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Web Site: www.oldtoysoldier.com

Old Toy Soldier is published quarterly.

Publisher
Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Editor
Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com

Assistant Editor
Philip Dean philip@philipedean.com

Advertising
Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Circulation
Nancy Haradin

Technical Production
Banksville Express Printing

Proofreader
Roberta Haradin

Staff Photographers
Philip Dean
David Haradin
Noel Schlageter

Staff Cartoonists
Sue Joplin

Show Reports
Ray Haradin, Jeff Madisson, Norman Joplin

General Inspection-New Product Review
Russ Bednarek

Webmaster
Oliver Dean

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

Contributors
Philip Dean, Britains/British Civilians
Rob Wilson and Joe Wallis, Britains Military
Richard O'Brien and Stan Alekna, Dimestore Figures
Steve Weston, Plastics on Parade
Don Boyden - Features

Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements and all general inquires, should be forwarded to:
Old Toy Soldier
P. O. Box 13324
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324
Telephone (412) 343-8733
Fax (412) 344-5273
E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

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ISSN1064-4164

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ON THE COVER

Nostalgia # N1 Hong Kong Submarine Engineer
Photo courtesy Ralph Kimmich.

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

Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements
20 Words $5, plus $5 for each additional 20 words.
Advertising deadlines as outlined above.

Periodical Postage paid at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Old Toy Soldier
P.O. Box 13324
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324.

Old Toy Soldier (ISSN 1064-4164) is published quarterly for $27 per year by:

OTS, 1039 Lakemont Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243.

Subscriptions

U. S. Subscription Rates
Four issues per year.

First Class Mail.....$40 - 1 Year; $75 - 2 Years
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Sample Issue $9.

Index Volumes 21-25 .....$7
Index Volumes 11-20.....$7
Index Volumes 1-10 .....$7

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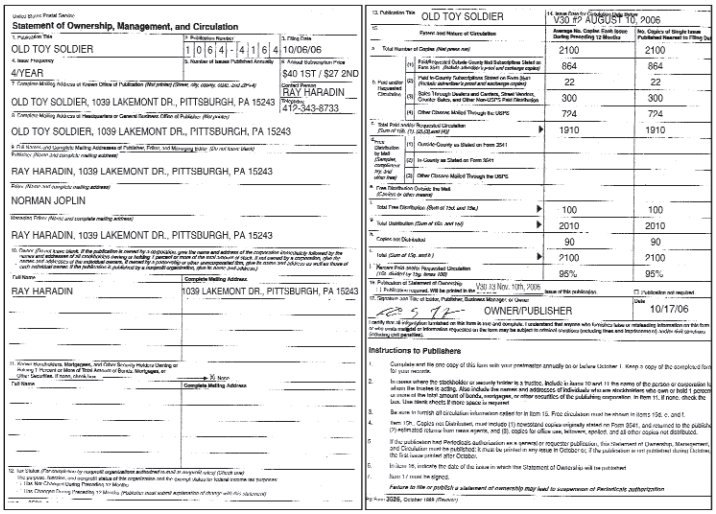
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: OLD TOY SOLDIER
2. Publication Number: 1 0 6 4 - 4 1 6 4
3. Filing Date: 10/06/06
4. Issue Frequency: 4/YEAR
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4
6. Annual Subscription Price: $40 1ST / $27 2ND
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): OLD TOY SOLDIER, 1039 LAKEMONT DR., PITTSBURGH, PA 15243
Contact Person: RAY HARADIN
Telephone: 412-343-8733
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: OLD TOY SOLDIER, 1039 LAKEMONT DR., PITTSBURGH, PA 15243
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: RAY HARADIN, 1039 LAKEMONT DR., PITTSBURGH, PA 15243
Editor: NORMAN JOPLIN
Managing Editor: RAY HARADIN, 1039 LAKEMONT DR., PITTSBURGH, PA 15243
10. Owner: RAY HARADIN, 1039 LAKEMONT DR., PITTSBURGH, PA 15243
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None
12. Tax Status: Not applicable
13. Publication Title: OLD TOY SOLDIER
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: VOL 19 AUGUST 10, 2006

Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	2100	2100
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation: (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	864	864
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	22	22
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid/Requested Outside-USPS® Paid Distribution	300	300
(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	794	794
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2),(3),and (4))	1910	1910
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free): (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		
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e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d, and 15e.)	100	100
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15f)	2010	2010
h. Copies not Distributed	90	90
i. Total (Sum of 15g. and h.)	2100	2100
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c. divided by 15g. times 100)	95%	95%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Will be printed in the VOL 19 Nov. 10th, 2006 issue of this publication.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: OWNER/PUBLISHER, Date: 10/17/06

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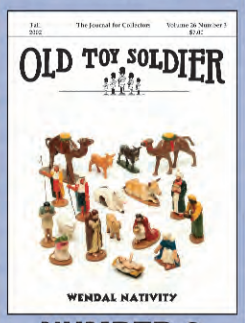

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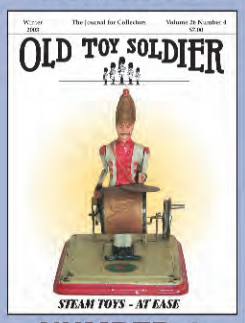

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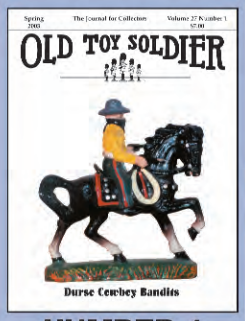

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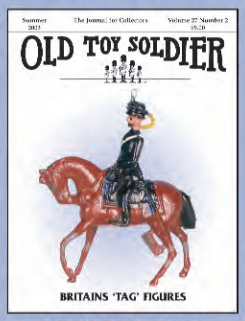

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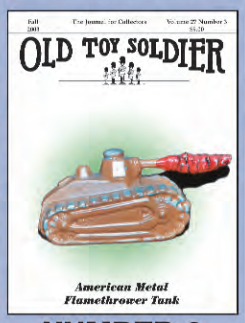

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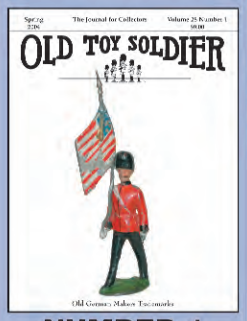

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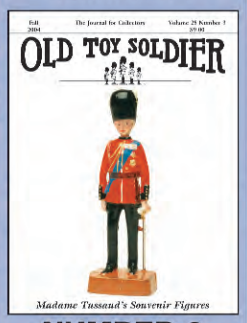

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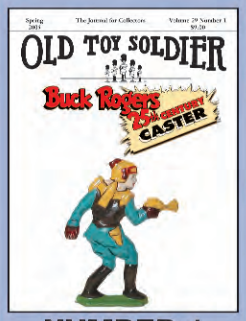

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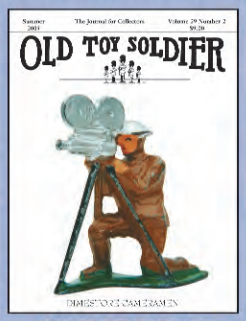

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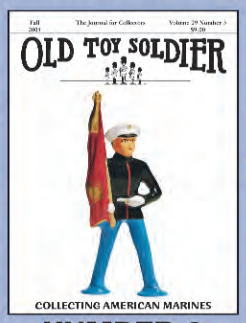

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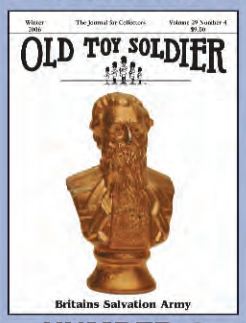

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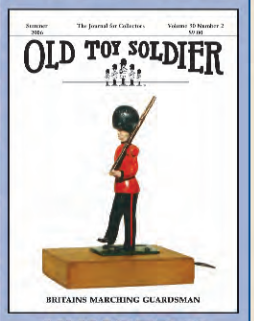

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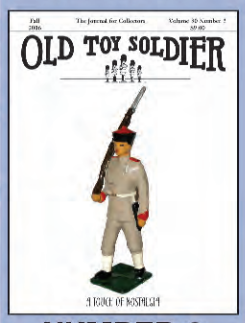

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February 10th
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Six short, terrible weeks later Holland had fallen... Belgium surrendered... and France lay prostrate before her old enemy.

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RETURN TO "FIELDS OF BATTLE"

KING & COUNTRY is proud to announce the second *"Fields of Battle"* releases that again portray in miniature the dark, dramatic days of May and June 1940 when France fell and the world held its breath...

These new *"add-ons"* provide extra depth and texture to those K&C collectors focusing on *"Dunkirk"* and *"The Fall of France"*.

As usual we've produced a series of individual figures - nine *"foot"* and two *"mounted"* plus two superb 1940 vintage fighting vehicles.

On the Infantry front there are six new French soldiers - a General... a marching officer and a Regimental flag bearer. Three *"Poilus"* in action include a superb *"Hotchkiss"* machine gunner! Two mounted French cavalrymen *(one officer and one trooper)* complete this *"L' Armée Française"* release.

On the *British Expeditionary Force* front there are two more *"Tommies"* - one a Sergeant Major, the other a marching private *and* a nifty looking *Vickers MK. VI Light Reconnaissance* Tank with two crew.

"ACHTUNG WEHRMACHT!"

For the first time in *"FoB"* we've included some German pieces... The *"Kubelwagen"* staff car with a driver, a German General and his ADC. The Kubelwagen was a familiar sight on WW2 battlefields from the fields of France to the frozen steppes of Russia and the scorching deserts of North Africa and all points in between.

An additional German staff Officer with binos is also available.

For connoisseurs and collectors alike *"Fields of Battle"* provides a welcome diversion into a WW2 campaign that is rarely featured in the toy soldier world.

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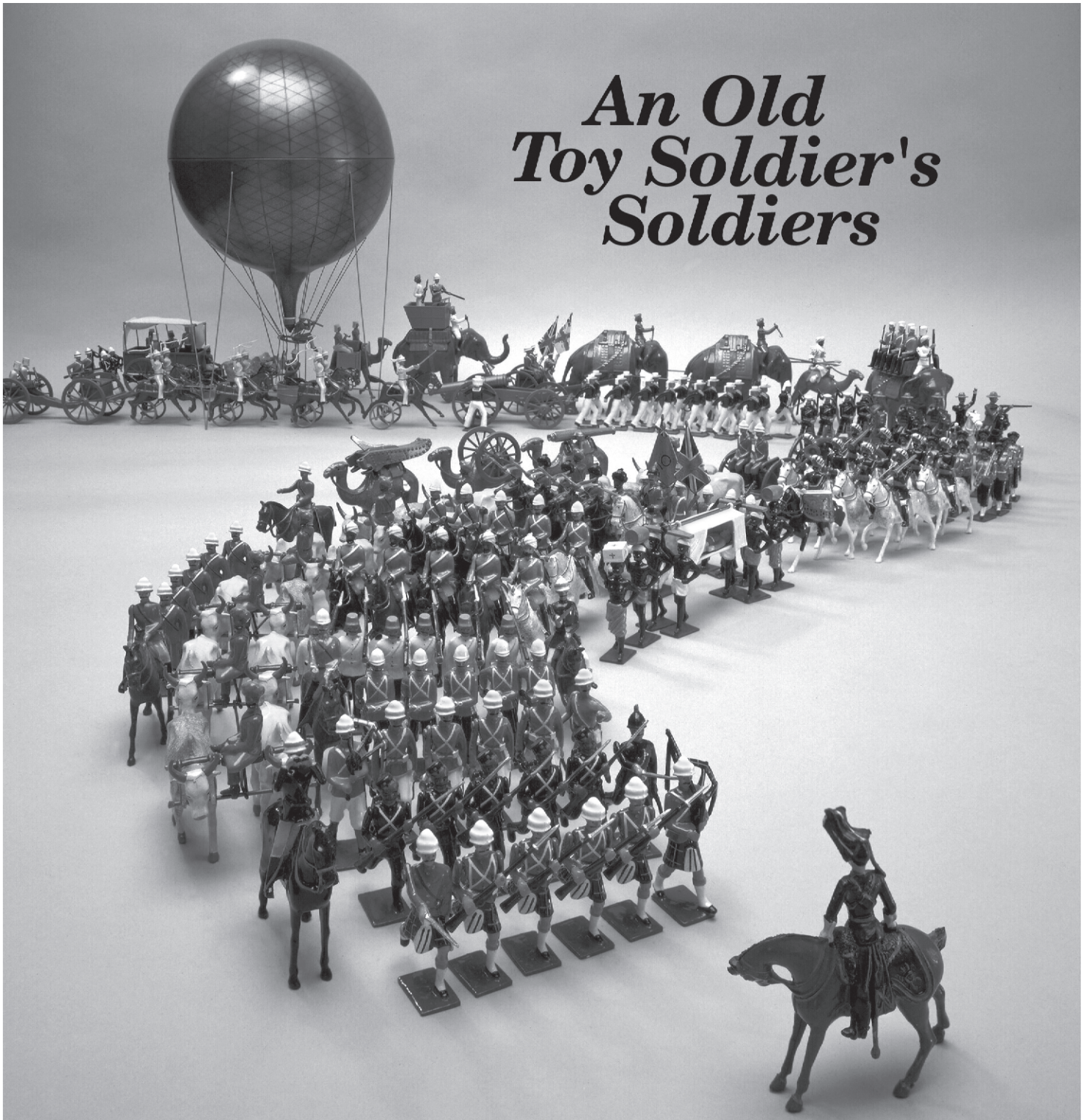

An Old Toy Soldier's Soldiers

Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group discipline, dull and wrinkled uniforms - refugees from some old diorama. And fat. Half seem to be dying. Can't speak English - Russian or Chinese more'n likely.

Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men know know how to march together and how to fight together and look smart doing it. Our men want to be thrown onto the battlecarpet and properly pummeled like the toys they are - not given some shelf job commanded by a namby-pamby "connoisseur". Our men can take it and still shine. Our men know what it means to be a real toy soldier.

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30 Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine

Part 3 Volumes 21- 30 • 1997-2006

By Norman Joplin

The final summary of articles and reports that have appeared in OTS(N) over the past 30 years.

Volume 21 #1 • 1997

Richard O'Brien's Collecting American Toy Soldiers # 3 reviewed and Christian Blonieau publishes his MIgnot book Petits Soldats

Article on Bussler by Bill Coakley.

#2 Ertl buys Britains Petite, Shamus Wade announces his intention to organize a centenary dinner in 1998 to celebrate 100 years of Johillco.

Christies Auction House obtains the Malcolm Forbes Toy Soldier Collection from the Tangier Museum. Article on Canadian Dimestore London Toys by Stewart Saxe.

#3 Richard O'Brien's Collecting Foreign made Toy Soldiers is announced; Peter Cole publishes Suspended Animation, the unauthorized history of Herald and Britains.

Fred Whisstock article by Joe Wallis.

#4 Norman Joplin arranges the sale of the British Toy Soldier and Figure Show to Vectis.

The Norman Joplin Reference Collection to be auctioned by Vectis.

Volume 22 • #1

Article on Asturias, Mexican Toy Soldier makers

#2 Johillco Special.

#3 Stewart Saxe Collectors Bibliography published within the magazine and articles on All-Nu by Donald Hovde and Marx by Pat Nicholson appear in **#4**

Volume 23 • 1999

The Royal Tournament ends in London after over 100 years.

James Opie joins Christies after Phillips close their Bayswater auction room in London and Gustave Vertunni article by Will Beierwaltes appears.

#2 Ertl sell Britains to Racing Champions, The first Pacific North West Toy Soldier show is planned for Seattle, Mignot War of the Worlds set is featured and Johnathan Crawford announces the publication of his first World Toy Soldier Directory and Compendium.

#3 Don Hovde hosts the first Dimestore Breakfast at the Chicago show, Richard O'Brien the featured speaker

Volume 24

#1 Stewart Saxe writes an overview of Ebay online bidding.

#2 The Arnold Rolak reference collection auction is scheduled for December 2000 at Christies in London.

#3 American Dimestore Toy Soldier and Figures by Don Pielin, Norman Joplin and Verne Johnson, the first all color book on the subject.

Volume 25 • 2001

#1 Joe Wallis writes an extensive article on the Britains Family and Family tree.

OTSN announces that the next issue will be under new ownership, with managing editors Steve and Josie Sommers retiring after 25 Volumes.

#3 Ray Haradin assumes ownership of Old Toy Soldier magazine, this issue marks the change over from the Sommers editorship.

The magazine has a color cover for the first time.

Mark Young publishes his Space book Blast Off.

 # 4 2001-2002 Norman Joplin becomes editor of OTS.

The first color issue of Old Toy Soldier Magazine Volume 25 # 3 Fall 2001

Britains Civilian Toy Figures by Norman Joplin, Philip Dean, Arnold Rolak and Joe Kunzelmann is published by Schiffer Books.

Volume 26 # 1

OTS Magazine is increased in size to 92 pages, Color advertising is introduced, Vin Russo and Patrice Servais start their serialization of the Durso Company, Ebay Finds Feature is introduced and Stewart Saxe sells his collection of Post War Britains via Vectis auctions, reproduction Britains catalog is used as an auction catalog.

#2 Largest ever OTS magazine containing a 142 page Coronation Special, the magazine is now a perfect binding publication, Tim Ilyinsky collection announced by Bertoia Auctions.

#3 Vectis announce the auction of the William Miele Britains collection to be held December 2002.

Jack Carleton visits the Mignot Factory in France.

#4 Roger Delthony recreates Britains Set # 132.

Volume 27

#1 & #2 Vectis Auctions announce a possible world record price for an empty box,$2500 for a CE Turnbull Charterhouse box, Vectis also opens a location in Pennsylvania, their first in the US.

#3 Markus Grein publishes his book Heyde Around the World.

#4 Gordon Lattey and Bob Griffin commence their extensive Dimestore Timeline series of research articles.

Volume 28 • #1

Earl Jorgesen researches early German boxes from Old German Toy Soldier companies

#2 Toy Knights book issued by Peter Cowan.

#4 Where Britains were sold prior to 1967 article by Joe Wallis

Volume 29 • #1

West Coaster Toy Soldier Show changes ownership, Bob Fisher and Scott Morlan handover the show to Craig (Bubba) McClain and Woody Lambrith.

Norman Joplin announces that he will run a dateline Old Toy Soldier show in the UK during 2005. Holiday Inn Bloomsbury is selected as the new venue.

#2 Old Toy Soldier celebrate 25 years of the Chicago show, Creating Miniature Knights by Greenhill and Venturi is published.

#3 Philip Dean collection auction announced by Christes, probably the finest collection of civilian and nonmilitary items ever to come under the hammer.

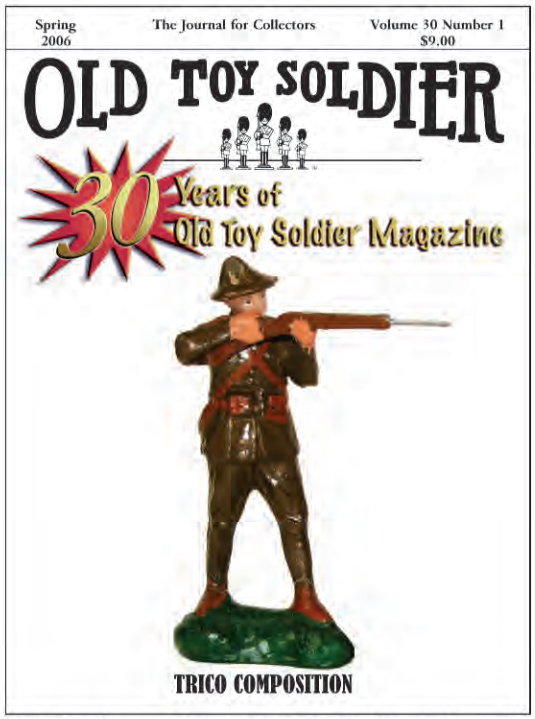
Four new reference books on toy soldier and figures are scheduled for release during Volume 29.

Selwyn Miniatures by Peter Cowan, Wendal of Blandford by Philip Dean, History in Miniature – The St Petersburg Collection by Thor Johnson and Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures by Norman Joplin, & Philip Dean.

Volume 30 • #1

Old Toy Soldier Magazine celebrates 30years in publication.

Old Toy Soldier magazines largest ever issue with 142 pages,this was the start of the perfect binding for the magazine and contained a Coronation Special Feature Volume 26 # 2 Summer 2002.



30th Anniversary issue of Old Toy Soldier Volume 30 # 1 Spring 2006.jpg

★★★ PRESS RELEASE ★★★
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WILLIAM BRITAIN BOLDLY MARCHES FORWARD!

AUGUST 22 2006 – SOUTH LUFFENHAM - William Britain, the world's most famous toy soldier company, has taken the bold step of setting up its own UK office and distribution facility.

Since 1st Gear's acquisition of William Britain in September 2005 the company has gone from strength to strength and re-established itself as one of the Worlds leading toy solider manufacturers.

This rise back to the top of the toy soldier market was helped enormously by 1st Choice Collectables who took on the UK/European distribution, on behalf of 1st Gear in October 2005. The business has now grown to such an extent that the parent company, 1st Gear, decided it was time to run its own operation in the UK without the help of a third party distributor, and for this reason William Britain Ltd has been born.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all at 1st Choice Collectables/Humbrol for all their hard work in helping put the William Britain brand where it is today.

The company will be headed in the UK by Sam Kiff as Sales and Marketing Director, with Sandra Olinski as Office Manager. Sam has 10 years experience within the collectables industry, working previously at Lledo, Corgi, 1st Choice Collectables and Airfix.

The aim now is to drive the business forward with more investment into the toy soldier and diecast vehicle markets by parent company 1st Gear. 1st Gear products have already proved extremely successful in the UK and Europe.

These are very exciting times for 1st Gear and William Britain and the decision to now run the entire world-wide business directly can only be seen as a positive move for all concerned.

The new 2006 Second Half William Britain catalogue will be available imminently and will feature many new products, reaffirming 1st Gears commitment to investing in the toy soldier business.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Sam or Sandra on 0844 8006816

William Britain Ltd, Wireless Hill, South Luffenham, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 8NF

BRITAINS-FIRST GEAR AT THE OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW – CHICAGO

Britains – First Gear held two events at this years Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show, both on Saturday prior to Sundays event.

A Breakfast meeting with retailers to discuss current products and a brainstorming session aimed at floating ideas for future releases.

The Saturday evening buffet was hosted by the Britains – First Gear management in conjunction with the W Britain collectors club.

A special limited edition History of the British Army figure was included in the price of the event and many of the companies new releases were on show for the first time.

A further event is planned for Friday, December first in London at the Guards Museum Birdcage walk.

Britains Breakfast Group

Britains-First Gear L to R:
Richard Walker, Rich Knight, Ken Osen and Painter David Youngquist

Britains displayed a number of new products at their Saturday evening Old Toy Soldier show reception, shown here the 2006 Christmas special along with the new Blue Coat series and latest additions to the Redcoats, all attributed to designer Ken Osen.

Ken Osen with Christopher Kohout and his son. A special figure from the Redcoat series was available to all attendees at the reception, the figure a Private of the 50th Regiment of Foot 1868 will also be available at the Britains event to be held at the Guards Museum on Friday, December 1st in London. The item will then be withdrawn and not on general release through retail outlets.

OTSN's 27th Show
September 23, 2007
Soldier-Farm-Zoo Figures
10 am-3:30 pm $7 admission

Same place as always: The Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 E. Golf Road in Schaumburg, Illinois, only ten miles west of Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Children 12 and under free with an adult admission. Early admission during setup from 7 to 10 am is also available for $30. For more information, visit our website at **toysoldiershow.com** or call: Don Pielin at 630-497-1239 or Steve Sommers at 708-383-6525. Email: **dimestores@aol.com**

See you there!

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) Holiday Inn Bloomsbury London- September 2006

By Jeff Madisson

The third Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show was held in Central London's Holiday Inn Bloomsbury-September 2006.

In order to adequately do justice to this report, a well-known Americanism sums it up.

"Do the Math" Seventy five tables and 52 different dealers from the UK, USA, Italy, France and Germany + thousands of old toy soldiers and figures, all made prior to 1980 in lead, plastic and composition.

It all adds up to a unique focused, specialist, dateline event.

Add to the total the well appointed Holiday Inn conference facility, The Academy with it's superb lighting, efficient, professional and courteous staff.

Neatly structured table arrangements with white cloths, wide aisles and care and attention by dealers to the displays that they offer the visitor, further adds to the totality of this excellent show.

The show organized by Norman Joplin and sponsored by Old Toy Soldier magazine welcomed a number of traders who had forgone attendance at other events held the same day and by all accounts their participation paid off.

Keen, knowledgeable collectors focused on buying old toy soldiers and civilian figures were rewarded with a massive selection to choose from.

Britains, Mignot, Vertunni, Heyde, Lucotte, Johillco, Timpo, Crescent etc, the list is endless and all available under one roof on one day.

This is not the biggest show in the hobby, but it certainly ranks as one of the most interesting, if it is old toy soldiers and figures that you collect.

Opening time is 10.30 am in order to give traders an opportunity to properly set up their figures, early public entry is available at a premium.

So lets get the sum total after our mathematics lesson, best described by one well known US collector from New York.

"The organizer, having achieved the participation of all of these dealers specializing in old toy soldiers in one spot is to be congratulated on his show, it's a friendly event, where dealers and collectors alike have a common objective, that is to share and exchange knowledge as well as to buy and sell the cream of the crop in old toy soldiers"

An annual event, held each September, The 2007 date is September 8th.

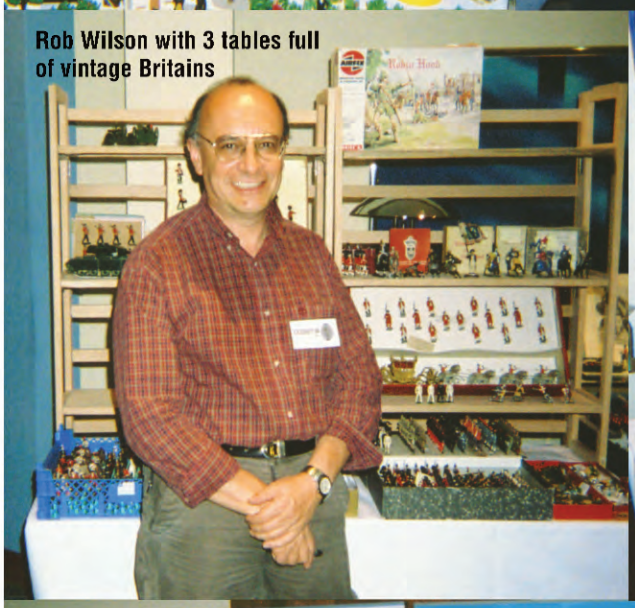
Collector John Waterworth had a diverse selection of old lead and plastic figures from his collection.

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

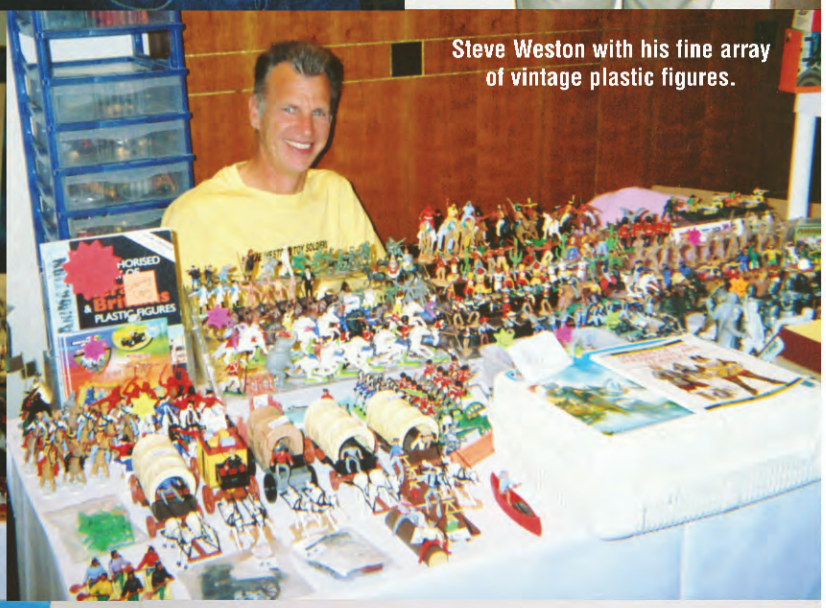
Angela and Steve Maryon, Angela was attending her first show and standing in for Roger Maryon who was recovering from heart surgery.

Alex Riches ,publicizing the British Model Soldier Society also had a sell out day.

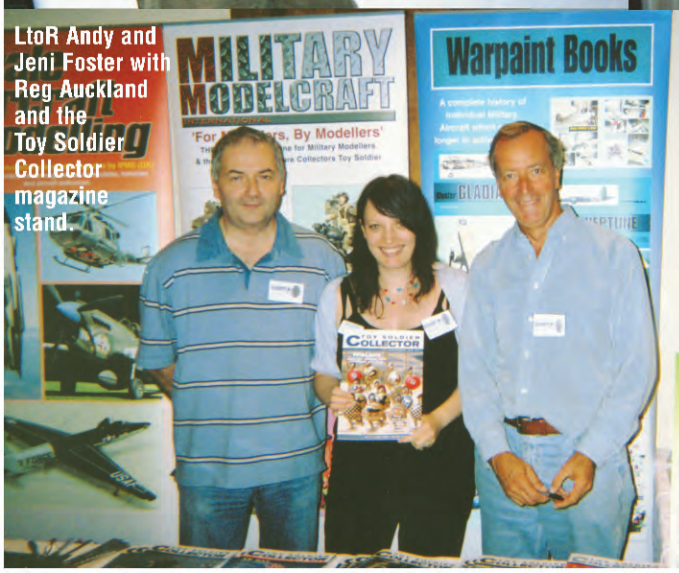
German collector Walter Badusche.



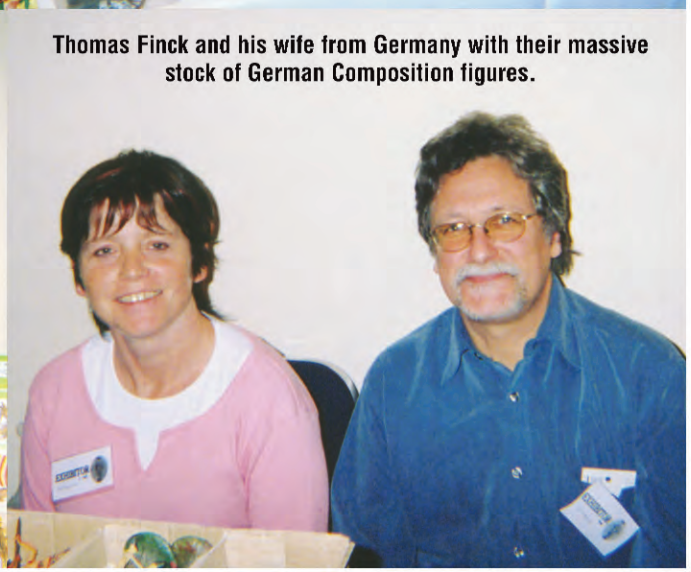
Rob Wilson with 3 tables full of vintage Britains



Steve Weston with his fine array of vintage plastic figures.



LtoR Andy and Jeni Foster with Reg Auckland and the Toy Soldier Collector magazine stand.

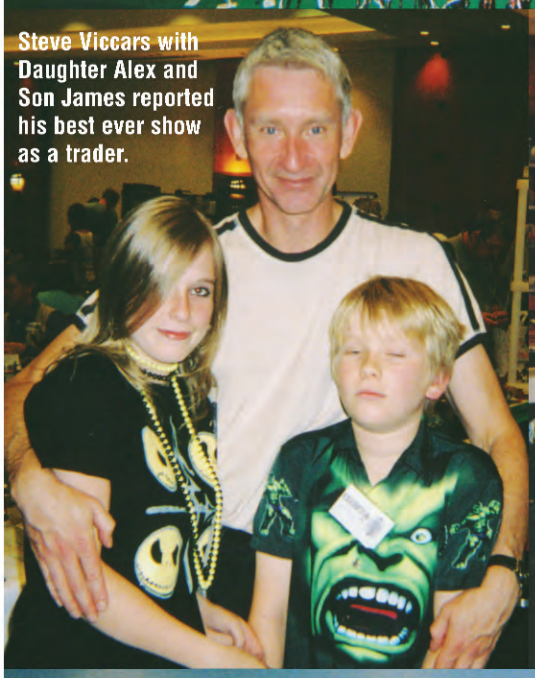


Thomas Finck and his wife from Germany with their massive stock of German Composition figures.

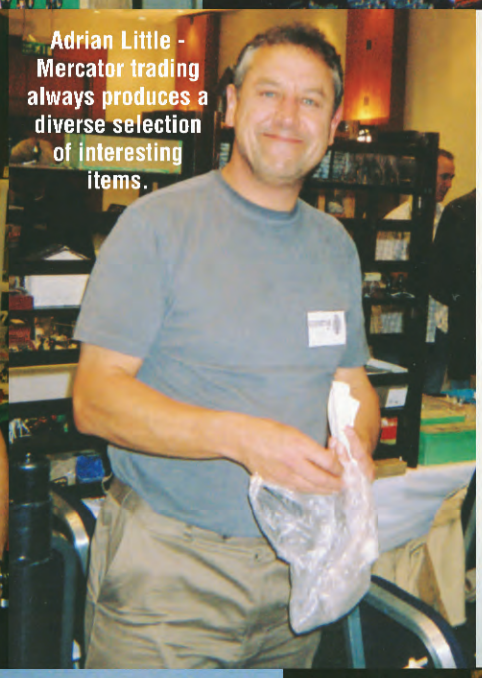
SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Lyn and Trisha Kenwood of MKL Models.

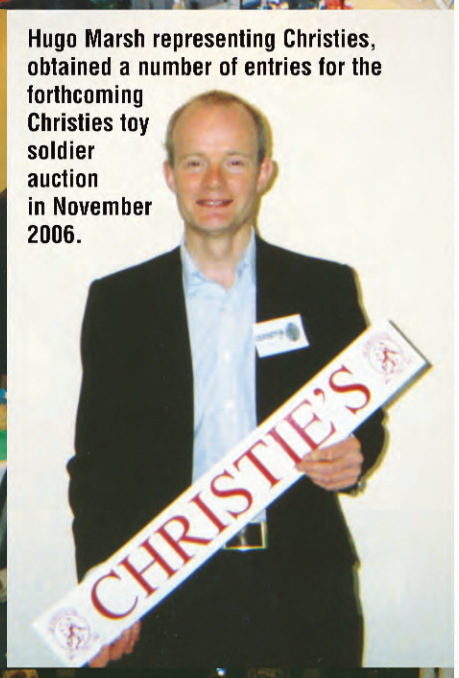
Dennis and Delia Slack ,their 3 tables were packed with military and civilian items.



Steve Viccars with Daughter Alex and Son James reported his best ever show as a trader.

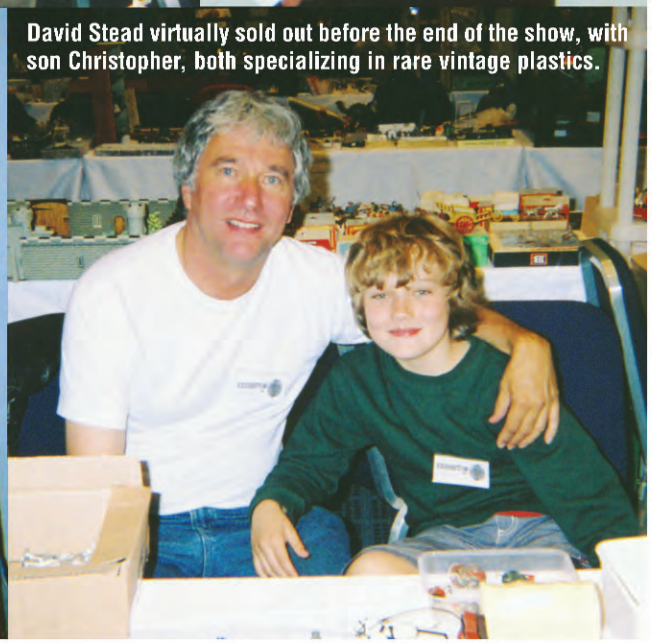


Adrian Little - Mercator trading always produces a diverse selection of interesting items.



Hugo Marsh representing Christies, obtained a number of entries for the forthcoming Christies toy soldier auction in November 2006.

L to R Ray Haradin from Pennsylvania and Craig McClain with wife Debbie from California combined a UK vacation with a visit to the show.



David Stead virtually sold out before the end of the show, with son Christopher, both specializing in rare vintage plastics.

Norman Joplin's

OLD TOY SOLDIER and FIGURE SHOW (UK)

SATURDAY 8th OF SEPTEMBER 2007

Holiday Inn London - Bloomsbury
Coram Street, London
WC1N 1HT
The Turner and Booker Suites
(Only 2 minute walk north of Russell Square Underground Station and 1 minute east of the Royal National Hotel)

ADMISSION £3

Entry to the PUBLIC - 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Early Bird entry from 6:30 AM - £ 15

For further details contact:
Norman Joplin
Telephone: 001-262-692-3913
e-mail: info@normanjoplin.com

Rob Wilson
Telephone: 01926 496062

Show sponsored by Old Toy Soldier Magazine

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

Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show

By Norman Joplin

OTSN show promoter Don Pielin reported a 900 paid attendance on Sunday at this years annual Old Toy Soldier Show at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Illinois. In addition over 100 youngsters were noted in the attendance figures.

Pre show room trading has, since 9/11 tended to begin on Wednesday prior to the show, with keen dealers and collectors hoping to pick up some of the rarer old toy soldiers and figures during this period.

Descending from the dizzy heights of the 2005 twenty fifth anniversary show, pre show hotel and floor traffic activity seemed somewhat slower than in previous years, yet this did not detract from the thousands of items both old and new Lead, Plastic and Composition that were on offer leading to Sundays' show.

One feature that created much interest was the attendance of collectors who were disposing of items as a result of last years Katrina disaster in New Orleans and surrounding area.

The social aspect of OTSN and the reunions that take place each year always make this week particularly enjoyable, with many fringe activities and dinner parties being arranged as collectors and friends re new or make new acquaintances throughout the week.

The Saturday pre show hospitality and table allocation event is always well attended and with the beer and wine flowing, little could be heard above the buzz of collectors and traders exchanging tales of finds and the ones that got away.

Some notable absences this year were K Warren Mitchell who had injured a shoulder while preparing to travel to the show, Canadian collector Stewart Saxe, Steve White from Tennessee and Greg Hahn, all of whom never usually miss the event.

Richard Conte returned after a couple of years and there were many new faces amongst the traders and public attendees.

With no Dimestore Breakfast this year, Britains First Gear did host both a traders breakfast gathering and a social event Saturday evening.

The pages of this issue of OTS again contain a photo gallery of many of those in attendance along with reports of the finds at the show.

Photos courtesy of Noel Schlageter

Bill Hocker

Doug from Michigan Toy Soldiers

The line for the empty box sale held by Scott Morlan from the front Ed Wilson, Gary Miller, Rob Wilson, Doug Treadwell, Jeff Caufield, Tom Litras, Frank Leo, and John Collen

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

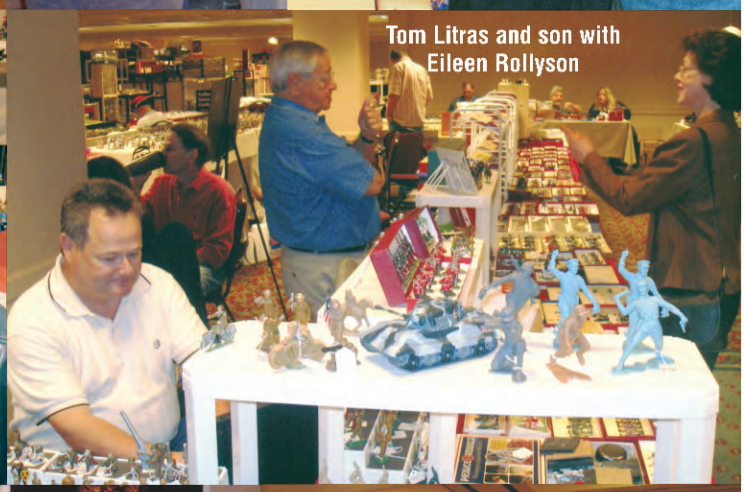
Tony Putzer

Dennis Fontana

Matt Murphy Hobby Bunker

Guys from Green Collectibles

Nancy Haradin and Sue Joplin


Tom Litras and son with Eileen Rollyson

Peter Nathan from Australia

Ken Mezines Castle World

Richard Conte

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Show Day Tables

Bob Fisher with Mignot by the score.

Gene Johnson and Neil Crowley with their Composition table.

Arnold Rolak and his Britains selection of Bands.

Christian Keller with his usual eclectic mix of old toy soldiers and figures

Scott Morlan (partially obscured), Michael O'Donnell and Jeff Caufield, between them selling hundreds of Old Toy Soldiers.

Linda and Steve Weston from the UK have become regular OTS participants with their plastic inventory.

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Show Day Tables

Michael Mattimore and Norman Rodreigas always have a superb selection of old and not so old toy soldiers.

The "Katrina" table on show day

Vertunni in profusion in the Pielin Brothers Emporum prior to the show.

Joe Wallis and Josie Sommers with their tables filled with Britains and Heyde.

Jack Updike chats with a customer, in the foreground Francoise Beaumont's table filled with French figures.

Craig "Bubba" McClain from California.

Plastic Figures and the Old Toy Soldier Chicago Show

By Steve Weston

Once again, we flew to Chicago, from London, en route to the OTS Show. Good fortune was with us, as we cleared Customs and Immigration quite speedily – more so when you consider that 2 full planes had decamped at once and converged at the same time into the Immigration area.

For once, this was being very well organised with an Officer on hand rapidly deploying visitors to the next available checkpoint.

Our luggage came of the carousel and we were hailing a cab quicker than you could blink!

In fact, from touchdown to arrival at the Hotel was just one hour! If only every Stateside trip could be thus so!!

Being this early was mixed blessing as we then had to wait for our rooms, but, once free of luggage, we were able to browse what few rooms were open – this being the Wednesday, but outside, plenty of sellers were arriving and off-loading their vehicles.

Over the next few days, many more arrived, with a surprising amount opting to drive rather than fly! Strange, as the 'problem' was meant to have been on our side of the Pond – not internally!

With fewer Europeans travelling meant there was less of a selection of plastics available (from the period after the Marx hey-day until present) than previous years.

Transo-gram was seemingly readily available, something that we don't see too much of in the U.K. and to this end, good friend Gareth Morgan scooped up plenty of Romans.

Based on the Timpo swoppets, inevitably, parts do get mixed up and sometimes they are hard to tell apart – so buyers beware. The Romans are the best from this Company, whilst the Indians can be very difficult to tell apart. The knights are much easier for the more experienced collector. Their legs and arms swivel – Timpo figures never did.

Last year I got my hands on some very good copies of the Britains Civil War Limber and cannons, whilst this year I stumbled across a boxed copy of their cannon complete with 4-man crew. (These look to be plastic 'chrome' plated, and I would guess that this Company was also behind the same finish Deetail Civil war copies that were around some 10/15 years ago.) This I found on the Saturday, and having visited this room so many times, I still wonder how I never spotted it before!

I also came across 3 boxes of 1/32 Airfix Napoleonic's, of which 2 were still shrink-wrapped. The oddity, for me anyways, was the fact that these were made by 'U.S. AIRFIX', which I am guessing was MPC. If you know anything about this Company, I would be pleased to know.

Hindsight: last year, a vendor had some re-issue Marx Ben Hur sets, which I passed on, only to kick myself ever since. This year, he was not present, and I searched fruitlessly for more of these items - but did manage to score some original Marx Ben Hur items at very good prices.

One room offered 2 large boxes of Herald swoppet Indians in beautiful condition – but in only 2 poses. Price was not high, but both Gareth and I passed on these. Joe Saine is now the proud owner, so contact him if you need some to finish your collection.

Good friend and great guy, Jimmy Pogswizd and a friend, had some very nice European plastics on display in a room, as well as quite a lot of the more common English older plastic from Crescent, Lone Star, etc. Nothing to tempt me, but nice to see the more unusual making the show.

As one would expect, Marx items were in abundance, so I just have to ask…. If there is SO much of it around, why does it have such a high price tag?

Britains Deetail was in abundance, as usual, and there was the occasional boxed sets which commanded a high price, but Swoppets – Civil war and Wild West were hard to find – although Rick berry and at least one other room had fine examples of the venerable Swoppet knights!! Previous years had yielded quantities of the Revolutionary War figures, but this year, these were scarce.

This is not usually a good show to find Timpo plastics at, if that is your thing, but this year, there seemed to be even less than usual, with one seller telling us that his wife advised him to leave it at home.

Plastic Figures and the Old Toy Soldier Chicago Show

One unique thing about this show, is that not everyone that trades from the room stays for the show, and on the Sunday some new Dealers arrive just for the day.

This brings fresh sources for plunder, so we were off once again, like men on a mission, to find hitherto uncovered treasures!

A boxed set of Swoppet knights was spotted, but this had been there the previous year, and the price tag was the reason. Some older boxed sets of English plastics were also there, but again, these were seen on the previous year.

There was a very nice display of hundreds of Spanish, and probably some other European makes, of scarce plastic figures. Oliver, Dio-Hara and much, much more.

However, I personally find European plastic too tall and skinny for my own taste.

It is very hard to focus sometimes, as the amount on offer is indescribable, and when you are trying to find one thing, it is easy to miss another, maybe even rarer item.

Each year I take my camera, and each year I don't take any pictures because it is just one more thing to remember to do!

There is nothing like attending a show – large or small – and to get to see so many great figures. It beats leafing through old catalogues, searching the internet and trawling Antique Markets.

You are surrounded by like-minded people, all with a myriad of interests, which ultimately blend into one.

Don't just sit there and read this, get up and think seriously about attending this one next year! You won't be sorry.

PENNSYLVANIA GI JOE SHOW

NOVEMBER 19, 2006

at the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel
400 Oxford Valley Rd., Langhorne, PA

New and Vintage 12" & 3 & 3/4" GI Joe, Dragon, BBI, Sideshow Toy, Ultimate Soldier and much more.

Admission:
Adults: $5
Children under 10 FREE!!

Time:
9 AM - 3 PM

Approx. 8 Miles North of Exit 351 of PA Turnpike (Rte. 276). Take Route 1 to Oxford Valley Road exit. Go right at the light and go three lights and make a left.

For more info on the show or dealer space, contact:

John Kozin
203-848-0980
OneSixthSynd@aol.com

Ed Gries
201-342-6475 (evenings)
201-257-2687 (All Day Cell)

http://www.kozinsmotorpool.com/pajoeshow/

Show Sponsored by:
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Hackensack, NJ 07602

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New Haven, CT 06512

Empire State
TOY SOLDIER SHOW and SALE

At the Holiday Inn at JFK
140-02 135th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11436

Sunday, December 3rd, 2006
Show Hours: 9:00 AM - 3 PM

Admission $5.00
Children under 16 Free with Adult

Come and See: New and Antique Metal and Plastic Toy Soldiers, Playsets, Diecast Vehicles, Toy Soldier and History related books and magazines, Figure Kits, Dioramas, and Terrain.

All aspects of the hobby will be covered by several dealers from around the Northeast.

Featuring: Current and Antique Britains, King and Country, Conte Collectibles, Marx, The St. Petersburg Collection, Composition, Dimestores, Frontline Figures, Imperial Productions, Trophy of Wales, Forces of Valor, 21st Century Toys, Figarti, East of India, Dragon Models, Hat Industrie, Barzso and Much More!

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Hobby Bunker, Inc.
33 Exchange Street
Malden, MASS. 02148
Phone (781) 321-8855
matt@hobbybunker.com

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Get Product info., Show info.
And Much More!

More information Available at www.hobbybunker.com

Directions: 1/4 Mile from Airport, Southern Belt PWY, Exit 150th St. from Manhatten: Queens Midtown Tunnel, I-495 East to Van Wyck EXY (I-678) South to Exit 2, Left at Rockaway Blvd, Right at 143rd St.
Train: Go to Supthin BLVD Station and take Q40 Bus to Hotel (3 Miles)

THE MARX-MAN PRESENTS

THE "NEW YORKER"
TOY SOLDIER & MILITARY MINIATURE SHOW AND SALE

(Not Affiliated With Any Other Show)

SHOW HOURS 9 AM To 3 PM

SUNDAY
December 10,2006

AT THE *Adria* HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
221-17 Northern Boulevard
Bayside, N.Y. (Off Cross Island Parkway)

The best recognized, well advertised and professionally promoted New York Toy Soldier Show and Sale Event!

***FEATURING*: the friendliest and highly respected Dealers in the Hobby, representing Antique and ContemporaryToy Soldiers in all Scales and for all Eras; Marx, Britains, Conte, IMEX, Elastolin, Dimestore, Timpo, King and Country, Trophy, Frontline, American and Russian Connoisseur Figures, Dragon, Hasbro G.I. Joe's, Military Memorabilia, Military Models, Books, and much more!**

"DOOR PRIZE VOUCHERS"
Redeemable with your favorite Vendor against purchase

ADMISSION
ADULTS $5.00
Children Under 12 FREE with Adult

FREE:
Coffee, Tea and Donuts!
(While they last)

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John Stengel
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For Directions Call: (718) 631-5900

Next Show
Mar.4th, 2007

"THE LARGEST SHOW OF ITS KIND IN NEW YORK"

SPONSORED BY THE MARX-MAN

Calling All Collectors

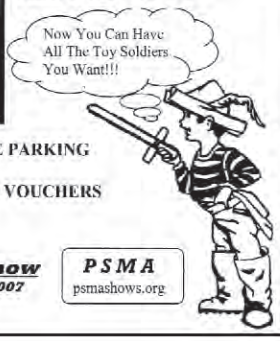
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2006
Show Hours 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

THE HUDSON VALLEY TOY SOLDIER & MILITARY MINIATURE FIGURE SHOW AND SALE

At
THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL & SUITES
66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10601 (Downtown Area)
(Not Affiliated With Any Other Show)
Only 10-12 minutes from the Tappan Zee Bridge

A Grand assembly of the highest caliber Vendors; representing all facets of the Hobby: Marx, Britains, IMEX, Trophy, Conte, Dimestore, Elastolin,King and Country, Lemans, Frontline, Dragon, American and Russian Connisseur Figures, Playsets, G.I. Joes, Books, Militaria, Military Kits, and a lot more!

AN EDUCATIONAL AND FUN OUTING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



ADMISSION
ADULTS $5.00
Children Under 12 FREE with Adult

- AMPLE FREE PARKING
- DOOR PRIZE VOUCHERS

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For Directions Call: (914) 682-0050

Next Show
JAN. 14, 2007

PSMA
psmashows.org

THE 8TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA TOY SOLDIER MILITARY & MINIATURE FIGURE SHOW AND SALE

FREE PARKING REAR OF HOTEL

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 19th, 2006

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

RAFFLE DRAWINGS FOR FREE PRIZES

ADMISSION ADULTS $5.00 Children Under 10 Free with Adult

AT

the SHERATON BUCKS COUNTY HOTEL

400 Oxford Valley Rd., Langhorne, Pennsylvania

Approx. 8 Miles North of Exit 351 of PA Turnpike (Rte. 276). Take Route 1 to Oxford Valley Road exit. Go right at the light and go three lights and make a left.

Antique and contemporary toy soldiers of all periods of history
Civilian, Farm, Zoo, Hunt, Railroad Figures, G.I. Joes and Action Figures.
Cowboys, Indians, Knights and Historical Figures, Marching Bands & Military Miniatures.
Plastic Figures, Dioramas, and Play Sets Featuring Marx, Toy Artillery and Vehicles

Over 100 Tables Featuring Britains, Elastolin, Trophy, Marboro, Dime Stores, Lemans, Frontline, Conté, King and Country, Dinky, Manoil, Barclay, Grey Iron, Johillco, Timpo and more ...

Including Modern American and Russian Connoisseur Figures, Military Memorabilia, Posters, Books, Video Tapes, Supplies, Prints, Molds, Kits, Castings, etc., etc. etc.

THIS SHOW SPONSORED BY:
RELIC GOLDEN AMUSEMENTS INC.
c/o Box 572, Hackensack, NJ 07602

PSMA psmashows.org

For Information Call - Ed Gries: 201-342-6475 - Evenings or Fax 201-342-6475

The New Annapolis Christmas Toy Soldier Show & Sale

Saturday, December 16, 2006
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The Annapolis National Guard Armory
18 Willow Road
Annapolis, MD 21431

Directions

East on US 50 to exit 23 (MD 450, E. ramp) toward MD Rte. 2 south. (Riva Rd) turn left onto West St. (MD Rts. 450), turn left onto Hudson St. Gate to Armory parking on the left.

West bound on US Route 50 Take exit 23A and proceed as above.

Contacts:

Ed Gries
Phone/Fax: 201-342-6475
Cell: 201-257-2687

Bill Harlowe
Phone: 804-448-1306
Cell: 703-216-1025

HEART of the SOUTH TOY SOLDIER MILITARY & MINIATURE FIGURE SHOW AND SALE

ADMISSION ADULTS $5.00 Children Under 10 Free with Adult

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 2nd, 2006

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

RAFFLE DRAWINGS FOR FREE PRIZES EVERY HOUR 10am - 1pm

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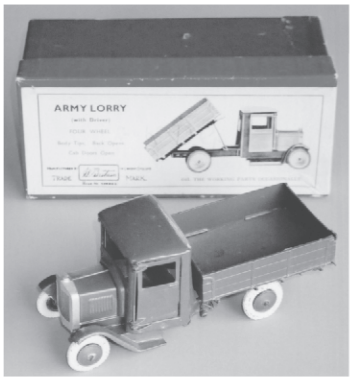

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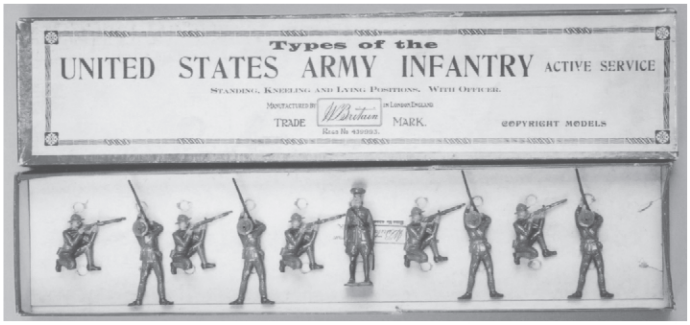

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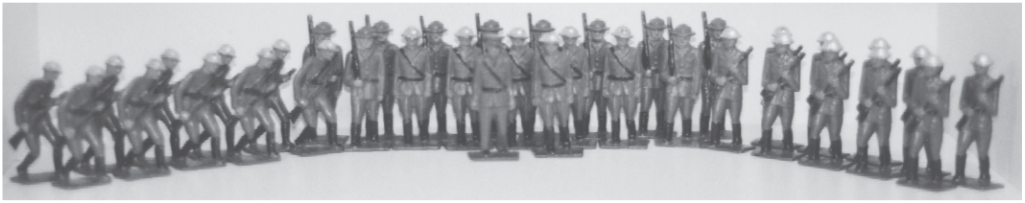

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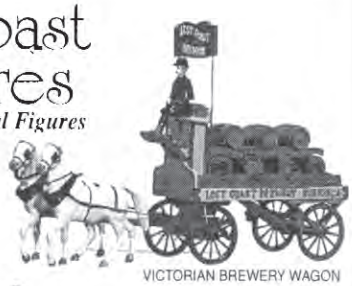

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W.Britains New Releases

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

The most impressive new figures unveiled at the OTS Show this year belonged to W.Britains. The amount of gloss and matte pieces was amazing, not only in quantity but most importantly in quality. Collectors should be pleased as several new lines were announced and exciting additons to existing ranges were displayed.

Gloss Figures

The gloss figure currently produced mirrors those original pieces created by William Britain right down to their pink cheeks. Depicting the history of the British Army 1670-1855, the "Redcoat Collection" has five new releases. Its counterpart, the "Bluecoat Collection" is a new range of single issue figures of the American Army 1775-1825, with an inaugiral issue of six pieces. An impressive nine new figures will be added to the Victoria Cross Series. Finally, regarding the Ceremonial Collection seven new U.S. Marine Corp figures will be available only to be matched by the new seven pieces of the British Royal Marines. Most manufacturers would be content to release this amount of new figures. For W.Britains, this is only a start.

Matte Figures

Major improvements in sculpting and painting have made W.Britains one of the elite manufacturers of toy soldiers. All equipment and uniforms regardless of the historical period depicted are extremely accurate and authentic down to the last button, buckle and belt. The dynamic poses are enhanced by the folds and crease of the uniforms. Superb shading and highlighting painting techniques at to the reaslistic effect that makes W.Britains figures some of the best on the market. Another touch that adds to the realistic effect is that the face of each figure is different. The matte finish figures are the most anatomically correct and realistic figures currently available to collectors.

So what are the new releases?

Beginning with the American Civil War, there are two, three piece sets of the Confederate Stonewall Brigade along with two sets of Union infantry in frock coats and Hardee hats.

World War II additions are a German Seyr vehicle whose crew has been ambushed and an excellent U.S. M8 Greyhound armoured car with three figures. The World War II range has some very imaginative offerings. The three man U.S. bazooka team is excellent and on the Axis side so is the fallschirmjager MG42 machine gun crew. The MG42 is resting on the shoulder of the foremost fallschirmjager while his comrade is behind him firing the weapon is very unique. The painting of the camoflauge on the fallschirmjager's type 2 jumpsmock is outstanding.

W.Britains has ventured into World War I, a period long neglected by other manufacturers. The Battle of Mons ,1914 is the choosen period with British, French and German figures available. Existing sets of the British Royal Fusiliers will soon be joined by three mounted individual figures of the 9th Lancers. Two different charging pieces will compliment the figure of VC recipient Captain Charles Grenfell. These are some of the best mounted figures available. Both horse and rider are superbly sculpted in a most convincing pose, conveying the action and frenzy of charging cavalry. Finally, a three piece set of two Royal Fusiliers with a German prisoner is a nice variant for collectors.

Continuing on the Allied side are three new French infantry sets. Dressed in their 1914 uniforms of dark blue greatcoat and red kepi and pants all the figures are in varying charging poses. A charging command set of two figures and two additional charging sets totaling five figures will be available. Hopefully there will be additional French sets produced.

An excellent three man set that is moving a machine gun compliments the three current German infantry sets. The Germans will have three individual mounted pieces of the "Deaths Head" Hussars to counter the British 9th Lancers. Two hussars charging with lances and an officer with pistol are soon to be released. The quality of painting and sculpting of the hussars who are wearing their fur busbys is on par with the British 9th Lancers.

Two completely new lines will become available: Waterloo-The Defence of Hougoumont and Yorktown.

The British Coldstream Light company is represented with two defending sets and a hand to hand combat set. On the French side, two assaulting sets of line chasseurs and one of line grenadiers are planned. The painting and sculpting are top notch as is typical of all W.Britains matte sets. Braiding, epalettes, uniform facings and shako plates are all well executed. The historical accuracy of armament and equipment is outstanding, even the briquet, (small infantry sword), is sculpted correctly as it appears on the line chasseur figures.

The most ambitious new line has to be the Yorktown range.

The Americans will have two, three piece sets and five individual figures, while the British will have four multiple piece sets and three indvidual offerings. Four seperate scenic redoubt pieces will be available to further enhance this range. As all the figure sets are either assaulting, (American), or defending the redoubts, (British), collectors may accurately replicate the famous assault on Redoubt #10. Each redoubt piece is highly detailed with palisades, ramparts and logworks. Two of the redoubt sets further increase the individuality of the assault with their own specific American infantrymen figures.

Defending the redoubt will be figures representing the 17th Regiment of Infanty and the 71st Infantry Highlanders. Defending, firing and comand sets will be available for each regiment. W.Britains in keeping true to their high standards of historical accuracy have the 71st Highlanders dressed in pants, with only their officer wearing the kilt as was the case at Yorktown.

Assaulting the redoubt will be sets of Continetal Infantry, the New York Light Infantry and the Rhode Island Light Infantry. The Continental and New York regiments are in blue coats with white pants, with the New York regiment wearing their light infantry hat. The Rhode Island regiment was composed of mainly African-Americans dressed in white pants and jackets. W.Britains has correctly portrayed this regiment even down to the anchor insignia on the hats.

Richard D. Walker, General Manager of W.Britains is to be commended for his leadership which has made W.Britains one of the elite manufacturers of toy soldiers. By releasing such a vast amount of new product, Mr.Walker has demonstrated to collectors that W.Britains is a major player in the toy soldier world.

There is no doubt Mr.Walker is committed to providing to collectors the finest figures on the market. The painting, sculpting, packaging, quality control and frequent new releases insure that collectors may buy with confidence some of the most impressive toy soldiers available.

CONTACT INFORMATION

See W.Britains advertisement in this issue.

17836

Redoubt #10 - British 71st Highlanders

Defending Set #1, 3 Piece Set

Reiner Krock Figures

By Russ Bednarek

Collectors often lament the fact that their favorite toy soldier manufacturer hasn't produced a specific figure, set or piece of equipment. There is always hope that your company will listen to your request and produce that set or figure from your wishlist.

The collector of old toy soldiers whose manufacturer is no longer in business is faced with two options; rely on their own artistic abilities to create the figure, or hope that some entrepreneur will produce that special set.

Those who collect Lineol and Elastolin may now turn to Reiner Krock to fulfill their collecting needs and wishes. Formerly known as the German Modeling Group, (GMG), Reiner produced metal figures in the style of Lineol and Elastolin during the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Now working with a new medium resin, Reiner has created a significant amount of new and exciting figures. Combining resin with a metal armature, (in true Lineol and Elastolin style), the end result is a perfect 75mm figure which agreeably compliments original pieces.

The most interesting figures offered are pieces which Reiner himself has created. Collectors now have the opportunity to add figures to their collections which up to now, have never been made. A wide variety of choices are available such as: Waffen SS, panzer crews and mechanics, fallschirmjager, and aircraft armourers and mechanics. Over twenty pieces are available in each of these new ranges.

In addition to new figures, a number of architectural pieces are offered to help create an infinite number of vignettes. These items range from simple street lamps to various walls, monuments and columns.

Animation and detail of the figures is excellent, while the quality of painting is of a very high standard. Prices are generally in the $35-$40 range per figure, with musicians, flagbearers and mounted pieces proportionately more.

Herr Krock's figures are available from Carlos Araujo. I had the good fortune to meet with the most amiable Mr.Araujo and discuss Krock's work at this year's Old Toy Soldier Show. Although I am not a composition collector, I found a most intriguing group of figures which I purchased, and promptly placed an order for additional pieces.

Composition collectors owe it to themselves to obtain a catalogue and explore the possibilities for expanding and enhancing their collections. I'm sure they will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and quantity of Reiner Krock's figures.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Mr.Carlos Araujo
784 Woodale
Bloomfield Hills, MI. 48301-2467
PHONE: 1-248-642-8681
Email:Araujoca@Comcast.net

Morgan Miniatures

By Russ Bednarek

Conquest of Mexico

Launched at the Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show, the first Conquistador figures by Gareth Morgan were on view during preshow room trading in Steve Weston's room and again in the main ballroom on show day.

Each of the figures comprises 7 or 9 pieces, is armed with a sword and comes in 60mm, matt painted finish. The multi purpose principle allows 64 different figures to be produced, each one being painted differently as the Conquistador's in reality did not have a standard uniform. The figures are designed, assembled and painted in the UK.

Gareth Morgan is a keen collector of new metal figures and decided to start this new venture as he felt the period and subject matter had largely been neglected by other firms.

The Conquistador's fought in the Americas from Peru to Texas. The first range of adversaries produced will be Aztecs, which it is hoped will be available at the Toy Soldier London in December 2006.

Painted figures retail at $35 and castings $15.

The range of Conquistador's can also be utilized to represent figures from the reunification of Spain, the French and Italian wars, the war with Elizabethan England and even the English Civil War.

Gareth recruited the assistance of Mike Easton who is owner of Alma Figures when deciding to have the range sculptured.

More new releases are planned for March 2007,the current figures being available by contacting Alma Figures almafigures@aol.com

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A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA, PART ONE

By Gus Gardner

In December of 1997, I was deeply immersed in the toy soldier "auction of the year". Christie's, in New York, was auctioning off the first portion of the Malcolm Forbes collection. Lot #1, Blenheim US Naval Acadamy Color Party was to be my barometer of how I would do in this auction, as I had rejected an identical set the week before at $100. When the hammer fell at $700, I think everyone involved knew they were not going to be getting any bargains at this auction. Those of you who were there remember that as the day went on, lot after lot set new records, frequently exceeding ten times their estimated value, as collectors fought to secure a piece of the famous Forbes collection.

N.120; Malay Armed Police, 1897, one of those first sets from the Forbes auction

Later in the day, a series of Nostalgia sets came to the block. Like many collectors, I had seen some Nostalgias before, but had never paid particular attention to them. This time, however; just because of their appearance (or perhaps out of frustration) I found myself bidding and winning some at, by Forbes standards, fairly reasonable prices. I did not realize it then, but I had started off on a collectors greatest joy, or in some cases worst nightmare - the start of a new collection.

Over the next several years, I continued to accumulate a few more sets, frequently not knowing which units they represented. I went through all of my reference material, checked old auction catalogues, talked with other collectors and dealers, etc.. All to little avail. The questions were coming faster than the figures. Of the sets I had, over half of them were not identified, and I had even more questions on some of those that I thought were identified. The lack of information was starting to be irritating.

Let me interrupt the dialogue here and tell you what little I had learned by this time. Nostalgia figures were produced by long-time London toy soldier dealer and collector Shamus O. D. Wade, who researched, commissioned and marketed them. They were originally manufactured by Jan and Frank Scroby beginning in 1974, and production ended in 1982.

The Scrobys were London Portobello Road antique dealers, who with the loss of traditional lead figures after 1966, decided to produce their own non-lead figures. By 1975, with Jan sculpting and Frank managing production, they had relocated to Pontycymmer, Wales, and successfully developed the Blenheim range of figures.

Shamus Wade wanted to produce figures that represented the whole of the British Empire, "the greatest Empire the world had ever known." His emphasis was to be on Colonial and Commonwealth troops, because he wanted to recognize their part in creating and maintaining the

N.178; Fanti Woman Carrier, 1874, with baby.

N.217; Sergeant of New Guinea Armed Constabulary, 1899, carrying daughter.

Empire. He performed detailed research on the origin and history of the units. Pictures were an important part of his research and he was diligent in his use of not just formal paintings / prints, but also the sketches and photographs by correspondents that were on the scene of many of the actions that were depicted. These visual records played an important part in his work, and supported his philosophy that the molds would be unique for each figure and would represent its ethnic, cultural, and national origin in a manner that went beyond skin and uniform color. He also wanted to present the figures / units at a specific point in time that he could validate, and show them as they actually appeared. He was certain that new production techniques would make it possible to create the unique individual figures that he wanted for each set. He would not limit himself to changing an arm and a head, applying a different paint scheme, and calling it a different unit. The scope of what he intended to create was too varied to allow this style of production.

With his research in hand, and a firm understanding of what he wanted to do, he sought out the Scrobys to produce his new figures - Nostalgia. The first set being the Hong Kong Submarine Engineers, 1897, it was a brilliant choice. Jan Scroby's attention to detail in the figures was excellent, reflecting Wade's research in a meticulous and imaginative way. Examples of this are obvious in the detailing of the uniforms, the bushy hair treatment of aborigines, the baby on the back of a Fanti Woman Carrier (N.178) [Fig. #2], or the child on the arm of a New Guinea Constable (N.217) [Fig. #3].

By June of 1977, they had produced 139 completely different figures. After limited runs, most of less than 100 sets, the molds were destroyed. The Wade-Scroby arrangement lasted until 1980 when the Scrobys felt they needed to focus their efforts on Blenheim. The production of Nostalgia was taken over by Andrew Rose who did the sculpting, with Peter Cowan on the production end.

This was pretty much the extent of my knowledge.

By 2002, I had about 20 sets in hand. Through auction catalogues, books, etc., I had been able to identify at least another 30 sets. I also knew that the figures had set numbers engraved on the bases, and I had seen sets numbered in the four hundreds. The idea of collecting all of the Nostalgias was starting to look formidable.

Another frustration was starting to build. Many of us who enjoy this hobby, are amateur historians. A few of the sets that I obtained represented units that were known to me, and I was able to research a couple of others, but most were unknown. Who for instance, were the Blockhouse Guards, or Lord Gifford's Scouts. I heard that Wade had prepared monographs for his sets, but I had yet to see one.

As you can see I had only the most basic information.

After the Old Toy Soldier Show that year, I received a call from Scott Morlan in California. He had located a Nostalgia collection of about 80 sets. Would I be interested? After prolonged negotiations (where I am certain I demonstrated my really sharp negotiating skills) lasting about fifteen seconds, we reached agreement.

Scott did a great job, and shortly I had the contents of three large cartons spread across my work table. Altogether, there were about 70 sets, some partials, and a small group of miscellaneous figures. Scott and the original owner had also come up with about 20 original boxes, and they had tagged everything with their "best guesses" of what sets they were. On the negative side, with the exception of identifying some more sets that I had not previously known, I did not feel that I had gained any knowledge. The previous owner did not have any of Wade's original information, or any other material. In fact, I gained 50 more questions about individual figures and sets. Also, some overall issues were emerging. For example, somewhere I had learned that the 48th Highlanders of Canada were followed immediately by the Royal Guides of Canada.

Now I knew that these were sets number 235 and 238 respectively. What had happened to 236 and 237, and what did that imply for the numbering system? Also, now that I had a fair sample of boxes, it was becoming obvious that they were all numbered in the high 200's and above. What was this all about?

Although I greatly enjoyed the figures for their own sake, I was becoming frustrated by the lack of information. More books were added to my library, additional auction catalogues were obtained and

scrutinized, internet "search engines" were exercised, and more collectors and dealers were cornered and queried. Some additional bits and pieces were uncovered, but there were no major breakthroughs.

In March of 2003, my wife and I were planning a trip to London and Munich. She was surfing the internet looking for airline and hotel reservations, what was playing at the theaters, etc. I was thinking about toy soldiers. Who I would see, what might they have. Check Vectis, Bonhams, and Christies schedules, etc. For whatever reasons of serendipity, I started to think; "search", "London", "Shamus O.D. Wade", "1974 - 1982" (as I get older, 20 years does not really seem that long ago). Could it really be that simple? Thirty minutes later I asked the question, "Is this the Shamus Wade who was the toy soldier dealer and produced the Nostalgia figures?"; and heard "That was a long time ago". We had a breakthrough.

My request to Wade was simple, I was looking for any and all information he had on his figures and I would be pleased to compensate him for his efforts. A month later I opened a thick envelope from London, and to my delight I had:

- A listing of all of the Nostalgia sets.
- A Brief History of Nostalgia Models; Shamus O. D. Wade; May, 1976; London, U. K. This brochure listed and reviewed all of the figures produced thru May, 1976 and included the historical monographs that I was so eager to see.

- Nostalgia Models, The "New Old" Toy Soldiers; Shamus O. D. Wade; 1981; London, U.K. This advertising pamphlet described the ideas behind Nostalgias, and pictured many of the figures produced to date.
- And finally, copies of Wade's mailings from June 1976 through the end of production. These were used to introduce the figures and contained a brief description of the sets, as well as the monographs.

After studying the material, I felt that I finally had some understanding of Nostalgias, and a basic idea of what Wade had intended when he produced them. Wade referred to his figures as ""New old" toy soldiers". In his mail listings, he always introduced the section devoted to Nostalgias with "Nostalgia Models are made in the style of old toy soldiers (but better painted). They have movable arms and they are painted in gloss paint." They were a good deal more than that. In the chronology of "post-lead" British toy soldiers, I have come to think of Blenheims as the first figures to be produced in any substantial quantity. They are very fine well executed figures, true to the tradition of Britains which they were intended to replace. They provided children and collectors a ready substitute for the toys they had lost. Coldstream, Grenadier and Scots Guards were on parade. Life and Horse Guards were again available. Line Regiments, Colors, Bands and troops in action, were soon added to the line. They were intended to stock the shelves of toy stores and fill the gap left by Britains and other manufactures of traditional metal figures.

Wade wanted to offer a different product. He wanted to give collectors new figures that they had not seen before, but appeared in a format they were familiar with, and were a logical addition to many collections. His decision to honor Colonial and Commonwealth troops made perfect sense, in that it provided a vast array of possibilities, and allowed him to pursue his personal interest in the peoples who made up the Empire.

Wade had an additional motive when starting Nostalgia. At that time, a large circulation military modeling magazine, was churning out what he felt was little more than Nazi propaganda, by referring to the S.S. of the Third Reich as "this band of brothers". I think that most of us who lived through the Second World War, or have ever studied that period of our history, would not feel that the S.S. are a very good example of brotherhood. And yes, I am familiar with the Waffen S.S., and I include them in that sentiment.

I certainly feel that the British Empire, focused as it originally was on the enrichment of Britain; evolved into a far more positive example of brotherhood and cooperation between men of different races, creeds or religions. To me at least, this is especially so in the Victorian era and as the Commonwealth emerged.

Enough editorializing.

Some writers have stated that Nostalgias are based on Queen Victoria's 1897 Diamond Jubilee, or Indian troops, or African and Boer War units. Although they are well represented, they were not the focus. Originally Wade hoped to offer a set of figures representing each of the Colonies / Commonwealths from the period 1850 -1910. In the early 1980's, partly in recognition of the restrictions this had placed on him, he decided to expand his scope to include the years 1066 - 1943. This led to the Loyalist and Canadian units of the American Revolution as well as several other interesting sets. Although his goal of producing a set for each Commonwealth proved elusive, he remained true to his desire to present the units as they actually appeared. This led to his research at the National Army Museum, etc., and the pictorial records in their archives. The Jubilee, India, and the Boer War are all well documented and became excellent sources of inspiration; however, Wade went well beyond these areas. He included figures from the West Indies, the Mediterranean Colonies, Australia and New Zealand, etc. Until you are exposed to a wide sample of Nostalgias, it is difficult to appreciate their scope and variety.

Although Wade did not start out to produce "limited edition" figures, neither was he prepared to offer "open stock". What he did was produce the number of sets that he thought his clientele could absorb in a reasonably short period of time, and then he was on to the next set. With the molds destroyed this

resulted in producing limited editions of less then 100 sets, more often around 60.

An aspect that many collectors overlook, and of which new collectors of Nostalgias frequently are not aware, is the monographs. These contain brief histories of the units, the origins of the soldiers who filled their ranks, the actions they fought in, and the occasional anecdote about the people, places and times. These have become an integral part of my collection. You quickly realize that it was not just the Gordon Highlanders, the Buffs, and the 11th Hussars who established and maintained the Empire; it was more often some little known unit like the Gold Coast Hausas (N.29) or the Kossoo Swordsmen (N.187) who were at the point.

N.29; Gold Coast Hausas, 1897

N.187; Kossoo Swordsman and Chief, 1874

For toy soldier enthusiasts, Wade's legacy extends well beyond the actual production of Nostalgias. The scope of his product, and the level of detail that was incorporated, I believe provided inspiration for a new generation of manufacturers. Blenheim led to Marlborough, Bastion, Wessex, Trophy, Fergueson, and the list goes on. Today we enjoy a wide variety of figures whose linage reflects Wade's efforts. The Zulu Wars are now available in abundance.

The variety of Indian troops, and scenes, is truly amazing. We can choose from basic Sepoys to stately Sikhs, from untouchable sweepers to the grand elephant corteges of the Delhi Durbar. As many choices as we have today, we still do not have the full range that Wade offered. It is understandable, but regrettable, that some of the areas he covered may not be very marketable. However, would it not be nice to see all of the West India Regiments, or possibly an expanded range of Canadians. I very much doubt that there will ever be another source for many of his African troops.

Part two of this series of articles will appear in Old Toy Soldier Magazine, Volume 30 #4, due for release February 2007.

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Christies Auction Preview
South Kensington, London Toy Soldier and Figure Auction
November 20th 2006

By Norman Joplin

Several collections are on offer at this auction, including the Hank Sigourney toy soldier and civilian collection, which contains early Britains Mechanical toys, rare Britains Military pre war boxed sets, Britains Paris Office figures and many rare and unusual civilian items by various British manufacturers.

The Charles Biggs collection of original Britains Factory plaster masters is further enhanced by many prototype items from the Britains company including master figures and rare pre or non production items.

Several other vendors have submitted items for the sale amongst which is a comprehensive collection of post war Britains sets in their original boxes and a collection of Heyde and other European scenes depicting civilian items.

A group of continental flat figures is also featured.

Details of the sale, catalog requests and general information can be obtained by contacting Hugo Marsh hmarsh@christies.com Telephone 011 (44) 207 752 3274.

German Flats. Circus attractions including magic shows, slide shows and two tightrope walkers, circa 1840, and later elephant, Village Market scene with house, trees, spit-roast, toy stall, cooked food vendors, fruit and vegetable baskets and cakes and drinks tables, circa 1840 and assorted civilian figures walking or on horseback, circa 1880 (F-G, some slight paint loss, three heads missing) £200 - £250

Heyde Snow Garden twenty-five figures of snow-ballers, sledgers and pond-skaters, fencing, loofah trees, painted wooden buildings and mirror pond (F-VG) £600 - £800

A rare Heyde Garden including painted tinplate greenhouse and two cold frames, pair of tinplate and lead crouching lions on plinths and circular pond, with lady on swing, various seated ladies, gentlemen and children, nanny pushing pram, nanny with child, gardeners - with watering cans, plant trays, rake, spade and planting out, plants including ferns, trees, flowers in tubs, various circular and straight flower bed edgings, fencing and gates, tub and urn, circa 1900 (G, some F-G) £800 - £1200

A rare Heyde No.1375 North Pole Expedition comprising tinplate sailing ship with Union Jack on forward mast trapped in ice floe, with gang plank, tinplate hut with smoking chimney, diorama of two men and two dogs attacking polar bear, tinplate simulated snow base, fire with two men tending cooking pots, surveyor with oversized compass and chart table, telescope on tripod, dog sledges - one for supplies, one covered and one for boat, one man checking pony's hoof, four skiers, polar bear, five other men and ten dogs circa 1910 (F-G) and two cream fabric tents with blue Stripes £1000 - £1500

Original Plaster Master and Rubber casting for Britains Madame Tussaud - Charles Biggs Collection

Britains Paris Office Japanese - Sigourney Collection

Britains Parrot on Perch Master with Box - Charles Biggs Collection

A selection of Britains Plaster Masters with Master figures - Charles Biggs Collection

Britains unique Factory Sample depicting the Christmas range predominately made as cake decorations for Culpitt - Sigourney Collection

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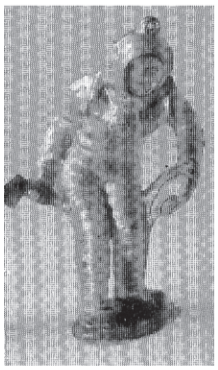

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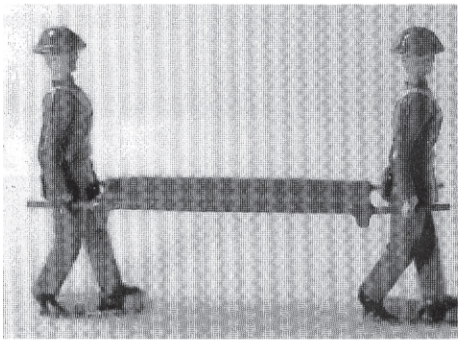

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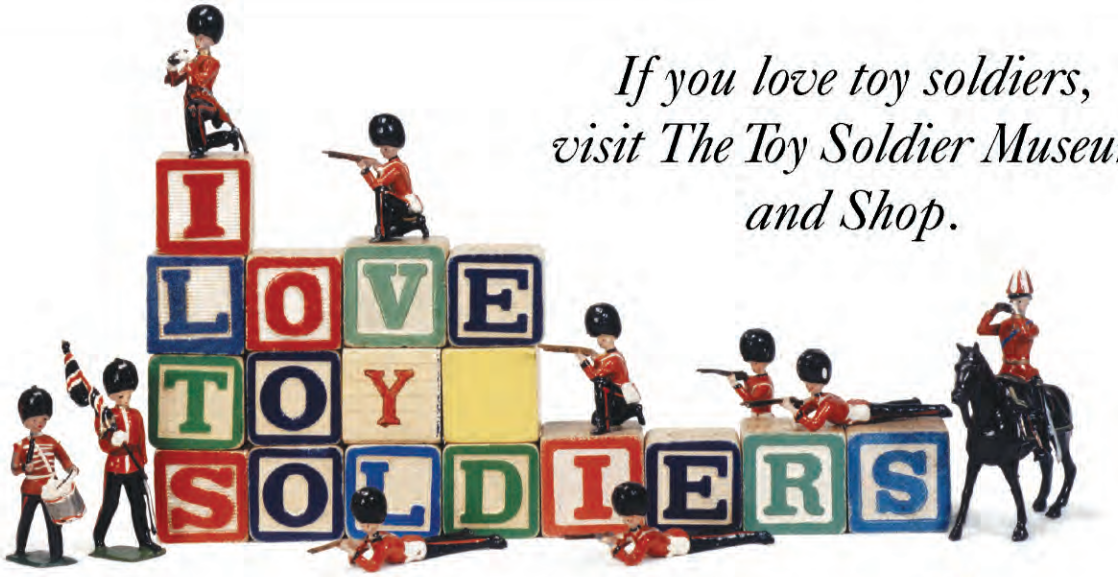

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Uniforms of Imperial & Soviet Russia In Color

By Robert W. Kenny
Illustrated by Herbert Knotel
Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

Herbert Knotel is known as one of the world's most famous painters of military men. A veteran of World War I, Knotel's wartime experiences greatly influenced his artistic style. Knotel preferred to paint his subjects as they appeared in the field;dusty, dirty, but ever alert.

After World War I, Knotel received his training on painting and researching military uniforms from his father Richard, a true icon of uniformology. The older Knotel is best known for his voluminous Grosse Uniformkude, a masterful study of military uniforms of the world. Herbert worked in collaboration with his father on several albums of military uniforms and several series of the then popular cigarette card. Productive his entire life, Herbert continued studying,researching and painting until his death in 1963.

The Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection is housed at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. An avid military collector, Mrs.Brown amassed an amazing collection of military books, albums, artwork and toy soldiers, acquired during her world travels. It was not uncommon for Mrs. Brown to commission work from some of the world's most famous military artists for her collection. The sheer volume and diversity of the Anne S.K. Brown Collection makes it a virtual treasure trove for the study of military uniforms.

"Uniforms of Imperial & Soviet Russia In Color" is a compilation of Herbert Knotel's work which was recently discovered in the Anne S.K. Brown Collection. Author Robert W. Kenny, a military researcher at Brown University, has done an excellent job of creating a vivid uniform study of the Russian Army from 1907-1946 utilizing Herbert Knotel's work.

Mr.Kenny discovered three separate series of Knotel's work regarding the Russian Army and has managed to present them in a succinct seamless study. The first one hundred plates illustrate all branches of the Russian Army from 1907-1920.

The second portfolio is the "Berlin Series", a study of Russian forces which occupied the German capital at the end of World War II. Contained within the "Berlin Series" are images contracted by the U.S. Military Intelligence Section G-2. The plates were used by Allied personnel to help familiarize them with the various elements of the Soviet Army. The "Berlin Series" and the G-2 commissioned work, (Series "A" in the book), account for a total of forty-five plates.

The final fifty images depict the Russian/Soviet uniforms of 1921-1946. These works were separately commissioned by Mrs.Brown with the majority focusing on the "Cold War" years.

As is typical of all Schiffer titles, quality is of the highest degree. Hardbound with dustjacket, each of the one hundred ninety color plates is expertly presented within it's own 9"x13" glossy page. Text is minimal, limited to the title beneath each plate.

Enthusiasts of the Russian/Soviet Army will find this work invaluable. Every image shown in "Uniforms of Imperial & Soviet Russian In Color" appears for the first time in print and is certain to increase its appeal to students of military uniforms. Herbert Knotel's efforts have provided uniform information on Russian military dress of this ear that has been difficult to come by until now.

Thank you to Schiffer Publishing who generously supplied a copy for this review.

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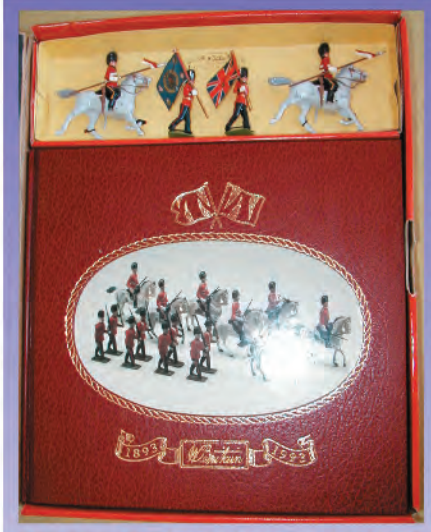

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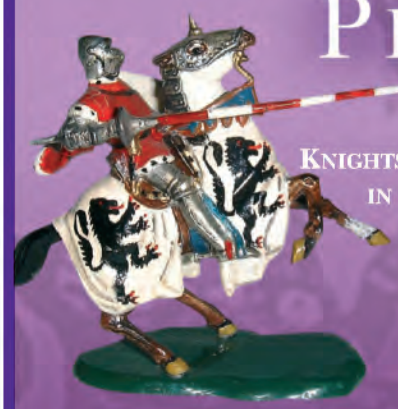

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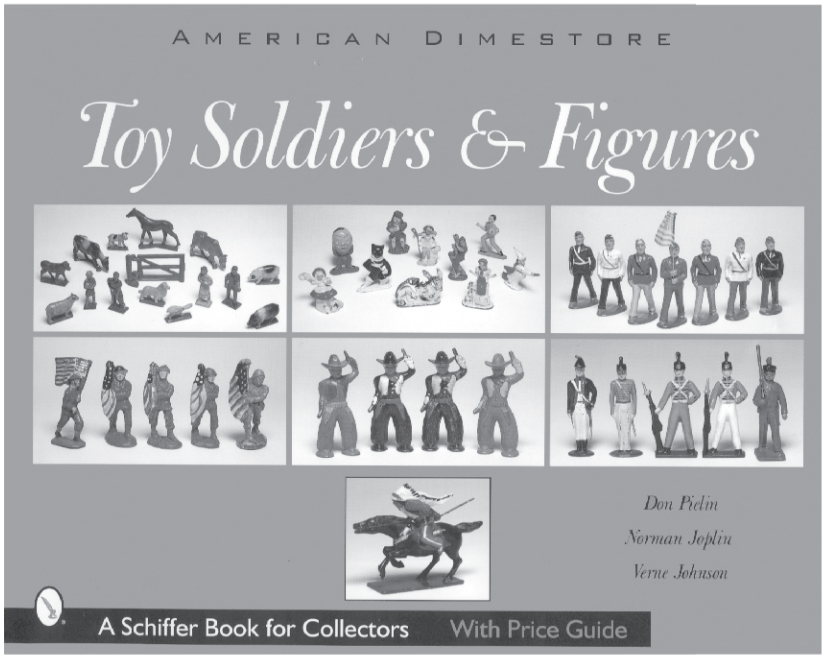

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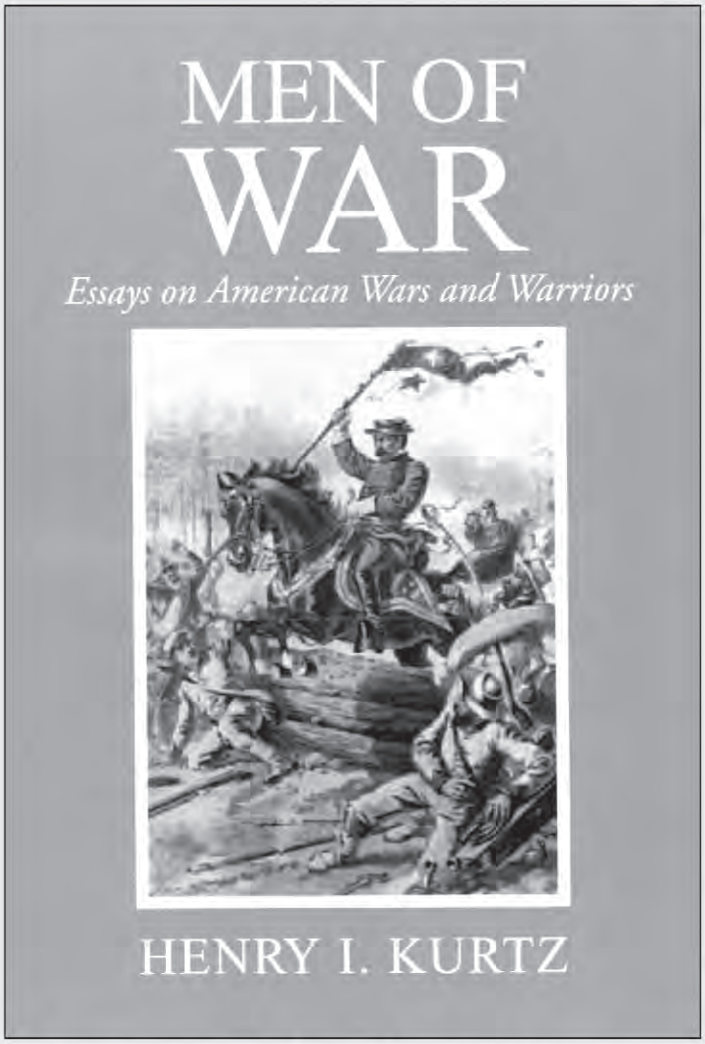

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Manoil Dimestore Wheelchair Wounded and Nurse

By Norman Joplin

Ron Eccles preparatory work for the Wheelchair wounded figure, left cardboard mock up from picture of original and right plaster master produced by a professional model maker

The annual Old Toy Soldier Show held in Chicago each September always produces a multitude of interesting, rare and not so rare, valuable and not so valuable items. They all have one thing in common however, and that is they are all desirable depending on the direction of toy soldier and figure collecting that one follows.

In order to weave this story into an article it necessitates a little background information first. There are seven factors that contribute to the article and will hopefully raise discussion amongst Dimestore collectors.

1) The question of the rarest Dimestore figure?
2) In this case the Manoil Wheelchair wounded and Nurse – Was the item ever produced by Manoil ?
3) The compilation by the late Donald Hovde of a Dimestore rarity list.
4) The recent Stan Alekna listing and his interpretation of the Rarest Dimestore.
5) Old Toy Soldier Newsletter show Dimestore Breakfast.
6) Eccles Brothers annual production figure for the above.
7) Eyewitness recollections of seeing the original item in the Five & Ten cents store.

The late Donald Hovde who was actively collecting Dimestore figures issued a list of the rare Dimestore figures produced by Manoil, Barclay and Grey iron, this list was distributed to collectors in an effort to track down the rarer items missing from his collection. The Manoil Wheelchair Wounded and Nurse appeared as number 1 on the Manoil list with a notation claiming that three examples were known to exist.

Well known Dimestore collector, dealer and contributor to OTS Stan Alekna also produces a rarity list and has recently added the item at number 2 in the Manoil section, Stan having first had reservations about the existence of an original, decided to add it to his list after some persuading by Richard O'Brien.

In the O'Brien book Collecting Toy Soldiers, Books Americana 1988,a color image of the piece appears on page 252 and is credited to Doug Lambert, photograph by Ron Cadieux.

Over the last few years at the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show in Chicago, a Dimestore Breakfast has been organized, a feature being the introduction of a reproduction Dimestore Figure by Ron Eccles in recent years.

In preparation for the 2006 show and Breakfast, Ron started working on a design for the Wheelchair Wounded figure, the Dimestore Breakfast did not go ahead in 2006; however Ron, who had invested much time in having a sculptured master made in order to produce a hollow-cast version carried on and had several examples available at the 2006 show.

Manoil Dimestore Wheelchair Wounded and Nurse *(Cont.)*

Eccles Wheelchair Wounded with Nurse

Ron, convinced that originals existed, having seen and handled two examples in the possession of two U.S. collectors also interviewed long time collector and dealer Bud Born in Chicago.

The following are the comments, recollections and information gleaned by Ron Eccles from Bud Born at this years OTSN show, they suggest that the Wheelchair Wounded was in fact sold in the Five and Ten cents stores.

Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1931,Bud Born, at the age of 7 or 8 recalls buying one or two soldiers per week from the Woolworth Store on North Queen Street, the allowance from his Father of 25 cents a week funded the purchase of a 10 cents theater outing a 5 cents Double Dip Ice Cream with enough left over for the purchase of some soldiers.

The soldiers were housed in a glass sections on a table and single figures cost 5 cents each with duplex items costing 10 cents.

Bud recalls that for three consecutive Saturdays, 3 examples of the now ultra rare Wheelchair Wounded Manoil piece pushed by a Nurse were available for 15 cents each, on the fourth Saturday all were gone.

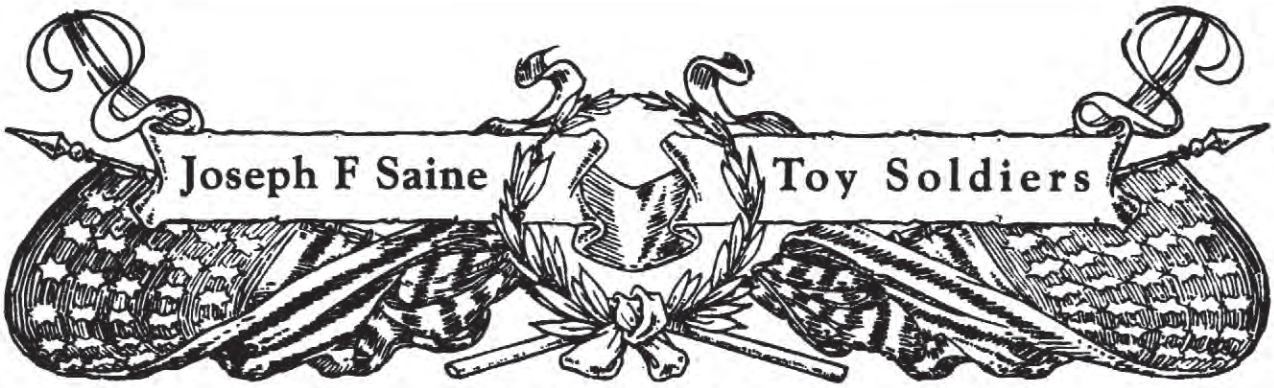
The Wheelchair piece reminded Bud of a favorite Uncle who, because of a misdiagnosed medical problem was confined to a wheelchair, however Bud could not at the time justify the 15 cents expenditure when he could purchase an action soldier for a nickel.

The accompanying photographs show the process employed by Ron Eccles in creating a reproduction of the item; the photograph of Bud Born in Chicago shows him holding one of the Eccles examples.

An aside to this interview revealed that Bud Born's father worked for the music company J.H. Troop and had sold to the owner of Grey Iron, Mr. Smith a piano, tuning the piano free of charge for Mr. Smith, Bud's father would often receive a group of Grey Iron "seconds" to take home for his son.

If any collector has recollections of seeing the item for sale in the Dimestores or has an original example that they would like to photograph and submit to OTS, both the readership and the editor would be most grateful for the feedback.

Bud Born with the Eccles Wheelchair Wounded figure



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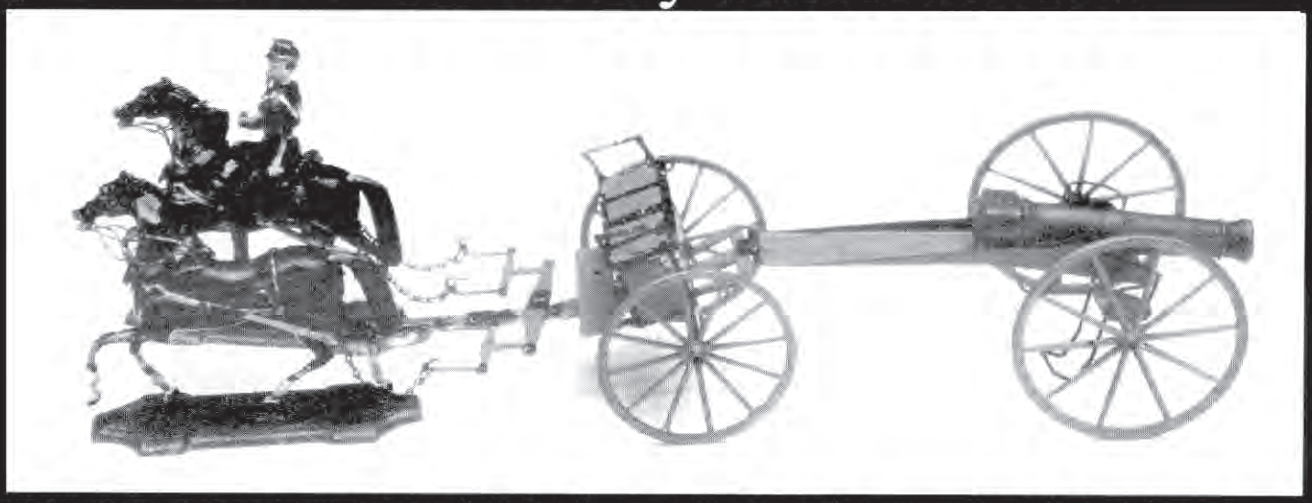

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Britains Map of the World Cow - Nestles Milk

By Norman Joplin

Britains Nestles Cow with "The Worlds Cow" inscription

Britains Nestles Cow with "Nestles Milk" inscription

In OTSN Volume 3 # 2 Vic Medalf first introduced readers to The Britains Map of the World Cow. That was back in April 1979 and although the information contained in the article covered only the basics of his find, it was still a groundbreaking piece of research in those days.

As nonmilitary and civilian items increased in popularity with collectors in the years since that article, many other premium style figures produced by Britains came to light, most produced during a period in the nineteen thirties, and many already covered in the pages of OTS(N).

The World Cow made by Britains as part of a Nestles promotion, predated these items by some 10 years and must be considered the first promotional or premium item made by the company.

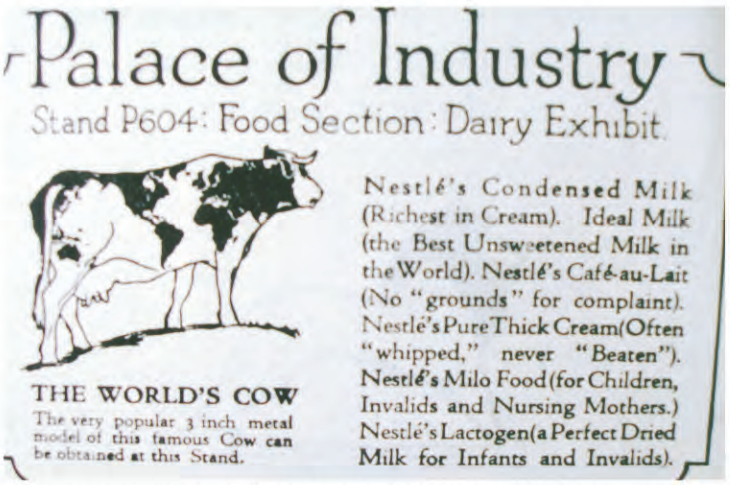
The Cow has the inscriptions "Nestles Milk" on one side and "The Worlds Cow" on the other, the engraving shows the outline of the map of the world on both sides.

Looking through a huge stack of dealers sales lists from the seventies I discovered one of Brian Starlings sales lists. Those readers who have been collecting for a long period of time will remember that Mr. Starling's lists, issued from the UK usually offered many rare and unusual pieces.

A Britains World Cow was offered in one of the lists, in the notes describing the item Brian mentioned that he also had for sale a copy of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition Handbook in which an advertisement for the

Cover of the British Empire Exhibition 1924 Official Guide

Nestles full page advertisement from the official guide handbook



Close up of the Nestles advertisement with details of the 3 inch metal cow

Nestles Stand was published, the advertisement contained mention of the Cow, although not attributed to Britains.

How to find a copy of the Handbook? - Ebay was calling (What gems may have languished out there, that authors and researchers could have availed themselves of if only Ebay had been invented 50 years ago?)

Instant success - typed British Empire Exhibition in the search window and a copy of the handbook was being offered for sale, with two days left to go before the end of the auction, I bid and obtained the item, having first emailed the (very helpful) seller to ensure that the Nestles advertisement was included.

Mailed from the borders of Scotland to South East Wisconsin, sure enough the required information and image was in the handbook.

Images from the Handbook accompany this article.

There have been other finds over the past few years relating to The Britains Nestles World Cow, none more intriguing than the inclusion in a recent Bonhams Auction in the UK of a boxed Britains farm set entitled "Nestles Home Farm", the box label being unique, was an adaptation of the standard

Nestles Home Farm Box lid - Bonhams Auctions

Britains #1F Model Home Farm set

Contents of the Bonhams Nestles Home Farm set

Contents of Britains #1F Model Home Farm set

Britains Map of the World Cow - Nestles Milk *(Cont.)*

Examples of the Britains World Cow without the writing cast in

Britains Brown & White version of the Nestles Cow with "The Worlds Cow" inscription

Britains Brown and White version of the Nestles Cow with "Nestles Milk" inscription

Britains #1F Farm set label, with a World Cow image on the label instead of the standard Britains Cow, The World Cow itself was contained within the set and substituted the normal Britains Cow, the rest of the contents of the set were as in the # 1F Britains Farm Set.

#1F was issued by Britains in 1921, as was the standard # 508 Farm Cow

Was this a one off special for the Nestles company or family?, Edward & Frank Britain having worked for the Nestles British company in management positions, or was it another item that perhaps was available from the Nestles stand at the British Empire Exhibition in 1924?

Variations.

There are two variations of the World Cow, both very rare and still somewhat of a mystery.

A Black and White version which does not have the wording included, but still has the outlined map of the world and a Brown and White version which has both wording and world map outline, this version has shown up a number of times in the UK and appears to be of a later paint style.

The Cow without the Nestles wording is the rarest of all and the origin or date has still to be determined.

Two Bulk packs of World Cows have been offered for auction during the last few years, the first in the Arnold Rolak reference collection held at Christies in December 2000 and the second, again at Christies, this time contained in a plain brown cardboard box with a label indicating that the items were being sold for the Animal Defense League, a British charity devoted to the care of sick animals.

Britains Nestles World Cow trade pack from the Arnold Rolak/Christies auction

Britains Trade Pack of Nestles World Cows issued as premiums in support of the Animal Defense League Charity

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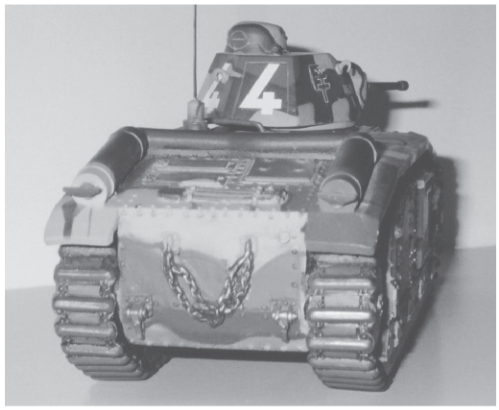
B1 bis TANK
"Un Char De Combat"
By Robert Yeknik and E.W. Fitzgerald

On May 10, 1940, World War II escalated with the German invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg. At that time the French Army was equipped with the B1 bis ("Model A") battle tank. The Char ("'tank") B1 bis was the main strike force of the four French armored divisions and its 75 mm main gun could knock out any German tank of the time. Designated as a heavy tank (71,680 pounds) it was first produced by Renault in 1937. (See pictures "A ") Powered by a Renault 300-HP six cylinder aviation engine, the B1 bis had a top speed of 17 MPH and a range of 112 miles. The crew was composed of an officer commander (in the turret), driver, assistant driver and radio operator, all of whom doubled as gunners. Both the 75 mm main gun and hull mounted .30 cal machine gun were traversed by shifting the position of the entire tank whereas the turret mounted 47 mm cannon and coaxial .30 cal. machine gun had 360. traversing. These tanks also carried Model ER51 radios with a range of 2-6 miles.

In 2005 King and Country began production of its new "Fields of Battle" series focusing on battles and campaigns rarely covered by military miniatures. The "Fall of France" (May-June 1940) is illustrated by a superb resin model of a French B1 bis tank accurately detailed right down to the rivets in the armor plate and the tow chains at the rear. (See picture "B") At 7" overall, this model is a perfect 1/35 scale. It features a rotating turret with the 47 mm cannon capable of elevating. It is finished in semi-gloss camouflage alternating khaki, dark green and brown paint separated by black borders. An antenna for the radio is fixed behind the turret.

A tank commander ("Chef du Char") figure accompanies the B1 bis tank. A Second Lieutenant turned out in a brown leather coat, dark green helmet with polished leather pistol belt and map case. He stands smoking a cigarette and holding a map in hand.

The model is named "Anjou" (a historical province of France) and is marked with the cross of Lorraine and small French flags with a large "4" on the sides and the back of the turret. Of historical note: Anjou was assigned to the Second Section (3 tanks per section) of the Second Company of the 15th BCC (Battalion des Char de Combat) There were three companies of ten tanks in the Battalion. Anjou deployed with 15 BCC on May 14, 1940. It survived anti-tank fire five days later, but met a humiliating end on June 4, 1940 at the Battle of Abbeville. Its motor blew up burning the tank, but with the crew unhurt.



OTS apologizes for the misspelling of Robert Yeknik's name in the previous issue.

COMMISSIONING A MINIATURE WORK OF ART

By Henry I. Kurtz

One of the truly great pleasures of collecting miniature soldiers is having figures made to order-according to your specifications-by a master craftsman. Recently, I experienced that pleasure once again by commissioning Peter Greenhill, who, as most collectors know, has for some 30 years been continuing the tradition of creating magnificent miniature knights begun by Richard Courtenay in the late 1930's. Using the original Courtenay molds (some 175 of them), which he acquired from Hummel's in 1978, Peter and his wife Gilly are able to issue their distinctive line of Courtenay-Greenhill figures. This includes not only reissuing miniature knights from the original catalogue of different numbered positions, but also fashioning a wide range of variations to accommodate a collector's desires. (It should be noted that like Richard Courtenay and his wife, Vida, Gilly Greenhill does the casting and assembling of figures, while Peter does most of the painting, with special attention to meticulous rendering of the heraldry.)

In the case of my special request, it meant producing a vignette depicting an English knight named Sir Maurice Berkeley in combat with a French squire named Jean de Helemmes during the final phase of the Battle of Poitiers in 1356 (one of the great battles of the Hundred Years War). My inspiration for the vignette came from a book by John Cammidge entitled The Black Prince: An Historical Pageant. Published in 1943, during World War II, the book, which is now something of a rarity, goes into considerable detail about specific acts of valor performed by various knights who participated in the battle. On pages 197 and 198, Cammidge describes how Sir Maurice Berkeley, whom he cites as "a rash young man displaying his banner for the first time," (see photo 1) had the tables turned on him as he pursued Jean de Helemmes, "a Picard squire," who was attempting to flee the

Maurice Berkeley

Jean de Helemmes

battlefield as King Jean's French army was reeling from a charge by England's Edward, Prince of Wales (The Black Prince). As Cammidge records the moment, with Berkeley bearing down on him, "Helemmes suddenly turned and using his sword lance wise, struck the Englishman to the ground; then spitting him through the thighs, made him captive." (See photo 2.)

With this information in hand, I approached Peter Greenhill, who has been a friend of mine for over 20 years, and proposed a vignette based on the incident described above. Peter was happy to accommodate me and together we worked out the details about which figures to use and the modifications required. The original Courtenay range had more than 20 numbered positions for foot knights, and a later "Z" series had an additional 20 positions. We finally settled on a Z-6 for Sir Maurice de Berkeley and a Z-20 for Jean de Helemmes, both with modifications. At my request, de Helemmes would be shown in an attack mode, his sword in both hands being thrust in the manner of a lance; while Berkeley would be falling back, banner in one hand and mace in the other (see photo 3). As an added touch, Berkeley's shield would be lying on the ground between de Helemmes' legs. Both men, in accordance with my wishes, have moveable visors; the Englishman has a Klapp (or flat) visor, while the Frenchman has the more common pig snout visor.

De Helemmes attacking Berkeley

Armed with my instructions, Peter and Gilly set to work, and in due course-allowing for a goodly number of orders ahead of mine-the duo arrived neatly packed in presentation boxes. Needless to say, the beautifully crafted figures more than met my expectations, and I anticipate that I will be delving into the sources to obtain more ideas for miniature works of art. Those collectors wishing to learn more about Greenhill figures should try to obtain a copy of Peter's book Heraldic Miniature Knights, published in 1991, and his new book Creating Miniature Knights. written in collaboration with the Italian figure maker Mario Venturi, which was published last year.

Henry Kurtz is a collector and dealer of toy and miniature soldiers and the author of The Art of the Toy Soldier.

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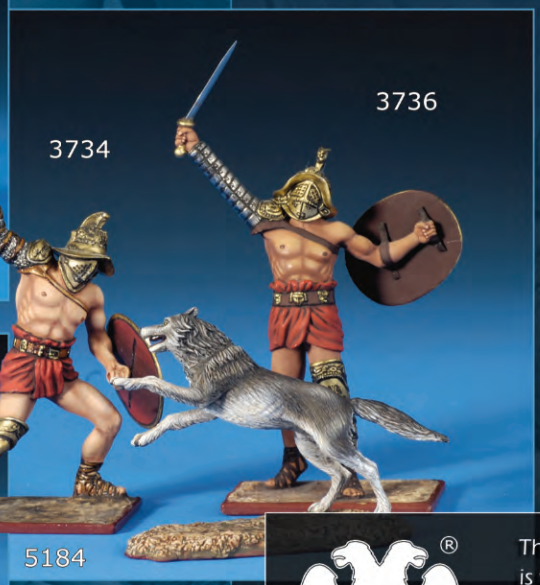

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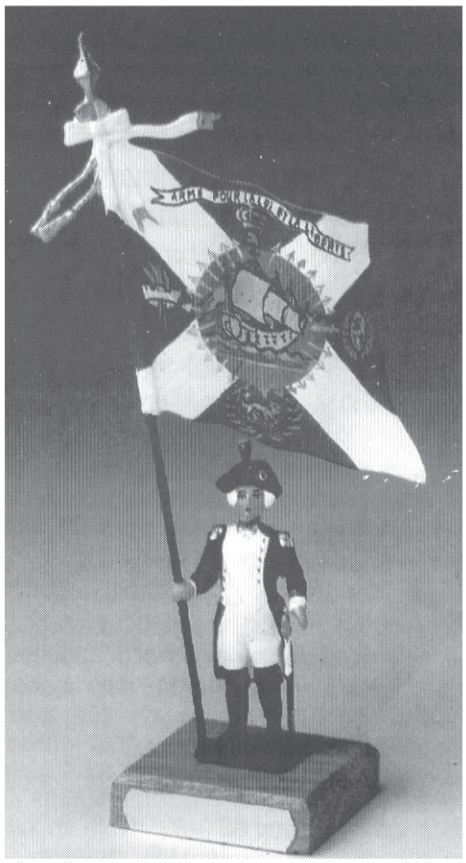

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"Much Happy Time:" Toy Soldiers and Robert Louis Stevenson

By Scott AGM Crawford

Introduction

No true aficionado of toy soldiers could possibly ignore what will always be the most perfect – and tragic – narrative author of the oeuvre, the lovely tale of "The Steadfast Tin Soldier." Hans Anderson, the celebrated Danish writer, was able in less than six pages to craft a touching story that, even in a hundred readings, remains full of pathos, character and courage.

Hans Christian Andersen's story "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" is a quintessential tale of courage and character.

Hans Christian Andersen writes of a special red and blue tin soldier. His hero "had but one leg"

Andersen's classic story is one of twenty-five red and blue tin soldiers. Well actually the narrative is of the twenty-fifth – "...he had but one leg. He had been cast last of all, and there had not been enough tin to finish him, but he stood as firm on his one leg as the others on their two" [1]. This dear, steadfast soldier then undergoes all manner of setbacks and challenges. At the conclusion of the story a (nasty) little boy tosses the one legged soldier into a stove but the soldier has only eyes for his sweetheart who is a Dancing Lady made out of clear gauze, set off by a blue ribbon adorned with a tinsel rose. "He looked at the little lady, she looked at him, and he felt he was melting; but he still stood firm, shouldering his musket" [2].

For all of its sentimental chatter, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" remains the quintessential toy soldier tale because it is all about the magical qualities of play-things. Items that engage, embrace, and energise the reader/observer so that there is a connection with but a toy, shaping a scenario, and a modern day personal parable.

Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist and passionate toy soldier player

Robert Louis Stevenson

Stevenson (1850-1894) did not live a long life. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, the author of classic adventures stories such as Treasure Island and Kidnapped – as well as darker and more edgy tales like The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – was constantly ill as a child and suffered terribly from tuberculosis. Upon graduating from Edinburgh University he began a life devoted to traveling, full time writing, and a search for a climate that would be good for his health. He married an American, Fanny Osbourne, and, together with their stepson, they spent the last years of Stevenson's life in the South Seas, eventually settling in Samoa. It was there he suffered the stroke that cut short his life aged 44 years.

The itinerant Scot had a prodigious appetite for writing, and his travelogues, correspondence and assorted essays reveal a man of eclectic interests. In one volume of his sketches and criticisms Stevenson, no mean engineer himself, describes "The Ideal House." Note what he says of a recreational zone in the perfect loft or attic room.

...at the far end a space is kept for playing soldiers. Two boxes contain the two armies of some five hundred horse and foot; two others the ammunition of each side, and a fifth the foot-rules and the three colours of chalk, which you lay down, or, after a day's play, refresh the outlines of the country; red or white for the two kinds of road (according as they are suitable or not for the passage of ordinance), and blue for the course of obstructing rivers. Here I forsee that you may pass much happy time; against a good adversary a game may well continue for a month; for with armies so

considerable three moves will occupy an hour. It will be found to set an excellent edge on this diversion if one of the players shall, every day or so, write a report of the operations in the character of army correspondent [3].

Graham Balfour penned the first significant biography of Stevenson, and much of his account, understandably, describes the rise and fall of Stevenson's spirits as he battled a sickness and illness that literally laid him low. Being playful helped to cheer him. Balfour writes that Stevenson "extracted from toys much of the zest of reality, and raised their employment almost to the intensity of active life" [4]. In an interview with Stevenson's stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, Balfour chronicles an engaging affection for playing with soldiers. At Davos in 1880 where Stevenson sought Alpine air as a remedy for his terrible cough and wheezing it is recounted that, "the tin soldiers most took his fancy" [5]. Osbourne recalls playing soldiers with his step-father:

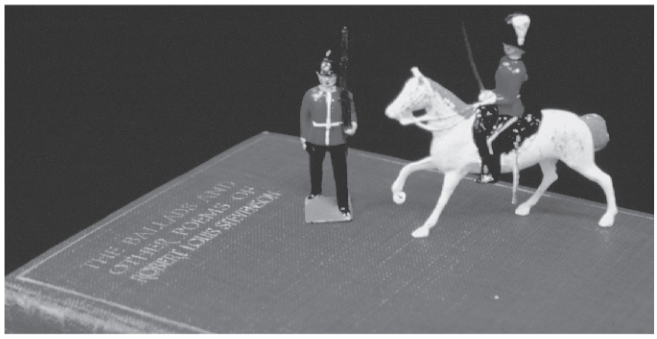
…we would play by the hour, with tingling fingers and stiffening knees and an intentness, zest, and excitement that I shall never forget. The mimic battalions marched and counter – marched, changed my measured evolutions from column formation into line, with cavalry screens in front and massed supports behind, in the most approved military fashion of the day. It was war in miniature…siege and horse artillery, proportionately slow, as compared to the speed of unimpeded foot, and proportionately expensive in the upkeep; and an exacting commissariat added to the last touch of versimilitude [6].

Toy soldiers appear most prominently in one of Stevenson's most celebrated works, "A Child's Garden of Verses and Underwoods Ballads." In "The Land of Counterpane" the reader joins the sickly Stevenson, and senses the good company provided by his military room-mates.

When I was sick and lay a-bed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go,
With different uniforms and drills,

Among the bed-clothes, through the hills [7].



Robert Louis Stevenson featured miniature soldiers in several poems

Stevenson, in another poem entitled "My Treasures," describes a secret place where he, helped by his nanny (nursie), stores his most special things among which are, "all my lead soldiers…lying at rest" [8]. Arguably Stevenson's most poetic narrative on toy soldiers is his poem "The Dumb Soldier.

When the grass was closely mown,
Walking on the lawn alone
In the turf a hole I found
And hid a soldier underground.
…
Under the grass alone he lies,
Looking up with leaden eyes,
Scarlet coat and pointed gun,
To the stars and to the sun.

When the grass is ripe like grain,
When the scythe is stoned again,
When the lawn is shave clear,
Then my hole shall reappear.

I shall find him, never fear,
I shall find my grenadier,
But for all that's gone and come,
I shall find my soldier dumb.
…
Not a word will he disclose,
Not a word of all he knows.
I must lay him on the shelf,
And make up the tale myself [9].

Stevenson described his toy soldier hobby as giving him "much happy time"

Balfour, the biographer, notes that Stevenson's love for toy soldiers was not a childhood hobby but a life-long passion. At the end of his life, against the landscape of a Pacific Samoa, he "reverted to the game" [10].

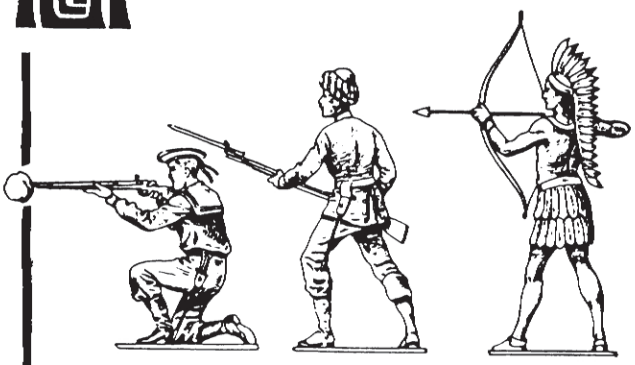
Post Script

The best of Stevenson's stories that feature live soldiers is Kidnapped. Set mostly in the Scottish Highlands, circa 1751, the story follows companions Alan Breck and David Balfour as they are pursued by dragoons and red-coats on a trek that takes them from the Western Isle of Mull to the East Coast town of Queensferry.

Perhaps Stevenson's best descriptions of soldiers - in real life - can be found in *Kidnapped* which became a special favorite of Classics Illustrated readers

Notes

1. Hans Andersen, Fairy Tales (Chicago, 1916), p. 42.
2. Ibid.
3. R.L. Stevenson, Letters and Miscellanies of Robert Louis Stevenson (New York, 1898), pp. 637-638.
4. Graham Balfour, The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson (New York, 1901), Vol. 1, p. 234
5. Ibid., p. 235.
6. Ibid, p. 236.
7. R. L. Stevenson, A Child's Garden of Verses and Under-woods Ballads (New York, 1896), p. 17.
8. Ibid., p. 54.
9. Ibid, pp. 71-72.
10. Balfour, op.cit., p. 236.



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DIMESTORES ON GUARD

By Stan Alekna

This photo is a reprint of the cover of the Pennsylvania National Guard magazine from December 1938. While most of the 30 figures, or is it 31, (you better count them yourself) are relatively common, the Grey Iron aviator and the Barclay mortar on a swivel base are fairly rare today. I found the selection of figures quite interesting, especially those seated, crawling and kneeling on the hat itself. It does lead one to speculate as to how large the entire collection from which these figures were chosen might have been. On the other hand, since this was 1938, all of the figures could have been purchased at the local five and dime for less than $2.00.

The insignia on the hat is that of the 104th Cavalry, and the hat probably belonged to General Stackpole who commanded the 104th and who owned the company that published the magazine as well as military manuals. The toy soldiers could have belonged to the General or his son. The magazine originated in 1897 as OUR STATE ARMY & NAVY JOURNAL since Pennsylvania had its own army and a naval militia with units on Lake Erie and in Philadelphia.

This periodical is still published today as THE PENNSYLVANIA GUARDIAN by the Pennsylvania National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. The AGap", as we refer to it since it is only 12 miles from our home in South-central Pennsylvania, began in 1931 as a National Guard Training center on 120 acres in nearby Mt. Gretna, PA. It was moved to Fort Indiantown in 1933 where it grew to 18,000 acres and served as a major U.S. Army training center during WW II. It included 1,400 buildings, 3 fire stations, several chapels, service clubs, theatres, a large sports arena and a 400- bed hospital. The Gap provided final combat training for Pennsylvanian's own 28th Infantry Division, the 3rd and 5th Armored Divisions, and the 1st, 5th, 37th, 77th, and 95th Infantry Divisions prior to going overseas. The Gap also served as a German POW compound during the War and as a mustering out center for over 1,000 soldiers a day, after the war ended.

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The curator of the Pennsylvania National Guard Museum at the Gap is Charles Oellig, a long time subscriber to OTS. Charlie provided me with a copy of the magazine cover and background information for this article. He is in the process of recreating the exact scene pictured on the 1938 magazine cover with actual figures. When completed, it will be prominently placed at the museum so our American Dimestores will have yet another permanent display for others to enjoy. Charlie needs the Barclay Mortar on the swivel base and 3-more Grey Iron G11 infantry at port arms to complete the diorama. If you can provide these items, or if you would like a colored, laser copy of the magazine cover which is 8 X 10 with dark green background, bright red lettering, and grey/green sepia tone photos of the Dimestores, for $25.00, (which includes shipping) write to Charles Oellig, PA National Guard Museum, Fort Indiantown Gap, Anville, PA. 17003-5002.

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BRITAIN'S TO SPECIAL ORDER: THE SA SERIES

By Rob Wilson[1]

Although William Britain produced an extensive range of figures, both collectors and distributors could it seems always think of a few further variations to what was on offer in the standard catalogue. Joe Wallis describes a number of "unlisted sets" in his *Armies of the World* volume, many of which are attributed to retailers' demands for sets to fill a particular niche. These generally take numbers in the main catalogue series. Generally they are not especially interesting, simply being slightly different combinations of standard single row sets.

In recent years a number of sets have surfaced which do not quite fall into this category. Numbered with a SA prefix, they have generated some heated discussion about what the initial SA stand for. Some have argued that it refers to South America or South Africa, but there seems to be little evidence to support such theories. The most likely explanation seems to be that SA stood for Special Assortment and that these were further examples of the company trying to fill a slot in the market place for particular distributors. Most, if not all, of the examples that have tuned up recently appear to have originated from the USA or Canada, so it may be that they are specific to the North American market. However, this idea is speculation rather than being founded on any firm evidence. The author would welcome any further information that readers may have about this.

The first set the author is aware of that falls into this category was reported many years ago in OTS magazine (13,5 1989). James Opie in his 1985 book (p.163) speculates that it might have been connected to the Paris Office. The article in OTS by George Betts suggests that it is more likely that is was part of Britain's export drive to Canada in the 1920s, (aimed perhaps at its large French community?). The box described by Betts was a large four row box, containing a combination of Cuirassiers and Chasseurs a Cheval. The box had an orange paper finish (with no set number).

Joe Wallis reports seeing a number of such sets, including a double row of Cuirassiers. His researches suggest that all the S.A. series boxes also include the Registration Number 459993 which was assigned in 1926 when the firm finally got around to registering the William Britains trademark with the oval stamp. The first catalogue that uses the term Armies of the World was the 1933 one, but Joe notes that this does not mean that such labels might not have been used earlier. His view is that these sets were simply customised to fit a particular price niche. This was before the company started allocating particular catalogue numbers for every set. Subsequently, in the 1930s the company decided to allocate a separate number for each set, including the non-catalogued ones which are referenced in the Factory List.

Recently four sets have appeared which use the SA numbering system, and it is these which form the main subject matter of this article.

1st Life Guards

This set represents a reworking of one of the most popular (and hence common) of all the sets produced under the Britain's label. This one is in a very large box. It holds a special assortment of 14 Life Guards, including officer. This appears to be the full complement according to the hand written label (see photo #2). The Figures date from the late 1920s (two eared horses, with no carbines on the saddle). They all match and are in good condition apart from a few arms being loose.

The box is in pretty good shape given its size. The tie card is a replacement. The base is missing a small edge section, as is the lid, but otherwise it is pretty sound. From the back of the box it appears that the base was formed (by Britains or their agents) by combining two large 3 row and 2 row cavalry display containers (see photo). The lid is formed from a single piece of card.

The Armies of the World label has a handwritten set id: SA/1/14 (i.e. set 1 with 14 pieces).

1 The author is grateful to Joe Wallis for a number of helpful comments and suggestions while compiling this article.

Photo #2: Contents of set SA/1/14

Photo #2: Set SA/1/14 – 1st Life Guards

Note: This and the other 3 sets all include the same Registration Number (459993).

11th Hussars Dismounted

Despite the label referring to Armies of the World, English Infantry, this set actually contains a double row set of 11th Hussars dismounted, which is consistent with the numbering on the label (see Photo #5).

Although the box has been neatly repaired and reinforced it appears to be original. It contains an original tie card for two sets of #182. As far as the author is aware this combination was not available in any other listed set. Two matching sets of figures, including two officers, fill the box. The paint style is that of the late 1920s.

The numbering on the label is SA/182/2. Compared with the other sets, there are some interesting inconsistencies here. Why is it not SA/182/16 (indicating 16 figures) rather than SA/182/2 (indicating two sets). In this case (in contrast to the Life Guards), it is a combination of 2 complete standard sets, whereas 14 Life Guards is an odd number not formed by any such neat combination. Speculating on such matters remains both frustrating and fascinating!

Photo #4: Set SA/182/2 – English Infantry (11th Hussars!)

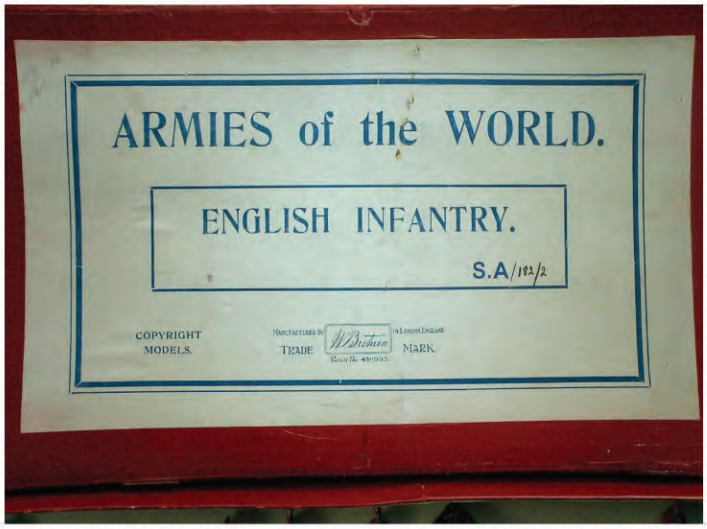

Photo #5: Set SA/182/2 – English Infantry (11th Hussars!) Details of Box Label

Chasseurs a Cheval

The third set is entitled French Cavalry and numbered this time with a rubber stamp as SA /139. As the set number suggests this contains Chasseurs a Cheval, in this case a 6 piece set without officer. All are contained in a box of the same size normally used for set #27 the 12 piece Band of the Line. However this box size also served for a number of other sets including #253, 255 and 460 as well as a number
of "unlisted" sets.

The author has seen two examples of this set, each with exactly the same composition and the same generic label. In one case the words French CAVALRY were on a smaller label,pasted on top of something else. Curiosity would not be satisfied until this had been steamed off, to reveal underneath, printed on to the main Armies of the World label (which covers almost the entire box), the words Arab Cavalry (but unfortunately with no indication as to set number!).

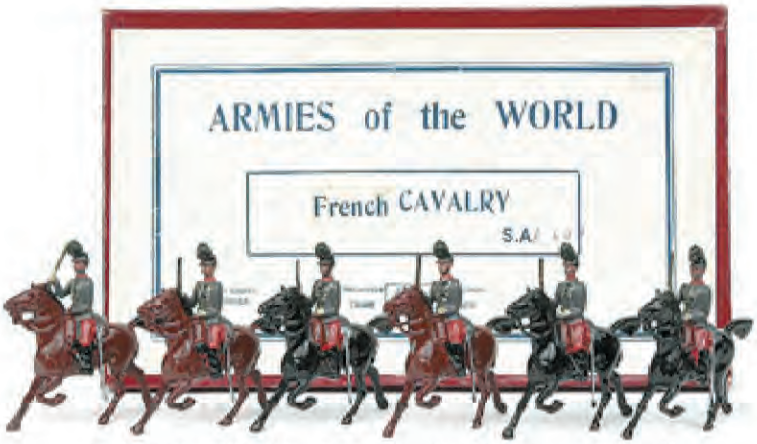

Photo #8: Set SA/139 – French Cavalry (Chasseurs a Cheval)

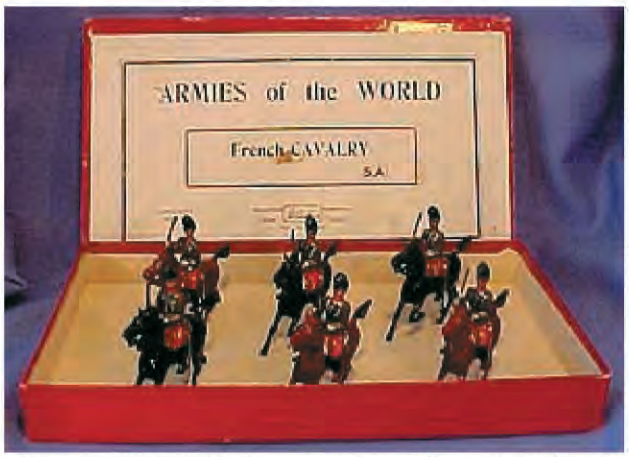

Photo #9: Set SA/139 – French Cavalry (Chasseurs a Cheval) a second example

US Army: Infantry and Cavalry

The final set is in many ways the most interesting. Entitled American Infantry and Cavalry, this is another large box containing an unusual combination of US doughboys and US cavalry (from sets# 227 and #229), but without officers. The person charged with allocating set numbers obviously gave up at this point, the space beyond the SA on the label being left blank!

The figures are fairly standard issue except that the doughboys carry a rifle that was standard issue for British Guards and Infantry of the line rather than the more usual version specially developed for the US sets. The arm used was intended to be used on the left and side and there is a rather unsightly gap where it has been fitted on to the right hand shoulder stud. However the figures appear to be identical with no sign of modification and the arms do not seem to have been replaced. It may be that this was a special request to include the different arm (or more likely a simple case of expediency to get an order out).

Photos #11 and 12: Set SA/??? American Infantry and Cavalry – Comparison of standard doughboy (RHS) and Set SA figure with unusual arm (LHS)

How many other sets?

It seems likely that this is just the tip of an iceberg. What other combinations and permutations did the sales force at Britains and their distributors come up with. Any readers who have further information about such sets are invited to come forth and share their knowledge with the authors and other readers.

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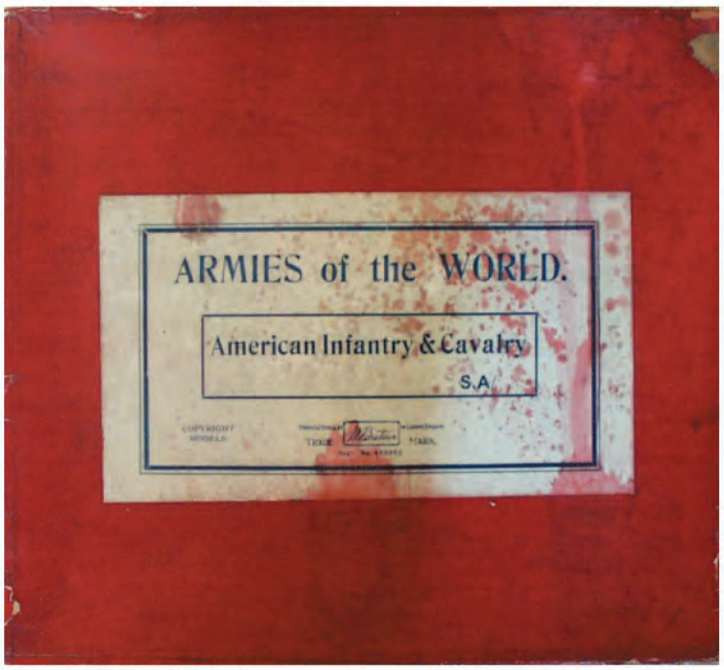

Photo #10: Set SA/??? American Infantry and Cavalry

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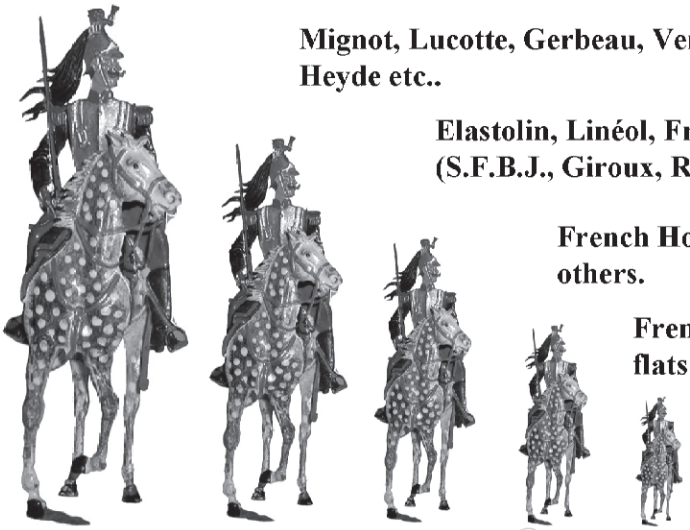

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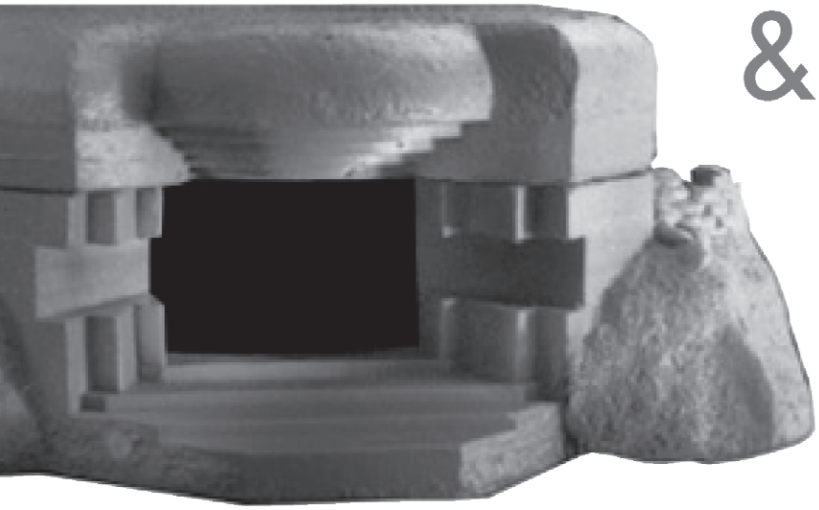

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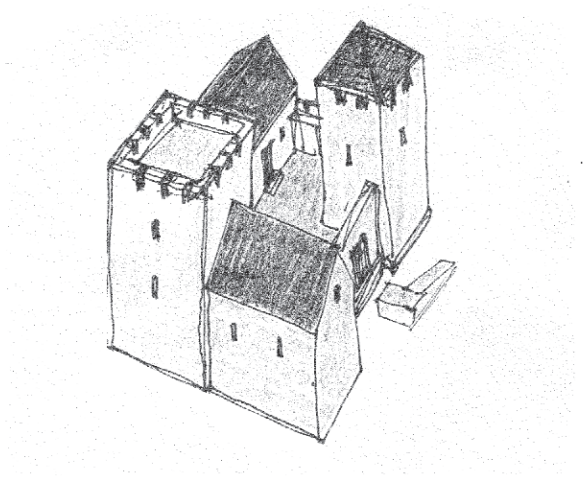

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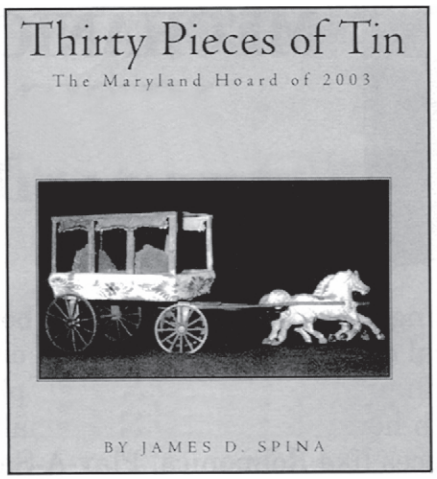

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November 15 - Wednesday. Bonhams Lead Soldier and Figure Sales. Contact Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com James Opie +44 (0) 20 7794 7447 evenings and weekends

November 19- Sunday. 8th Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Sheraton Bucks Hotel.400 Oxford Valley Road. Langholme, Pennsylvania. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or 201 257 2687

November 19- Sunday. Pennsylvania GI JOE Show. 9-3. Sheraton Bucks Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road: Langholme PA. Contact John Kozin 203 848 0980 Email onesixthsynd@aol.com Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or 201 257 2687.

November 19- Sunday. The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier & Military Miniature Show and Sale .9am – 3pm. The Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue. White Plains, NY 10601. Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439.

November 19-Sunday. Phillip Weiss Auction of Toy Soldiers and Figures, 1 Neil Court, Oceanside, NY. Contact Philip Weiss 516 594 0731 www.philipweissauctions.com

November 20 - Monday. Christies. South Kensington London. Toy Soldier and Figure Auction. Contact Hugo Marsh (44) 207 752 3274

December 2 – Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com www.thetoysoldiershow.com

December 2- Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Militaria and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm The VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

December 3- Sunday. Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Holiday Inn at JFK. 140-02 135th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11436. Contact Matt Murphy Email matt@hobbybunker.com Telephone 781 321 8858. Ed Gries 201 342 6475

December 10- Sunday. The New Jersey Toy Soldier Show – Special Christmas Edition. 9am- 3pm Holiday Inn, 2383 Route 17 South. Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

December 10 –Sunday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier and Military Miniatures Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Adria Hotel and Conference Center 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, New York. Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

December 16- Saturday. The New Annapolis Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Annapolis National Guard Armory. 18 Willow Street, Annapolis, Maryland. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

December 17 Sunday. Philip Weiss Auction of Toy Soldiers and Figures.1 Neil Court, Oceanside, NY Contact Philip Weiss 516 594 0731 www.philipweissauctions.com

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Jan 14 – Sunday. The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Show and Sale (Details as November 19 2006)

February 11 - Sunday. 13th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show.9am-4pm. Crowne Plaza, West Palm Beach, Florida. Contact Mike Skurda 954 481 1960 mskurda@inbox.com

February 17 – Saturday. Dan Morphy's Antique Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds. West Market Street. York. Pennsylvania, Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3425 danmorphy@dejazzed.com

February 24- Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier , Military and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am –3pm.VFD Community Center Annandale. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

March 3 - Saturday. South Carolina Military Miniature Society Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-4pm Patriots Point Holiday Inn. 250 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd. Highway 17, Mount Pleasant, SC. Contact Marv Pontiff 843 884 6598 pontiffm@bellsouth.net

March 4 –Sunday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Show and Sale. (Details as December 6 2006.)

March 4 - Sunday. "The West Coaster" West Coast Toy Soldier Trade and Collector's Show. 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriott - Orange County Airport. 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612. 949-553-0100.

March 11- Sunday. The 11th Annual New Jersey Toy Soldier Show. NEW LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY OTS. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

March 24- Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

March 25 - Sunday. 18th Indy Toy Soldier Show. Sheraton North Hotel. Keystone Crossing. Indianapolis Indiana. Contact Barry Carter indytoysoldier@hotmail.com Telephone 765 345 5665

May 4th and 5th Friday (12noon- 5pm) and Saturday (10.am –4pm). Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) 66th Annual Show and Mart. Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA.Contact infoetchells3@aol.com

June 30- Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141 Email info@thetoysoldiershow,com

September 8 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) Holiday Inn Bloomsbury. Coram Street. London. England. Academy Booker and Turner Suite. 10:30 am – 4:00pm Email Contact info@normanjoplin.com Telephone UK 01926 496062 USA 262-692-3913.

October 20 - Saturday. Toy Soldier Show Bad Nauheim. Contact Andreas Pietruschka Verlag Figuren Magazin E mail redaktion@figuren-magazin.de

December 1 – Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141. Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

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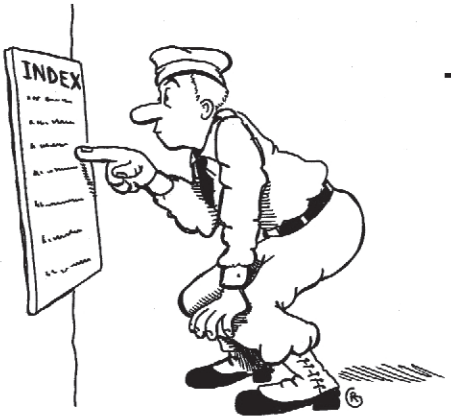

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