OLD TOY SOLDIFR



THE FIVE AND DIME CORPS



TOY SOLDIER The CLIFFORD H. HANSEN

Collection and Various Properties

NOVEMBER 22, 2008



Britains Set # 2149 Gentlemen at Arm



Britains Set # 1897 (Part) Royal Army Medical Corps



Britains Set 2093 (Part) Berkshire Regiment Band

Building upon the tremendous success of our first sale, Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA will be offering the collection of the late Clifford H. Hansen of Norman, Oklahoma.

Mr. Hansen donated his extensive collection of Britains to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the proceeds of the fall auction will benefit the foundation.

In addition to this collection, a fine assortment of figures from a host of other manufactures are already scheduled for this sale. They include but are not limited to Heyde, Barclay, Stadden, Imperial and Courtenay.

Consignments are being accepted for 2009 and future auctions.



Britains Set 2042 Prairie Schooner with Attacking Indians



Britains Farm Set 504 Large Thatched Cottage

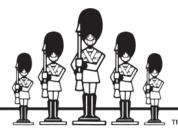


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ON THE COVER

The Five and Dime Corps
Photo courtesy Lou Steinberg

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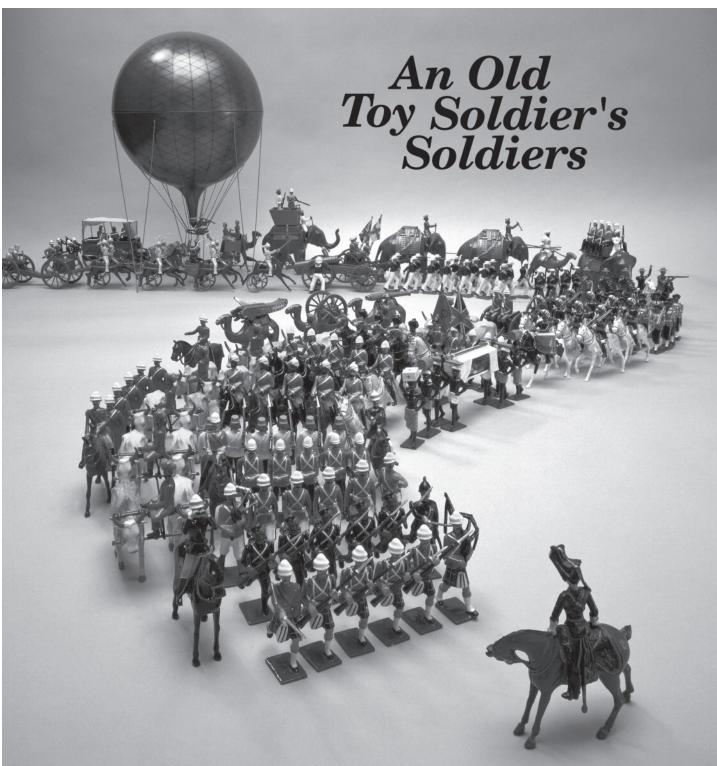
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Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group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

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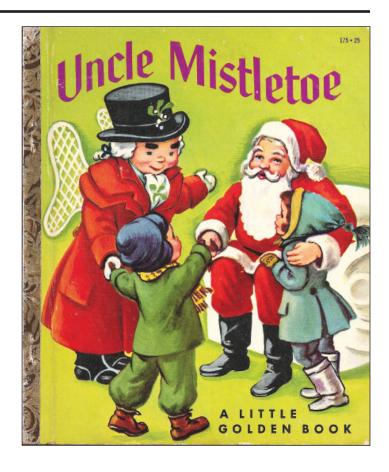
An Uncle Mistletoe Find

By Steve Sommers

As a kid in post-WWII Chicago, I literally grew up with Marshall Field's Christmas department store mascots, Uncle Mistletoe and Aunt Holly. They were created for their Holiday windows in 1946. Red-coated Uncle Mistletoe was Santa's "bookkeeper"; he and the missus lived in Cozy Cloud Cottage and helped Santa get set for the big night. In those days Marshall Field's Walnut Room restaurant had a "real" forty-foot tall Christmas tree topped with Uncle Mistletoe. Well, Field's is now Macy's and Uncle Mistletoe may be history, but his representations are still collected.

As cookie jars and teapots, puppets, and music boxes, dolls, and glass Christmas ornaments, Uncle Mistletoe and Aunt Holly turned up Christmas after Christmas. In 1948 Uncle Mistletoe and his Adventures appeared on local television and then in ABC syndication in 1952. The Mistletoe story became Little Golden Book #175 in 1953.

In an OTS article at Christmas 1995 Norman Joplin revealed that the characters also appeared in England in the 50's at Selfridges, Marshall Field's U.K. subsidiary; with reversed names in England they were Uncle Holly and Aunt Mistletoe. A second U.K. link was a series of Mistletoe characters produced in the 50's by Timpo in 2" high hollow cast. I played with a pair of cloth Mistletoe puppets, but despite being a toy soldier collector from birth, I'm not sure I recall those Timpo figures. Maybe I thought they were salt and pepper shakers? But early in my adult collecting I found an Uncle Mistletoe; later I saw a "not for sale" Aunt Holly, and I was hooked on the search.



By the time of Joplin's 1995 OTS article, five characters had been discovered. Uncle Mistletoe and Aunt Holly, a grey hobby horse called Tony the Pony; Obadiah Pig in blue overalls, and a then unnamed pink Rabbit, dressed in a white suit with red and green trim; Norman later discovered his name was Michael O'Hare.

A while ago, perhaps appropriately on the salt shaker shelf of a local antique store, I found a Tony



L to R: Uncle Mistletoe, Aunt Holly, Tony Pony, Obadiah Pig, Michael O'Hare and Humphrey Mouse

An Uncle Mistletoe Find (Cont.)

the Pony, but I kept waiting for a really good, not too expensive, Aunt Holly. I was sure I'd never find the pig or the rabbit. But last year my luck changed and I not only found them, but I was able to add an "unknown" to the series.

The widow of an acquaintance asked if I could help her evaluate her husband's toy soldiers. From her description I was sure they were mostly connoisseur figures with a few random old figures, but I said I'd take a look. There were even fewer collectible figures than I had anticipated, so I suggested she take everything to a local antique shop and hope for the best.

Then I asked, "Did she have anything else?" "Well, yes," she said, "Not soldiers but a small box of farm animals. "Could I take a look?" "Well, yes," again.

There were a couple dozen pieces: two Britains cows, a Johillco horse, and oh, Tony the Pony, Obadiah Pig, Michael O'Hare and a matching mouse!

I cautiously asked, "You don't have an Uncle Mistletoe figure do you?" "Well, yes, up on the hall shelf," she said, "next to Aunt Holly."

I gave her far more for those six Timpo figures than I expect she got for the several hundred other figures in her collection, and I got the thrill of finding a not-seen-before figure: the mouse. The mouse character appeared on the television show as Humphrey Mouse. This figure is about one inch tall. Like the others he has Timpo's distinctive "ENGLAND" in raised letters across his back. He is painted white with pink feet; his vest has a red front, grey back trimmed in green with a green necktie. All paint is a perfect match for the Rabbit and the other figures. A bit play worn, Humphrey has a missing left ear and the tip of his tail is also probably gone, but what a find!

Could there be a seventh or eighth Timpo figure in the series? There were other named characters in the television show including "Skippy the Monkey". This group was all matched, a nice six-piece set, but nevertheless, I'm still keeping my eyes open for a dressed animal with that characteristic Timpo look. Let OTS know if you capture one.

For Norman Joplin's Timpo's Uncle Mistletoe cover story see OTS volume 18 #6, December 1995 p. 67.



Humphrey Mouse



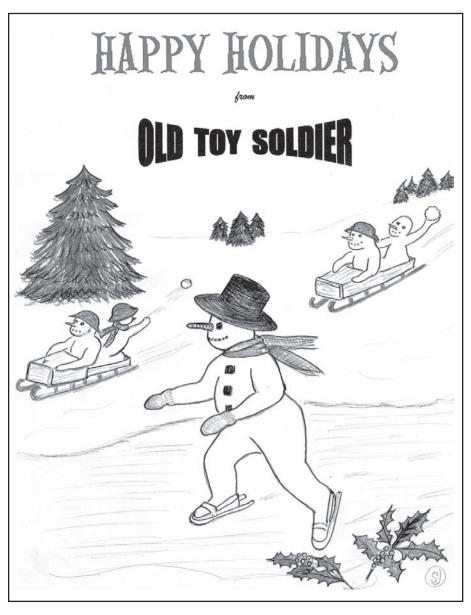
Michael O'Hare and Humphrey Mouse

HOBBY NEWS

Jack Matthews, author of numerous articles on his massive collection of WWII non-metal military toys, has self-published and spiral-bound two volumes of Toy Ads and Toy Displays from his collection. Many have been featured in his articles in this magazine. Jack has decided to share with fellow collectors many of these rare items in a large 8 ½" x 11" format booklet. They are large enough to be further enlarged and framed, or mounted as background displays.

The first volume, "The Store Toy Ad Displays of WWII", contains forty-plus rare toy ad displays and toy ads in color. It sells for \$35.00, which is about Jack's production price. The second volume in black and white has over fifty scarce WWII Toy Ads and may be purchased for \$15.00. These rare items reflect a lifetime of dedicated collecting.

Jack Matthews may be contacted at jmatth@mindspring.com



THE TEXAS SHOW 2009

JUST A QUICK NOTE TO A HANDFUL OF FOLKS TO UPDATE THE TEXAS SHOW -2009:

DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE EFFORTS OF JOAN AT THE "KING'S X" STORE IN SAN ANTONIO, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WILL INDEED BE A SHOW, AND A GREAT, NEW VENUE.

> THE HISTORIC MENGER HOTEL, NEXT DOOR TO THE ALAMO.

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FEEDBACK VIA EMAIL.

WE ALL HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE ECONOMY WILL BE MUCH IMPROVED IN 8 MONTHS, AND GOSH, MAYBE THE ELECTION WILL EVEN BE OVER!!??

IF NOT, THEN PERHAPS WE COULD ALL AT LEAST MEET AND A HAVE A GREAT TIME!!

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NICK VERSTEEG TOY SOLDIERS OF SAN DIEGO 760-723-6583



William Britain, Jr. would be proud. Here we are 115-years later with the company that bears his name still producing some of his exquisite work. The new Archive Collection consists of faithful, true 54mm reproductions of figures made in the early 1900's. From the shades of paint and style of painting, to the classic burgundy Britains half box (shown above) with figures tied in and Fred Whisstock style label on period pastel paper these sets are an accurate reflection of W. Britain in its heyday. The only variation in these figures to the originals is that they are not hollow cast (with lead safety restrictions today it is not possible to make a truly hollow cast figure anymore) but lead free solid cast figures. These sets are limited to only 400 sets worldwide and come with a serialized limited edition certificate. There are more sets in the Archive Collection already planned and underway for 2009, so be sure not to miss out on these first two editions.

49000 – Cameron Highlanders Firing - 4 piece set (*Limited to 400 sets worldwide*)

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AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER AUCTIONS USA

TOY SOLDIER The CLIFFORD H. HANSEN

Collection and Various Properties NOVEMBER 22, 2008



Britains Set # 2149 Gentlemen at Arms



Britains Set # 1897 (Part) Royal Army Medical Corps



Britains Set 2093 (Part) Berkshire Regiment Band

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Courtenay Figures



Britains Set 2042 Prairie Schooner with Attacking Indians

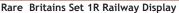


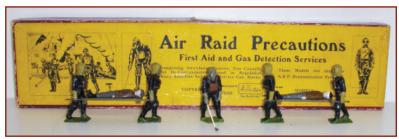


Britains World Cow and Village Idiot

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)







Britains Set 1759 Air Raid Precautions



Stadden Officers



Heyde's The March of Germanics, 108 pieces.

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MIGNOT: 65 personalities, 1793 Volunteers, French Revolutionaries, Egyptians, Aides of Fontainebleau, Imperial Guards, Ramses Chariot, Papal Procession Diorama, Complete set of French Revolution Bicentennial, Dinosaur Diorama, Muslims, French Cafe Diorama, Horse Drawn Coaches, more..

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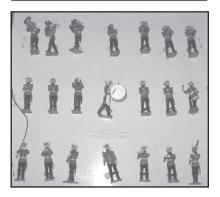
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SHOW REPORT

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show • September 2008

Believed to be the only specialist dateline toy soldier show featuring vintage items is held annually in central London at the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury. 75 tables and 52 dealers selling, buying, trading and exhibiting thousands of items manufactured prior to 1980.

The show is open to the public from 10:30, however it has also turned into a trade show from early morning with dealers arriving as early as 4 am in order to set up and trade amongst themselves, it provides the trade with a unique opportunity for those in the business to interact with one and other.

Early entry for collectors is permitted at a premium admission charge and this is widely used by those keen collectors who are looking for rare or hard to find items.

The show attracts dealers and buyers from all over

the UK with international participants from USA, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Germany and France attending this year.

Despite two unfortunate incidents this year, firstly the Channel Tunnel between France and the UK being on fire preventing some of the Eurostar trains from running and the local Russell Square Tube Station being closed, most managed to get to the show and avail themselves of the opportunity to purchase some of the many rare pieces on offer.

The 2009 show will be September 12th at the usual venue Holiday Inn Bloomsbury Coram Street near Russell Square Central London.

Details are available by contacting Norman Joplin info@normajoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com





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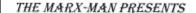
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SHOW REPORT

OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW - (OTSN) CHICAGO 2008

The annual Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago is **still** the biggest event of it's kind in the world. It is **still** the annual meeting place for the toy soldier fraternity. It is **still** the place that dealers and collectors gather for a near week long toy soldier experience and it is **still** like a convention. It is **still** organized by Don Pielin and Steve Sommers with the support of family and friends and they all **still** do a fantastic job. Above all it is **still FUN**.

This year it was somewhat different from the past 27 years as the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg was under new management and much to the consternation of the organizers **still** undergoing a major refurbishment. Therefore the organizers of the show can be proud of the fact that despite at sometimes throughout the week major disruptions taking place within the venue, that they still provided everyone with help assistance and efficient handling of the situation.

Without dwelling on the situation within the hotel, including the absence of a conventional restaurant and bar and the fact that many regular attendees may not have been able to occupy the rooms previously allocated to them in the past years because of the hotel's inability to complete the refurbishment ahead of the show, everything **still** worked out fine on the whole.

A pre show comment by Steve Sommers in that "We will all have to pull together this year" certainly worked and although some minor and a couple of major complaints were voiced overall most participants this year accepted that all possible was being done by the organizers and hotel staff to make things as good as possible.

The show is scheduled for 2009 at the Hyatt, talks are taking place regarding the 30th anniversary show in 2010 and by next year everything should be **still** as it was.

Sunday's show attendance seemed at about the normal high level, Collectors did line up this year through the hotel and into the car parking lot, extra staff, both OTSN and hotel were on duty to provide additional guidance to those in line and the rain stayed away long enough for everyone to gain a dry entry.

The ground floor this year hosted Hobby Bunker, Figarti and Aero Art / St Petersburg throughout the week while the bedroom trading remained the same with the exception of some dealers being located on floor 3.

The following photo gallery shows some of the activity and figures both from the room trading perspective and show day.

Lets look forward to 2009 and to attending what is **still** a toy soldier show worth waiting a year for.



SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY Richard Walker - Britains 1st Gear Jack Carleton and Ed Ruby ZULU WAR Sue and Norman Joplin, Gisbert Freber (Germany) to R: Merrill Morris, Candy Caufield, lichael O'Donnell and Jeff Caufield Mr. and Mrs. Christian Keller

E. K. POOLE, COMMANDANT FIVE AND DIME CORPS AND OUT'N OUT REPRODUCTIONS

By Louis S. Steinberg

Part One: Edward Poole Reinvents the Hobby of Toy Soldier Collecting

Within the Royal Hierarchy of Dimestore toy soldier collectors, manufactures, dealers, showmen, vendors, publishers, retailers, promoters, writers and suchandsuches, there has not been anyone tantamount to Edward Kern Poole, M.D.

He is genuinely recognized for his stylish uniqueness in our soldiering realm through his incorporation of a most unusual methodology to acquire over more than several decades, piece-by-piece, one of the hobbies largest and most complete Dimestore and compatible military miniature collections.

But, before E. K. Poole is so stately dubbed, the Dimestore Imperial Universe also takes regal note of the following palatines:

Richard O'Brien is enthroned as the Rex of Research; Don Pielin, Tsar of Tome; Bill Holt, Highness of Hollowcast; Ed Burley, Prince of Painting; Ron Eccles, Administrator of Accessories; John Hall, Baron of Big Bands; Wayne Hill, Potentate of Podfoots; O. C. Britton, Duke of Diversities; Bill Lango, Viceroy of Vintage; Dan Boline, Marquis of Makeovers; Phil Richards, Nabob of New Era; John Cullen, Ruler of Rarities; Roger Dubois, Archduke of Alterations; Jack Matthews, Emperor of Ephemera; and, Stan Alekna as the Viscount of Variations.

However, and without hesitation, Ed Poole's wealth of knowledge and productivity within the cadre of the hobby well encompasses many semblances to each of the above named Poobahs.

Through his own ingeniousness he becomes in the aforementioned Dimestore Pageantry, a doyen, The One and The Only, E. K. Poole..... Supreme Sovereign Saint of Swaps.



E.K. Poole, Commandant, Five and Dime Corps



E.K. Poole, Commandant, Out 'N Out Reproductions

As I continue to address the complete substance of the notable biostory of Ed "Doc" Poole, I must decisively say that this segment, **Part One**, deals with Ed's ability to create an unusual acquisition process to garner an improbable Dimestore toy soldier and an accessory collection, along with many other military toy items from pre and post WW II manufacturers.

There are quotes to enjoy from several of his early catalogs and quotes from his inclusive narrative, *My Life and Toy Soldier Times as Told to Lou Steinberg*, along with, from his 1999 draft, *My Dimestore Soldiers*, an unpublished article.

The seniors amongst us probably may remember some of the story. But, shucks by golly, thirty plus years have passed since the venturous introduction of Ed's Army, the "Five and Dime Corps." The newest to the hobby may not know, having never experienced perusing his "catalog of wants." The rest now may be wading through middle age and during that past time of great Dimestore activity had limited collecting interests.

Therefore, I believe much will be missed if this debut of the "E. K. P. Symphony" is negligent in details and disregards considerable minor fugues. **Part Two**, when written, of the Commandant's harmony will blend a mix of his youth; education; family life; Naval service; M. D. radiology career; the passing of his wife, Margie; and, his marriage to Dee, all to be arranged over the soft background of his toy soldiering.....or, maybe better adapted to the "Triumphal March" of Aida.

Whenever leisure time was able to be arranged between family life and career, during Ed's very formative hobby years, 1966 through the early 70's, he occupied some portion by "constructing a modest portable loop of a model railroad." He says, "But this did lead to fabrication of my first silicone RTV mold to cast small metal parts for the scratch-built railroad cars. My casting set-up included a three-legged BBQ grill with a vacuum cleaner blowing through a metal pipe into the charcoal in a failed attempt to achieve quicker melting of the lead alloy.

"About that same time, I noticed in Model Railroader magazine a small classified ad from Memorable Things, Geo. Grant, proprietor, offering old American lead soldiers. I thought nostalgically, 'I ought to send away for one or two of those for old time's sake,' and thus started in a new collecting direction and a long mail-order relationship with George."

In order to be informed of the continuing new advancements in medical radiology, Ed often attended professional forums about the country. Spare time from the program was occasionally spent working the Yellow Pages with calls to hobby and antique shops that advertised old toys.

He writes, "One such call in 1974, in the Chicago area, elicited the answer, 'Nah, we only handle old Britains. But there's a guy who works here part-time that likes that old American stuff.'

"And that's how I contacted my first fellow collector, Don Pielin, and subsequently a number of his friends

who were interested in swapping and sharing research on what Don called <u>dimestore</u> soldiers. Our group's early findings in 1975 were published in the club's magazine, *The Scabbard*, and then in Don's booklets and soon in the *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter*."

It was 1976. Ed circulated a preliminary listing of "wants" for original Dimestore Toy Soldiers and compatible collectibles. Later that year he "anted-up for the real serious game," that commenced when he first purchased a mammoth soldier collection then offered in New England.

This coup necessitated and challenged some astute marketing. He mentions, "With the help of the Moreheads of *Americana Nostalgia* we made up a beautifully photo-illustrated catalog, sold off the extras and greatly widened my acquaintance among Dimestore collectors."

"Ads for my original catalog also appeared in the very first issue of *Old Toy Soldier Newsletter* which had begun its publication that same year, 1976. Don Pielin was the magazine's Dimestore Contributing Editor. The next year, Don self-published his first volume of *American Dimestore Soldiers* along with co-authors Ron Hillman and Gene Parker."



Defiantly Charging, Suggested by Richard O'Brien

This is where I feel the following insert is a must-to-be-included.

Talk about the etymology of a word. As an aside, here is a morsel of historical linguistic origin.....

Don Pielin, in reference to his title, *American Dimestore Soldiers*, had scratched out a particular note to Ed that categorically stated, "This title coined the term dimestore which I used in my research, and the name stuck."

And, Stuck it did! Today, Dimestore is especially capitalized to emphasize its importance as a specific quantum of U.S. made toy soldiers of the 1930's which predominately was marketed in the nation's Five and Ten Cent Stores. Thanks Don for your most descriptively accurate nomenclature!

The Commandant's next list set forth his business acumen and its perimeters. He states on the first page of his new catalog in handwritten print, "Will buy or trade but particularly love to swap. Damaged items OK as I do restorations (sometimes in trade for a piece I lack). If you see something you'd like on the following pages & think you might have something in my line, do get in touch!"



National & Marine Corps Colors with Mascot



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German General in WW II Staff Roadster

Well, one cannot embark on a hefty adventure of "swaps" if you do not have product to tender in exchange. Excesses from the first-purchased large collection fortunately had been dwindling.

The landscape now changed with Ed's development and production of newly converted Dimestore toy soldier figures. In this area his creativity was superb! His doughboy type variations, complemented with sailors and marines, appeared to be endless. It was not to be equaled. I mean, he got his mojo working with exuberance! And, I have qualms that it ever will be so matched.

The 70's through the 90's were the foremost era of Dimestore collecting, its Golden Age. For its Madein-the-USA devotees, the hobby milieu in which Ed then functioned...sadly, may never return.

A review of his catalog showed that a multitude of similar items was presented by the use of "numbered blocks" that he named as "Series." For example: Series 26 was "Machine Gunners" and included a variety of poses and equipment. "Seated Soldiers," Series 34, offered twelve different modifications to the basic seated figure. So, you see, each fundamental soldier design composed a profusion of choices from which the interested "swapee" could perceptively select.

A later more complete Want List Catalog, issued in 1984, blossomed with intensity to twelve large pages,



U. S. Navy Marching Band with Conductor and Drum Major



Marine Crew Firing M1916 37mm Trench Cannon

including two in full color. The "Want List" portion was now enhanced by well defined, artistic line-drawings of his many "searched for" items. Then, page after page followed with each one showing in reducedsize photographs a broad scope of newly converted Dimestore size figures.

As Ed's list of trade items grew, not only in each of his more than thirty Dimestore Soldiering Series, it also simultaneously expanded by the addition of a rather impressive amount of 54mm, "Britains Ltd." style tanks and other armed forces vehicles, supplied with crewmen when needed.

This represented another promotional stroke of genius. Why leave out that vast collecting population of 54mm enthusiasts? Ed knew that they too had a penchant for many wants within their own sphere of collecting. So, arriving in the smaller scale for their pleasure were an abundance of WW II light and heavy tanks, i.e.; British, U. S., German, French, and Japanese, along with, armored cars, a lorry, Bren and Loyd carriers and their personnel. Ed mentions, "These were adapted from WW II ID or souvenir models and cast in epoxy and metal with metal crewmen."

The Five and Dime Corps with its subsidiary, Out' n Out Reproductions, lead by its Commandant, was now in the position to propose to the militia of collectors a multifarious aggregate to fortify anyone's







Navy 30cal Machine Gun Landing Party



Doughboy Band with Conductor and Drum Major



Field Radio Operator

toy soldier army, even if massed in dioramas, on shelves or preserved in closeted boxes.

Find any of the leader's "wants" and you could be well surprised how liberal the trade may be.

Nevertheless, make no mistake! The items of the Five and Dime Corps were never for sale and written as such, "Available from the Corps Commandant by swap only (see Want List)." Additional notifications, "For Swap Only," "No Sales," and "For Trade Only," recurred often throughout the catalog and became to the eye as impressionable as the lavish assortment of listed soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles.

In the meantime. Ed's desire for additional "wants" immensely increased to include much more than only the rare Dimestore figures. For example, he sought for trade Marx eight wheeled train cars; composition boats and planes; tin litho planes and vehicles; bizarre and unknown navy flats and semi-rounds in any scale; Japanese ceramic, metal and composition toy soldiers; most any pre and post WW II, 54mm Tri-Ang Minic military vehicles and planes; Astra-Pharos large and elaborate field pieces; Tootsietoy and Dowst Minis; as well as, elusive unknowns like the wounded Dimestore soldier in the wheelchair: and much more too numerous to list. It seemed insatiable.

However, it was an exciting boon to the "swapees" to find a collector with so many needs to satisfy.

Unpretentiously, the avid cultish collectors snapped-to and marched through flee markets,

antique shops and toy shows as Ed's surrogate force, embracing to the breast his list, searching for his "wants." It transcended a casual hobby of collecting to one of direct reciprocities. Find something for me and I have lots of things for you. And it worked! The blueprint's model really worked!

Young collectors drooled! Older collectors painstakingly scrounged up their duplicates for potential trade-bait and assertively sought for more to swap.

There was not any uncertainty that "SWAP" was the Commandant's order.

To just understand the reasoning behind why such an unorthodox philosophy was imposed, Ed wrote, "The 'Swap Only' policy is meant to keep soldier volume low so I can still practice some medicine." My oh my, how cavailer to be concerned with one's occupation at a time when hobbyists yearn and many froth for the products offered. It was his creation! What kind of oath did he take?

To lend more introspection into the thoughts of the Good Doctor, he said, "Dimestores were slighted by snobbish authors writing books on military miniatures!" After that, he authored the following whimsical resume with the intent of having it listed in many sundry collector guides:

"FIVE and DIME CORPS (1979-) Begun in Texas, a quasi-independent North American state, by an eccentric physician, one E. K. Poole, who styles

himself as Corps 'Commandant'. Productions are solid castings, conversions based on the naïve and crude but sometimes vigorously animated 8cm American Dimestore toy soldiers of the 1930's. An early figure, an X-ray technician, shows imagination but follows the grotesque American tradition of casting the figure, centaur-like, integral with his machine, in this case an X-ray device. Sculpture is far below standards of Courtenay - or even Michelangelo. A subsidiary, producing flagrant piracies of Dimestore figures and more recently 1/36 scale vehicles is boldly and candidly named 'Out'nOut Repros'. marketing practices of refusing sales and accepting only barter for odd or rare military toys had mercifully prevented the wide availability of this line. Now we learn that the good doctor, having retired his practice. has expanded his Commandant Miniatures range, brightly enameled 54mm pieces in old toy style, to include types of the Hundred Years War. And he actually intends to try selling them!"

Although trading by the exchange of goods has been around since primeval times, it factually has not been such an awesome frequent business practice throughout modern commerce. So, to lend credence to his proposal, that the "swapping" of new

conversion items for his "wants" will cure anyone's mind-doubting, Ed embellished his objective in 1986 by explaining it in more detail with his last published, *Five and Dime Corps Album and Catalog*, aka, "last of the red hot catalogs."

Written in the corner of this large seventeen pager, Ed states, "Here –At Last! Have a lot more time for soldiering now than in a long while though. Best – Ed." Here, the Commandant refers to his semi-retirement from his practice of medicine. Tempus fugit!

Knowing up-front that you were to begin a transaction with an authentic Doctor, Ed authored the following to mitigate for the "swapees" any vestige of "white-coat hypertension."

"If you see something here that you like and have something excess to your collection that you think I'd like, please write.

"An evening phone call is OK, but I'm frequently 'on call' for several hospitals and then can't chat for long.

"I rate the average Five and Dime Corps figure about equal in value to a common Barclay or Britains Ltd. piece. As my figures get more elaborate in painting or number of component castings – bandsmen, Marines and regimental color bearers for instance –



Shotgun Team Being Deployed to the Forward Trench



Motion Picture Crew Positioning to Film the Commandant's Arrival



Mapping Out the Commander's Range Findings



Five and Dime Corps Armored Scout Car Crew in Action

I value them higher. Vehicles range slightly to a lot higher, again, depending on their complexity.

"Some pieces I'm seeking on my 'Want List' are not very exotic but others are quite rare. Consequently we might be talking about anything from a one-to-one trade to a whole Five and Dime Corps band or contingent for one rare piece – or something in between.

"Once we strike a tentative deal, I prefer that you not send anything until after you receive my shipment. Time required varies widely! Then if you like what you've gotten, fine – if not, just return it. I'll feel free to do the same. After all, this is a hobby. We're both supposed to have fun.

"If you have something on my 'Want List' and you'd rather sell for American \$ than swap, I'm willing to consider that too. Yours for good soldiering." Signed, Ed Poole.

As the catalog's circulation broadened, plus the issuance in 1988-'90 of supplementary lists of *Updated Wants*, more and more pre WW II Dimestore size figures bubbled up through the collectible murk. All-Nu, American Metal, Tommy Toy and others were proposed by "tradees."

Ed added, "Wider exposure of and increased participation in the hobby brought to light numerous

rare and wonderful pieces I had certainly never seen as a boy. Most that I acquired were through swaps for multiples of Dimestore conversion castings, the mold patterns put together from parts of broken figures under the Five and Dime Corps logo. This creation of neo-dimestore figures, ones we wish Barclay et al had gotten around to, continues as a strong subsidiary branch of the hobby."

Medical practice in his hometown of Austin, Texas, was often so active that in his early collecting years it crimped his attendance on the toy soldier "show circuit." Sounds as though I made him into a song and dance vaudevillian. Ed relates, "My first show was an MFCA at Widener College, Chester, PA. In those days Dimestore collectors were still segregated into a flea market back room.

"At the show is where I met for the first time my good friend Hank Anton and his wife Claire. For years Hank and I swapped soldiers, information and gossip. Once he set up for me a display of my creations that netted me MFCA's, 1983, Fife and Drum Award. It took me a few years to get away for OTSN's Chicago Show. I think they gave me in 1987 the Texas-Bermuda Toy Soldier Society Tommy Award just for showing up." No, it was because you were respected, celebrated and revered!





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Ed further recalls, "In the years immediately prior to my 1992 retirement from Austin medical practice, I had added another subsidiary, *Commandant Miniatures*, with the principle activity of making military vehicles compatible to display with Britains Ltd.soldiers.

"By 1992, my Dimestore collection was very complete and therefore static. No new finds were turning up for swaps.

"My focus then came more onto the vehicles, and, after the purchase of a centrifugal caster unit and some casting lessons, increased production. Fellow manufactures, notably Bill Hocker and Col. Joe Shimek who let me tour their facilities, were generous in helpful advice on everything from metal selection to packaging.

"During the time of my 'Dimestore drought' my main collecting interest was in 54mm types of the Victorian Colonial Wars and research on commercial home casting molds. Nearly all of them have been sold now, as well as my collections of Dimestores; WW II ID models; WW II vehicles and wooden models. Most of my military history books also went.

"Lastly, the Five and Dime Corps molds found a good home with Ron Eccles in Burlington, Iowa."

The "Supreme Sovereign Saint of Swaps" was fast becoming legendary! He was heroic in the Dimestore hobby and Poole-esque in that others desired to emulate his tactics but were hapless in possessing his aplomb. His singularity and unparalleled notability may never be replicated. Edward Kern Poole, M. D., Retired, is significantly admired by all.

Why Not? After all, he is still the Commandant!

Part Two of this article will continue in the next issue with more of the Commandant's cherished moments, youthful and senior, plus an overview of his current subsidiary, *Commandant Miniatures*.



See You Next Issue! Commandant, Ed

BOOK REVIEW

BRITAINS NEW TOY SOLDIERS 1973-PRESENT

By Norman Joplin & John T. Waterworth Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

NOW AVAILABLE

Sadly 1966 witnessed the end of hollow cast toy soldier production by Britains. The victim of deflated sales, but more importantly the banning of lead in children's toys by the British government sealed the fate of the icon of the toy soldier world. Britains did not venture back into the toy soldier industry until 1973 with the production of a Guardsman figure. Two additional figures, a Lifeguard and Yeoman, comprised the entire line of Britians toy soldiers from 1973 to 1983.

For the next twenty-two years Britains would be bought and sold several times. Predictably each new owner brought with them their own ideas and business practices for the production of toy soldiers. The end result was disastrous for the once proud company. Quality was lacking in regards to painting and sculpting, and rarely were production deadlines met, frustrating dealer and collector alike.

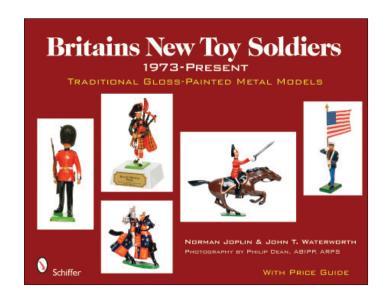
Fortunately in 2005 First Gear Inc. purchased the Britains name. Under the determined and inspired direction of Richard Walker, the fortune of Britains drastically improved. Mr.Walker has re-established Britains as a major player in the toy soldier market with attention to quality, detail, production methods and consumer input.

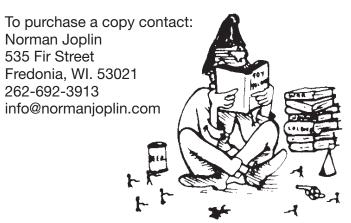
The period of 1973-2008 abounds with collecting options for the Britains enthusiast. Britains produced a plethora of product, some of which were in partnership with individual collectors. Understandably a comprehensive resource for this eclectic period of Britains production was lacking.

Accomplished author Norman Joplin with the help of John T. Waterworth have come to the aid of collectors with, "Britains New Toy Soldiers 1973-Present". The 272 page book is a wonderful documentation of Britains products for the stated period. So diverse was Britains output that the authors had to devote twenty-nine chapters, each focusing on a specific product line. Eleven hundred stunning photos, the work of the exceptional Phillip Dean, provide the reader the opportunity to closely examine each figure. Over thirty-two hundred figures are depicted, many shown with the correct box, a real bonus for collectors. A brief descriptive text is provided for each photo.

The Index and Valuation Guide is invaluable for both the veteran and novice collector alike. Arranged numerically, each entry is accompanied by which range it is from, the year(s) of production and current value. The Index alone is seventeen pages, a testimony to the diverse and prolific offerings of the period.

Whether you are a Britains collector or not, I highly recommend "Britains New Toy Soldiers 1973-Present". Dazzling photographs, informative text and the outstanding Index and Valuation Guide provide the reader with everything they need to know to be an informed and knowledgeable collector for this period of Britains production. Definitely a "must have" book.





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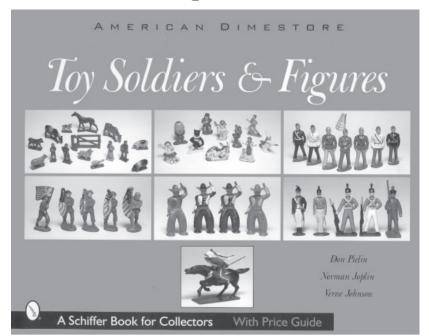
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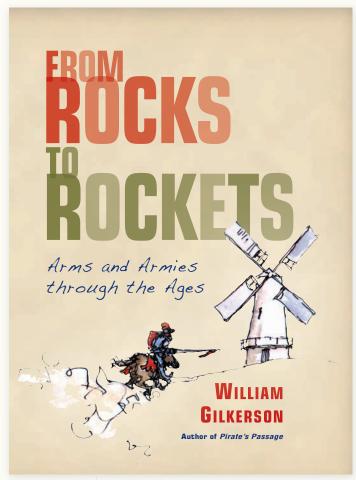
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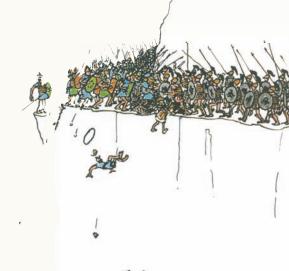
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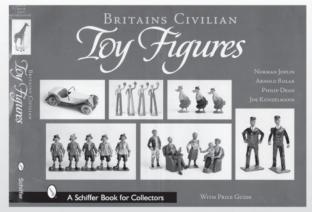
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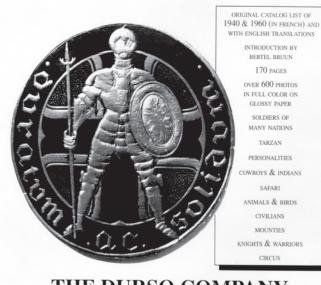
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Paper Soldiers

By Ed Ryan



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

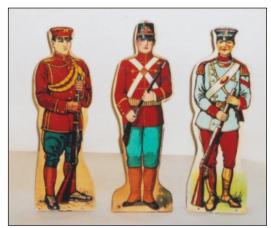


Figure 4

In Reconnaissance, in the Winter 2008 issue or OTS, Rodney Hopson identifies tin target figures as having been made by Wyandotte. As it happens, I have one each of the infantryman and the cavalryman that he illustrated, and I believe they were, in fact, made by a New York City toy maker, A. Gropper & Sons. What makes these figures particularly interesting to me is the fact that the infantryman illustrated by Rodney is a line-for-line, color-for-color copy of a Milton Bradley soldier in a set of soldiers published by that company in 1909, "Bradley's 25 Infantry," although the tin soldier is somewhat tubbier. (Large and small figures to the left in Figure 1.)

The cover of a box soldiers made by Gropper, a firm producing and selling a considerable variety of toys — metal, cardboard, and possibly wooden — shows a box of foot and mounted soldiers, together with a toy rifle, which seems to be identical with my - and Rodney's - two tin soldiers. Companion illustrations on this cover show three boxes of another type of Gropper soldiers.

This instance of a company's "borrowing" a design from another firm is evidence of the fact that copyright law was apparently more honored in the breach than in the observance among American toy soldier makers early in the last century. Perhaps to avoid the possibility of a suit, in the series of cardboard soldiers that Gropper began to produce, as noted above, perhaps as early as 1918, he slightly altered the Bradley design by shifting the position of the soldier's rifle and by producing, in addition to the original uniform, a color variation. (Center soldier in Figure 1.) An original cavalryman, in essentially the same uniform as the rifleman and about the same 6 ½ in. height, was added to the line, as was a newly designed infantryman. (Fourth and fifth from the left, respectively.)



Figure 5

Paper Soldiers (Cont.)



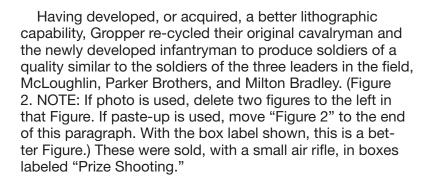
Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Presumably about the same time, several newly designed cavalrymen appeared. (Figure 3.) (The paste-up version is better, because in it, the face of the image of Foch is blemish-free.) It seems evident that this phase of Gropper's production occurred about 1918, or soon thereafter, because the figure, far left in figure 3, wearing a khaki uniform and cap, bears a striking resemblance to General Pershing. Seeming confirmation of this speculation is the 13" mounted soldier, second from the left, which is identified on its base as Marshal Foch. This latter figure is lithograph-on-wood, 3/16ths of an inch thick, and the paper has been covered with a layer of varnish. The same figure, on heavy cardboard this time, and with a different head, was produced to accompany the Marshal. (Third from the left.) The fourth, smaller figure at the right is still another type of cavalryman.

Evidently the popularity of these soldier target games had reached such a peak that something akin to an arms race among the prominent makes of such games occurred. In 1914 Bradley bought out its "Game of Sharpshooters— Complete with Large soldiers and Air Rifle throwing Rubber Cork," The imaginative uniform of this fellow included the crossed cannons of an artilleryman on his cap, on his breast the gorget of an officer, a cross belt supporting an ammu-



Figure 9



Figure 10

Paper Soldiers (Cont.)

nition pouch on his left hip, and showy epaulets. (Figure 4, right.)

It would not be long before Gropper, once again, borrowed from that industry powerhouse, Bradley. Their 12 ¾ in. infantryman was posed in a similar parade-rest fashion, although in this case the uniform colors were reversed from those of the Bradley prototype. (Far left, Figure 4.) Held in somewhat different pose, the Gropper rifle was identical with that of the Bradley figure. An elegant touch, in the form of aiguillettes, had been added, although incongruously they were looped beneath the solder's right arm.

A second heavy-hitter in the paper soldier industry, Parker Brothers, had beaten Bradley to the draw, however, by issuing in 1912 "Giant Soldiers with Air Rifle," a set of ten 13 ¼ inch soldiers of excellent quality, in an imaginative, if equally fanciful, design. (Center, Figure 4.)

Where, one may ask, was the industry leader, McLoughlin, while all this gigantism was sprouting forth? Well, McLoughlin may well have beaten all the others to the shooting range, with their "Zouave Ten Pins," the issue date of which is uncertain, although it was probably soon after 1894. (Second from the right, Figure 5.) (P.T. title: Zouave officer and private, center and to the right.) These are litho-on-wood figures. The "weapon" in this case was a set of wooden bowling balls. A similar figure, that I believe to be a McLoughlin product, is the drummer boy, seen to the left of the Zouave (P.T.: officer), whose drum is labeled "Drum Corps." The two small, very toylike soldiers to the far left are (P.T.: The small, very toy-like soldier at the far left is...) from McLoughlin's "The Soldier Ten Pins" set, while the Boy Scot, far right, is from that company's "The Boy Scout Ten Pins." (When Milton Bradley bought out McLoughlin in 1920, the Soldier Ten Pins were re-issued as "Dodge Brothers," with only one tiny variation of the original design: the golden "U.S." letters on the belt pouch were missing, perhaps as a means of identifying soldiers of the original printing from those of the second.

Two other makes of excellent quality litho-on-wood soldiers were Selchow & Righter, New York, and Ives, Blakeslee & Co., of Plymouth, Connecticut. The former produced a handsome set of 13 3/8 in. Napoleonic grenadiers, whose cross-belts are emblazoned with the title "Old Guard" (Center, Figure 6), together with a wooden cannon, in

a wooden box, which incongruously bears a label showing West Point Cadets, and entitled "The Cadet Guards." Soldiers of this same design were also issued in 7 inch and 10 inch scales, without the "Old Guard" title, and even as large ads for Sweet Caporal cigarettes, carrying that product's name on their cross-belts.

For their part, Ives, Blakeslee & Co. produced a set of 12 ½ in. litho-on-wood ten pins in a wooden box entitled "New York 7th Regiment." (Left, Figure 6.) The number "7" may be seen on each soldier's brass helmet plate and cross-belt plate. This was the socially prominent "silk stocking regiment," as contrasted with the New York 71st Regiment, which prided itself on being known as "the working man's regiment."

I cannot identify the maker of the stately litho-onwood Life Guardsman (Center, Figure 7), but again, Sweet Caporal was obviously utilizing the same printer's services. Incidentally, I have never seen a true toy soldier of that magnificent Russian Chevalier Guard in that Figure, also enlisted in the service of Sweet Caporal, but it seems possible that there was one made. Anyone?

Meanwhile, Milton Bradley has broken from the pack with its four sets of "Toyland Soldiers –To Parade – To Bowl Over – To Use with Pop Gun or Pistol." They were identified as (from left to right, Figure 8) Scarlet Legion, Black Watch, Cadet Blues, and White Patrol.

Even Canada got into the act, with "The Game of Soldier Ten Pins," by the Canada Games Co. (Figure 9.) But the granddaddy of them all was Parker Brothers' "The Maxfield Parrish Soldier" (Figure 10), who, at 23 ½ inches, towers above his little brothers, who were ten pins. His spring-loaded head, which bobs accommodatingly when struck by a popgun cork, is an especially inviting target. Parrish had made a name for himself early in the last century, with his paintings of idyllic, sun-drenched scenes. Hiring him to design toy soldier targets was a smart publicity gambit by Parker Brothers.

The weapons with which these target soldiers were assailed by their owners included, in addition to wooden bowling balls and pop guns, a variety of metal and wooden pistols, and wooden cannon of calibers ranging from half an inch to one inch, none powerful enough to inflict serious injuries on their steadfast targets.



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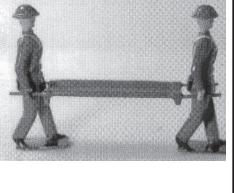
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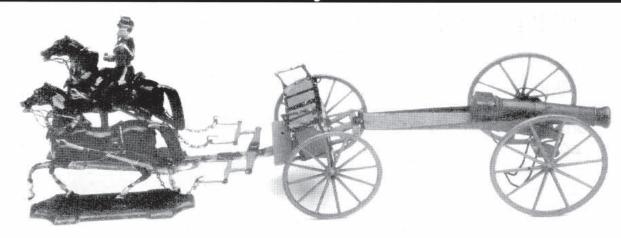
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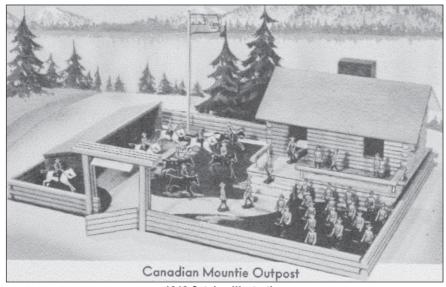
By Bill Nutting

The famous New York toy mecca F.A.O. Schwarz offered some of the largest and most elaborate sets of toy soldiers in the world. Each year the Christmas catalog devoted a page or two or three to wonderful "Exclusive" combinations of soldiers and wooden structures. Combining castles, western stockade forts, farmyards, and other set pieces with the equivalent of several boxes of toy soldiers, Schwarz offered "sets" with more Britains (and other) soldiers than all but the very largest sets in the Britains catalog.

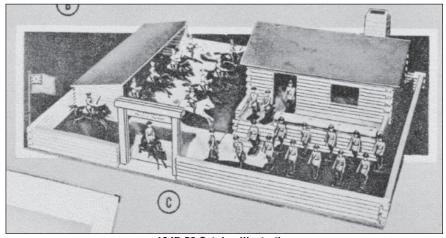
Royal Canadian Mounted Police sets with Britains soldiers appeared in the F.A.O. Schwarz catalogs in three different intervals – one version up to 1942, another around 1948-52, and a final one from 1958 to 1961. (I have and have seen a number of catalogs, but not all. I'll mention specifically the years in which the sets do – and don't – appear in the catalogs I've reviewed.)

Throughout this period Mountie adventures were featured in novels. movies, radio, television, and comic Some of the better known examples would be films Outpost of the Mounties (1939); Gary Cooper's North West Mounted Police (set in the 1880's so the uniforms are different) (1940); "cliffhangers" King of the Royal Mounted (1940); and King of the Mounties (with WWII-era villains) (1942); novels by Laurie York Erskine about "Renfrew of the Royal Mounted" followed by radio programs with the same character; and finally "Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, "hero of radio, television (1955-58), comic books, etc.

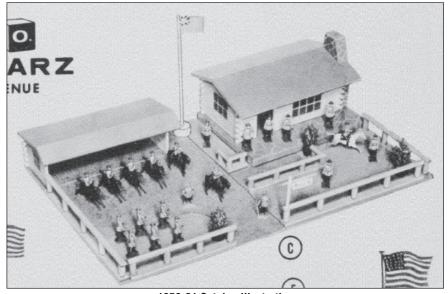
The Schwarz 1942 Christmas catalog offered a "Canadian Mountie Outpost" at \$10.50, the least expensive of the four "exclusive combinations"



1942 Catalog illustration



1947-52 Catalog illustration



1958-61 Catalog illustration

F.A.O. Schwarz's RCMP "Outpost" Sets (Cont.)







Photo C

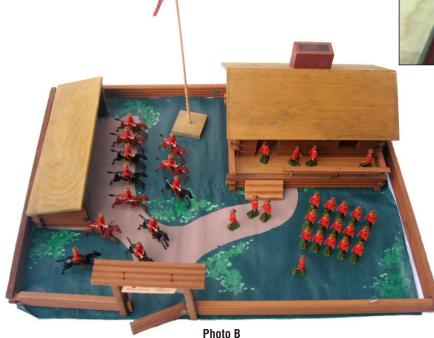


Photo D

using Britains soldiers. With castle sets at \$32.75 and \$19.95, and the "Bones Brothers Ranch" at \$18.75, the RCMP set was the simplest – by F.A.O. Schwarz standards.

The description goes: "All the romance of the Canadian Northwest and the Canadian Mounties is centered right here. The layout 21" x 30" is enclosed by red cedar log fence, 2" high, with an arch of logs and rugged hinged gate. A

Canadian flag floats from the 16" pole. There are 2 log buildings, one a lean-to shelter for horses, the other an imposing structure with front porch for the men. There are 32 police figures in all, of which there are 24 dismounted, measuring 2" tall. EXCLUSIVE WITH SCHWARZ." The set in the photo includes all the original pieces of the set – except for one Mountie on foot! (See photos A, B, C, and D.)

F.A.O. Schwarz's RCMP "Outpost" Sets (Cont.)

The 1944 and 1945 catalogs don't show any RCMP set. James Opie notes in his <u>Great Book of Britains</u> that toy soldier production halted in July 1941 until September 1945. Schwarz's 1942 catalog did, in addition to the sets above, list two of the "Historical Soldier Collection" sets with a mix of Britains cavalry. Obviously Schwarz would have been a principal recipient of whatever late production and remnant figures Britains still had in 1942, but by 1944 Britains had disappeared in New York.

The F.A.O. Schwarz 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1952 catalogs show a second version RCMP set. The overall camp is smaller, and the cabin is smaller and with a changed window and chimney. The new flag is smaller, and the number of soldiers is dropped to 26.

The copywriter for the catalog is however even more colorful: "'They always get their man,' and how true the old saying is! These 26 fine 'mounties', mounted and on foot, stand ready to protect and defend the vast expanses of the Yukon, the lakes of Manitoba and right up there 'back by Northern Bay, where it's daytime for 6 months of the year!' Their home barracks and stable are made of wood, well detailed with a rustic stain finish. Each metal figure is colorfully positioned and painted. There's a movable railing that runs around the entire 18"x24" outpost." The cabin pictured probably is a later iteration of this middle version set. It has the flagstone terrace and log railing but slightly different stairs and windows from those pictured. (A number of different log buildings were sold by Schwarz over the years in various sets such as the "Bones Brothers Ranch" and the "Cowboy-Indian Camp.") I've added into the photo a late pre-war set of Mounties in winter dress marching around the cabin to meet an officer - a piece my father bought around 1948 as a boy. (Photo E.)

Although the RCMP dropped out of the 1954 and 1956 catalogs, a "Canadian Outpost" reappeared in the 1958-61 catalogs. Each of the now 22 soldiers "is colorfully painted in the uniform known all over the world." The early large cloth flag is replaced by an unusual painted celluloid flag. The earlier oilcloth simulating grass and walkways is changed to a two piece Masonite-type board base.



Photo E

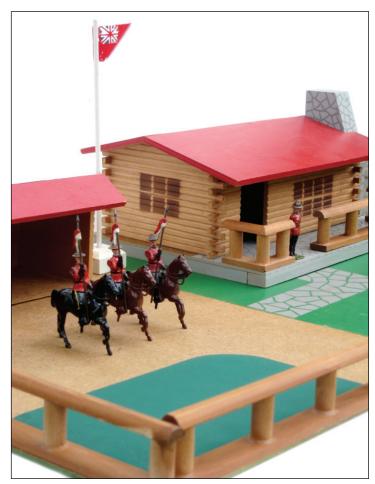


Photo F

F.A.O. Schwarz's RCMP "Outpost" Sets (Cont.)



Photo G

The catalog cut clearly shows that the line-up of figures includes the Britains mounted officer at halt turned in his saddle (added to the Britains line in 1953) and, creatively, the Johillco RCMP at ease and the jaunty officer standing with his hands on his hips. Earlier in the 1950's Schwarz had begun to man sets with non-Britains English-made figures. Norman Joplin and Phillip Dean's Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures shows a full range of Mounties by English makers at pp. 335-8 Since I bought my set without any of the original figures, I have taken the liberty of adding for the photo some of the Britains Picture Pack (1954-59) Mounties. Imagine what a set this could have been if Schwarz had requested a full display of parading Mounties with lances and Mounties at attention! (Photos F, G, H, and I.)

The soldiers in the Schwarz catalogs are easily identifiable, but the question of who made the various forts, castles, and other wood buildings sold from the 1930's into the 1970's has not been answered completely. As Britains called on Hugar to add military buildings, and farm and zoo (and Snow White) structures to the sales line, F.A.O. Schwarz turned as early as 1934 to California to source its wood castles. The 1942 catalog notes that "while this ["English Fort"] was made for us EXCLUSIVE in California, we combined it with an assortment of English soldiers made in England."

The late dealer Bill Coakley, in a 1988 and a followup article both in <u>Toy Soldier Review</u>, described a Schwarz-cataloged castle with a maker's label on the back side. Bill detailed "a circular label in blue and silver. In the center of the blue circle is a silver Viking ship with 'Scandia Toys, Los Angeles' below



Photo H

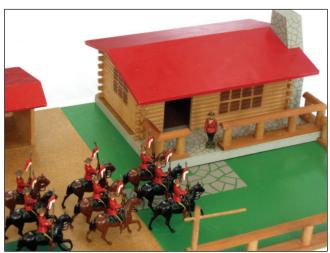


Photo I

and 'T.M. Reg. U.S. Pat Off' above. The label is one inch in diameter." In the second article Bill reported finding the name "Young Things Toys, Pasadena, California" with a rocking horse logo on another early Schwarz castle. (My thanks to Joe Wallis for tracking down Bill's articles.)

I'm going under the working assumption that the buildings and bases for the RCMP sets with lead soldiers were made in California along with the castles. In turn, some similar buildings in Schwarz catalogs of other years probably came from Germany.

Over the years, F.A.O. Schwarz offered dozens of different imaginative sets like these using Britains and other soldiers, but few sets were more creative and colorful than the RCMP Outposts.

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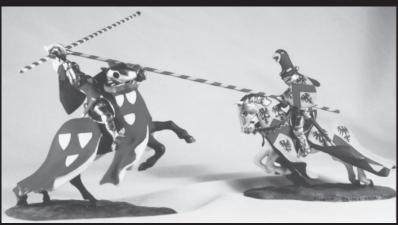
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MEDIEVAL COMPOSITION FIGURES OF BELGIUM THE DURSO COMPANY

By Vincent J. Russo and Patrice Servais

I. Introduction

Our readers may recall that in our last article (Old Toy Soldier—summer 2008—volume 32 Number 2), we featured composition figures manufactured by the Solido Company, depicting the second portion of the Medieval Era (Middle Ages) that took place between 1000 AD to C. 1500 AD. (Essentially that period between the death of the last of the "Holy Roman Emperors," Otto III, and the Renaissance.)

This article will cover the period now known as the "Early Middle Ages," or that time frame between the "Fall of Rome," (C. 400 AD) up to the death of Otto III in 1002 AD.

This period was dominated by those "Men of War," who are now more commonly referred to as "the Barbarians."

Fortunately, for us Toy Soldier enthusiasts, the Durso Company of Liege, Belgium (C. 1938-1988), manufactured a very thorough line of these "Men of War," and will be used to illustrate our journey through the "Early Middle Ages."

Note

In this article we will not touch on the "Vikings," C. 793 AD (First known Viking raid on a monastery on the coast of England), to C. 1043 AD (the fourth and last Viking attack on Constantinople).

These exploits were thoroughly featured and illustrated with photos, by the Authors, in a previous issue of Old Toy Soldier. (Composition Vikings of the Durso Company—Fall 2007—Volume 31 Number 3).

II. History of the "Early Middle Ages"

395 AD—Emperor Theodosius dies, triggering the decline of the Roman Empire.

395 AD—Alaric, (A name that Rome would come to fear), emerges as a leader of the Goths.

409 AD—Alans, Vandals and Sueves invade France.

410 AD—Visigoths under King Alaric "sack" Rome.

410 AD—Alaric dies of a fever.

418 AD—Visigoths establish a kingdom in Aquitaine.

429 AD-Visigoths take over Spain.

441 AD—Attila the Hun attacks the Eastern Roman Empire

451 AD—An alliance between the Roman General Aetius (raised as a boy by the Huns), and the Visigoths defeat Attila and the Huns in a fierce battle on the Catalaunian Plains. (Both sides suffer very heavy casualties).

453 AD—The death of Attila is followed by a "civil war" between 3-4 of his sons. No one emerges strong enough to lead and the Huns merely "fade away" into the existing populace.

476 AD—Romanius Augustulus, the last Roman Emperor in the West, is deposed by Odoacer.

477 AD—Odoacer is defeated by the Osteogoths led by King Theodoric.

509 AD—The Franks, under King Clovis, defeat the Visigoths at the Battle of Vouille, and take over much of France.

511 AD—King Clovis dies, but his descendants, the Merovingians, rule France for nearly 200 years, until overthrown by the Carolingians.

568 AD—The Lombards invade Northern Italy, take control from the Romans, and rule for 200 years.

711 AD—Arabs and Moors from Africa drive the Visigoths out of Spain and make it a province of the Islamic Empire.

768 AD—At the death of King Pippin, his son Charlemagne takes control and quickly increases the already powerful Frankish Empire.

774 AD—Charlemagne defeats the Lombards in Italy.

800 AD—Charlemagne is proclaimed "Holy Roman Emperor," by Pope Leo III.

814 AD—Charlemagne dies, but the reign of the Holy Roman Emperors continues until the death of Otto III in 1002 AD.

MEDIEVAL COMPOSITION FIGURES OF BELGIUM (Cont.)

Durso "Men of War" (Series I)

	<u>Durso "I</u>	Men of War" (S	<u>Series I)</u>	
Catalog No.	Description			
1/1	Warrior with shield, sword, and spear (Gaelic)*		NA I	
1/2	Warrior attacking with spear, winged helmet (Viking)	ed Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Park		
1/3	Warrior standing shooting bow, horned helmet (French)		The same of the sa	
		1/1	1/2	1/3
1/4	Warrior with Frankish winged helmet (Viking)	1		
1/5	Warrior with sword, horned helmet (French)			
1/6	Warrior with ax, blowing horn (Gaelic)*			
		1/4	1/5	1/6
			<i>&</i>	R .
1/7	Warrior with club (German)*		it.	1
1/8	Warrior kneeling shooting bow (Carlovingian)			
1/9	Warrior brandishing sword, round shield (German)*			
		1/7	1/8	1/9
	B			
1/10	Warrior with fighting ax, horned helmet (French)			0.4
1/11	Warrior running with spear (Mongol)	4		
1/12	Warrior throwing spear (Celtic)*			

1/10

1/12

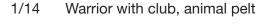
1/11

MEDIEVAL COMPOSITION FIGURES OF BELGIUM (Cont.)

1/13 Warrior climbing ladder (Carlovingian)

*Note

We are certain that those figures marked with an * represent Warriors (Barbarians) from the "B.C." (Before Christ) era, all others are "A.D."



1/15 Warrior shooting arrow into the air

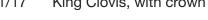
Warrior chief Ambiorix** 1/16

**Note

Ambiorix was the leader of the Eburones, a Belgian Tribe. In the winter of 54-53 BC, he rebelled, citing poor treatment, and destroyed one of the legions or Julius Caesar. This ultimately resulted in the annihilation of his tribe.

1/17 King Clovis, with crown

1/30 Attila the Hun, on horseback



1/31 Warrior on horseback with spear, skull shield

1/32 Warrior on horseback with club



















MEDIEVAL COMPOSITION FIGURES OF BELGIUM (Cont.)

1/33 Warrior on horseback shooting bow, stag head shield

1/34 Warrior on horseback with sword (French)





1/33

1/34



2/35

2/35 Charlemagne on horseback***

***Note

In the Durso catalog Charlemagne is listed as part of Series II. We feel that, historically, he should be in series I, and therefore have included him in this article.

Discussion

Michael Klimor included all of Series I and Series II under the "umbrella" classification of "Men of War."

Over the years, in an attempt to categorize these figures, the "Collecting Community" has designated Series I as "Barbarians" and Series II as "Knights." Nowhere in any of the Durso catalogs is this distinction evident.

Using this broad category of "Men of War," the Durso Company produced figures to represent Warriors (Barbarians) who existed in both the "B.C." and the "A.D." periods of time.

It is most evident that Durso included some "Very Important Personalities" in the production line encompassing this period. [Most notably Ambioux, Attila (406 AD-453 AD), Clovis (466 AD-511 AD), and Charlemagne (742 AD-814 AD)]

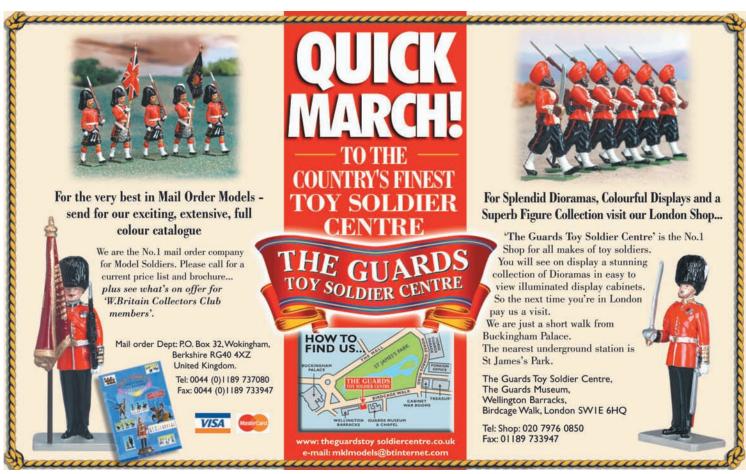
These figures compliment very nicely the "text" which we have provided in this article.

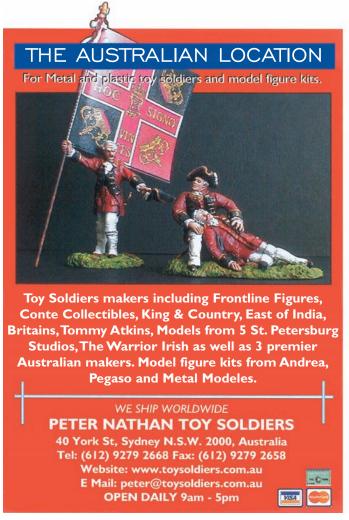
Once again, the authors thank "Old Toy Soldier" magazine for the opportunity to showcase Belgian made composition figures.

We sincerely hope our readers have enjoyed this article.

Photos by Veronique Servais

See the advertisement for the book, "Composition Figures of Belgium—the Durso Company," by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 36 of this issue.





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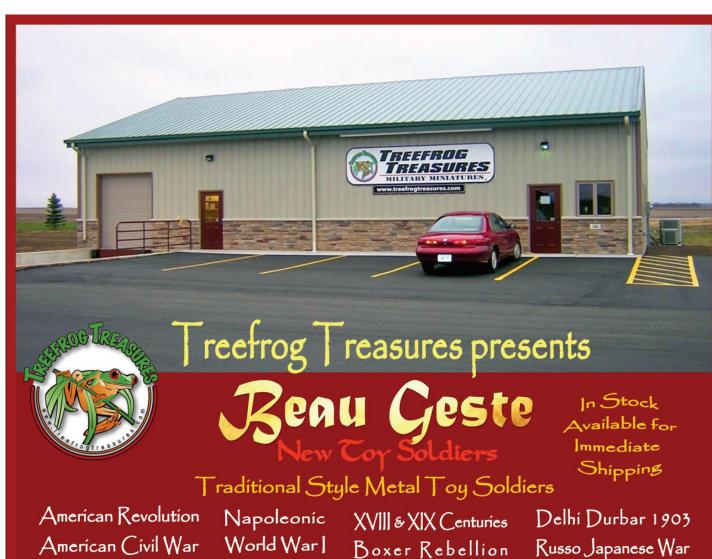
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OUTER SPACE ADVENTURES Rare Johillco Robots

By Norman Joplin

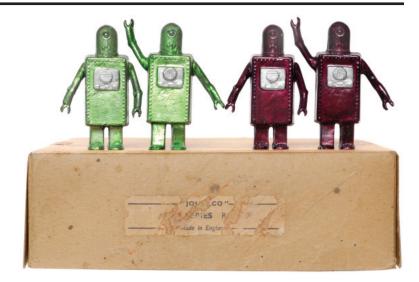
Over the past 15 years Old Toy Soldier magazine, OTS and OTS(N), has featured a number of articles on Space figures made by various toy manufacturers, the emphasis being on the products of Johillco- John Hill and Company.

Mark Young – Author of the definitive Space book Blast Off, Steve Balkin of Burlington Antique Toys in New York City and myself have recorded the various Space figure finds that have been discovered on both sides of the Atlantic.

Just when it seemed perhaps that every Space related toy figure had come to light, the Robots featured in this article were discovered.

In over 40 years of research into toy figures, it never ceases to amaze me that out of the blue something will be discovered that has never surfaced before.

Roger Maryon of Maidstone ,Kent, England has been a toy figure collector and a prominent dealer for many years. There is no doubt that Roger has a knack for finding the unusual and his focus on non military and civilian figures together with his attendance at many of the UK Toy Figure Shows is well known.









OUTER SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)





While on a routine Antique Shop search on the south coast of England, Roger happened upon a newly opened Antique venue, mainly furniture on the ground floor and smaller collectibles on the upper level.

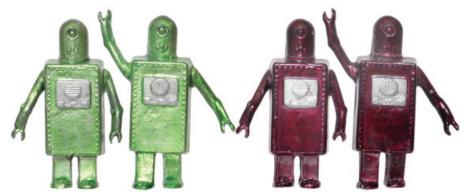
One glass display cabinet held some toys amongst which were a number of ex shop stock bulk pack, direct from the factory, plain brown boxes containing fairly easy to find lead items, including Farm figures by Benbros, Timpo and Johillco from the early nineteen fifties.

A trade box of Cherilea Giant Space Worms was also on the same shelf, but the real prize was a box of 24 Johillco Robots, still with the straw packaging and containing 3 versions previously unknown to collectors.



The Box label was unfortunately torn, but enough of the label remained intact revealing the confirmation that the box had been marked with the word Robot, the Johillco name was also still visible.

The Purple Square bodied Robot by Johillco is one of the rarest Space figures and is sometimes known as the "Suitcase" Robot. This box unveiled the same figure together with green versions and a walking version in both Purple and Green paint finishes with raised arm, in all 6 of each variation were contained within the box, which was promptly purchased by Roger and taken for inspection to Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show in London on the 13th September 2008.



Question now is, What other Space figures may be out there waiting to be discovered??

The accompanying photographs are courtesy of Philip Dean.

For Further reading on the subject See OTS(N) Volume 17 # 6, Volume 19 # 4, Volume 22 # 2, Volume 26 # 4, Volume 27 # 1 28 # 4, and Volume 31 # 4.



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Store Displays Of Premiums And Toys Of WWII

By Jack Matthews

The first articles in this series dealt with the "military" kids premiums, send-a-way/give-a-ways of WWII and ten-cent paper toys. We'll wrap it up with examples of store advertising for such gems, a few of which I showed in an earlier article. These are large displays, many of which were placed in the store front window in part as an inducement to the kids to get mom to buy the sponsoring product. They included large 3-D signs, posters and banners supplied free by the product makers, all were made of cardboard and paper. (Some few, often five feet tall, included characters like Superman, Batman and the Lone Ranger called, "Standees." All were shipped flat to the store owner with instructions for easy assembly.

Due to their large size, fragile nature and lack of storage space, most were eventually destroyed by the store. Thus, now they are quite rare and expensive.

Less than half of the displays shown in this article are original pieces in my collection. The rest

Cet Vours Today!

Cet Vours Today!

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¹Smaller "Standees" and displays are still in use today mostly by fast-food chains as "takeaways" when you buy a meal. A six-foot Superman standee was used by the USPS to promote its recent Superman stamp. My local post office saved theirs for me!

²Hake's Price Guild To Character Toy Premiums, Gemstone Publishing 1996. An absolute MUST for anyone with an interest in this stuff I've been writing about.

are mounted blow-ups of items found on eBay or in Auction Catalogs. With today's color-copying techniques it's easy to have your local Kinko's enlarge an $8^{1}/_{2}$ x 11 color copy several times, in segments or by computer, without losing much resolution. From there it's an easy step to cut out/blend and mount the paper pieces to get a very acceptable large 2-D panoramic reproduction. Your local sign or frame store can easily mount these on sturdy, standup backing material. It's a lot better than paying in the thousands for such an item in the rare occasions when they become available.

I was however fortunate to buy several rare originals from a neat guy named George Hagenauer who is an author and expert on paper premium collectibles. The rest of the originals came from the auctions held by Hake's Americana and Collectibles. I've been seriously collecting various things for over 40 years and Ted Hake is the best there is. His



3





Store Displays Of Premiums And Toys Of WWII (Cont.)



6



Auction Catalogs are the epitome of professionalism. Hake's illustrated "Price Guides,² can't be touched by the competition and his essays on condition, pricing and buying and selling should be read over and over again by serious collectors and responsible dealers. For example, Ted's definition of the grossly overused term "mint" makes us realize that few, if any, such examples now exist of cheap, mass-produced items over 60 years old. So much for the "mint-in-the-box" and "Mr. Mint" sellers of vintage items.

In some cases you didn't have to send away for the great "prize". You either got it from the store after buying All-Sweet Margarine, etc, or it came in the product box itself (Photos 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 & 13). The Earl Ortman display item is a large 3-d "pop-up" of an early B-17. It is a great item obtained from George Hagenauer in superb condition.

The store display items shown in (Photos 1, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16 & 17) are for "send away" premiums which require a box-top, label, etc and the usual dime to the product sponsor. I've hardly ever seen any of them offered in an auction or on eBay.

For some reason, mostly bread companies offered Superman Premiums. In WWII it was his Junior Defense League. These premiums show up regularly and the large stand-up displays rarely.





CAPT SPARAS
MDDEL PLANES

MARY TO
STUP

CHORGE

10



Store Displays Of Premiums And Toys Of WWII (Cont.)

Photo 24 is one of only two original large 3-D toy store window displays touting WWII cardboard punchout sets that I've ever seen. It's 3 feet by 3 feet. The late Henry Bodenstadt found it for me at a New Jersey antique mall. It pays to have friends looking for you.

Obtaining the other one (Photo 23) made me more nervous than I've ever been in an eBay auction. This Young Patriot 3-D Navy Combat Fleet display







is 30" x 22" x 16" and came from a family who had stored it, moisture free, in an attic for sixty years. It was originally used in their father's West Virginia hardware store at Christmas time during WWII. The seller was delighted with the auction price (much lower than I was prepared to pay) and at my request, had it boxed and shipped professionally. I wasn't taking any chances!





Store Displays Of Premiums And Toys Of WWII (Cont.)

A few minor nips and tucks by my friendly framer and it's in excellent condition. The display is one of a set shown in the *Playthings* Magazine Ad of Young Patriot displays for retailers.

Before the days of the Toy Chain Stores, many pharmacies and hardware stores sold some toys during Christmas time.

Photos 2, 3 & 4 show a mix of Premium posters and window displays. Kellogg's Pep cereal had some of the best premium buttons (created by Walt Disney).

While not a WWII item, the great Buck Rogers and Wilma Popsicle poster - 3'x4' - is an example of what a Kinko-type outfit can do. They take a 5"x7"photo, stick it in the computer and voila, a large poster! (Photo 22)

Finally, as an example of European store ads, (Photos 7, 15 & 18-21) show a number of original "Point-of-Sale" signs by the German Composition Toy Soldier Maker, Elastolin. Most come from the Hausser Company archives auctions of the early 1980's.

Like my Young Patriot Display find, maybe a few of these original gems weren't thrown in the trash 60 plus years ago and are still hiding out in some musty attic or long-closed small town hardware, pharmacy or grocery store.

One can only hope. I really love this stuff!

Jack Matthews





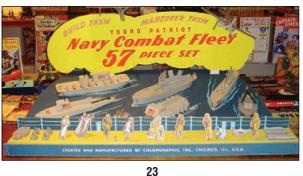
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22 24

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DIMESTORE UPDATE

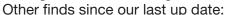
By Gordon Lattey & Bob Griffin

The great thing about this hobby is just when you think you know with certainty what you know, along comes something to prove you really didn't know what you thought you did. That's a long way of saying there's a surprise around almost every corner.

The latest example, make that three, came in rapid order over a recent three-week period. In our last piece (volume 32, number 1) Bob and I detailed what we felt were all the known pot-helmeted variations. We thought we had done our homework well because over the past bunch of years, in addition to our own collections, we had looked at and logged more than 15,000 Barclay figures belonging to friends and fellow collectors, at shows, on mail-order lists and on e-bay.

However, shortly after the issue came out, Tom Carney, of Vancouver, Wash., wrote us to advise that he had a B209 AA gunner with a khaki base. Our pot helmet lists noted that "none had been found to date." He followed up by sending along the figure (see photo). Tom's B209 is one of the reasons why Bob and I use the phrase "not found to date" (emphasis on to date).

And then, less than a week after Tom's note, Rodney Hopson's e-bay list contained a B209 with, you guessed it, a khaki base. So, after three years of drawing a blank, two show up within 10 days of each other. As the ad says: "Life comes at you fast!" I'm now suspecting that somewhere out there lurks a B209 AA gunner with a lime-green base.



- Thanks to Steve Taylor, Springfield, Va., we picked up a B28
 cast-helmet Marine Officer with a blue base and leggings adding
 to our theory that Barclay halted painting bases in the months
 leading up to World War II, probably to speed production to
 meet demand.
- And, finally, an e-bay auction turned up a khaki-based B90
 "Soldier running with rifle with silver cast helmet"; not a rare
 piece, but one that for one reason or another hadn't shown its
 face in our searches.

The five known B90 variations now include:

- A Green base, khaki leggings, silver cast helmet, red rifle, no markings, flat base.
- B Green base, khaki leggings, silver cast helmet, red rifle, "748/Made in USA" on back of legs, flat base.
- C Khaki base, khaki leggings, silver cast helmet, red rifle, "748/Made in USA" on back of legs, flat base.
- D Lime-green base, khaki leggings, green cast helmet, red rifle, "748/Made in USA" on back of legs, flat base.
- E Khaki base, khaki leggings, green cast helmet, red rifle, "748/Made in USA" on back of legs, flat base.

We are still seeking confirmation that the following exist:

- Green and/or lime-green based B201 green pot helmeted flag bearer.
- Khaki based green and/or silver cast helmeted B131 Soldier Digging.
- Green and/or lime green based B205 green pot helmeted Officer with sword.

As usual, if you have anything to add to the discussion, please contact Bob or me at: ussslater@aol.com (Gordon), tylov37@yahoo.com (Bob) or direct snail mail to: Gordon Lattey, 40 First Street, Troy, NY 12180.



Khaki based AA gunner courtesy of Tom Carney, Vancouver, Wash.



Two versions of Marine Officer. One with green base and creme boots; the other with the unusual blue base and boots.



Two versions of the B90 "Soldier running with rifle." One with green base, the other with khaki base.



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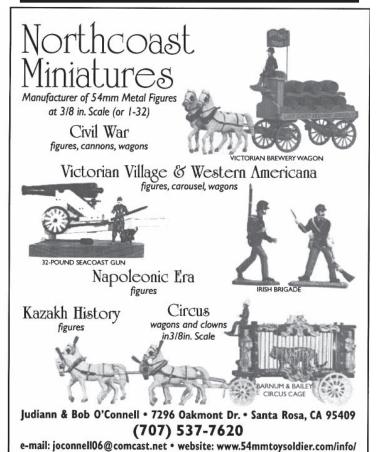
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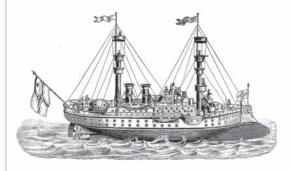
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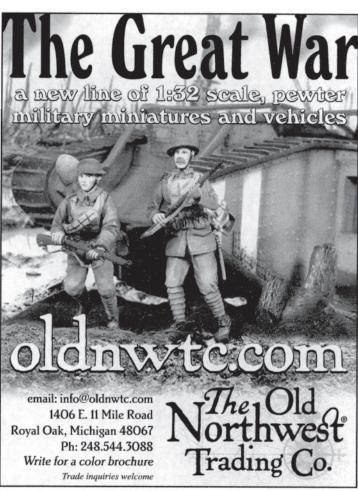


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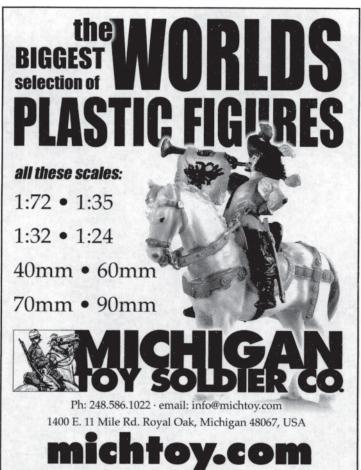
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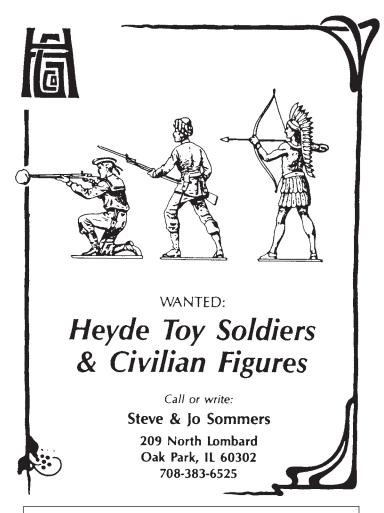
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GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

LUCOTTE COMPAGNIE DES DROMADAIRES

Reviewed By: Russ Bednarek



Throughout the course of the Napoleonic wars, many specialist units were created to satisfy either a logistical or strategic void in the French army. Foreign regiments immediately come to mind, but there were a number of formations that were comprised of Frenchmen.

The Aerostiers (balloonists), are an excellent example of just

such a unit. As part of the Army of the Orient during the Egyptian campaign, they never fulfilled their intended role. When the British navy destroyed the French fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay, the *Aerostiers* equipment was lost, and the men destined to serve within the headquarters organization.

Another specialist unit of the Army of the Orient that did see action was the regiment des dromadaires. Created on January 9, 1799 the regiment was initially designed to counter the marauding bands of Mamelouk cavalry which continually harassed the French army. Recruited mostly from light infantrymen the regiment was made up of four comapnies with a total strength of 400 men. In addition to acting as a mobile force of mounted infantry, the regiment was also used for long range reconnaissance, important escorts and courier duty. Due to their varied strategic duties, the regiment had ample opportunity for prize money. They often encountered and confiscated camel herds that they sold. It was also not uncommon for the Frenchmen to "liberate" numerous assets from the caravans they intercepted. The high quality of their uniforms and accoutrements were a direct result of the regiments wealth procured during their missions.

The regiment's uniform consisted of a distinctive short sleeved *habit* with extensive braiding. A blue and white sash was worn around the waist and over the dark blue breeches which were tucked into hussar boots. The turban was initially worn but this was quickly replaced with a red plumed shako.

Officers and *trompettes* wore a red *dolman* with red breeches which were also tucked into hussar boots. The braiding on the *dolman* was much more extensive and elaborate that the enlisted men's *habit*. The *chapeau* worn "fore and aft" completed the uniform.

Each man was armed with a dragoon musket and bayonet, saber and pair of pistols. Lances were initially issued but quickly discarded as being too cumbersome.

In 1801 as the remnants of the Army of the Orient returned to France, and the *regiment des dromadaires* was absorbed into the *gendarmerie*.

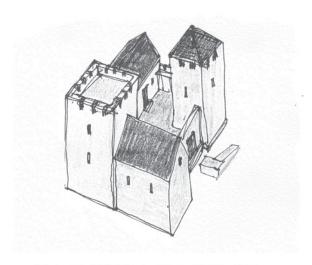


Making its debut at this years Old Toy Soldier Show was Lucotte's magnificent eight piece set, compagnie des dromadaires. Measuring 110mm tall from base to plume, sit six riders atop their camels. Included are two well executed palm trees with flexible branches allowing the collector to arrange them as desired. Three cavaliers, an officer, trompette, and Napoleon himself complete what is surely one of Lucotte's most exotic sets ever. As is typical of Lucotte, the painting and assembling is executed to the highest standard. The painting of the intricate braiding on the dolman and habit is outstanding. None of the cuffs, epaulettes or braiding is cast on the figure, so all the intricate painting is done expertly by freehand, a tribute to the expertise of the Lucotte artisans. The rider's red and blue uniforms are set off nicely against the tan and brown hues of their camels. Two brilliantly colored blankets of red, green, yellow and light blue vertical stripes adorne each camel. A striking multi-colored diamond pattern collar worn by each camel adds to the unique character of each casting.

Given the unusual subject matter, compagnie des dromadaires, will hold a special place in any Lucotte collection. Fortunately this set is available from Jack Carleton of Le Petit Soldat. Mr.Carleton is the sole distributor of Lucotte in the United States and provides fast and courteous service. Collectors interested in this set are advised to act quickly.

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2008

November 2 - Sunday. 9th Annual Cantigny Toy Soldier Show, Cantigny Park Museum. Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. 9am-4pm Contact Nick Albanese 920 261 1323 Email camprandall@charter.net

November 2 - Sunday. 26th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Farleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack. N.J. Sponsored by Vintage Castings Contact Bill Lango 973-831-8900 Email bill@vintagecastings.com Web Site www.vintagecastings.com

November 11 - Tuesday. Vectis Auctions Military and Civilian sale Fleck Way Thornaby Teeside England Contact Simon Clarke + 44 1642 750616 simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk

November 16 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

November 22 - Saturday. Old Toy Soldier Auctions Contact otsauctionsusa@yahoo.com Ray Haradin 1-800-349-8009 raytoys@aol.com Norman Joplin 262-692-3913 info@normanjoplin.com

November 23 – Sunday Tenth Pennsylvania Toy Soldier Military & Miniature Figure Show and Sale 9am-3pm Sheraton Bucks County Hotel.400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne. PA. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687

November 23- Sunday Pennsylvania GI Joe Show 9am-3pm Sheraton Bucks County Hotel.400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne. PA. Contact John Kozin 203 848 0980 or Ed Gries 201 257 2687.

December 6 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London Contact Bob Neville /King and Country UK +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

December 6 – Saturday. 25th Heart of the South Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Annandale VFD Community Center.7128 Columbia Pike Annandale VA Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687.

December 7- Sunday. The New Jersey Toy Soldier Military & Miniature Figure Show and Sale.9am-3pm Wyndham Garden Hotel 50 Kenny Place Saddle Brook NJ. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687

December 13 - Saturday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show. 9am-2pm Aria Hotel & Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Boulevard. N.Y. Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

December 17 – Wednesday. Bonhams Auctioneers Toy Soldier and Figure Auction Knowle West Midlands. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk www.bonhams.com or Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628

2009

January 23 -Friday. Toy Soldier and Militaria Auction. Madison Place. 876 Horace Brown Drive. Madison Heights. MI. Contact Joe Saine 419 662 8697.

January 24 Saturday and 25 Sunday Michigan Historical Collectibles Show. Madison 876 Horace Brown Drive. Madison Heights. MI. Place. Contact 248 586 1022 Email info@michtoy.com

February 7- Saturday Dan Morhy's Toy Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. Your Fairgrounds. Memeorial Hall 334 Carlisle Av York PA Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3435 Email danmorphy@dejazzd.com www.aagal.com

February 8 - Sunday. Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall Lake Worth Florida Contact Alan McGhee 954 431 9295 or Mike Skurda mskurda@inbox.com www.southfloridatoysoldier.com

March 2- Sunday 20th Annual West Coaster Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show. 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriot Hotel 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Irvine. CA Contact 760 758 5481 www.westcoaster.com or www.oldtoysoldierhome.com

April Friday 24th and Saturday 25th MFCA Miniature Figure Collectors of America (Previously Valley Forge) Delaware. More details in February OTS Magazine

April 26 - Sunday. Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show Gettysburg Hotel Contact Mike Luteran 724 854 0334

September 12 -Saturday Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn Coram Street Bloomsbury London 10.30-3.30 Contact Norman Joplin 262 692 3913 or 262 399 1140 Email info@normanjoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com Call in the UK Rob Wilson 01926 496062.

September 27- Sunday OTSNs Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago.10am-3.30 pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road Schaumberg Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630 497 1239 Email dimestores@aol.com www.toysoldiershow.com

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).

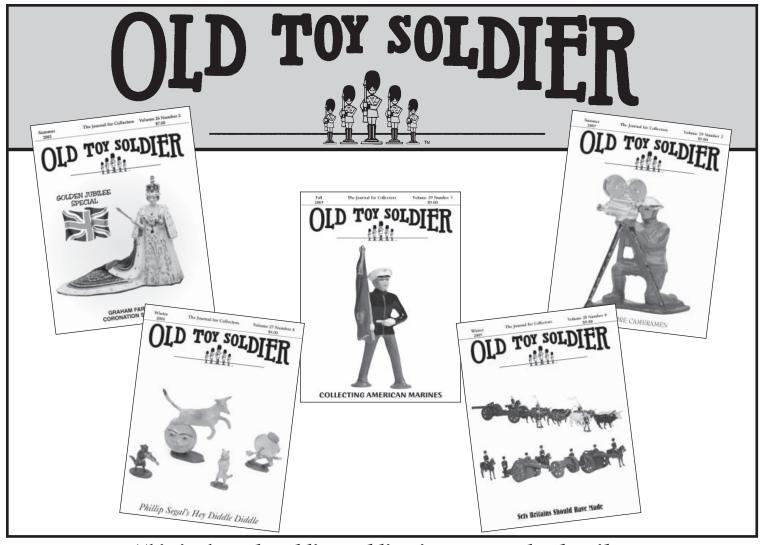
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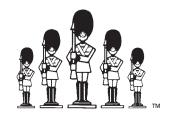
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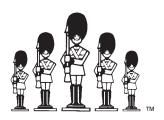
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Finally, there's this year's very special Christmas set... XM008-01. Two GI's share

So What's New... Are We Winning?" BBA027

ECEMBER 15, 1944... Somewhere in Belgium...
up near the forest of The Ardennes. It's cold, almost freezing and it sure looks ready to snow... probably going to be a white Christmas...

XM008-01

Last Christmas of the War

Along 90 miles of front facing the frost-covered trees of the Ardennes 83,000 American soldiers stand guard... bitterly cold and bored!

It was a place where nothing much happened. Occasionally, infantry patrols were sent out see what the enemy were up to and, if possible, bring back a Last Christmas of THE WAR

break. For the older guys this was their first respite from action since D. Day six months before. For the young reinforcements, many of them fresh from the 'States, this was an easy introduction to the "shooting war".

K&C's latest Battle of The Bulge GI's and vehicles sets the scene in the early quiet calm before the storm. These new sets show U.S. servicemen "at ease"... BBA027 Catching up with the news in "Stars 'n' Stripes"... Enjoying a coke and

sipping some hot coffee

their rations with a pair of hungry Belgian children and their even hungrier dog!

As all of these figures relax and take it easy little do they know that their peace is about to be shattered by a huge German onslaught that

is about to descend upon them in less than 24 hours!!!

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M26 Armoured Recovery Vehicle

REA028 Takin' it Easy

prisoner or two. Most times they returned from patrolling these strangely quiet, cold and thickly wooded hills and valleys... empty-handed.

Occasionally they might see a few enemy troops in the distance and exchange some fire but usually it was "All Quiet on the Western Front". It seemed that the "real" action was definitely elsewhere.

BEHIND THE LINES

With only these occasional patrols... kp or guard duties to perform... most GI's relaxed a little and enjoyed the

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