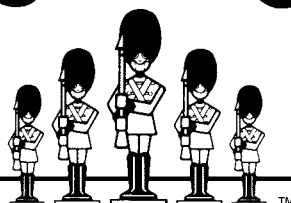


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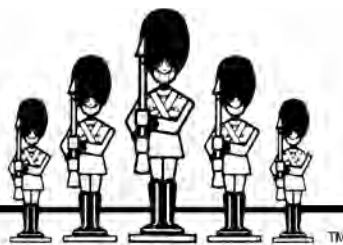
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ON THE COVER

G W Woods, splendidly sculpted British Territorial cyclist, 1914

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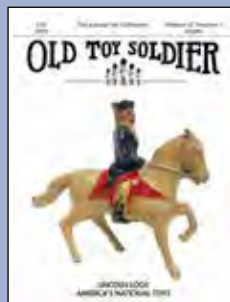
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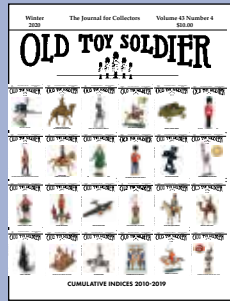
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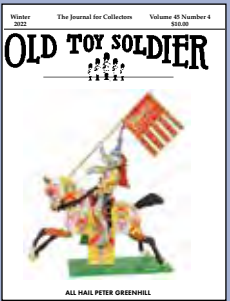
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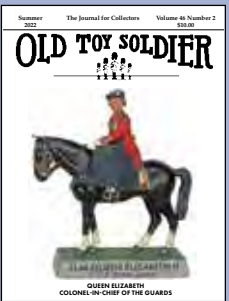


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EDITORIAL

As 2023 begins there is mixed news for the Hobby. Many shows are beginning to get back into their stride, while others are having to rethink their future paths (see Hobby News). Unfortunately from time to time we have to report that some good friends have passed on or have decided to dispose of their collections, but on the bright side, this often means that on the auction front, many exciting items coming up for sale (from Old Toy Soldier Auctions and a number of other specialist houses in the USA and further afield).

This issue continues the tradition of in-depth research into the various manufacturers that produced the figure's related items which we all love to collect. Richard Forrester rounds off the series of articles that he and Norman Joplin have worked on, revealing the important and previously largely unrecognised role of G W Wood in the early history of British hollowcast figures in the 1st part of the 20th century. Will Beierwaltes turns his attention to the more recent contribution of Frank and Jan Scrobby,



pioneers of the "New Toy Soldier" movement of the 1970s.

Other contributions, from Francois Beaumont and Harry Kemp, turn the focus to some of the key mainland European makers from France and Germany. The article from legendary dealer Ged Haley, reflects on the joys of converting and embellishing those figures that have passed their "sell by dates" to create something entirely

new and unique. My own piece on some further examples of Freddie Green's work continues in that same vein. Finally, Robin Forsey reflects on the ways that the internet now enables to update and correct the results of previous researchers. On the shoulders of giants.....

PS: As many readers will be aware, in May 2023 the Coronation of Charles III as King of England, the head of state for the United Kingdom, and many other countries including Canada, Australia and New Zealand will take place in London. This will undoubtedly involve some splendid processions and other ceremonies. It will be interesting to see how current Toy Soldiers manufacturers respond to this event. In the past such occasions have resulted in many new figures and related items being produced to celebrate the occasions. Our May issue will include various material on this and related subjects. Contributions on similar themes are welcome, but you will need to put pen to paper quickly to meet our deadline for copy at the end of March!



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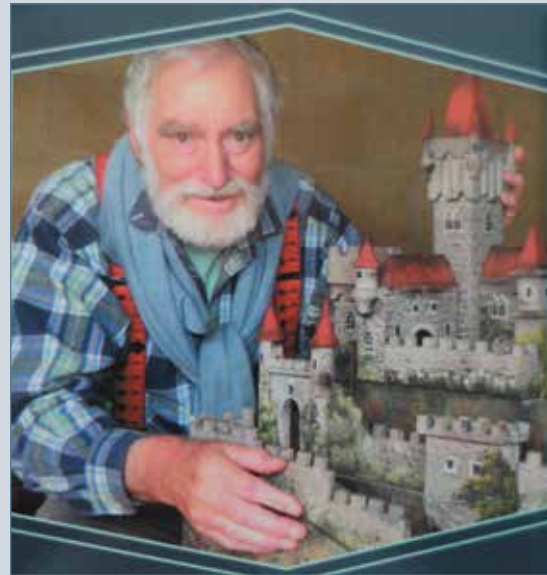


OBITUARY: David Allen Hickling 1934-2022

Allen Hickling was a long-time contributor to this magazine and will be well known to many of our readers. I am sad to report that he slipped this mortal coil in December 2022. He was one of my oldest friends and will be sorely missed. I first met Allen at local meetings of the British Model Soldier Society in Leamington Spa in the 1970s. We shared an interest in military history and tried to represent this in miniature by making and painting model soldiers and related equipment and (in Allen's case) buildings. This was largely based around the use of kits, both plastic and metal.

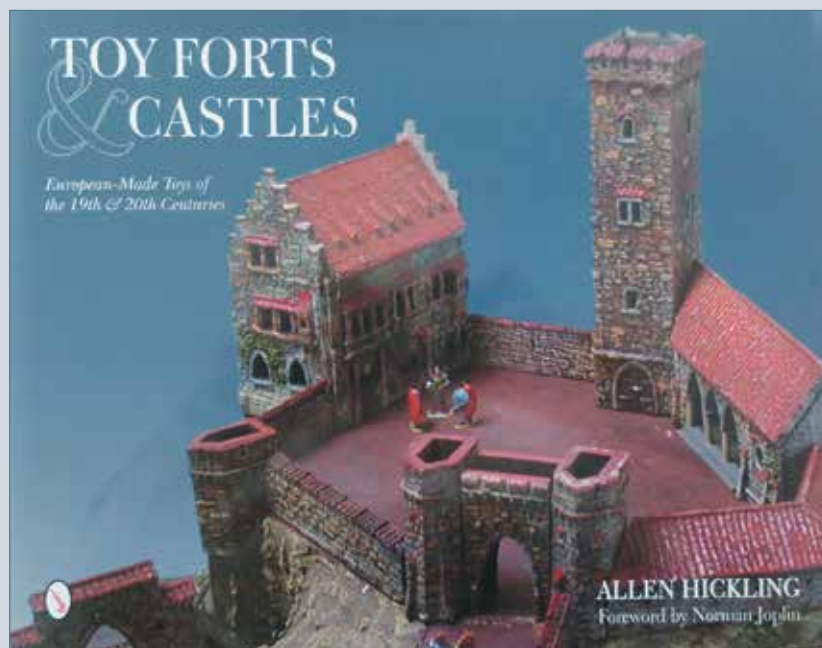
Another member of the BMSS at that time, Pat Campbell of Replica Models (now also sadly no longer with us), introduced us to the idea of collecting old toy soldiers and we were hooked. At that time Toy Fairs or Swap meets were booming and our paths frequently crossed at these events, as well as local auctions, where we could find these items. I specialised in toy soldiers, Allen focussed much more on the buildings in which they were typically housed, as well as the smaller scale figures that best accompanied the many forts and castles he began to acquire.

Over the next 40 years Allen built up what was probably the most complete collection of toy forts and castles in the world. An architect by training, Allen was ideally placed to understand the technicalities of trying to represent such buildings in miniature. Along with many others, I tried to persuade him to put all this knowledge into black and white and produce a book to document this important element in the toy soldier story. I am pleased to say that these efforts were successful.



Building on the many articles he had already produced for this and other similar magazines, Allen put together a magnificent and meticulously researched volume which, for the first time, enabled fellow enthusiasts to understand what they had in their own collections. This was just a small part of Allen's life, which included a period as a racing driver in Canada, a career in architecture, planning and strategic choice, especially in the context of environmental issues. He was also President of the Long Itchington village cricket team, reviving its fortunes from relative obscurity in the late 1960s to winning ways in the new millennium.

He is survived by his wife Judith of 53 years and 4 children. RIP



OBITUARY: Jerry Miller

After a stint in the U.S. Army in the 1960s, Jerry resided in Glynn Ellyn, Illinois. He owned and operated a pet store there for many years. Jerry was an animal lover and actually took home and adopted several dogs during the time he had the store. He still had several cats in his home when he passed away.

Jerry had built a toy soldier collection as a child and his collection was a work in progress throughout his life. Jerry could be found selling his extra soldiers at flea markets and train shows throughout the Chicagoland area. He would be a vendor at the Indianapolis Toy Soldier Show and, of course, the Chicago Old Toy Soldier (OTS) Show.

The Chicago OTS Show was always Jerry's favorite show to buy and sell toy soldiers and figures. He always had a room at the hotel that was always over-loaded with his inventory. His customers had to dig through his offerings to find a



treasure. Jerry's health began a decline during Covid, and he had to use a wheelchair to get around. His last show was in 2021 where he relied on friends to assist him during his hotel stay and as a vendor at the show.

After the 2021 OTS Show, Jerry's health deteriorated even more. He lived for the 2022 show and that was always the topic of conversation with him. When the 2022 show rolled around, he was unable to get into his friend's vehicle that was to take him

to the show. Jerry had his friend take his inventory to the show and sell it for him. Jerry was then transported to Hines Hospital in Chicago, where he eventually passed away in October 2022 at 82 years of age. He was buried near his home in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Jerry was a character that no one who met him, could ever forget. He will be missed. RIP cousin Jerry.

Gary Miller



Last London Toy Soldier and Historical Figures Show

What was once Europe's largest toy soldier show, threw open its doors on December 3, 2022 for the last time, welcoming hundreds of collectors to the final London event organised by Guideline Publications.

Hosted in the Tavistock School in North London, the event attracted around 50 UK and international dealers. On offer was every kind of toy soldier collectable, from budget-priced plastics and castings to the latest releases from leading modern metal manufacturers.

On 25 March 2023, Guideline Publications will introduce the first of a se-

ries of seasonal shows at the same venue that brings together traders from all the modelling and collecting genres covered by its magazine titles. This will include toy soldiers, miniature railways, military and air-craft modelling, fantasy figures and farm models, to name a few.

Planned Future Show Dates:

Saturday 25th March 2023
Saturday 24th June 2023
Saturday 2nd December 2023

Further information:

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SAS to auction Courtenay Moulds

Adrian Little informs us as we went to press that the SAS 28th February sale will have 10 lots of Courtenay moulds, previously owned by Peter Greenhill.

AUCTION PREVIEW



BRITAINS SPECIALS

Bill Jackey Collection – The Final Chapter

MARCH 17TH, 2023 AT 10AM EST

Old Toy Soldier Auctions has had the privilege of selling the Bill Jackey Collection over the past 5 years. This was the premier Britains collection in the world. Hundreds of sets have been sent all over the planet laying the groundwork for many of the future great collections of their time. Like most collectors Mr. Jackey has saved the best for last. The following 175 lots contain many of his favorite sets purchased over several decades. These are some of the rarest and most sought after figures Britains produced. Many of these are from the short-lived Britains Paris Office which began production in 1905 and continued up through 1917. The figures produced from this factory are generally considered the rarest and most sought after figures that Britains ever produced.

There are many unique sets with impeccable provenance from the esteemed author, researcher and collector James Opie. Mr. Opie has written the majority of reference books pertaining to the production of Britains figures including the master book THE GREAT BOOK OF BRITAINS. Mr. Jackey developed a personal relationship with him in the early years and was able to add many of Mr. Opie's gems to his collection. These ultra-rare sets come with personal letters Mr. Opie provided with the transactions.

In addition to Paris Office figures Mr. Jackey was particularly enamored with Britains Special Paint Figures. These figures could be ordered from the Britains factory in the late 1930's with a much higher level of

craftsmanship. They are true works of art that were drawn almost exclusively from Mr. Opie's personal collection. Again, many of these have written documentation stating their originality and authenticity.

Finally, Mr. Jackey's quest for extreme rarity lead him to commission master artist Mr. Bill O'Brien to create sets using original rare Britains figures to produce unique Britains sets to exacting standards. You may read more of this relationship in Old Toy Soldier, Volume 42 Number 4, Winter 2019. This is a truly unique opportunity to add something to your collection that no other Britains collector has. Enjoy the offering.



Britain Special Paint Band of the Welsh Guard



Britains Paris Office Japanese Light Infantry



Britains Paris Office Prussian Infantry



Britains Boer War Supply Column



Britains Paris Office Italian Cavalry



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AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)



Britains Very Rare Territorials in Dark Blue



Britains Very Rare Gilt Pieces



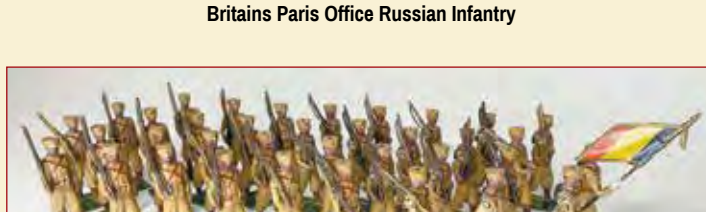
Britains Paris Office Saint Cyr Cadets



Britains Paris Office Russian Infantry



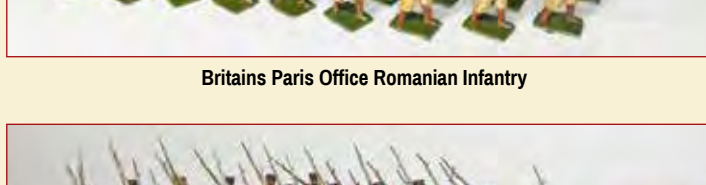
Britains Special Berkshire Band



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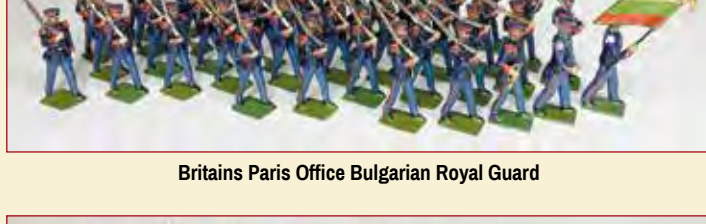
Extremely Rare Isle of Mann Gun Team



Britains Paris Office Bulgarian Royal Guard



Britains Paris Office Greek Infantry at Slope



Britains Paris Office Italian Infantry



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BLENHEIM MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981

By Will Beierwaltes

With the cessation of production of classic lead toy soldiers in 1966, due to new child safety laws, many toy soldier enthusiasts found that their plastic replacements just did not have the appeal or nostalgia of the lead figures. Collectors in England scoured the flea markets in search of old figures, and in response a number of old toy soldier-oriented stalls sprung up to fill the need. One such stall was run the London-based husband and wife team of Frank and Jan Scroby.

They lived in a Blenheim Crescent apartment, but had an antique stall in the Portobello Road flea market. Jan's real job was as a personnel director while Frank was a chauffeur. This side business was good, but soon old toys got harder to find and increasingly expensive to resell. They decided to try their hand at making their own toy soldiers, in the English tradition, to supplement their market stock. Initial attempts using clay or plaster molds were unsuccessful, but then they discovered RTV Silicone molding compound. Jan, it turned out, was a pretty talented sculptor and produced all their masters in clay from the first figures until they ceased all production many years later.

Starting in December of 1973, they began making a small line of figures

based on Napoleonic regiments. They thought this was a period largely untouched by the English toy soldier makers and might have great appeal, rather than trying to copy Britains and Johillco figures. They produced some 10 sets of British and French Napoleonic figures, all described and illustrated in an article I wrote with Mike Curley in the June 1984 issue of the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter. These figures were all hand cast in individual molds on their London apartment stovetop, using a jewelers pewter containing 97% tin and 3% lead. They used the lead alloy as then they could ship "Lead Soldiers" to the US market and only pay a 5.5% duty.

They supplemented their old toy soldiers in their market stall with single figures they made themselves. They estimated that there were between 50 and 200 figures of each over 2-3 years, depending on the popularity of the individual figures. For instance, the Imperial French Grenadiers (B3/4), were limited to around 50, but rarely sold, so many were melted back down later on to supply extra metal for the newer Victorian sets. Jan sculpted all the masters, Frank made the molds and cast the figures, and Jan painted them all. While the enterprise started slowly, their figures became more popular and they found they had to quit their real



Fig. 1. Frank and Jan Scroby



Fig. 2. Blenheim box label

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)



Fig. 3. Blenheim catalog covers.

jobs and take on making soldiers full-time. They named their little enterprise "Blenheim" toy soldiers as a reference to the street they lived on, as well as having a great British Military connotation.

Another toy soldier dealer of considerably more fame, due to his sales mail lists to the US as well as in England, was Shamus O.D. Wade. Shamus was impressed by the Scrobys' work, and offered them the opportunity to make a special line of little-known British Colonial troops to his specifications and his research. Since typically Frank and Jan spent considerable time researching all the details of the uniforms before they made a master, this opportunity would take out that major time investment. The line was named "Nostalgia" and began by converting the Ludhiana Sikh figures, that Jan had sculpted for their B10-11 issue in 1974, to be the second Nostalgia set by painting a silver quoin on the turban. Shamus did not want the Scrobys to make any British colonial figures as this was going to be his territory, so the Scrobys would focus any new work on to the British Victorian Army. Shamus was a rather eccentric and impulsive fellow, and while this line of figures supplemented their income nicely, the demands and requirements from Mr. Wade added a level of complexity to their production schedule which quickly overwhelmed their home

kitchen manufacturing model.

The first thirteen sets of Nostalgia figures were produced in London on the stovetop factory. Shamus wanted figures in full sets of 8 (foot), part sets and single figures, and lots of them. Occasionally he produced a mounted set of 4/3 or 1. Between 1975 and 1981, Wade produced figures representing 141 military units from 74 different countries. These included 291 different castings sculpted by Jan, and all-told they made him some 650 figures. He was introducing a new unit with every mail list he produced, which at one point was about 10-13 a year. The introduction of each set was accompanied by an extensive history of the unit, documented in his mail lists. Eventually (by 1980) he started advertising his sets outside of his mail lists.

With their established Napoleonic figures and the Nostalgia line they slowly began to out-grow their accommodation, which limited their production. The Portobello Road stall was no longer their primary income source or focus, so a change in their business practice was necessary. On January 11, 1975, they moved to Wales to open up a cottage industry factory, aided by an economic development grant from the Welsh government. The address was 8 Pontygog Pontycymmer,

Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, Wales.

Several key factors played into their success in this new environment. They were able to secure a good-sized building inexpensively for their factory, separate from their living quarters. They made the switch from single hand-cast molds to centrifugal casting, where they could make multiple figures and their accessories all quickly at one time. Most importantly, they were able to solicit help from willing local workers. Frank got help in the casting, while Jan was able to hire help in painting. Most of that first year was spent trying to keep up with the Nostalgia production, while converting some of their London-based single Napoleonic figures into their own limited line of 6-figure Blenheim sets. Several of these did not survive the move from London, either due to losing the masters in the move and worn-out molds, a general lack of interest (as in the French Napoleonics), or the inability of the newly hired painters to complete the required painting (as in the Gordon tartans, they were switched to the Black Watch). This was the status quo for most of the first year, but in November of 1975 they started releasing new Blenheim sets sculpted by Jan, based on British Victorian military themes.

Blenheim was really the very first metal "New Toy Soldier" maker after the demise of the British lead figures in the 1960s. Blenheim figures are characterized by a uniform scale, quality and consistency. While in 54 mm scale, they are very distinctive in that the heads are a little too round and the figures stocky compared to classic Britains hollow cast. Their style is unique, distinctive and has a very toy-like appearance, which their collectors love and detractors detest. As James Opie noted², they are more reminiscent of the post-war Timpo figures than Britains. They are painted in a high gloss enamel and the painting is also very consistent in quality and style. They stand on a rectangular base, leading with their right foot (the opposite of Britains), and have moveable arms. Frank figured out a tool (contraption) to quickly attach the moveable arms, but in all honesty they didn't move very well.

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 *(Continued)*



Fig. 4. B44, Gloucester Hussars, dismounted, 1900.



Fig. 5. B19, 16th Royal Lancers, dismounted, 1900.



Fig. 6. E1, Royal Engineers Pontoon Wagon, 1900.

Jan did all the painting for the first two years in London, but, when they moved to Wales, they were able to hire a small stable of willing girls who would come in every day and paint, as well as a number who took piecework to complete sets at home. This allowed Jan to go from painter to quality control, as well as oversee the business. Frank also hired a helper to do the centrifugal "pie" molds for casting. All of this allowed them to expand their production which led to them finally releasing new Blenheim sets with a Victorian Army theme in November of 1975.

Frank claimed that their line represented the British Army in all its glory, primarily between 1890 and 1914, before khaki and mechanization. They never made "limited editions" but mostly produced what the market would bear. In the zenith of their production in 1980, they were producing up to 2000 figures a week. The new Blenheim line began with foot set B11 and mounted C3. All the London sets had been discontinued. In 1977 they won the British Toymakers Guild Award for their line of toy soldiers. At the height of their production (1980) they employed 20 full-time workers, including a casting assistant to Frank, 2 quality control agents, 1 packer, 1 typist (remember, this was before word processing!), 14 painters and a nanny for their new son. In 1980 they employed

an office and financial person to help with the books and running the company so they could focus on the artistic side of production. They also had an additional 20 part-time/ piecework painters, who took models home to paint.

The Blenheim line slowly ramped up in production. The basic B-series foot set included 6 pieces, typically an officer and 5 troops, all mounted in a really nice blue leatherette box, with gold insert to slide the rectangular bases in to, and with a very distinctive square gold label featuring the first Duke of Marlborough. This is thought to have been designed by Derek Knight, who would also design 3 unpainted military miniatures they would add to their catalog. In many cases, a companion box of the same regiment would be offered containing two colours (a regimental flag and the British Jack) plus 4 troops. The B-series grew from 1975 until 1981 to catalog number B68.

In addition to the B-series, they greatly expanded their mounted C-series sets that used the same blue box but only contained 3 mounted figures; typically, an officer, bugler and sometimes a standard-bearer or trooper, and a companion box that contained 3 troops. The horses, especially if in "action" were mounted on a small rectangular base, but horses walking or at the halt

had no base. The C-series expanded to catalog number C18 by 1981. Sets were assigned "price codes" so that they could change prices without changing the catalog. The basic B-series boxes started in 1975 retailing at under \$25.00. They tried to control prices to keep things affordable, but by 1980 the cost of sets were US \$35.00 and \$42.00 for colours. The C-series mounted boxes were \$48. The prices for the complete line are listed after the reproduction of the catalog below.

In addition to these 6 or 3 figure sets, they produced a number of larger "presentation" sets (the H-series) which typically incorporated the contents of similar smaller sets into a larger box. These were considerably more expensive and a lot heavier, and were really made for sales at two high-end department stores; Hamleys in London and Marshall Fields in Chicago. However, they were included in the catalog and available for direct sale to anyone through their stocklist (dealers) companies in England and the U.S. To my understanding, when they gave up their Portobello Road stall, they never sold retail again but worked exclusively through their series of dealers or with special commissions. I have correspondence from the Scrobys who sent me a list of 24 American retailers who carried their line; 19 of which would

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)

do mail order (remember, again that this was all pre-internet and websites). Frank said that 40% of their sales went to their American dealers.

The catalog included 11 H-series presentation sets, including the last 3 (H9-H11) which made up the largest set: Trooping of the Colour, which included

80 figures, 16 of which were mounted. The prices for the H-series were all different, all expensive, rarely published and available on request. 1980 prices are listed at the end of the accompanying catalog.

To support the efforts of their army, they started making horse-drawn equipment

connotated as the E-series. The first of these was E1, a pontoon section of the Royal Engineers, 1900. It was a horse-drawn wagon carrying a pontoon, but no bridging sections. I remember when this was first shipped the pontoon was cast in metal and was like a brick. They quickly realized the folly of this, and changed over to a wooden pontoon, but still without bridging sections. It was drawn by 4 horses with Britains-style H traces, and two Royal Engineer teamsters in red tunics and black helmets.

The unusual E3; a set of the Royal Field Artillery drawn by 6 horses, 3 with teamsters, 2 gunners on the limber and 2 gunners riding on seats on the gun, all in the dress of the Royal Navy but with the Universal helmet. Unfortunately, this set employing a naval gun team never appeared, perhaps due to technical difficulties producing such an ambitious set. The final set in this series was E8; the Kings Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery, 1890. This was planned to mirror Britains #39 in full dress pulled by 6 horses. It was promised repeatedly, in development, but apparently never made it into a production stage and was never released. Also, in the works but never released was a Camel Corps, presumably some Indian army unit as in 1981 they were starting to produce Indian army as the shackles of Mr. Wade's restrictions were no longer around their necks. It never made it out of the planning stage.

A final series of accessories to the main catalog was the A-series including only 4 entries. These were the music stands for the Band of the Line and the KOSB band, a set of boxes, bags and barrels as a load for the E-series wagons, and finally a Victorian lady in full dress that was painted in many styles and colors as they let the lady painters do pretty much whatever they fancied with these.

Blenheim published 3 catalogs over their 8-year life span. The first was in 1975; an early mimeographed listing of their current offerings and prices. The second catalog was a considerable step up with a glossy cardboard cover highlighting the Queens Bays mounted band on its front and back cover (that could be used as a "poster"). This



Fig. 7. H9 H10, Trooping the Colour



Fig. 8. H1, British Line Infantry Band



Fig. 9. H4, Black Watch Pipe and Drum Corps, 1900

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (*Continued*)



Fig. 10. B40, Black Watch Cyclist, 1892.



Fig. 11. RE1. Royal Engagement Set, 1981.



Fig. 12. B34, Colour Party of the Irish Guards.



Fig. 13. C10, Mounted Band of the Queens Bays.



Fig. 14. DK3, Derek Cross Drum Major, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1884, for Blenheim.



Fig. 15. Nostalgia Gurkha Truncheon Party

included a typed and copied insert of 12 pages of the catalog listings up to B56 and C16, and was bound with a blue tension strip. The final Catalog was published in 1980 and was a fully bound issue with full color on the covers and throughout the catalog, with really excellent photography. It included 22 pages with (not all of) the sets randomly presented up to B60 and C14, plus equipment and the H-series presentation sets. The back cover had a pocket in it for updates of the catalog. It was meant to be sold for "one Guinea," \$7 in the US, but was given away to good customers and dealers.

British Royalty and Commemoratives

Not to miss out on the popularity events of the British royalty, they produced several commemorative sets really geared more for the tourist trade. These included the single figure of Queen Elizabeth mounted in the uniform of the Scots Guards for the Trooping of the Colour (taken from set H3), and a really unique and now iconic Royal Engagement Set, produced 1981 to commemorate the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, both mounted on a single fancy base. For Queen Elizabeth's Royal Silver Jubilee in 1977, they produced 3 unique sets which depicted the Queen on the Throne in 1953 in Coronation Robes, a royal entourage to the coronation, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Edinburgh, a lady in waiting, the Duke's Page and two Gentlemen at Arms. This could be supplemented by a set of 6 Gentlemen at Arms with an officer and 5 men-at-arms in full uniform with pikes

The Commissioned and uncatalogued sets

The Scrobys supplemented the income from their Blenheim line by accepting commission work from interested parties. While these were typically made in limited runs for the person, shop or organization ordering them, depending on the contract or the interest level, some were then incorporated into the regular catalog as well.

Nostalgia sets for Shamus O.D. Wade

The most famous of these was the Nostalgia Line created for the British toy soldier dealer, Shamus O.D. Wade, from 1974 until they finally decided to part ways

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)



Fig. 16. Under Two Flags Field Bakery



Fig. 17. James Opie Boxer Rebellion Figures

in 1980 after producing some 99 different sets for him. Despite his heavy reliance on the Scrobys' production and Jan's talent, Shamus never mentioned her by name in his stock mail lists despite extensive verbiage about the historical background of the units. Although he sold many old and new toy soldiers on his lists, he never included any of the Blenheim figures on the list, as he probably presumed they would be in direct competition with his own figures. He did not sell any of his figures thru any venue but his own list, and didn't even advertise his figures until the April 1980 issue of the OTSN, highlighting the Truncheon Party of the 2nd Ghurkas, 1890. Shamus continued to take out advertisements in every issue after that, which is interesting in that Blenheim only produced a single advertisement in the US for their pontoon section. Rarely did any of their US or UK dealers ever produce a US advertisement, other than listing them with all their other offerings, including Marktime, MJ Mode, British Bulldog. The list was enlarged as new manufacturers cut into what was once Blenheim's monopoly. It's not hard to imagine that the lack of broad advertising didn't help the business model. When Mr. Wade parted ways with the Scrobys, he continued production until 1984 using other sculptors. This was reflected in the inconsistency of sculpting and production. He also started a new line called "Ojah Cum Pivvy," which were an assortment of mostly dreadful casting with bizarre themes, many of ancient warriors. These were covered in Norman Joplin's article in OTS (Spring 2020, Vol 44, #1).

Bicentennial Battles of Trenton and Princeton Commemorative Presentation set

A presentation set commemorating the battles of Trenton and Princeton in the American Revolution was commissioned for the American Bicentennial in 1977 by the Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society. It contained 39 pieces sewn into a wooden presentation box with 7 mounted figures and 32 foot. The units which were involved in the battles are each represented by 2 figures, an officer and a trooper. The sale of these sets was a fund-raising effort by the society (and reportedly raised about \$9,000.00), but they also presented both president Gerald Ford and Queen Elizabeth II with the sets. 225 Sets were ordered, and 219 were sold as complete boxed presentation sets. The remaining 234 figures were sold singly, of which the mounted George Washingtons are the most prized.

Imperialist Chinese from the Boxer Rebellion for James Opie

James Opie commissioned Jan Scrobby in 1974 to create for him a small line of different Chinese from the Boxer rebellion (1900) plus a Royal Navy landing party in straw hats to represent the allied western nations. These 12 different figures were all sold singly and not as sets on James Opie old toy soldier mailing lists. The Scrobys would do no less than 50 of any figure to make it worth their time. James received about 2 figures per year, completing the series in 1979. I asked James Opie about the overall production and

success of these, and he kindly sent me this reply. *"I would say that I acquired about 150 of the Manchu Guard (two colour variations), 200 of the Chinese Levy (five colour variations), 150 of the Bannermen with muskets (three colour variations) 150 of the Bannermen with pikes (or Guandao, as I now find from the internet), and 50 of the Bannermen with umbrellas, which were intended to accompany the Mandarin Officer with sword, as befitted his rank. The painting ladies at the factory were allowed to go wild with their imaginations as regards the colour of the umbrellas. The Kansu Brave I think I took 100 – no colour variations. The Mandarin with standard and the Mandarin with sword I took just 50 of each of, again with no colour variations. 100 of the charging Boxer with Pike (Guandao), always just in white. For the the Naval Brigade, I think I took 150 of the Bluejacket, and just 50 of the Whitejacket, and again just 50 of the officer, whose standard painting is blue jacket and white trousers, so he looks good with either Bluejacket or Whitejacket."*

Another well-known commission customer was the British toy soldier shop "Under Two Flags." Besides their extensive catalog of sets from various contemporary makers, they solicited a number of unusual sets, exclusively for their own catalog, and Blenheim was no exception. In 1980 they produced a striking set of a horse-drawn bakers' oven wagon with an entourage of bakers and a table. The catalog suggests they had other exclusive Blenheim sets as well. These various custom order sets made by the Scrobys, not under the

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)

Blenheim banner, provide some really interesting side notes to their primary Victorian line, and expand the hunt for the collector of the wonderful things created by the Scrobys during this early and seminal era of their production.

Famous Iowans

In 1976, an Iowa artist/businessman named Jerry Alingh contacted Jan and Frank Scroby about doing a series of custom toy figures of "Famous Iowans." Mr. Alingh had worked in a number of advertising and publishing houses in the Midwest before moving to Des Moines Iowa, where he set up his art and design studio/business, "Alingh Dimensional Images." He apparently was also a toy soldier collector and wanted to have some signature figures from his business. He had a short list and would provide all the background and illustrations for the project. With Jack Coutts of "Under Two Flags" as an intermediate, a series of 5 unique figures of Iowa legends was proposed. The Scrobys signed on to produce them, with the stipulation he buy 200 of every figure they produced for him.

In May of 1977 the Scrobys provided the first figure; the 31st president, Herbert Hoover. Two additional figures followed, also produced in 1977. These were Buffalo Bill Cody in his buckskins and the jazz musician Bix Beiderbecke (with movable arms holding his cornet). In the summer of 1977, Alingh approached the Iowa State Highway patrol for permission to produce a figure of an Iowa State Trooper. The Highway patrol not only approved, but provided photo documentation and even a swatch of the uniform to help produce an accurate figure. This figure was delivered in 1978, and most of the figures were bought up by Iowa patrolmen. The base of this figure was a map of the state of Iowa. The final figure produced was in 1979. It was a portrait of Marilyn Monroe adapted from her iconic pose over the steam grate in the movie *"The Seven Year Itch."* Now as many of you know, Marilyn was not from Iowa, but it turns out that Mr. Alingh was just a huge Marilyn fan, and so adopted her as an Iowan. She became his most popular figure produced. The Scrobys struggled

with the sculpting trying to get a figure that would be a good representation of a 54mm figure in their toy soldier format that would capture her universal beauty and even sex appeal. After a number of attempts, the final product was a success. The five figures were sold individually in unremarkable grey boxes, and never as a set of 5. As his stock dwindled, the prices of the figures moved with their demand. By 1987, a Marilyn figure cost \$35, Buffalo Bill and the State Trooper were \$18.50, Bix was \$12.50 and poor President Hoover (totally devoid of any sex appeal) was a mere \$9.50. These figures were sold from his "Western Legends" shop, as Alingh now specialized in western memorabilia. As a side note, he also contracted with Ged Haley in the UK to produce gangster figures of John Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde.

Other commissions and souvenir sets

Historical Souvenir sets were produced outside the catalog for historical site gift shops, including the Canadian Fort Henry Guards (and goat mascot), West Point Cadets for the U.S. Military Academy, the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, and the Citadel Military Academy in South Carolina. These sets were typically an officer and 5 men marching, and a second set with two (or 4) standards and four (or 2) men marching, only available at the site and often not in the general catalog. Of interest was that all the cadets were males, but years later when Marlborough resumed the contracts with Annapolis and West Point, they included female cadets in their sets.

Another toy soldier shop, this one in Zurich, Switzerland and a man named Cristinga, had a long-standing relationship with the Scrobys to produce single figures and sets of historic Swiss Army uniforms exclusively for his store. Another uncataloged set was produced for the British shop "the Parade Ground" in Bridlington, UK. It was a Royal Air Force colour party with a single RAF light blue standard accompanied by a Colour Sergeant with a blue sash and 4 marching airmen in blue dress uniforms with rifles. The colorful "Traditional Toy

Soldiers" box, with drums and flags, states it is made exclusively by Jan & Frank Scroby of Wales. While this set did not enter the Blenheim catalog, a similar set was later produced by Marlborough, but with both RAF and National colours.

The Scrobys also produced a (modern-day) band of the Salvation Army as a fund-raising commission for the Salvation Army, and then incorporated the sets into their catalog. It is possible that there were more of these unusual souvenir sets made which are not recorded (the Scrobys' records and filing was at best disorganized and often terrible). I have a marvelous pair of 6-piece French infantry sets from the French and Indian War made for one of the gift shops at an eastern fort in Canada or the US which I had to call, arrange payment and shipping from; all of which took several weeks (again, before the internet!). I'm afraid I don't remember which fort this came from, but the figures are really glorious in bicorns and long white coats.

The end draws near:

In 1980 they expanded into a larger factory building. This same year they ended their (lucrative but demanding) contract with Shamus Wade. By the end of the year, they had to make some decisions about their deteriorating molds, and they withdrew the Queens Bays sets as it was just too much to do a complete revision of the large and expensive masters and molds. In October of 1981, things were starting to unravel. While the Scrobys were great artists and engineers, they were really not particularly adept at running a business. They were overly generous with their employees, inconsistent with their profit margins. Their extensive catalog meant re-working molds as they deteriorated, trying to find the old master figures many of which just seemed to have disappeared, and trying to keep up with a steady demand for their wonderful figures. They decided to "scale back" their production by about a third, discontinuing sets B11,17,18, 25-30, 32-36, 40, 45 and B46. Also retired were sets C3 and 4, C11-14, as well as E1, E4, E5, A4 and RE1, the Royal Engagement set (perhaps they had a

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)

premonition about this couple). Their plan was to start developing a line of British Indian Army sets to complement the British Victorian line. They produced only two such sets for their catalog; the last of the new sets issued.

That winter a heavy snowfall closed the factory for 3 weeks putting them hopelessly behind. By March 1982 they were still trying to catch up with orders, but the financial problems were fast overtaking them as well. On top of this, the British Government created the "Value-Added Tax" (or VAT) which had a stifling effect on their already slim margins. As of April 9th, 1982, they made arrangements to close down the factory and cease production. Some of the workers tried to form a group to save the company and take over production, but it was completely unrealistic. In the agreement dissolution, all the molds had to be destroyed. This is important, because in the future, none of the figures for the Star line or the Marlborough line are Blenheim figures reissued. All the equipment for casting, painting and packing was sold off to a friendly American dealer, Mike Curley and his wife Star, of "Star Collectables" in Center Line, Michigan. The Curleys were good friends with the Scrobys and their plan was to get them back on their feet, using a better and more controlled business model, by donating all this equipment back to them. This "arrangement" led to the introduction of the new "STAR" line, and then shortly afterwards to their own new line of "Marlborough", for whom Star Collectables became the sole American distributor. But while there would be wonderful and creative things coming on the new toy soldier horizon, it was the end of Blenheim Military Models, perhaps the most famous of the early New Toy Soldier lines, after just 8 years.

The (annotated) Blenheim Military Models Catalog; 1973-1981

Portobello Road Sets made in London (1973-1975):

B1. British Foot Guards, Waterloo 1815 (later became 6 marching Coldstream Guards, 1815)

B2. Coldstream Guards with Colours, 1815. Officer, Regimental and

Sovereigns Standards, 3 marching troops.

B3. French Napoleonic Imperial Guards, 1815. Officer and 5 guardsmen.

B4. French Napoleonic Imperial Guards, 1815. Officer, Imperial Eagle (standard) and 4 marching guardsmen.

B5. Gordon Highlander 1815, marching 5 men and an officer.

B6. Gordon Highlander 1815, Officer, Regimental and Sovereigns Standards, 3 marching troops.

B7. Black Watch Highlanders, 1815. marching 5 men and an officer.

B8. Black Watch Highlanders, 1815. Officer, Regimental and Sovereigns Standards, 3 marching troops.

B9. British Rifle Brigade, 1815. Five Riflemen marching at the trail* with an officer. (*initially issued at the slope but quickly corrected to "at the trail")

B10. British Rifle Brigade Buglers, 1815. Four buglers and two riflemen marching.

B10. (Alternate issue) Artists Rifles at the trail, full dress with officer.

Uncatalogued 1. Indian Army Ludhiana Sikhs. Marching at the slope with and without packs.

Uncatalogued 2. Indian Army Ludhiana Sikhs officer and colours. Marching officer, two different standard bearers sold singly at the market stall.

Uncatalogued 3. Princess Louise of Kensington's rifles (in grey uniform). Set of officer and five riflemen marching at the trail.

C1. Imperial Yeomanry. Mounted figures at the halt in khaki active service order. including officer with binoculars and two yeomen with carbines.

C2. Imperial Yeomanry. Three Mounted yeomen with carbines at the halt in khaki active service order.

The Catalog of Production in Wales (1975-1981) Note that the English spelling of colours is used for flag-bearers as in the original catalog.

Basic B-series of 6-piece foot figures (Catalog numbers after B-10 were produced in Wales)



Fig. 18. Single figures in the "sentry box" packaging



Fig. 19. American Colonial infantry from the Princeton set



Fig. 20. British infantry from the Princeton set

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 *(Continued)*

B11. 24th Foot, Zulu War. Running at the trail, officer with pistol. Red tunic, navy pants, Khaki sun helmet

B12. Gloucestershire Regiment, 1900. Marching at the slope, full dress. Red tunic, universal helmet

B13. Gloucestershire Regiment Colours, 1900. Regimental and Sovereigns colours, 4 troop marching at the slope

B14. 24th Foot, Zulu War, with Colours. Officer with Regimental colours, 5 troop standing firing

B15. Zulus. Includes young (white shield) and veteran (brown shield) warriors running

B16. Zulu War Set. Combines 3 24th foot standing firing and 3 Zulus running.

B17. Royal Marines, 1923. Marching officer and 5 marines at the slope. Blue uniform.

B18. Royal Marines Colour party, 1923. Regimental and Sovereigns colours, and 4 marines.

B19. 16th Queens Lancers, dismounted at attention, 1900. Officer, trumpeter and 4 lancers at attention in distinctive red tunics.

B20. The "London Set" made for the tourist trade included dismounted Life and Horse Guards, a Beefeater, a Grenadier Guard, a Chelsea Pensioner and a London Bobby, all at attention.

B21. Grenadier Guards, 1975. 1st Foot Guards at attention. 5 Guards and an officer in bearskins with white plume.

B22. Household Cavalry, 1975. Dismounted Life (red) and Horse (blue) Guards at attention, each with an officer and 2 guards.

B23. Yeomen of the Guard (Beefeaters), 1975. Officer, yeoman carrying lantern for the "Ceremony of the Keys," and 4 Yeomen at attention with pikes.

B24. City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders), 1900. Officer, trumpeter and 4 Yeomen dismounted at attention in blue uniforms and purple facings.

B25. Boers, 1900. Irregulars in brown and grey with bush hats. Six standing firing.

B26. Coldstream Guards, Boer War, 1900. Officer and 5 guards in khaki active service dress and white sun helmets charging with fixed bayonets.

B27. Boer War, 1900. Mix of 3 Brits and 3 Boers from sets B25 and 26.

B28. Welch Fusiliers, Mascot and Escort, 1890. Four Fusiliers marching slope arms in red tunics and sealskin hat, with regimental goat mascot and handler.

B29. Welch Fusiliers, Pioneers, 1890. Five pioneers marching in red tunics and white aprons carrying picks (2), shovels (2) and axe, with officer, sword at the carry.

B30. Welch Fusiliers, 1890. Five Fusiliers marching at the slope with officer, sword at the carry.

B31. Royal Welch Fusiliers Colours, 1890. Regimental and Sovereigns Colours, and 4 Fusiliers in full dress marching at the slope.

B32. Gordon Highlanders, 1900, Boer War. Five troop kneeling firing and officer pointing. Khaki tunic and sun helmet, distinctive kilts with yellow hatching.

B33. Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, 1890. Boer War. Five troop kneeling firing and officer pointing. Khaki tunic and sun helmet, distinctive kilts with red and yellow stripes.

B34. Irish Guards Colours, 1900. Regimental and Sovereigns Colours, and 4 Guards marching in full dress, red tunics, bearskin with blue plume.

B35. Irish Guards Mascot and Escort, 1900. Four Guards marching slope arms and the Irish Wolfhound (Brian Boru) with handler dressed in drummers' lace.

B36. Irish Guards, 1900. Officer marching with sword at the carry and 5 guards at the slope, fixed bayonets.

B37. Black Watch Pipes and Drums, 1900 (Basic Set). Six pieces in full dress with "swinging kilts and feather bonnets (with a red hackle)." Includes drum major, 2 tenor drummers, 1 base drummer with leopard skin apron, and 2 pipers in green jackets and the dark Black Watch kilt.

B38. Black Watch Pipes and Drums, 1900 (Add-on Set) As in B37, but includes 2 side drummers and 4 pipers.

B39. South Carolina Volunteers colours, 1861 (American Civil War Confederate). Grey coats and blue trousers. Blue state flag (with crescent moon and palmetto tree) and first confederate national flag (stars and bars), and 4 troop marching slope arms and fixed bayonets.

B40. Black Watch Cyclists, 1892. Scarlet doublet, glengarry and trews in tartan. 3 highlanders standing beside 3 bicycles.

B41. Cameronians' (Scottish rifles), 1900, Boer War service dress. Charging fixed bayonets with officer. Khaki tunic and sun helmet, trews with the white stripes of the Douglas tartan

B42. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1914. Five Highlanders marching at the slope with officer, sword at the carry. Full dress red tunics, feather bonnet with white hackle, yellow facings and government tartan kilt.

B43. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Colours, 1914. Regimental and Sovereigns Colours, and 4 highlanders marching as in B42.

B44. Gloucester Hussars, 1900. Dismounted officer and 5 men at attention, sword at the carry, Oxford Blue tunics with yellow braid, scarlet busby bags and white over red plumes.

B45. Band of the Line (basic Set), 1900. The Queens West Surrey Regiment in full dress. Red tunic, dark blue pants, universal helmet, standing "in concert." The set contains a conductor, side drummer, bassoon, clarinet and trombone. (See set A2 for music stands)

B46. Band of the Line (add-on Set), 1900. As B45, but containing base drummer, flute, cymbals, cornet, French horn and euphonium.

B47. Band of the Royal Marines in cape order, marching, 1975 (basic set). Includes Drum Major, base drummer, euphonium, French horn, trombone and cymbals.

B48. Band of the Royal Marines in cape order, marching, 1975 (add-on set).



Fig. 21. Hessian Infantry from the Princeton set



Fig. 22. Cavalry from the Princeton set.

Includes 2 clarinets, 2 cornets, 2 side drummers.

B49. Band of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (K.O.S.B.), 1900 (Basic Set). Full Dress with red tunic, universal helmet, trews of the Leslie tartan, standing "in concert." Includes conductor, side drummer, bassoon, base, clarinet and trombone. (see set A2 for music stands).

B50. Band of the K.O.S.B., 1900 (add-on set). As in B49, but containing base drummer, flute, cymbals, cornet, French horn and euphonium.

B51. Pipes and Drums of the Irish Guards, 1975 (basic set). The drum major and drummers wear the guards red tunic but with lace, and the bearskin, but the drummers wear green coat and doublet and a saffron kilt. This set contains the pipe major, base drummer, 2 tenor drummers and 2 pipers.

B52. Pipes and Drums of the Irish Guards, 1975 (add-on set). As in B51, but with 2 side drummers and 4 pipers.

B53. Campfire Set, 1870-1900. Three men relaxing in grey shirt sleeves, one kneeling to place a log on the camp fire, one sitting on a log and one standing, all with mugs of tea. Also, a cloth "Bell Tent" with a card base.

B54. 24th Foot with Colours, 1879. Colour bearer with battle flag and ceremonial silver wreath, plus 5 marching troops at the slope in full dress in red tunics and universal helmets.

B55. 24th Foot with Officer, 1879. As in B54, but contains an officer and 5 marching troops.

B56. Casualty Set (Zulu War), 1879. A surgeon in officers navy uniform kneeling to attend a wounded man while two men of the 24th Foot are running with a stretcher holding a casualty.

B57. Coldstream Guards, 1875. Officer, 4 marching guards shoulder arms with fixed bayonets and a boy side drummer in grey great coats and bearskins (winter dress)

B58. Band of the Scots Guards, 1975 (Basic set). Full Dress in red tunics and bearskins: drum major, base drummer, cymbals, French horn, clarinet and bassoon.

B59. Band of the Scots Guards, 1975 (Add-on set). Two side drummers, 2 cornets, 1 trombone, 1 euphonium.

B60. Scots Guards, 1975. Officer, sword at the carry, 5 guards marching with rifles in the right arm at the carry.

B61.* Color Party of the U.S. Naval Academy. Four Colors and 2 marching midshipmen.

B62.* Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy. Officer and 5 marching midshipmen.

B63. Royal Company of Archers, Colours. Regimental and Sovereigns colours, in dark green uniforms and tam-o-shanter cap. The Queens bodyguards in Scotland.

B64. Royal Company of Archers. Officer and five archers in dark green carrying bows.

B65.* Band of the Salvation Army, 1975. Basic set. Red tunics, flat caps and dark pants. Probably similar make-up as instruments in B58.

B66.* Band of the Salvation Army, 1975. add-on-set. As in B65 with instruments probably similar make-up to B59.

B67. 20th Punjab Infantry, 1890.

B68. 29th Bombay Infantry, 1897.

*Denotes sets commissioned by special order but later included in the catalog.

C3. City of London Rough Riders, 1900. Full dress in blue with purple facings. Light blue top of czapka and plume. Includes mounted trumpeter, Yeoman with officer at the halt)

C4. City of London Rough Riders, 1900. As in C3, but 3 yeomanry troopers.

Musical Ride and mounted Band of the 2nd Dragoon Guards; the "Queens Bays," included 18 pieces sold in six different sets of three mounted figures (or as a large presentation set H5).

C5. Queens Bays Musical Ride, 1900. Three troop mounted, red tunic, blue trousers, brass helmets with black plumes, all carrying lances.

C6. Queens Bays, Musical Ride, 1900. Officer, Farrier and Colours.

C7. Mounted Band of the Queens Bays. Two trumpeters and a kettle drum horse.

C8. Mounted Band of the Queens Bays, Bandmaster, French Horn and Cymbals.

C9. Mounted Band of the Queens Bays, Trombone, Coronet and Clarinet.

C10. Mounted Band of the Queens Bays, Base, Bassoon and Euphonium.

C11. 16th Queens Lancers, 1900.

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)

Distinctive red tunic, mounted at the halt, including an officer with 2 lancers.

C12. 16th Queens Lancers, 1900. As in C11, but with 3 troopers.

C13. 17th Lancers, Zulu War, charging at the gallop. Blue uniform with white sun helmets, includes an officer brandishing a sword, a trumpeter calling out, and a lancer.

C14. 17th Lancers, Zulu War. As in C13, but with 3 troopers.

C15. American Civil War Union Cavalry, 1861, mounted at the halt with officer, color and trumpeter. Blue shell jackets, light blue pants, blue kepis.

C16. American Civil War Union Cavalry, 1861. As in C15, but with 3 troopers mounted.

C17. Drums and trumpets of the Royal Horse Guards. Kettle drummer and two trumpeters mounted in full gold state dress with baseball-type hats.

C18. Drums and trumpets of the Royal Life Guards Kettle drummer and two trumpeters mounted in full gold state dress with baseball-type hats.

H-series Large Presentation Sets in the Catalog

H1. British Line Infantry Band, 1900. (Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment) standing "in concert." Red tunics and universal helmets. Includes 28-piece band with 4 trombones, 4 coronets, 2 french horns, 2 bass, 2 euphoniums, 2 bassoons, 1 side drummer, 1 cymbal, 2 flutes and 6 clarinets and a conductor with rostrum. The music stands for this band were plain silver without decoration.

H2. Band of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (K.O.S.B.), 1900, including 28 musicians with music stands and the conductor on a rostrum. Same composition as H1, Full Dress with red tunic, universal helmet, trews of the Leslie tartan, standing "in concert." The music stands were draped with a blue cloth with a regimental crest.

H3. Band of the Royal Marines, 1975. Includes 30 Marines in Blue #1 Dress marching in "cape Order," including 7 side drums one bass drum, 1 cymbal,

5 trombones, 3 euphoniums, 2 french horns, 5 clarinets and 5 cornets.

H4. Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch, 1900. Twenty pieces, including pipe major, 12 pipers, 6 tenor drummers and a base drummer.

H5. British 2nd Dragoons Mounted Band. The 12 Mounted bandsmen from sets C7-10 in a large 4-tier presentation box.

H6. Pipes and Drums of the Irish Guards, 1975. 21 pieces including 12 pipers and 7 drummers, the Irish Hound Mascot and Handler.

H7. Zulu War Presentation Set of 25 pieces including 12 charging Zulus, 6 running 24th foot, officer with standard, 4-piece casualty set and three mounted 17th lancers all in a large 4-tier box.

H8. Changing of the Guard, 1975. 32 Pieces including band of the Scots Guards with the drum major, Regimental Colour and an officer and 6 guards marching. Also 6 Grenadier Guards at attention, with an officer and a regimental colour.

The following 3 sets combined to make up the "Trooping of the Colours", 1975.

H9. Trooping of the Colours, set 1, including 32-foot figures: 6 Scots Guards, officer and colour, 6 Grenadier Guards, officer and colour, 16-piece band of the Scots Guards, with 4 pipers and a drum major in gold state dress.

H10. Trooping of the Colours, set 2, including 32 foot figures: 21 marching Scots Guards with 3 officers, 7 Scots Guards marching "eyes right," and one officer marching with a lowered sword in salute.

H11. Trooping of the Colours, set 3, including 16 mounted figures, one is Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards, 2 kettle drummers and 4 trumpeters of the household cavalry in gold state dress, officer and 3 mounted troop of the Life Guards and officer and 3 mounted troop of the Horse Guards.

Basic E-series of Equipment

E1. Pontoon Section, Royal Engineers four horse-drawn wagon with wooden

pontoon, 1900. Two Royal Engineers in full-dress red tunics and universal helmet riding the left draft horses.

E2. Ammunition Mules and Handlers, 1897. Two mules with ammunition boxes as loads and two handlers from the East Lancs. Regiment in red tunics, khaki breeches and field service caps.

E3. Royal Field Artillery, 1900. The set included a 12 pounder and limber drawn by 6 horses, 3 with teamsters, 2 gunners on the limber and 2 gunners riding on seats on the gun, all in the dress of the Royal Navy but with the Universal helmet. The set never went into production.

E4. General Service Wagon, Army Service Corps, 1900. Wagon drawn by 2 horses, one mounted with an ASC driver, plus two more ASC riding on the wagon.

E5. Battalion Transport Wagon, Brigade of Guards, 1900. 2-horse GS wagon with driver mounted on one horse and two seated guards on the wagon in red tunics and bearskins.

E6. Limbered Wagon of the Army Service Corps, 1900. Small 2-horse wagon pulling a limber/cart, with an ASC rider in red tunic and universal helmet on one of the horses.

E7. Gatling Gun with a Royal Navy landing party, 1879.

E8. Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, 1890. (This model was being developed but never commercially produced).

Odd sets, singles, souvenir sets and custom production issues:

A1. Victorian lady (single figure) in a hat and full-length skirt, provided in a variety of colored dresses.

A2. Music Stands for the Band of the Line (simple silver music stands)

A3. Music Stands for the K.S.O.B. Band (stands with a blue drape with the regimental crest).

A4. Wagon Load of contents for E4, E5 or E6 wagons. Included 2 crates with removable lids, 3 bags, 2 barrels and 7 tools.

Chelsea Pensioner (single figure) in

BLenheim MILITARY MODELS, 1973-1981 (Continued)

a red long coat and black cap from the "London" set.

London "Bobby" policeman (single figure) from the "London" set, as well as other singles from the London set, packaged in grey "Sentry Box" boxes with a glassine window front.

RE1. Royal Engagement Set. Prince Charles in a red shell jacket and Diana in a black evening gown, both mounted on a single black oval base.

1977 Queen Elizabeth's Royal Silver Jubilee Sets

J1. Queen Elizabeth on the Throne in Coronation Robes.

J2. Royal Entourage to the coronation, including 6 figures, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Windsor, a lady in waiting, the duke's page and 2 Gentlemen-at-arms with pikes.

J3. Gentlemen at Arms. Officer and 5 men-at-arms in full uniform with pikes

The "**Swiss Sets**" were uncatalogued sets as a special custom order commissioned by a Mr. Cristinga for a shop in Switzerland, only available in the shop.

Swiss 1. Swiss Carabinier officer, 1862 for a Geneva Shop (single figure).

Swiss 2. Swiss Carabinier trooper, 1862 (single figure).

Swiss 3. Swiss Army Set, 1890. Officer and 5 men in green uniforms with Tyrolean style hat.

Swiss 4. Swiss Army Colours Set, 1890. Flag bearer, bugler and 4 men.

Shamus Wades Nostalgia Line: this was an extensive line of odd British Colonial units available only from Shamus Wade from his mail list, each made by the Scrobys to his specifications. The line is too extensive to catalog in this article, as it included 141 units, most of which were produced for him by the Scrobys. Much of the series appears in his mail lists including extensive histories of each, as well as a small book Mr. Wade self-published in 1981 (see the bibliography). These figures, especially the figures created by

the Scrobys, have their own dedicated cadre of collectors. The "arrangement" began while the Scrobys were still in London, and lasted until 1980.

American Revolution Bicentennial Presentation Set of the Battle of Trenton and Princeton (1777). A 39-piece boxed set commissioned by the Princeton Battlefield Area Preservation Society in 1977 for the American Bicentennial. It contained 39 pieces sewn into a wooden presentation box with 7 mounted figures and 32 foot. The units which were involved in the battles are each represented by 2 figures, an officer and a trooper. The sale of these sets was a fund-raising effort by the society, but they were also presented to both President Gerald Ford and Queen Elizabeth II. 225 Sets were ordered, and 219 were sold as complete presentation sets. The remaining 234 figures were sold singly.

Units represented include two American Rifle units (in white or blue fringed jackets), a continental line regiment in blue coat with red facings, continental artillery in blue coat and red facings, continental marines in green coat with white facings, 14th continental line with dark blue coats and white facings, and Haslets Delaware regiment in blue coats and red facings. The American Cavalry unit was the Philadelphia City Troop in a brown coat. British units included the 17th regiment in red coat and white facings, the 40th regiment in red coat and buff facings, the 42nd Black Watch in red coats and green facings, the 55th Regiment in a red coat and green facings, light infantry in red coats and buff facings and grenadiers in red coats

and white facings. The British cavalry was the 16th Dragoons in red coats. The Hessian units (in conical headgear) included Rall's Grenadiers in blue coats with red facings, Von Lossberg Fusiliers in blue coats with orange facings, and Von Knyphausen Fusiliers in blue coats with blue facings. They also had mounted Jagers in green jackets. Each foot figure had a code etched into its base for identification.

Canadian **Fort Henry** guards with goat mascot. Made exclusively for Fort Henry and not available elsewhere.

Band of the Salvation Army, 1975. This was a custom commissioned band for a fund-raiser, and incorporated the bandsmen from sets B65-66 (I have never seen this full set).

US Military Academy **West Point Cadets**, with two 6-piece sets including marching with officer and colour party. Made exclusively for West Point and not available elsewhere.

Annapolis **US Naval Academy** midshipmen cadets, with two 6-piece sets including marching officer and 5 midshipmen, and the second with 4 colours and 2 marching midshipmen

Boxer Rebellion figures made for James Opie.

C1. Manchu Guardsman, advancing

C2. Chinese Levy with blunderbuss

C3. Banner (territorial) Infantry (pike)

C4. Banner (territorial) Infantry (musket and musket rest)

C5. Banner (territorial) Infantry (umbrella)



Fig. 23. Famous Iowans, including President Herbert Hoover, Buffalo Bill Cody, Bix Beiderbecke, Iowa Highway Patrol Trooper and Marilyn Monroe.

- C6. Kansu tribesman, firing
- C7. Mandarin officer with standard
- C8. Mandarin officer with sword
- C9. Boxer charging with pike
- C10. Royal Navy landing party, blue jacket in straw hat, advancing w/bayonet
- C11. Royal Navy landing party, white jacket in straw hat, advancing w/bayonet
- C12. Royal Navy landing party, Lieutenant, blue tunic and white pants

Famous lowans

- I-1. 31st President, Herbert Hoover. (1977)
- I-2. Buffalo Bill Cody in his buckskins (1977)
- I-3. Jazz musician Bix Beiderbecke with movable arms holding his cornet (1977)
- I-4. Iowa Highway patrol State Trooper (1978).
- I-5. Marilyn Monroe adapted from her iconic pose over the steam grate in the movie "The Seven Year Itch." (1979)

British horse-drawn "**Wheeled Bakery Oven with chimney stack**". This is a long field oven in grey with a chimney, and included cooks in shirt sleeves. One is carrying a tray of loaves of bread, another putting dough pans into the oven and a third kneading bread. There are two horses at the halt, and a rider standing in blue review order, steadying the horses. Also included is a table, 2 bags of flour and a bucket of horse feed on table. Not part of the regular catalog,

it was commissioned by one of the major British retail outlets, "**Under Two Flags**", to use in their own exclusive line.

Royal Air Force Colour Party made exclusively for the Parade Ground shop in Bridlington, with RAF standard, a colour sergeant with blue sash and 4 marching airmen.

French and Indian War French sets. Two extremely rare sets, one with an officer and 5 troopers standing with muskets in white coats and tricornes, and a second set of colours, including two standards and 4 additional troopers.

Derek Knight line of Military Miniatures. This was a real departure for Marlborough, producing unpainted (but primed) military miniatures designed and sculpted by Derek Knight.

DK1. Staff Sargent, Corps of Royal Engineers, 1914.

DK2. Bombardier, Royal Marine Artillery, 1914.

DK3. Drum Major, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 1884.

Retail Prices by Price Code or individual sets; from a mail list received in 1981.

(These are increased by 15% compared to the initial prices in 1980)

Price Code:	Price (US\$)
A	\$38.00
B	\$47.00
C	\$55.00
D	\$68.00

SETS:

E1	\$146.00
E4,5	\$112.00
E7	\$55.00
B61	\$53.00
H1,2	\$210.00
H3	\$223.00
H4	\$154.00
H5	\$275.00
H6	\$159.00
H7	\$215.00
H8	\$223.00
H9	\$223.00
H10	\$187.00
H11	\$315.00

Individual figures

Foot	\$6.30
Musician	\$7.85
Colours	\$12.35
Mounted	\$18.40
Special Mtd	\$22.65
Derek Knight	\$7.50

Acknowledgements:

My thanks to my long-time friend Star Curley for sharing with me the correspondence between her husband Mike and the Scrobys during the Blenheim years. Also my thanks to collector and friend Verne Johnson who shared his correspondence with the Scrobys, Mr. Alingh in Iowa and information on the Princeton sets.

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Fig. 24. Royal Air Force colour party for "The Parade Ground"

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MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!!

By Ged Haley

What is it with toy soldiers?

What is it with toy soldiers that still fascinates us and that has resulted in a global fraternity of like-minded enthusiasts? That has resulted in many lifelong friendships being made, many links forged with fellow collectors from all over the world? Perhaps it is nostalgia. Perhaps we want to reconnect with our childhood when we had these figures and valued playthings? The very tactility of these objects brings back many happy memories when life was more ordered and easier, predictable and settled for many of us.

Now we are older and able to afford those items we couldn't get, those figures we never had as kids, those sets we knew existed but couldn't scramble enough pocket money to buy ourselves or weren't purchased for us as presents. This has generated a whole new field of interest around the subject which involves detailed research, accumulation of knowledge and discovery of many rare sets. Besides the financial and investment interest that this has created. An obsession which drives us to explore every aspect of the subject which particularly concerns us. We are especially excited when we find some variation of the figure or set which we never thought existed.

However, I digress. In essence toy soldiers were mass produced and often crudely painted even though the figures themselves were cleverly sculpted containing many details which were often painted over.

Introducing the Maestro

I met John Bennett over 30 years ago when I had a stand at a local toy fair with a table of toy soldiers. John just happened to roll up. We got talking, then he suddenly produced some hollow cast toy soldiers that he had painted, which blew me away! I have seen many toy soldiers whose painting has not been executed very well. However, the difference here was the higher



quality of painting of soldiers, the like of which I had not seen before. Over the years John has painted superbly many figures, building a unique and valuable collection.

From that day onwards, John and I have been firm friends, sharing our interest in toy soldiers and military history in general, enhanced by the frequent appearance of his latest little masterpiece. That friendship has been shared by our wives too. The magic of toy soldiers!!

Examples of John's work

Sometime afterwards he bought from me a BMC Scottish piper. BMC were characteristic of typical toy soldiers very crudely painted. However these

figures were finely sculpted with a sense of movement and flowing line which gives them a special character, not brought out at all by their mass produced painting finish. Many other toy soldiers were also finely modelled, but again generally crudely painted, with the exception of pre-1914 Britain's, which had a more detailed painting, but not necessarily precise.

John changed all that with the application of his art. Above all, imagination is the driving force behind his painterly technique. Research, accuracy, detail, precision, fineness of the line are all characteristics of his style, besides the insertion of some quirkiness and humour!

Using the Piper as the first example, see photos 1A, 1B, and 1C. Every feature of the Piper's official uniform has been highlighted –the kilt, sporran, glengarry jacket, pipes, dirk, socks, corporal's stripes, et cetera highlighted and all correctly researched.

John is equally skilled at repair and conversion. His mounted Scots Grey is a very good example of his conversion and repair technique. He started with the horse of a Lancer, then built up with (Daz modelling clay), and using an original head to make up the complete figure he required. Then he painted it up superbly, see 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. He created a dismounted Scots Grey built-



1A



1B



1C

MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!! *(Continued)*



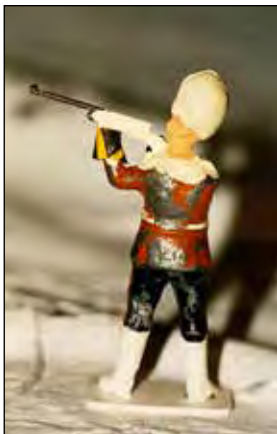
2A



2B



2C



3A



3B



3C



3D



4A



4B



5A



5B



6A



6B

MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!! *(Continued)*

up from the remains of a Reka standing firing figure. Photos 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3D show the figure. Notice that he's wearing Spurs!

Photos 4A and 4B and 5A and 5C show his work on Johillco blacksmiths, converted to the role of military farriers.

The accuracy of his technique is exemplified by his repainting of a Knight of Agincourt. He has managed to paint a large number of diamond shapes over the folds of the caparison of the horse, Knight's tunic and shield, see photos 6A and 6B. All perfectly formed and accurate, fitting exactly the areas available.

As it can be seen, John paints not only regular soldiers – besides Knights also cowboys and Indians and Arabs. First let me show you his Britain's cowboy and Indian, see photos 7A, 7B, and 8A. These are beautifully embellished and detailed.



7A



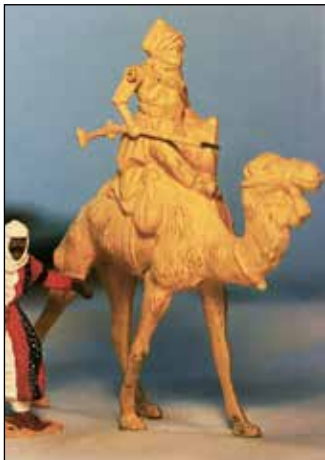
7B



8A

Recently he has built up a good collection of both plastic and metal Afghans and Arabs which he has given his unique treatment to. First, I draw notice to a Britain's hollow cast Arab on camel from set 193 - see 9A. Contrast this with John's magnificent treatment in 9B-9D.

One of the finest figures he has repaired and painted is an Arab on horseback from Britain's set 164. Nicknamed Omar Ben Sharif, he is a splendidly clad Arab Sheikh, see 10A, 10B and 10C. He has a finely detailed tunic cowl and elaborate headband, gold cloak picked out in fine black lines, detailed horse furniture and reins, while



9A



9B



9C



9D



10A



10B



10C

MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!! *(Continued)*



11A



11B



12A



12B



12C



12D



12E



13A



13B



14



15



16



17A



17B

MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!! *(Continued)*

a glowing red ruby shines from the breast of the horse.

John loves his humour. Examine photos 11A and 11B. This figure's gown is decorated in an OXO Gravy Cube wrapper's pattern! Also, see photos 12A -12D, this bloodthirsty Arab's gown has the same design

as ex-UK PM Theresa May's dress (photo 12E)!

For more of John's costumes incorporating some of the same quirkiness see photos 13 to 26 in which his imagination and amazing ability is given full rein. Please take note of number 16 which has

inscribed on it Great Britain's 2012 Paralympic logo!!

As indicated above, John has spent many years building up a large collection of individually painted figures.



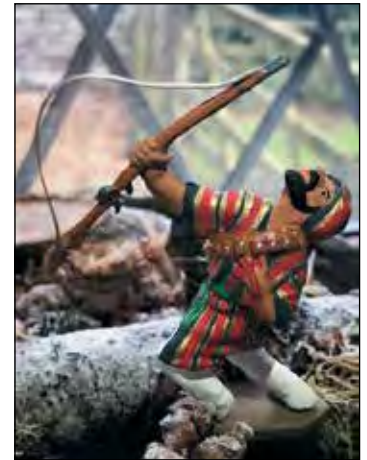
18A



18B



19



20



21



22



23



24



25



26

MAESTRO PAINTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF TOY SOLDIERS - GOLDEN (JOHN) BENNETT!! (Continued)

Vehicles too....

He has also converted and painted toy military vehicles, similarly detailed and accurate with all the divisional and unit signs. See M V 1 – 7. Photo number M V 8 shows an initial incomplete Beetle lorry. From items like this he composed a unit of Australian North African campaign artillery and various vehicles and equipment for the D-Day landings. The hoods of the lorries were constructed from wire and tinfoil and accurately painted in relevant colours.

In the future, it is quite possible that some of John's toy soldier masterpieces may come to market. I would keep a very careful watch out for any figures that do. Lucky will be the person who one day may be able eventually to incorporate some of his unique artwork in their own collection!

Figures displayed in article:

Scottish Piper, Britain's Arab on camel from site 193, Arab on horse from set 164, Knight of Agincourt, Britain's 1877 Beetle lorries, mounted Indian from 152, mounted cowboy with a lasso limber and artillery pieces, 9781 Scout car, plastic figures from Armies in Plastic.

Modelling and other materials used

Daz modelling clay, milliput.

Glues: polystyrene cement, Evo – adhesive, Superglue

Paints: Humbrol, Revell, Extra Colour

Brushes: 3/0 Kolinsky Proarte Prolene +007, Airfix, 10/0 Master stroke series/60 5060 9406, 0000 Winsor and Newton Cotman 111, Septre Gold 11, 6 Jarvis Pure Sable.

NB: John makes the comment: *"Most of my brushes have been purchased with the sole aim of finding the most fine haired brush to allow me to paint the finest intricate designs – I occasionally use a tiny strip of plastic to paint the thinnest of lines."*



MV1



MV2



MV3



MV4



MV5



MV6



MV7



MV8

RECONNAISSANCE

Paris Office Boxed Sets

Harry Kemp picked up two rare Paris Office boxed sets at the October Euro-figurines show

This one contains a set of 7 Zouaves with pale faces and an accompanying officer, plus 7 Zulus. Whether they were all originally housed in the box remains the subject of conjecture,

as the tie card is missing and the set number and description of contents have been left blank.

The second box is of the same type and size, this time containing 8 Chasseurs a Pieds in service dress (based on the casting used in standard set #192, but with a characteristic Paris

Office paint finish) and 9 Infanterie de Ligne at the trail, based on the same body casting (rather than the more chunky figure used in set #141) but with heads wearing kepis. What a great find! Again, unfortunately there is no set number or other information to indicate the original box contents.



Sentry Box Cavalry Figures

Following on from Will Beierwaltes excellent review of the work of this company in the Winter 2021, Vol 44, Number 4 issue of the magazine I was very pleased to pick up three examples of the mounted figures as shown in the accompanying images. While some Sentry Box can appear a bit “wooden”, these three figures seem to me to capture the essence of what a good model soldier should look like!



RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)

[illegible]

With the Wild Animal Series the perils of hunting can be introduced to all the animals exhibited in a "cage." They become in handy in making a "circuit" also. Zulus, Indians and even civilized races seem to delight in hunting so that the use of bows is commensurate with their diurnal.

REPRODUCING HISTORIC EVENTS WITH FIGURES

Newer beliefs in America has it been possible for teachers to obtain such a variety of historical characters, military uniforms, naval flags, maces, etc. as featured in our life. Current in color, pool-pool and costume, based upon sketches and photographs of the past. The problem is authentic and to be set as possible.

One can often glimpse the history of these hardy frontiersmen who upheld the wilderness of Maine in colden days, or those who can identify the names of the early explorers who followed in the wake of Columbus. Again stands before you the figure of an early Colonial private leader, with his bloodthirsty mode with their drawn swords ready to fall upon you. Again, we see the crush of many warriors along the road from Concord and see the minute-men "picking off" the red coats that ventured out from Boston. In the early dawn of a cold winter morn, the Hokeans are seen tramping along the trail from Lake Umbagog to the city of Concord. In the early dawn of a cold winter morn, the Hokeans are seen tramping along the trail from Lake Umbagog to the city of Concord. In the early dawn of a cold winter morn, the Hokeans are seen tramping along the trail from Lake Umbagog to the city of Concord.

Here, from the forest quiet, the sturdy backwoodsman appears, alert, off enduring constitution, insouciant in aim, not ready to chafe at the admission of William's army, free rangers, and we have now the volunteers forming out of the Federal forces of 1861. With them are added the ex-servants of the dragoon 7th, who under Custer, sold out of the Federal forces of 1861. With them are added the ex-servants of the dragoon 7th, who under Custer, sold out of the Federal forces of 1861. With them are added the ex-servants of the dragoon 7th, who under Custer, sold out of the Federal forces of 1861.

A short, but terrible campaign in Africa, it culminated by the so-called Zulu warriors, armed with spears of their own manufacture, terms of capitulation and blowing to retreat. A cross occurring, winds of sand, in defence pose, the army moved the 100,000 soldiers of the French Foreign Legion, swarming, the magnitude of the French, tribesmen, the ranks of a great devastating war fall to arouse the fierce ranks of Prussian soldiers aligned with their officers in such a way that they were able to capture the impetuous advance of the sons of the Magic Leaf. The last lot of machine guns with the two troops, a small the impetuous advance of the sons of the Magic Leaf. The last lot of machine guns and the last lot of Zulu warriors, head and shoulders of their black clad dimly before, they charged against the effient army, troops of the British.

New York, or any other city in 1940, witnessed seething parades of returned troops, with laughter, shouting and joyous gleaming. We had the bonneted curriers, and especially the carriers of 36th's Infantry, the "Lost Battalion" of missing "me" time. Here, too, removed perhaps from wounds, walks an American aviator, a tall, blonde uniform, awestruck and respected by all. Flags are turned, vast banners are now a demerol, but occasionally one shrills around with the mangled "land of many fit."

It is perhaps a pity if common mistakes that have tended to pay us a visit, or by chance, it is the measured influence of a Scout Troop occurring from a visit into the nearby country side.

LEAD SOLDIERS KNOW HOW TO GRILL!

You will never feel an awkward sound among lead soldiers. Guided with your own hand, they willingly make "left face", "march right", "forward march", "halt", etc., without moment. If the cadet is a university or secondary school student, he will be able to lead the march. If he is a soldier, he will be able to lead the march. A hand's eye is a leader that knows how to lead or move about, being the lead soldiers and demonstrate it to him. A hand's eye is a leader that knows how to lead or move about, being the lead soldiers and demonstrate it to him.

A company of infantry consisting of several battalions may be represented by 42 figures of which 1 is a captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 1 bugler or fife, 1 drummer or another musical instrument, 10 privates, 10 corporals and 24 privates.

A troop of cavalry is equal in numbers to a company of infantry. Here all are mounted except the farrier and those privates who are supposed to do most of the stable work.

A battery of artillery should consist of 4 cannons and 20 figures or 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 corporals and 24 privates.

Each player should begin a game by placing his figure next to the other nearest to him with the left arrow on the green to be earned on the opposite side. A sign is raised to show who is to start the tournament which will usually lead up to a battle. The point of the blow must always touch the attacking side, which is the front and the most exposed. The winner has the right to hold his forces behind fortifications, etc., at the heads of the formation must be visible.

From the edges the figures are moved in slowly toward the center not more than the distance allowed for each type of service. Two infantry can go 18 "miles" or 72 inches in any direction in a semi-circle during the period of a "day" or two boat guns; the artillery 36 miles and the cavalry 80 miles in any direction inside their semi-circle. These landmarks can be easily made with light yard lengths.

A "day" is represented by two hours of real time, but the first hour at the light port and the second hour is intended to be from sunset or evening to the dawn of another "day".

When the forces of one side were within 4 miles of the curtain during a game, it must be raised. When this is done, there are surprising results. Just if nobody "peeked" over the curtain each foe moved his force according to his own best judgment. The army that arrived just as the curtain was pulled away.

When cavalry or infantry are within 1 mile of us, another, they may learn from the Orderly artillery can burst at 4 miles' distance, or half an hour later, before we are surrounded, as we are, and that we are not to be surprised. I have to say, however, that the last command, which is related to the same system, is not to be surprised. I have to say, however, that the last command, which is related to the same system, is not to be surprised. I have to say, however, that the last command, which is related to the same system, is not to be surprised.

Marines are sometimes known as "soldiers of the sea." They are organized much like the army, and while on board ship, act as policemen among the sailors; when on land, they often do "choyos" (guarding). Sailors' messengers are usually school-able youngsters but are more or less trained to man their ships.

of Little Wamp¹³ by H. C. Wells, 180 mm in. Illustrated Small, Munnell & Co., Boston, 1923.

"Fluke Games" by H. G. Wells. 72 mins. Illustrated. Small. Marmulak & Co., Boston. [1911]

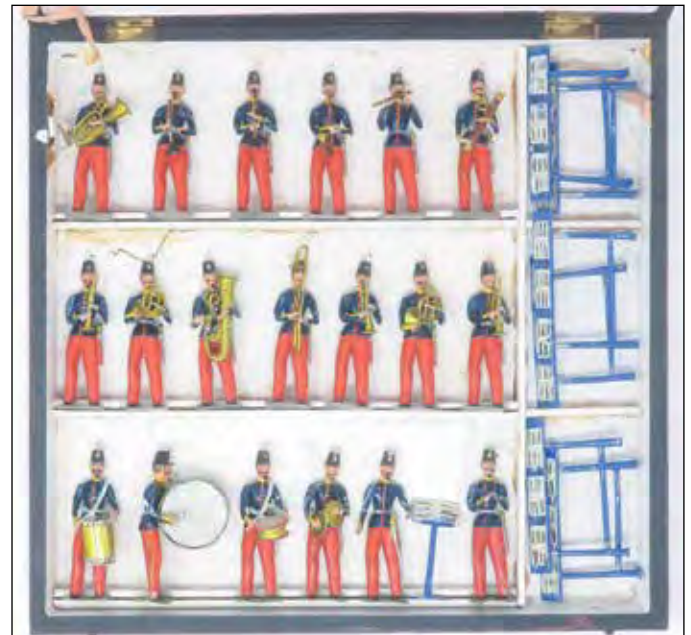
"Glenn, Implet": by Dowdall and Glenn. 175 pages. Illustrated. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1929.

"THE GREAT WAR" IN WILLIAMS' *1903*

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*

Rare Ammon set of French Band

Another rare find at the September 2022 Chicago Toy Soldier Show was this truly antique set by Ammon. Exquisite workmanship in excellent condition, these figures predated the mass production of toy soldiers by companies such as CBG, Heyde and Britains at the end of the 19th Century. Soldered together from multiple parts including separate moustaches, these 54mm scale figures are hollow but not hollowcast as developed by Britains to dominate the market.



Toy Town Toy Soldiers

Following up on Bill Hanlon's article on "The March of the Wooden soldiers" in the previous issue, Norman Joplin sent in this image of another dimestore figure in the same tradition:



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NORIS: LINKS TO SOME OF THE EARLIEST FIGURES PRODUCED BY C.B.G.

By François Beaumont

The box presented here is both a discovery and a curiosity. It is a set of nine horsemen representing the French General Staff at the beginning of the Third Republic, around 1873.

The uniforms of the riders are close to those worn at the end of the Second Empire. In particular, the truncated shakos, which was replaced by the kepi in 1884.

It is easy to recognize in the top row, from left to right, a Marshal, his Aide-de-camp and a senior infantry officer. In the middle, identification is more delicate, if not impossible for the first rider in light blue, yellow collar and red shako !? He is followed by a Cuirassier officer and an Engineer officer. Finally, in the third row are an officer of Chasseurs, one of the infantry, as well as an officer of Hussars.

Those who are interested in German-made lead soldiers will have quickly identified the manufacturer. This is "Gebrüder Heinrich", better known by their trademark: Noris.

This manufacturer from Fürth, Bavaria, had been manufacturing lead and tin soldiers since 1867. Born from the association of two brothers, Johann Conrad Heinrich and Johann Georg Heinrich, the firm had by the 1880s won numerous international awards since its creation: Fürth 1869, Vienna 1873, Nuremberg 1875 and 1882 and Amsterdam in 1883. The company exhibited at the Columbian World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.¹

Notice the characteristic details of Noris, including the prong between the legs of the rider, which fits into the hole in the saddle and back of the horse. It ensures good stability to the whole. Also observe the rider's legs, which have lost their feet; they are barely sketched in. Finally, the horse is characteristic of the model for officers. The normal Noris trooper's horse,

which does not appear in this box, is a model "at the trot".

So far, there is nothing that is too surprising, but our box has a lid and on this lid, a label ... It is in the name of "C.B.G. Paris". The background of the label is red. Two different medals, both dated 1878, as well as the very naïve design, of a cuirassier and an infantryman, adorn the set. This is the very first label used by C.B.G. Very quickly, the background will become gold, the two designs will be refined, and the gold medal of 1900 will appear.

These medals were awarded: first to "Gerbeau 32 rue Charlot". M. H. (for "Mention Honorable", Specialty: "imitation of steel"); the second to "Gerbeau (S.), manufacturer of Soldiers of Lead, Silver Medal". Both were awarded at the 1878 Universal Exhibition in Paris.

The first observation is obvious: in 1878, and soon thereafter, C.B.G. marketed under its name lead soldiers imported from Germany. In his book "Collection C.B.G.-Mignot", Christian Blondieau estimates that 1875 was the date of birth of the first soldier made by C.B.G. This is based on the existence of molds, and test molds, dated 1875, 1878, etc. which Christian had access to. These objects are now in the possession of Edouard and Loïc Pemzec, owners of C.B.G.-Mignot.

In 1865, Sosthène Gerbeau became the boss of C.B.G. He was looking for new products to market and was particularly interested in the evolution of the toy industry in Germany. Up until this point in time the "tin soldiers" proposed by C.B.G. were only semi-ronde/flat, with a very rigid design. Some survivors have come to us, marked "Blondel" or "Gerbeau". It can



1-The first General Staff box sold by C.B.G: But the figurines are made by Noris.

¹ The World's Columbian Exposition (also known as the Chicago World's Fair) was a world's fair held in Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492.

NORIS: LINKS TO SOME OF THE EARLIEST FIGURES PRODUCED BY C.B.G. *(Continued)*



2- An advertisement by Noris around 1895, with the many prizes, acquired at that time.

be assumed that Sosthène Gerbeau met the Heinrich brothers at a salon or exhibition in the early 1870s, and that a commercial agreement was concluded between the two firms.

By 1873, the Noris factory in Fürth employed nearly 400 workers, who were responsible for a large production. Gerbeau took advantage of the precedence and experience of his German colleague, to import Noris soldiers and thus test the French market.

What we know about these imports boils down to very little. First of all, the box we present here is the first proof of a direct link between Noris and C.B.G. Until now, we mainly wondered about the almost perfect resemblance of the horses made by Gerbeau and Noris. The main difference was the holes made on the horse's back, and consequently on the saddle. Among French collectors, doubt still persists: who copied whom?

The scarcity of information is of course due to the absence of evidence in the archives of C.B.G, but also in the

rarity of the figurines that have come down to us. The commercial link between the two firms must certainly have been very short; three or four years at most. Gerbeau had to quickly assess the potential of this new lead soldier market, and decide to develop his own production.

There is one element that confirms this thesis. We also know of foot figures made by Noris, for Gerbeau. To my knowledge, there is only the body for the infantry figure, in jacket and with wide trousers, fitting into the boots. However, all models found so far are equipped with Gerbeau accessories; rifle, backpack and head. These are the same accessories that will equip the first bodies of Gerbeau soldiers.

Did Gerbeau start production after 1875? When did Noris deliver figures to Gerbeau? Is this box dated 1878 one of the very last? We will probably never get a definitive explanation on this case, but it seems that throughout the early phase of production, Gerbeau relied on Noris, until he became a completely independent manufacturer.



3- The Noris Cuirassier officer from the set, note his feet just barely formed



4- The same figure as produced by Gerbeau, note the fully modelled feet

NORIS: LINKS TO SOME OF THE EARLIEST FIGURES PRODUCED BY C.B.G. *(Continued)*



5- The C.B.G. label, with its first design. The medals are dated 1878. The reference 214 bis, indicates that another box composition preceded it.



6- The comparison between the Noris horse (left) and that by C.B.G. The difference is minimal. Noris's engraving, however, is sharper, especially on the mane, ears and tail.



7- The soldier on the left is a Noris, equipped with the manufacturer's accessories. In the middle, the body is by Noris, but the accessories are by C.B.G. Finally, on the right, the first model manufactured entirely by C.B.G.; The accessories are the same as the previous one.

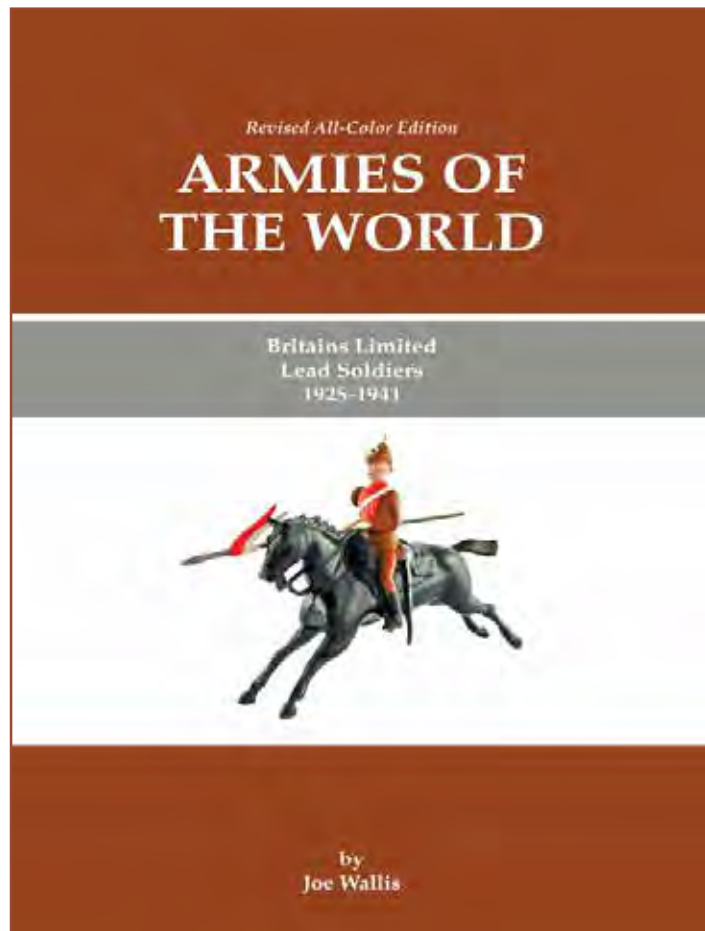


8- Seen from the back, we see that Noris uses a "monobloc" back-pack, moulded as part of the body. The C.B.G. model has a separate pack-pack mounted on a pin and is movable.

Photo credits. Bernhard J. Schwarz. <http://www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com/>
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Personal collection.

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

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THE LINCOLN “MIGNOT” FIGURES: A 1950s FALLACY PERPETUATED BY GARRETT

By Robin Forsey

Undoubtedly the use of modern technology by current authors has greatly benefited the toy collecting fraternity due to the information that can be gleaned from the numerous scholarly works that are now being published. No doubt many of us can remember just what a monumental task research and writing used to be before the advent of such investigative aids as ancestral sites, on-line archives, and digital reference libraries containing many historical works. Even the use of the simple e-mail allowing like-minded enthusiasts across the world to contact each other immediately has been beneficial.

Of course, one of the most time consuming activities prior to the universal roll-out of the world-wide-web was the tracking down of relevant source material. Did the records of some long forgotten toy manufacturer still survive? If so where were they kept? Had they been locked away in the subterranean vaults of some little frequented museum or were they disintegrating on the shelves of some dingy reference library? Distance could also pose a problem, especially if the information required was to be found in a foreign land. Under such circumstance, the would-be researcher had little choice but to rely on the skills and services of some other like-minded individual. Correspondence was yet another time consuming task.

One author who managed to put together some quite scholarly works on model soldiers during those distant and “primitive” days was John Geoffrey Garratt. Born on September 20, 1914, in Wandsworth, London, for a while it seems that he had worked as a ladies’ hairdresser, but his main occupation throughout his life was dealing in antiquarian books.¹ As for his foray into model soldiers, he began collecting in 1956 and seeing the increasing worldwide interest in military miniatures, so he decided to put pen-to-paper. It seems that over the years he was to write three books on the subject and due to his evident knowledge and literary contributions to the hobby, he was

awarded honorary life membership of the National Capital Military Collectors and of the American Model Soldier Society.²

Although not getting involved in the collecting of military miniatures until the mid 1950s, within about four years he had put together his first book on the subject. Entitled *Model Soldiers: A Collector's Guide*, it was published in 1959 by Seeley Service & Company, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, England – Illus. 1. This was quite an achievement because it was by no means a light-hearted effort and evidence of this was clearly indicated by the book’s extensive bibliography and use of footnotes. In fact, even Garratt’s list of global contacts, people who had assisted him in gathering information, was far-reaching. Arguably his book was better than anything that had gone before and not only did the author endeavor to cover the manufacturers of almost every country, but he also attempted to trace the history of military figurines from the earliest times through the Middle Ages and subsequent periods. Even a British daily national newspaper was impressed by its thoroughness and remarked; “it is far more comprehensive than its best-known predecessor in the field, Theodore Hampe’s ‘Der Zinnsoldat’ or The Tin Soldier.”³

Chapter XII of the book was called “IN THE NEW WORLD” in which Mr. Garratt attempted to deal with the Canadian, United States, and Latin American producers. He began by saying that the United States had been dependent on the importation of model soldiers from Continental Europe for years and that “a picture of President Lincoln and his son Tad playing with what look very



Illus. 1. John G. Garratt's first book on military miniatures, *Model Soldiers: A Collector's Guide*, published in 1959.

much like Mignot figures” had recently been reproduced – Illus. 2.⁴ No doubt those who are interested in playthings of the Civil War era have found this statement somewhat confusing on two accounts. Firstly, with just a little research one soon discovers that a French toy soldier manufacturer called Mignot did not even exist in the 1860s. Secondly, all evidence (or lack of it) tends to suggest that no photograph was ever taken or an engraving ever made of the President and his son Tad playing with toy soldiers. Indeed, even after scouring the National Archives and wading through countless books of Civil War images, no such likeness has been discovered. In fact, the only picture that does spring to mind of “Old

THE United States of America was dependent for years on the importation of model soldiers from the Continent; (a picture of President Lincoln and his son Tad playing with what look very like Mignot figures has recently been reproduced¹) and even

Illus. 2. Excerpt from page 132 of *Model Soldiers: A Collector's Guide*, which referred to a “picture” of President Lincoln and his son Tad playing with what looked like Mignot figures.

THE LINCOLN “MIGNOT” FIGURES: A 1950s FALLACY PERPETUATED BY GARRETT (Continued)



Illus. 3. Representation by Frank Earle Schoonover of President Lincoln playing with toy soldiers on the shop counter. This picture, together with other graphics, was originally undertaken by Schoonover to illustrate Margarita Spalding Gerry's story "The Toy-Shop", which had first appeared in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* in December 1907. However, during the following year Harper & Brothers decided to reprint Gerry's novel in hardback and the above illustration was also used to decorate the book's front cover. Nevertheless, because Schoonover did not undertake this work until the early twentieth century, it is of little historical importance. Indeed, it appears that he based the figures in his illustrations upon those that were readily available in the day, by which time not only were "solids" commonplace, but even hollow-cast models had begun to make an appearance. Was Ben Somoroff influenced by Schoonover's artwork?

Abe" playing with toy soldiers was that done in the early twentieth century by Frank Earle Schoonover, which adorned the front cover of Margarita Spalding Gerry's novel *The Toy Shop* - Illus. 3.⁵ Luckily, however, Mr. Garratt did include a footnote as to where he gleaned his information. It came from a magazine article called "President Lincoln and his Problem Sons" which had been published in *McCall's* in January 1956 - Illus. 4.⁶ So what was *McCall's* and who wrote the piece about the Lincoln boys?

McCall's was, no less, a women's glossy magazine published monthly in the United States and Canada. Besides regular topics, each issue also contained several feature articles.



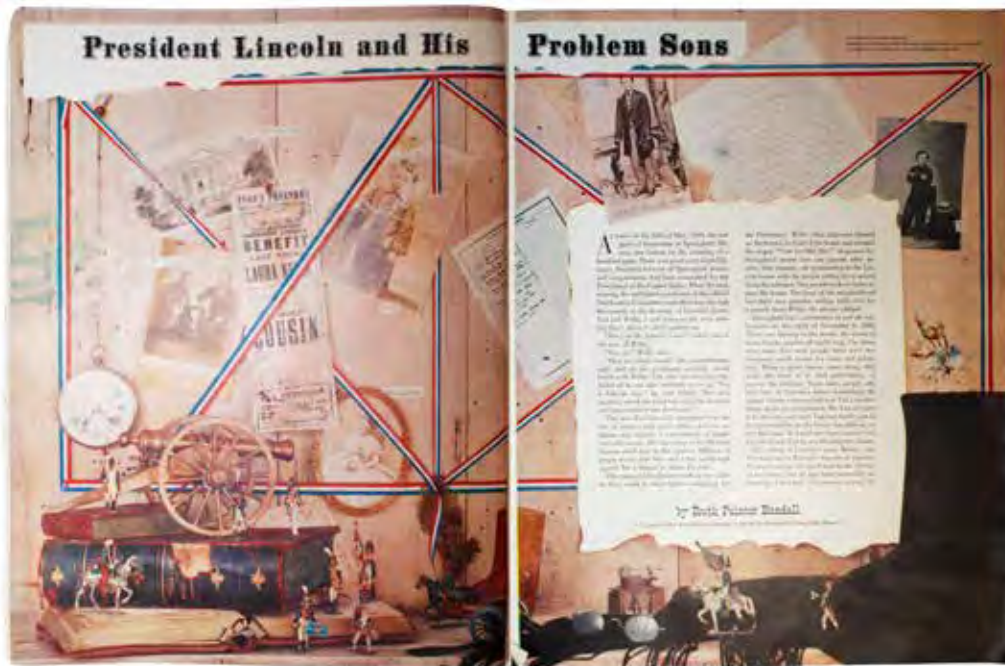
Illus. 4. The January 1956 issue of *McCall's*.

As for the quite lengthy piece on the Lincoln youngsters that appeared in the January 1956 issue, it was written by Ruth Painter Randall. In effect it was an extensively abbreviated version of her book *Lincoln's Sons*, which had rolled off the press the previous year.⁷ To illustrate her article it seems that the editorial staff of *McCall's* had turned to the celebrated commercial photographer Ben Somoroff whose studio was on 54th Street in New York City. The picture that he produced was somewhat of a composition affair. The Bettmann Archive and Culver Service supplied the various historical images of the Lincoln family while a Mr. and Mrs. Jerome A. Perles furnished the Napoleonic looking model soldiers. It appears that the photograph as supplied

by Somoroff was to form the basis of a two-page spread in the magazine - Illus. 5. However, contrary to what Mr. Garratt said, nowhere was there a "picture" of President Lincoln and his son Tad playing with toy soldiers. As for the French uniformed Mignot looking figures that did appear in the illustration, no doubt they were quite modern and most certainly not of 1860s vintage and the same can be said about the model brass cannon that appeared in the collage.

Of course, as all students of Civil War era playthings know, President Lincoln and his son did play with toy soldiers, but they were nothing like those depicted in *McCall's*. In reality, many, if not most, were probably made of carved wood and the handy-work of an old Napoleonic veteran named Joseph Stuntz, who together with his wife Appolonia, ran a small fancy goods shop at 375 New York Avenue in Washington, D.C.⁸ Joseph had served in the French Army and during the Russian Campaign had been wounded in the foot, an injury which was to plague him for the rest of his life. With his leg propped-up on a chair to relieve the old war wound, he used to whittle away at his playthings in the back room of the tiny store and it was said that

THE LINCOLN “MIGNOT” FIGURES: A 1950s FALLACY PERPETUATED BY GARRETT (Continued)



Illus. 5. The two paged (pp. 28-29) illustration in the January 1956 issue of McCall's depicting the "Mignot" looking figures. Nowhere in the picture was there an image of President Lincoln and his son Tad playing with toy soldiers.

they "were of the best manufacture and found a ready market among the best families of the National Capital."⁹ While there are many recollections of the Lincolns visiting this little emporium and playing with toys, Ruth Painter Randall gave few details about such goings on in her *McCall's* article. Indeed, the only thing she did say of any relevance was that for "toy soldiers for his bedroom-floor armies, Lincoln took Tad to Joseph Stuntz's toyshop on New York Avenue."¹⁰ Thus for those readers who have read Garratt's *Model Soldiers: A Collector's Guide*, and are contemplating tracking down an erstwhile copy of the January 1956 issue of *McCall's* - don't waste your time, effort, and money! It contains absolutely nothing of any historical significance regarding the early history of toy soldiers in America.

In fact, considering John G. Garratt's wide-ranging knowledge on military miniatures, it is rather mystifying why he even drew the reader's attention to the *McCall's* article and its unauthentic illustration. Maybe he never actually saw the picture, but was told about it by one of his American contacts, which was a possibility. Indeed, if he had read

the *McCall's* article his interests would have soon been drawn towards Ruth Painter Randall's book *Lincoln's Sons*, in which she did slightly elaborate on the activities of Joseph Stuntz and his toy soldier manufacturing skills. However, it seems that this was not to be because Mr. Garratt did not even mention Stuntz in his final work, *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*, published in 1982. In some respects this was quite a serious omission because not only had Joseph Stuntz furnished Tad Lincoln with toy soldiers, but also probably most of the children in Washington.

Nevertheless, none of the above-mentioned misgivings are meant as a criticism of Mr. Garratt's worthy endeavours. Indeed, he was one of the first in-depth researchers and writers on the subject and even to this day his books contain a wealth of unsurpassed information. After spending forty years in the antiquarian book trade, he and his wife Dorothy, retired to Farnham in the County of Surrey, England. Here he was to devote the remainder of his days to watercolour painting, pen drawing, and the collecting of maps and rare books. He passed away on February 18, 1987.¹¹

Notes

1. 1939 Census, land and surveys, England, Great Britain. Address - 85 Leigham Court Road, Streatham Hill, Lambeth, Wandsworth, London. Archive reference RG101/0589A/006/40
2. John G. Garratt, *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*, The Overlook Press, Woodstock, New York, 1981, see dust jacket.
3. *The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, London, Greater London, England, Friday, October 16, 1959, p. 16.
4. John G. Garratt, *Model Soldiers: A Collector's Guide*, Seeley Service & Company, London, England, circa 1959, p. 132.
5. Margarita Spalding Gerry's story *The Toy-Shop* first appeared in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, Vol. CXVI, No. DCXCI, in December 1907, and the renowned illustrator Frank Earle Schoonover supplied the artwork. However, during the following year Harper & Brothers reprinted Gerry's novel in hardback and one of Schoonover's illustrations, that depicting President Lincoln playing with toy soldier on the shop counter, was used to adorn the front cover.
6. *McCall's*, January 1956, Vol. LXXXIII, No. 4, McCall Corporation, 230 Park Ave., New York 17, pp. 28-29, 94, 96-99, 101.
7. Ruth Painter Randall, *Lincoln's Sons*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston • Toronto, 1955.
8. *The Sunday Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 51. Ibid., Sunday, November 26, 1933, p. 75.
9. *The Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, April 21, 1901, p. 7.
10. *McCall's*, p. 98.
11. *The Daily Telegraph*, London and Manchester, Saturday, February 21, 1987, p. 21.

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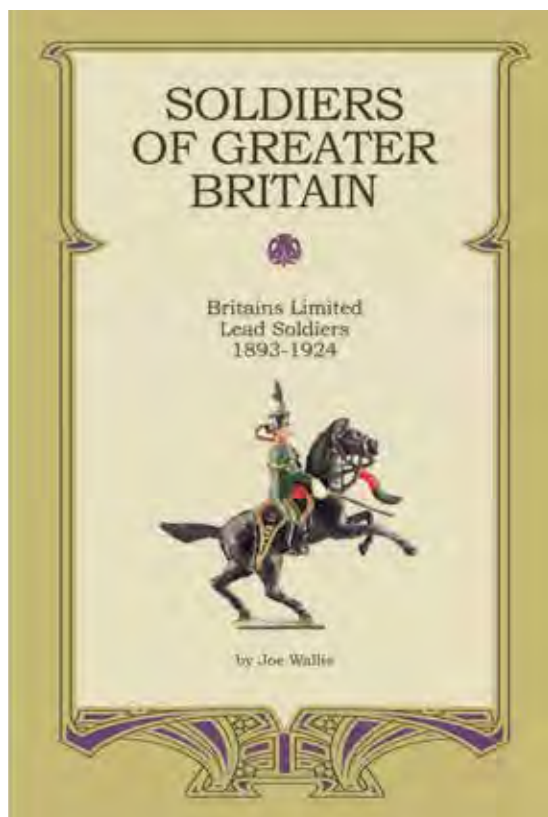


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FREDDIE GREEN - THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

By Rob Wilson

No apologies for bringing the work of Freddie Green to the notice of our readers. The December 2022 auction held by C&T Auctioneers of Kent, England provided an opportunity for some lucky fellows to add some splendid figures to their collections depicting this famous cavalry charge.

The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

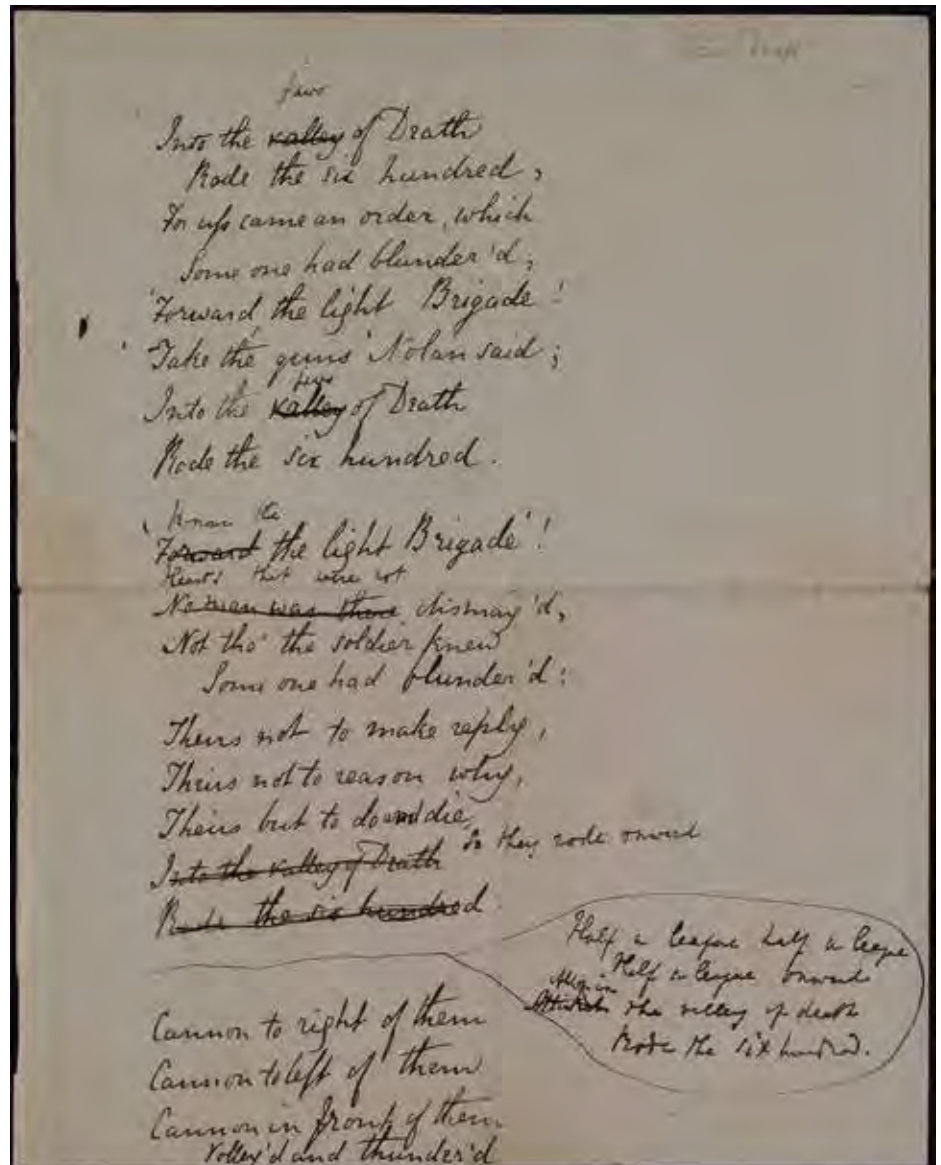
Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wonder'd:
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,



The Charge of the Light Brigade by Richard Caton-Woodville, Jnr, 1894



First draft of Tennyson's famous Poem, December 1854

FREDDIE GREEN - *THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE*

(Continued)

*While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.*

*When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd.
Honor the charge they made!
Honor the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!*

The charge was made on the 25 October 1854 by the the so called Light Brigade comprising: the predecessors of the 4th and 13th Hussars (at the time classified as Light Dragoons); the 17th Lancers; and the 4th and 11th Hussars. The latter, affectionately known as the "cherry-bums" because of their red trousers, were the pride and joy of Major General James Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan who was in command of the Brigade as well as being the colonel of the 11th Hussars.

In large part due to his arrogance and incompetence, the charge took place

despite all the usual rules of war. As the French Marshal Pierre Bosquet who witnessed famously remarked: "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre." ("It is magnificent, but it is not war."). Due to a miscommunication between the overall Commander in Chief Lord Raglan, his ADC Captain Nolan, Lord Lucan (who was in overall charge of the British cavalry, including the Heavy Brigade) and Lord Cardigan, the Light Brigade were sent on what was effectively a suicide mission, charging straight into a heavily defended Russian position, defended by artillery, infantry and cavalry. Of the 600 plus troops of the Light Brigade that started the charge almost half were killed or wounded, with many taken prisoner. Fewer than 200 returned to British lines with their horses.

Their heroic but futile action has been celebrated ever since in poetry, painting and on film (1936 by Warner Brothers and 1968 by Woodfall Film Productions). Freddie Green's tribute is represented in the large group of 227 figures sold in the auction. While not all the figures were of the very highest

standard, and some may have been produced by another hand, they make a magnificent scene when displayed "en masse". Most are converted from Britains Hollowcast figures, with a few additions from other makers. The basic uniforms had not changed very dramatically between 1854, when the battle took place, and the turn of the 19th century which Britains modelled when they started their famous range of toy soldiers. The accompanying images depict just a few of the highlights.

Lord Cardigan is clearly represented as are various other senior officers. The Light Dragoons and 17th Lancers are well represented, as well as Russian cavalry, infantry and artillery. Unfortunately, the group did not include any 4th or 11th Hussars other than senior officers. Whether they have been separated from the rest or were never completed remains a mystery. Nevertheless, this large group of figures would have been worthy of a place in a museum. Hopefully our readers will enjoy seeing this example of the work of a master before it was dispersed.

Pictures with captions (all courtesy of C&T Auctions)



Officer, trooper and standard bearers of the 17th Lancers lead the charge.



The Light Dragoons, again with standard bearer.



Russian cavalry (Cossacks) with standard bearer mount a counter charge.



Lord Cardigan looks on, maybe after the debacle?

FREDDIE GREEN - *THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE* (Continued)



Cossack standard bearer and trumpeter; classic Freddie Green conversions.



Officers of the general staff look on, possibly Lord Raglan with binoculars?



Russian Artillery preparing for action.



Russian artillery preparing for the onslaught.



Russian cavalry prepare to deploy from behind their own guns.



Lancers engage the Russian artillery.

FREDDIE GREEN - *THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE*

(Continued)



The 17th Lancers finally engage with their foe.



Bearing down on the Russian infantry, still in a thin line rather than forming a square.



Russian infantry at the ready.



.....and standing firing.



17th Lancers engage with Russian cavalry.



SHOW REPORT

EUROFIGURINES, NANTERRE, PARIS, SUNDAY 16TH OF OCTOBER

By Harry Kemp

Another trip to France for this friendly and lovely show. Unfortunately strikes by the French unions were currently causing severe fuel shortages. I would estimate about one third of the normal exhibitors weren't able to come as a result. I managed to get around this by driving to Amiens on one tank of diesel on Saturday and staying with a French dealer who then drove us to Paris and back on Sunday.

With a notably lessened choice, finds were relatively modest, if I leave aside some prearranged pick ups. I found two very nice 45mm scale mounted personality figures on bases painted a light ochre colour, possibly from a large display set? Probably made by Heyde, they appear to depict the

Kaiser and George V of England. The latter is in an unusual pose patting his horse's shoulder, and wearing a greatcoat. I also found a small Arabian building by CBG, a fabulous sword wielding mounted Cuirassier by GM (which I think was on the front cover of their catalogues) and a charming fixed-arm Zulu on an oval base which I have yet to identify.

At the end of the day, I had a lucky find. Lying on the stall next to me was what I had thought all show was a Scottish Tam O'Shanter hat. But on closer examination it turned out to be a display box for a set of the nine Grant Whisky figures made as promotional items in the 1990s. Something I have never seen before in this format.

Finally, I have to mention one Paris Office figure that was added to a deal I had been working on a while. The French standing officer with binoculars is a well known Paris Office figure. However, this is the first time I have come across it in dark khaki rather than blue horizon or the more rarely seen light tan version (which goes with light tan charging Turcos). Certainly, a rare version.

The next show is on the 19 of March 2023, by which time I trust fuel supplies are back to normal and that exhibitors are back in full strength.

Harry Kemp 20/10/2022



Heyde Kaiser Wilhem and King George V?



54mm, fixed arm Zulu warrior, manufacturer yet to be identified



Paris Office figure in rare dark khaki finish



Tam O'Shanter with Highlanders



Cuirassier by GM



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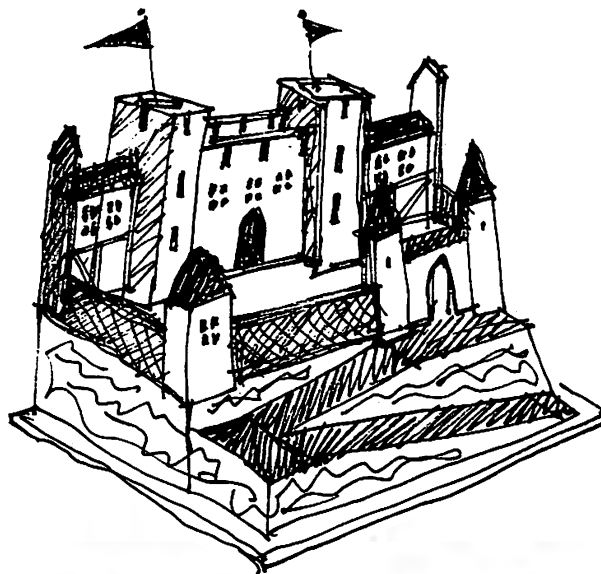


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HEYDE'S DEPICTION OF RICHARD EVELYN BYRD'S 1928 TO 1930 ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

By Harry Kemp

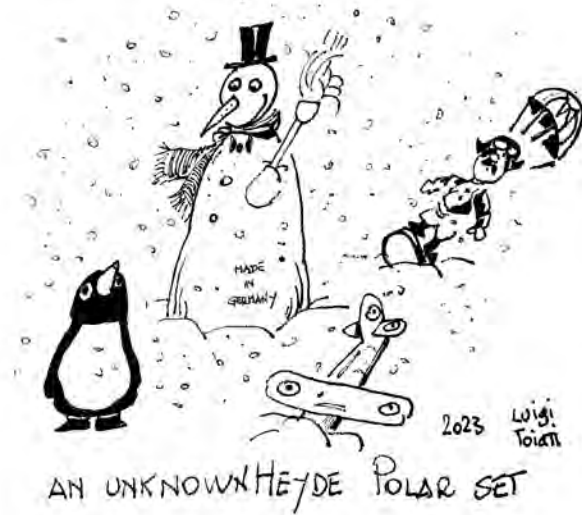
Heyde made various wonderful sets depicting Arctic and Antarctic exploration. During lockdown in 2020 I was fortunate enough to acquire a wonderful Heyde set from a private source in America depicting the famous 1928 Byrd Antarctic expedition, which would be the first to fly a plane over the South Pole. Byrd had already been awarded the Medal of Honor for flying over the North Pole in 1926.

This expedition was sponsored by, among others, the Ford Motor company, and three disassembled aeroplanes were transported by ship to the Antarctic, leaving New York in 1928. Base camp was set up on the Ross Ice Shelf and christened Little America. Accompanied by a camera crew, their incredible achievements were recorded for posterity and the resulting documentary, *'With Byrd at the South Pole'* went on to win an Oscar for best cinematography. It can be found on YouTube using the title as the search criteria.

I suspect it was this documentary that directly inspired Heyde to produce possibly their last Antarctic/Arctic set. Having watched the film, my theory is that this was the source material for many of the figures, as they so closely match the film.

The best image of figures from this set I can find in reference books is a salesman's sample set in Marcus Grein's lovely book on Heyde, *'With Heyde-*

figures Around the World', on pages 74 and 75. This depicts a wonderful array of items and I presume that buyers such as F.O.A. Schwarz could pick and mix the contents for their unique offerings. This salesman's set also includes a polar bear and a kayak which are Arctic, so this is not the definitive contents of this set. The plane depicted is a single engine one, whereas the two other planes, one being the three engine plane that made



'Little America' the name given to the base camp; note the wireless array & flag.



'New York' one of the two vessels used to transport the expedition.



The 'Floyd Bennet', Ford trimotor aeroplane



The 'Virginia' Fokker Super Universal monoplane

HEYDE'S DEPICTION OF RICHARD EVELYN BYRD'S 1928 TO 1930 ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION *(Continued)*



Four-dog sled team "from the air"



6-dog sled

the successful flight and the other a red and blue search and rescue Fokker monoplane, are outstanding items which I am lucky enough to have in my set.

Interestingly I note from a recent article in the OTSN (volume 45 # 1 pp 19-23) that this set was listed in the Schwarz 1928 Christmas catalogue with 30+ pieces, but by the time of the 1933 Christmas edition it was no longer included, so likely it was only available for a few years.

So, onto the set contents:

1. A tin hut 'Little America' which was the name given to the base camp, with wireless array. The front door being hinged to open for extra play value. Old glory flying proudly from the roof.
2. A tin plate ship with 'New York' on both sides, two funnels, two derricks and American flag. One of the two ships on the expedition was named the 'The City of New York'.
3. The 'Floyd Bennet', being a Ford trimotor aeroplane, silver paint, skid landing gear, with a Ford logo on one side. Pulley wheel on top to allow it to fly on a string or wire, which seems to have been used, as there is some playwear to the wing.
4. The 'Virginia' being a Fokker Super Universal monoplane with red wings and blue fuselage, same skid landing gear and pulley wheel as 3. This correctly painted plane was the emergency rescue aircraft but was damaged beyond repair mid expedition by a storm.

6. A four-dog sled team (both variants were made, this is not missing two dogs)
7. A red emergency tent
8. A white radio tent with antennae.
9. Four white ice outcrops. These are made of an early plastic compound and are totally correct.
10. Richard Byrd in brown flying suit with flying helmet, holding a map, he was the chief navigator for the expedition as well as its leader.
11. 12 figures in white snow suits, including: 1 skier, 1 kneeling with oil can, 1 kneeling with hammer, 1 musher with dog whip, 2 with binoculars, 1 carrying a barrel, 1 carrying a sack, 1 carrying a crate, 1 with dog (could this dog be Unalaska, the famous lead dog on the expedition?), 1 standing waving, 1 walking.

12. 4 figures in brown, being 1 lifting a crate to head height, 1 kneeling with oil can, 1 musher with whip and 1 radio operator with radio.
13. 5 figures in dark fur suits, being 2 skiers, 1 carrying a crate, 1 wielding an axe (axe head incorrectly restored; it should be pickaxe), 1 sitting on a crate and 1 standing looking at map.
14. 5 fantastic penguins.
15. 2 crates
16. 2 barrels
17. A ladder
18. A black dog

A total of 50 pieces if the two dog teams and sleds are counted as 7 pieces in total.

Richard E Byrd led several more successful expeditions and was subsequently employed by the



Red Emergency Tent and White Radio Tent with antennae



Richard Byrd in brown flying suit

5. A six-dog sled team

HEYDE'S DEPICTION OF RICHARD EVELYN BYRD'S 1928 TO 1930 ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION *(Continued)*

American State on various Antarctic projects, being one of the preeminent experts on the Antarctic. He died in 1957 aged 68 with the rank of rear admiral.

In my view this is one of Hyde's finest sets and is worthy of inclusion in any museum relating to Byrd, an iconic explorer who, in my view, ranks with the likes of Scott and Amundsen.

Harry Kemp



Assorted figures: 1 wielding an axe (should be pickaxe); kneeling with oil can; map reader; sitting on crate; radio operator with radio; 2 skiers, carrying a crate; "musher"; Byrd; and lifting a crate to head height



Figures in white snow suits, including 1 with dog (Unalaska?)



More members of the cast – 5 Fantastic penguins!



Maintenance on the Fokker monoplane



Busy at work outside "Little America"



Maintenance on the Ford trimotor aircraft and other tasks



The complete ensemble!

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

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

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machete
shotgun
musket
mine
saber
flamethrower
lance
dagger

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3)

By Richard Forrester

Summary

Parts 1¹ and 2² of *George William Wood; The Forgotten Manufacturer*, first featured a British Camel Corps figure which George Wood registered with the UK Board of Trade on 17 February 1914, and then showed other figures that Wood had registered earlier in 1913, providing reasons for likely connections between George William Wood and toy soldier manufacturers Brushfield Manufacturing Company (B.M.C.) and John Hill & Company (Johillco).

Since those two articles were published, bringing George William Wood's contribution to the manufacture of toy soldiers to light, further research³ on Wood has revealed that there was indeed a family connection between George William Wood and Frederick Howe Wood, the proprietor of John Hill & Company. The research has shown that they were in fact brothers.

However, a recently discovered gilt Life Guard provides not only an early, very rare and certain example of a toy soldier produced by George William Wood, but also adds evidence of an early association between George William Wood and the REKA Company. New research has also revealed additional toy soldier figures that can be positively attributed to G.W. Wood.

This article puts the information from the articles *George William Wood; The Forgotten Manufacturer* (Parts 1 and

2) into a broader context, and then provides new insights into this forgotten toy soldier maker.

Who was G. W. Wood?

George William Wood was baptised Augustus Frederick William Reuss, and was the son of Augustus Frederick William Reuss and Sarah Ann Luxton. He was born in Clerkenwell, inner-north London, in 1879⁴ and on early records was always known as William. His brothers were Frederick How Reuss, Henry George Reuss, and George Sidney Wood who would later manufacture toy soldiers as John Hill & Company (Johillco).

On 26 May 1901 G.W. Wood married Elizabeth Jane Smith. The marriage record shown below⁵ records William's occupation as 'metal worker' and not 'toy maker' or an occupation that would suggest he was at that time a proprietor of a toy soldier manufacturing business.

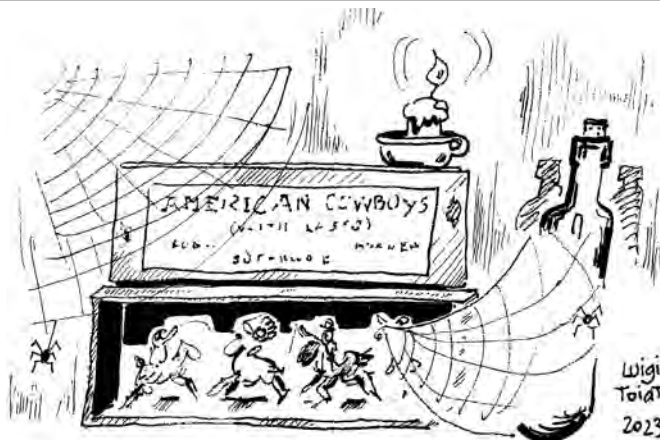
Note also that the father's name on the marriage record is a blend between his natural father's names and that of his stepfather, who was named George Wood.

At around the time of his stepfather George Wood's death in 1907, William decided to complete the anglicisation of his name. Augustus Frederick William REUSS junior took the name George William WOOD. The likely reason for the name change was out of respect for his stepfather, George Wood.

First exposure to toy soldier manufacture

While the 21-year-old George W. Wood describes his occupation on the March 1901 U.K. Census record⁶ as an *employed* metal worker, the Census record⁷ for William's future wife, 19-year-old Elizabeth Jane Smith, shows her occupation as 'toy painter'. At the time of the Census Elizabeth was living with her parents at 45 Alsen Road (now part of Seven Sisters Road), which was less than a mile from Britains' Hornsey Rise factory. On the next decennial Census record from April 1911⁸, William and Elizabeth are both living at 8 Oxford Road, Islington which is again located only a 15-minute walk away from the Britains factory.

Although this author is unaware of the specific source, it has been



Page 156

Marriage solemnized at *St. Mark's Church* in the Parish of *St. Mark, Old Kent* in the County of *London*.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
311	<i>Twenty-sixth May 1901</i>	<i>Augustus Frederick William Reuss Wood</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Metal Worker</i>	<i>32, Radnor St. G. Gasteyna Pl.</i>	<i>George Reuss Wood</i>	<i>Metal Worker</i>
		<i>Elizabeth Jane Smith</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Spinster</i>			<i>Thomas Smith</i>	<i>Builder</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* by *Wm. Bayly White* Vicar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Augustus Frederick William Reuss Wood* in the Presence of us, *Allen East* and *John Ellen Cobble*

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

1 Joplin, Norman. Old Toy Soldier, Volume 35 Number 4 Winter 2012.

2 Joplin, Norman. Old Toy Soldier, Volume 36 Number 1 Spring 2012.

3 Forrester, Richard *John Hill & Company: the early years*. Old Toy Soldier, Volume 46 Number 2 Summer 2022.

4 1880. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p76/pau2/034. Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917. Ancestry.com

5 1901. London Metropolitan Archives; London; Reference No: p91/mrk/019. Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932. Ancestry.com

6 1901 UK Census. National Archives. Class: RG 13; Piece: 193; Folio: 99; Page: 18. Ancestry.com

7 1901 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 13; Piece: 167; Folio: 80; Page: 48. Ancestry.com

8 op. cit.

9 Rose, A. *The collector's all-colour guide to Toy Soldiers*. 1985 Salamander Books Ltd., Belgium. Pg.104.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)

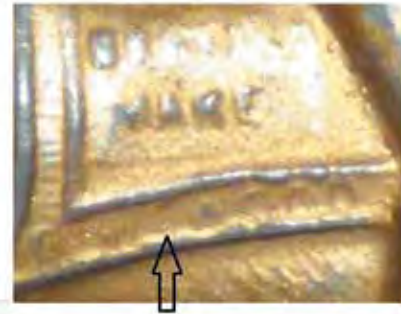
suggested⁹ that William did indeed work for Britains. Accepting that there are strong suggestions to support this to be correct, the indications are that William was likely working at Britains in 1901 and for some years thereafter, possibly up to 1910, where he gained the necessary experience before starting to manufacture his own toy soldiers.

By the time of the April 1911¹⁰ Census, George William Wood describes his occupation as 'metal worker' and his working status as 'worker'. However, the entry¹¹ recorded for George William Wood's wife, Elizabeth Jane Wood (née Smith), describes her occupation as 'assisting in Business'. The implication is that George William Wood was in fact in 1911 running some form of toy soldier business that Elizabeth was assisting him in.

Perhaps it was the growth in demand for toys during this period which encouraged Wood to leave Britains and explore his own opportunities. Edwardian Britain witnessed a dramatic growth in the toy industry as economic conditions improved, employment and wages grew, and demand for leisure products took off. The new department stores competed with local shops and street sellers to retail a growing range of toy soldiers of varying degrees of quality. These ranged from Britains and Faudel Philips / Renvoize's well detailed and painted boxed sets, to their competitors' less well finished versions, on through to the gilt painted penny figures mostly sold individually by street hawkers and at local markets.

Early gilt Life Guard sculpted by G. W. Wood

The gilt Life Guard pictured here was recently discovered, and while it is an unremarkable looking figure it is in fact one of only two or three known examples where G.W. Wood's name is actually marked. This Life Guard is a little smaller than 54mm scale. The significance of this figure is that it provides evidence of an association between G.W. Wood and the REKA Company.



Gilt Lifeguard marked 'British Make' and below that 'G.W.Wood' as indicated by the arrow.
(Norman Joplin collection)

A quarter century ago Shamus Wade wrote a brief comment about a similar figure from his collection. His 1994 'The Johillco Centenary Dinner' article in the British Model Soldier Society Journal suggested, and subsequent research¹² has now proven, that there was a family connection between George W. Wood and John Hill & Company (Johillco).

Although Shamus was pondering the connection between John Hill & Co. and G.W. Wood, it is interesting that he did not wonder at the words 'British Make' which he confirmed were also marked on his version of the figure. The REKA Company marked the words 'British Make' on many of their figures, but other early British makers marked their figures 'Made in England', 'England', or did not mark their figures at all.

Andrew Rose, in his excellent book *The Collectors All-Colour Guide to Toy*

*Soldiers*¹³, pictures a similar Life Guard on page 104 (figure no. 8) describing it as 'Life Guard; gilt, c1910. This rare figure has "REKA" and the name G. Wood on it.' The figure in Rose's book differs in that the horse's head is raised. On the right side of the figure the words 'REKA' and 'British Make' are easily made out in the picture. Unfortunately, the left side of the figure was not pictured, and this author has not yet located any identical Life Guard figures to be able to verify that the horse is marked with both 'REKA' and 'G.W. Wood'.

The REKA Company was established in 1908 and Charles Wheeler Baker assumed the role of Managing Director in 1909¹⁴. It is likely that, in this early period after 1909 when REKA were expanding their range of toy soldiers, this would have been the opportunity for G.W. Wood to move from Britains to try his skills at sculpting figures for REKA.

It is interesting to note that, while collectors usually talk about Johillco, Mrs Hornby talked of John Hill throughout. Her mention of two elderly brothers may solve one problem. While most writers talk of a *Mr Wood* or a 'mysterious *Mr Wood*', Norman Joplin in his *The Great Book of Hollow-Cast Figures*, describes the founder as 'Mr F.H. Wood'. Richard O'Brian in the second edition of his *Collecting Toy Soldiers* has the owner as George Wood. I have a rather uninspired, gilt painted Life Guard, smaller than standard size, marked "British Make. G.W. Wood".



Extract from 'The Johillco Centenary Dinner' in the British Model Soldier Society Journal, 1994 and Shamus Wade's gilt figure at right.

¹⁰ 1911 England Census. National Archives. Class: RG 14; Piece 914; Reg district 10; Sub-Reg 6; Ennum. 12. Ancestry.com
¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Forrester, Richard *John Hill & Company: the early years*. Op cit. Pg11.

¹³ Rose, Andrew. *The Collectors All-Colour Guide to Toy Soldiers*. Op cit. pg104

¹⁴ REKA Limited catalogue dated January 1st, 1921. Pg1.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)



REKA Lifeguard pictured on page 104 of *The Collector's All-Colour Guide* by Andrew Rose.



REKA Horse Guard dated 20.5.14
(Author's collection)

Possibly due to a lack of confidence in the copyright protections offered by the *Copyright Act 1911*, REKA began to mark the date their figures were sculpted. The earliest currently known REKA figure marked this way is a 54mm scale Life Guard dated 20.5.14 which, while it resembles the gilt Life Guard in Andrew Rose's book, it is clearly not the same figure. Perhaps the earlier smaller Life Guard figures were only suitable for REKA to sell as gilt finished market penny figures, but were inspiration for REKA's 1914 dated figure which they produced in their standard 54mm scale range.

It is thought therefore that George Wood produced these two gilt Life Guard figures, and possibly other

figures, for the REKA Company around the period 1910 to 1912, before establishing his own business, George W. Wood & Company.

G.W. Wood & Company

It has been shown in a previous *Old Toy Soldier Journal* article¹⁵ that George W. Wood was the elder of the Reuss /Wood brothers who started the John Hill & Co business in late 1911 to early 1912. However, if George William Wood did ever work with his younger brothers in the John Hill & Co. business, it seems probable that very early into the company starting toy soldier production, around mid-1911 to early 1912, he decided to leave his younger brothers.

As noted in Part 1 of this series of articles, the business *G.W. Wood and Company* is listed in the 1913 Directory of Toys and Games Manufacturers at an address of 139 New North Road.¹⁶ In order to be able to be recorded in the 1913 Directory it would be necessary to make this arrangement with the publishers of the directory by late 1912.

George W. Wood established this business with a William Hubert ROSE,

a pawnbroker whose premises were located at 175 New North Road. While it is known that brothers Arthur Wellesley Rose and a Frederick George Rose worked at Britains as casters, and in 1912 were both members of the Britains Limited employees "Besses of the Dyke" dance band¹⁷, there does not appear to have been a family connection between them and William Hubert Rose, and so how this business relationship came to be established is not explained by George W. Wood's employment at Britains.

In Part 1, records of four of George Wood's toy soldier designs registered with the Board of Trade between May 1913 and February 1914 were revealed; a North American Indian, a cowboy, a Camel Corps figure and a Territorial Army Cycle Corps figure with bicycle. The details of these registered figures are shown in Part 2¹⁸ and the images of the registered figures are shown again below.

The boxed set of G.W. Wood cowboys pictured is not only an extremely rare surviving original set from 1914, but is also unique in that it is one of very few examples of a box showing the



G.W. Wood & Co. advertisements from March, May, and September 1913

1913 May 5th Indian Mounted on rearing Horse registered by Board of Trade on behalf of G.W. Wood (# 618584)



1913 December 15th Mounted Cowboy registered by the Board of Trade on behalf of G.W. Wood (#515928) See above when this item was illustrated in *The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader* March, May and September 1913.



15 Forrester, Richard. *John Hill & Company: the early years*. Op cit.

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

17 Britains Limited ephemera auction lot, including Britains Ltd. 1912 Annual Christmas Dinner and Concert program for "Besses of the Dyke" band. Christie's Auction House, June 2005 described as Programme of Britains Ltd Annual Dinner and Concert, December 23rd 1912, performers including TJ 'Tommy' Scrine, accountant and later Financial Director, G Smallwood, of notebook fame, FC Pryke, long-standing salesman and G Atkins, storeman.

18 Joplin, Norman. G.W. Wood & Co. Part 2 *The Forgotten Manufacturer*. OTS V36N1 Spring 2012 Pg 8.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)

Board of Trade copyright registration numberprinted on it, and containing matching marked numbered figures.

Additional toy soldier designs registered to George W. Wood and William Hubert Rose have come to light following further recent research at the National Archives in Kew, London. The registered design numbers 628650 to 628653 were allocated to Wood and Rose on 25th November 1913, although a certificate for registration number 628653 was supposedly not issued.

These newly identified figures are a Zulu with a movable spear arm (reg. 628650), and a marching figure also with a movable slung rifle arm (Reg. 628651).

For registration no. 628652 the National Archives report that unfortunately there is no representation held on file that would show what the figure looked like. If any readers have a figure in their collection marked with this number, please write in to let us know.

Although the Board of Trade record states that a copyright certificate for registered design no. 628653 was not issued, a North American Indian figure with a movable arm, which has previously been thought to be a Brushfield Manufacturing Company (B.M.C.) figure, has what appears to be the registration number 628653 marked on it.

G.W. Wood and Company ceased to appear in Trade directories from 1915¹⁹, and Wood did not register any further toy soldier designs with the Board of Trade after February 1914. While it may not have been the primary cause, the outbreak of World War I appears to have sealed the fate of the G.W. Wood & Company business.

There is no indication that George Wood, at the age of 34 in 1914, joined either the British army or navy during World War I. However, Wood's partner William Rose was a member of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve²⁰ and on 22 August 1914, a little over two

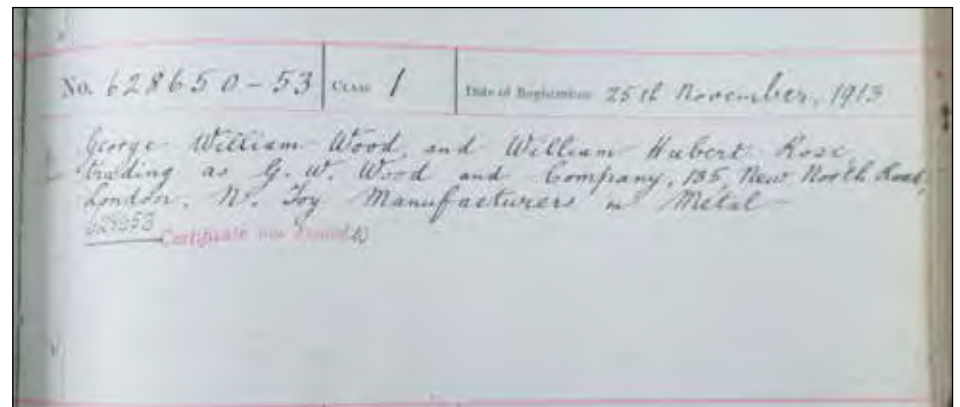
1914. February 17th G.W. Wood. Camel Corps Figure (# 632428) documented as being registered with the Board of Trade.



1914 February 17th G.W. Wood World War One Soldier walking with Bicycle (# 632427) registered on behalf of G.W. Wood.



G.W. Wood & Co. cowboys. Note that while the box does not name the maker it does show the copyright registration number. (Norman Joplin collection)



628650

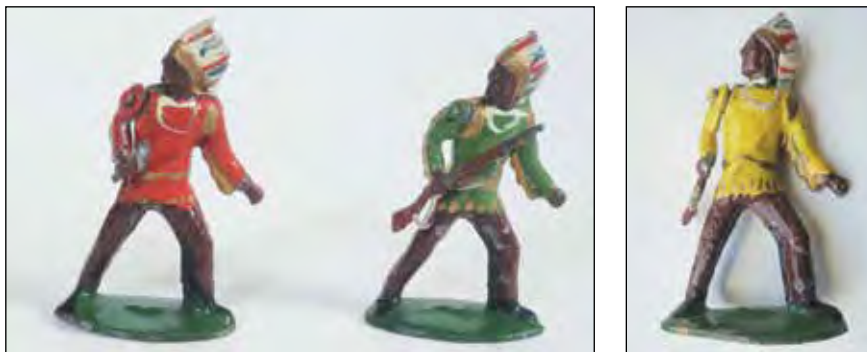


628651

19 Joplin, Norman. G.W. Wood & Co. Part 2 The Forgotten Manufacturer. OTS V36N1 Spring 2012 Pg 8.

20 U.K. National Archives. Admiralty and War Office: Royal Naval Division: Records of Service. Reference ADM 339/1/33056

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)



G.W. Wood & Co. North American Indian chief. Note the reg. no. 628653 clearly marked on the leg. (Rob Wilson collection)

weeks after war was declared, he joined the Collingwood Battalion of the Royal Navy Division. In early October 1914, after only a short period of training, the Collingwood Battalion and several other regiments were ordered to embarked at Dover and sail to France to relieve Belgian forces near Antwerp.

After occupying a fort in trenches beyond Antwerp the Collingwood Battalion and other elements of the Royal Naval Division came under a sustained German bombardment, and on 8 October 1914 they were ordered to retire under continuing fire. Unfortunately, in the confusion of withdrawing through a burning town the Collingwood Battalion came under attack and many marines, including William Rose, were captured and then interned in Germany as prisoners of war. Rose was imprisoned for the remainder of the war and was only repatriated to England in December 1918. He did not return to pawnbroking but instead became a civil servant in

the U.K. Ministry of Food.²¹ Rose's departure for the war, his subsequent capture and internment, and the resultant loss of a financial partner probably lead to the closure of G.W. Wood and Company, but there are also indications that Wood had already moved on before the Great War began.

Part 2 of *George William Wood; The Forgotten Manufacturer*, outlined that, George. W. Woods probably next established a working relationship with Brushfield Manufacturing Company (B.M.C.)²² although it must be clearly stated that no primary records have been found to date that validate this assumption, and all evidence is circumstantial.

B.M.C. was a business which had initially been a leather and other 'fancy goods' manufacturer but which had, in 1912, acquired the Model Toy Company and employed William Richard Faulkner who had been producing novelty toys. The principal

proprietors of B.M.C. were James Daniel Kiley and Alfred Eckhardt. James Kiley was Chairman of the board of Whyte, Ridsdale & Co., exporters and distributors of fancy goods²³, and Alfred Eckhardt was a relative, possibly brother, of Christopher F. Eckhardt whose toy and fancy goods import and export business was later purchased by A. J. Holladay in 1916.

The Model Toy Company name should not be confused with Model Toys Limited which manufactured toy soldiers and whose proprietor was Henry William Cartwright. Details of Model Toys Limited and the toy soldiers it produced between 1915 and around 1920 were outlined in a previous *Old Toy Soldier* article²⁴.

B.M.C. Limited and then Soldarma Limited

It is important to note that toy soldier designs registered by B.M.C. with the Board of Trade start with a kneeling Boy Scout with pole (No. 637748) and



A very rare early B.M.C. branded box set -note the 1914 registration number marked on the lid, and a January 1915 Whyte, Ridsdale & Co advertisement illustrating the same box however the 'B.M.C.' brand has been changed to 'W.R. & C.' (Christies Auctions, June 2011. Described as 'B.M.C. Set 314 fold-out Model Field Entrenchment box, 1915'.)



21 1938. An 'Old Contemptible'. Funeral of Mr. W. H. Rose. Westminster and Pimlico News, 5 August. P5. Findmypast.co.uk

22 Joplin, Norman. G.W. Wood & Co. Part 2 The Forgotten Manufacturer. Op cit.

23 Henry Robert Addison, Charles Henry Oakes, William John Lawson, Douglas Brooke Wheelton Sladen. *Who's Who*. 1919, Vol 71. A. & C. Black, London.

24 Joplin, Norman. *Continuing the research into early British Hollow Cast Toy Soldier companies. MODEL TOYS LIMITED*. OTS Spring 2018, Vol 42 No.1 Pg45.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)

a Highland Piper (No. 637749²⁵) both registered on 29 May 1914, which are dated after G. W. Wood had registered his Territorial Army soldier standing beside a bicycle in February 1914. Examples of the Highland Piper and Territorial Cycle Corps figures are pictured in this article.

It is possible that the Boy Scout was sculpted by Wood, but it is more certainly so that the Highland Piper was, based primarily on it being 60mm in height and therefore similar in scale to later 62mm British infantry figures shown below contained in a box produced by Wood's Soldarma Company. As there is no overlap of the registration dates this strongly suggests that Wood moved to work with B.M.C. between March and May

1914, and therefore pre-dates poor William Rose's capture and internment in Germany.

In Part 2²⁶ of this series of articles, details were provided of the further two figures which B.M.C. registered with the Board of Trade. An approximately 1/1000th scale battleship on August 26th (Reg. 641397), and a trench box and standing firing soldiers set (644185) on 30 November 1914. A pencil entry rather than a pen entry dated 15 January 1915 in the Board of Trade ledgers lists five further design numbers allocated for B.M.C. however actual design representations for these figures could not be located. It is thought that with the entry being in pencil it is possible that the designs were not actually registered.

Initially B.M.C. issued their figures in their own branded boxes. An undated B.M.C. catalogue sheet, which lists one hundred and eighteen available versions of British or foreign infantry and cavalry toy soldiers, proudly announces their 'Handsome displayed boxes of assorted soldiers, sailors, ships, &c to retail from 6d. to 10/6.' It is helpful that a small number of these B.M.C. branded boxes has survived, because it allows us to positively identify B.M.C. figures by the boxes in which they are contained.

The Whyte, Ridsdale & Co. advertisement pictured demonstrates that B.M.C. were not simply relying on retailing their toy soldiers direct to toy sellers, but also took advantage of James Kiley's association in the W.R. & Co. toy distribution business. In the illustration we see the same B.M.C. Model Field Entrenchment set pictured, however the branding on the box illustrated is 'W.R.C.', not 'B.M.C.'.

B.M.C. figures are not individually marked and identifying unboxed B.M.C. figures is often a matter of judgement of the figure's style, paint colour, and scale. It should be noted that B.M.C. figures ranged in scale from 45mm and 54mm to 60mm and even 70mm. This continued the variation in scale that is notable from the small number of George W. Wood figures known to have been produced by him.

A further hint of the likely association that G.W. Wood had with B.M.C., which was pointed out in Part 2²⁷, was the identical list of figures available to purchase, other than cavalry and infantry, shown on the undated B.M.C. catalogue when compared to the last of the three advertisements issued by G.W. Wood & Company. While the wording varies slightly, the lists of figures is the same.

It is not known for certain but possibly from the outset B.M.C. also wholesaled their toy soldiers to distributors in boxes that were not branded at all. A small number of boxed sets have been found



B.M.C. undated but likely very early catalogue sheet compared with the third and last of G.W. Wood's 1913 'Toy & Fancy Goods Trader' advertisements.



B.M.C. Territorial Forces set - the cyclist figure was registered by G.W. Wood on 17 Feb 1914, reg.# 632427. (Rob Wilson collection)

25. Ibid. Note correction to the original Part 2 article. The registration numbers listed for the Highland Piper and Boy Scout were transposed. The correct Board of Trade registration numbers are Boy Scout (637748) and Highland Piper (637749).

26 Ibid.

27 Ibid.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) *(Continued)*



B.M.C. Highland Pipers figure registered by B.M.C on 29 May 1914, Reg. No. 637749.
(Rob Wilson collection)



G.W. Wood registered figure #628651 in a B.M.C. Gale & Polden 'History and Traditions' box.
(Rob Wilson collection)

containing figures registered to George Wood or B.M.C, but none have the name of the manufacturing company printed on them. The box shown containing the G.W. Wood registered Cycle Corps figures, which displays the key phrases 'Superior Metal Figures' and 'Union Jack Series', is identical to other boxes containing figures which are agreed to be B.M.C., including the above-mentioned Highland piper.

It should also be noted that Hanks Brothers figures also appear in the same style boxes marked 'Superior Metal Figures' and 'Union Jack Series' and both companies were clearly wholesaling their product through the same distributors²⁸.

The 'Union Jack' series boxes, containing B.M.C. or Hanks Brothers toy soldiers, were next updated to a series of boxes which displayed the Gale & Polden 'History and Traditions' postcard pictures on boxes that also continued to use the phrases 'The Union Jack Series' and 'Superior Soldiers'.²⁹

Gale & Polden Printers initially produced what were called 'History and Traditions' postcards picturing uniforms and honours of British regiments between 1909 and 1915. These postcard images were later reproduced on the toy soldier box labels. The labels were likely also printed by Gale & Polden up until 1918

when a fire at their Wellington Works destroyed most of the printer's colour blocks for the History and Tradition images. Therefore, it is thought that the toy soldiers in the History and Tradition picture boxes date from between 1910 and 1918 but were likely issued toward the end of this period.

Similar to the 'Union Jack' series boxes, none of the Gale & Polden 'History and Traditions' picture boxes located so far has the name 'B.M.C.' printed on the labels, which strongly suggests a continuation of the marketing collaboration between B.M.C. and Hanks Brothers in an effort to compete in the growing market of London department stores, such as Harrods and Gamages. The toy soldiers were most likely sold un-branded through the department stores so as not to compete with the store's name.

The pictured Kings Own Scottish Borderers set in a B.M.C. box shows figures now known to have been copyright registered by George. W. Wood.

In summary, for reason of Wood's registered figures appearing in boxes which are the same as ones containing known B.M.C. figures, a similarity in style and scale, and no evidence of Wood serving in the armed forces between 1914 and 1918, it is considered likely that G.W. Wood moved to work for B.M.C. However, it is acknowledged again that currently there is no primary documentary evidence to confirm this view.

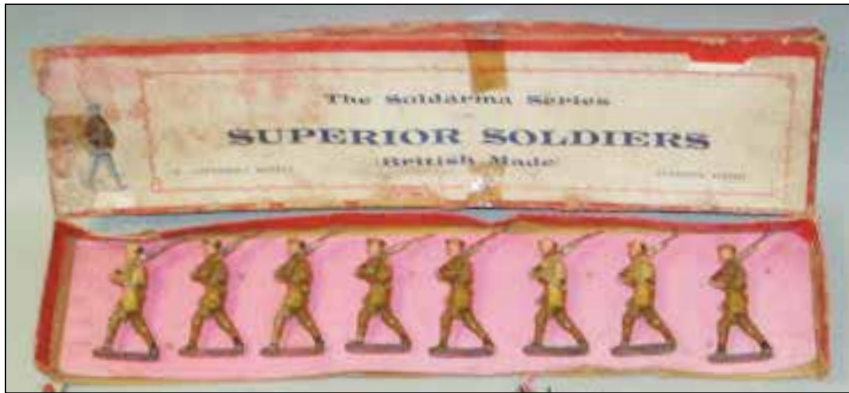
Perhaps sensing that the post-war period would bring more prosperity, in January 1919 G. W. Wood decided once again to try being an owner-manufacturer and registered a new company, Soldarma Limited. While Wood was the managing director and main shareholder of the company with 500 shares, William Samuel Pickford was to be the works Manager and 300 shares were issued in his name³⁰. Little certain is known about Pickford however he is likely to have been a sheet metal worker who lived

28 Forrester, Richard. *Hanks Brothers Toy Soldier Manufacturers*. OTS V45 N2 Summer 2021. Pg19

29 Ibid. Pg18.

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

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)



Described as 'eight 62mm scale British Infantry at the slope in khaki with peak caps, in original box' (Bonhams auction 16 Dec 2008)

in the nearby north London suburb of Holloway. It is the third registered shareholder and company secretary, with 200 shares in his name, who is of real interest and shows that George W. Wood was someone of note in toy soldier manufacture at the time.

William Charles Lawrence was the Company Secretary and a Director of the toy and fancy goods wholesaler and distributor, A.J. Holladay & Co Ltd³¹, who may be best known to collectors for the Skybirds series of toy airplanes, and their accompanying 20mm toy soldiers, which the company retailed in the 1930s. As already shown above, one of the directors of B.M.C. was Alfred Eckhardt, a relative of C.F. Eckhardt whose toy and fancy goods import and export business was purchased by A.J. Holladay in 1916.

It is possibly through this association with the Eckhardts that George Wood came to be introduced to William Lawrence. In 1919, A.J. Holladay & Co. was expanding rapidly and obviously saw an opportunity in affiliating itself with George W. Wood as a supplier of toy soldiers. In turn Wood, by having Lawrence as a Soldarma Ltd. shareholder, had gained a guaranteed distribution channel for his product.

The purpose of *Soldarma Limited* appears to have been to promote George Wood's own range of toy soldier figures, but whether this was simply a range of newly designed toy soldiers, cowboys and Indians, or

whether Wood took the moulds he had created at B.M.C. is not certain. To the knowledge of this author, no figures marked Soldarma have ever been found, which would confirm that Wood did indeed create a specific Soldarma range of toy soldiers. The very rare Soldarma Series box pictured, which contains B.M.C. 62mm scale British Infantry, confirms that Wood did in fact

retail boxed sets under the Soldarma brand, however it also suggests that Wood took the moulds with him when he left B.M.C. and then continued to produce the toy soldiers.

An advertisement in the Toy and Fancy Goods Trader dated February 1920 for toy distributors A.J. Holladay & Co Ltd includes an illustration of two Gale & Polden picture toy soldier sets, one of which is George W. Wood's registered King's Own Scottish Borderers figure pictured above. It is possible, of course, that B.M.C. were simply distributing finished stock after Wood's departure because it was not until May 1920 that an extraordinary General Meeting determined the B.M.C. business was no longer profitable and should be voluntarily wound up.³² The Brushfield Manufacturing Company was liquidated in May 1921.

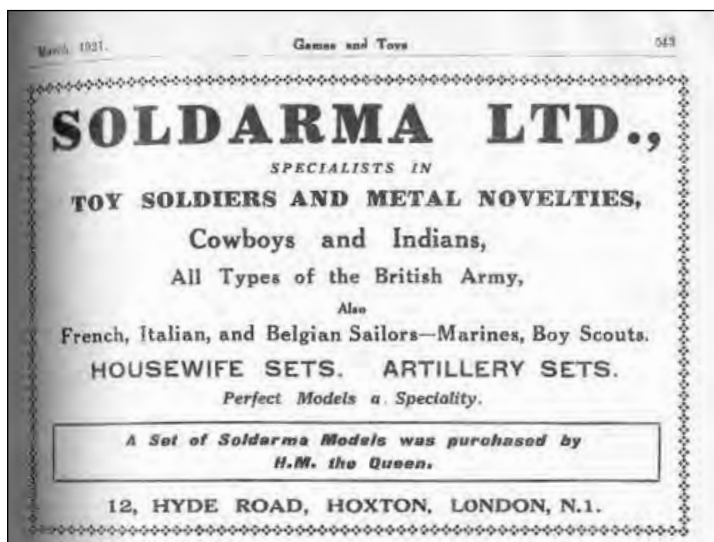
The fact that William Charles Lawrence from A.J. Holladay & Co. was so closely associated with George



31 1921 England Census. RG15/6305 Dist128/Sub4/Enum14_0249. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk.

32 London Gazette, 25 June 1920. Pg 6933.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)



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

W. Wood suggests, however, that this advertisement represents new product manufactured by Soldarma. Continued production helps to explain the reasonable supply of what are considered to be B.M.C. toy soldiers which are still available to collectors. If the toy soldiers had only been produced by B.M.C., then the production period would have been a short 6 years between late 1914 and early 1920.

An advertisement for *Soldarma Limited* in *Games and Toys* dated March 1921 proclaims proudly that Her Majesty the Queen purchased a set of Soldarma models. It is likely that this purchase took place at the 1921 British Industries Fair which was held between 21 February and 4 March at White City, Shepherd's Bush, London.

Unfortunately, George William Wood had already died suddenly on 29 April 1920³³ from pneumonia, complicated by diabetes. Wood's widow, Jane Elizabeth, continued to run the business for a further year which included the triumph of Her Majesty's purchase, however by October of 1921 the *Soldarma Limited* company had been wound up. Records show that as early as June 1921 the business was only operating to finish already cast figures and at that time had only three

working employees. Walter Pickford, the Manager at commencement in 1919, had already left the business³⁴.

The final piece of the story available to us is a further *Toy & Fancy Goods Trader* advertisement from A.J.

Holladay & Co dated June 1921, illustrating a set of B.M.C. scouts with their tents. While it is still possible that this represents clearance of the last finished stock following B.M.C.'s liquidation, it may also be the stock finished by Soldarma, or perhaps even stock produced by a subsequent manufacturer using the original B.M.C. moulds.

What happened to the B.M.C. and Soldarma toy soldier moulds?

Following George Wood's death, and the liquidation of both B.M.C. and Soldarma, George's brothers at John Hill & Co. acquired the inventory of stock and possibly also several moulds not previously used for casting, either from B.M.C. or from Wood's estate, or from both.³⁵ However, while John Hill & Co. sold off the stock of already cast toy soldiers, this still does not explain the number of B.M.C. attributed figures that have survived to the present day, noting that B.M.C. and Soldarma



June 1921 advertisement showing BMC scouts, one month after the BMC company was liquidated.

33 1921 England Census. RG15/886 Dist10/Sub3/Enum14_0013. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk.

34 Ibid.

35 Forrester, Richard. *John Hill & Company: the early years*. Op cit.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD; THE FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURER (PART 3) (Continued)



Games & Toys January 1923 advertisement proclaiming that Henry Cartwright has 100 distinct types of toy soldiers available for sale.

were only in production for 6 years and 2 years respectively. The available supply of 'B.M.C.' figures in particular suggests that production continued for several more years.

Old Toy Soldier readers were introduced to Henry William Cartwright in the 2018 Spring edition article *Continuing the research into early British Hollow Cast Toy Soldier companies. MODEL TOYS LIMITED*³⁶.

Henry Cartwright is best known for his mechanical kicking 'Socker' players used for a tabletop parlour game of British football³⁷ teams. Cartwright's copyrighted figures are similar to Russell Manufacturing Company kicking footballers pictured in a previous 2017 OTS article³⁸, but Cartwright also produced a range of toy soldiers, some of which were shown in the aforementioned article.

In fact, Cartwright, in a January 1923 *Games & Toys* advertisement, proclaimed that he produced '100 distinct types of soldiers'. The range of Model Toys Limited figures that have been identified, from Cartwright's earlier venture, does not number more than two dozen, and the volume of figures that have survived to date does not suggest that their production continued beyond the timeline for

existence of the Model Toys company of 1915 to possibly 1917 but certainly no later than 1920. The question presents therefore, how in 1923 was Henry Cartwright able to advertise that he can supply one hundred distinct types of toy soldier?

The records from the June 1921 U.K. Census show that Henry Cartwright noted his occupation as 'lead toy manufacturer'³⁹ at a time when, after 1917 through to 1920, there are no records of Model Toys Limited figures being produced.

The suggestion is made that Henry Cartwright acquired the B.M.C. moulds and materials and continued to produce the figures for a short period of time thereafter.

Unfortunately, despite an extensive search, no record of Henry Cartwright or his wife Jeanette has been found after 1923 that would confirm this suggestion, so it is proposed simply because there are no other alternate candidates known to be actively producing toy soldiers in London at this time.

Later, in the early 1950s and as suggested in Part 2⁴⁰, G.W. Wood's North American Indian on the rearing horse appeared in the range of toy soldiers produced by B&T (Plastics)

Limited under the brand "The Model Toy for Every Boy". B&T (Plastics) Limited produced metal figures, rather than in plastic as their company name would suggest. The company, located at 38 Glasshill Street, Southwark, London, only operated for a short three-year period between 1949 and 1951. B&T also produced a cowboy in a very similar rearing horse pose, but this figure is not able to be directly attributed to G.W. Wood. Although the company did acquire moulds for toy soldiers from other defunct toy soldier makers such as Stoddart's Wellington Toy Company, the production of other Wood or B.M.C. toy soldier figures cannot be credited to B&T.

Conclusion

George W. Wood produced several well sculpted and very playable figures during his short approximately ten years as a toy soldier sculptor and producer. Considering his missing registered number 628652 figure, and Wood's probable involvement in sculpting many, if not all, of B.M.C.'s lengthy list of supposedly available figures, it is very likely there are more of this forgotten manufacturer's toy soldiers to be discovered. The research continues.

Note 1: I sincerely thank Norman Joplin for allowing me to use much of his previous research material, pictures of figures in his collection, and for collaborating with me in writing this summarising and concluding article in the series. I also wish to thank Rob Wilson once again for allowing me to present pictures of figures from his amazing collection to illustrate G.W. Wood's forgotten contribution to our fascinating hobby.

Note 2: Look out for future Old Toy Soldier articles that will cover the 1912 Britains Limited "Besses of the Dyke" dance band, and the toy soldier manufacturer B&T (Plastics), in more detail.

36 Joplin, Norman. *Continuing the research into early British Hollow Cast Toy Soldier companies. MODEL TOYS LIMITED*. OTS Spring 2018, Vol. 42 No.1 Pg45.

37 Ibid.

38 Joplin, Norman. *Early British Manufacturers – Russell Manufacturing Co.* OTS Winter 2017, Vol. 40 No.4. Pg47.

39 1921 England Census. RG15/389 Dist195/Sub2/Enum74_0013. Crown Copyright of The National Archives, London, England. Findmypast.co.uk.

40 Joplin, Norman. *Old Toy Soldier*, Volume 36 Number 1 Spring 2012

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OLD TOY SOLDIER



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Des Fontaines Bonaparte Premier
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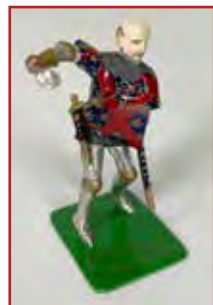
Courtenay Thosbeauchamp Earl of
Warwick K. G. \$500



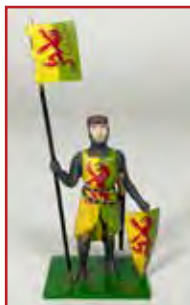
Courtenay King of France No. H11
\$600



Fouille Mounted Murat Roi de Naples
\$4,200



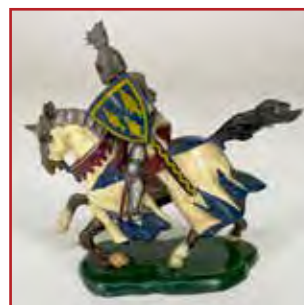
Courtenay-Greenhill
Guillaume des Pointiers
L'evêque de Langres. \$600



Courtenay-Greenhill
Roger Bigod
Earl Marshal of England \$550



Courtenay Sieur William des Montegut
No. 8 Defending his son Walter. \$550



Selwyn Smith Sir Eumery de Lucy
\$2,300



Courtenay H6 The Black Prince
\$650



Selwyn Smith Sir Eustace de Ribeaumont GNMOR
\$700



Courtenay Jean Bastard of Bourbon Z5
\$1,100



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knight on rearing horse \$2,400



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John Jenkins Knights of the Skies ACE43 \$275



Britains RARE #433 Monoplane With Pilot \$425



Russian Studio Crusaders & Muslim Warriors \$400



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Heyde Lot Crocodile Hunt \$400



Heyde Lot North Pole Expedition \$550



Heyde Lot Boy Scouts Hiking \$850



Heyde Set 1267 Civilians \$650



Heyde Lot Arctic Sled with Fisherman \$1,000



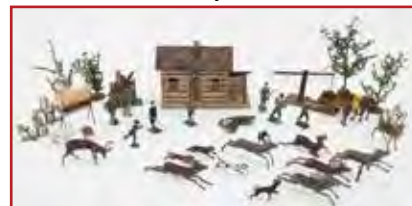
Heyde Lot Civilians \$425



Heyde American Continental Infantry \$450



Heyde Set 1343 Zoological Garden \$6,000



German Made Large Size Winter Hunt \$650



Heyde Large Size 0 King
George V Mounted \$600



German Large Size Gun Team with Riders \$3,200



Heyde Lot Zoo Handler and Monkeys \$325



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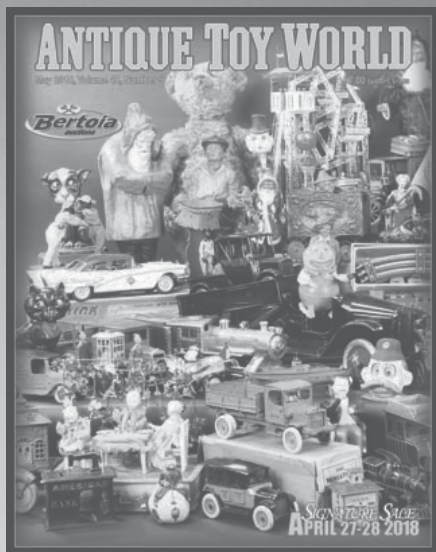


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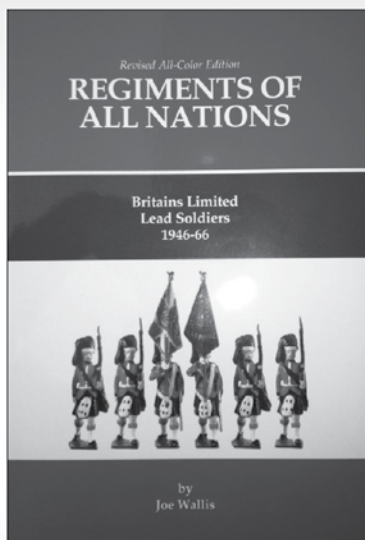
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February 3rd and 4th, 2023 - Friday and Saturday - Old Toy Soldier Auction 80. For The Love Of Toy Soldiers. oldtoysoldierauctions.com

February 4th, 2023 - Saturday - 28th Annual Florida Toy Soldier Action Figure, Toy & Collectibles Show. 9am-1pm. Finland House, 301 W. Central Blvd., Lantana, FL 33462. For more information call 754-263-7392.

February 18th, 2023 - Saturday "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show in Annandale, Virginia. Contact the Show Promoter, Ed Greis, at 201-342-6475 with any questions or to rent a table to sell from.

February 26th, 2023 - Sunday - The West Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Admission: \$8.00 or 2 for \$15.00

February 27th, 2023 - Monday - Vectis Military Civilian Figures, Equipment & Accessories Sale. vectis.co.uk simon.clark@vectis.co.uk Tel: +44 (0) 1642 750616

March 26th, 2023 - Sunday - The Midwest Toy Soldier Show, Lafayette, IN., For info contact; Rick Keller 765-430-6289; Steve Connell 734-455-0724; or Rod Chapman 740-924-2531.

April 23rd, 2023 - Sunday - The Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, Gettysburg, PA., Eisenhower Inn/ Aspire Ball Room. For info. contact; Steve Connell 734-455-0724; Rod Chapman 740-924-2531; or Rick Keller 765-430-6289.

May 21st, 2023 - Sunday - The Ohio Toy Soldier Show, Wadsworth, OH., For info. contact Steve Connell 734-455-0724; Rod Chapman 740-924-2531; or Rick Keller 765-430-6289.

June 3rd, 2023 - Saturday "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show in Annandale, Virginia. Contact the Show Promoter, Ed Greis, at 201-342-6475 with any questions or to rent a table to sell from.

September 9th, 2023 - Saturday "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show in Annandale, Virginia. Contact the Show Promoter, Ed Greis, at 201-342-6475 with any questions or to rent a table to sell from.

September 24, 2023 - Sunday - Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Illinois. Jan and Roger G. janandroger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com

December 2nd, 2023 - Saturday "Heart of the South" Toy Soldier Show in Annandale, Virginia. Contact the Show Promoter, Ed Greis, at 201-342-6475 with any questions or to rent a table to sell from.

Due to Covid-19 it is strongly advised you check with show promoters before traveling to any of the listed shows

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