# OLD Toy SOLDIFR

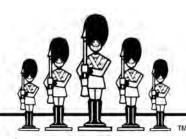


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**Old Toy Soldier** is published quarterly.



Web Site: www.oldtoysoldier.com

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Summer Issue	June 10	August 10
Fall Issue	September 10	November 10
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#### **Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements**

20 Words \$5, plus \$5 for each additional 20 words. Advertising deadlines as outlined above.

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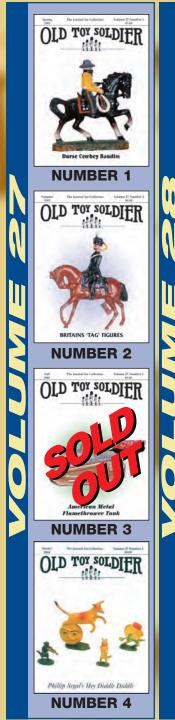
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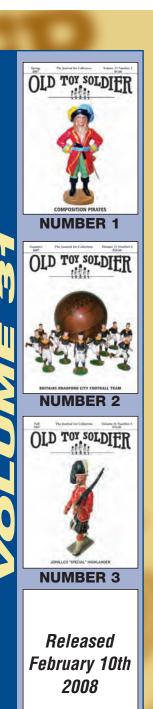






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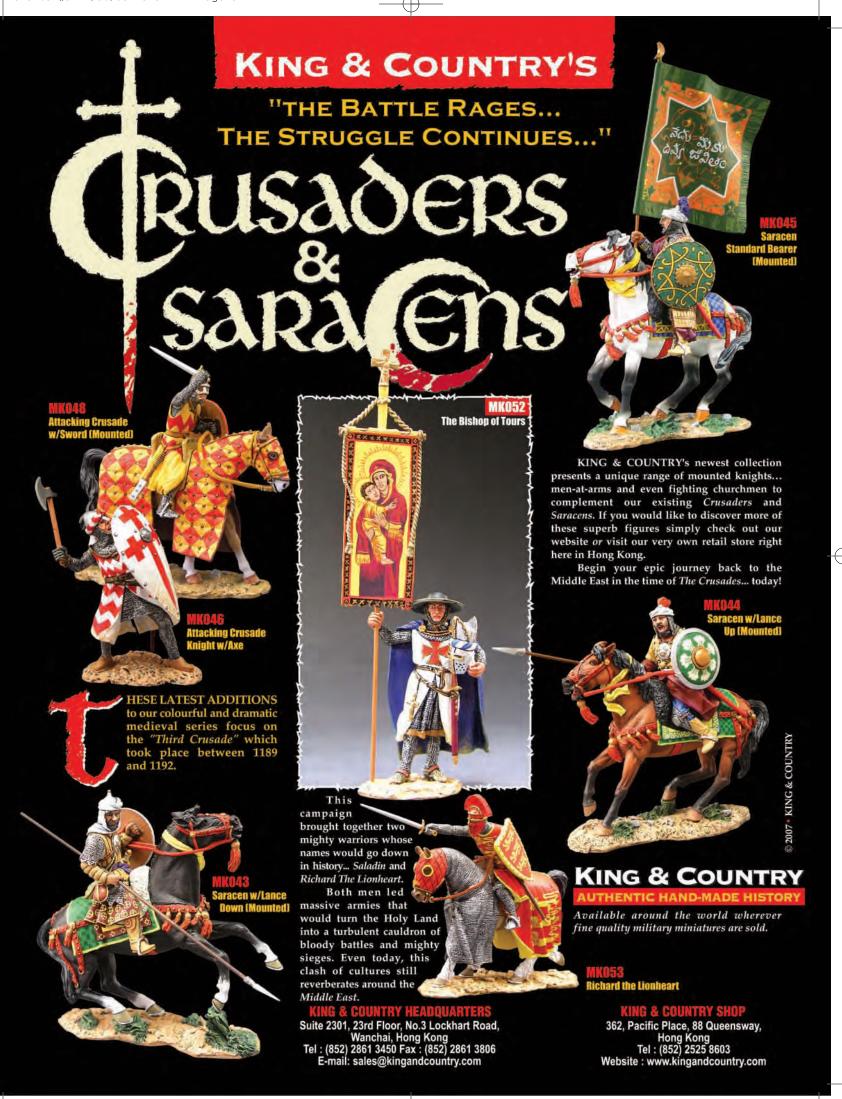


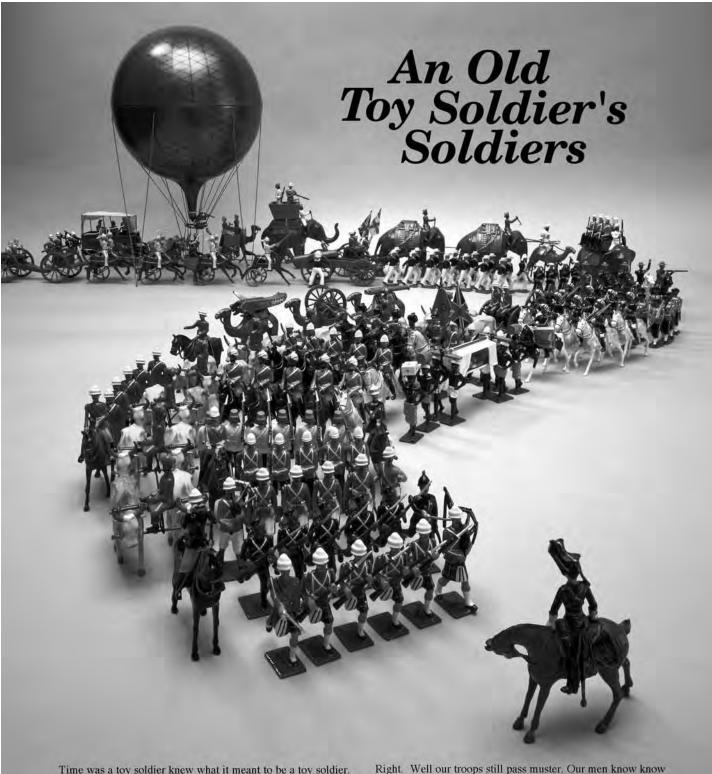


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Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group 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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## THREE GENERATIONS OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC... THE BRAY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

By Bonny Bray Skovbroten

Christmas Villages were originally produced in the 1800's in Germany and as the tradition grew they became common in the United States into the early 1950s. Many websites describe the tradition of Christmas Villages or Gardens. Some include marvelous reproductions of the Sears and Ward catalog pages displaying a set of 8 cardboard Putz buildings frosted with sparkling "snow" that sold for .89 cents to \$1.25 per set.

Our family started a Christmas Village post World War II after seeing the under tree village of a neighbor. Their village included Barclay skiers and skaters, traditional Putz-type cardboard houses with a church and farm yard with animals.

The early village created by my family consisted of HO-scale buildings produced by Plasticville - the



**City Square** 



Fire Station & Hardware Store

school, fire station, grocery store, church, dairy stand, farm and a couple of houses. The lead figurines were minimal and for years known to us simply as Britains or Barclays. Besides Barclay skiers, children sledding, and skaters, we had a select few Britains that included farm animals, farmer, hobo, the woman milking a cow, minister and a couple sitting on the park bench. Another early favorite was the FG Taylor & Sons wishing well. A Christmas plastic picket fence that was manufactured by Bachmann Bros surrounded our village under the tree.

Every Christmas season it was a family tradition to travel downtown to see the wonderful department store Christmas window displays followed by a cup of hot chocolate and a trip to Woolworths to purchase a figurine. My sister and I both were able to purchase one new figurine each. To this day many of the early



Farm yard



**Lumber mill and Shephards** 

## THREE GENERATIONS OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC... THE BRAY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE (Cont.)

Barclays are stamped with the price of ten cents on the bottom.

My sister and I both knew someday we would have our own homes and would want a village. When we were teenagers we began to select our favorites and protectively marked those with a dab of pink or red nail polish on the bottom for the day that we would start our own village.

Over the next 40 years, the single Bray Christmas Village became two and each continued to grow. The Plasticville manufactured buildings were replaced by other American and European manufacturers such as Faller, Vollmer, and Heljan. These manufacturers produced multiple scales and we opted to use HO-scale in

**Main City Park** 

the city and farm areas to maximize our space and highlight the detail of the slightly larger lead figures. We use the smaller N scale for the German Village on the back mountain top to create the illusion of distance.

A Britains plastic zoo was assembled in the 1970s when the animals were readily available. Tracks were installed for a train that was eventually replaced by a lovely Brill Trolley built from a kit and adorned with Santa as a passenger. Dinky and Lesney brand vehicles arrived on the streets.

Through this period it was near to impossible to find lead figurines and the discovery of each one was pure joy! A few new additions were obtained at an occasional antique shop and at unexpected stores such as



**Subway and Santa** 



Zoo rear section



Mountain close-up

## THREE GENERATIONS OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC... THE BRAY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE (Cont.)



**Train Station** 



**Mountain Complete** 



Christmas Tree and Village dispaly



Village



Zoo front section

the Folk Museum gift shop in New York City that carried Harrington figurines. Occasional figures were also found at the regional annual antique toy show. The lead civilian and animal figurines were notably absent in the marketplace and traditional villages declined dramatically as the Department 56 ceramic villages and figurines continued to grow in popularity.

Meanwhile our village infrastructure was enhanced to make the set up easier. A permanent track and miniature doll house lighting was installed onto a plywood board. A garland and rice grain sized Christmas lights trim a permanent fence that folds in thirds and stores in a specially built box. The lead figurines are all stored in individual spaces in tackle boxes lined with felt.

In the 1990s we discovered a copy of Norman Joplin's book "British Toy Figures 1900 to the Present." We were utterly amazed that our "Britains" were actually made by a multitude of manufacturers and that we had only a very small collection of civilians and animals. I carefully highlighted our pieces in the book and every year we leave it on the coffee table during the holidays. Our holiday guests now enjoy thumbing through the book and attempt to find the matches under the tree. They also inquisitively search for the multitude of Santa Clauses that are a special collection within our village.

During this same time period we also embarked on a special trip during Advent to the Bavarian region to travel to several Christkindlesmarkt (Christmas Markets) that resulted in finding three marvelous metal maypoles with the symbols and shields of different worker's guilds. The next year we recreated our travels in our village with the construction of a Styrofoam mountain for the back of the tree with an N-scale German castle, Christmas market, and beer garden.

#### THREE GENERATIONS OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC... THE BRAY CHRISTMAS VILLAGE (Cont.)

Due to the small size of these plastic figurines, they are permanently installed on the mountain and the entire structure easily lifts off for storage.

A couple years ago my sister and I again combined the two villages in preparation for the day that the next generation would want to begin picking favorites and begin their own displays.

During the 2006 Holiday Season I received copies of other Norman Joplin books and began to seriously wonder if I could replace my plastic Britain zoo with lead figurines and rail. One day my husband said "I wonder if you could find them on eBay?" Rapidly I discovered the rich source located on the UK eBay site and within 5 months I was able to locate not only the zoo, but also several other lead civilians, animals, and accessories. I was also amazed to find Barclays are still in production and had several Santa Clauses and winter figurines. The photos show many of the wonderful additions to our Village this year. The unexpected outcome of this quest is that we have met many other wonderful collectors and sellers. It is an entirely new phase for our Village.

Soon it will be time to display our Christmas village for the 50th plus year for approximately 4 weeks over the next holiday season. All three generations, including my 90 year old mother, still enjoy the night time magic of the village buildings and fence lit up with the trolley quietly traveling through the village and all the lovely lead figurines coming alive.

#### Additional Resources:

- **Barclay winter figurines:** 
  - http://www.barclaycompany.com/servlet/StoreFront
- Buildings HO scale structures:
  - http://www.ihc-hobby.com/cgi-
  - bin/bsc.cgi?sn=7378136VL112376K26C4148BM86010
- Harrington winter figurines:
- http://hometown.aol.com/lorlorharr/harringtonleadcast.html
- Doll house lighting system for buildings
- (CK 106 Power Strip Wiring Kit):
- http://www.cir-kitconcepts.com/estore5/
- Department 56 Snow Village 45- LED light strand and fencing: http://www.d56online.com
- Civilian Lead Figurine sellers:
  - http://www.hollylovestoys.com/index.html http://www.thetoybox.4t.com/main.html
- http://www.theoldtoyshop.com/
- **Trolleys:** 
  - http://www.bowser-trains.com/hoother/trolleys/trolleys.htm http://www.trolleyville.com

#### Reference Books & Historical Articles:

- **Collecting Lead Figures Books:**
- http://www.normanjoplin.com/books.htm
- Joplin, N. (1987), British Toy Figures, 1900 to present An Illustrated Reference Guide for Collectors.
- Joplin, N. (1993), The Great Book of Hollow Cast Figures. Pielin, D., Johnson, V. (2000), American DimeStore Toy Soldiers & Figures.

- Joplin, N., Rolak., A., Dean, P., Kunzelmann, J. (2002),
  - **Britians Civilian Toy Figures.**
- Joplin, N. & Dean, P. (2005), Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures.
- **Collecting Lead Figurine websites:**
- http://www.james-opie.co.uk/index2.html
- http://www.normanjoplin.com/default.htm
- http://toysoldiercollectors.homestead.com/tsca.html
- Putz Houses: http://www.papatedsplace.com/postwar.html
- Winter Villages: http://www.papatedsplace.com/contents.html
- Winter Villages: http://www.gunnlibrary.org/villages
- Winter Villages:
- http://www.citypaper.com/special/story.asp?id=6188
- Zoo collections: http://www.thetoybox.4t.com/zac.htm

#### Christmas Village Modeling Scales

\*Indicates scales used in the village

#### **LARGE**

#### **MEDIUM**

#### **SMALL**

#### Doll House (1/12)

6" People 18" Cars 1"=1 ft 16 Volt Lighting Plugs & Sockets

#### **G & Standard Scales (1/20–1/26)**

1/2"=1 ft 3" People 9"Cars LGB Trains Garden Trains Barclay "Large Scale" Figurines (3")

#### 54mm Figurines (1/32)

3/8"=1 ft 2 1/4" People 6 3/4" Cars Downtown - Skiers and Skaters Barclay "Midi Series" and "Winter Classics" Figurines (2 1/4") Downtown - Other People and Animals Britains Figurines (actually measure 11/2" to 2")

#### O Scale (1/48)

1/4"=1 ft 1 1/2" People 4 1/2" Cars **Lionel Trains** Barclay "Pee Wee" Figurines Some Dept 56 (though inconsistent) Many Diecast Cars

#### S Scale (1/64)

3/16"=1 ft 1 1/8" People 3 3/8" Cars American Flyer Trains Downtown - Cars and Trucks Matchbox/Lesney and LLedo Cars and Trucks

#### HO Scale (1/87)

1/8"=1 ft 3/4" People 2 1/4" Cars Most Popular Train Scale Downtown - Buildings & Trolley Christmas Market - Market Stalls & People

#### TT Scale (1/120)

1/10"=1 ft 1/2" People 1 1/2" Cars

#### N Scale (1/160)

1/16"=1 ft 3/8" People 1 1/8" Cars Christmas Market - The Inn Castle - Building & People

#### **HOBBY NEWS**

#### **Jones Father Time**

Each year Ron Eccles of Eccles Brothers Limited has reproduced an example of one of the rarer Dimestore figures, the idea originally was for these items to be offered as limited editions at the annual Dimestore Breakfast held during the Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago. The annual breakfast, it seems is not to continue, however Ron has decided to carry on issuing special items each year.

This years figure of Father Time, recast from a Jones original was for sale at the the OTS show, there are still a number of figures available. Please contact Ron Eccles for further details of remaining stock and color variations.



## Happy Holidays



from all at Old Toy Soldier

#### **Edward Jack Henderson Burley**



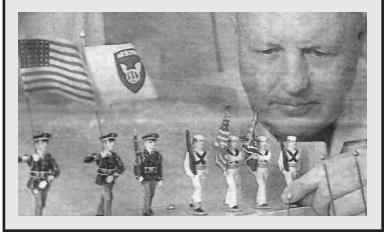
1931 - 2007

Ed Burley, toy soldier hobbyist extraordinary, passed away on June 26 after having open heart bypass surgery and then contracting a mortal infection.

For many years Ed was revered by the Dimestore size, collecting community for his wonderful creative imagination; his exceptional painting skill; and, his genuine attention to figure details. Military Bands became his production specialties. An expected quick delivery was unheard of, for Ed's bands were truly exquisitely crafted, "works of art."

Ed was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1931. Married as a teenager in New York in 1951 to the love of his life, Patricia Price. Served our country in the U S Army as Staff Sergeant E-6 from 1954 -1961. Moved his family to Florida in 1970. Was the Father of four boys and three girls blessing him with seventeen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Worked most of his adult life as a master craftsman, sign painter. Segued into producing toy soldier figures in 54 and 75 mms that became highly desirable to collectors.

Edward J. H. Burley, a loving husband, a caring father, a thoughtful grandfather, a faithfully religious man, and a good friend to many will be dearly missed.



#### JOHILLCO LARGE SIZE HIGHLANDER

By Norman Joplin

The four and an half inch high Highlander made by John Hill and Company (Johillco) in the early nineteen fifties must rank as the company's most outstanding toy soldier.

Much larger in scale than most of the other products produced by the company, it has become a rarity amongst collectors; it is believed that the figure was never exported to the U.S.A and it is rarely found in the UK.

The exact date of the production of the figure is still subject to speculation; however, when researching and writing the Great Book of Hollow Cast Figures, I was fortunate enough to interview a number of the former John Hill employees in Burnley Lancashire. Many had worked in the factory during the early fifties and I was introduced to Delores Brown who held quite a prominent position in the company. Dolores was a mine of information and had many stories to tell related to the post war products and happenings within the John Hill organization.

She vividly recalled that whatever the initial reason for making such a large size figure, the piece was ordered as a special and was probably inspired by a suggestion from the Royal Family at the time. The Royals often contacted Britains in those days; in fact both Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother were known to be keen collectors, especially of Scottish Regiment toy soldiers.



H.R.H The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret inspecting a set of Britains Royal Company of Archers during a visit to the companies London showroom

Delores recalled that the figures were ordered by the Royal Family to be inserted into large size Christmas Crackers which were to be presented to Prince Charles when he was five years old as part as his Christmas gifts. If this theory were correct, then the figures would have been put into production around 1953, as the Prince was born in 1948.

The example shown was purchased by me, with my own pocket money in Edinburgh Scotland from a newspaper shop in the cities Royal Mile, around 1953,it cost two shillings and sixpence (Half a Crown) after decimalization in the nineteen seventies this would have equated to twelve pence, in turn and in today's US money = 24 cents. I was accompanied by my Uncle on the visit to Edinburgh and when he heard that I had paid so much for one figure, he suggested that I take it back to the shop owner and ask for my money back, I refused and still have the item today.

The paint version of the figure illustrated is obviously for the retail trade. British collector Rob Wilson obtained a very detailed example of the item at a recent Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago. Perhaps it is a special paint and perhaps it is one of those designed to have been placed in the Christmas Crackers mentioned above.

Around 1959 John Hill and Company moved for a brief period into the gift market and made a line entitled Black Magic with the trade name - "Dorre" this being the nickname of Delores Brown who had come up with the idea. The figures in the "Dorre" line were painted black and gold and designed for distribution to gift shops throughout the UK.

An example of the Black Magic - "Dorre" item can be found in the Johillco chapter of the *Great Book of Hollowcast Figures*.

If any readers have an example of this item and can throw light on where and when they originally purchased it, please contact Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com Telephone 262-692-3913.



Johillco large size Highlander



Johillco special paint?

#### SHOW REPORT

#### **Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago**

Twenty Seven years and the Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago is still the largest and best Toy Soldier Show in the world. Don Pielin, Steve Sommers and the partners of OTSN continue their superb achievements of continuing to organize the Chicago show every September. The show is world famous within the Toy Soldier hobby and acts not only as a means to buy and sell figures, but is the annual focal point for all in the hobby who have the chance to socialize for nearly a week each year.

The show really starts to get going around Tuesday prior to the following Sunday show as many of the dealers start arriving with truck loads of items which they proceed to display in their respective bedrooms. There is a steady build up of traders as more and more check in up to Saturday night and the "room activity" increases throughout the week. Most rooms are open from ten each morning and are situated on two floors of the hotel. All of the US and most of the world's leading new toy soldier manufacturers are represented. Old Toy Soldier dealers come from Europe and the far East to join their American counterparts.

The Hyatt Hotel at Schaumburg which has been the home of the show for the last 25 years has recently been sold and will undergo a refurbishment, so like everything in life nothing stays the same. This year, the Hyatt bar, a traditional meeting place for dealers

after trading has ended for the day, was closed and a temporary bar was situated in the hotel lobby. This did tend to disrupt some of the social gatherings as friends searched nearby for a suitable watering hole.

Saturday, prior to the show, has the traditional Hospitality Room where again everyone is welcome and can socialize while lining up or enjoy a drink while registering for the Sunday show badges and dealers passes.

Don Pielin, Show Chairman made an announcement at the Hospitality regarding the sale of the Hotel, stating that despite rumors to the contrary, the show goes ahead in 2008 as before. He then stated more information would be forthcoming.

The following photo gallery which has been and will continue to be a feature of Old Toy Soldier Magazine, gives an indication of the good times that were had by all.

Sunday's show attendance again seemed to be on the increase and some dedicated buyers lined up as early as 7:30 am for 10:00 am entry. Two such buyers were Rhonda Kellie of Cedar Grove, Indiana, whose husband had purchased early buyers ticket and was already shopping at 7:30 am and Kevin Johnson of Illinois (see photo gallery).









## SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY Bob & Judiann O'Connell MISHIGAN Rick Berry Michigan Toy Soldier Co. METAL 12 ACTION FIGURES Bill Graver of Counterpane, DC Tom Litras with his impressive display of inventory Jeff Caufield with Gary and Sue Miller at the hospitality Hobby Bunker Matt Murphy and Wayne Stephens Doug Treadwell and Adrian Little from the UK

#### SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY SHOW FINDS



Unidentified Solid Napoleonic Band with Courtenay Style Base



One collector's finds at the show



Rare Heyde Medical Display Set



Superb mint and boxed Crescent School Set



Unidentified Japanese manufacturer



Rare Toydell UK Plaster Gloss Painted Royal Canadian Mountie with original box



R.C.M.P. Collector Graham O'Connor and his wife were returning to Chicago after an abscence of several years and were pleased to find the Mountie illustrated



Unusual Green (Farm) Paint version of Military Trailer



Unusual Japanese Solid British Guard for sale by Eddie Gries (believed never before seen?)

#### SEVENTEEN MINUTES

By J. Noel Schlageter

Old Toy Soldier Show – Saturday September 22, 2007. Ray Haradin held a sale in his hotel room, which had been advertised as "Rays Bargain Room", it consisted of over 2000 single figures, boxed sets and empty toy soldier boxes. The "Bargain Room" was to open at 10:00 A.M.

As I approached the salesroom shortly before the appointed time, I encountered a good number of eager customers lined up in the hallway. Approaching Ray, I asked if I might photograph the sale as it took place. Ray readily agreed and asked Norman Joplin, who was assisting Ray with the logistics of the event to let me into the room so that I could get in position to photograph the action as the sale began.

WOW! What a display met my eyes! The two beds were covered with toy soldiers and figures and other sale items; two tables held a myriad of figures. Even the windowsill was crowded with Ray's offerings. (The majority of the items were soldiers from the Geauga County Historical Society collection of Lt. Col. Lyle Thoburn)

I placed myself in a corner of the room by the window. The door opened, Ray led the buyers into the room. He announced the rules of the sale and set the initial price of \$50 a figure. He told the buyers to record the prices of their selections on the bags handed to them upon entering the room.

The shoppers filed in and at one point over filled the room and engaged in a diligent but courteous search for items which interested them. Many bags began to be filled to the brim, some real bargains including a Britains Barrage Balloon and an Under-slung Lorry were quickly snapped up.



Bargain Room Line Kent Kline, Sally and Stan Alekna, Joe Wallis, Scott Miller, Joe Grandolfo, Lloyd Bradley and Peter Clarke



Ray and Norman reviewing logistics of sale

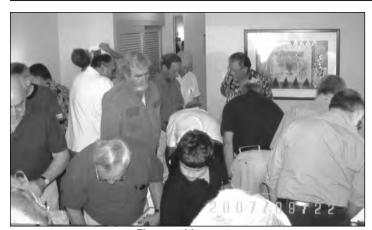


Two beds full of figures and boxes



Doors open, rush begins led by Ray

#### **SEVENTEEN MINUTES (Cont.)**



The crowd increases

Searching for bargains

After several minutes, Ray announced a reduction in the price, \$20 an item. As the empty spaces started to grow on the tables, beds and window sill, satisfied shoppers gathered at the door to settle their accounts with Norman who was acting as cashier. Ray continued to reduce the price of the remaining items at intervals until they reached a true bargain price of \$2 a figure.

As the room cleared, Ray called out "Stop" and indicated that the remaining items would be sold in lots. In this way the window sill and tables were offered at prices which were quickly met.

One of the beds was already completely cleared of items; the other still had figures on it. Ray offered the bed full of figures for \$30; No one responded. Then Kent Kline offered \$20, to which Ray said, "sold".

The sale was over and the room cleared in SEVEN-TEEN MINUTES, and many happy collectors have their own tall story about the bargains that they acquired.



Filling the bags



Almost all gone, the room is emptied



First in, last out Kent Kline clears the last bed

## THE LAST TOMMY AWARD LONDON SEPTEMBER 2007

In 1983 The Texas/Bermuda Toy Soldier Society (Membership of two) Colonel Donald Pudney and Arnold Rolak instigated an award designed to honor those who had made a significant contribution by way of their achievements in the furtherance and promotion of the hobby of collecting Old Toy Soldiers.

The award was first presented during the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show in 1983 and continued to be a feature each September in Chicago.

Recipients of past awards are listed here.

1983 Steve Sommers, Josie Sommers, Don Pielin, Joe Wallis, Roger Garfield (Old Toy Soldier Newsletter partners)

**1984** Ed Ruby (Toy Soldier collector)

1985 James Opie (Author)

**1986** Richard O'Brien (Author)

**1987** Ed K Poole (Dimestore Conversionist extraordinaire)

1988 Scott Morlan (Co Organizer of the West Coaster Show California) and Will Beirwaltes (For his contribution to the hobby)

1989 No award presented

**1990** Gus Hansen, (Legendary Toy Soldier dealer and collector)

**1991** Colonel Donald R. Pudney

1991 Arnold J. Rolak

1991 The Tommy Award presentation was transferred To Scott Morlan, co organizer of the West Coaster Show in California and was subsequently presented by Scott to the instigators of the award, Colonel Donald Pudney and Arnold Rolak

The Tommy award lay dormant until, in 2007 Norman Joplin, author of several toy soldier and figure reference books, organizer of the London Old Toy Soldier show and former Christies Toy Soldier Consultant was nominated to receive the "last" Tommy Award.

This prestigious award consists of a fine porcelain Drum Major representing the Bermuda Regiment and is mounted on a plinth made of rare genuine Bermudan cedar wood.

At the pre Old Toy Soldier show London hospitality the Tommy Award was presented to Norman Joplin by Colonel Donald Pudney and Arnold Rolak, but not before a traditional US style "roast" speech, designed to embarrass the recipient was delivered by Arnold Rolak.

With typical modesty in a short speech thanking the Texas/Bermuda Toy Soldier Society for the award, Norman replied, "I really deserve this".

The accompanying photos by Philip Dean show the presentation and the assembled guests from as far afield as the USA, Sweden, Germany and France.

This was not the only presentation of the night.

Arnold Rolak was promoted from Major General of the Hamilton Light Horse Regiment of Bermuda (Militia) to Lieutenant General, the presentation being made in London due to the regiment being stood down in 1970 because of unrest in the Middle East. In fact, the Regiment has always stood down in times of unrest.

General Rae Cornock, CB, OBE assisted by the commanding General of the Regiment, Donald Pudney carried out the promotion ceremony by presenting Lieutenant General Rolak with the badges of his new rank (See photo by Philip Dean).

General Corrock, now retired from the British Army, but still a Colonel in Chief of an Indian Army Regiment praised the newly promoted

#### THE LAST TOMMY AWARD (Cont.)

Lieutenant General and the H.L.H Regiment for their contribution to the British Army in times of peace.

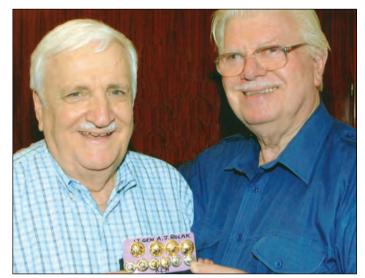
The Regiment, which is said to have been founded in 1786 (All records were lost in the great Hamilton fire of 1812) has a cap badge consisting of a pair of lances crossed over a bold letter H and surrounded by a lyre and the date 1786.

The motto of this great and proud Regiment is - - "Nun est numquam errat"

The Officers of the Regiment are retired individuals such as high ranking Bermuda Government Officials, the Bermuda Regiment and the Bermuda Insurance Industry. They are now spread all over the World. Long may it continue in its proud history of glorious inaction.



Arnold Rolak and Colonel Donald Pudney presenting the "Last" Tommy Award to Norman Joplin



Arnold Rolak's being presented with his promotion buttons by Colonel Donald Pudney having achieved the rank of Lieutenant General in the Hamilton Light Horse (Militia) Regiment of Bermuda



Preshow hospitality brought together dealers and collectors.
Two awards were presented that night.



#### SHOW REPORT

## NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER & FIGURE SHOW September 8th, 2007

The only dateline Old Toy Soldier Show of it's kind and organized by Norman Joplin takes place in the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury Central London each September. The show is specifically designed to attract collectors and dealers in old metal, composition and plastic toy soldiers and figures and boasts some seventy tables devoted to items made pre 1980.

The majority of items on offer by the 50 + dealers mainly fall within the 1880-1966 time frame. For collectors who specialize in figures from this period there are many thousands of items to choose from. The show attracts dealers from the USA, France, Italy, Germany and Scandinavia each year as well as visitors from South Africa and this year a number of Australian collectors, some of whom favored a British trip this year rather than a US visit. Two such collectors, Phil Todd and Rob Tindal, commented on the vast selection of old figures available, and all under one roof, they further stated that although there is nothing quite like the Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago, they were grateful to find that only old items were on offer at the London show. The show is run as a non profit making venture and is sponsored in part by some of the traders, who have indicated their desire for a specialist show and have in turn provided sponsorship to ensure it's continued success.

Photographs accompanying this article convey the finds and personalities who attended. Virginia Larkin from the USA and a civilian collector was paying her first visit to the show and was very pleased to meet with a number of the traders ,who she had previously been in contact with via web sites or Ebay.

A good number of this years public attendees stated that they were collectors who also bought and sold on Ebay. They found that the show provided many opportunities to purchase at first hand items that would later be entered on their Ebay listings. The show is somewhat of a trade event with some dealers setting up as early as 4 a.m. on Saturday morning and continuing to trade until the shows close late afternoon. The early entry facili-

ty allows any collector to purchase at a premium an early entry ticket to the show, enabling them to become part of the event as early as 6am.

A number of Ebay participants expressed their delight at being able to meet with clients who they had previously only been in contact with via the internet, thus enhancing what has become a "toy soldier social occasion" for many.

Tony Wells, who was attending the show for the first time is a regular Ebay trader. His two tables were packed with interesting items and his sales were such that he has already booked three tables for next year as well as indicating his desire to assist with sponsorship.

Next years show continues with the same dateline format, but in addition there will be a toy soldier auction which is scheduled to take place in the hotel at the conclusion of the show.

The Toy Auctioneer owned by Daniel Agnew, former employee of Christies Auctioneers in conjunction with Clockworx, CEO Christian Braun will hold the auction which will consist of old toy soldiers and civilian figures from the period related to the theme of the show. More details will be announced in the hobby press over the next few months.



Norman Joplin and US collector Virginia Larkin

## SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER & FIGURE SHOW



### PENNSYLVANIA GI JOE SHOW

#### **NOVEMBER 18, 2007**

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

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

Admission:

Adults: \$5

9 AM - 3 PM

Children under 10 FREE!!

Admission includes Tov Soldier Show

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:

203-848-0980

201-342-6475

OneSixthSynd@aol.com

201-257-2687 (All Day Cell)

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

Show Sponsored by:

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Hackensack, NJ 07602



One Sixth Syndicate, LLC

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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/p Box 572, Hackensack, NJ 07602



For Information Call - Ed Gries: 201-342-6475 -10am to M or Fax 215-945-1486 or Anytime Cell - 201-257-2687



#### **HEART # SOUTH**

TOY SOLDIER MILITARY & MINIATURE FIGURE SHOW AND SALE SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st. 2007 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



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7128 COLUMBIA PIKE ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003 6000 SQ FT. (NEW FACILITY) 80+ TABLES

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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 80 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.

For Information Call: Ed Gries at 201-342-6475 or Fax 215-945-1486 Cell: 201-257-2687 **PSMA** 

Next Shows, Saturday, Feb. 23rd and June 7th, 2008

The New

Annapolis Christmas Toy Soldier Show & Sale

Saturday, December 8th, 2007 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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

#### Directions

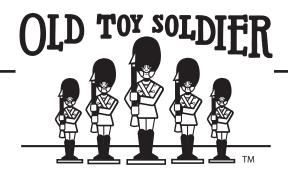
East on US 50 to exit 23 (MD 450, E. ramp) toward MD Rtc. 2 south. (Riva Rd) turn left onto West St. (MD Rte. 450), turn left onto Hudson St. Gate to Armory parking on the left.

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

Contacts:

Ed Gries Phone: 201-342-6475 Fax: 215-945-1486

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



## Old Toy Soldier Magazine Volume 31#4, February 2008 will feature the following articles:

- Timpo GIs Were These the Best Toy Soldiers Ever Made?
- Britains Royal Horse Artillery More Variations
- Dimestores Rare Color Variations Discovered
- Willets Large Size, One Off Custom Made in the UK

#### Plus ofher articles and all the regular features are scheduled. Remember to keep your subscription up to date.



#### 14th ANNUAL FLORIDA TOY SOLDIER AND ACTION FIGURE SHOW

With Figure Painting Competition (Sponsored by the South Florida Toy Soldier Club, Inc.)



### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008 – 9 AM TO 4 PM SCOTTISH RITES MASONIC HALL

22nd Avenue and D Street, Lake Worth, Florida
(4 miles South of West Palm Beach Airport – I-95 to Exit 64 / "10th Ave. North" East to D Street - North to 22nd / Base of White Water Tower)

Over 50 dealers offering thousands of military miniatures, new and old, action figures, St. Petersburg figures and related hobby items.



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Show rate \$199.00 • (561) 369-0018
Admission: Adults \$6.00 • under 12 \$3.00 • pre-show \$25.00
Food available - tables \$65.00 • additional \$60.00

Table rental: Mike Skurda, E-mail: mskurda@inbox.com General Information: Alan McGhee (954) 431-9295 • John Lesinski (561) 968-5571 www.southfloridatoysoldier.com







## VICHGAN historical collectibles show

Sunday, January 27, 2008

9 am - 3 pm

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## Detroit Toy Soldier Show Iron Brigade Militaria Show Michigan Historical Miniature Club Show

175 Tables of Historical Figures, Militaria, Books, Toy Soldiers & Action Figures

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For General and Vendor Information Contact:

248.586.1022

Visit the website: www.michiganshow.com



### SATURDAY February 9, 2008 9 AM - 3 PM

YORK FAIRGROUNDS
Memorial Hall
334 Carlisle Avenue
York, Pennsylvania 17404
Set Up Day Friday, February 8, 2008
10AM - 5PM

Early Buyer -Friday, February 8, 2008 10AM \$50.00 \* General Admission \$7.00



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Sunday, March 2 9a.m. - 3p.m.

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An international gathering of leading Manufacturers, Dealers and Collectors.

Room activity on Friday and Saturday. Open to the public.

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#### **AUCTION PREVIEW**

#### **BONHAMS**

The following illustrate but a few of the rare and unusual lots scheduled for Bonhams November 21st Toy Soldier and Figure Auction.



1280 RARE French made Tinplate 63mm scale French Artillery near conjoined tin Field Artillerymen, uniforms c. 1879, finely detailed four horse team with tinplate limber and caisson, two seated men, another four horse team with limber and one seated man, two mounted officers with trumpeter and nine artillerymen marching at the slope (G, one driver's sword missing) 1885 (26) £500-800



1110 Charbens Set 854, The Coffee Stall with opening door, shutter, proprietor, coffee urn, two cups and saucers and horse, in original box (G, lugs to shutter missing, box G) 1936 (8) £350-500



1105C Heyde RARE Santa Claus with sleigh and reindeer (G) 1935 (4) £70-100
And a Benbros Qualitoy boxed santa, £50-70



1100 Britains RARE early uncatalogued Boy Scouts in an original, PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN, X series style box, entitled BOY SCOUTS Made in London. Originally made to contain twelve figures, this box is likely to have been used for selling individual figures, as the interior tray has bent card dividers rather than a sew-in insert card. The nine boy scouts remaining in the box and the figure marching with the staff held horizontally, dated 23.3.1911, which does not appear in any numbered set, but was available post-WWI as individual figure 29c. Painting is second grade, with light khaki hat, shirt and shorts, packs and staff the same colour, flesh face, hands and knees, black eyes, stockings and boots, red neckerchief, brown belt and green base. (G-F, two heads loose, three slightly bent at ankles, box F) 1911 (9) £300-400



1108 Britains RARE set 96F, Stable with two horse box compartments and open section for cart. Doors open outwards. Red brick finish. Made by HUGAR for Britains. (G, rear removable roof a little warped) (1) £200-300



1157A RARE French made Hollowcast, Thatched Country Cottage 9.5cm tall by 14cm wide by 8cm deep approx., with eight pieces of tile topped stone wall and two gateposts with gates, Swing with child, boy standing, man watering plants, two trees, two flowers, children's play area with table and fence, tree with floral shrubs, well, kennel with dog and a vegetable patch with vegetables to pull up from holes: eight cabbages, six carrots and six parsnips VG, a few damaged (47) £120-160

#### **AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)**



1340 RARE Early British made Hollowcast Infantry of the Line, possibly for Faudel Phillips eleven marching at the carry and four at shoulder arms, with four Reka Royal Horse Guards, lances, at the trot (G, one helmet spike missing, one horse leg and one tail missing) 1906 19 £150-200



Kew Village Fool - Britains Village Idiot and French Female Village Simpleton



1105F Heyde novelty "The Musicians of Bremen" vignette from the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, the Cockerel, Cat, Dog and Donkey forming an animal pyramid, standing on a barrel (VG) (5) £80-120



1289 100mm scale British Infantry in khaki peak caps, c.1910, made of plaster with cast metal weapons, excellently modelled and painted, with magnificent mounted officer (stands 150mm tall), colour bearer in garrison cap (flag missing) and a European Indian Army officer with drawn sword (VG, medical orderly G paint faded, one rifle loose) 1912 (15) £400-600



Britains PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED set 422, Types of the German Forces containing eight PRUSSIAN HUSSARS, with officer (one trooper presumed missing) in original two row box, Armies of the World label with inset titling and rubber stamped number (G, some horse legs or flanks F, one lance head missing, box P, no insert card, but label intact) 1931 (9) £300-400 According to Britains records, this set number was used as a 15 piece set of mounted North American Indians (Wallis J, page 139). The existence of the set above suggests that the Britains set numbering system was subject to anomalies

#### Bonhams<sup>1793</sup>

#### Lead Soldiers and Figures

Wednesday 21 November at 1.30pm Knightsbridge



Illustrated: Britains Cottage, Map of the World cows and Village Idiots. Estimates from £80 to £300. Part of a large collection of lead civilian farm figures, animals, vehicles and buildings to be included in the sale.

For a free and confidential valuation with a view to selling at Bonhams or for further details regarding the auction please contact:

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## Pre-Christmas Figure Extravaganza SPECIALIST MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FIGURE SALE



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To be held on



#### **TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2007**

at Stockton-on-Tees, England. Auction commences 10.00am

Starting with a private owner collection of Britains Military figures and vehicles, both pre and post war boxed and unboxed sets.

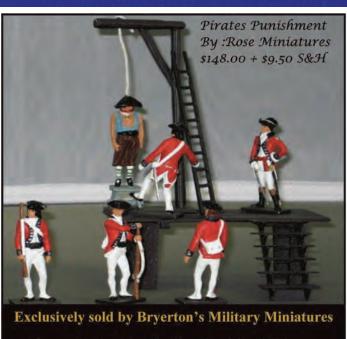
To include various versions of Gun Teams - Wagons - Mountain Artillery, plus large display sets including 51 - 93 - 1477 and an unusual post war Wild West Display set 2061.

Followed by the David Kenny collection, approximately 70 lots of high quality early Herald & Britains plastic sets, including a rare Herald English Civil War display set & an early Wild West display set in a rare transitional Herald/Britains box.

Contact Simon Clark or Peter Rumsey for further details

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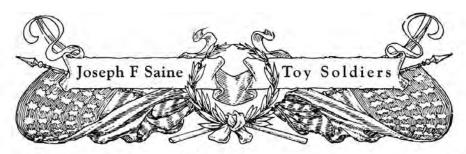
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## **TOY SOLDIER AUCTION**

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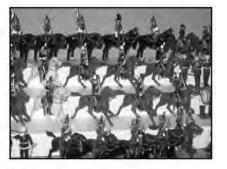


- ALEKCUMARISTA PRINTZA



thin the inventory. This includes: Britains (hollowcast modern), Mignot (many boxed) Kingcast, Nostalgia, Johillco and lots of other hollowcast, Barclay and Manoil (100+ pieces). Lineol and Elastolin Composition Soldiers and Animals. Books, wargaming, modeling, history, & toy soldier tomes. Historical & Connoisseur Figures, 12" Action Figures (MIB), Castles, Toy Soldier Molds, Military Model Kits (land, sea & air), Metal Figure Kits, Cannon Collection, Military Tanks, Toys, Boats. Submarine, trenches and scenics... Playsets, Marx, Conte, Barzo and bushels of plastic figures & toys. Many repairables and repaintables. This is a partial listing. Loads more to be uncovered. Don't miss this one! There's something everyone!







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# Ray Haradin and Norman Joplin are pleased to announce!



Coming in early 2008, the team that has produced Old Toy Soldier Magazine for the past five years will be opening an Auction House in the U.S. that will specialize in the sale of all types of Old Toy Soldiers and Figures

It has become clear that there are no U.S. auction houses dedicated to the promotion and sale of our treasured figures.

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Collectors will no longer have to endure the high costs and the risk of shipping collections overseas just to have them sold and redistributed back to U.S. collectors. Plus the added importation tax known as V.A.T., a Value Added Tax, which is applicable in the U.K., will no longer be a costly factor.

We will keep you posted as our work progresses.

For now we welcome your inquiries and communications regarding Toy Soldier Collections that you may want to consign to **Old Toy Soldier Auctions U.S.A..** 

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# **AUCTION PREVIEW**



Recognizing the need for an Auction House dedicated to the Toy Soldier Hobby Ray Haradin –Toys of Yesteryear, RSL Auctions and Old Toy Soldier Magazine in conjunction with Norman Joplin – Author, Editor of Old Toy Soldier Magazine and former Christies consultant and Toy Soldier specialist have formed **Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA**.

With combined experience in the Toy Soldier Hobby spanning 55 years, Ray and Norman can offer an unparalled service to sellers and buyers alike.

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Advertising of each auction will be carried in all major toy soldier publications and previews will be published in *Old Toy Soldier Magazine*.

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Britains Cardboard Noah's Ark with Noah, Wife and Animals

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Britains Underslung Lorry

# **AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)**







Exella Big Bad Wolf ,Three Pigs and the RARE Houses



Britains Very Rare Snow Babies on Sled

These two methods will ensure complete world wide coverage of the items on offer in the auctions and will provide those who wish to obtain and retain a written auction catalog and bid in advance with the opportunity of subscribing in advance to the auction catalog mailing.

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The first Old Toy Soldier Auction USA Will be held in May 2008. Full details will appear in the February 2008 issue of *Old Toy Soldier Magazine*.

#### **Auction Preview**

The inaugural Auction comprises of a single owner collection of Post War Britains Military and Civilian items, consisting of approximately 300 lots, including Vehicles, Bands and large display sets. In addition, the same vendor has submitted a very comprehensive collection of Imperial sets with original boxes.

Other vendors items which will be included in the sale include Britains Pre War boxed sets, Heyde Military, European Continental figures from Germany and France and many rare Civilian pieces including Rare Britains Noah's Ark, Snow Babies and The Exella Big Bad Wolf, Three Pigs and Houses group illustrated in this preview.



**Britains US Marine Color Party** 



One of the Many Post War Boxed Sets in Auction, Britains Set 37 Coldstream Guards Band



Imperial is heavily featured in the upcoming Auction

By Doug Ehrenhaft

As a long time Barclay vehicle collector with a special interest and affection for their racecars, I thought I would share my collection and related information with the Dimestore community through the OLD TOY SOLDIER magazine.

Racing and racecars have held a special place in American culture since the invention of the automobile and Barclay capitalized on this mania by manufacturing many styles and sizes of racecar toys beginning in 1930. The descriptive features of Barclay's twenty-two racers are contained in the table and the photos are presented in the same sequence as the table. As most Dimestore vehicle collectors know, it is not uncommon to find the same model of a vehicle with a different type of tires or wheels due to transition from one type of wheel to the other. The "Wheels" listed in the table are the type that are most commonly found on that racecar.

While the absence of production records prevents us from pinpointing the actual dates of issue of each car, all Barclay racecars were slush cast and were made in the 1930's, except for the die cast BV101's that were made in the 1960's.

There is no photo for BV149 without the battery-powered headlight in the photo gallery because, to the best of my knowledge, no one has found such a racecar yet. The reason BV149 is listed in the table is simply because we know that Barclay made a standard version (without a battery-powered headlight) for every other vehicle that they made with such a headlight. I could be wrong but I believe one or more BV149's will turn up some day. More than one advanced collector has mistaken BV150 for the elusive BV149 but an examination of photos of BV149A and BV150 reveals a distinct difference in the height of the driver, the length of the exhaust pipes and shape of the front-end/grill of the two racecars.

Another common identification error is mistaking the more frequently seen CAW 12B racecar for Barclay's first racecar, the rare BV53. As can be seen in the photos, the only discernable difference between the two vehicles is that wheels of the CAW extend past the front of the car whereas BV53's wheels are even with the front of the car. Now all you have to do is remember which one is which! This little tid bit of information will probably be the cause of a number of CAW 12B's, which were previously thought to be BV53's, to be offered on eBay in the near future.

BV62A and BV149A are the only two racecars with battery-powered headlights. The only racers with a passenger as well as a driver are BV50 and BV54. BV51A was the first version of this model of racecar and had glued-on rhinestone headlights. However, because super glue was not available back then, these headlights frequently popped off which did not make F.W. Woolworth very happy and which is why this racer is so rare. It is believed that later production BV51's were issued without rhinestone headlights because there is no indication that glue had been applied to that area of the car. A very rare and special vari-



BV62A



BV149A



BV51A



BV51B



BV115

ant of this racer, labeled as BV51B, was made for the 1936 Cleveland Ohio Great Lakes Exposition and has an identifying decal on the hood. BV52 is the largest of Barclay's racecars with a length of 7 inches but BV115 and BV65 are not far behind at 6-7/8 inches, each.

In the 1960's, Barclay packaged two BV101's and a ten-foot strip of vinyl in a blister pack and sold it as their "WHEEL-A RIFIC" set. If only Barclay had realized that they were on the leading edge of what has evolved into the very popular slot cars of today, they

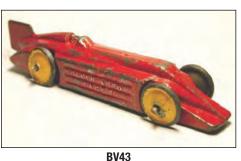
might still be in business. Barclay's last racecar, labeled as BV101A1 in the gallery, is identifiable by its neon/fluorescent paint colors and white sidewall tires and is as difficult to find as their first racecar, BV53.

As with most toys of this era, patents and copyrights were no big deal and companies often copied their competitor's products. Two Barclay "knock-offs" are pictured at the end of the photo gallery; one by Metal Cast and the other by an unknown maker. The feature that identifies both of these cars as non-Barclay







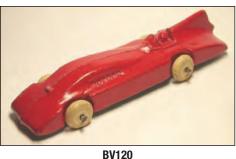




**BV51** 





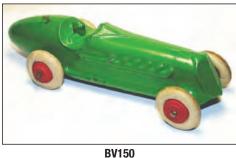






**BV65** 

**BV62** 





В

39







BV55A BV54 BV101A

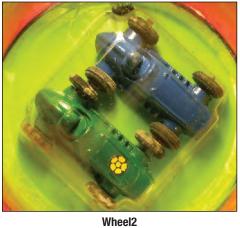






BV55 101A1 BV101







Wheel a rific Whe





Unknown

O=Brien N0.	Length in Inches	Wheels	Unique Features and/or 'Markings'	Price @ 95%
BV149	4	tires on hubs	Standard version w/o battery powered headlight; none of this version have been seen; exhaust extends to end of cockpit	\$550+
BV62A	5-1/2	tires on hubs	Battery powered headlight; 2-known	\$500
BV149A	4	tires on hubs	Battery powered headlight; exhaust extends to end of cockpit, 5-known	\$400
BV51A	5-5/8	tires on hubs	Closed cockpit; rhinestone headlights	\$400
BV51B	5-5/8	tires on hubs	Closed cockpit; no rhinestone headlights; Decal: "1936 EXPOSITION"	\$375
BV115	6-7/8	white rubber	Paneled hood	\$350
BV130	3-7/8	metal	2-side scoops	\$325
BV43	4-3/8	metal	'GOLDEN ARROW RACER'	\$300
BV62	5-1/4	tires on hubs	9-side vents	\$275
BV65	6-7/8	tires on hubs	3-ribs on each side	\$250
BV52	7	tires on hubs	Closed cockpit, fancy hood ornament	\$200
BV51	5-5/8	tires on hubs	Closed cockpit; no rhinestone headlights	\$150
BV120	4-1/4	white rubber	Smooth hood	\$150
BV150	4	tires on hubs	Exhaust extends to center of cockpit; tapered front- end/grill	\$150
BV53	2	metal	Wheels even w/ front-end of car (see CAW photo)	\$100
BV50	3	metal	Driver & passenger	\$100
BV121	4-1/4	white rubber	4-ribs on each side	\$100
BV55A	3-1/2	white rubber	'MADE IN USA'; solid & 2-tone paint colors	\$85
BV55	3-1/2	white rubber	Solid & 2-tone paint colors	\$80
BV54	4-1/4	tires on hubs	Driver & passenger,11- vents on sides of hood	\$75
BV101A1	1-7/8	black rubber w/ white side walls	Flat/scoop front-end; neon/flourscent paint colors, most have decals w/ numbers on them	\$40
BV101A	!-7/8	black rubber/ tan plastic	Flat/scop front-end; most have decals w/ numbers on them	\$30
BV101	1-7/8	black rubber/ tan plastic	Rounded front-end; most have decals w/ numbers on them	\$30

is the wooden tire hubs. Barclay's hubs all had a ridge or grove around their circumference and both copies have smooth hubs. There are many Barclay look-alike racers including newly cast cars from original Barclay molds by Eccles Bros. Eccles vehicles are so marked and easy to identify but most other copies have no markings so be careful out there.

The rarity of Barclay's racecars is enhanced by the fact that they are sought after by several types of collectors including those who collect all styles and types of racing vehicles. Prices listed in the table (except for BV149) are based on prices (rounded) that were actually paid by me, other collectors, or buyers on eBay.

A last anecdote on this group of special vehicles is that not one racecar had a number on it except for the decal numbers on the BV101's. I find this especially strange since they neatly painted numbers on the saddles of their mounted jockeys and even painted numbers on the helmets of their two fireman figures. So if you see a slush cast Barclay racecar with a number on it, little Bobby put the number on it, not Barclay.

Hopefully, this article will be of help in identifying these rare vehicles and it may even cause new items to be added to the "WISH LISTS" of some OTS subscribers. If anyone knows of other Barclay racecar variants, or if someone out there has a BV149 they would sell or would agree to photograph, please contact me.

> Doug Ehrenhaft 2606 E. Oregon St. Evansville, IN 47711 (812) 491-3500

email: dsmechanic@aol.com

# Presents BATTLE ON SNOWSHOES

13th March 1758.

In the afternoon of March 13th 1758 a small battle took place in the wilderness of North America. The total number on both sides did not exceed 500 men. The men on the British side were primarily native born settlers from New England led by Robert Rogers and several soldiers from the 27th Regiment of Foot. They wore snowshoes as they marched through snow 4 feet deep. On the French side native born Canadians and their native Indian allies of New France led by the French partisan Langy.



SF-01 FRENCH MARINES 1.



SWI-01 WOODLAND INDIANS 1.



SF-02 FRENCH MARINES 2.



SWI-02 WOODLAND INDIANS 2.

Despite the success of an initial ambush by Rogers and his rangers, the battle was to swing the way of the numerically superior French force. The Rangers fought bravely, considering they were outnumbered and their numbers fell quickly. They made several successful attempts to prevent themselves from being flanked. But after an hour and a half of heavy fighting, their numbers were too few and they finally retreated. The Rangers lost about 125 who were killed or captured. It was to be a clear cut victory for the French and Indians and resulted in the almost total annihilation of the best of the newly formed English Rangers. Only darkness was to save Rogers and the remnants of his force.

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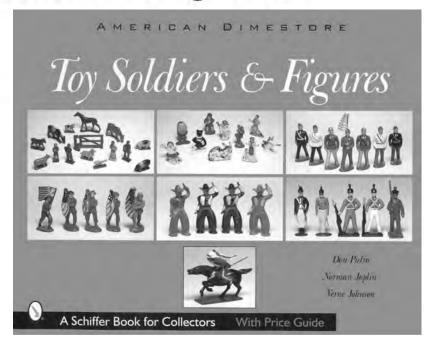
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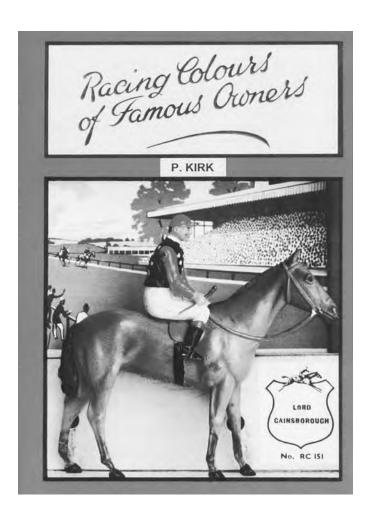
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# **BOOK REVIEW**

# **Britains Racing Colours of Famous Owners**

By Peter Kirk Reviewed by Norman Joplin





Racing Colours of Famous owners was first printed and released in 2001. The author Peter Kirk had carried out extensive research into the actual Racing Colours worn by Jockeys in The United Kingdom, America and Canada and those colours adopted by the Racehorse owners.

Britains Started to produce a series of models entitled Racing Colours of Famous Owners in 1925/26 and continued to add to the line post World War two.

Mr. Kirks ground breaking volume which identified many of the more obscure or specially commissioned models by Britains added much to the research that has been carried into the Britains company history and products. Mr. Kirk graciously offered to supply many of the images for the Racing Colours chapter in my book Britains Civilian Figures.

Early in 2007, a second edition of Peter Kirk's book was released with much extended text and many further identifications. These two volumes act as the definitive books on the subject and should be considered unique in their field.

Sad to report that Peter Kirk died soon after the release of the second volume in 2007. My sympathy is extended to his widow Janet and Family.

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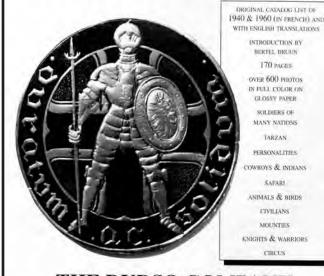
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## Band of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, Napoleonic Wars, 1815

The Coldstream Guards can trace their origins back to the 1650's when they were two, five company regiments in the New Model Army. The Regiment has subsequently served with distinction all over the world in many of the wars fought by Great Britain.

With the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo on June 18, 1815, the Allied powers (Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia) sent armies to occupy France. Not long after they arrived victory parades began in Paris. Accounts at the time reflect that the British bands appeared in the clothing they had worn at Waterloo, whereas many of the other Allied bands appeared in the finest new clothes. The French were a bit shocked to see these poorly turned out British troops. That said, it was noticed that the British were the only troops without ribbons or decoration on; they fought for the love of their country without a need for medals to give them courage!

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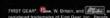
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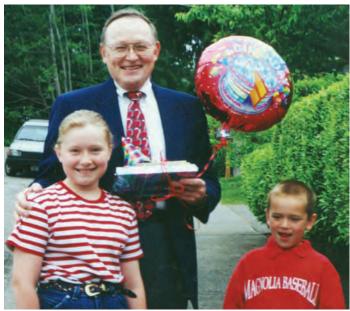
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## THE CONSUMMATE CONVERSIONIST

By Louis S. Steinberg

"I remember it so well. It was my fourth birthday when I received my first metal, five-and-ten-cent store, toy soldiers. It was a boxed set of Grey Iron Revolutionary War figures. For me, they were the perfect size and appearance to go with my Standard Gauge train set. That was back in 1931, and from then on, I do believe I have been smitten continually by those same toy soldier demons that captivate and influence young boys," exuberantly says John Rolla Hall.



John Hall celebrating a birthday with the grandchildren.

John continues, "My parents, Alfred B. and Christine Hall, told me that my arrival on our planet occurred in June, 1927, on a bright sunny day in Spokane, Washington. I am reminded of that by each passing birthday. However, I could not wish for the timing to have been any better. Mentally wandering back, I cannot imagine, as an impressionable youngster, growing up and experiencing a better era than those several decades that followed.

"At that specific time it was not readily known, but those years and the ones that preceded, now seem to be generally accepted here in the United States and in Europe as a primary part of the 'Golden Age' of toys."

The manufacturing of toys was witnessing a positive growth cycle. In spite of that fact, our country throughout the thirties was experiencing The Great Depression.

The War to End All Wars, World War One, was not so far removed from the daily news and was still imprinted on the minds of most families. The toy soldiers of the ten-cent stores, in relation to their selling price, offered their children many hours of "let's pre-

tend" play value. "I could have lived in either Woolworths or Grants," said John.

Pausing for a moment of thought, John mentions, "Toys in my formative preschool years were a very important part of most every day's activities. I often vividly remember having a colorful cracker box full with my toy soldiers. As I recall, it contained 54mm Britains, Johillco, early Barclay, and two sizes of composition. I think maybe Elastolin."

During the first half of the 20th century the railways bonded the land from coast to coast. The train within the United States was probably the single most important factor on the growth of the era. Well, toys always had a propitious affinity to mirror the fullscale world.

The technologies of the decade had taken hold and in some cases it even created nationalistic rivalries. Germany, Great Britain, France and Japan were to be challenged at each major international toy fair. However, in America, the electric train was deemed to be for boys their most popular plaything.

At Christmas time it became a family tradition in most households, both for young boys and even girls, to have a train running around the Christmas tree. John says, "My train was the most expensive toy I had. When the tree came down New Year's Day, the train was returned to its boxes and I did not see it until next Christmas season.

"In 1938, we moved to a larger home. It had a rather big walk-in attic that my father suggested would make a fine and permanent toy train and soldier layout. He quickly put up a practical workshop to help with the building chores. This took some time working with my father, and it did truly turn into a fun project. The layout evolved into a good looking army base with lots of toy soldiers and their equipment taking up much of the space. The trains were the larger Standard Gauge size and Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron figures fit perfectly."



Doughboys in heated close combat with the Huns



Japanese troops advancing on the Chinese



Missing Dimestore Bandsmen making up their own small band

Has it ever been factually determined just how and why Barclay, Manoil, Grey Iron, Auburn and the rest decided on a bit over three inches to be the height of the toy figures they would produce?

I suppose that it could be they were trading on the success of the 70-75mm, prewar, European pieces of Hausser/Elastolin and Lineol that were so popular on the Continent and also sold well in the States. Or, maybe it was to complement the Standard Gauge trains made by Lionel and American Flyer which predated American soldier production? Their toy soldiers, civilian people and railroad figures fit in, although not to scale, with the toy trains that were then well established. Or was it simply that a 3 inch figure looked and felt just right to represent a 6 foot person, I ponder? I seriously doubt if any children cared. They were only playtoys.

"I was fortunate to have two close friends in the neighborhood that had similar layouts and, like myself, had much interest in toy soldiers. This made everything more enjoyable with our sharing thoughts on our hobby. We would discuss the features of our soldiers; think about a lot of stuff that we believed was lacking; and give opinions about which figures we would like to see the big companies make for us.



Close-up of Japanese "Should-Have-Beens"



A better look at some of the band members

"Just where were the Marines and the Sailors that weren't marching? Where were the German soldiers? Where was the Dimestore Band? With those examples, we thought we had some great ideas for many new figures. 'Should-Have-Beens'.... That's the name I gave them back then and call them now when I make my own conversions," John says.

Time always passes. Children do grow into young men. John had entered high school. His layout began to gather dust. His priorities in life began to change. Now with new school friends and an unexpected heavy study load, there was no time for trains and soldiering. And guess what? Oh Boy!! Girls were being discovered!

Doing an aside, in a forlorn voice, John regrettably mentions, "Along the way, the layout was eventually dismantled and the trains, buildings, soldiers and all were sold."

Bam! In 1945, Uncle Sam's wartime draft put John in his Army for about two years. One of those years was spent in South Korea as a Staff Sergeant in the Signal Corps.

Upon returning stateside, John spent four years under the G I Bill at the University of Washington. After graduating in '51, with a major in economics,



Hot Dang! Is he a strummin' or a pickin' ??



Hoping mail call delivers that letter from home



The Cheerio bread has arrived for the officer's mess



Parading downtown in Anyburg. USA

he is back in the Army, but now as an officer and a gentleman, with the rank of Second Lieutenant, fulfilling his education obligation by serving our country for several more years training infantry troops as a Company Commander at Camp Roberts, California. Near the end of the Korean Conflict, John became a First Lieutenant and soon would say "so long" to Army life

"It seems like a slow fade-in to1953," John recalls, "when I began working in sales for the International Shoe Company out there in St. Louis, Missouri. I already had much exposure to the shoe business. My father owned and operated several retail shoe stores within the greater Seattle area.

"Learning the shoe line and developing sales skills was important. However, much was missing until one day by chance I ventured into the company's advertising department where suddenly my eyes focused on Miss Marie Martin, lovely, smart and talented, who had come out from Boston to take a position in advertising. We were married in 1955. Shortly thereafter our family grew with the arrivals of our two sons, Howard and Stephen, and now, two wonderful grandchildren.

"The company in time transferred me back to Seattle and from that home base I covered the state of Washington as its sales representative for twenty years."

John continues, "Although, between the gardening, house repairs, and painting, I do find time for soldiering. Marie thinks it is definitely my second childhood, but I think I never left my first. She believes I march to a different drummer. Maybe I do."

Recalling the earlier years, John says, "My young friends of the 1930's thought of other 'Should-Have-Beens.' What with Japan then invading China, where were the Chinese and Japanese Dimestores? Two figures each were not enough! What a disappointment! What is more noteworthy, is years later I wound up serving in a War where the Chinese were the bad guys and the Japanese were the good guys.

"Anyway, more than forty years later, I took a picture showing a few of my own foreign troops converted from some busted up Barclays. Using industrial epoxy steel as the casting medium and with homemade clay molds, I did make the heads with helmets including a wire armature for attachment. Along with that photo is another one of some of the 'missing' Dimestore bandsmen making up their own small band.

"So many of the conversion artists I've come across do add sculpted details and colors to make their figures with gear resemble the real-life soldier. I cannot strive for such realism. I keep it simple. After all, when you examine the old company's production their soldiers are cartoonish looking, like, with chrome helmets; dots for eyes; hands with no fingers. They

were simplistically designed only to be playtoys..... and, no more.

"I have made it a practice to stick with a likeness of the real originals so everything fits in, especially when it gets to the painting stage, that is, orange leggings and red guns. It is often tempting to put them in better colors. Perhaps Barclay and the rest thought brighter colors sell.

"Throughout the years it has been a pleasurable pursuit to construct some of those earlier wished-for soldiers. Obtaining broken pieces gives me a source for more work, fun and relaxation, considering I always have many ideas bouncing about in my mind. As I get older, this has become a gratifying and welcomed security blanket," John philosophizes.

Speaking about bands, John's "Mega Marching Marine Manoil Band" gets every first-place award in my mind as the most ambitious, group-Dimestore-conversion-project yet known. A lot may be said just alone about its size of fifty pieces. Much more may be said that it astonishingly took, if you can fathom, twenty-five years to finally reach its full billet compliment.

"I believe, but I'm not sure that I have completed my Marine Band. It was, after all those years, only an off-and-on special undertaking and probably took about, I guess, two hundred hours of work to complete. Each figure was converted one instrument at a time," said John. In our discussion, I told him with tongue-in-cheek, who cares? There are no posted rules. And, there is no "conversion-work-policeforce" out there to oversee how we are to do things!

"My way was I worked only on one figure until completion, making a separate band instrument for each Marine and then joining them to hands and finally to arms and body. There was a many year time-frame for all of this, accompanied by long periods of no activity.

"Hours of search-and-find, some with good luck, were spent to gather the materials to make the horns and drums. The brass bells for the bugles, trumpets and slide trombones are shaped from brass collar buttons used on men's shirts back 100 years ago. I made the bells on the sousaphones from brass bicycle horns from India. The frames for the base drums are napkin rings from China while the clarinets are just reworked sheetrock screws. The cymbals are the brass backing for 1940's U. S. Army uniform insignia.

"I found some brass fittings at the hardware store that were perfect for the alto and tenor sax. The regimental snare drums are store-bought metal castings. Christmas tree ornaments became the bells on the French horns. To complete some of the instruments I used some brass wire, key rings, pin heads and pin shafts.

"If you are not into altering figures, all this farout information must be boring," emphasizes John, taking a great deal of pride in his quarter century, converting marathon to structure his sensational Marine Band. "Day dreaming back on all this, it was both fun and funny," he says.

John developed his own identification system that indexes each of his converted figures under their base, that is, except for all the soldiers of the large band. This marking tell two things: what the figure is, and the consecutive number of conversions made. For example, "N K 85" translates to "None Known" (a parody on some numberings from the O'Brien books); while "85" indicates that this is John's eighty-fifth conversion figure. Therefore, since John does not recast any of his converts, all of his pieces are one-of-a-kind and, thus, are marked NK.

From mind chattering, John recounts, "The hobby has provided lots of enjoyment working an



The one and only "Mega Marching Marine Manoil Band"



First line of the large Marching Marine Battalion



Individual band figures showing great conversion detail



More of the Great Marine Band 13B

hour here and there on this figure and that. I'm still working on some of the earlier projects and always thinking of ideas for those new conversions I'm going to make.

"In looking back over the years, it is easy to conclude that the real treasures of this old toy soldier hobby is not the stuff in progress in the work area; nor, the collections in the cabinets; or, the plenty of seldom looked at boxes stored here and there — but, the many marvelous friendships and the good people with whom I have associated along the way."

John's story is not one that tells of huge soldier production; big sales and national distribution. It is far from that and pleasingly on the other side of the continuum.

His contribution to toy soldiering, and to us that especially relish Dimestore figures is his imagination, dedicated attention, and enjoyment in his conversion efforts to give us a look at what could have been; might have been; and, of course, "Should Have Been."

John, a kind of shy, quiet, modest fellow says, "If you remember hearing of that beautiful, blond, bombshell film actress of the '30s...Mae West, then you may remember one of her famous quotes."

"Too much of a good thing can be wonderful!"
Thanks to you, John R. Hall. You and your
Dimestore conversions are most certainly wonderful!

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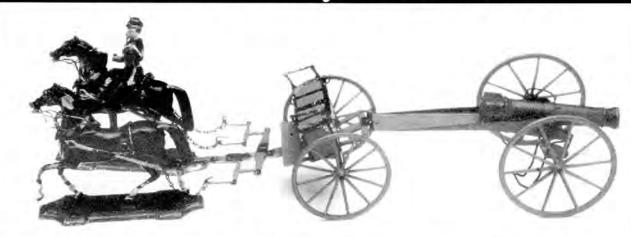


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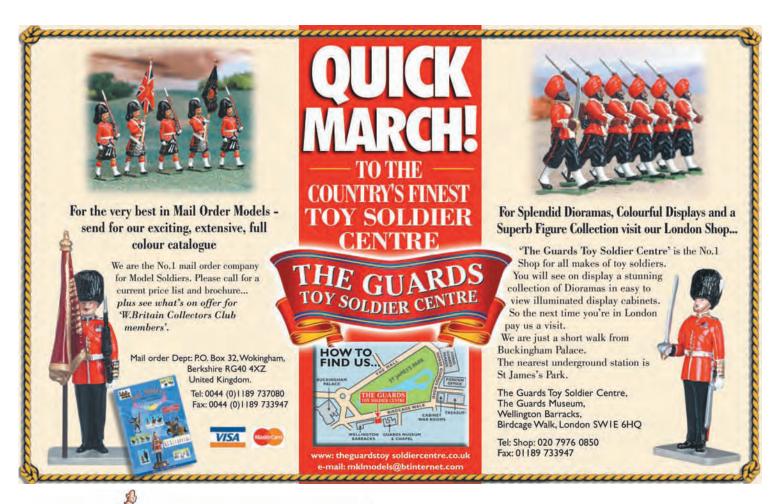


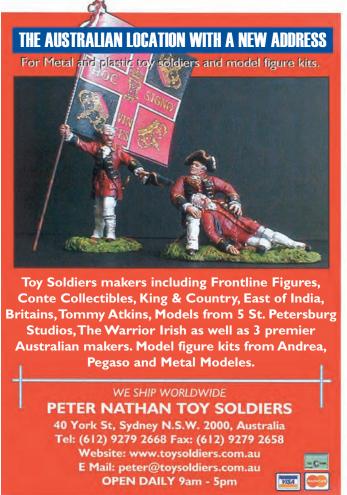
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# **ELF INTO JOY**Toy Forts Made by The Hall Family

By Allen Hickling



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5 58

#### In the beginning

During the Second World War Fred Hall was a widower living in Worcester with a very young son called Ted. Times were hard and, working in his garden shed, he made wooden pull-along toys which he sold to help pay the rent.

Shortly after the war (1948-49) he went into partnership with Fred Elford, who had been the tallyman who collected his rent. They started a business called Elf Crafts, which manufactured bobbins for the carpet industry in Kidderminster, wood mounting blocks for electric switches, courtesy lights for cars – and some toys.

#### **Elf Toys** (c.1955 – 1967)

After a while business was good, so they set up a proper workshop in a small factory unit in Stourport-on-Severn.

In the early 1950s their toy production expanded, making, amongst other things, red trains for Woolworths and farms for Littlewoods mail order operation. Then, as time went on, they added to their catalogue a number of toys, among them medieval toy forts and a range of wild west forts and buildings – these are the focus of this article.

They started out with relatively robust plywood glued together 'box' construction (enlivened with silkscreen details) in a relatively sober style and, although realistic in concept, the detail was slightly crude.

On the medieval fort, of which only one model is known, the windows were stencilled although the stonework is quite realistic (Fig.1).

On the western buildings the windows were prints of hand drawn originals, but the main body of the buildings was really very good. On both Fort Cherokee and Fort Dallas in particular, some very good modelling is evident with clearly defined stables as well as accommodation for officers and men (Figs.2 and 3). The Bar-X Ranch, about which little is known, was a typical example of this simple treatment (Figs.4 and 5).

The business was taking off and more help was needed in the workshop. Management became a question of maintaining a careful balance between employing a full-time workforce and using various forms of local casual labour. As a result, much of the work, especially assembly and finishing, was 'farmed out' to the rehabilitation workshops at the local psychiatric hospital.

By the end of the decade they had been joined by Philip Hall (Fred's half-brother), who became the designer – and, producing a wide range of

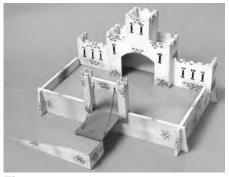


Figure 6



Figure 7

# **ELF INTO JOY (Cont.)**

toys, they adopted the trade name of Elf Toys. Then in 1964, Ted Hall (Fred's son) entered the business straight from his apprenticeship as an Industrial Machine Engineer at Archdales, where his father had worked before going into business for himself.

The product line had gone through a number of changes, most important of which was the beginning of the evolution of the slot-together system. This (flat pack) system eliminates assembly, saves warehouse space, promotes cheaper shipping and easier storage for the retailer – a vast improvement by any standard.

The medieval fort also went through a colour change to white with an orange representation of stonework, and the gateway was moved to the centre (Fig.6). More significant was the introduction of King Arthur's Castle, which was much larger and a far more elaborate affair with towers, two courtyards, a dungeon and a far more cheerful colour scheme (Fig.7).

Fort Cherokee, now given the number 80, appeared with a new building at the rear (Fig.8), and there was a western street scene represented by a run of buildings including a saloon with swinging doors and a jail (Fig.9).

By the mid-1960s the company was well established and was running smoothly.

#### **All change** (1967 – 1969)

In 1967, Fred Elford chose to retire and Elf Toys was sold out to two chicken farmers cum businessmen. They had no experience of the toy industry, and they must have seen Elf as what market analysts call a 'cash cow'; that is a well established business with a well defined market, which could continue to make money with little or no further investment needed for development.

The Elf Toys name was retained, and the Hall family were invited to continue managing the business – subject to the new owners' ideas of course.

The new owners were specially interested in the dolls house market which was just beginning to take off about then. Consequently the other toys in the range, in particular the forts, got short shrift and were not developed, although they continued to be produced.

After 18 months or so, Fred and Ted were told that their services were surplus to requirements and they were asked to leave. Philip, the designer, stayed on for about six months until Elf Toys inevitably went under. At which point he joined the start up of Park Toys, which explains the remarkable similarity of their products to those of Joy Toys, indeed often using identical parts.

#### **Joy Toys & Woodcrafts** (1969 – 1987)

Fred and Ted Hall were joined by Ted's half-brother, John Cartwright, and together they set up Joy Toys and Woodcrafts, using the trade name Joy Toys in a new workshop in Upton-on-Severn. Fred was Works Director and Chief Designer; Ted was Production Manager; and John took over Sales and Finance.

The Early Learning Centre, which was just beginning to become a force on the high street, was having trouble with Tiger Toys, their original suppliers. Eventually Tiger Toys went bankrupt and Joy Toys stepped in. They were soon operating very successfully, producing 5000 wild west forts per year with TV related marketing.



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

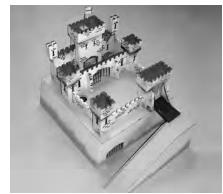


Figure 11

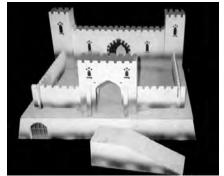


Figure 12

# **ELF INTO JOY (Cont.)**

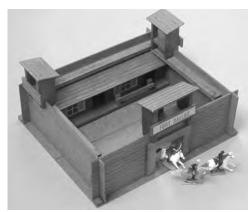


Figure 13

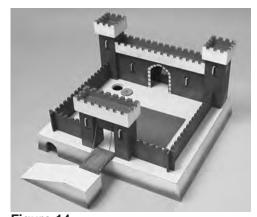


Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

The products went through several makeovers during this time. The original medieval fort was simplified and given a substantial gatehouse (Fig.10). King Arthur's Castle got some turrets, a flag and a new stencil for the stonework, and was given the number 44 (Fig.11). An all new model was introduced which was a Medieval Castle and given the number 60 (Fig.12). The clever bit of design in this was the simple depiction of an inner courtyard through the arch at the back.

The design of Fort Dallas, now numbered 81, also went through a major overhaul that saw the interior buildings reduced to one, and 'slip-over' units introduced to form high level look-outs — a feature of their western forts for the next twenty-five years (Fig.13).

About 1975 things were going so well that they opened a new larger workshop in Malvern.

They were using similar management and production techniques as they had when they were operating as Elf. In this they 'out sourced' much of the assembly and finishing to the rehabilitation workshops in the open prison at Sudbury. This had the added advantage that Sudbury made packing cases for the Ministry of Defence, and Joy Toys used their off-cuts for the forts.

By now their use of the 'flat pack' self-assembly system was in full swing. The medieval fort given the number 60 underwent a considerable overhaul (Fig.14). Not only did the colour and windows change, but the crenellation was much more substantial. King Arthur's Castle, also now a dark colour, was reduced in size and complexity to become King William's Castle numbered 66.

Forts Cherokee and Dallas also looked quite different but still numbered 80 and 81. The interior buildings were much more colourful, the 'slip-over' look-outs had become the norm and they all had bases to stand on (Figs.15 and 16). Interestingly, Fort Cherokee retained its distinctive crenellation effect and vertical boarding which it had had since it was first brought out and would last until the end. Fort Dallas never had this crenellation feature and the boarding was horizontal.

#### **TP Activity Toys** (1987 – 1997)

In 1985 Fred Hall died. If this was not bad enough, in 1986 John Cartwright left to follow a different career. This meant that all of their workloads had to be taken on by Ted doing three full-time jobs – Works Director and Chief Designer, Production Manager and Sales and Finance – and, in 1987, he had a heart attack. So, not surprisingly, things had to change.

He sold out to TP (Tube Plastics) Activity Toys – industrial friends and neighbours from their Elf Toys days in Stourport-on-Severn who had often expressed an interest in the fortunes of the Halls. They were well known for the production of out-door equipment (swing sets, etc), and presumably, they thought that they would benefit from an extended product range, as well as helping out old friends.

# **ELF INTO JOY (Cont.)**





Figure 17

Figure 18

They retained the name Joy Toys, although prefixed by the use of TP, and things continued much as before as far as production of the old line was concerned. They carried on in the old workshop in Malvern even though the owners (Sales and Finance) were now located with Activity Toys in Stourport-on-Severn. This was a quite successful arrangement, and in 1990 the operation was joined by Ted's son Rob. Between them they saw the design of their toy forts begin to change with a stronger emphasis on the younger user.

The medieval castles were reduced to one – numbered 67 later to be called Knight's Castle, and then New Knight's Castle. This was really colourful and began to hark back to the basic shape of twenty years before (Fig.17). The western forts also became more colourful (Fig.18).

Also during this period, the market was changing rapidly. The old client base of small retail shops in the UK was disappearing fast with the retail giants, like Toys-R-Us, the Early Learning Centre and others, buying cheaply from the Far East, putting them out of business.

Consequently after ten years, in 1997, TP closed down the Joy Toys operation and ceased production of their toys, although continuing with their outdoor range.

#### Joy Toys and Woodcrafts Ltd (1997 – 1999)

At this time Anthony Hampson – a venture capitalist – asked Ted and Rob Hall to continue production under the new name of Joy Toys and Woodcrafts Ltd – which they did, still operating out of the workshop in Malvern.

Operations were slimmed down into smaller premises – on the same site – and production became much more automated using very modern machinery and methods, with virtually no employees. All assembly and finishing was now done in-house. The medieval castle became even more basic, as did the western forts, with appeal to the younger market.

But Hampson withdrew in 1999, at which time Ted, Rob and Geraldine Henning formed Joy Toys (Malvern) Ltd. Ted was responsible for design, Rob handling production and Geraldine looking after sales and administration.

#### Joy Toys (Malvern) Ltd (1999 – to date)

The business continues to this day, but the world has changed and Joy Toys has changed with it. All of their toys are now made in China, and are made for a much younger market. Although they are still designed by Ted, the forts are reduced to one – the Castle of Legends. But this has been the story all along. A company that changes itself in response to market trends – and very well at that. We should be grateful for their tenacity.

The author wishes to acknowledge the substantial contribution that Ted Hall made to this article. Thanks are also due to Ashley Needham for his permission to use his photograph of the Bar-X Ranch.





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## MY LITTLE WOODEN TANK

By Gordon Lattey

Editor's note: This article is a bit different from our normal bill-of-fare. It is more a personal reflection than a detailed historical piece.

This is a story about a little wooden tank. It came into my life sometime in 1943 or 1944, probably as a Christmas present since the folks weren't prone to bring gifts home if they didn't have a specific reason. The household budget didn't permit it.

World War II had halted metal toy soldier and toy car production. The country's kids, my brother and I included, had to learn to do with what we had. Broken, or "wounded," Barclays and Manoils got toothpicks or pencils to re-attach severed arms, legs and heads. Model airplane glue usually completed the task. And, as metal toys disappeared from five-and-dime display cases, they were replaced by wooden or pressed paper counterparts. Enter the little wooden tank.

It was indestructible – or rather, it was totally repairable. Each time the tank received battle damage, it headed off to Pop's repair shop. Over the



"The Tank" with a Tommy Toy wounded soldier



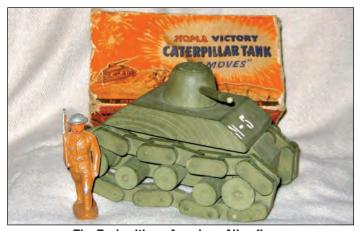
The box says "It Moves" "It Does"

years, its body was re-glued to its chassis countless times; new dowels repaired the main gun every time it snapped under the stress of over-eager play, and the moveable treads broke so often, I don't think an original piece remained. It survived everything two small boys could throw at it in the course of growing up. It survived the Ant Hill, a mound of dirt at the side of the house in Towaco, N.J., where we fought countless battles. It survived the endless skirmishes in the living and bedroom when it rained on the Ant Hill. And, it survived the last epic backyard campaign waged when it was decided we had grown too old to play with soldiers.

But, it didn't survive the move from Boonton to Brooklyn in 1952. But, since I was on to other things, neither my brother nor I ever noticed. It was only after I got back into toy soldiers in 1990 -- thanks to Bob Griffin, my more often than not co-author and fellow collector of many things, including toy soldiers – that I thought about the little wooden tank. It became a goal to replace it. However, my high hopes of finding another little wooden tank faded as I went from show to show.



Now I have two, one from Stan Alekna and one from Ebay



The Tank with an American Alloy figure

# MY LITTLE WOODEN TANK (Cont.)

I had all but yielded to the idea that the tank was probably a small run production by some north Jersey cottage factory and that the chances of seeing another were none to minus ten when I got a call from Bob Griffin. He had just returned from a visit with collector/dealer/author Stan Alekna. Stan had a wooden tank that sounded like it just might be the beast. A quick phone call confirmed that it was indeed the long missing tank. A bit of horse trading and the tank was on its way to Troy, where it now proudly sits upon a living room cabinet with several Tommy Toy and American Alloy soldiers.

Upon its arrival here, a careful inspection of the tank with collector's eyes yielded no clue as to its origin. And, thus began the second quest – from where did the little wooden tank spring? All wartime manufacturers mentioned in O'Brien's encyclopedic guide were quickly ruled out. What set the little wooden tank apart from all others was the highly mobile moveable bicycle-chain style treads. As far as I can ascertain, the design was unique.

Enter e-bay, that electronic shopping mall that has placed the world at everyone's doorstep. A few months ago, by weird quirk I typed in "wooden tank" and there it was, complete with its original box! It took an anxious four days of waiting out the vagaries of the free enterprise section, but all turned out well and tank and box now reside in a place of honor.

The little wooden tank was manufactured by Noma . . . "makers of famous Noma Lights" under the name Noma Victory Caterpillar Tank, "it moves." Noma, for those who don't remember the firm, made the bubble lights, the most popular Christmas tree lights in the post-war years, and a variety of other specialty tree lights. Train collectors also know the name because the company manufactured the "Noma Talking Railroad Station." While the firm no longer exists in its original form, it does survive. Noma now manufactures nothing but simply licenses its name to other manufacturers.

By the summer of 1942 everyone realized the war would be a long one. The federal government



Noma's Wartime Wooden Train



The Noma Talking Railroad Station

imposed rationing on virtually everything in July of '42 and that included the items used by Noma to make its Christmas tree lights. By mid-1943, Noma, like a large number of other firms, was forced to seek other means of generating income. It turned to wooden toys – a train set, various cars and trucks and a number of pull toys. It also produced a variety of products for the war effort, including bombs.

It appears that Noma stopped making its wooden toys by mid-1945 as the long missing raw materials for Christmas tree lights began to become available, if in small quantities. To date, there seems to be no existing records that show how many Victory Caterpillar Tanks were produced and sold.

Noma was not alone in switching gears to survive the war years. The well-known Sessions Clock Company, Forestville, Conn., produced a number of wooden war toys, including a delightful landing craft with two modernistic vehicles, and a two-engine bomber. Like, Noma, Sessions immediately went back to making clocks as soon as materials became available.

As usual, if you have anything to add to the Noma or the World War II wooden/paper toy era, please contact me at: ussslater@aol.com, or direct snail mail to: Gordon Lattey, 40 First Street, Troy, NY 12180.



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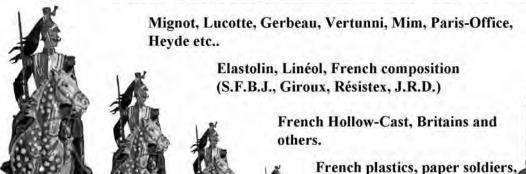
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# COMPOSITION VIKINGS OF THE DURSO COMPANY

By Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais

#### Introduction

The term "Viking" comes from the ancient Scandinavian word "Vikingr", meaning "explorer" or "trader", but it is most remembered in the context of "pillager" during the period from the 8th to the 11th century.

Those countries that came in contact with Vikings gave them different names, i.e.

- ~ "Normens" by the French
- ~ "Danes" by the English
- ~ "Rus" by the Slavs and Arabs

#### **Background**

Late in the 8th century, facing a period of increasing population and insufficient agriculture for food production, due to very swampy or very hilly terrain, the Norwegians, Danes and Swedes were forced to "search the world" for relief. This started the Vikings on their vicious expeditions of "piracy and conquest", and led to their settling in many areas which are now the modern day countries of Ireland, England, Russia, France and Italy. (We should point out that the term "Viking" pertains only to those men who sailed out on these expeditions and not to all the inhabitants of Scandinavia.)

By their nature, the Vikings were exceptional navigators, and their boats, powered by two ranks of oarsmen to supplement the sail, enabled them to travel "far and wide" to accomplish their conquests.

These boats, named "snekkar" or "longskip" had a shallow draught to enable them to travel up rivers and streams, where they conducted raids with devastating efficiency. The boats were also made "sea worthy" by the addition of stones as ballast.

These boats were easily identified by a "dragon head" (or "drakkar") as the prow.

#### **Historical Milestones**

- 793 AD First known raid by Vikings on the coast of England
- 795 AD Vikings reach Ireland
- 799 AD First Viking incursion on the coast of Aquitaine
- 802 AD Vikings defeat the Scots and seize the Orcadeses, Shetlands, and Hebrides
- 820 AD Vikings from Norway are victorious and settle in Ireland and The Isle of Man
- 835 AD Danish Vikings launch a successful attack and settle in the east of England
- 841 AD First raid on Rouen
- 843 AD "Normens" take Nantes
- 844 AD Viking raid is repulsed at Seville in Spain
- 845 AD First Viking raid against Paris
- 850 AD Vikings settle at the mouths of the Seine and Loire rivers
- 850 AD The beginning of a struggle between Danish and Norwegian Vikings for control of the coast of Ireland
- 856 AD Second Viking attack against Paris
- 860 AD First Viking attack against Constantinople
- 861 AD Third Viking attack against Paris
- 862 AD Swedish Vikings seize Novgorod and the foundation of the first Russian state by Swedish Vikings
- 865 AD England pays its first "Tributes" to the Vikings
- 865 AD Fourth Viking attack against Paris
- 866 AD France starts to pay "Tributes" to the Vikings
- 872 AD Danish Vikings arrive in Flanders
- 879 AD Swedish Vikings seize Kiev
- 900 AD Danish Vikings settle on the north coast of France
- 907 AD Second Viking attack on Constantinople
- 911 AD Third Viking attack on Constantinople
- 982 AD Erik The Red lands in Greenland
- 1000 AD Leif Erikson discovers Newfoundland
- 1013 AD Danish Vikings complete the Conquest of England
- 1017 AD Last Viking raid on the coast of France
- 1043 AD Last Viking attack on Constantinople
- 1059 AD "Normens" settle in the south of Italy and Sicily
- 1066 AD Harald III of Norway invades England with 300 ships and 9000 men, but is defeated
- 1066 AD Two weeks after Haralds defeat, William The Conqueror invades England after winning the "Battle of Hastings"

# **COMPOSITION VIKINGS OF THE DURSO COMPANY (Cont.)**

#### The "Medieval Popularity"

In the 1950's and 1960's, it was quite fashionable for Figurine Companies to feature "Middle Ages", and "Viking" figures, i.e.

- Composition figures by Durso, Soledo and NB in Belgium
- Plastic figures by Elastolin (Prince Valiant, etc.) in Germany
- ~ Other plastic figures by Marx and Cherilea

Even Hollywood contributed to this rage with movies, such as "The Viking" with Kirk Douglas and Tony Curtis, "The Adventures of Robin Hood" with Errol Flynn and other movies featuring "Knights of The Round Table".

#### Vikings by Durso

In 1954, two new sets are introduced and appear in The Durso Catalog under the heading of "Men of Arms".

Series #1 was comprised of figures that could be called "Warriors" or "Barbarians".

Series #2 depicted figures of the Middle Ages or "Knights".

In 1955, the first of the "Viking" figures was introduced. This was a warrior with a Frankish winged helmet wielding an ax. It was given the catalog number 1/4.

The second "Viking" figure, a warrior with a winged helmet attacking with a spear was introduced in 1956, and given the catalog number 1/2.



Figure 1/4

Figure 1/2

In 1957, a Viking boat (Snekkar) is introduced, complete with cloth sail (marked "Durso" in ink) and a "Crew" of 6 men.



Viking Boat with Sail



Viking Boat with Shields & Crew

The new Viking figures (Crew) were identified in the catalog as:



Attacker with Hatchet



Attacker with Sword

# **COMPOSITION VIKINGS OF THE DURSO COMPANY (Cont.)**







Man blowing Horn





Man with Spear

Rower (with oar)

In 1959, the boat was eliminated from the catalog and the set of Vikings was reduced to five figures (since the boat was now gone, the "rower" was also eliminated).

#### Remarks

Bayeux is a town in Normandy which miraculously survived the brunt of the WW2 bombings. This left its museums and cathedrals intact, and thus the "Tapestry of Bayeux" was saved and is now preserved in the Cathedral of Bayeux. This tapestry is considered by many to be a "world treasure".

The "Tapestry of Bayeux", also known as The Tapestry of Queen Mathilde, is believed to have been ordered by Odon of Bayeux, half brother of William The Conqueror, and features not only William's victory at The Battle of Hastings, but also is a documentary of the people, living conditions and events leading up to the invasion of England.

It is only a supposition, but if one looks at certain scenes in the Tapestry of Bayeux, one cannot help but be astonished at the resemblance of these figures to the Vikings produced by The Durso Company. Is it possible that Michel Klimov (founder and owner of The Durso Company) used this as a model for his Viking figures?

We may never know the answer.







"Scenes from the Tapestry of Baeux"

#### **Interesting Note**

One of the co-authors of this article is touched by the Viking phenomena, in that the name Russo (meaning "red") has been traced back to the Vikings ("Red Men") who settled in Sicily.

#### **Conclusions**

The authors hope that our readers have enjoyed this article, and we once again thank "Old Toy Soldier" Magazine for this opportunity.

#### **Acknowledgement**

Photos by Veronique Servais

#### **Editors Note**

See the advertisement for the book "Composition Figures of Belgium – The Durso Company" by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun and Lucien Mares on page 46 of this issue.

This book contains over 600 color photos including a comprehensive section on "Men of Arms" and "Vikings".

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#### AN EXAMINATION OF THE 1939 HAMLEYS CATALOG

By Joe Wallis

Hamleys is the name of the fabulous toy store in London that began in 1760. Hamleys was at 231 High Holburn Street, with a branch opening in 1881 at 200-202 Regent Street. Their original Holburn store burned down in 1901, and was relocated to 86-87 High Holburn. Table Tennis (also known as Ping Pong) was initially sold exclusively through Hamleys. In 1931 Hamleys was sold because of the economic Depression, and was acquired by Walter Lines, chairman of Tri-ang. The company flourished, and in 1981 moved from 200-202 Regent Street (with six floors) to 188-196 Regent Street (with seven floors). Its 1939 Catalog flaunted the impressive declaration that Hamleys was "for 179 years the finest toy shop in the World" with "All British Made Toys." This 25-page catalog included 17 sets of Britains Ltd. lead soldiers, four forts, sets of military Dinky Toys, a Meccano Mechanised Army set, and five Astra Pharos anti-aircraft guns and searchlights.

The Britains sets focus on products issued within the past two years, and on the Modern Army's equipment (especially reflecting the British concern about defending against the German Luftwaffe after scrimping on the Defense budget for years). The 17 sets on offer were: Set #434 Royal Air Force Monoplane with six aircraftsmen (one aviator in leather flying kit first issued in Set 332, one aviator in Sidcot suit first seen in Set #333, and four airmen

Cot suit first seen in Set #333, and four airmen

1939 front catalog cover

Made Toys

in peak caps from Set #240); Set #1203 Carden-Loyd Tank with driver and gunner; Set #1433 Covered Caterpillar Army Lorry with driver; Set #1512 Army Motor Ambulance with driver and casualty with stretcher; Set #1522 4.5 Inch Anti-Aircraft Gun; Set #1607 Display Box of Scots Guards and Royal Scots Greys (45 pieces); Set #1638 Sound Locator with operator; Set #1639 Range Finder with operator; Set #1642 Underslung Lorry with Searchlight; Set #1643 Underslung Lorry with 4.5 Inch Anti-Aircraft Gun; Set #1648 Royal Navy Display Box (51 pieces); Set #1712 French Foreign Legion Display Box (15 pieces); Set #1724 Anti-Aircraft Units Display Box (15 pieces); Set #1728 Predictor with Operator; Set #1757 Barrage Balloon Unit with Underslung Lorry and Winch; Set #1758 Fire Fighters of the Royal Air Force; and Set #1791 Royal Corps of Signals Motorcycle Dispatch Riders.

Hamleys 1939 Catalog asked higher prices than the Britains 1939 Catalog, plus postage costs (ranging from only two pence for a small lightweight item such as the #1728 Predictor to one shilling for the #1648 Royal Navy Display Set (containing 51 pieces including the Royal Navy Landing Party). Given that Hamleys Catalog was primarily to attract mail order business, their surcharges probably reflected the time and labor needed to pack and ship parcels to fill the orders received. In addition, Britains Ltd. as



Britains items from 1939 catalog

## AN EXAMINATION OF THE 1939 HAMLEYS CATALOG (Cont.)



1939 rare catalog cover

the manufacturer established minimum selling prices (which were enforceable in those times). Retailers such as Hamleys were then free to try to obtain higher prices than the minimum selling prices if they thought they could get them.

An extremely nice fort with a drawbridge appeared on page 9 of the Hamleys catalog, listed in four variations extending from 16.5 inches to 30.5 inches. Allen Hickling, one of the foremost authorities on toy forts, identifies this fine fort as being made by Lines Brothers (trading under the name Triang). The fort pictured in the Hamleys catalog is their "Tower of London fort" model, and cost 32 shillings 6 pence (or \$7.80 in U.S. funds in 1939). As a means of gauging the largest fort's cost, it should be noted that an army composed of 16 single-row sets of Britains (128 infantry) could have been purchased for that 32 shillings in England.

The military Dinky Toys encompassed: Set #151 Royal Tanks Corps Medium Tank Set for 4 shillings, Set #152 Royal Tank Corps Light Tank Set for 2 shillings 11 pence; Set #161 Mobile Anti-Aircraft Set for 3 shillings 6 pence; and Set #162 Eighteen Pounder Quick-Firing Field Gun Unit for 2 shillings 6 pence. In addition, there were two Dinky Toy Aeroplane sets: one with eight Heavy Airplanes for 8 shillings 6 pence, and the other set with six planes for 4 shillings. A Meccano Mechanised Army Box



**Dinky and Astra items** 

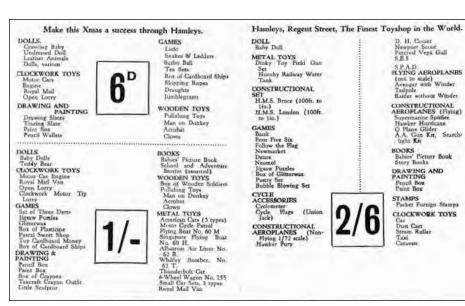
contained all of the components needed to construct models of tanks, anti-aircraft guns, and a lorry with searchlight mounted on it. This Meccano box measured 18 inches by 11.5 inches, and cost 10 shillings 6 pence.

The 1939 Hamleys' catalog also featured five pieces of military equipment produced by Astra-Pharos Ltd. of London. The first item, a Mobile Anti-Aircraft Unit, was shown on page 9 and cost 15 shillings, with postage an extra shilling. The 12-inch-long underslung chassis had an anti-aircraft gun and a small searchlight mounted on it. (The Mobile Anti-aircraft Unit was #12 in the 1940 Astra catalog.) Four more Astra items appeared further along on page 12 of the Hamleys catalog. The Mobile Searchlight (#10 in the 1940 Astra catalog) was being sold for Hamleys for 7 shillings 6 pence. The Super Searchlight with a fourinch diameter lens (compared to the 11/4-inch lens of the Mobile Searchlight), was listed at 10 shillings 6 pence by Hamleys and was #13 in the 1940 Astra Pharos catalog. The Round Base Searchlight was a stationary item mounted on a metal base with steps (#15 in the 1940 Astra Catalog), cost 5 shillings 9 pence, and used the small searchlight with the 11/4inch lens. The grand finale was provided by the 1/4-Mile Beam Searchlight on a cast metal base. This largest Astra searchlight used two 4.5 volt batteries, the four-inch lens, and included the swivel control arm also featured on Britains Sets #1640 and #1718.

# AN EXAMINATION OF THE 1939 HAMLEYS CATALOG (Cont.)

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(It was #22 in the 1940 Astra Catalog.) Readers may wish to refer to articles on Astra Pharos published in 1992 and 1995 in the Old Toy Soldier, Volume 17, Issue #5, pages 16-17, and Volume 19, Issue #2, pages 22-25.

The catalog included a separate order form (see accompanying illustration) with the admonition that "this may help you with your evacuees" (i.e., buying mail order toys to be sent to children who had been evacuated from cities to live in areas that it was hoped would be less subject to German bombs). Among the items listed on the order form are Britains Motorcycle Gun Corps for one shilling 6 pence (surely Set #1793), and two British Infantry sets made by Skybird of 12 pieces selling for two shillings each. The first Skybird set was entitled "British Infantry Trench Fighting" and the other set "British Infantry, Marching Order". An Air Raid Precaution Shelter and several other 12-piece sets of personnel made by Skybird, as well as single Dinky Toy vehicles and airplanes were also listed. The Skybird figures were scaled to go well with Dinky Toys.

One can well imagine a boy poring through the Hamleys catalog, hoping that some of its tantalizing contents would be situated under the Christmas tree or arrive in the mail for an exciting Birthday present. The order form noted: "There are enough toys to go round this year," but this situation would not remain as World War II proceeded. Within 18 months (by July 1941), the British companies whose wares were shown in the Hamleys catalog would no longer be making toys, and Britains Ltd. would be manufacturing actual munitions such as diecast parts for grenades, instead of the wonderful toys contained in the 1939 Hamleys catalog.

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#### TIME-TRAVEL TO AN ANTIQUE TOY SOLDIER SHOP IN OHIO

By Don Pielin





**Exterior and interior of Joe Saine's shop** 

Do you remember the thrill of going to a local store as a child and being confronted with a variety of toy soldiers and other toys on the counter from which you had to choose? Well, this experience has finally come full circle. In the sleepy Toledo suburb of Rossford, there is now a nostalgic local toy shop devoted to the best in vintage toy soldiers, antique toys, books, boats, banks and more.

Joseph Saine's Toy Soldiers has opened its retail antique toy shop on the main street of Rossford amongst a block of older store fronts and eateries with the nostalgic feel of the past. As you enter Joe's shop, you feel that you have stepped back in time. There are large antique floor display cabinets running the length of the store, and well-lit cabinets and shelves lining the walls; all filled with beautiful displays of old toy soldiers and other vintage toys. The shop is appointed with framed original military and nautical paintings and illustrations, and even the ceiling is beautiful antique embossed tin.

Joe has been a successful dealer in antique toys for over 20 years. As with all the best dealers in this field, he began as a collector and enthusiast, and turned his experience and the information gleaned from other dealers and collectors into his full-time profession. As he notes about this business, "we pay more for our education than you would for many a college degree." Joe started with his interest in and passion for toy soldiers as a dealer at shows, but has expanded this to auctions, an on-line auction store, and now a walk-in retail shop. While he sells vintage toys of all types (sorry; no new Chinese production here), including mechanical and still banks, cast iron vehicles, tin clockwork and battery operated toys, clockwork cars, plus the finest in European toy boats. He also carries a stock of both classic and current toy reference books.

The variety of toys in his shop is delightfully overwhelming, and the stock and displays change almost daily as toys are sold and new treasures appear. But it is the variety of different vintage toy soldiers that is the focus of the shop. These may range from classic European production of Heyde and Mignot to a broad range of Britain's military and civilian, or other metal, paper and composition. There is classic American Dimestore and plastic from around the world. Off-brand classics abound, such as Wendal aluminum, Cherilea, Timpo, and Crescent toys. Joe delights in finding the exotic and strange to complement the traditional uniformed regiments of various manufacturers. He even has a display of his own collection of really off-the-wall figures and souvenir adaptations which are not for sale, but are great fun to see.

Keeping in touch with the varied interests of modern collectors, Joe also stocks a range of more recent but out of production plastic soldiers, metal figures from the 80's and 90's as well as his own line of CRC (combat-ready collectables) dimestore-style podfoots. There is surely a figure and a price range for any collector in the hobby.

If you are looking for reference material, Joe's book inventory is impressive. There are two large book cases filled with multiple copies of virtually every standard toy soldier reference book from the last 25 years, as well as books on period toys, toy boats, Japanese tin, important toy auction catalogs, and vintage toy soldier catalogs spanning a century.

Past the display cabinets you can peer into the inner sanctum of Joe's back office operation, watched over closely by Woodthorpe G. Dog (the G stands for good). Floor to ceiling stacks of boxes, sagging shelves packed with soldiers, packing material, and

## TIME-TRAVEL TO AN ANTIQUE TOY SOLDIER SHOP IN OHIO (Cont.)

various old toys lying everywhere. These rooms are the support center for Joe's toy activities including on-line auction shipments, mail order, and the constant quest for new stock and collections. The desks and computers are surrounded with yet un-opened boxes containing additional regiments waiting to march into the shop and form up on the display counters.

In pursuit of maintaining his inventory, Joe covers the U.S. attending many major toy and toy soldier shows, general antique shows, and countless auctions. He buys collections or can work with a collector on consignments. He flies overseas several times a year to find more treasures. "Anyone can pick up the phone and buy new stuff," Joe says, "It takes a lot of perseverance to find top quality old toys." This hard work is reflected by the variety and extent of offerings displayed in his store. He has also developed a newly revamped web site (www.josephsaine.com) with updated listings of old toys and soldiers for sale right off the shelves of the store, as well as other notes and information.

For those of you who know Joe, his shop is as relaxed and friendly as he is. He loves to talk the hobby, and you don't get the feeling you need to be a high roller to have a great experience there. Joe's shop is located in the southern Toledo suburb of Rossford, just a mile straight off of I-75 exit 199B at 628 Dixie Highway. He is very close to the intersection of I-75 and I-80, making him readily accessible from major travel routes. If you are planning a visit, call ahead to confirm that he will be in, especially on the weekends; 419-662-8697. He invites anyone to stop by any time.



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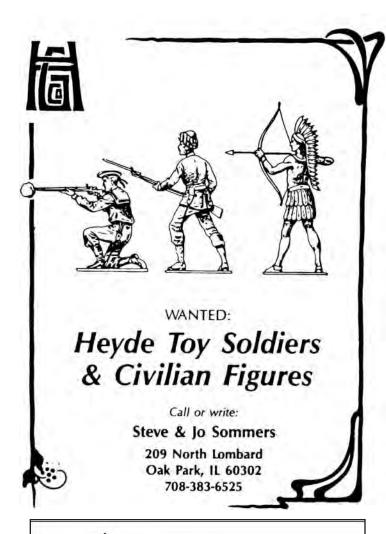
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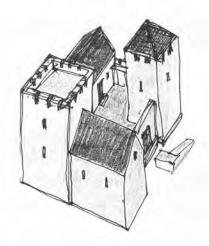
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#### 2007

**November 17- Saturday.** 27th Long Island Miniature Model Show, 9am-5pm. Freeport Convention Center, 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport, NY 11520. Contact John Jeffries (516) 379-4464 or Val Kraut (516) 799-8396.

**November 18- Sunday.** 9th Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier Show and Sale and GI Joe Show. 9am – 3pm. Sheraton Bucks Hotel, 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langholme, Pennsylvania. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or John Kozin 203 848 0980 onesixthsynd@aol.com

**November 18 - Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier & Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale, 9am-3pm. Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites, 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 (Downtown Area). Contact John Stengel (718) 418-9439.

**November 21 - Wednesday.** Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knightsbridge London. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk www.bonhams.com or Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628

**December 1 – Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact Bob Neville +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

**December 1 – Saturday.** Heart of the south Toy Soldier, Military Miniatures Show and Sale 9am-3pm. The VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

**December 8 – Saturday.** New Annapolis Christmas Show, Annapolis National Guard Armory. 18 Willow Road Annapolis MD. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

**December 11 – Tuesday.** Vectis Auctions Specialist Military and Civilian Sale (See advertisement in this issue) Contact +44 1642 750616 email admin@vectis.co.uk www.vectis.co.uk

**December 18 - Tuesday.** Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knowle West Midlands. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685. Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk Lee Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628 www.bonhams.com

# **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2007-2008**

#### 2008

**January 26 Saturday.** Toy Soldier Auction 12. Noon.Radisson Hotel Michigan Contact Joe Saine (See advertisement in this issue) 419 662 8697

**January 27 – Sunday.** Detroit Toy Soldier Show, Iron Brigade Militaria Show and Michigan Historical Society Miniatures Club Show. Radisson Hotel Livonia MI contact Michigan Toy Soldiers. 9am –3pm Contact 248 586 1022 www.michiganshow.com

**February 9 – Saturday.** Dan Morphy's Toy Doll Holiday Advertising Show 9-3. York Fairgrounds Memorial Hall. York PA. Contact 717 335 3435 danmorphy@dejazzd.com

**February 14 – Sunday.** 14th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show, 9am-4pm. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall, 22nd Avenue and D Street, Lake Worth, Florida. Contact Mike Skurda Email mskurda@inbox.co, Alan McGhee (954) 431-9295 or John Lesinski (561) 968-5571 www.southfloridatoysoldier.com

**March 2- Sunday.** "The West Coaster" Toy Soldier Show, 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriot – Orange County Airport, 1800 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California. Contact (760) 758-7004

March 8 – Saturday. South Carolina Military Miniature Society Toy Soldier Show. Omar Shrine Temple, 176 Patriots Point Street, Mount Pleasant, SC. Contact Marvin Pontiff (843) 412-3593 Email pontiffm@bellsouth.net

March 30 – Sunday. Indy 2008 Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm. Sheraton Inn North, 8787 Keystone Crossing (I465 exit 33), Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact Barry Carter (765) 345-5665 Email indytoysoldier@hotmail.com

April 25th- Friday and April 26 – Saturday. Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) Formally Valley Forge, Chase Center on the Riverfront, 800 South Madison Street, Wilmington, Delaware. Contact Vern Minkwitz (302) 239-3884 or (302) 757-3419 Email vmink@msn.com www.mfcashow.org

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



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