal. Sleeping all day he would rise at about five o' clock in the evening, when he would consume breakfast, lunch and dinner all in quick succession before embarking upon his labors, often accompanied by several pints of orange juice.<sup>9</sup> With much assistance from his wife, the couple initially ran the entire enterprise from their home. They sold figures at various conventions, by post, and supplied several well-known London stores. Hinton Hunt catalogs also listed numerous other items of interest to modelers, such as brushes, paints, uniform cards and prints.

Around 1964 Marcus branched out and began running a Saturdays only stall in the Camden Passage Antiques Market in Islington, a district of London noted for its dealers in antiquities and collectables. The venture must have been a success because in 1967 he opened the Model Soldier Boutique, a small lock-up shop in the Camden Passage Boutique. Now trading for six days a week, business prospered and in 1968 he also took over the adjoining store. However, although occupying two shops, numbers 9 and 10 in the Boutique, apparently the combined premises were still not suitable so in 1969 he relocated to 2 Pierrepont Arcade, Camden Passage.<sup>10</sup> In May/June 1971 Marcus moved yet again, this time to 27 Camden Passage.<sup>11</sup> Called the Model Soldier Shop, Hinton Hunt Figures, it also stocked

"a full range of Militaria, Headdress, Weapons, etc," which was done in association with another local store, the Angel Armoury.<sup>12</sup> Apparently Marcus ran the venture until early summer 1974, when, together with Roy Belmont Maitland and T. N. G. Stubbs, they re-launched it as "a new shop" called Military Heritage Limited. A full range of Hinton Hunt, Norman Newton and Stadden figures were carried, plus weapons, militaria, books, magazines, etc. However, all other Hinton Hunt business dealings reverted back to Rowsley (now re-named Hinton) in Taplow.<sup>13</sup> In early 1975 Marcus, once again, branched out on his own and opened a store called Boutique 19, which was on the First Floor, 7 Pierrepont Row, Camden Passage. Besides Hinton Hunt figures, uniform items and military equipments were also represented, but it was purely a retail outlet. Marcus stipulated "no correspondence please" and all mail orders continued to be dealt with from home, now called Hinton House.<sup>14</sup> It seems that Boutique 19 was short-lived because by the fall of 1975 the store was no longer being publicized.<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, a full range of Hinton Hunt products could still be viewed, but by appointment only at the "Maidenhead Showrooms," namely Hinton House.

Of course, besides selling direct to customers Hinton Hunt also supplied a number of retail outlets on a wholesale basis. One particular business during the early 1970's, which Marcus seems to have been particularly involved with was a company called *The Guard House*.<sup>16</sup> Situated at 6 Cavendish Road, Liverpool, in northwest England, apparently it only sold Hinton Hunt 54mm Napoleonic and medieval figures in "DO-IT-YOURSELF" form. They were moderately priced and came in packets with painting guides and assembly instructions.<sup>17</sup> When Hinton Hunt eventually stopped



# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..." (Continued)

manufacturing, it seems that The Guard House simultaneously ceased trading.

Because Hinton Hunt never dated its catalogs it is difficult to say when the various series of 54mm and 20mm models were introduced. While soldiers representing the Napoleonic Wars were the most numerous, many figures from other periods of history were also produced, periods of history, which other manufacturers often neglected.

Marcus stipulated that no figure was made without hours and sometimes days of painstaking study into every facet of the uniform and that he owned one of the largest military reference libraries and "private collections of uniforms, weapons, armour and militaria in Britain..."<sup>18</sup> Although his books and collectables formed the bedrock for his research, he also spent many hours going around museums taking notes and photographing

various items of military equipage. For his day Marcus used a wide range of somewhat esoteric sources, which explains why so many of his soldiers were accurate. In fact, he used the accuracy of his 54mm models as a marketing ploy and remarked in his catalogs that the detail "has made them sought after all over the world." Unfortunately, although his studies were quite meticulous, his soldiers often displayed limited animation. A rather basic torso with lifeless arms and legs was constantly used, which created a line of models that was only distinguishable by the difference in military equipage. In fact, a rather cruel joke, which went around at the time was that "God made man in his own image and Marcus made his figures in his." However, maybe even Marcus was not entirely satisfied with some of his early efforts because during the early 1970's he embarked upon quite an extensive remodeling program.

Probably Hinton Hunt achieved its greatest successes with its "20mm War Game Range." While some British makers had been dabbling in 20mm production since the early 1950's, it was not until the early 1960's when Airfix began swamping the market with its HO/OO plastic offerings that the scale really generated interest.<sup>19</sup> Marcus was a wargaming enthusiast and with the growth in the hobby, requests were soon made for similar figures, but in metal, and Hinton Hunt responded in 1962 by releasing some Napoleonic and American Civil War pieces.<sup>20</sup> When introduced they were considered "big" and dwarfed the earlier efforts of such 20mm pioneers as John Niblett. In fact, it is generally believed that Hinton Hunt's 20mm soldiers were the catalyst for the gradual change to 25mm as a popular wargaming scale. Apparently, even the American figure designer and wargamer Jack Scruby, modeled his 25mm soldiers to blend in with those of Hinton Hunt. Although



54mm figure S.71 Jager 1809-1815, Austro-Hungarian Empire. Hinton Hunt produced a number of models representing the troops of the nations allied against the French during the Napoleonic Wars.



S.362 Officer Royal Horse Artillery 1812-1815. This 54mm British Army figure is in its white cellulose undercoat as used by Hinton Hunt.

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..." (Continued)

Hinton's 20mm figures lacked the finer details of more modern pieces, in their day many considered them to be the best and they reigned supreme in wargaming circles for several years.<sup>21</sup>

Hinton Hunt also made a variety of 54mm accessories suitable for dioramas. These included such diverse items as a Napoleonic Sentry Box through to camp equipage, dogs, and cobbled street sections. In 1974 it seems that a small range of 75mm model soldiers were also introduced. Marcus even tried his hand at making military themed chess sets. Apparently, the gaming pieces consisted of little half figures that plugged into the chessboard.

To a limited extent Hinton Hunt also ventured into publishing when around the late 1960's it released a series of black and white uniform plates under the title of "Prints Militaire." Gerry Embleton drew the illustrations while Marcus wrote

the accompanying texts.<sup>22</sup> Gerry Embleton was a prolific comic strip and military artist and one of the numerous titles, which he supplied the colored plates for was *Military Dress of North America 1665-1970*, written by Martin Windrow and published by Ian Allan Ltd., in 1973. Marcus was mentioned in the credits of this book and a few items from his military collection were used as illustrations, including an "original Confederate artillery kepi, with a blue band and red crown."

Hinton Hunt's 54mm figures could be purchased painted or undercoated ready to paint "in a variety of positions as required."<sup>23</sup> The prices for the painted soldiers, both 54mm and 20mm, varied according the work involved. For example, a standard bearer was more costly than a plain infantryman. Originally, the company used "Plastic Enamel Humbrol 'one hour' quick drying paints," but by the late 1960's "Blackwell's Matt Paints" were the preferred option.

For those items, which required an eggshell or gloss finish, these matt paints were mixed with a little "Gold Size..." Apparently, the Blackwell paints were hardwearing and dried so speedily that a figure could be completed in one sitting.<sup>24</sup> Although more expensive it seems that the demand for the painted figures outstripped supply. While Cynthia Hinton did a lot of the brushwork, even daughter Tanya remembers spending many hours de-flashing and coloring soldiers.<sup>25</sup> In the fall of 1973 Hinton Hunt was having to advertise for home workers "capable of painting 54mm figures to the highest standard."<sup>26</sup> By late 1974, even a figure animator was required.<sup>27</sup>

For those who wished to animate and finish the figures themselves, Hinton Hunt also sold its 54mm models unassembled. All the necessary brushes, primers, paints and painting instructions were also available for purchase.



20mm wargaming figure FN/29 Marching Grenadier of the Old Guard 1804-1815, French Army.



20mm wargaming figure FN/70 Charging Young Guard Officer 1810-1815, French Army.



# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..." (Continued)

<u>PRICE LIST</u> (British Prices including Purchase Tax.)	
<u>HINTON HUNT FIGURES</u>	
HINTON HUNT FIGURES can supply each figure <u>hand-painted</u> or <u>unpainted</u> and completely assembled, undercoated and ready to paint.	
<u>STANDARD SIZE 54mm. (2 1/4")</u>	
Painted figures . . . . .	35/-
Unpainted figures . . . . .	11/8
Musicians and Standard Bearer of the Ancients: Pipers, Cornets, Pipers, Drum-majors, Sergeants and Lanceurs..	37/11
Unpainted Musicians, etc. . . . .	13/5
Painted 2nd or 3rd Porte-Aigle (Escort to the Eagle Bearer) and Porte-Union . . . . .	40/10
Unpainted 2nd or 3rd Porte-Aigle, etc. . . . .	14/7
Painted Standard Bearer and drummers . . . . .	52/6
Unpainted Standard Bearer and drummers . . . . .	14/7
Painted Stretcher Bearer party with wounded Officer....	25.16. 3.
Unpainted Stretcher Bearer, etc. . . . .	28. 3. 9.
*****	
<u>20mm. 'WAR GAME' FIGURES</u>	
Painted Foot Figures... . . . .	8/9
Unpainted Foot Figures . . . . .	1/9
Painted Standard Bearer . . . . .	13/11
Unpainted Standard Bearer . . . . .	2/7
Painted Mounted Figures . . . . .	17/6
Unpainted Mounted Figures . . . . .	3/6
Painted Field Gun . . . . .	8/9
Unpainted Field Gun . . . . .	5/3
Painted Cannon . . . . .	8/9
Unpainted Cannon . . . . .	5/3
*****	
<u>SPECIAL QUOTATION ON ORDERS OF 100 OR MORE</u>	
<u>PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS</u>	
Accurate Uniform Information for each figure in our range.	
***** <u>PRICE 1/- each.</u> *****	
<u>Please quote reference number when ordering.</u>	
<u>Customers are respectfully requested to enclose payment with order.</u>	
<u>(Postage Free in Britain)</u>	
<u>HINTON HUNT FIGURES</u>	
A. ROWSLEY, RIVER ROAD, TAPLOW, DUCKS, ENGLAND. Telephone: MAIDENHEAD 25622	

Hilton Hunt Figures price list early 1960's

<u>BN. 32,33,34,35 &amp; 36.</u>	
<u>HINTON HUNT FIGURES</u>	
<u>PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS</u>	
<u>BRITAIN - 1812/15</u>	
<u>HIGHLANDER, 42ND HIGHLAND REGIMENT, BLACK WATCH (BATT. COY)</u>	
<u>Feather bonnet</u>	Black feathers with red and white check head-band. Black cockade, black ribbons at back, red plume. (Sometimes on campaign a black leather peak or visor was attached to the front of the bonnet.)
<u>Coat</u>	Scarlet, with dark blue collar, cuffs, shoulder straps; collar and shoulder straps piped white. White worsted tufts at ends of shoulder straps. White turnbacks, white bastion-shaped lace, placed equal distance down front of coat and on cuffs. White metal buttons.
<u>Kilt</u>	Black Watch or 42nd Government tartan, blue ground with broad green criss-cross pattern, edged in black. Narrow black stripes running criss-cross over blue squares.
<u>Hose</u>	White with red diagonal criss-cross pattern. Red garters.
<u>Gaiters</u>	Black with black buttons.
<u>Shoes</u>	Black.
<u>Cross straps &amp; all pack straps</u>	White with brass plate on cross belt.
<u>Pack</u>	Black leather with rolled greatcoat grey, brass badge on pack.
<u>Water bottle &amp; knapsack</u>	Water bottle painted blue-grey, white canvas knapsack.
<u>Ammunition pouch</u>	Black leather, bayonet scabbard black leather.
*****	

Painting Instructions for the wargaming figures BN/32, 33, 34, 35, 36, "42nd Highland Regiment (Batt. COY)." These painting guides, which were produced for both the 54mm and 20mm rangers, were usually printed on very lightweight paper. (By courtesy of Hinton Hunter)



Around the late 1960's Hinton Hunt ventured into publishing when it released a range of uniform plates under the title of Prints Militaire. This is No. NB1 in the series, "British Infantry of the Line 1812/15, Officers and Drummer." Printed on firm card and suitable for coloring, the plates measured ten by eight inches. (By courtesy of Hinton Hunter)

<u>Plate NB 1</u>	
<u>PRINTS MILITAIRES</u>	
<u>published by HINTON HUNT FIGURES</u>	
<u>BRITISH INFANTRY OF THE LINE 1812/15, OFFICERS and DRUMMER</u>	
This plate depicts the British Infantry of the Line Officers in their plain but elegant scarlet coats and grey trousers. Shako are of crimson silk and leather sword belts are white with gilt belt plates. The sword has a straight light blade for the Battalion Company Officers and a heavier curved blade for Officers of the Light and Grenadier Companies. The scabbards are black leather with gilt fittings and sword hilts gilt. Sword knots are gold. The shakos are black with gold and scarlet intertwined cords and tassels. The shako plates are gilt.	
'A' is a Battalion Company Officer of the 49th Hertfordshires. He has green collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and gilt buttons. The lace or braiding on his coat and his epaulettes is gold. The plume in the shako is white with a red base.	
'B' Grenadier Company Officer of the same Regiment and therefore has a plain white plume in his shako and wears shoulder wings in place of the epaulettes, these are on a backing of the Regimental facing colour edged, trimmed and fringed with gold. His shako is of a pattern peculiar to the Grenadier and Light Companies and is tied with crimson cords and tassels. He wears the top of his lapels turned back to show off the dark green facing colour and the gold braid.	
'C' is a Sergeant/Major of the 53rd Shropshires whose Regimental facings were red, as was the rest of the coat. His coat is lined down the front and in single breasted. He has four chevrons on the right sleeve, wears an Officer's pattern shako and carries a swagger cane. The plume is white with a red base.	
'D' again a Battalion Company Officer of the 10th North Lincolshires. He has yellow facings, white turnbacks and silver lace and buttons, but otherwise resembles 'A'.	
'E' Drummer of the same Regiment as 'D'. In common with most Drummers of the period, he wears a coat of reversed colours, that is, the coat is yellow and has red facings and wings. The coat is highly trimmed with Drummers' lace which has a pattern of red crowns which given a "spotted effect". Trousers are grey, shako cords and plume white. Drum sling and cords are white. The body of the drum is brass and the hoops have an alternate red and white diagonal stripe.	
<u>Drawings by Gerry Sebleton, text by Marcus Hinton</u>	

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS HINTON

## PART ONE: "A WELCOME GAIETY..." (Continued)

In the 1960's when Hinton Hunt's 20mm soldiers were at their peak, production was under the management of a Mr. D. Scrimshaw.<sup>28</sup> However, during the following decade it seems that numerous people became involved in the process. It has been said that Marcus would do nothing so lowly as operate a casting machine and Cynthia would only do it if she had to, therefore, casters for the 20mm pieces were often required. At one time Mrs. Penny Fabb, who had worked for Marcus in Camden Passage, did the job. However, around the mid 1970's even a customer was pressed into part-time service. The person concerned lived in the Reading area, a town near Taplow, and he would occasionally call on the Hinton's to place and collect orders for wargaming figures. During one visit Cynthia Hinton told him that his items were not ready because there was nobody available to cast them. Thus, for the odd afternoon for several months, the customer and his girlfriend traveled to Taplow to cast 20mm soldiers. For his labors he was paid, not in money but in wargaming figures, which suited him. The casting at Rowsley/Hinton House was done in a wooden shed at the bottom of the garden where, it seems, all the molds and even the masters were kept. Apparently, it was also the home to several hamsters, which had free run of the place.<sup>29</sup>

Despite his achievements Marcus Hinton had no formal training as an artist or sculptor and undoubtedly his 54mm work did pale into insignificance when compared to that of some of his colleagues. An often-used nickname for his soldiers amongst cynics was "Squint and Grunt" and one manufacturer even dismissed his efforts as "absolute rubbish!" Nevertheless, Marcus was passionate about his soldiers and military history in general and besides writing numerous articles on martial matters, he also provided

the chapter on armor in *The English Civil War, A Military Handbook*, published by Arms and Armour Press in 1972.<sup>30</sup> In fact, Marcus was quite an expert on armor.

Although his modeling capabilities were arguably limited, Marcus' rather flamboyant and eccentric lifestyle captured the public's attention and he became somewhat of a celebrity. His specialist knowledge brought him film work; usually behind the scenes, and on many occasions he spoke on the radio and appeared on television both in Great Britain and the United States. In 1966 Marcus and Cynthia even appeared in the cinema on British Pathé News. Legend has it that Marcus was once also a contestant on the T.V. game show *Double Your Money*, hosted by Hugie Green. Even when selling his model soldiers in the Camden Passage Antiques Market he soon became an eccentric notable amongst the traders and drew the attention of the press. Marcus and Cynthia even turned their visits to British Model Soldier Society meetings into memorable occasions. Hinton suffered from a weak heart so upon arrival Mrs. Hinton, who was a rather buxom lady who wore very tight velvet clothing, had to carry all the figures so it became quite an event! Little wonder that it was said the Hinton husband and wife team provided "a welcome gaiety" which was "sometimes lacking in the model soldier world."<sup>31</sup>

Without doubt this "welcome gaiety" reached its peak during the 1960's. A decade, which saw Marcus donning the uniform of a Confederate major general and Cynthia dressing up as a Southern Belle. In fact, their antics during the American Civil War Centennial commemorations were even reported in the United States. Of course, all this generated publicity for Hinton Hunt Figures.

### Notes

1. Hinton Hunt Figures 20mm Wargame Rang Catalog, circa 1973.
2. Richard Black and Harry Pearson, *Hinton Hunt Figures*, [www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html](http://www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html)
3. *Military Modelling*, Vol. 4, No. 6, June 1974, p. 358, also Vol. 5, No. 3, March 1975, p. 182, Model & Allied Publications Ltd., Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England.
4. Richard Black and Harry Pearson, *Hinton Hunt Figures*, [www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html](http://www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html)
5. John G. Garratt, *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*, The Overlook Press, Woodstock, New York, 1981, pp. 82-83, 142-143, 152.
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10. *The Bulletin*, The British Model Soldier Society, various issues 1964-1969.
11. *Scale Models*, Vol. 2, No. 5, May 1971, p. 266, also Vol. 2, No. 6, June 1971, p. 326, Model & Allied Publications Ltd., Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England.
12. *Military Modelling*, Vol. 3, No. 11, November 1973, p. 776.
13. *Ibid*, Vol. 4, No. 6, June 1974, p. 313.
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15. The last *Military Modelling* magazine in which "Boutique 19" was advertised was Vol. 5, No. 7, July 1975, p. 438.
16. John G. Garratt, *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*, p. 83.
17. *Military Modelling*, Vol. 3, No. 2, February 1973, p. 70.
18. *The Bulletin*, British Model Soldier Society, August 1969.
19. Jean-Christophe Carbonel, *Airfix Little Soldiers*, Histoire & Collections, Paris, France, 2009, pp. 94-105.
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21. Richard Black and Harry Pearson, *Hinton Hunt Figures*, [www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html](http://www.vintagewargamingfigures.info.rblack/index.html)
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# RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS

By Rob Wilson



Photo 1: Renwal Blueprint Models Advertising Leaflet circa 1960

As a child growing up in East Anglia in the late 1950s and early 1960s I had quite a lot of exposure to US culture. This included the toys and model kits that were on offer to our America cousins. Following WW II and the subsequent “Cold War” (as we fell out with our previous allies east of the “iron curtain”), there were still many US airmen stationed in the UK. This included a number on airbases very close to where I was born and brought up. Many of the personnel were accommodated off the base. They got to know the local villagers well, including my parents. I was a beneficiary of this, being the recipient of many US comics, as well as having sight of catalogues of all the “goodies” that were available to the “yanks” on the base. The adverts in the comics included the Marx playsets. These seemed very exotic compared to the toys available in British shops at the time. The mail order catalogues offered an even greater range of treasures, including what seemed to my eyes even more desirable. On offer were perfect, large scale models of AFVs and related equipment. At this time Airfix had established their range of 1/72 scale aircraft kits, and more recently soldiers and tanks, etc, in

00/HO scale. But the US offerings were much more desirable, being 1/32 scale and “based on official blueprints”. I was hooked. However, these highly desirable items were not available in British stores. Even if they had been they would probably have been beyond the means allowed by my limited pocket money! This was my first exposure to the Renwal Blueprint series.

Fast forward a few years to the 1970s, with a continued interest in matters military, and a bit more disposable income, I rediscovered the Renwal series in a local hobby store. I found that they were a perfect accompaniment to my then growing collection of military miniatures (which I was patiently assembling). And these were in proper 1/32 scale rather than the 1/35 scale adopted by the Japanese

Set no.	Title	Crew	US army Designation	Photo no.
M550	Nike (Hercules) SAM	3	MIM-14	4
M551	Self-propelled 8" Howitzer	6	M109	7
M552	75mm Radar AA gun, Skysweeper	5	M51	13
M553	280mm gun Atomic Cannon	7	M65	5
M554	Light tank, Walker Bulldog	5	M41	10
M555	Anti-aircraft gun, Twin-Forty Duster	5	M42	3
M556	Medium tank, General Patton II	5	M47	2
M557	Ontos anti-tank weapon	3	M50	11
M558	Army Hawk (SAM)	4	MIM-23	8
M559	Wrecker Crane truck	5	M816	9
M560	Lacrosse tactical ballistic missile	4	MGM-18	6
M561	Teracruizer with Mace missile	5	MGM-13	12

Table 1: The full set of 12 Renwal Military Models

## RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS (Continued)

manufacturers (such as Tamiya). Subsequent research revealed that there were only a limited number of a dozen models available, so my collecting instinct took over and I determined to get the full set. However, some proved much harder to find than others. Most of my kits were immediately made up and the original boxes discarded.

As time went on I realised this was probably a mistake as the Renwal kits had become collectors' items in their own right. I should have kept them in the box, unassembled. Oh the benefits of hindsight! By then I had moved on to collecting old toy soldiers. So, the completed models were consigned to the attic.

Fast forward a few more years to the mid 1970s, and another visit to a hobby store revealed that the Renwal range had been reissued by Revell (one of the occupational hazards of collecting plastic kits!). Maybe building the kits had not been such a serious blunder after all! And now the full series was once again easily available.

Although they were first released over 60 years ago, this series of models has stood the test of time pretty well. They compare quite favourably with modern releases. The Revell versions provide the opportunity to build up an interesting miniature version of the US Army of the late 1950s, early 1960s. With just 12 kits to find, it is quite easy to build up a complete cameo collection. As well as the 12 pieces of iconic military equipment from that period one also gets 57 plastic toy soldiers! For those with deeper pockets the original Renwal kits occasionally surface, but at a premium price (especially for the Atomic Cannon and the Teracruz/ Mace Missile).

The original advertisement for the series, circa 1958, lists 9 models (M550-M558 in Table 1). Subsequently 3 more were added to

the range, including 2 more missiles (M559-M561). The leaflet shown in Photo 1 provided illustrations of all 12 models.

In addition Renwal released two related models, also part of their broader "Blueprint series". These were:

- The British Bloodhound SAM missile, produced in collaboration with Frog the U.K. based plastic kit manufacturer; and
- The M 650 Vanguard missile.

Unfortunately these two models diverted from the constant 1/32

scale used for the main series. The Bloodhound was made to 1/24 scale while the Vanguard was 1/48.

The Renwal company based in Mineola NY founded in the early 1970s. Revell took over most of the old Renwal company's moulds around 1976 - and reissued many of these including the Blueprint AFV kits. Initially these were released in Revell boxes, but subsequently the original distinctive Renwal box art was reintroduced, including the Renwal brand name (see Photo 3). This makes it quite difficult to discern reissues from original



Photo 2: M47 Patton Tank – author's made up model



Photo 3: Twin Forty AA gun box art, Revell reissue in Renwal branded box



## RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS (Continued)



Photo 4: Nike Surface to Air Missile, made up, on a retailers advertising display



Photo 5: The magnificent and huge Atomic Cannon – Original Renwal box art



Photo 6: Lacrosse Ballistic Surface to Surface Missile, made up, on a retailers advertising display

pressings at first glance. These reissued kits are easily found on the internet (eBay, etc). The original Renwal kits are much harder to find, and they attract a considerable premium. The reissue moulding colour varies, whereas most of the original models were issued in army-issue, olive drab, plastic.

Renwal claimed that such models were designed: “from original official blueprints” and the boxes featured a distinctive blue-grid, blueprint design. Renwal also placed much emphasis on the fact that the models included many moving and working parts, providing much play value (albeit somewhat fragile). The models were cleverly designed so that cement join lines were hidden from view. The working parts included elevating and recoiling guns, tractors with rotating wheels, sprung suspension, crew members emerging from hatches as guns elevate and the ability to attach and detach the cannons and guns from cradles and tractors.

### Tanks and related vehicles

The series included two tanks: the M41 Walker Bulldog Light Tank and the M47 Patton II Medium Tank. Turrets rotate and guns elevate. Hatches swing open to accommodate the accompanying crew figures. In addition, to these there was the M50 Ontos, a tracked, self-propelled, lightly armoured, vehicle mounting six 106 mm manually loaded M40 recoilless rifles as its main armament.

### Anti-aircraft weapons

World War II had confirmed the crucial importance of Air Power. This had led to the development of various weapons to counteract the threat from the skies. The more conventional of these are represented in the range by the M51 Skysweeper radar controlled AA gun. It was the first such gun to combine gun laying radar, analogue computer and an autoloader on a single carriage. More mobile support was provided by the M42 Duster Twin Forty AA gun. Both kits were provided with crew, as well as many working parts.

By the 1950s, conventional AA guns were becoming old hat. Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs) were now the cutting



## RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS *(Continued)*



**Photo 7: Advertising leaflet for the M109 Howitzer**



**Photo 8: The Hawk Surface to Air Missile set made up**

edge technology of the time. These were well represented in the Renwal range with the MIM-23 Army Hawk and MIM-14 Nike (Hercules) mobile interceptor missiles (MIMs). The former was lighter in weight and for shorter range protection. The latter included the option of use of a nuclear warhead and was designed for long-range, high-altitude protection.

## Heavy Artillery and Ballistic Missiles

Conventional artillery was provided in the shape of the M109 Self-propelled Howitzer. Complete with

six-man combat crew and working features, this kit had around 138 parts. The star of the show, and the largest kit in the range, was however the M65 Atomic Cannon. The original mobile artillery piece was enormous at 25.6 m (84 ft) total length. In 1/32 scale kit this measures out in a model as is 851 mm (33.5 in) long. Seven crew are included in the box. In real life a US Army gun crew could deploy this massive weapon in just 15 minutes. The model comprises the cannon itself plus the two tractor units, one at each end. In total, the box contained over 300 parts. The gun

itself was of course not atomic but it was capable of blasting a shell with a nuclear warhead around 7 miles. Almost obsolete by the time it was introduced, it was maintained in service as a prestige weapon which attracted a great deal of public attention. Only 20 were made and commissioned, of which 8 still exist. These are displayed at various US museums, though only one still has its tractors attached.

Its role was being taken over by other forms of self-propelled missiles, two of which were included in the Renwal range. The Lacrosse



**Photo 9: Wrecker Crane – Original Renwal box art**



## RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS *(Continued)*

MGM-18 Ballistic Mobile Ground Missile (MGM), with its combination transporter and launcher, was intended for tactical battlefield use. Its range was not much greater than the Atomic Cannon's. The MGM-13 Mace missile, with its Teracruz transporter, was one of the first "cruise" missiles. It had a range of over 500 miles at low altitude. This was another big kit with some 278 parts, including 5 crew. Unlike the others in the range this was produced in yellow plastic for the missile and Air Force blue for the massive MM-1 transporter. Unlike its predecessor (the Matador

missile) the Mace's wings could be folded back alongside the fuselage (like some WWII U.S. Navy carrier aircraft) so the entire missile could be carried on just one transporter.

### Other vehicles

The range was completed by the M816 Wrecker Crane Truck, used for recovery tasks, etc.

### The "Frog" link and other contemporary 1/32 scale AFVs

In the 1960s UK model manufacturer Frog distributed the Renwal 1/32 military kits in the UK under its own brand name. Since all of the existing

kits were of US subjects, Renwal tooled up a Bristol Bloodhound missile to add to the range to attract more UK interest. However it cannot have been a great commercial success as very few examples survive. It is such a shame that they did not adopt the standard 1/32 scale - they would probably have sold a lot more! All of the kits with Frog branding are rare, especially the Bloodhound.

Monogram, one of Renwal's other competitors, also produced a small range of AFVs in compatible 1/32 scale. These were mainly WWII types, including a number of German types:

M8 Greyhound Armored Car	Sdkfz 232 Panzerspahwagen 8-Rad Armored Car
M20 Armored Car	Panzerkampfwagen IV Medium Tank
M3 Lee Medium Tank	Sturmgeschuetz IV Assault Tank
M3 Grant Medium Tank	Panzerjager IV L/70 Tank Destroyer
M4 Sherman Hedgehog	Sturmpanzer IV Brumbar
M4A1 Sherman Screaming Mimi	Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind
M48A2 Patton Tank	Flakpanzer IV Ostwind

1 Note that the box art of the Revell "History Makers" reissue kit in the 1970s showed a photograph of the assembled model. However, the lifting forks were incorrectly attached to the gun carriage, instead of to the two trucks (as shown on the original Renwal's artist's impression of the gun in action shown in Photo 5).



Photo 10: M41 Walker Bulldog – author's made up model



Photo 11: M50 Ontos – author's made up model

## RENWAL BLUEPRINT MILITARY MODELS *(Continued)*



Photo 12: Mace Missile on Teracruzer transporter – author's made up model

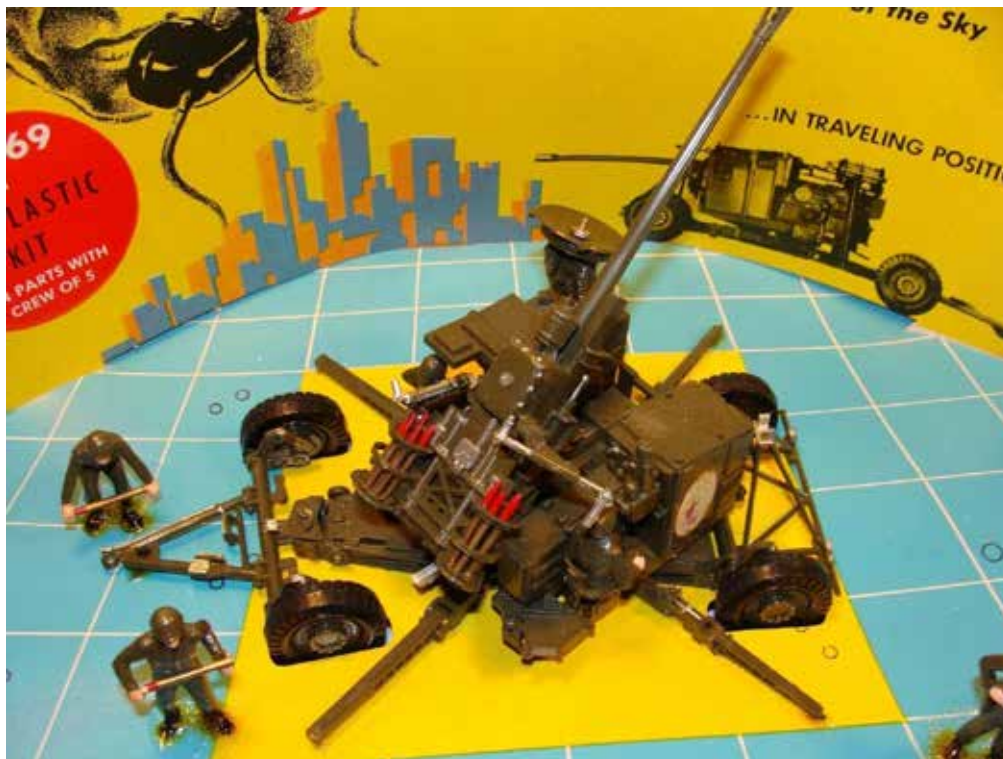


Photo 13: Skysweeper AA gun - made up model on a retailers advertising display



Photo 14: The elusive Frog Bloodhound Surface to Air Missile - box art with Frog branding

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# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME

By Norman Joplin

The company started in the early 20's and in 1933 took over the moulds of the Pixyland Manufacturing Company. Kew's did not re-emerge after World War Two and moulds in the early post war years were purchased by Timpo who used these and moulds from the defunct Studdart Company to establish their business while gearing up to produce their own unique items in 1950.

Kew's did not produce any military items until after acquiring and incorporating Pixyland's Military items around 1933.

Kew's were better known for their advertising and mascot figures along with cartoon characters of the day.

The 1924 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley provided Kew's with a contract to produce the Empire's mascot, the Wembly Lion in two sizes. There are two versions dated 1924 and 1925 as the exhibition was extended.

Both Kew's and Pixyland produced some of the same figures although variants are known to exist.

## CAST METAL TOYS.

The "Kuzu" Productions.

Our readers minds may go back to the days of their childhood, when wooden animals were marketed, which were nothing more or less than atrocities, and would be unrecognisable but for the picture on the box. Both parents and children are more particular to-day, and rightly so. During the last few years, the cast metal toy animal has come into its own, and it is not difficult to appreciate the child's fascination for the beautiful and life-like models which are now to be seen in the windows of nearly every toy shop.

Many children to-day spend their money to buy one animal or another to add to the never complete collection. Then there are hurdles to be got to make a fold for the sheep to be driven into, and sections of brick walls must be obtained. The latter can be built bit by bit, and a child, whenever he gets his pocket money, will want to get the job completed. Little lambs to accompany the mother sheep must be added to the collection, while in time, the colt will be wanted to keep the horse company, and will become an early purchase. Other models to be added to the collection must include graceful swans, little chicks, among which are both cockerels and hens.

We recently had an interview with Mr. A. Percy Witchell, of Messrs. F. Kew and Co., at Endwell Works, Brockley, London, S.E.4, the makers of the "Kuzu" registered series of toy animals and farm and field accessories. This firm, although quite young as businesses go, is perhaps one of the most progressive in the cast metal toy trade. We studied a wide range of animals too numerous to mention in detail here—animals from the jungle and desert (although Mr. Witchell told us these are not in such demand as the "home" variety), animals of the field and farm: swans, ducks, geese, cocks, and hens; trees, bushes, plants, fences, hurdles, and a farm hand with pitchfork complete.

Commenting on the perfection of the models, we expressed the view that they should have an educational value to the child, and were told that the London County Council distributed upwards of 1,200 boxed sets last year as school prizes, and their "indents" this year (deliveries against which were being despatched on the day of our visit) were coming through at a rate which showed that the teachers were not wrong in their judgment of what their pupils would like as rewards. We were also informed that other Educational Authorities were putting "Kuzu" animals on their lists for "kindergarten occupations." "Incidentally," remarked Mr. Witchell, "from

the trade point of view, this tendency to circulate through the schools is a very useful one, as the prizes go into the home, are admired, and, besides forming the nucleus of a collection to be added to from the local toy-shop, they also, being a matter for the envy of the brothers and sisters of the recipient, cause poor pa to go to the same toy-shop to obtain some animals for brother Jackie or sister Nell." Which is quite a natural sequence of events.

We were interested to see the method of packing which Messrs. Kew have studied in the interests of the retailer. All the various models are boxed in dozens of a kind, with the name and reference number on a label on the edge of the lid, so that stocks on the shop shelves can be readily selected and checked.

Two new box sets appealed to us strongly. The first was the "Box 24"—"Manufacturers' sample range," as it is called. This box contains 24 models, of 20 different varieties, two additional fences, and two extra hens of different colours making up the number. The models are packed in a stout green covered box, with a bright coloured pictorial label. This retails at 2s., and is meant to start a collection by the child, providing single specimens of 20 different animals, poultry, etc.

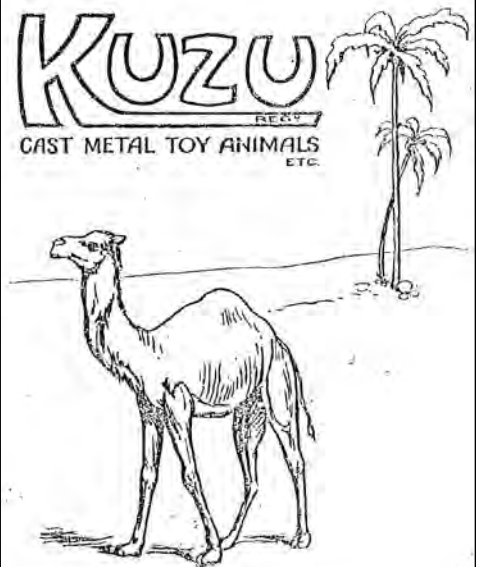
The other is a complete gift box in itself—the "Box 60." It is an example of "*multum in parvo*." A strong box, 6½ in. square, by 2½ in. deep. A bright coloured label, showing a pastoral scene, greets the eye, and, the lid being removed, we find the "Kuzu" (regd.) meadow, a folded sheet of gummed paper, with instructions. The animals rest, in two tiers, in partitioned compartments, and among finely cut green paper shavings. The gummed sheet is damped by the child, and the paper shavings being spread over it and pressed down, they, together, form quite a good meadow, which can be rolled up when not in use. Even the partitions have their uses, as "stalls" for the animals to stand in, the top set being lined with "brick-wall" paper to indicate this use. Sixty animals, birds, fences, plants, etc., a meadow and stalls—all complete. What better present could a child wish for? We can quite understand the makers' desire that orders for this set should be placed now, to avoid disappointment later in the season, as output to cope with the demand is a present difficulty of this firm.

We noted also many models other than animals, such as advertising mascots ("Onoto," "Gibbs' Dentifrice," and other well-known names

CAST METAL TOYS.—Continued.

among them). Also, in a showcase, we studied a series of models of the famous "Wembley Lion," of which Messrs. F. Kew and Co. were the sole producers, in model form, by official permission, Mr. Witchell having evolved the idea of developing this "trade mark" into a solid "creature," they carrying out the original models under the personal supervision of Mr. F. C. Herrick, the artist-inventor of that world-famous design. Congratulating Mr. Witchell on the excellence of the original models of the various types—the models from which the moulds are made—he replied, "We are fortunate in being able to do that work on the premises, Mr. P. F. Mitchell, our manager, being the craftsman." "Yes," he added, as we remarked on the coincidence of names, "we do get confused sometimes, customers ask if they are talking to Mr. Witchell or Mr. Mitchell."

Messrs. Kew are prepared to produce, in quantities, small models, up to about 3 in. in the largest dimension, in "toy metal," and those we saw certainly demonstrated their ability to do so.

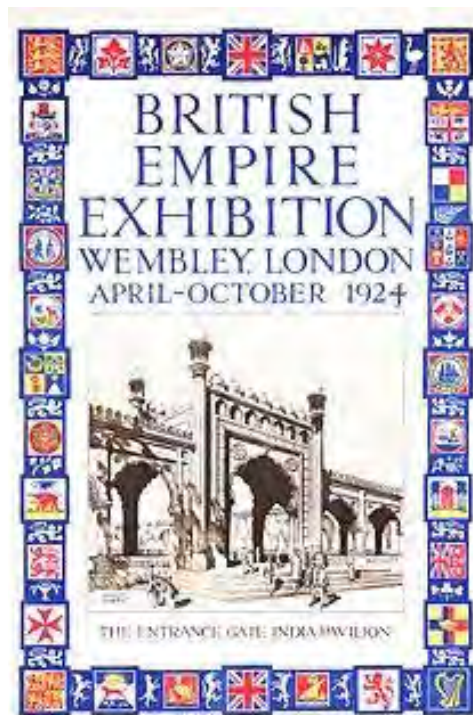


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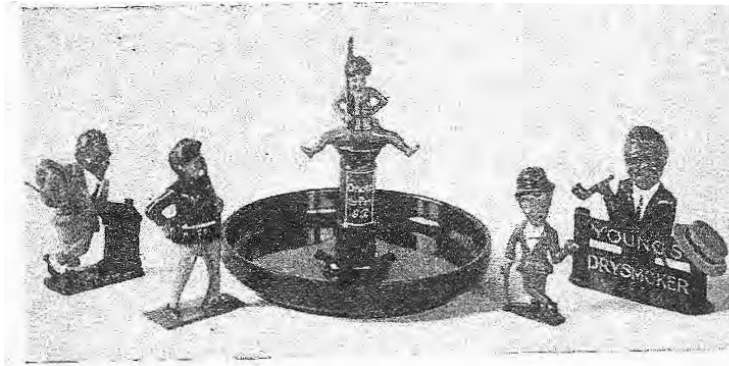
From the Factory to the Home



# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME *(Continued)*



# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME *(Continued)*



Left to right: Mr. Vimto Gibbs, Dentifrice Archer, Onoto Pens, Sir Kreemy Knut Toffee, Youngs Dry Smoker.



Onoto Pens Advertisement with Kew's version in lead.



Printed lead novelty, late 1920s.  
This dapper gentleman with rilly walking stick and top, propping up the bar with a glass of vimto in hand, was also seen in a newspaper and cinema advert of the same period. With his sharp features and smart attire, he looked a little like Noël Nichols.



Mr. Vimto Heath Drink character with advertisement and lead figure.



# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME (Continued)



Gibbs Dentifrice Toothpaste archer logo and British Empire Exhibition advertisement.



Sir Kreemy Knut Sharp's Toffee Advertising by Britains.

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**B. I. F. STAND LA 19**

Advertisement for cartoon characters Bonzo & Dismal Desmond of Dean's Rag Book Farm



Bonzo



Dismal Desmond



Sir Kreemy Knut Toffee Tin depicted as Kew's Model. See previous page. The Kew's example has yet to be discovered

# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME (Continued)



Longshaw Sheepdog



White Horse Whisky



Young's Dry Smoker

# [K U - Z U]

## NURSERY RHYMES, AND SUNDRY MODELS

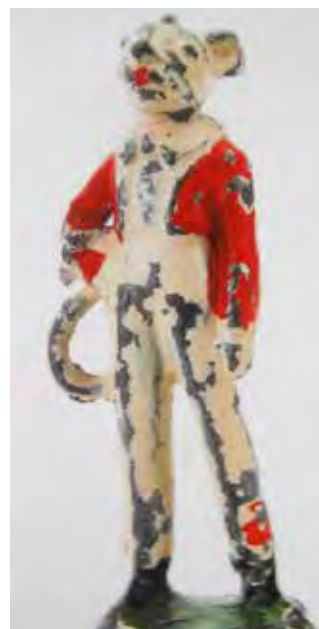
No.	Description	High	Wide	Price Pence	No.	Description	High	Wide	Price Pence
380	Cat and Fiddle	2	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	2	393	Wilfred	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2
381	Mother Hubbard	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	2	395	Mr. Monkey	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
382	Red Riding Hood	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	2	396	Mrs. Monkey	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
383	Father Christmas	2 $\frac{5}{8}$	1	3	397	Mr. Frog	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
384	Boy Blue	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	398	Mrs. Frog	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
385	Teddy Tail	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	2					
386	Doctor Beetle	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	2	410	Policeman, running	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
387	Fairy	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	411	" standing	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	3
388	Dish and Spoon (flat relief)	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	413	Burglar	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
389	Cow and Moon (flat relief)	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	415	Butcher	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
391	Pip	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	2	417	Postman	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
392	Squeak	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	419	Fireman	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3



Mr. Frog



Mrs. Monkey



Teddy Tail



Doctor Beetle



# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME (Continued)



Tiger Tim



## "TIGER TIM" AND "THE BRUIN BOYS"

(by arrangement with the Proprietors of "The Rainbow")


430 Tiger Tim	-	2 1/2	1 1/2	3
431 Bobby Bruin	-	2 1/4	1 1/4	3
432 Mrs. Bruin	-	2 3/4	1 3/4	4
433 Fido	-	1 1/2	7/8	2
434 Jacko	-	2 1/4	1	3
435 Giraffe	-	2 1/2	7/8	2 1/2
436 Peggy Pucker	-	2 1/4	1 1/4	3
437 Jumbo	-	2 1/4	1 1/2	3
438 Joey	-	1 1/4	1 1/2	2 1/2
439 Ostrich	-	2 3/4	1	2 1/2



Stock Set reference	"TIGER TIM" and "THE BRUIN BOYS"	The Set 2/6
"TB"	By arrangement with the Proprietors of "The Rainbow."	
Ten character Models, on display card in presentation Box.		


Note the difference in the sculpting of Tiger Tim in the box set top left.

# EARLY BRITISH HOLLOW CAST MANUFACTURERS F KEW'S LIMITED FROM THE FACTORY TO HOME (Continued)




**KU-ZU**

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NAVAL, MILITARY, etc. MODELS



No.	Description	High	Wide	Price Pence	No.	Description	High	Wide	Price Pence
700	Battleship	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	800	Grenadier, marching	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
704	Cruiser	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	801	" standing, firing	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
708	Submarine	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	802	" kneeling, "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1
710	Sailor, walking	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	810	Drummer Boy	2	1	2
712	" in action	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	820	Infantry, in action (khaki)	2	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
713	" marching	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	830	Machine Gunner	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2
720	Sailor, marching (small)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	835	Stretcher Bearer	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
725	R.A.F., "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	836	Wounded Soldier	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
730	Foot soldier, "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	838	Nurse	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
735	Cavalryman, "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1					
740	" (medium)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	850	Indian, with tomahawk	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
750	" trotting	3	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	851	" crawling	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
751	" prancing	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	860	Cowboy standing firing	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2
760	Arab, on Camel	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	870	Zulu	2	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
770	Sentry Box	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	875	Ghurka	2	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
771	Sentry	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	880	Knight, with battle axe	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
780	Life Guard (foot)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	885	Crusader	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
790	Highlander, Bugler	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	890	Gladiator, fighting	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2
791	" marching	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	2					




Red Riding Hood



Boy Blue



Old Mother Hubbard



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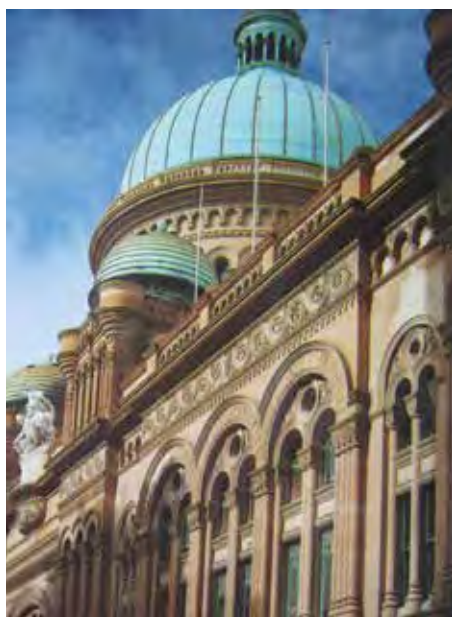
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# AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES

*By Bill Anderson*



July 2018 was a special one for collectors here in Sydney- the perfect and welcoming venue for celebrating a confluence of anniversary events. Our own iconic Queen Victoria Building was celebrating its 120th. Anniversary and it is the home of Sydney's leading toy soldier shop Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers. At the same time we were playing host to Andy Neilsen from King and Country who arrive in town for his annual visit from Hong Kong and we were pleased to help him celebrate his 10th. Anniversary over dinner with a group of his followers at a local club, organized by Peter.

The background to these events was the Queen Victoria Building- now affectionately known as the Q.V.B. It was designed by George McRae and completed in 1898. Replacing the original markets then on the site, it was built as a monument to the long reigning monarch, 'in order to mark, in a fitting manner the unprecedented and glorious reign of her majesty the Queen. The elaborate, Romanesque architecture was

specially planned for the grand building so the government could employ many out of work craftsmen, stonemasons, plasterers, and stained glass window artists in a worthwhile project. The 1890's saw an economic recession here in New South Wales. The Q.V.B. fills an entire block right in the heart of the city. Arguably the most impressive architectural feature in the city and a major tourist attraction, the dominant feature is the mighty center dome, consisting of an inner glass dome and an exterior, copper sheathed dome. Glorious stained glass windows and splendid architecture endure throughout the building. Now every detail has been faithfully restored thus maintaining the integrity of the building.

This year, the Q.V.B. commemorates 120 years since she first captured the public's imagination. In all this time; she has remained a building unparalleled in Australia due to her scale and architectural style.

But it was not always so. The building's prosperity was short lived, considerable alterations and

long periods of neglect followed until finally demolition threatened in 1959. Public debate raged and the possibilities of restoration were raised.

In 1982 Ipoh Garden [Malaysia] was given a 99 year lease and with over \$75 million invested, restored the building to its original grandeur after a 3 year restoration by 6,000 crafts people and laborers. Now every detail has been faithfully restored thus maintaining the integrity of the building.

Peter Nathan, now trading in the Q.V.B. has been a tenant since 2009 and has traded in various other C.B.D. locations for the last 20 years. Selling brands, some long gone, including H. and M., Imperial and Britains both old and new. He has almost single handedly promoted Australian makers over the years, such as D.B. Figurines, Tas. Figures and C.P. Miniatures, some of which have been covered in past OTS Magazine articles. The shop has become a spiritual home and Mecca for collectors. With a customer / data base of over



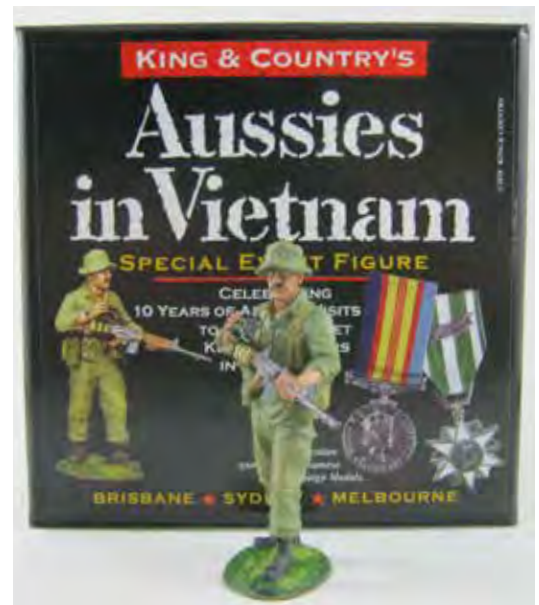
## AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES *(Continued)*

4,000, the shop is not only well stocked with figures backed up by dioramas and a selection of militaria and books, giving it a museum-like quality with superb fixtures and fittings in keeping with the rest of the building. Some militaria items include complete World War 1 Australian uniforms and a British army uniform as worn at Dunkirk, a pre battledress tunic complete with webbing. The current range of figures include- Elite Miniatures, King and Country, First Legion, John Jenkins, Collectors Showcase, Thomas Gunn as well as vintage sets from other manufacturers. He is also selling models painted by some of the world's best located in Saint Petersburg.

Every year Peter plays host to Andy Neilson from King and Country. The visit is celebrated over dinner at a Sydney club. Previous dinners were arranged by Lt. Col. Paul Simidas [a fellow collector] and held in the Officer's Mess at Victoria Barracks. This is a heritage listed group of some of the most important Edwardian Military buildings in Australia but unfortunately we can no longer access the site as it is

now H.Q. Forces Command. But this year, which marks the 10th. Anniversary of these visits was no less an important dinner event and, was full to capacity while at the same time welcoming 14 new faces. Andy gave his usual entertaining and informative talk which was well received by the audience as was the diorama which accompanied him all the way from Hong Kong. It showed a new range of figures which he launched at the dinner, appropriately named 'Australians at War'. A special event figure titled "Aussies in Vietnam", celebrating 10 years of annual visits to meet 'n' greet collectors in Australia, was presented to guests at the dinner. This individual infantry officer is complementary to a 4 man set to follow. Together they tell a small but important part of Australia's military history of involvement during the 1960's and 70's and we look forward for more to come in the near future.

Refer to issue No. 50—King and Country Collector magazine for more on the Aussies in Vietnam range.



Andy C. Neilson



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

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

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

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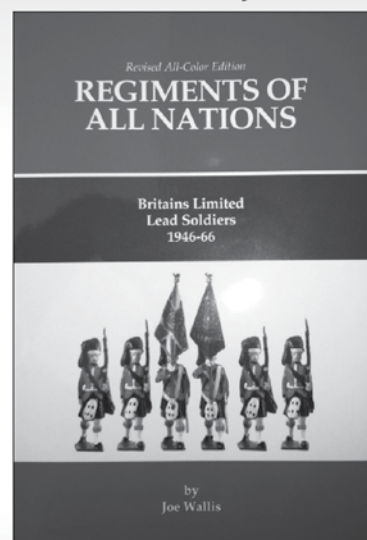
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## ALL NEW IN FULL COLOR! *Regiments of All Nations*

by Joe Wallis

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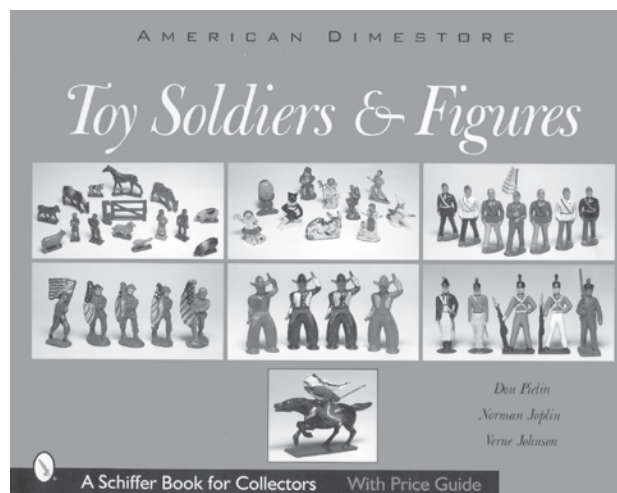
The text describes the items produced in an easy-to-use format with color photos on the facing pages. The book details the roster of military sets, picture packs, and civilian lines (Farm, Hunt, Zoo, Circus, and Racing Colors), including color schemes, the dates of production, and changes in the composition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



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The Old Toy Soldier of the toy world.

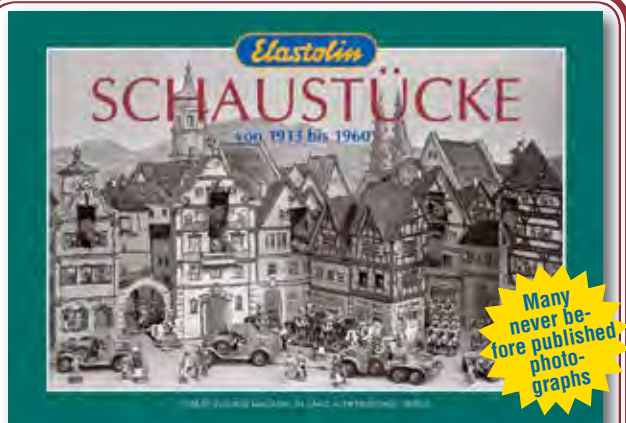
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## ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

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

### VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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# THE WILLIAM H. O'BRIEN, JR. COLLECTION THE PARADE: 40 YEARS OF MILITARY HISTORY - 40 YEARS IN THE MAKING

*By William H. O'Brien, Jr.*

While most of us have visited collections of toy soldiers that have been assembled over a period of years through acquisition at auction houses such as Christies, Phillips, Bonhams and various toy shows such as The MFCA and the annual OTSN show in Chicago, few of us have had an opportunity to experience reviewing a collection that has been built from scratch. Such is the case when visiting Bill O'Brien's collection.



Bill's interest in toy soldiers began at an early age. Growing up in Brooklyn, NY, in the 1940's he remembers standing in awe at the grand displays presented by FAO Schwartz and Polks and Hollanders, a local toy store. He recalls carrying his first set of figures, a set of Britain's Mexican Rurales, in a paper bag when the family went to his Grandparents home on the shores of Great South Bay for the summer. He also recalls proudly "displaying his soldier collection" with his father's hand carved bird lamps at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. While growing up, the family Iris bed was chosen as the perfect terrain for maneuvers. With his best friend Billy Jackey, they played all summer building trenches and firing positions. He recalls his cousin, Pete Cuthbert inspecting their fortifications and telling them about the importance of "hull defilade" after his return as an armored officer during the Korean War. With the 4th of July came firecrackers and the inevitable blowing up of fortifications with the ensuing battle casualties.

As the army grew, it was displayed on shelves around Bill's bed. When it was time to go off to college,

Norwich University, one of the nation's oldest military schools, the figures were boxed and stored in the attic. Upon completion of college and two years of active duty as an Armored Officer in Germany, Bill returned to Bucks County, PA to begin a career in service to others. Settling in Yardley, PA. just down the Delaware River from the site of George Washington's historic crossing, Bill served 20 years as a senior administrative officer at Princeton University with responsibilities for public affairs, community outreach and conference planning. Simultaneously, he continued his military career in the Civil Affairs branch of the US Army Reserve. With responsibilities for international and domestic disaster relief, he became part of the initial Special Operations Command. He retired after 26 years with the rank of Colonel.

Bill's first love was duck hunting and decoy making which he refers to as his "wood period". For a change of pace in 1975 he decided to retrieve his toy soldiers from the attic and began what he refers to as his "lead period". To his dismay, what was almost 500 Britain's were now down

to about less than 100 figures. In his absence, his parents had allowed visiting relatives to play with his soldiers. Worse yet, the beach in front of the house was the new terrain of choice. Even the sturdy lead toy soldier was no match for the ravages of salt water.

Bill decided to start collecting Britain's toy soldiers again. He quickly encountered sticker shock. Sets that used to cost \$1.25 per box of 8 foot or 5 cavalry were now in the \$100 range. This prompted the beginning of Bill's 40 year quest to build a unique collection of Britain's toy soldiers.

The project started with the idea of replacing his original Britain's figures along the lines of traditional numerically sequenced sets in terms of composition and paint patterns. Bill credits Steve Balkin for his enthusiasm and encouragement in creating sets not produced by Britains. Dick Von Schrittz was credited for the idea of a parade which he had created and displayed for the Army Museum at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Hank Sigourney provided inspiration for themes of conversion - hunt, circus, sport -



## THE WILLIAM H. O'BRIEN, JR. COLLECTION *(Continued)*

through his knowledge of a broad spectrum of European toy figures. The late Freddie Green, an English toy soldier enthusiast, was given credit for setting a high standard of excellence in his conversion work.

Another significant influence on the theme of a parade of period uniforms was the acquiring of a print of Queen Victoria reviewing her army at Windsor Castle during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897. Bill decided to convert castings to represent the regiments shown in the print which hangs prominently in his soldier room.

Today the Parade consists of approximately 2500 figures displayed on 4 shelves depicting a coronation procession of circa 1900. All nations represented in the line of march are in the uniforms worn during the period 1880 -1920. This particular period was chosen for not only the amount of conflicts -US Indian Wars, Spanish American War, the revolt on the Northwest border in India, Boer War, Russo Japanese War, the Balkan Wars and World War I, but for the dramatic changes that took place on the battlefields within a short period of time. The lance, sword, cavalry charge and volley fire were replaced by machine guns, tanks, chemical weapons, trench warfare and the aeroplane.

To meet the changes in uniforms and equipment, over 80 sets not produced by Britain's, were created by converting original hollow cast figures. 12 sets were created to represent the US Army of the 1880's in their traditional blue uniforms. Included in these sets were a 21 piece Band, color party, marching infantry and cavalry in historically accurate blue uniforms. Next came several sets portraying the transition of the US Army uniforms from blue to tan during the Spanish American War followed by figures in the khaki uniform which was worn during the First World War.

Similar conversions were created

for 7 sets of German Army and 10 sets for the British commonwealth armies to accurately represent the historical period 1880 to 1919. Although Britain's Paris Office produced sets representing the French Army of this period, few of them reached the US and thus are considered rare. Bill patiently searched for the castings from the Paris office which were embossed with "depose" in creating 12 sets to represent the French Army. A unique set of the 10 national flags representing the major combatants of World War I was created using the Britain 's Boy Scout leader.

The parade route is posted with sentries and spectators from all walks of life to include civilians, children and townspeople all in period dress. All spectators have been converted from original Britain's castings.

Bill readily admits to never having come across a junk box of toy soldiers in a flea market field or toy show that he didn't inspect hoping to find an elusive casting. He admits to being a purist who only works with hollow cast figures - no recasts or solids. Missing paint, arms, a head, horses legs and tails were no





## THE WILLIAM H. O'BRIEN, JR. COLLECTION (Continued)



deterrent. The only wounded that can't be recovered are pieces that are crushed. He does apply one strict criteria in determining if a casting should be stripped for restoration. He uses a 75% rule which maintains that if an original figure retains that much paint and structure it should not be stripped for conversion. He is quick to point out that no current manufacturer of toy soldiers has perfected the hollow cast figure like those produced by Britain's. John Hill Co, Reka, Timpo, Crescent and BMC. Thus, those remaining are gradually disappearing and could face eventual extinction. Hollow cast toy figures are not a replenishable resource.

The preparation process: Once acquired each casting is first stripped of paint. *Experiential hint-before submerging the casting in a coffee can with Zipstrip any holes in the casting should be blocked to keep the paint remover from entering the cavity of the casting.* Once the paint is loosened, a stiff brush can be used to remove the paint. Next comes the repair and restoration procedure. Bill has developed a technique to use pins and epoxy to replace parts and reassemble figures. A critical tool for this procedure is the hand drill with a wide assortment of drill bits. *Experiential hint-before*

*drilling, score with a sharp pin the exact point that is going to be drilled. Always start the drilling with a smaller drill bit. The hole can then be enlarged by using larger drill bits. The size of the bits range from .058 to .095.* To insure proper scale and accuracy, almost all replacement parts are cannibalized from damaged castings. The tool of choice to facilitate this process is the jewelers saw. When a small part was not available, Bill relied upon a colleague, the late Bob Shoulberg, who was a master mold maker and caster to produce the part. With Bob's passing, he now relies on

another skilled soldier enthusiast, Joe DeMarco for that special part. A quick setting epoxy is used to secure the parts. *Experiential hint-by adding lead filings to the epoxy, the bond is strengthened and fills in the cavity of the hollow casting.* Bill cautions to never use power tools or heat to repair hollow castings.

### Painting

Once assembled, the figures are primed with a flat white primer. Bill uses Testors enamel paint for his figures. He chose this type of paint to capture the toy like appearance of his toy soldiers. He describes his unique paint style as a blend of Britain's special paint and Paris Office colors. It should be noted that he has a special mixture for each color used. For example white is a blend of white, yellow and black. The more black will resemble an earlier or older piece. Reds are produced by using orange as the base. One signature of Bills work is the flesh tone which is again influenced by the Paris office paint style. It is achieved by mixing white, yellow, black and orange. Next to the Paris Office flesh tone, Bill likes the flesh color used by Britain's on their figures in the late 1930's. This period in military history also allows for the use of facial hair -moustaches which add a historical touch to the figures.





## THE WILLIAM H. O'BRIEN, JR. COLLECTION (Continued)

Since Testors is brutal on the life expectancy of brushes, Bill advises investing in plenty of brushes. He tries to keep a brush for each of the primary colors, flesh tones, fine lines and larger areas - trousers and jackets. Horses require an even larger brush to achieve coverage. Experiential hint - *paint figures as you would put on your clothes - flesh, uniform and then equipment. Also start from top to bottom so that you can hold the unpainted portion in your hand.* For mounted figures paint the rider before the horse for the same reason. In painting toy figures it is best to use single brush strokes rather the multiple strokes. This technique must have been employed by the painters who were tasked with painting several hundred figures per day. It is Bill's understanding that figures were "batch" painted with all one color being added at a time. He has adopted this practice for his work. He notes that maintaining the smooth consistency of the paint is the critical element in achieving this technique.

Orlando Norie, Richard Simkin, and Harry Payne are the artists Bill uses for accuracy with uniform color patterns for the British Army. Edouard Detaille is used for the French Army. Carl Becker is the reference for the Kaisers Army and H.A. Ogden is the primary reference for the US Army.

**Patina:** Old toy soldiers have a certain aesthetic appeal. As figures age, they will adopt their own patina. While contrary to the belief of many non painters, one cannot use old paint to achieve this condition. Experiential hint: *One can place newly painted figure in sunlight and using a fine dry brush, dust them with the accumulated grime from a well used work bench to tone down new sheen.*

The rule of display discipline: one in - one out. As Bill's collection grew the need for display space expanded. It was here that a decision was made



to confine the collection within a designated area. An 8 foot long case was built into a wall in Bill's den. There are 3 glass shelves and a bottom shelf. Each glass shelf is 12 inches deep and the case is illuminated with an overhead light. The case is equipped with sliding glass doors to permit access. While this decision was based upon practicality, it provided a discipline by limiting the number of figures that could be on parade at any one time. This insured that any sets or figures that were added to the line of march had to displace figures already on display.

**Disposition:** Eventually every collection must be distributed. In many cases this decision is put off until many options are no longer available. Gifting it to a museum is often considered but not very viable due to the cost of maintaining the collection. He recalls having this discussion with Malcolm Forbes, who as a Trustee of Princeton used to stop by to talk "toy soldiers". Consigning a collection that has been assembled through purchase at auction and shows to a recognized and reputable Auction house that specializes in toy figures like Bonhams, or Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA is another option. In putting one's collection "under the hammer", one runs the

risk of determining the added or decreased value of the collection as an investment. Calling in a recognized dealer to distribute the collection through ebay, toy shows and eventually the flea market table is also an option. Since playing with lead has earned a reputation for being extremely dangerous to one's health, gifting the figures to a new generation of collectors is probably not the healthiest option - but is Bill's most favored.

**Reflection:** Bill says the enjoyment that has come from his work is threefold: the thrill of the hunt and the discovery of discarded figures, the creative challenge of restoration and the feeling of accomplishment in creating historically accurate and aesthetically pleasing figures that will endure over time. He mentioned that he has been fortunate to experience what he refers to as the triple crown of toy soldiers. Through a long friendship with Norman Joplin he participated in The Britain's Centenary Dinner in 1993, and 1994 Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. Through his friend Bill Jackey's wife Rose Marie Bravo, who was the Chief Executive of Burberrys he attended Trooping the Color in 1998.

Bill considers himself a folk artist for he never took professional art classes. As mentioned previously, his father's hobby was woodcarving the birds of Long Island and featuring them in lamps. Following in his father's footsteps, Bill never pursued a commercial path and maintained his work as a hobby. He admits to competing with himself to create the best toy soldier. He maintains that most of the work he has done for others resides in the collections of about 10 individuals who have recognized and appreciated his efforts. The-unfortunate passing of two of these individuals, Park Hammatt of Chatham, MA, and Larry Steeler of New York City has led to the consignment of his work within their collections through Ray Haradin's

## THE WILLIAM H. O'BRIEN, JR. COLLECTION *(Continued)*

Old Toy soldier Auctions USA. On May 20, 2018, 45 lots were offered and again on October 7, 2018 another 43 lots were offered for sale. There is a unique irony within the October 7th auction. The initial lots being offered are from Bill Jackey's magnificent collection and the last lots are those made by Bill. These "bookends" were the legacy of two young boys, playing in an Iris bed on the Eastern End of Long Island almost 50 years ago, that has led to a significant contribution to the appreciation of old toy soldiers.

While Bill did attend shows, it was to have his work critiqued by the toy soldier community-collectors, dealers, etc. Early on, he did incur

the wrath of some who asked why he was destroying good figures by converting and repainting them. He also incurred the wrath of the "black light boys" who policed the Chicago toy show venue in search of unscrupulous counterfeiters.

**Legacy:** Not everyone is able to hand craft an item that will be appreciated during their lifetime. Bill recalls holding a wooden decoy made by an old bay man with whom he used to gun. This individual hunted for a living yet was never acknowledged, compensated or rewarded during his lifetime for his skill in creating a functional work of art. It can be said that most artists never achieved acknowledgement

or received financial reward during their lifetimes. While he expresses frustration with the lack of younger toy soldier enthusiasts, he holds out hope that some will be attracted to his efforts and pursue his expertise and passion.

**Disposition:** While still engaged in "throwing paint" as long as the eyes and steady hand are in sync, Bill admits to having had thoughts about the disposition of his collection. Since he has built the collection, there is an emotional and sentimental connection not present with other collections. Ideally, he would like the collection to stay as "The Parade Set" as it was originally intended, designed and crafted. This destination could only be realized through acquisition by a single collector or in finding an appropriate home as a permanent display within a museum. The Frazier Museum's recently dedicated Stewart Toy Soldier Gallery or The New National Museum of the U.S. Army under construction at Ft. Belvoir, VA, come to mind. The next option he offers with a mischievous smile, is to have his family carefully box up the figures and store them away until 5 years after his passing. Then bring them out, dust them off, set them up and have an auction! This, he maintains, will provide true testament as to whether he created something of value but was not recognized until he departed.

Recently a colleague, Arley Pett came across several figures on a table at the famous Brimfield Flea Market in Massachusetts. He recognized Bill's style and bought them and shared his find. Bill says that this represents the greatest tribute that can be given to his efforts. Someday, someone may pick up one of his pieces and say "this is an O'Brien". It would be the ultimate acknowledgement of the passion, time, effort and most importantly the enjoyment he received over 4 decades in perfecting his style of the toy soldier.







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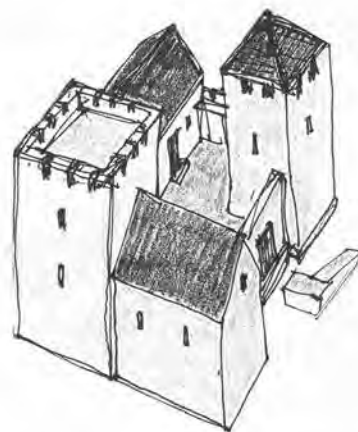
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*Dates and times are correct at the time of printing; however, it is strongly advised that before traveling, contact is made with show organizers to confirm date(s).*

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