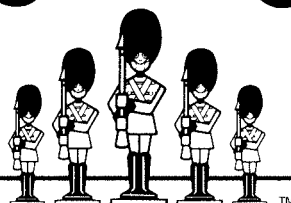


Fall
2010

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Volume 34 Number 3
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OLD TOY SOLDIER



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Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Editor

Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com

Advertising

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Circulation

Nancy Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Technical Production

Banksville Express Printing

Proofreader

Roberta Haradin

Staff Photographers

David Haradin

Noel Schlageter

Staff Cartoonist

Sue Joplin

Show Reports

Ray Haradin, Norman Joplin, Noel Schlageter

General Inspection-New Product Review

Russ Bednarek

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Specialist Contributors

Rob Wilson and Joe Wallis, Britains Military
Louis S. Steinberg, Richard O'Brien and
Stan Alekna, Dimestore Figures

Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and
Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements and all
general inquires, should be forwarded to:

Old Toy Soldier

P. O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324

Telephone (412) 343-8733

Fax (412) 344-5273

E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

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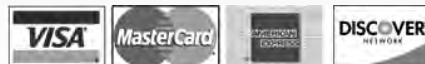
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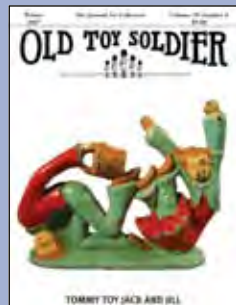
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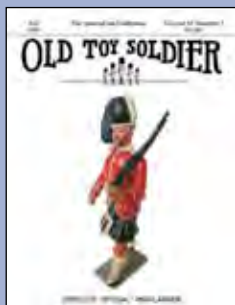
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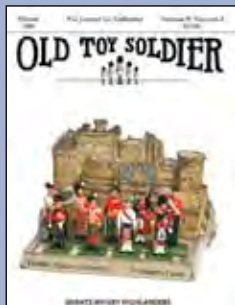
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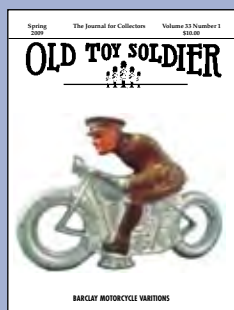


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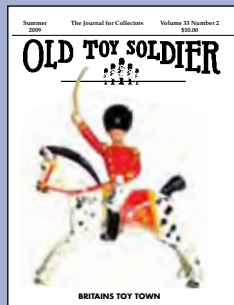


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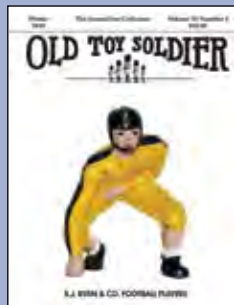
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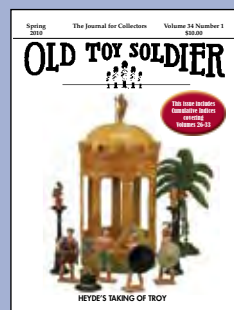


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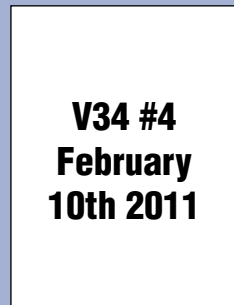
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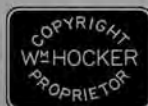
An Old Toy Soldier's Soldiers



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

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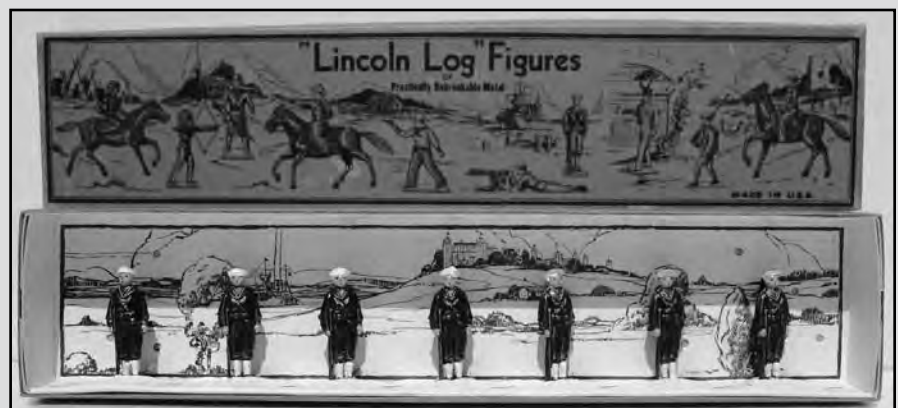
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Besold Flats - Nuremburg

By Norman Joplin

John Garratt in his book *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers* states -- *Besold, Nuremberg. (1800 - 93). Producers of 30 mm flats. Carl Ludwig Friedrich Albert Besold (1800 - 57), was apprenticed to Schweigger: Johann Andreas 1835 - 1893 succeeded him. Friedrich Besold, moving to Furth, sold the business in 1877 to Fortner and Haffner, who in turn sold it to Schildnecht in about 1890. The earlier flats were of fine quality, especially 5 mounted knights with moveable arms in the Nuremberg Museum. The knights in the Nuremberg Museum are marked BESOLD / NUREMBERG and are the only pieces known to be marked.*

Although the following statement in John Garratt's book indicates that Besold manufactured 30 mm items, the Prussian Cavalry figure and Knights are much larger and have a unique articulated arm.

Besold Knights, seemingly 30 mm are also featured in *Lead Soldiers and Figurines* by Marcel Baldet.

The cover illustration in this OTS issue was kindly supplied by collector and friend Merrill Morris.



Two views of the Besold Prussian Cavalry Officer



German Articulated Arm Knight
Very early, circa 1850's production. 70 mm



German Articulated Arm Mounted Knights

**New
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The Artistry of J. Edward Jones American Toy Soldier Maker



By Kent Kline and Don Pielin

This full color pictorial survey covers Jones figures in all scales. Shown are hundreds of figures and two-dozen examples of box art inspired by the American military illustrations by Ogden, McBarron and others. All the Jones company names are chronicled in this comprehensive history of his manufacture from the mid 1920's through the 1950's.

(Publication is planned for 2011. To express your interest and be kept informed contact Don Pielin, 106 Cottonwood, Streamwood, IL 60107 Phone: 630-497-1239, or Dimestores@aol.com)

Calendar Issued at Toy Soldier Show

To celebrate 30 years of OTS Show the organizers issued a collector's edition calendar.



Happy Holidays !!!
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The new 2010/2011 Collector Club Winter set carries on the developing London street scene of 1815. Two of the King's finest share of tot of cider and drink to the New Year (one no doubt free of the scourge of Europe - Napoleon), while a woman street vendor joins in. This set can be added to the last two - "Under the Mistletoe" and "The Little Drummer Boy" to create a bustling London street. Of course the set can just as easily be displayed as a stand alone vignette.



OTS Trivia Quiz Held Over

As no all correct entries have been received,
the trivia quiz deadline has been
extended until February 2011.
See Volume 34 #2 for quiz questions.

Mystery Britains Tin

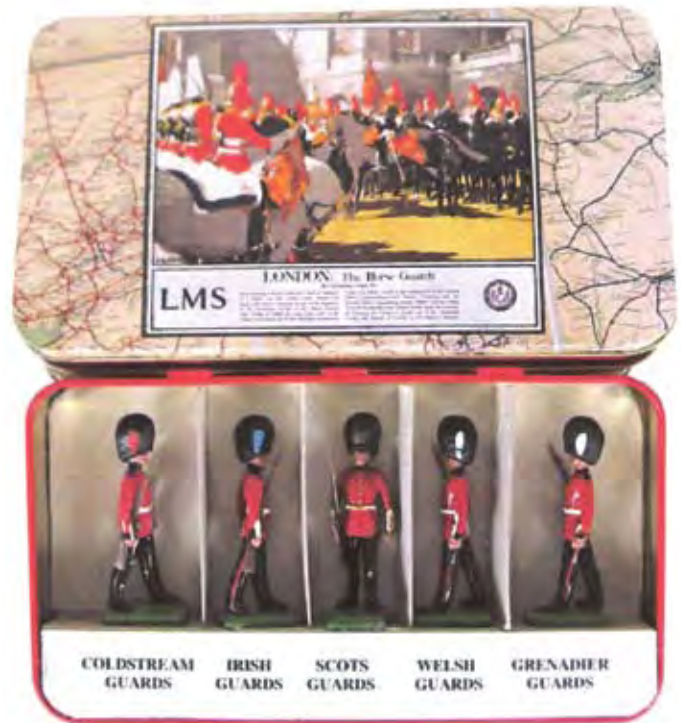
By John Waterworth

The Michael O'Donnell article in this issue illustrates that Ebay can still be relied upon to produce interesting previously unseen Britains items.

Although of a much more modern vintage, these photos show a tin containing Britains New Metal Model Guardsmen obviously sold as London Souvenirs.

The Plumes on each pousby are painted to represent each guards regiment. Something not known to have been done by Britains.

John Waterworth is a UK Collector and Co Author of Britains New Toy Soldiers 1972 - Present



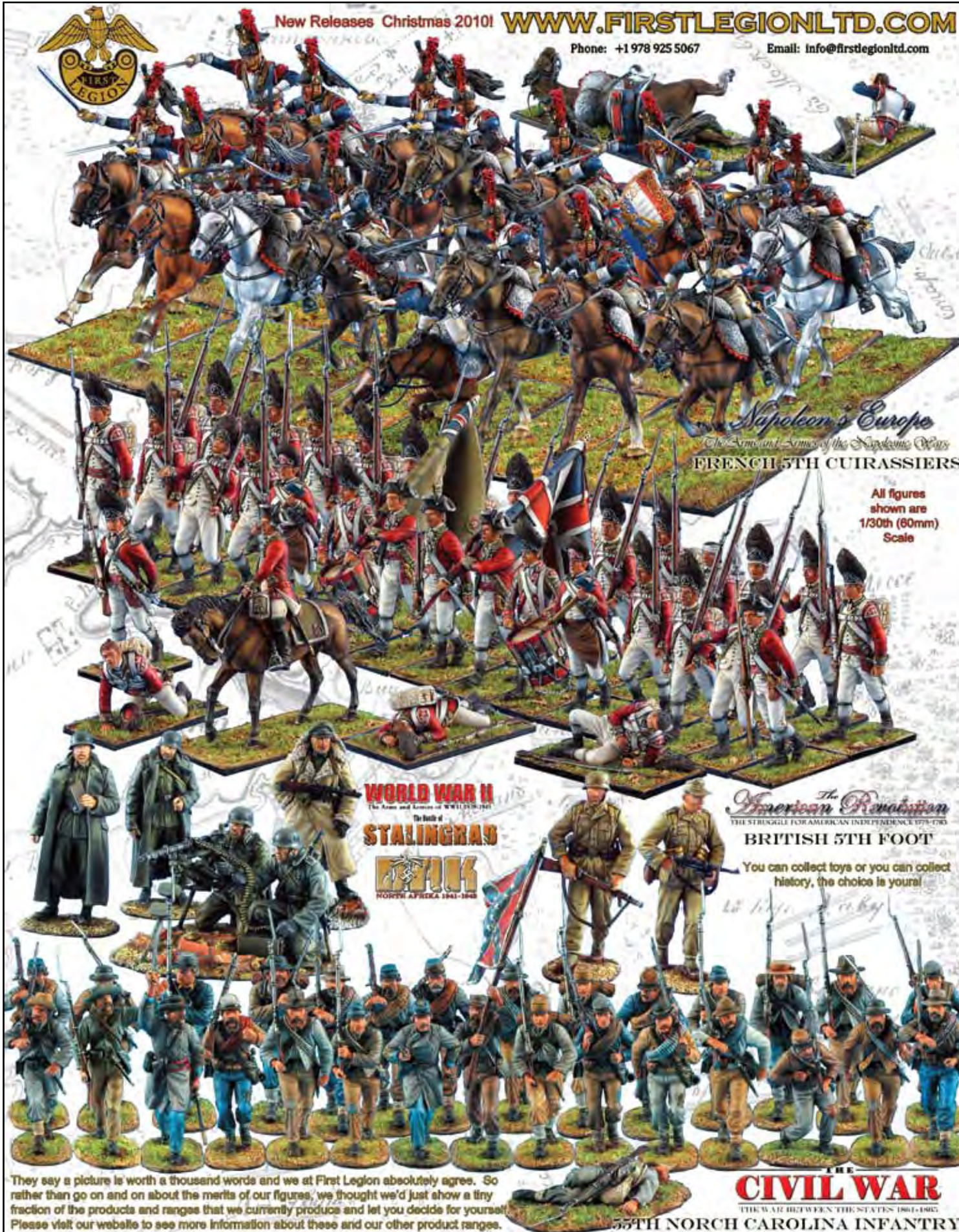


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THE UNTOLD DIMESTORE SOLDIER STORY OF THE 1993 MOVIE "TOYS"

By Louis S. Steinberg

"Damn it!!" I said out loud to myself, pensively looking at the screen of my computer. From another room came a winsome questioning voice, "What's the matter, Honey?" (I'm called Honey by my wife, that is..... sometimes.)

"I can't get this article started!" I aggravatingly yelled back. From yet another room submitted cheerful but subtle words of wisdom, "Grandpa, why don't you start it from the beginning?"

Now, why couldn't I have thought of that? So, to comply with the un-possessed young at heart, house guest.....here it goes....

Back in the late 70s I met Alan J. Adler through our individual frequenting, buying and selling, collectible toys at the various weekend venues held about the greater Los Angeles area. My son's fantasy was captured by toy trains. It was Dimestore

toy soldiers for me, since I collected them as a boy. Alan, a screenwriter and low-budget film producer, was excited about every kind of toy imaginable and loved 1950's monster movie posters.

*It was at the 1992 Westcoaster Toy Soldier Show that Alan approached me to discuss a pressing dilemma confronting him. He was now officially the "Toy Consultant" for the new Fox movie, **TOYS**, already in pre-production at 20th Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles.*

At one point in the film's story the script called for sundry shots of a massive parade of toy soldiers marching, as if "passing in review" before the film's owner of a toy factory, who in the scene, was sick in a hospital bed.

Alan specifically requested Dimestore soldier figures because of their size and distinctive toyish look of the 30s and 40s.



**"Leading the Big Parade"
Figures by Bill Holt**

In order to help, I needed much more information....like just how many figures make up "massive?"

Alan related, "Like you know...many type bands; lots of marching guys; horses, cycles, flags; different branches of the service. All of that"

An immediate eyeball survey of all the Dimestore dealers combined within the Westcoaster Show could not gin up enough toy soldiers to satisfy this conception of "massive." There was absolutely no one who had enough of the original figures. So, now what's next?

In my own mind I began to think of the active Dimestore producers who could possibly handle the making and delivery of a production the size of this aspiration. But, Hey! After all, this is for a major Hollywood movie. And, mountains are frequently moved by Hollywood!

Ed Poole was my first thought. Although, he physically had the shop set-up, i.e. lead furnace, mold maker, centrifugal caster, et al.....but, he was still an active Medical Doctor. His spare time, at best, would be minimal. Couldn't chance his delivery on such a quantity of toy soldiers.

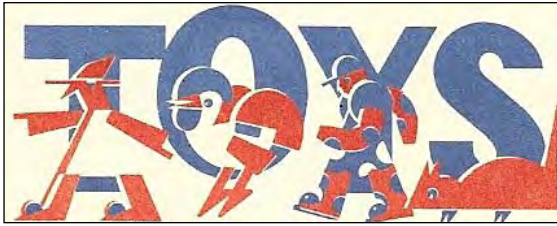
Ed Burley and Bill Holt then mentally floated to the top of my list. Throughout my years of collecting their Dimestore conversion figures, I valued their creativity; the quality of their completed work; their packaging, and their stated policy of shipping and delivery. Even

with their large client base, I personally, never had a problem in being a customer. Sounded possible. A phone call to each was made to evaluate and discuss the size of this project, as well as to really see if the soldier makers were willing to undertake such a venture. To say the least, there was much excitement in "Oltoysoldierville!!" Alan also contacted Ron Eccles and he committed as well.



**Jack Eccles, Ron's Father, in 1992 Molding Sailors for TOYS
Note Original Manoil Mold and M-9 Raw Castings**

THE UNTOLD DIMESTORE SOLDIER STORY OF THE 1993 MOVIE *"TOYS"* (Cont.)



TOYS Identification



Solid Cast WW I Doughboy with Rear View of Holt Mold"



**Holt's First Try Sailor
Marching**



WW II Officer

In closing, I told Ed and Bill that I would inform Alan and to expect a call from him. I also mentioned to them to negotiate their own pricing, and beyond their enthusiasm, get a written purchase order with monies up front and payment-in-full before shipping, as they would with any other customer.

Burley, Holt and Eccles were contracted by Fox to conscript a pompous Dimestore ceremonial procession! Holt further reviewed with Ed and Ron the production responsibilities that each would handle. Then their hullabaloo began!

Word shot like lighting, especially through the Dimestore segment of our hobby. Everyone was talking about how such publicity will boost the hobby. Hopefully, more of the younger generation would be impressed and gravitate towards toy soldiering.

Man Oh Man...could you believe? Three of our own hobbyists will be custom manufacturing a very big toy soldier parade for a major Hollywood Studio, 20th Century Fox, for their star-studded, feature film, **TOYS**, to be released in late 1993.

Nerve endings were electrified with numbing excitement. Brain waves so speedily moved that eyes oozed weeping's of joy. The religious sinfully yelled euphoric curse words. It was "Oltoysoldierville's" most happiest occasion!!

For newcomers to our hobby and for those whom have yet to view **TOYS**, the following is offered so that you may appreciate a rather brief storyline synopsis of the feature film and its inclusive star appeal.

TOYS starred Robin Williams. Co-starred Donald O'Conner, Joan Cusack, L L Cool J, Jamie Foxx (as a toy factory worker in his first screen appearance), Jack Warden, Michael Gambon and Robin Wright Penn. The cast alone validated it as a major production. Williams, himself, was still a very big draw.

To top it all off, Academy Award winner for directing *Rain Man*, Barry Levinson was to guide the cast's performance. Also, Academy Award winner, Ferdinando Scarfiotti for *The Last Emperor*, was the film's Production Designer.

Who could ask for a better vehicle with such qualified artisans in which to expose to the world the unusual look of a huge parade of older Dimestore toy soldiers?? Tailor made, I'd say! This has got to be fantastic P R for the hobby and pride for its collecting community.

THE UNTOLD DIMESTORE SOLDIER STORY OF THE 1993 MOVIE "TOYS" (Cont.)

The plot, oversimplified, has Williams acting as a buffoon inventor who wishes to own his dying father's toy factory. His father, a longtime maker of whimsical toys, feeling his son is too flippant and immature to undertake the ownership, leaves the factory to his own brother, a military General enthused with the battle forces of War.

The General, along with his own son, proceed to develop diabolical war toys, while in short time transforming the factory into an oppressive work place. He forces the employees to manufacture a sadistic video game designed to control live weapons.

Williams and his sister soon evolve out of their over-extended childhood and together they revamp his father's factory to its original toy production.

Edward H. Burley, *Toy Soldiers*, of Palmetto, Florida, when interviewed by its newspaper in early 1992 was quoted, "I'm making for the movie, **TOYS**, five different toy Bands consisting of 25 pieces each, plus a group of 36 marching soldiers in modern day American Army Dress Blue uniform. One Band is also in that uniform. The others are a WW I U. S. Army Doughboy; One U. S. Navy with Flag Bearers; a U. S. Marine Band; and, a West Point Cadet Band. That totals 161 solid lead figures that never existed in my catalogs. Fox has to have everything to shoot a scene by the first week in April of 1993."

Burley and his grandson, Jacob, completed the process from creating new masters through mold-making, casting, assembly and final painting.

Bill Holt of *Holt's Hobbies*, also in Florida, experienced a similar method of production. He was challenged to make and deliver-on-time contingents of motorcycles, singles and with side-



Modern 25 Piece American Army Band in Dress Blue Uniforms
Burley's photos supplied by his daughter, Colleen Fry



Sample of Burley's West Point Cadet Band Figures



Burley's WW I Doughboy Band



Burley's WW I Doughboy Band Setup in Work Area

THE UNTOLD DIMESTORE SOLDIER STORY OF THE 1993 MOVIE “*TOYS*” (Cont.)



Partial Set-up of Two Contingents for the Big Parade

cars; horses with mounted figures; and, various flag bearers leading marching units...a combined total of 200 pieces. Ron Eccles' production totaled 120 generic marching figures.

All assembled and thanks to Fox's **TOYS**, this did make-up and display a truly massive parade... the likes of which the hobby nor it's public had never before seen, even at the largest of international toy shows. I have great trepidations that it will ever be duplicated.

The final details to the figures were most definitive. Fox insisted that some be painted to represent the ethnic color balance of the Armed Forces of today. Holt, concerned there were no Negro U. S. combat troops in WW I, eagerly accepted Fox's challenge to integrate a fantasy force to include such never-before-seen toy soldier figures as Blacks!

The gossip talk amongst the hobbyist was that the parade figures were to be placed on an endless treadmill, conveyor type belt of about 25 to 28 feet that would move ever so slowly to give a camera's impression of a precise marching parade.

Well...Oh Well, to parody Robert Burns, "The best laid plans of mice and Hollywood failed to happen!!" The Movie was released before Christmas in December, 1993. I might believe Ed Burley was first in line to buy a ticket. He was so excited.

I have a copy of Ed's monthly newsletter to his client list stating, "I have just seen **TOYS**. I cannot express myself to you all how embarrassed I am. I really thought you all would see a beautiful and long parade. We spent a year making this parade and it was never seen, except for at the movie's very end, for



Modern Army Band Being Prepped on Workbench



Machine Gunner and Officer in Sidecar

THE UNTOLD DIMESTORE SOLDIER STORY OF THE 1993 MOVIE “**TOYS**” (Cont.)

maybe ten seconds, as the production people were being listed.”

So what can you say?? Stuff Happens!! I pried about when I decided to write this article. Although it's now been almost ten years, both Ed Burley and Bill Holt have since passed on.

Bill's wife, Sharon, did relate some gossip to me that she vaguely remembers as she worked alongside Bill to produce his part of the parade.

Bill Holt was an exceptional theoretical engineer before retiring, having two careers with aviation, twenty years in the Air Force and then civilian life. Sharon remembers most of his thinking because he was also very disappointed.

When it came time to film the “Big Parade” scene, the conveyer belt that carried the toy army sagged and the device functioned haltingly. The figures, therefore, had a tendency to fall off at the end.

Holt believes it was not engineered properly to handle the concentrated lead weight of so many solid figures contained within its distance.

But ironically, Holt, Burley and Eccles themselves, may have contributed to this problem through solid casting their figures – which was the way they always did it – but, no one at the time knew that every ounce of the miniatures would be crucial and proportionate to the belt machine's proper operation.

Holt then guessed that it would cost the production way too much to bring in a structural machine engineer to reconstruct the treadmill properly. Then, add that to the cost of the delay to the principal filming. So, the production just went with as much of the army in operation as they already got on film.

Now, when disappointment with regrets knocked at the door, the joys of trying and doing should not fly out the window. Therefore, the ten seconds on the giant silver screen might be much appreciated without any prejudice. And...That's Showbiz!

However, my various attempts at discovery failed to reveal just what happened to the almost 500 prop toy

soldiers. Hopefully, they are bivouacked in safe encampment boxes to be activated for another future film.

A critic stated, “**TOYS**, as an offbeat fantasy adventure comedy, did not fare well at the box-office. It was another misfire for Robin Williams.” Barry Levinson was also nominated for a *Razzie* Award as Worst Director. He did not win. However, Ferdinando Scarfiotti was nominated for an Oscar for Best Art Direction and Albert Wolsky for Best Costume Design. Neither won.

As my focus within our hobby became intense with the making of my own conversion Dimestore figures, my attendance at the Shows began to wane. I lost sight of many collector friends.

But I did contact Alan J. Adler for his comments. He was pleased that both the Production Design and Wardrobe departments he worked for on **TOYS** were nominated for Academy Awards as mentioned above.

Alan stayed on at Fox for 10 years to develop and head their Archives and curate Fox's first museum, THE HALL OF COOL STUFF, in Sydney, Australia.

My thanks to Colleen Fry, the daughter of Ed Burley, for providing pictures and other materials for this article. Thanks also to Sharon Holt and Ron Eccles for first-hand remembrances. The input of Alan Adler revived my past.

Alan said, “Some folks may have seen Dimestore's Last Hurrah in **TOYS** to be more like Custer's Last Stand, but to all involved – me included – it was a thrill to research, develop specialty figures and play with some of the best toy soldiers ever made. And though there are many small and expectant, hand-painted faces on the editing room floor, the toy army did have its day and played a colorful part in winning the war to get **TOYS** in the film can and out to the theaters.

Maybe that conveyer belt “Big Parade” still exists out there – waiting in reserve to some day march again.”

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Lucotte Napoleonic's.



Phillip Segal Jack and Jill.



Britains Pre War



Mignot Napoleonic's.



King and Country Rare Gloss Highlanders in Foreign Service dress.

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Centurion Tank Sand Colour.



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Britains #42 large Zoo Display set.



Britains Post War.



King and Country Rare Gloss Camel Corps.



The Bumbles Exceptionally Rare 1950's British TV Characters.



Britains Royal Horse Artillery Gun Team and Royal Engineers Pontoon Wagon.

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Picture Packs.



Elastolin large size Continental Armies.



Timpo and Charbens boxed GIs.



Beiser Knockdown set.



Greenhill/Courtenay Knights.



Heyde Landsknechts.

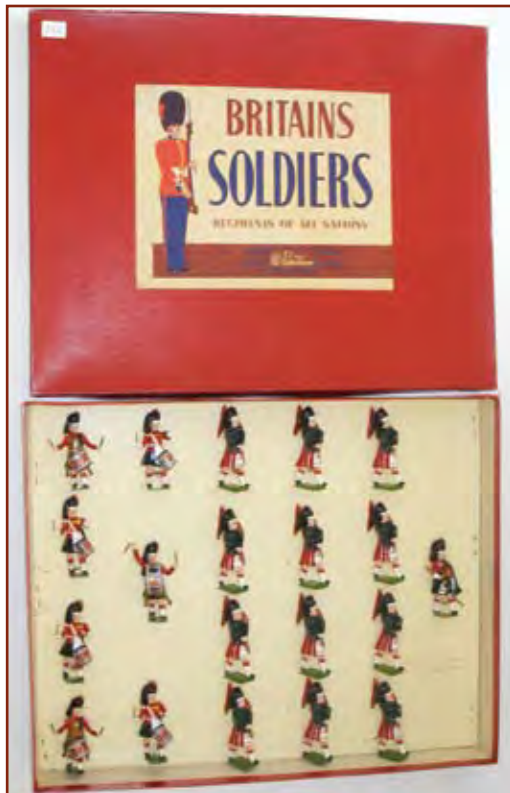


Britains Royal Field Artillery.



Britains Pre War Bikanir Camel Corps.

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Black Watch Pipe Band.



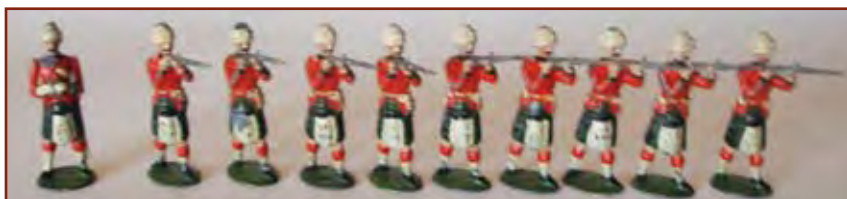
Cherilea Boxed Sets.



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AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

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AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



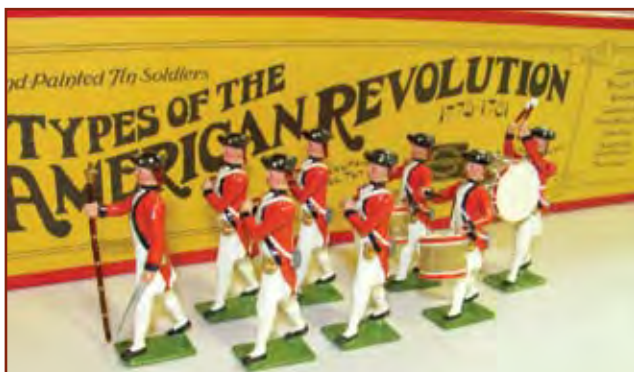
Ducal Guards Band



Hocker Continental Infantry



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Imperial Pioneers

AUCTION PREVIEW

Sotheby's to Sell The Forbes Collection of Antique Toys Auction will be Held in New York on 17 December 2010

Sotheby's is delighted to announce a sale of the celebrated collection of toy boats, soldiers, motorcycles and classic board games lovingly gathered over nearly four decades by legendary collector Malcolm Forbes and his sons. Each area of the collection is amongst the finest of its kind, boasting rare and important examples by the leading toy makers in the field - from a Märklin recreation of the Cunard Line's "Lusitania" ocean liner, circa 1912, to a rare group of Medieval Mounted Knights crafted by Richard Courtenay, to the earliest surviving handmade Monopoly game-set, circa 1933. The auction will also include 19th century and American paintings depicting the joys of childhood and, together, the collection is estimated to bring \$3/5 million*. For the next several months, most of the Collection will remain on view at The Forbes Galleries on Fifth Avenue where it has been installed for the past 25 years, before moving to Sotheby's York Avenue headquarters for exhibition and sale, which will take place on 17 December 2010.

"It's clear to me that it was the nostalgia more than anything else that sparked both the toy boat and the toy soldier collections - the warm, embracing memories of the endless fun we had with them," Malcolm Forbes (Art & Antiques, "My Fantasy Fleet", July 1989) "Consider the many battles the soldiers have waged and the voyages the boats have taken in so many young and old imaginations - and may they launch many more," commented Robert Forbes, Vice President of Forbes and President of Forbes Life. "Though we have been giving no small pleasure to the myriad visitors here over the past 25 years, my brothers and I concluded it was best that others now have a chance to own them, collect them, and maybe even wind them up on a pond or pool and watch them go."

"Toy collectors will be thrilled by the opportunity to bid on a battle ship or ocean liner from this legendary collection, said David Redden, Vice Chairman of Sotheby's. "But so will many others, new to this collecting field, who will be drawn by the Forbes name into the magic and beauty of antique toys."

TOY BOATS

The major portion of the sale will consist of a captivating array of sports, naval, commercial and luxury toy boats.

Malcolm Forbes' love of all things nautical began as a child, when his family sailed frequently on ships such



Forbes sweeping narrative of toy soldiers



Forbes Buffalo Bill and Deadwood stagecoach



Forbes Aztec Pyramid

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

as the ocean monarch Aquitania back to their home turf in Scotland. His father, Forbes' founder Bertie Charles (B.C.) Forbes, started what would become a family tradition by buying toy boats for Malcolm and his four brothers.

Many years later, in December 1973, the now-wealthy and successful Malcolm Forbes, possessing the zest for life inherited from his father, was struck by the sight of an antique toy boat at FAO Schwartz, similar to the ones he had owned as a child. He immediately bought it. This initial purchase was soon followed by hundreds more, assisted by his son Bob, who had also caught the toy boat fever. The resulting collection – arguably one of the finest in the world -- reflects the best examples from the 1870s through the 1950s, which is known as the Golden Age of Toys. It includes examples from every major toy boat maker, many originating from the Nuremburg area in Germany, among them Märklin, Bing, Fleischmann and Carette.

The largest toy boat in the collection, 47" long, is the cast-iron French Gas- Powered Heavily Armored Gunboat (est. \$200/300,000), a replica of a 19th century battleship with a gas-powered engine and zinc and bronze details also known as "Andre the Giant." A top lot of the sale, it is currently the only known example of its kind.

Also among the featured lots is the Märklin recreation of the Cunard Line's "Lusitania" ocean liner (est. \$100/200,000), which was sunk in 1915 by a German submarine, helping to precipitate America's entry into World War I. It was purchased by Malcolm Forbes for \$28,600 at Sotheby's New York in 1983, setting a record at the time for the highest price ever paid for a toy boat.

The boat, 37 1/2" in length, includes two lead seamen, a seated passenger and five pairs of lifeboats, among other details.



Forbes Courtenay Knight - Blue

The variety of unique items on offer in the toy boat section of the sale includes numerous working submarines, several Noah's Arks, a Venetian-style Canal Boat, a 'Morse Code' Tin Lighthouse and an original box of Titanic Soap ("Guaranteed to Sink").

TOY SOLDIERS

Toy soldiers have always captured the imagination of children - and adults - and Malcolm Forbes was no exception. In his later years he became an avid collector. Following his death in 1990 his family sold a large portion of the collection, retaining nevertheless many soldiers, marching bands, cowboys and Indians, Aztecs and sailors, farmers and fox hunters, and kings and queens, from famous manufacturers such as Britains, Heyde, Mignot and Elastolin.

Leading this segment of the sale are two rare sets of finely detailed medieval heraldic model figures, handmade in Great Britain by Richard Courtenay: a group of 27 Early Courtenay Mounted Knights (est. \$15/25,000) and a group of 13 Courtenay Mounted Knights (est. \$10/15,000).

There are 28 lots in the sale consisting of lots ranging in size from 13 to 1,400 individual figures. Makers include: Aloys Ochel, Courtenay, Heyde, Mignot, Britains, Elastolin, Lineol, Barclay, Manoil, Harold Pestana, Nostalgia, Durso, Vertunni, Heinrichsen, and Kilia.

Further information contact
New York | Lauren Gioia | +1 212 606 7176 |
Lauren.Gioia@Sothebys.com
Darrell Rocha | Darrell.Rocha@Sothebys.com



Forbes Courtenay Knight - Red

AUCTION PREVIEW

Bonhams

Among the many interesting lots in the upcoming Bonham's Sale is Set #49 Britain's South Australian Lancers, First Version.

The inside of the box lid reveals an address for Hamley's Toy Shop and indicates that as early as 1896 Britains were on sale there.



Early Hamleys Rubber Stamp



Heyde see ad on this page.



Britains Set #49 South Australian Lancers

1793
Bonhams

Toy Soldiers & Figures

Wednesday 17 November 2010



The sale will offer approximately 350 lots of toy soldiers and civilian figures including Heyde Indian Elephants with passengers, Arctic Exploration, Haffner Franco-Prussian War, full range of Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1967, Set 149 American Soldiers, Edward VIII, 1950s T.V. Character figures, The Bumbles and many others, Jack's Band, Timpo Big Game Hunt, Benbrös Robin Hood set, Britains, Timpo and other Soldiers, Civilians and Garden, and Regiments of New Toy Soldiers.

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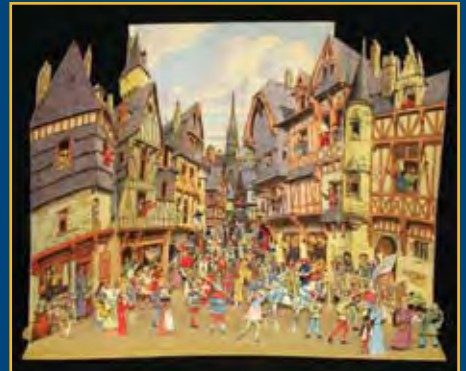
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The Specialist Collector Section will round off the sale with all the usual sections, deserving of special mention are a selection of first issue [slotted arm] Britains Bands [Line and Coldstream], boxed Timpo Battle of Waterloo Cavalry, Britains Hussars and Lancers painted by Roy Selwyn-Smith to represent different Regiments, a superb Herald paint sample display set containing Greeks and Trojans, a Britains Picture Pack Display Case and some early [1950's Issue] Timpo Plastic Solids and Toy Fair/Retail Display Cards.

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FILLING IN THE LINE, BRITAINS SET #2103

An E-bay Experience

By Michael O'Donnell

It was a warm Saturday evening on March 8, 2008 in Palm Desert, CA. My wife and I were spending the winter with my Mother-in-Law so we could escape the snow and rain on San Juan Island, WA.

I know, what does this have to do with Toy Soldiers you ask! Well after four months, I was bored! So this evening I turned on Mom's computer and went to my favorite E-bay Web Site: Toy & Hobbies > Toy Soldiers > Vintage (Pre-1970) > Lead > Britains. My next choice was to click on "Newly Listed" and see what had been posted since my last visit. Three lines down from the top was "1940's Britains Double Set (MINT) in Box #2103 on Label" and "Buy It Now" \$1750.00. My first thought was; I think this is an unknown set! I must get out my "REGIMENTS OF ALL NATIONS" Book. Fortunately, as all good Toy Soldier collectors should do, I brought both Joe Wallis books with me. Sure enough, on page 127, Set #2103 was listed as "Unknown"

I now know that this is a Very Rare set and proceeded to read the dealer's revised description (It seems that another collector had already contacted the dealer with information as to its rarity). The following is the dealer's revised description: Here is a very Rare Double Britains soldier's set (MINT) in VG Box. The soldier's have NEVER been taken out of the box!!! Never played with!!! The box has two torn corners. See All Pictures!!! No date could be found, but the older gentleman I bought it from said he bought it in England in the 1940's. You also get the original paper work. On the bottom of each soldier it says Made in England. Any?? PLEASE E-mail me. The number on the box is #2103.

I had to make a decision fast! There



had already been 50 + hits on the web page after being on E-bay for only three plus hours. I knew that other astute collectors had been viewing the site and it would only be minutes before it was gone forever. At 21:14:40 On Saturday March 8, 2008, I clicked on "Buy It Now" and became the proud owner of one of the Rarest Post War Sets to date and the only one known!

The next morning I contacted Norman Joplin, who with the help of the 1939 factory records provided me with the following information: Britains Set #2103 was a "Special"

set produced for SELFRIDGES Toy Store, London England, in June 1954. Its contents are:

- One -3B-
Coldstream Guard Base Drum (Metal)**
- Two -5B-
Coldstream Guards Side Drum (Metal)**
- One -1 OB-
Coldstream Guard Cymbals**
- One -11B-
Coldstream Guard Flute of Fife**
- One -14B-
Scots Guard Piper**
- Six -26B-
Royal Welch Fusiliers Marching**
- Five -28B-**

FILLING IN THE LINE, BRITAINS SET #2103

An E-bay Experience *(Cont.)*



- Scots Guards Marching**
- Four -3 7B-**
- Life Guards on Walking Horses**
- Four -41B-**
- Royal Scots Grays on Walking Horses**
- One -388B-**
- Fusilier Officer Marching**
- One -645B-**
- Life Guard Officer on Prancing Horse**
- One -666B-**
- Scots Guard Officer Plain Arm Marching**
- One -668B-**
- Royal Scots Grays Officer on Trotting Horse**
- One -680B-**
- Coldstream Guard Tenor Horn**
- One -702B- Goat**
- One -1270B-**
- Farrier Corporal of Life Guard on Trotting Horse**

A total of 32 pieces in a two layer box. The box measures 15.5" X 10.5" X 2.5" Deep. In number of figures, it ranks 8th in the largest post war set category.

The end label says "BRITISH ARMY DISPLAY #2103" A little more fun history: I was able to make contact with "Toy Dealer Dan" in Lewiston, Idaho who related this story. He was standing in the Post Office when a friend came up to him and said he knew an older gentleman, mid-80's that had a bunch of military toys

he wanted to sell. Dan took down the information and contacted the man a few days later. He arranged a meeting at the man's house and when Dan walked into his kitchen he had various makers of Die-cast military vehicles all over the kitchen table. Dan made an offer, which the man accepted. While Dan was packing up the military vehicles, the man disappeared into his bedroom and reappeared with Britains set #2103 and added it to the lot! God works in strange ways!

Also of note is The Armies of the World Book published by Joe Wallis in 1993. In Appendix B, the listing of postwar metal sets, on page 393, one finds Set #2103 listed as Life Guards, Scots Grays, Scots Guards, Royal Welsh Fusiliers and Coldstream Guard Band (noncatalogued): 32. Presumably this was an update to his first book when the factory records became available.

I understand that many Dealers and Collectors shy away from E-bay and other associated sites. I have found that E-bay has offered me an opportunity to expand my knowledge, acquire unknown items, and stay active in the hobby. I have for over thirty years received five or more Toy Soldier lists at various times during the year. I still use these lists

to expand my collection and keep connected with the hobby. For a person who is unable to attend Toy Soldier shows or doesn't subscribe to OTS; E-bay and the associated sites provide a great opportunity to access this great hobby. If more Toys Soldier dealers were to sell on E-bay they would open up an entirely new opportunity to sell. They may also find a whole new group of collectors who know the hobby only from their computer. For me, E-bay is just another part of the collecting experience!

I would like to thank Norman Joplin, Joe Wallis, Ray Haradin and E-bay for helping to make this article possible.

Bio: Mike O'Donnell lives in Friday Harbor, WA. and has been collecting Toy Soldiers and related Military items for over Thirty years. He was Britains Collectors Club Member #00001, but due to circumstances beyond his control, he is now Member #00000 (Another Story). Prior to retiring to Washington in 2005 he was Nostalgia Toys of Bonita, CA. in San Diego County. He has specialized in the sale of Britains Plastic and has been a fixture at the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show since its beginning 20 years ago. He can be contacted at toyman10@gmail.com

SHOW REPORT

Chicago

By Norman Joplin • Photos By Noel Schlageter

They say time goes fast when you are enjoying something - certainly true when attending the annual OTS Show in Chicago.

Time also goes quickly when you get older and although it seems like only yesterday that OTS was celebrating 25 years, this was year 30. Better than ever larger Sunday attendance, many rare soldier finds, great friends, superb organization.

Roll on year 31, see you September 2011.



Don Pielin



The talk of the show, Figarti's Ship



Louis Badalato with his King & Country Book



Ray Haradin and Susan Joplin prepare for the show opening

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Woody Lambrith and Bubba McLain from California



The OTS Team: Don Pielin, Joe Wallis, Jo and Steve Sommers, Roger Garfield



One of the many room displays during pre-show trading



Ray Haradin



Helen Hall and Bob Bailey, soon to be married - at last!

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Christian Keller



Mike Shaw and OTS Contributor, Rober Dubois (right)



Matt Murphy - Hobby Bunker



Tom Litras



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rodreigus

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

Don Pielin, Steve and Jo Sommers and the rest of the Old Toy Soldier Show staff have provided collectors with the annual toy soldier event.

The Hyatt Hotel provided excellent service throughout the week leading to Sunday's Show. Friendly, courteous, efficient and always on hand to enhance the week's events, they deserve special mention. Without them the show would not be the same.

One well known collector was heard to remark, "It's like coming home each year when I arrive at the hotel."



Dan, Linda and Bob - Bar Staff



George and Eric - Bellmen



Jessie and Valerie - Coffee Station



Natalia and Doug - Reception



Francesco and George - Restaurant Managers

SHOW REPORT

HEYDE CLUB MEETS AT OTS SHOW

As part of the many fringe events held during the preceding days leading to the Chicago OTS Show, a special gathering of Heyde collectors was organized and hosted by Steve and Jo Sommers. Collectors were invited to “show and tell” and a number of rarities were on display.

The event, a one off insists Steve, also coincided with the visit of many German visitors along with Tony and Florian Borges from Luxembourg who are compiling an illustrated reference book on Heyde and are requesting help from collectors who may wish to submit photos. Contact toborges@pt.lu.



Larry Nahigan with his show and tell



Center Tony and Florian Borges



Show and Tell Showcase

SHOW REPORT

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show September 2010

Held each year at the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Central London, this is the only specialist dateline show devoted to Old Toy Soldiers and related Civilian Figures.

Although only a one day event, the show attracts dealers, visitors and participants from many countries. This year visitors came from Tasmania, Australia, France, Germany, Poland, Italy, USA and Canada.



Norman Joplin and Ray Haradin



Holiday Inn Staff, Maggie and Jacqui



Hugo Margh, Special Auction Services



Rare Pixyland Knut Variation, Sir Kreemy Right



Heyde Highlanders



Pre-show dinner outing included guests from U.S.A., France, and Germany

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

Most of the UK's leading dealers were in attendance and each of the 75 tables were brim-full of old Hollowcast, Composition, and Plastic figures.

An early start, 4 a.m. for dealers and early entrant buyers ensures a non stop 12 hour opportunity to buy, sell, trade and socialize.

Next years event is Saturday, September 10th 2011.



Jane and John Waterworth



Steve, Maryon and David with Fine Civilian Figures



Legendary dealer Ged Haley and wife Monica



Rob Wilson



Ray and Nancy Haradin



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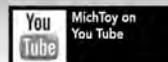
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SHOULD MONEY BE A FACTOR IN COLLECTING TOY SOLDIERS ?

I noticed in a recent issue of **Old Toy Soldiers Magazine** that Heyde exceptionally rare set #1387 sold for \$3,250.00 and why not! Toy soldiers are works of art well worthy of the prices collectors pay. Collecting Old Toy Soldiers, after all, is still an adventure hobby. Collecting Toy Soldiers should be done with a purpose: Investment, Pleasure and even curiosity. Rarity is a major factor when Toy Soldiers sell for high prices. Not rare, but uncommon, **Alingh's Legends** original boxed sets of 54mm figures, can perhaps, Fill A Niche.

OLD TOY SOLDIER

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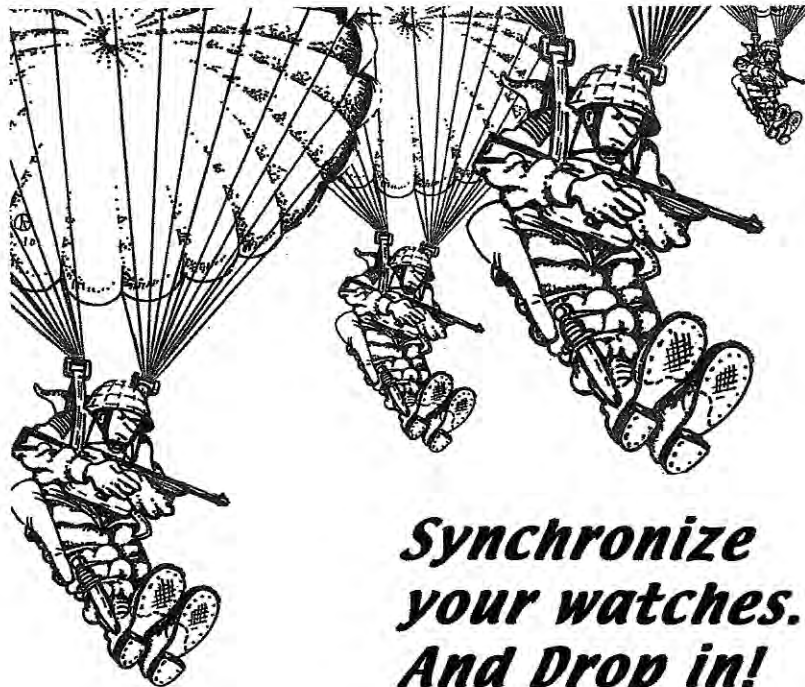


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Dealer Information and more: www.toysoldiershow.com

MY OWN DIMESTORE TOY CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART II)

By Roger Dubois

An assortment of military equipment can be fashioned directly on the surface of Dimestore toy soldiers using two-part epoxy putty. As examples of what can be done, Part I focused on building a cross on an arm of a Manoil stretcher carrier, an ammo belt around the waist of a Barclay sentry, and a holstered revolver attached to the waist belt of a Barclay pigeon dispatcher (OTS v. 34, n. 2, 2010).

Besides equipment, articles of clothing can also be made as will be explained in this article where the topcoat of a Manoil doctor will be remodeled (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Manoil Doctor to be converted.

Following the removal of the diagonal coat-opening edge, the doctor's topcoat will be reconstructed by adding a collar with lapels, cuffs, and a vertical coat-opening edge. But first, the project will begin by fashioning the front of a shirt collar with a tie that will be exposed at the coat's upper opening when the figure is completed.

A picture of an officer wearing a topcoat appears in one of my books about WWI. I'll use this photo as a guide.

The same brand of epoxy putty and the same tools described in Part I will be employed for this project. In addition, a motor tool with a cutter bit will be needed along with some fine sandpaper and gap-filling putty such as Bondo glazing and spot putty.

All shaping and trimming of fresh putty will be done with the wet blade of a hobby knife.

Converting the Figure in Photo 1

1. Using a motor tool cutter, the diagonal coat-opening edge is cut away. Tool marks left on the figure are filed and sanded.



Photo 2. Diagonal coat flap removed with cutter.

2. The figure is then primed to remove the metal shine so as to improve the quality of close-up photos of my working steps (Photo 2). Otherwise, I don't normally apply epoxy putty onto a painted surface.

3. After kneading a small amount of two-part epoxy putty, the putty is rolled back and forth on a clean flat surface to form a roll. The roll is then looped along the base of the neck and flattened.

4. As noted in Part I, I like to work with stiff putty, and so the putty is left to cure for an hour or more. Once the putty has stiffened, work continues.

5. Starting at the base of the neck, two outward extending lines are etched in the putty to delineate the shirt collar opening (Photo 3).

6. Then two lines are etched inward from the collar lines to form the outline of a tie knot (Photo 3).



Photo 3. Diagonal cuts in putty delineate tie knot and collar opening.

MY OWN DIMESTORE TOY CONVERSIONS

USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART II) *(Cont.)*

7. Now that the basic shape of the shirt collar with tie has been delineated, the surrounding excessive putty is removed leaving behind the collar with a short tie (Photo 4).



Photo 4. Excessive putty removed leaving collar and tie.

8. The putty is left to cure overnight.

9. The next day I begin making the coat collar with lapels by first kneading a small amount of putty, turning it into a roll, and then applying the roll to the upper right side of the figure. The roll is flattened while making sure not to cover the front of the shirt collar and the upper portion of the tie.

10. At this point, the putty is left to cure for an hour.

11. After the putty has stiffened, the edge of the coat collar with lapel is outlined (Photo 5), and the surplus



Photo 5. Outline of right side coat collar and lapel in fresh putty.



Photo 6. Excessive putty removed revealing collar and lapel.



Photo 7. Outline of left side coat collar and lapel in fresh putty.



Photo 8. Excessive putty removed revealing collar and lapel.

putty is removed leaving behind the collar with lapel (Photo 6).

12. The putty is left to cure overnight.

13. The following day steps 9 through 12 are repeated on the left side of the figure (Photo 7 and 8).

14. Next, I need to make the vertical edge where one side of the buttoned coat overlaps the other side. A small amount of putty is kneaded and made into a roll long enough to span the length of the overlap.

15. With one end of the roll aligned with the bottom left lapel, the roll is flattened all the way down, and the excessive putty is cut from the bottom end.

16. After the putty is left to cure for an hour, the right side of the putty is feathered onto the figure. Next, beginning at the bottom outer edge of the left lapel, a straight edge is cut down the length of the putty, and excessive putty is removed from the left side of the cut. The coat-overlap edge is complete (Photo 9).

17. The putty is left to cure over night.

18. The following day the figure is primed (Photo 10), and the work is examined. Not bad. The collar and lapels have come out nicely. A close look reveals the front of the shirt collar with tie.

19. However, just to the right of the coat-opening edge, a very noticeable boundary runs down the length of the figure where the putty smears onto the metal (Photo 10). That noticeable boundary has to disappear. I spread gap-filling putty over the area. Once

MY OWN DIMESTORE TOY CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART II) *(Cont.)*



Photo 9. Fresh putty delineating where one side of topcoat overlaps the other side.



Photo 10. Figure nearly completed.



Photo 11. Finishing the collar.



Photo 12. Adding a cuff.



Photo 13. Finished cuff.

dried, the area is sanded, primed, and reexamined. This time the smeared boundary is no longer visible.

20. The collar needs to be finished on the backside. A small amount of putty is kneaded, shaped into a short thin roll, and placed along the back of the neck (Photo 11).

21. The roll is flattened and left to cure for an hour.

22. The surplus putty is then removed, and the top and bottom edges are trimmed. The collar is done.

23. The final task involves making cuffs. A small amount of putty is kneaded and shaped into a roll. A segment of the roll is placed on each sleeve a short distance above the hands and flattened (Photo 12).

24. I let the putty cure for an hour.

25. Later, I feather the putty rolls onto the metal and trim the top edges (Photo 13).

26. The putty is left to cure overnight.

27. The next day the top cuff edges as well as the coat-opening edge are lightly sanded.

28. I prime the figure again and thoroughly examine it. No faults are found.

29. Following the guidelines described in an earlier article (OTS v. 31, n. 2, 2007), the doctor is painted, and the outcome is shown in Photo 14.

Other Examples

As seen in Photo 14, an attractive conversion was made without having to reposition or replace any body parts. All it took was two-part epoxy putty, simple tools, and a little bit of imagination. The following paragraphs briefly describe a few additional examples of what else can be fashioned on a Dimestore.

I could have done more work on the doctor as I did with another conversion. Photo 15 displays the same converted Manoil, but this figure has a coat belt with buckle. (The head has been replaced with one of my castings.) The belt was simple to make. A roll of putty was extended across the waist, flattened, let dry, and trimmed with a knife. The buckle was made by pressing the open end of a square brass hollow tube, with a side opening length of 1/16th inch (Photo 16), into the fresh putty. After the putty cured, the edge of the square imprint was painted a different color than the belt.

MY OWN DIMESTORE TOY CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART II) *(Cont.)*



Photo 14. Finished conversion.



Photo 15. Conversion with belt and buckle.

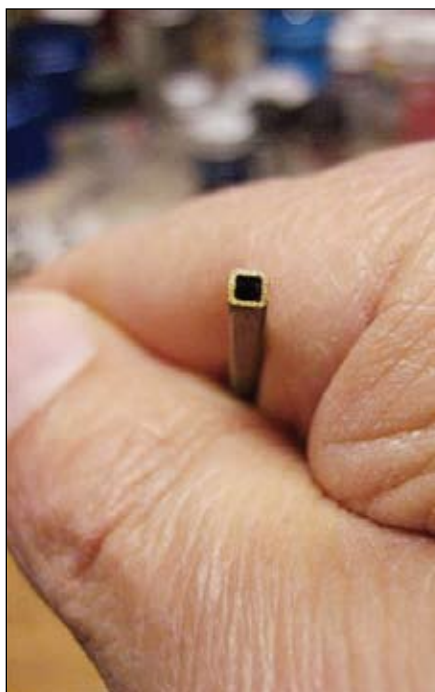


Photo 16. Square brass tube with a 1/16 inch side opening.



Photo 17. Marine officer.

Photo 17 shows a Marine officer converted from a Manoil ensign. Although not necessary, the project began by replacing the head with one of my castings. Next, the lapels and jacket overlap were removed with a motor tool cutter. The depression around the collar and tie was filled with gap putty and sanded when dried. Once the front of the figure was flat and smooth, the jacket was remade by adding a high collar, jacket overlap edge extending down the front, chest pockets with flaps, lower pocket flaps, jacket and pocket buttons, waist belt with buckle, chest strap with buckle,

and shoulder straps (Photo 18). All of these items began as putty rolls cut to appropriate lengths that were then flattened with a wet knife blade and shaped with a toothpick or a knife blade. The buttons were made the same way as the snap button in Part I.

Photo 19 displays a Prussian wearing a pair of red and white upper-sleeve shoulder covers signifying that he's a bandsman. Each cover was made by placing a small putty roll along the edge of the shoulder. With a knife blade, the putty was spread a short distance down the arm, let dry, and then edged.

In Photo 20 the puttees were filed away to give the appearance that the French Legionnaire is wearing



Photo 18. Closer view of Marine officer.



Photo 19. Prussian drummer



Photo 20. French Foreign Legionnaire.

MY OWN DIMESTORE TOY CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART II) *(Cont.)*

boots. Then above each boot but below a knee, a small roll of putty was wrapped around leg, flattened, and edged with a knife. When painted, this added putty gives the appearance of bulging pant cloth just above a boot.

Finally, the figure in Photo 20 is wearing a metal cast of a soft cap (kepi) with a neck cloth made from epoxy putty. A roll of kneaded putty was placed on powered wax paper, spread with a wet knife blade, let dry, and trimmed so that the width of the putty was a little longer than the length between the edge of the cap and the shoulder. The putty was left to cure until it was fairly stiff. Then the putty was fitted around the edge of the cap, and surplus putty along the shoulder was removed with a knife.

Concluding Comments

Parts I and II were written to show readers how simple it is to convert Dimestores using two-part epoxy putty and to hopefully encourage hobbyists to give it a try, if they have not done so. Of course, you don't have to follow my steps; develop your own method to fit your style of converting Dimestores.

Working with epoxy is not that difficult. However, from my experience, a key to successfully fashioning items on a Dimestore is to begin by making a roll of kneaded putty the length and thickness befitting the job. Once a roll has been made, it's easily transferred to the work surface where, because of its uniform thickness along its length, the putty can be evenly spread out, thereby facilitating the job of fashioning an item.

Lastly, hobbyists don't have to be trained sculptors to do this work. I believe it's fair to say that Dimestores are merely generalizations of real soldiers and not military miniatures, and so fashioned items don't have to replicate the real thing. Impressionistic "add-ons" will do very nicely. In the end and in my humble opinion, all it takes is a little practice to yield satisfactory results.

I'm still at dubois@umbc.edu if you have questions or comments. Once again, thanks to all of you who have passed on your thoughts to me. They were appreciated.



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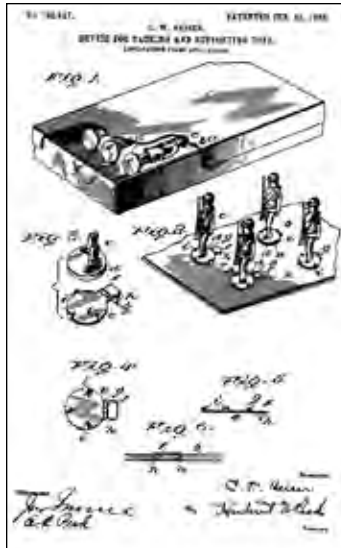
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BEISER'S PATENTS REVISITED

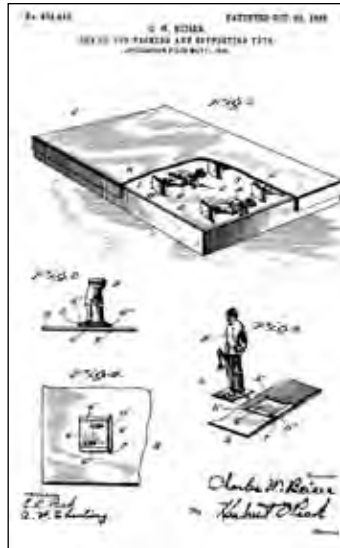
By Bill Nutting, March 2010

Although Charles W. Beiser's role in the history of toy soldiers has been well documented particularly in the pages of OTS(N) and in Richard O'Brien's books, a look into his lesser-known patents helps round out the picture of a prolific New York inventor with a global perspective.

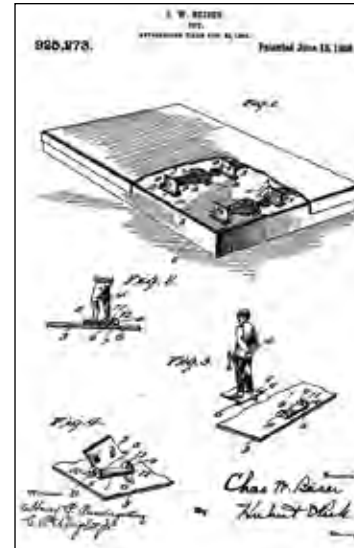
What we are most familiar with are the three patents showing permutations of Beiser's hinge design for "knock-down" sets.



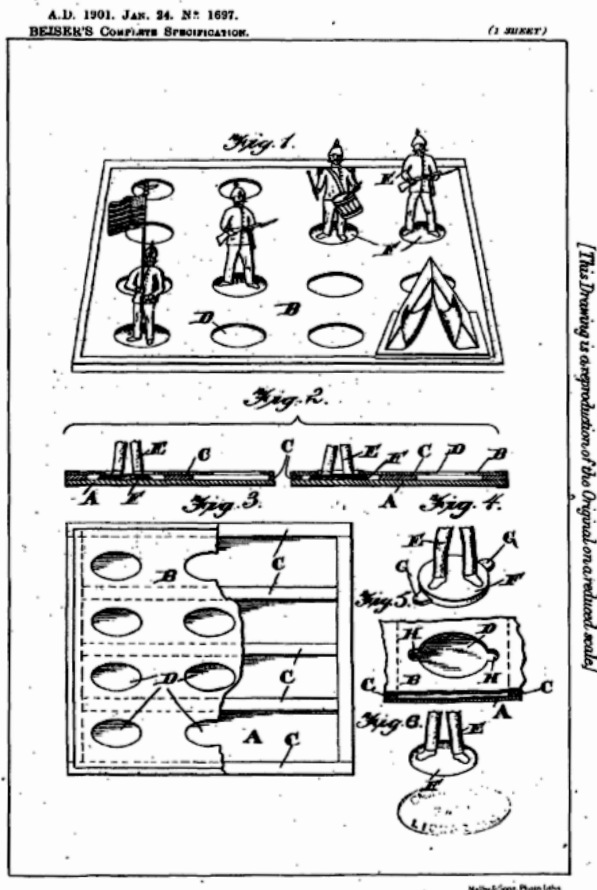
Filed April 14, 1904
Patented Feb. 21, 1905
Patent # 782,817



Filed May 11, 1905
Patented Oct. 30, 1906
Patent # 834,452



Filed August 23, 1906
Patented June 15, 1909
Patent # 925,273



Although Beiser referred to patent #782,817 in advertisements, no set with the pictured clip for round-based soldiers has surfaced. I've never thought the clips in the round base design look effective in holding in the soldier. The third design also apparently never made it into production. Beiser sets have only appeared with the revised second patent design fitting rectangular-based figures.

While Beiser's second and third board patents were assigned to "American Soldier Company, of Brooklyn, New York, a Corporation of New York," Beiser's patent #782,817 was assigned in the original application to "Frances H. Van Vechten, of Hollis, New York." Looking in the New York Times online archive, Joe Wallis has found a notice of the American Soldier Company's incorporation on October 30, 1902 -- with Beiser, Van Vechten, and a C. L. Keller listed as directors -- but the underlying reason behind the assignment is still a subject for speculation.

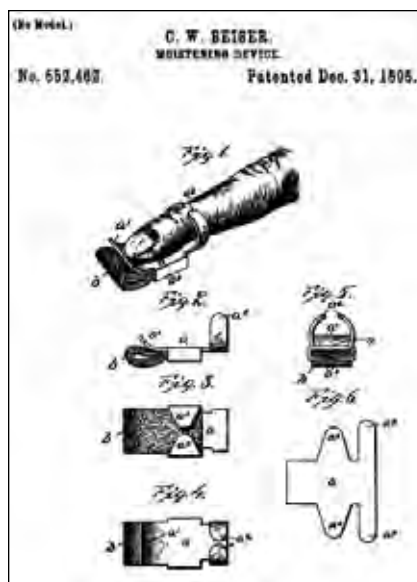
Now for the patents that are less well known.

The English Patents

Beiser's first iteration of toy soldier displays was the Eureka soldier sets in which the soldiers stood upright. Beiser's "Eureka" labels and ads claim the name was trademarked and the design was patented, but I have never seen evi-

BEISER'S PATENTS REVISITED (Cont.)

dence of an American patent for the Eureka-type display. In turn, in England, "Charles William Beiser, of 140 Saint Nicholas Avenue, Brooklyn" applied for a toy display patent on January 24, 1901, receiving the patent March 30, 1901. I think we can assume that Beiser applied for but did not receive the American patent, and that the vague advertising in the U.S. referred to the British patent. The drawing details the design – two cardboard layers with cut-outs into which soldiers on bases with extending tabs could be pushed, turned, and locked in place. (While the round bases with tabs were used for 54mm cavalry and large-size figures, a simpler design with oval slots was used in actual production for the 54mm sets.) Finding Beiser's original board design in the English patent records truly calls for a cry of "Eureka"!



The English patent number that appears on Britains two knock-down Beiser board sets -- #148 English Soldiers (Royal Lancaster Regiment) and #149 American Soldiers – is #7496, awarded to Beiser in 1905 (also seen as "7496/05.") The English patent document uses the illustration and language from the first version -- the never-used clip for round-based soldiers.

The "Stationer"'s Patents

Before he had patented the soldier boards, Beiser had patented in 1895 a "moistening device" to be used for stamps and envelopes. This ties into Beiser's listing in the New York directories as a "stationer" in 1896-7 and as an inkstand seller in 1899-1900. This 1895 patent of a small metal rectangle with tabs to secure a finger looks (to me at least) like the genesis of the idea Beiser would later apply to the hinge with tabs to secure a lead soldier! (In the 1920's Beiser came back to the "moistening device" idea with a licking spaniel novelty "moistener for stamps, envelopes, tape, etc.")



The German Patent

Ads in Playthings magazine for the American Soldier Co. touted not only Beiser's American patent but his German and English patents too. Beiser's 1905 German patent uses the same illustration of the hinges and clips for round-based soldiers as does the English patent. The German Beiser board shown lists the patent number 169,721, and a warning about that this toy may not be marketed in the U.S. or England. The Franco-Prussian War soldiers are about 52mm scale -- somewhere between Britains and Heyde.



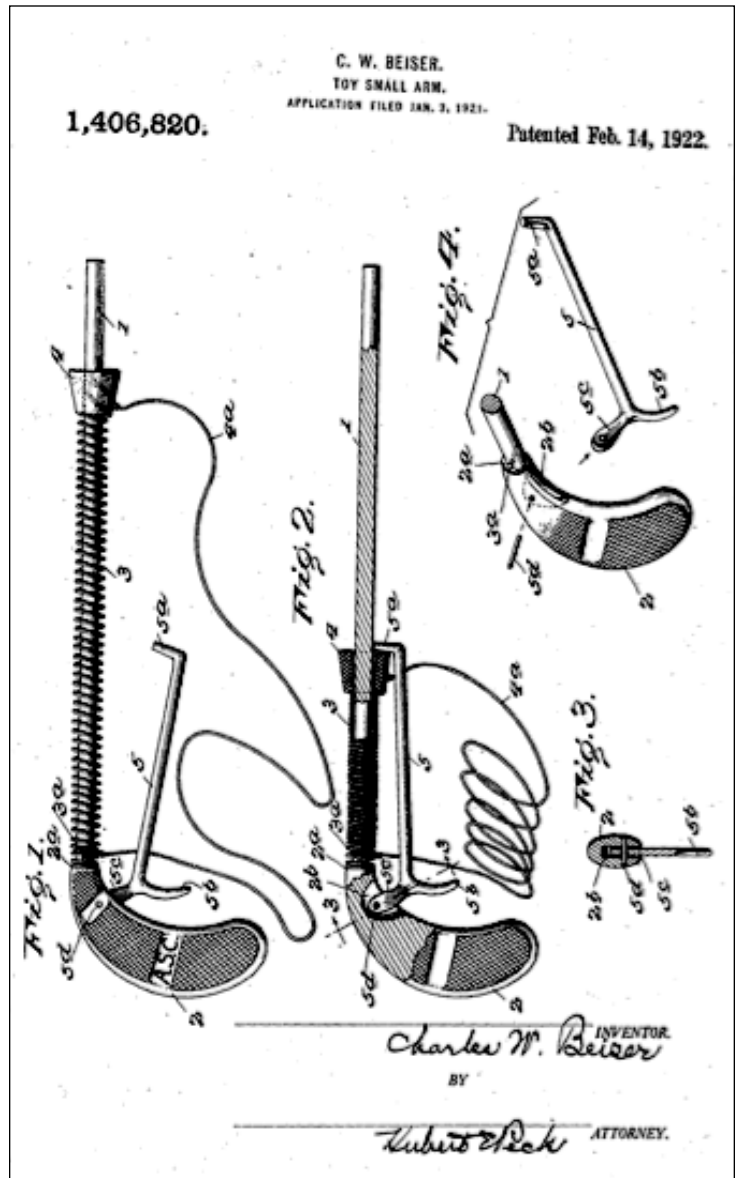
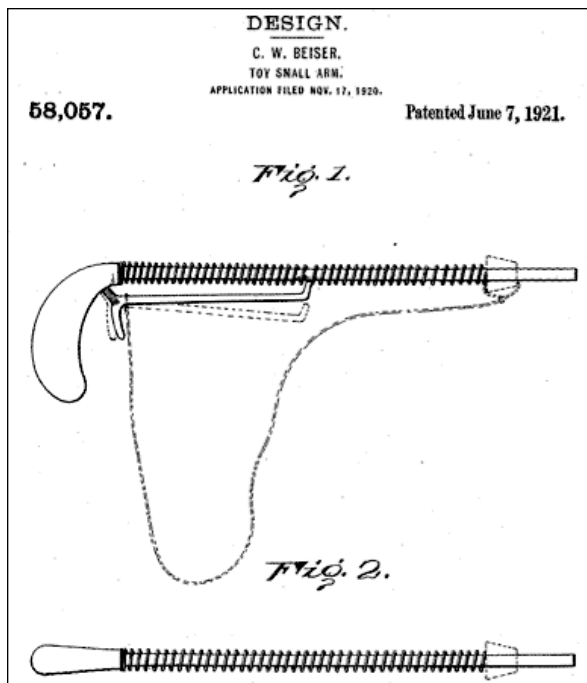
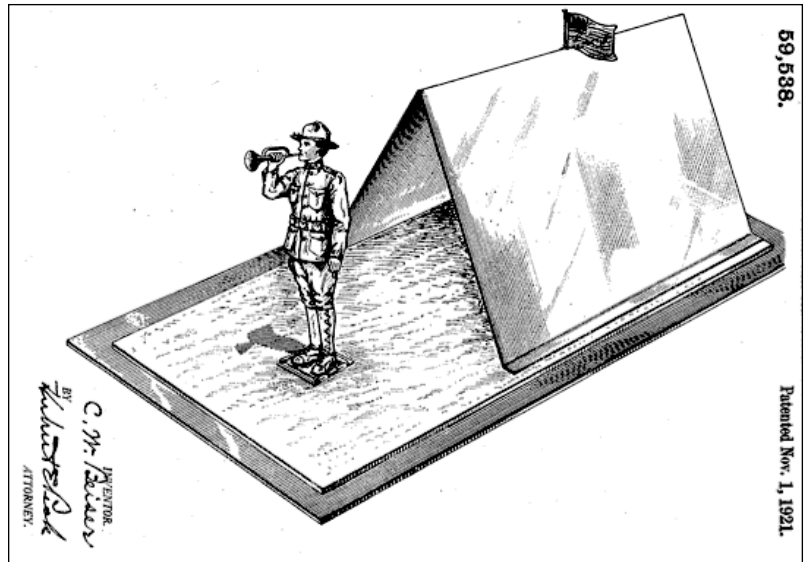
BEISER'S PATENTS REVISITED (Cont.)

The Post-WWI Patents

One month after Armistice Beiser applied for a patent for a "toy design" featuring a doughboy bugler in front of a tent. Unlike the earlier toy soldier display patents, this one doesn't feature a hinge. While the patent is not a radically new design for soldiers and lacks either playability or storage efficiencies, the display is attractive and in sync with patriotism of the day. Perhaps some collector has just such a tent with this distinctive and previously unidentified base design?

In the 1920's Beiser also revisited his early target game idea receiving patents for two toy pistols specifically designed to be packaged with his American Soldier Company target sets.

As Beiser explained in his application in the patent on the right above, "military games have been extensively manufactured and sold embodying [sic] trays or bases and groups of lead (alloy) soldiers pivotally joined thereto as set forth in my Letters Patent No. 834,452, October 1906. . . . The small arm is usually secured flat on the tray . . . so that the assembly is sold as a unit. . . . Heretofore it has been exceedingly difficult to secure on the market toy small arms sufficiently small in size, low in cost, accurate in action . . . for the purpose of these military games and the usually young children that use them, and of the proper shape for securing to the trays. . . ."



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Donning War Paint!

Some further Rarities for Britains Aircraft Collectors

By Rob Wilson

In 1940 the clouds of war were thickening over Europe, but Britains were still turning out a few toys for export to the USA and other countries not yet embroiled in the conflict. By May 1941 Britains had ceased production of toys, turning their capacity over to helping to make munitions and not returning to the manufacture and distribution of toys until the end of 1945.

During the 1930s Britains began to provide modern mechanized equipment to support their troops. This included in 1930 the introduction of the (RAF) Monoplane with pilot (Set # 433). This was closely followed in 1931 by a slightly larger set including additional pilots and aircraftsmen (Set #434). Looking towards the US market, US Army Air Force versions of the same sets were also produced (Sets # 435 and 436 respectively). Following real life practice at the time, the RAF set was issued in a flash silver livery, in keeping with the spirit of the art deco period. In contrast, the US set was issued in a rather more functional dark olive/khaki drab.

In 1930 the monoplane was at the cutting edge of technology. A large proportion of the RAF aircraft fleet at the time was still made up of traditional biplanes. These were produced by a myriad of small companies such as Hawker, Bristol and Gloucester. The famous monoplanes that played such a crucial part in the "Battle of Britain", the Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane, were still gleams in their designer's eyes rather than operational aircraft. The Britains model was not obviously based on any particular real life prototype. Despite it being somewhat under-scale, with its square cut wings, radial engine and open cockpit, it captured the essence of flying in this pioneering period of the development of military applications of the monoplane. Recall that in 1931 the Wright Brothers were only just celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first powered flight, and the appropriate strategy and tactics for use of this "new fangled" weapon were still being developed.

In 1937 Britains, somewhat belatedly, introduced a biplane (Set #1521). This used many of the same components as the monoplane, including fuselage, tail plane, undercarriage, engine and propeller, as well as the pilot, and the same box. The latter was an ingenious design which allowed the base/tray of the box to be used as a small hanger with pitched roof. This latter feature was emphasized on the illustrated label.



Picture 1: The British Monoplane in its "War Paint"

According to James Opie this label was the first for 20 years NOT to be illustrated by Fred Whistock. One change in the biplane compared with the earlier sets was that the wings were redesigned with rounded tips to give a more modern look. The same improvements were also introduced to the monoplane sets, which now used the same new box label with the biplane in the foreground. The rounded wings made the monoplane model a little more like the real life Spitfire and Hurricane that were just being introduced to the RAF (although these both had enclosed cockpits and radial engines). These much faster and more powerful machines were soon to make the traditional biplanes obsolete, and by the start of hostilities only a very few biplanes remained in service with the RAF and the Fleet Air Arm. This may explain why the Britains biplane was not very popular and is now a great rarity, despite continuing in the catalogue for 4 years.

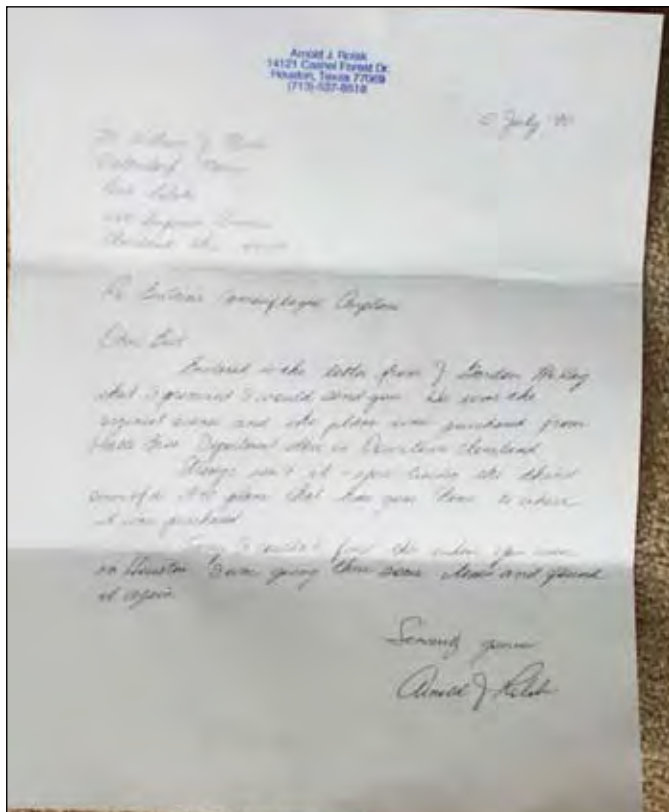
As the war clouds gathered the real aircraft were donning their war paint. Camouflage schemes, rather than the bright silver that was de rigueur for air shows, became the norm. In Britain there was a standard

Donning War Paint!

Some further Rarities for Britains Aircraft Collectors (Cont.)



Picture 2: Letters of provenance 1, from the original owner to Arnold Rolak



Picture 3: Letters of provenance 2, from Arnold Rolak to Bill Miele

camouflage scheme introduced around 1938/39 of Dark Earth (brown), over painted with large irregular areas of Dark Green, to a set pattern.

At some time during the early years of the war Britains followed suit and began for a very short period to issue their aircraft with a spray painted camouflage finish, both over and underside. The original real life aircraft had a more complex paint scheme. Initially the undersides were painted somewhat bizarrely with one side black and the other white. This was soon followed by a single duck egg blue finish for all under surfaces. This was obviously too complicated for a toy and Britains simply applied the same finish to top and undersides

Such paint schemes were applied to aircraft such as the Spitfires and Hurricanes that were to play such a major part in the "Battle of Britain". This battle was fought out in 1940/1941 between the Luftwaffe and the RAF for control of the skies over Great Britain. As indicated in his famous speech: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", Churchill regarded the RAF's victory in this campaign as a crucial milestone in WW II.

Examples of Britains aircraft in such a paint finish are exceedingly rare, and until recently I thought that I might be the owner of the only surviving example. This was purchased a few years ago at the Chicago toy soldier mecca. It came with an impressive provenance, via Ray Haradin, Bill Miele, Arnold Rolak and long time dealer Warren Mitchell. The latter bought the item directly from the original owner (Mr J. G McKay), who later wrote to Arnold to explain a little of the history from his perspective. Arnold found a "hanger" and this is the set now shown in Picture 1. Pictures 2 and 3 show the letters of provenance from Mr McKay to Arnold Rolak and from him to Bill Miele. The latter comments how strange it is that this little aircraft should have returned to Cleveland, Ohio where it was originally purchased (in 1939 or 1940). Since then it has emulated Alcock and Brown and made the Atlantic crossing from West to East (albeit with a bit of help from British Airways!).

Up until recently, I had never heard of another example. Imagine then my excitement on looking through the catalogue of a small English country auction house to find one listed amongst a lot of other Britains items dating from around 1940. Somewhat ironically, this one turned out to be a US model, Set #436 with aircrew and pilots, in its original box. The personnel are a slightly odd

Donning War Paint!

Some further Rarities for Britains Aircraft Collectors *(Cont.)*

combination, with two Privates from Set #334, one each from Set #330 and 331 and two pilots (one in sidcot suit and one in short coat). All are absolutely mint and the paint matches perfectly.

The colour scheme of the aircraft is identical to the RAF example, apart from the national insignia. In both cases, the underlying colour is dark earth, with a light overspray of dark green on both top and undersides. Unlike the Britains adult giraffe, which used a fretwork frame enclosing the model to impose a common pattern on the spray over coat of dark stripes, this has been done by hand on the monoplanes, with a few quick strokes of the spray gun.

After the war, Britains re-released Sets #433 and 435 although they were deleted in 1947. A number of these aircraft were issued in bright colours although this was probably as much due to the shortage of silver paint as for any deliberate choice. These rarities were described in the earlier piece in OTS by Bill Miele (OTS Volume 28, no. 2, Summer 2004). Despite all the research that has been undertaken, new variations and oddities continue to surface. How many other examples are there in existence? Was the biplane ever released in a camouflaged "war paint"? Please get in touch with the author if you have any more information on this fascinating aspect of Britains production.



Picture 4: Set 436, USA Monoplane in camouflage finish, with air crew, in original "hanger box". The latter has suffered from storage in damp conditions but the aircraft and figures are virtually mint.



Picture 5: US Monoplane, pilot and attendant air crew pose for a group shot.

AMERICAN DIMESTORE

Toy Soldiers & Figures

Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

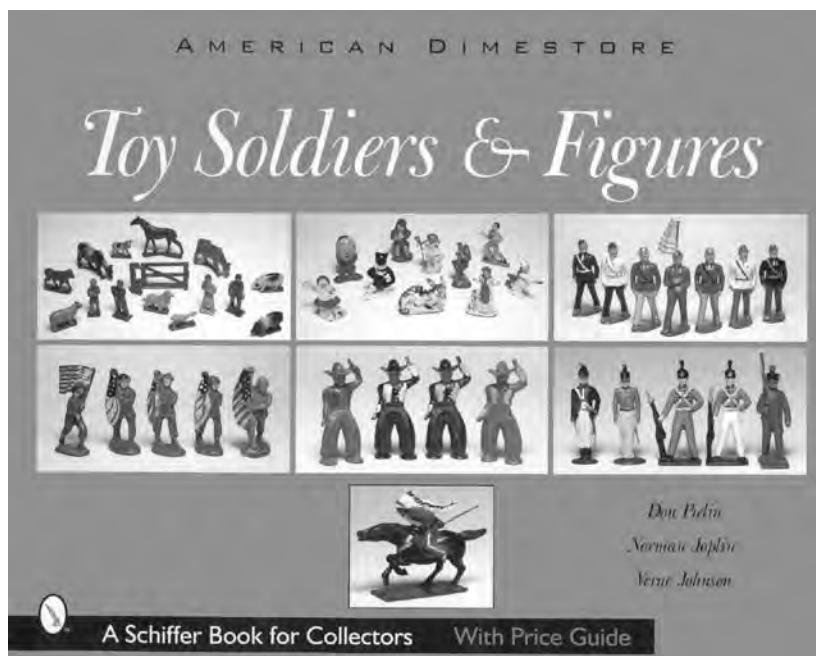
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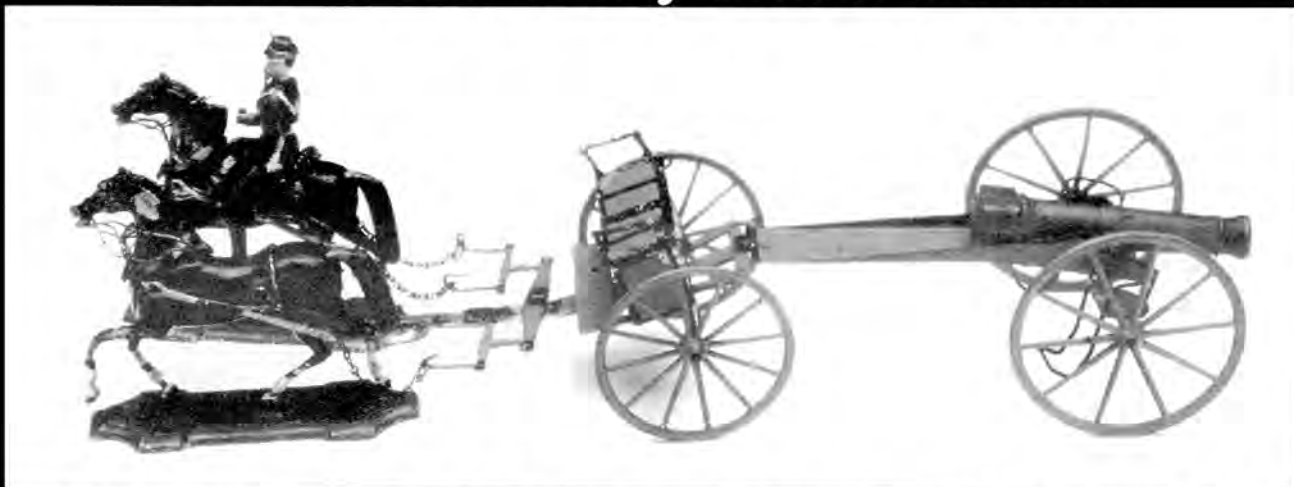
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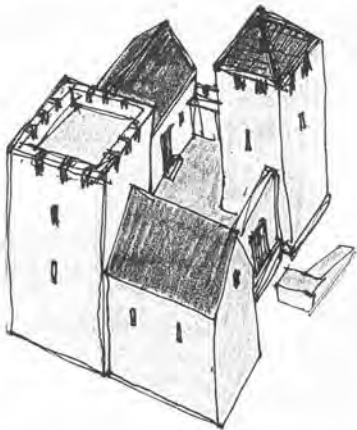
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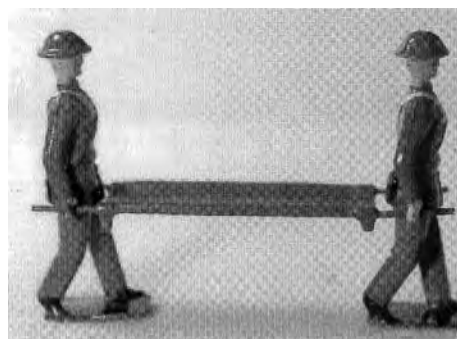
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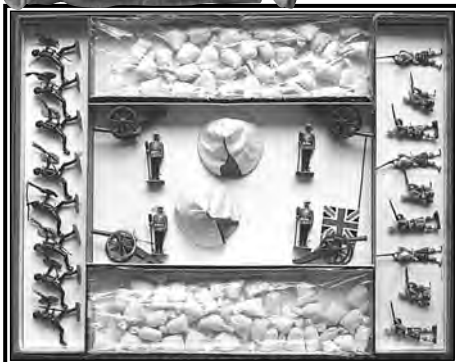
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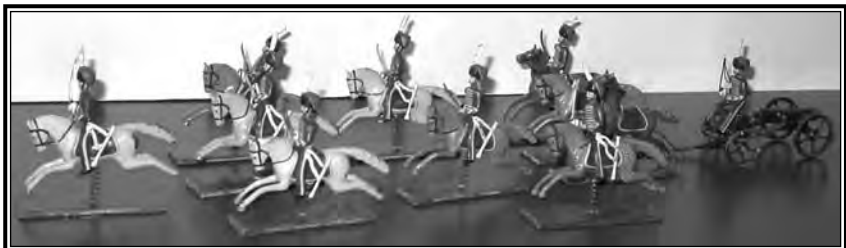
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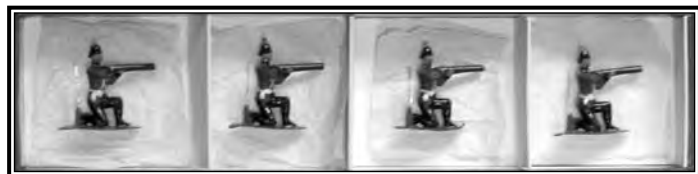
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March 6 Sunday 22nd annual West Coaster Toy Soldier & Miniature Figure Show 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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March 26 Saturday Toy Soldier Show London Royal National Hotel www.thetoyssoldiershow.com

TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2009-2010 (Cont.)

March 27 North East Toy Soldier Show, Boston Marriot Matt Murphy www.hobbybunker.com.

April 2 and 3 - Saturday and Sunday Detroit Toy Soldier Show. www.michigantoyssoldier.com

April 29 and 30 Friday and Saturday MFCA. Valley Forge Convention Center King of Prussia, PA.
Contact www.mfcashow.com

May 1 -Sunday. 4th Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale, 10 am- 3 pm. Gettysburg Hotel, PA
Contact Tel 1-215-794-5606 or 717-253-7228 or 718-418-9439

May 15 Ohio Toy Soldier Show Galaxy Banquet Center Wadsworth Doug McClure 339 722 7651

May 21 and 22nd - Saturday and Sunday Old Toy Soldier Auctions Don Darnieder Collection and other Properties. www.oldtoysoldierauctions.com or Phone 1800 349 8009.

May 21 & 22 - Saturday and Sunday Old Toy Soldiers Auctions USA. The Late Don Darnieder Collection Part One and The Late Fred Wehr Collection Part Two and other properties
Contact Ray Haradin Tel 1-800-349-8009 raytoys@aol.com otsauctionsusa@yahoo.com or
Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com Tel 262-692-3913.

May 27,28 & 29 Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Texas Toy Soldier Show Menger Hotel San Antonio, Texas
Nick Versteeg 760 723 6583 www.sdsoldiers.com

June 4 Saturday Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show Annandale Ed Gries 210 257 2687

June 25 Toy Soldier Show London Royal National Hotel www.thetoysoldiersshow.com

August 11 & 12 Thursday and Friday Kulmbach Germany www.stadt-kulmbach.de

September 10 Saturday Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show Holiday Inn Bloomsbury London.
Email info@normanjoplin.com

September 25 Sunday 31st Annual Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago. Contact Don Pielin 630 497 1239
Email dimestores@aol.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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