

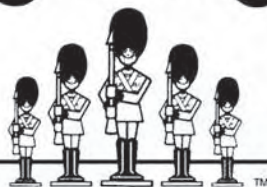
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Spring
2007

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 31 Number 1
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OLD TOY SOLDIER



OLD TOY SOLDIER

SPRING
2007



COMPOSITION PIRATES

Spring Crop



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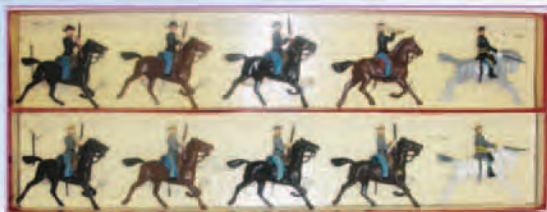
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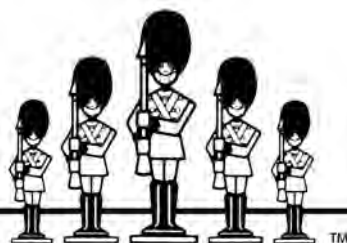
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Belgian Composition Pirate

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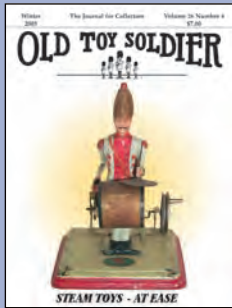
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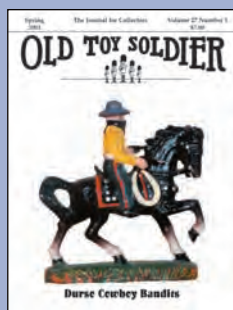


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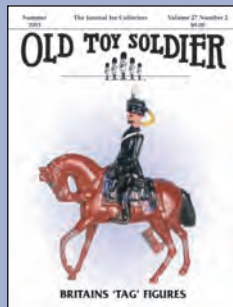


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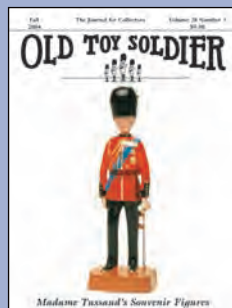
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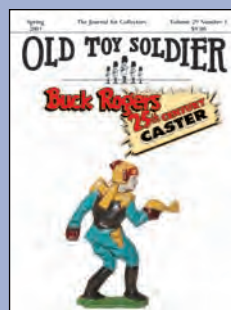


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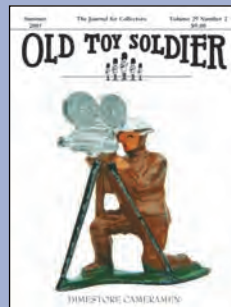


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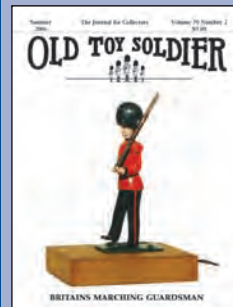


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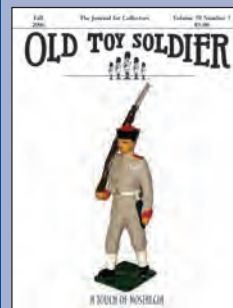
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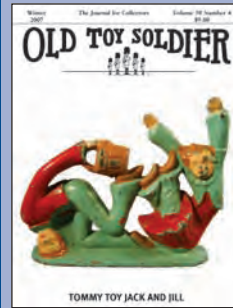
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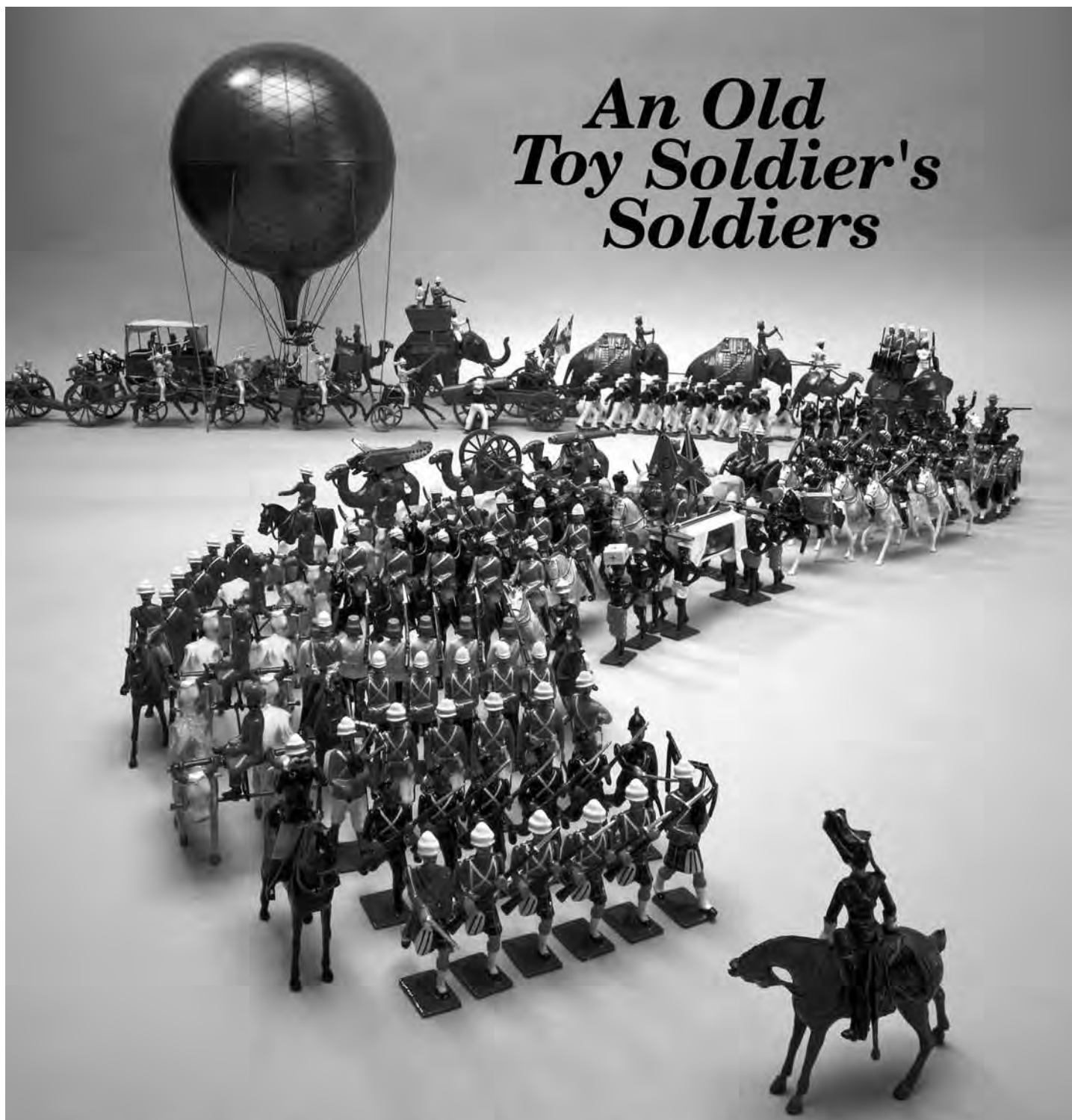
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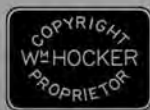
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BELGIAN COMPOSITION FIGURES “PIRATES”

By Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais

Introduction

As a continuation in our series of articles on Belgian composition figures, The Authors would now like to feature the production of “Pirates” by the following Belgian companies: “GJ” “NB” (Nazaire Beeusaert) “Solido”.

Please refer to our previous article on Belgian Composition Civilians, Part II (*Old Toy Soldier*, Vol.30, No. 2, Summer 2006) where we presented details on the establishment of the “GJ” and the “NB” companies.

There is not much known about the history of “Solido”, but we do know that they produced many types of composition figures, in Brussels, from the early “post war” years up through the 1950’s.

Background – Brief History of Piracy

It has been established that Piracy, as we have come to know it, dates back more than 3000 years and the name is derived from the Greek verb “peirates”, which loosely translated means “to adventurously tempt ones luck”.

Through the centuries different names evolved for those engaged in this activity, and though each possessed a particular “nuance”, all bring the connotation of lawless escapades of plunder and killing on ships at sea and on coastal cities. i.e.,

- Pirates that roamed the Caribbean were known as “Buccaneers”.
- Dutch Pirates were called VRIJ BUITERS and hence “Freebooters”.

While Pirates were, in general, outlaws who bore no allegiance to any Country, there was a group that essentially carried out the same type of brutal activity, but were “authorized”, in writing, by a King or government to attack ships of hostile nations.

These were known as “Corsairs”, and if captured, were treated as “Prisoners of War” and not as outlaws.

Francis Drake of England is a well known Corsair who was “knighted” for his exploits.

The adoption of a Pirate flag or pennant (the most notable being the “Jolly Roger”) is believed to stem from around 1700 and is probably of French origin.

The first was a “Skull and Cross Bones”, along with an “Hourglass”. This, when flown on a “black” background, communicated to the ship under siege that they were being given some time to surrender before they would be boarded.

If the prey refused to surrender, then a similar flag on a “blood red” background was hoisted, indicating that they would be attacked and all would be slain with no chance for surrender or leniency.

Individual flags were adopted by various Pirate Chiefs: i.e.,

- Edward Teach (Blackbeard) adopted a flag with a Devil in the center, holding an hourglass in one hand and a spear aimed at a heart in the other.
- Christopher Moody’s flag consisted of an arm holding saber, flanked by an hourglass with wings (indicating that time was fleeting) and the “Skull and Cross Bones”.
- Henry Every (the Fancy) hoisted a profile of a Skull and Cross Bones with a bandana and earring on the skull. (This became a popular personification of a Pirate’s “image”).
- Jack Rackam (Calico Jack) flew a skull with crossed sabers.
- Thomas Tew’s flag depicted an arm holding a saber (a symbol of “strength”).

“Toy Soldier Pirates”

The allure, the romance and the excitement of Piracy did not escape the notice of Toy Soldier manufacturers all over the world. After World War II, many companies attempted to capitalize on its popularity, and introduced figures of Pirates into their production lines.

It is our belief that no company, during this era, surpassed the output of The Belgian Composition producers in detail animation, color and the extent of their line.

“GJ” and “NB”

There is a catalog known to exist listing “NB” Pirates, which are identical to, and were made from the same molds, as the “GJ” Pirates.

BELGIAN COMPOSITION FIGURES *(Cont.)*

Even though the "NB" figures are very fine, it is an accepted fact that comparable "GJ" figures exhibit a higher quality than "NB", since the molds were newer, with less wear, and the painting superior.

The "GJ" and "NB" figures are easily distinguished by looking at the underside of the base. ("NB" has these initials embossed on it, while the "GJ" figures have a smooth base)



Left-NB
Right-GJ

A listing in the "NB" catalog indicates the existence of nine (9) different Pirates that were produced. These were:

- 43/1 – Pirate Chief
- 43/2 – Pirate Fencing (in retreat)
- 43/3 – Pirate Fencing (advancing)
- 43/4 – Pirate with Saber and Pistol
- 43/5 – Pirate with Ax and Pistol
- 43/6 – "PegLeg" Pirate with Pistol
- 43/7 – Pirate with Ax
- 43/8 – Pirate with Knife
- *43/8 – Pirate with Saber (for Boarding)

*This figure was never actually assigned a catalog number, even though it does exist. It was given this number by collectors because of its close similarity to the "Pirate with Knife".

We are quite fortunate, and are pleased to be able to present the following photos. (Again please note that the catalog numbers refer to the "NB" figures, since there was no catalog for "GJ".)



43/1
Left – NB
Right – GJ



NB
Left – 43/2
Right - B 43/3

BELGIAN COMPOSITION FIGURES *(Cont.)*



GJ



Left – GJ Right – NB 43/6



NB Left – 43/4 Right – 43/5



NB Left – 43/8 Center – 43/7 Right – 43/8



GJ



GJ

Note

In these photos we have only shown a “sampling” of the many color variations that exist with “GJ” and “NB” Pirate figures.

“Solido”

Although numerous and various figures were produced by “Solido”, there is no catalog that is known to exist.

The following listing of Solido Pirates was compiled by local Belgian Collectors, and to the best of our knowledge represents a comprehensive listing of the “Pirate” figures known to exist.

For the purpose of this article only, we will identify them as S-1 through S-14.

BELGIAN COMPOSITION FIGURES *(Cont.)*

- S-1 – Pirate running with knife in teeth and saber
- S-2 – Pirate running with knife in teeth and ax
- S-3 – Pirate with “Peg Leg” and Pistol
- S-4 – Pirate with Double Edged Ax
- S-5 – Pirate with Ax
- S-6 – Pirate with Knife
- S-7 – Pirate with Saber
- S-8 – Pirate standing along side rifle
- S-9 – Pirate standing along side “flag”
- S-10 – Pirate fencing with hand on back
- S-11 – Pirate firing rifle



Left – S3 Center – S2 Right – S1



Left – S4 Left Center – S7
Right Center – S5 Right – S6



All – S10



Left – S9 Left Center – S8
Right Center – S8 Right – S9



All – S11

In addition to Pirates, “Solido” also produced adversaries to battle the Pirates.

These were:

- S – 12 – “Gentleman” fencing (in retreat)
- S – 13 – “Gentleman” fencing (advancing)
- S – 14 – Spaniards fencing.



All – S – 12

BELGIAN COMPOSITION FIGURES *(Cont.)*



All - S - 13



All - S - 14

Note

The "base" of the Solido figures was usually green in color and had the Solido name (though sometimes faint) embossed on the underside.

Also, many color variations of these figures are known to exist (even more so than "GJ" and "NB")

Post Script – "Durso"

For some reason, the Durso Company, largest producer of composition figures in Belgium during this time, chose not to make any Pirate figures. This remains a mystery to collectors. (Perhaps Michel Klimov just chose to concentrate his efforts and resources on "western", "medieval", "congo" and other post war figures.)

Conclusion

The Authors hope that our readers have enjoyed this article and photos as much as we have in researching, assembling and writing it.

We again thank "Old Toy Soldier" magazine for the opportunity to highlight the excellent production of "Belgian Composition Figures".

Acknowledgement

Photos by Veronique Servais

Editors Note

See the advertisement for the book "Composition Figures of Belgium – The Durso Company" by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 39 of this issue.

Ray Haradin and Norman Joplin are pleased to announce!

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

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

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

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HOBBY NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

The Society of Friends of The Guards Museum

The Guards Museum has been in existence for over 20 years. It is one of the country's finest military museums and tells the story of the five Foot Guards Regiments from their beginnings to the present day. On display are uniforms, headdress, pictures and many other items relating to the Guards.

The cost of running military museums is increasingly falling on museums themselves as successive Governments have cut funding. The Trustees of the Museum feel that the time is right for setting up a Society of Friends of the Museum with the aims of assisting in its future activities and survival.

The Society will be completely independent of the Museum, but will necessarily have very close ties to it.

The aims of the Society are to provide both financial and practical help to the Museum. It will also run lectures, battlefield tours, a coloured newsletter three times a year, social events, etc, and co-ordinate a volunteering programme to allow supporters to become actively involved in the life of the Museum.

The Society will be open to all and you can join at different levels, including corporate level. Depending on what level you join at, different incentives will be offered including free admission to the museum, invitations to functions including ceremonial occasions and much more.

For information on joining the Society of Friends of the Guards Museum, you can either write to: The Society of Friends of the Guards Museum, The Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ. Telephone: 020 7414 3428 or Email: guardsfriends@aol.com



HOBBY NEWS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of Old Toy Soldier Magazine starts the 31st year of continuous publication.

It was an honor to be offered the editorship of the magazine by Ray Haradin in 2001 and 27 issues later the enjoyment and challenge of producing the world's only specialist Old Toy Soldier publication is still an honor.

Rather than editor I consider myself more of a co-ordinator, bringing together all of the various threads which go to make up each quarters issue. The amount of support that I have received over the last six years has been most rewarding and it is time to acknowledge those who have assisted in ensuring Old Toy Soldier Magazine reaches it's subscribers full of original articles and information.

Old Toy Soldier Magazine owner, Ray Haradin, is an editor's dream in that he gives a free hand and allows me to make most, if not all of the editorial decisions. The authors of articles who continually come up with superb research and photographs in their own particular field of expertise and the way in which these articles are shared freely on a regular basis makes an editors life all the more easy.

The advertisers who constantly support the magazine with their revenue and the whole well-being of the toy soldier industry in general, indicates a positive future for our hobby.

It will not have gone unnoticed by subscribers that the magazine is now a 98 page volume with perfect binding and with additional color in each issue. This bears testament to the continuing commitment of Ray's financial input.

Banksville Express, who publishes the magazine, the photographers and staff who assist in the production and the advertisers and authors are what makes this magazine a one of a kind.

In all ventures there are those unsung, unnamed people who work behind the scenes without public recognition, one such is Mary Fischer who is employed by the publishers. Without her sterling work, positive and friendly attitude to the task, I as editor, could not produce this quarterly issue – Thanks Mary, for keeping me on the straight and narrow.

My personal thanks to all who have continued to support Old Toy Soldier Magazine.

Toy Soldier Auctions

*It seems timely at this point to give some advance notice of a new venture which will be instigated by Ray Haradin and myself – namely the setting up of an auction company totally devoted to the auction of toy soldiers and figures. **Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA** will be launched in the near future (See this issue for further details).*

*There is currently no auction house in the USA holding regular specialist auctions devoted to toy soldiers and figures. The major auction companies in the USA have, of late, shied away from the collectibles area, hence the formation of **Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA** by Ray and myself.*

*These auctions will be open to all types of toy soldiers and figures, lead, plastic, composition old and new. No collection will be considered too large or too small and **Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA** looks forward to your communications.*

Toy Soldier Shows

Toy Soldier Shows continue at a pace, the larger shows in the Midwest, California and on the East Coast continue to grow and attract collectors of all types of toy soldiers and figures, the smaller regional shows provide a much needed service to collectors who are unable to travel far from home. The Toy Soldier Show London has kept the toy soldier hobby at the forefront in Europe. This along with my own specialist dateline Old Toy Soldier and Figure show each September in London ensures plenty of toy soldier opportunities for collectors and dealers alike.

All of the show organizers are to be congratulated on their hard work in continuing to promote the hobby.

Ebay and the Internet

The emergence of Ebay throws up constant new finds for collectors of Old Toy Soldiers and Figures, coupled with the many web sites that are available on line for the toy soldier hobbyist in general. Hopefully these avenues will encourage many new collectors to join the toy soldier collector ranks.

It has not been my editorial policy to issue letters; however, as this issue is a landmark issue I am pleased to express my thanks to all who support and subscribe to Old Toy Soldier Magazine.

Norman Joplin

HOBBY NEWS

Obituary ~ Walt Keener



On December 29, 2006, the toy soldier hobby lost a beloved member, as Walt Keener past away suddenly. Those of us, who knew him personally, knew him as a willing contributor to discussions, an avid researcher and, most of all, an eclectic collector of all things toy and military. His background was founded in his position as curator of various Midwest museums. After having been an education director at Old Fort Wayne in Detroit, he came to the Chicago area and became a curator at the Chicago Historical Society. It was in that position he was able to locate, catalog and finally display J. Edward Jones' personal but elusive collection. This exhibit coincided with the Chicago Toy Show that year and a number of collectors were able to visit it. Walt continued his curator's duties at the First Division Museum at Cantigny Estate in Wheaton, Illinois and then moved to the position of Head Curator at the Joliet Historical Museum, which he held at the time of his passing. Walt will be best remembered for his willingness to share his vast storehouse of knowledge with anyone asking a toy soldier question. He was a permanent member of the Fourth Floor Elevator Foyer Toy Soldier discussion (arguments, trades, and tall tales) group that has become legendary at the Hyatt during the Chicago Toy Soldier Show because of their late night meetings. Although each year we seem to lose some of our most enthusiastic collectors, the hobby continues to gain new blood because of collectors like Walt, who were never too busy to help a novice become more knowledgeable. His family, his friends and his hobby will certainly miss him.

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Don Pielin submitted the above obituary and the following photograph of the J. Edward Jones Collection organized by Walt Keener at the Chicago Historical Society.



TOY SOLDIERS AND FIGURINES, PAINTED TIN LEAD ALLOY, MADE BY J. EDWARD JONES, 1928-57.

GIFT OF J. EDWARD JONES, 1943, AND AN ANONYMOUS GIFT, 1971.361

J. EDWARD JONES, AN ENIGMATIC FIGURE TO THIS DAY, WAS BOTH A COLLECTOR AND MANUFACTURER OF MINIATURE FIGURES. BETWEEN THE LATE 1920S AND LATE 1950S, WHEN HE CEASED PRODUCTION, JONES OPERATED AT LEAST 12 DIFFERENT COMPANIES OR PARTNERSHIPS TO MANUFACTURE TOYS. JONES WAS AN AVID PROMOTER OF HIS CRAFT BUT NEVER A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR. HE BELIEVED FIGURINES WERE MORE THAN CHILDREN'S TOYS AND ADVOCATED THEIR USE AS EDUCATIONAL TOOLS IN MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS AND IN MILITARY TRAINING. HIS FIGURINES REPRESENT MANY SUBJECTS FROM AMERICAN HISTORY AND WORLD EVENTS AND ARE WIDELY SOUGHT BY PRIVATE COLLECTORS.

Britains New Metal Models ~ Request for Assistance ~

In order to assist with a research project, Old Toy Soldier Editor, Norman Joplin would like to hear from readers who may have any Britains New Metal Models in their original boxes or packaging which were purchased at the following tourist locations in the UK.- Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, or Holyrood Palace.

Also required are sets issued by Britains through Hamleys Toy Shop and at Harrods of Knightsbridge.

Norman can be contacted via email info@normanjoplin.com or telephone 262-692-3913.

UNDER TWO FLAGS

After 36 years in business, Under Two Flags, the Central London Toy Soldier Shop in St. Christopher's Place, just off Oxford Street, closed at the end of March 2007.

Always a popular stopping off point for toy soldier collectors visiting England's capital, the shop and it's owners, the Coutts family, will be sorely missed.

Rising rent and rates (property tax) coupled with a decline in business over the last two years has brought about the decision to close.

Andrew Coutts wished to express his thanks to all of the loyal patrons who have supported Under Two Flags in the past.

HOBBY NEWS

OBITUARY

"Bill" William R. Brunton May 26th, 1935 – April 8th, 2007

"Bill" William R Brunton, Son of William and Sarah Brunton (nee Pryde) was born in Englewood, New Jersey on May 26th, 1935. A proud first generation Scot who loved America, Bill served in the Air Force for four years before going to college.

Bill graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Business and Management degree and continued on for his Masters degree in the same subject.

Midway through his financial career, Bill started operating a toy soldier business, at first part time for six years, followed by a further 20 years as a full time dealer.

Bill's great wit and story telling was his great love and will be remembered by his many toy soldier friends.

He is survived by his wife Pam, Sister June and her husband Tony Stefanic and children, Donna and her husband Ed McGlone, David Brunton as well as four grandchildren.

Also mourning Bill's loss are four 4 legged critters. Princess, Mollie, Duffy and Snickers.

The following photo tribute shows Bill, as his many toy soldier friends will remember him.



West Coaster 2000



Bill and Pam Brunton



West Coaster 2005



Bill Brunton with Bill Hocker Valley Forge May 2000



Chicago 2000



Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show Hospitality
September 2006



Bill Brunton



Chicago
Old Toy Soldier
Show 2006



West Coaster 2006

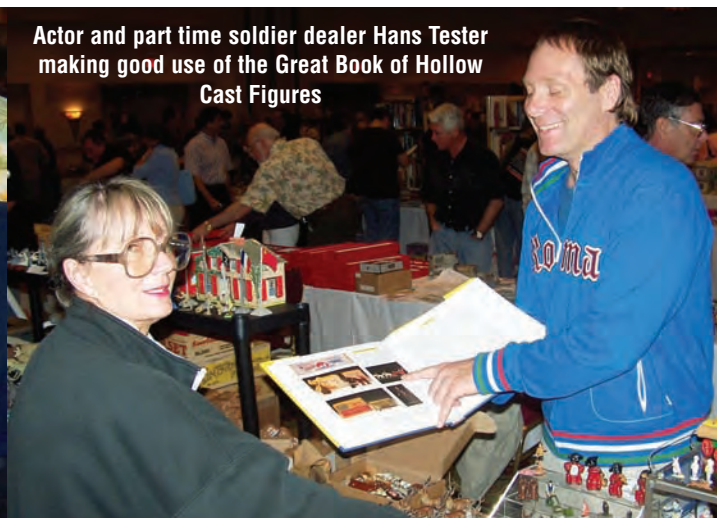
PHOTO GALLERY

The West Coaster - California - March 2007

Thor Johnson
of AeroArt



Actor and part time soldier dealer Hans Tester
making good use of the Great Book of Hollow
Cast Figures



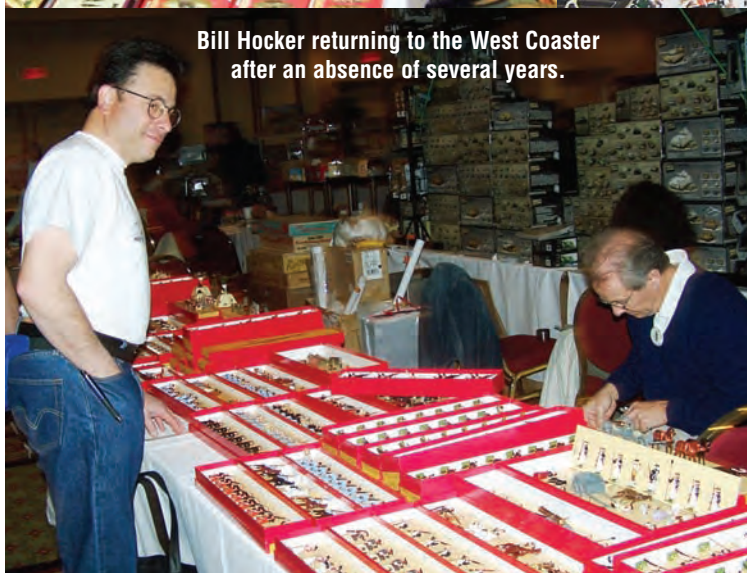
Helen and Bob Fisher's Britain Display



Ray Haradin, Joe Saine, and collector, Frank Leo



Bill Hocker returning to the West Coaster
after an absence of several years.



Andy Neilson of King and Country

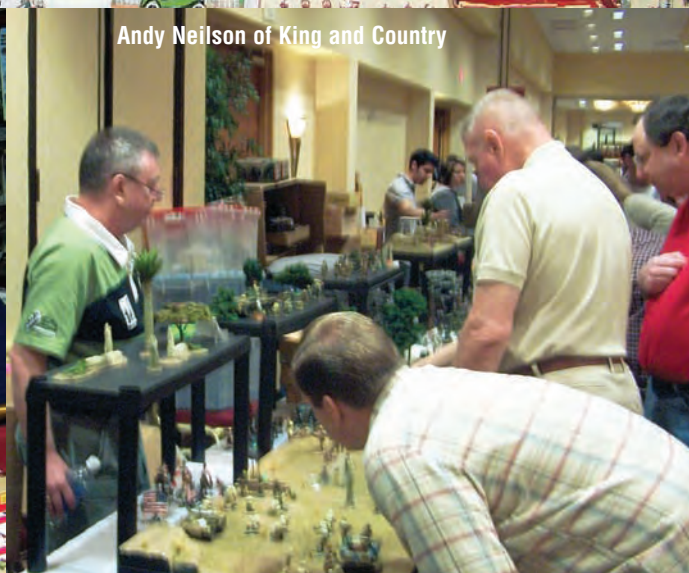


PHOTO GALLERY (Cont.)

Jack Rossman and Carol Cullen



Bob Phillips



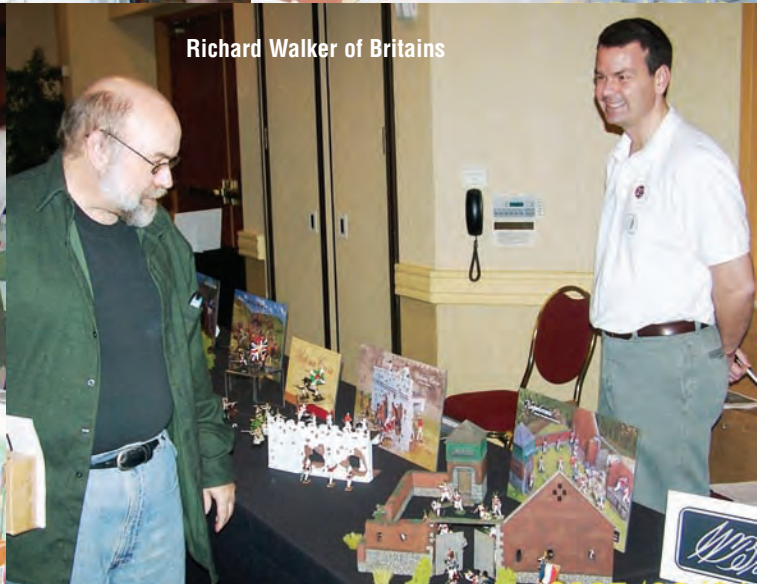
Craig "Bubba" McClain
the Show Organizer



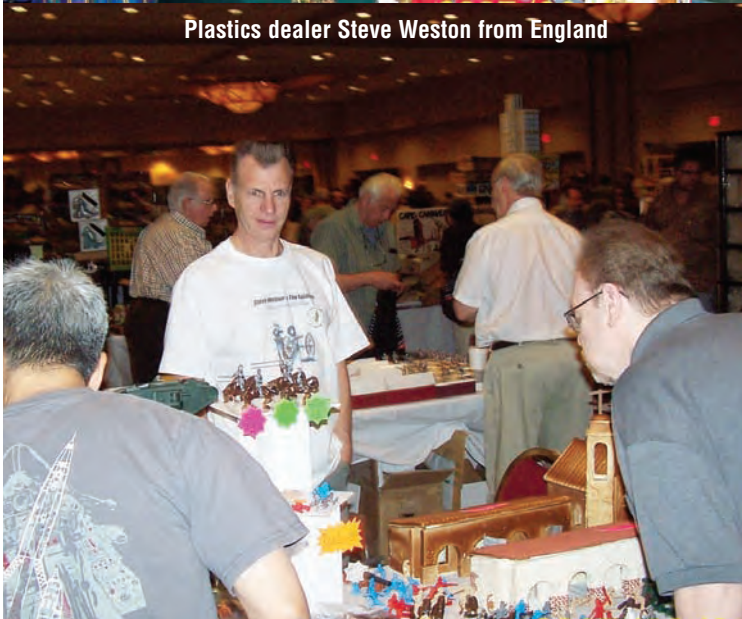
Bob Denny



Richard Walker of Britains



Plastics dealer Steve Weston from England



Ted Deddens of Ted Toys





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There will be an hourly door prize drawing done at 10 minutes before
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Directions:

Take I-91 (North or South) Exit 12. At bottom of ramp take a right.
The Holiday Inn will be on the left. Entrance to the show is on the left
side of the building.

For more info on the show, contact John Kozin at 203-848-0980 or
by email: OneSixthSynd@aol.com

<http://www.kozinmotorpool.com/ctjoeshow/>

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Saturday, July 7, 2007

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Contacts:

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

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

Directions:

Take Exit 22 from US Rt 50, follow signs
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Road) to 1st traffic light (Admiral Cochran
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For further details contact:

Norman Joplin

Telephone: 001-262-692-3913

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This is a dateline show for old toy soldiers
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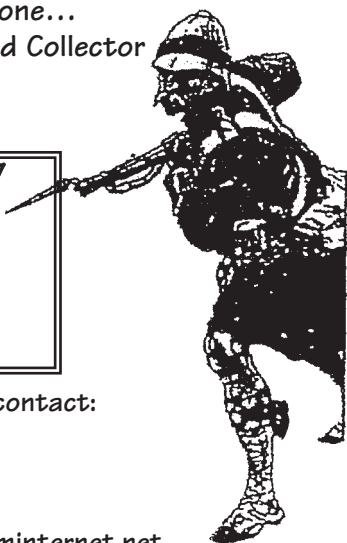
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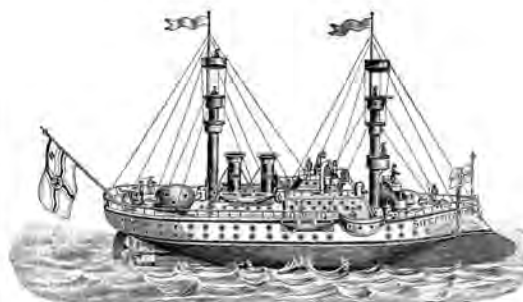
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AUCTION PREVIEW

Vectis Military and Civilian Figure and Equipment Auction July 12, 2007



The second Vectis Military and Civilian Figures and Equipment sale of 2007 will include a wide range, both in terms of lots offered and price ranges of military and civilian items, together with printed ephemera and accessories. Many lots are offered for the first time by Vectis and include some of the best and rarest examples of their kind ever to come up for sale in recent times.

Highlights will include a collection of early, circa 1900 -1920 Napoleonic figures by Lucotte, including: Napoleon and Marshals, 5th Hussars, Guard Horse Artillery, Cuirassiers, Foot Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, Line Lancers, Lancers of the Vistula and Italian Infantry.

Modern Issues from Britain's, Hocker, Tradition, King and Country and Ducal include a scarce Limited Edition set of Napoleonic Russian Infantry released by the Moscow Development Agency in 1988 and a Hocker/Phillips 25th Anniversary Limited Edition - both mint and boxed with certificates.

In the Composite Figure and Accessories Section the sale will offer a boxed Tipp and Co Fuhrerwagen and the extraordinarily rare electric headlight version of the same vehicle complete with ceramic head version of "Der Fuhrer", a boxed Elastolin Farm and Lineol MG Bunker with figures. Other makers represented will include: CBG Mignot - various sets, Heyde - Large Scale British Dragoon Guards, "St Petersburg Collection" - Greek Hoplite and J.E.B Stuart and an Andrea Studios painted Roman General.

A special feature of this sale will be the lots relating to film props from the 2006 film "Sharpe's

Challenge", these include Brown Bess Muskets [Tower/EIC models], Indian Tulwars, Cavalry/Infantry versions and the Boarding Pistols used by Sean Bean. All the items come with full provenance and Certificates of Authenticity, in the case of the Sean Bean pieces, additional photographs [stills] are supplied.

Plastics will be represented by a selection of figures from Herald, Britain's, Timpo, Crescent etc, a comprehensive selection of catalogues and point of sale ephemera from Britains and other makers will also be offered.

A comprehensive Civilian Section will include: figures and equipment by Britain's, Hill, Timpo, Benbros, Charbens, Pixyland Kew and Others. A 1908 Britain's Set 155 - Railway Station Staff, a Britain's Model 1392 - Civilian Autogyro, an early Britain's Equestrienne Mechanical Toy dating from the 1890's and a varied selection of pre-war Civilian figures and accessories will be amongst the lots to be offered.

Classic Britain's sets will include: a pre-war Set 73 - British Army Presentation Case, the rare 1914 version of the - "The Lifeguards Then and Now" set, a Guardhouse Building by Hugar, a model 433 - Monoplane, 1930 version, Famous Regiments Sets and a Set 105 Imperial Yeomanry, 1900 version. The sale will be rounded off by a section of Britain's Paris Office production including amongst others: Belgian WW1 Infantry and German WW1 Infantry in Khaki Service Dress.

With over 600 lots, this Sale will have something to suit all collecting tastes and pockets!

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Modern issues from Britain's, Hocker, Tradition, King and Country and Ducal. Plastics by Herald, Britain's, Timpo, Crescent etc.

The Composite figure and accessories section will offer a boxed Tipp and Co Fuhrerwagen and the extraordinarily rare electric headlight version of the same vehicle complete with ceramic head version of 'Der Fuhrer'.



To be held on
THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2007
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Contact Simon Clark or Peter Rumsey for further details

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THE "SEND AWAY" TOYS OF WWII

By Jack Matthews

My earlier Article dealt with the free Giveaway Premiums of WWII. This will discuss the low-priced toys which required a payment, and with but few exceptions, were never sold in stores. These cheaper toys selling for around a dollar were made of cardboard, felt, wood and other non-strategic materials.

They were marketed by the usual suspects like Kay Industries, Invention Co., Imperial Industries and like purveyors of cheap goods working out of the lower end of Manhattan and the Chicago Merchandise Mart owned by the infamous Joseph P. Kennedy.

Most all were sold by way of large color ads in comic books and children's magazines, the best way to reach their audience. While I have most of the toys shown, finding these great, creative ads is a much harder task if you don't collect the very expensive 'Golden Age' comics of the time. I'm indebted to my friend Roy Thomas, the well known comic book historian, who allowed me to photograph and copy such items of interest in his collection of rare comic books, some years ago. Incidentally, with today's copy techniques, they enlarge quite well and will look great framed and matted on the wall.

As I discuss in my book *Toys Go To War, WWII* kids were very much into homefront civil defense activities and the operations of the Army and Navy. Thus it is no surprise that we find such items as the Junior Air Raid Warden Kit (photo 1). For \$1.69 you got a cardboard suitcase full of warden stuff, all but the badge being non-metal. Like many toys in those days you got to be a "junior" something or other and not "have to envy your Dad as {he} strutted down the streets in [his] air raid warden outfit". The ad copy also assured you would be "the first one in the neighborhood to gain added popularity".

Most all Sendaways came COD (SEND NO MONEY!) AND ONLY A "LIMITED NUMBER WERE AVAILABLE" at "this special introductory price", which lasted for years. Nothing much changes in the sales business.

Wood machine guns using the ratchet sound device were huge sellers in those years due to the popularity of the Saturday afternoon matinee war films (2 features, a cliffhanger serial, a newsreel and a cartoon for 10c). (photos 2-4 show some of the best).

1

2

The Commando and Chattermatic guns made by the famous Daisey Co. were sold for years by Sears and Wards, the nations largest retailers, with nary a change in price. Photo 2 is a full page add from the popular magazine Chilren's Activities which had a large circulation. These were some of the few such toys that you could buy in the stores or order from the Sears and Wards catalogs. It took me years to acquire these.

[illegible]

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THE "SEND AWAY" TOYS OF WWII (Cont.)



7



8

feet". Once again the "gang would be green with envy". If you sent in your order right away you got a "free" 13" inch cardboard 3-power telescope and a wall chart of WWII planes.

Next up are two Bomber/Bomb-Sight/Training Cockpit, large cardboard toys, expensive at close to two bucks. They are in 1-1 scale to a smallish kid and with a lot of imagination put you right in the cockpit. (photos 5-7).

Kay novelties sold a series of punchout sets by mail order. Photo 8 shows their Air Force/Airfield set. Others were the Army and Navy Combat Units. I really love their ad copy: "speed your Lockheed Lighting fighter through the skies at 30,000 feet---shoot down Goering's Messerschmitts-- and bring havoc and terror to the Axis".



9



10



11

THE “SEND AWAY” TOYS OF WWII *(Cont.)*

Finally, photos 9-15 illustrate miscellaneous Sendaway toys, including the long popular wall-projectors. Late-war items included the new, small injection-plastic planes and surplus army insignia patches. I had a great collection of these.

What a great time for a kid and his imagination. The comic book "How boys and Girls Can Help Win The War" says it all. But that's just one old guys opinion.



12



14



13



15

GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

BRITAINS 2007 RELEASES

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

The Britain's theme of "quality and quantity" continues in 2007. There will be additions to the existing ranges of seven different historical lines. As was typical of the 2006 releases, sculpting, painting and packaging of the 2007 issues reflect Britain's commitment to providing collectors with the highest quality figures.

Below is a brief, but not an all inclusive summary of new Britains releases.

Red Coats-Highlights of this traditional gloss paint range of the British Army are the three figures representing the 1st Foot Guards of 1755; an NCO, pioneer and ensign.

Blue Coats-The complimentary range to the Red Coats, featuring American regiments. Among the new releases is an interesting figure of Gorham's Rangers, 1759.

Ceremonial-The most intriguing figures of this gloss line is an excellent rendering of the Raven Master of the Tower of London, and a most ominous Executioner.

Limited Edition-Two new sets of the U.S. Marine Corps. A very nice Color Party, and an excellent 12 piece Drum and Bugle Corp are sure to delight USMC fans.

World War I-For British collectors a great 2 piece set of 42nd Highlanders advancing. German enthusiasts will enjoy the advancing set and a bugler with wounded comrade set of the 84th Regiment.

American Civil War-The "Valley" series has a sizable number of new editions. Representing the Union side are individual firing and charging figures. A very nice drummer boy and superb Ohio regimental flagbearer will be available. The Confederate range has a superb 10 pound Parrot gun with four man crew, 2 foot figures of "Stonewall" Jackson's staff and a very nice Virginia regimental flagbearer. For collectors of personality figures, a mounted "Sandie" Pendleton figure is a welcomed addition.

Napoleonics-The majority of the new issues are scenic. Two wall sets, a well and a large Hougoumont wall with North Gate will be released. Two new Coldstream Guard sets and an excellent mounted French officer of light infantry will please Napoleonic collectors.

Victorian Cross-The largest number of new releases, all depicting the Indian Mutiny. Four separate sets of the 93rd Highlanders and three sets of Sepoys will make their debut in this most popular line.

All the new releases are up to the typical high quality and standards of Britains. Please see their advertisement in this issue for contact and ordering information.



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43088



43070



43087

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43101



43102



43007

Redcoats & Bluecoats

The Redcoats and Bluecoats in the French and Indian/Seven Years War

The new Redcoats and Bluecoats classic gloss figure collections are reminiscent in size, look and feel to the original W. Britain toy soldiers of the early 20th century. While not exact representations of those early Britains they very well reflect what William Britain might have made had he started making toy soldiers in 2007. In addition to the popular French and Indian/Seven Years War period shown above, the collections feature British and American Army regiments from the 1600's up to the 1800's.

The sets featured above include the following:

- 43088 - Independent Company of Rangers (Gorhams) - 1759
- 43070 - Private - The New Jersey Regiment "Jersey Blues" - 1755
- 43087 - Officer - Virginia Regiment - 1760
- 43099 - Ensign - 1st Foot Guards - 1755
- 43101 - Pioneer - 1st Foot Guards - 1755
- 43102 - Grenadier NCO - 1st Foot Guards - 1755
- 43007 - Grenadier Officer - 1st Foot Guards - 1755

The Redcoats and Bluecoats Collections as well as the entire W. Britain range can be purchased from these W. Britain retailers:

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DIMESTORE UPDATE

By Stan Alekna

Since it is fairly certain that there will not be a 4th edition of Richard O'Brien's COLLECTING AMERICAN MADE TOY SOLDIERS, I think we Dimestore collectors and dealers need to insure that we continue to communicate newly found information. Fortunately, we have the terrific OLD TOY SOLDIER magazine as a communication forum. When someone authors a comprehensive piece, they would probably deserve their own article and title. But often, we come across a variation or information that do not require a great deal of verbiage to describe. In the past, Richard O'Brien has provided a collection of miscellaneous, new information on Dimestores via an OTS column entitled DIMESTORE UPDATE. I propose that we use this heading for communicating simple, but potentially important, new Dimestore discoveries. Individual contributors need only send a brief text and a photo, if appropriate, of their find. When editor Normam Joplin has accumulated several of these short articles, he can publish them in a single issue under the DIMESTORE UPDATE title. Anytime we see DIMESTORE UPDATE in the contents section of the magazine, we'll know we are in for a treat of new information about our hobby. Clipping these articles and filing them in a notebook may have to serve as the "fourth edition" of our Bible. Ray Haradin, the publisher of OTS, has agreed to adopt this format if we follow through and provide a continuous stream of input to OTS. So here is my first offering of DIMESTORE UPDATE.



B215 & B215A Bugler in white helmet, with and without buttons. While this variant is described and pictured in O'Brien, this photo will help to better distinguish the two figures



B200 Girl sitting on bench having her skates put on. The photo below is of three color variations of this rare winter figure; one in a red and one in a blue outfit on each side of the more common one in a white outfit,

B260B Soldier marching with rifle at sling arms. This figure, pictured on pg. 96 of O'Brien's COLLECTING AMERICAN TOY SOLDIERS, is a copy of the figure pictured on pages 28 and 29 of Richard's THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK. It's very identifiable by the longer boot tops below the bloused trousers as compared to this same feature on all other podfoot soldiers, yet I know of no one who has seen one. Does anyone have one of these?

B110a The chef egg timer was assembled and sold by at least two companies, and possibly a third, using figures purchased from Barclay. They were "ABC Glassworks Inc., New York, N.Y.; and Paul A. Straub & Co., Inc. New York, N.Y. There is a rumor of such a piece with a Canadian label but this has not been confirmed. These rare items can sometimes be found in their original boxes with the company names imprinted on them as well as on foil labels affixed to the base. Beware of any Barclay chef egg timer that has other than pink sand in the glass, as it is most likely a replacement timer.

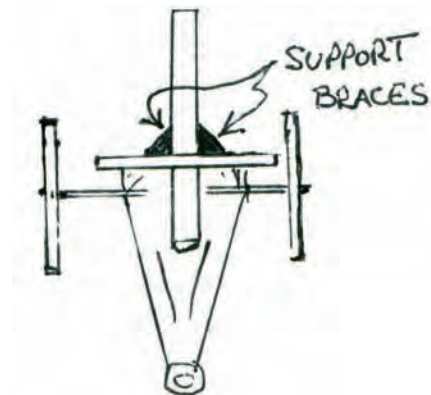


DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)

B235A Podfoot officer in blue. Once in a while I hear some doubts expressed about whether or not the podfoot officer in blue with a white helmet was a true Barclay production figure. There is no question that it is a hard figure to come by but this photo of B235A and other podfeet in a sealed blister pack should squelch such doubts once and for all.



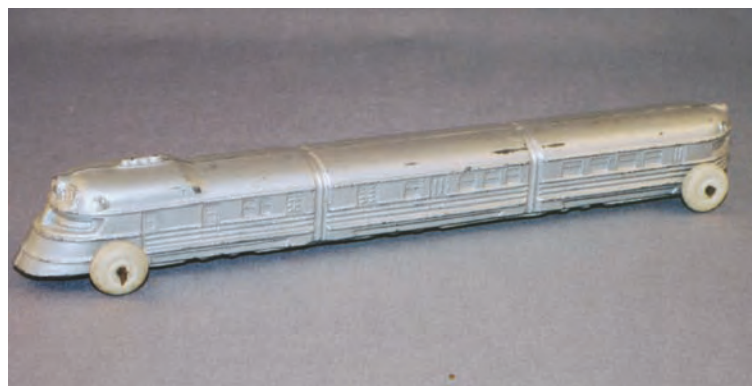
BC3 Small Barclay cannon. I wrote an article on Barclay's cannons entitled "A 21 Gun Salute to Barclay" which was published in the Spring 2004 edition of OTS; Volume 28 Number 1, which pictured and described 21 Barclay cannons and variations. Well, there are now at least 23 known Barclay cannons. BC3 was made with an open and closed hitch variant as we knew, but Phil Savino found one that had braces or supports on each side of the protective shield as shown in the sketch, which will have to do until someone provides a photo. This is the 22nd Barclay cannon.



BC4 Long-range cannon, BC4, had previously been described as having no markings. Now, BC4 with "MADE IN U.S.A." cast into the barrel has become the 23rd Barclay cannon.



BARCLAY ZEPHYR TRAIN. An actual photo of this extremely rare Barclay train has never been published before to the best of my knowledge. The photo of this 6-inch long, one-piece train in THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK was reproduced from an old toy catalog. No O'Brien number has been assigned to this train which I believe is even rarer than the 5-piece train with the battery powered headlight that was pictured in my OTS article on BARCLAY TRAINS, several years ago. Interestingly, Tootsie toy made a very similar but "beefed-up" version of a one-piece zephyr train that is also considered quite rare.



DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)



BARCLAY MOVING VAN. The very rare pictured van was dubbed as a Barclay after being examined by several advanced collectors, two of whom collect only Barclay vehicles, and by Richard O'Brien. It is 5-5/8" long; has no O'Brien number and is the only one known.

BV11 This is pretty minor compared to many variant pieces but nonetheless represents an identifiable, collectible variant to the obsessive-compulsive Barclay vehicle collector. The common die cast trailer for BV11 has a bent flange at the rear to keep the cars from rolling off the trailer. I have seen several of these trailers with the flange broken off which is what I speculate prompted Barclay to add the small gussets or braces between the flange and the bed of the trailer as shown on the trailer in the foreground of the photo.



BV21. This is the same Barclay cannon car that was pictured in my recent OTS article on **THE RAREST BARCLAY MILITARY VEHICLES**, but since it is the only one known with the cannon intact, I thought I would include it in this article for those who may have missed it.



BV41. After a great deal of research involving several very knowledgeable collectors, the "French-looking" fire engine listed as BV41 in Richard's Books now been judged to have been made by Savoye, not Barclay. You can remove it from your Barclay wish list.

BV183 The large, 4-78" long hook and ladder fire truck described in my Fall 2004 article on Barclay's Fire Engines did in fact come with a little bell attached to the boom or davit behind the driver as shown in the photo. Most of these bells are missing from examples of this fairly rare vehicle. All Barclay fire engines, except for the die cast BV38 hook and ladder truck with the fireman who "climbs" the ladder, were made in the 1930's.



DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)



BV75 The copper-clad version of the trailer for the BV11 car carrier on the right in the picture is quite rare. No copper-clad versions of the double-decker trailer have as yet been discovered. This variation may have been the product of a short-term experiment between Barclay and the outside jobber who made the trailers.

So apart from the fact that one person supplied all of the above items, this is what each edition of DIMESTORE UPDATE can look like. Note that in this edition, the text ranged from a single sentence to a max of only 5 sentences and only a couple of sentences and a photo were all that was required to introduce two, one-of-a-kind Dimestores. Two items did not require a photo to get the full message across. If your item relates to a casting variation, you will find that a picture really is worth a thousand words. Good hunting and keep the information flowing.

BARCLAY'S THREE ANIMAL HARNESSSES

This article may be a bit esoteric but I thought some folks out there might be interested in learning that Barclay employed three types of harnesses for attaching the horse and the reindeer to the one-horse-open sleigh.

The most common harness was the yellow, cloth-covered, thin, solid wire that I believe was old doorbell wire. I think it was the same wire that was also used for the cowboy's lassos. It was held in place by a piece of red, cellophane tape.

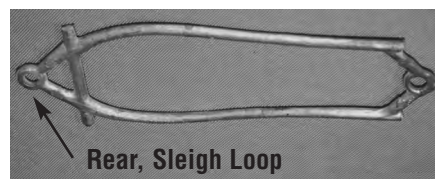
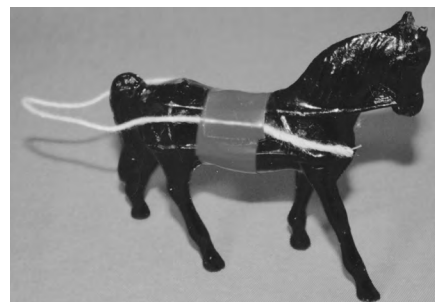
Another type of harness, pictured below, was a shaped, nickel-plated, heavy gauge wire with a loop for connection to the sleigh. Most early, boxed sets of Barclay's winter scene figures have horses with this style of harness. It too was held in place by red tape as is shown on page 51 of Richard O'Brien's *THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK* and on page 89 of his *COLLECTING AMERICAN MADE TOY SOLDIERS* book. The width of this tape and the number of layers of tape varied as can be seen in the photographs. The tape is often missing because it dried out and fell off since the 1940's had to be the early days of scotch? tape, especially the colored varieties.

Both types of harness were used for the horse but the cloth-covered wire harness is the only one I have seen on the reindeer. It had to be the less costly of the two and my guess is that it became the harness of choice for Barclay.

A third, and seldom seen, Barclay harness is a lead, slush-cast harness that fit snugly around the body of the horse. I don't think that this harness was meant to be secured to the horse by tape due do it's protruding side rails. The rear loop attached to the hitch of the sleigh but I have no idea of the purpose of the front loop unless it was to tie the horse to a hitching post. Perhaps you horse and carriage folks out there might have some better ideas. This harness may have been an experimental alternative to the more costly heavy wire harness, interim to adopting the cloth-covered version. It was probably rejected because it is difficult to fit over the horse and falls off very easily. I am convinced that Barclay made the slush cast harness because I received several of them directly from long time Barclay employee, the late George Fall, many years ago, and he verified their authenticity.

If anyone out there has an original reindeer with a heavy wire harness or if you know of any other Barclay harness devices, I would like to hear from you.

Stan Alekna; 732 Aspen Lane; Lebanon, PA 17042-9073;
(717) 228-2361; email: salekna1936@yahoo.com



BOOK REVIEW

L'Armée de Napoleon Uniformes du 1er Empire 1792-1815

*By Jacques Domange
Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

The Napoleonic era continues to be one of the most popular periods among military enthusiasts. So diverse is this period of history that rarely a month passes without new titles being published. A genre which many toy soldier collectors may relate to is the study of Napoleonic uniforms, or "uniformology". Napoleonic uniformologists have long enjoyed the works of E.L. Bucquoy, Rousselot, Funcken, Rigo, Knotel and others, including the seemingly endless Osprey series. To satisfy the demand by Napoleonic uniformologists for new information, many new books are unfortunately a rehab or author's interpretation of existing works. Fortunately a new, fresh paramount study of Napoleonic uniforms has been published by LCV Services of Paris. "L'Armée de Napoleon Uniformes du 1er Empire 1792-1815" brings together the uniform studies of Jacques Domange, an artist whom most are unfamiliar with.

Born in 1923, Jacques Vaissier, (Domange was his artist name), developed an interest in the Revolutionary and Empire Periods at an early age. During World War II Domange was sent by the Germans to the Polish frontier to help construct fortifications. Returning home after the war, Domange found employment as a graphic artist, but continued his studies of Napoleonic uniforms.

In 1960 Domange met the eminent French military artist Lucien Rousselot. With the help and encouragement of Rousselot, Domange gained access to collections and archives of which few were privileged to view and study. Domange's artistic skills, along with his personal collection flourished under Rousselot's tutelage. Rousselot's influence is readably apparent when one views the work of Domange. The uniform plates of Domange became available in 1980 and continued until his death in 2000.

Rousselot's masterful uniform plate series, *L'Armée Française, ses Uniformes, son Equipment, ses Armement*, focused entirely on the French Army. France's other prominent military artist at this time was Albert Rigondaud, better known as "Rigo". Rigo's 255 uniform plate series, *Le Plumet*, was dedicated principally to the study of uniforms of drum majors, sappers, musicians and flagbearers of the French Army. As to not conflict with the work of the respected Rousselot and Rigo, Domange chose to limit his studies to a select number of French regiments and to focus on his true interest, the Polish troops which served Napoleon.

Domange's domestic situation with a Polish woman no doubt aided him in his research. With the help of her translations, Domange began to research and investigate both public and private collections of Polish uniforms and books. Years of correspondence with numerous Polish curators and collectors began to pay dividends as Domange was given the opportunity to study countless artifacts and books which had, until then been ignored or inaccessible.



"L'Armée de Napoleon Uniformes du 1er Empire 1791-1815" is the collection of Domange's 231 completed uniform plates. An additional 15 pages of "crayonnes", (black and white drawings), of proposed uniform plates, some which are partially colored are also included.

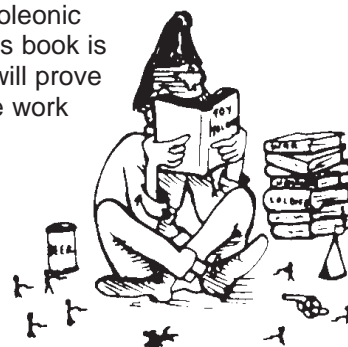
The layout of the is extremely user friendly. Not only was Domange influenced by Rousselot artistically, but also in the formatting of each uniform plate. Typically 4-6 figures the themed regiment are depicted; officer, grenadier, voltigeur, fusilier, drummer and musician. The text, (including cited sources), comprises the entire left-hand page, while the corresponding right-hand page is the uniform plate. Each plate is expertly rendered in full color.

The first 187 plates are of the Revolutionary and Consulat Period of 1792-1804. Domange's study is most welcomed as this is an era which most researchers completely ignore. Infantry, cavalry, artillery and *unites particulieres* are offered for study.

Continuing with the same format are the final 144 plates of the Empire Period, 1805-1815. In addition to French regiments, Saxon, Bavarian, Westphalian and other nationalities are presented. The real treasure of the Empire chapter are the Polish uniform plates. Domange's passion for Polish uniforms is obvious as he devotes 45 plates to Polish infantry, cavalry, and artillery units.

"L'Armée de Napoleon Uniformes du 1er Empire 1792-1815" is a publication of the highest quality. With 519 heavy, semi-gloss pages and 231 full page color uniform plates, students of Napoleonic uniforms should definitely add this work to their collection. The rectangular 10"x12" book also comes with its own heavy slipcase with closing flap. The French text should not be an obstacle for even the most casual Napoleonic enthusiast. Priced at \$210, this book is worth every penny, and time will prove it to be a foundation reference work of Napoleonic uniforms.

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Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

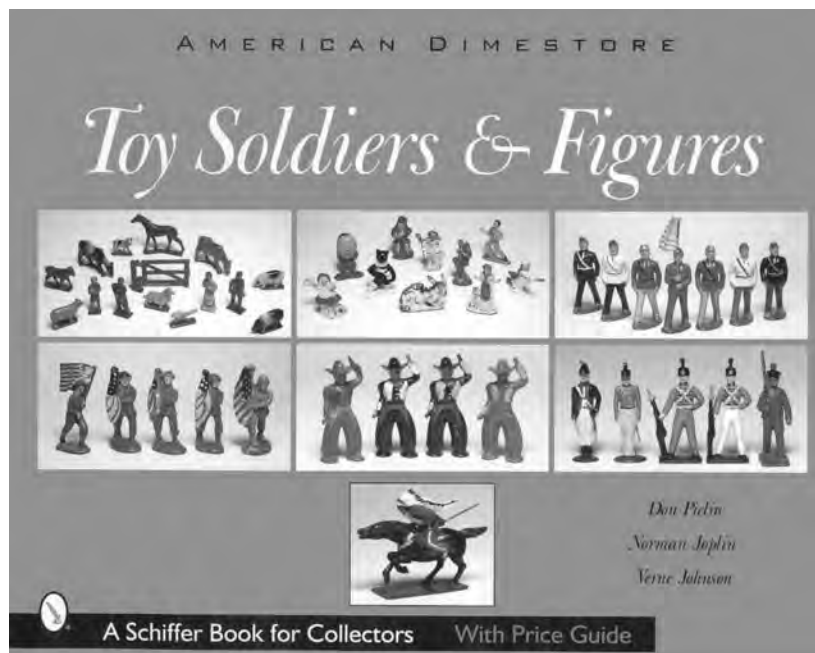
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A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA PART 3

By Gus Gardner

In Part II of A Touch of Nostalgia published in Old Toy Soldier Magazine, Volume 30 #4, page 10, I mentioned Shamus Wade's attempts at offsetting the rising prices of his Nostalgia line. So let us now take a look at this subject. In April 1974 the first set, Hong Kong Submarine Engineers (N.1)[Fig. 22] was priced at British Pounds [BP] 5.52. This also applied to the other ranks set of eight, and the single figure was available for 75 Pence. The first mounted set, British Honduras Constabulary (N.38) [previously pictured, was BP 8.00 and the individual figure was BP 2.10. The first price increase took place that November, with the foot sets going to BP 6.22. In August of the following year, the first of the more elaborate sets, Drums and Bugles of the Wei-Hai-Wei 1st Chinese Regiment (N.91)[Fig. 23], a 26 piece set, was issued for BP 24.44.



The first Nostalgia set N.1; Hong Kong Submarine Engineers, 1897, was priced at BP 5.52



The 26 piece Drums and Bugles of the Wei-Hai-Wei 1st Chinese Regiment, was BP24.44

By the time N. 184 Havildar Singh and the Jamma & Kashmir Cuirassiers [Fig. 24] was issued, the basic set price had risen to BP 11.28. It was now that Wade brought out the reduced set of seven for BP 9.87. The mounted sets had gone through a similar increase and the Natal Native Horse (N. 190) [Fig. 25] was priced at BP 18.53, with the reduced set at BP 13.73. Prices continued to increase, going through BP 14, 16, and 18. Finally, in 1982, Wade reviewed the costs associated with producing Nostalgias and determined that he needed to sell the sets for BP 32., or he was faced with a losing proposition. He let his subscribers know that the next five sets would be available at that price, and if demand was not strong enough, that would be the end. The last set was the aforementioned 1st Battalion, 21st Regiment, Bengal Infantry.



When N.184; Havildar Singh and the Jamma and Kashmir Cuirassiers, 1895, came out, the base price had increased to BP11.28



The four figure set N.190; Natal Native Horse, 1879 sold for BP 18.53

The most expensive set, was the Madras Artillery Band which sold for BP 87.00

Several collectors have commented to me, that they do not understand how the prices could have increased by over 600% in only eight years. If you do not recall that inflationary era of the seventies and

A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA PART 3 (Cont.)

eighties, here are a few reminders. Every material that I worked with easily increased by over 200%, and labor rates were increasing faster than the ink was drying on the contracts. We experienced the delights of double-digit inflation, and 18% mortgage rates. And of course, that was in the States. In Europe, and especially in the U.K., where Wade was struggling to produce his figures, inflation was much worse. During this same time, the Government had decided to cease supporting the Pound and let it find its own level. What an economic environment that must have been, trying to produce a limited luxury item for a small clientele, that by and large, was struggling to pay for their necessities. I am amazed that he accomplished as much as he did, and kept the quality up through the entire production history.

Getting back to our discussion of the figures, like any other item produced by hand, Nostalgia had its share of anomalies. These include figures that have the wrong number on their bases, like the Band of the Nizam of Hyderabad's Amazon guards (N.176) which is marked 175.

There are also painting errors such as the Madras Native Foot Artillery (N.334) [Fig. 26], where Wade noted that some of the gunners are trimmed in gold instead of yellow. There may also be at least one uncatalogued figure, a gray haired sergeant, who appears to be a substitute for Q.M. Hall with the Nova Scotia Militia - Chebucto Greys [Fig. 27]. The bottom line is, if you are sure you have a Nostalgia, but it does not appear to match up perfectly, you may have found a variation. I am still trying to catalogue these, and would appreciate any input.



N.334 Madras Native Foot Artillery, 1850. Note the gold trim, usually reserved for NCOs and Officers, on the Gunners



N.165; Nova Scotia Militia - Chebucto Greys, 1862, with a Sergeant. Wade has stated that he never produced the Sergeant. If anyone else has one in their collection, I would really like to hear from them.

Frank and Jan Scroby were responsible for all of the figures through the Trinidad Light Horse (N. 287) [Fig. 28], over half of all Nostalgias. Their work encompassed all of the mounted sets, all of the colors, and two of the bands. They set the standard, by creating the high quality diverse figures, that are the hallmark of Nostalgias. The level of detail that allows you to appreciate the lines of a feather, or count the cartridges in a belt, is complimented by the work of their painters who provided flesh tones that can distinguish between Chinese and Malays, and allow you to recognize the correct color arrangements on medal ribbons. In 1982, Blenheim ran into difficulties and was discontinued. The Scrobys went on to develop Marlborough Miniatures which were introduced later in 1982. Their work can also be appreciated under the banners of Star and Durbar.



N. 287; Trinidad Light Horse, 1897, the last of the figures produced by Jan & Frank Scroby

A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA PART 3 (Cont.)

Andrew Rose took over as the sculptor with the 5th Gurkhas in Summer Uniforms (N.288)[Fig. 29]. Production was moved to Wanstead, Essex, and overseen by Peter Cowan of Albion Figures. During his tenure, Rose was responsible for 30 sets, including the eight which comprise the Madras Artillery, his last set being the Madras Artillery Band. He went on to produce, among others, Bastion and Wessex figures, and his name and work are well known to modern toy soldier collectors. Peter Cowan's Gunner figures originated in 1975, were followed by the better known Mark Time in 1976, more recently Kingcast, and most recently his Heraldic miniatures Knights of the Golden Fleece and the Fleur de Lys series.

Note: I am aware that the sequential numbering above [N.287 & N.288] is at odds with the sequencing that I have previously described. The only explanation that I have is that Wade may have told Messrs Rose & Cowan that N.287 would be the last Scroby set, and they made the assumption that they would take over at N.288. To remedy this, Wade assigned an Alpha suffix to all of the subordinate sets of N.287; ie. 287A, B, and C.



N.288; 5th Gurkhas in Summer Uniforms, 1882, the first of the Andrew Rose / Peter Cowan figures

After Rose departed, Wade announced that a new sculptor who must remain anonymous would be taking over. Anonymous started with the new Mafeking Black Watch (N.374), and was the final sculptor of Nostalgia. Anonymous was responsible for 19 sets, including one of my favorites, the 30th Punjab, Fighting Order, 1943 (N.417)[Fig. 30]. Alas, even though some of us would like to know who this final sculptor was, Wade has informed me that Anonymous will remain anonymous. These last sets were also produced by Albion.

With reference to the new Mafeking Black Watch, this set lends some insight into Shamus Wade the historian. Several years earlier, Wade had issued set N.262 titled the Mafeking Black Watch. His pictorial source for the figures was an old newspaper photograph. After the set was released he discovered that the caption with the photograph had misidentified the soldiers that were shown. They were really Webster's Fingoes, [previously pictured] another black unit which had participated in the siege of Mafeking. Now, let's be realistic: How many of us would have ever known the difference? Wade was not willing to let it go at that. As soon as he realized the mistake, he let all of his subscribers know about the error, and provided them with a monograph on the Fingoes. He then went out and gathered the pictorial documentation necessary to produce the correct Mafeking Black Watch, and N.374 [Fig. 31] was the result.

Although not as well known as Nostalgia, Wade produced a second series of toy soldiers. These were the Oojah-Cum-Pivvy figures. The name was taken from a World War I soldiers song, and can be loosely translated as a thing-a-ma-bob. During the last few years of Nostalgia production, Wade decided to do some figures that were not associated with the Empire and Commonwealth. They were to be what I feel like making, and the result was a series of 36 single figures ranging from an Etruscan soldier, c. 550B.C.; to a Pakistani Military Policeman, c. 1983. But this is another story, perhaps for a later date.

And what of Shamus Wade, the man whose respect for the far flung soldiers of the Empire, and fertile imagination, led to the creation of Nostalgias? No longer a dealer, he remains active pursuing his ongoing interest in the men and women who, through service to their countries, helped establish and preserve the Empire. He is now the Secretary of The Commonwealth Forces History Trust which he founded in 1988. The Trust's stated goals include:



N.417; 30th Punjabs, 1943, just something about them that I like, maybe it is the pretentiousness of the NCO's turban comb when everything else is so simple]

A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA PART 3 (Cont.)

1. To conduct research into and provide a written account of all the different Defense Forces of the Commonwealth and Empire (outside of the United Kingdom) from 1066 to 1945; 2. To provide an outline of where information can be found on all of these units; 3. To provide an information resource that is available to all; 4. To help the children of immigrants, and other inhabitants of the United Kingdom, to understand the gallant part that many of their forebears played in our history ; and 5. To foster goodwill between the countries of the Commonwealth by remembering the part played by brave men and women of different countries in a common cause.

For all of us in the toy soldier hobby, who enjoy the research that can accompany our collections, the Trust could be a real boon. In addition to the resources of the Trust, we have the potential of input from one of the most knowledgeable of dealers and collectors. As Wade recently informed me, one of our sources of income is providing information on old toy soldiers .

For makers of toy soldiers, who believe there is nowhere to go with their line of American Revolution figures, or feel that they have exhausted the potential of the Raj, because they have produced over a hundred variations, think about this; Wade has identified 485 A.W.I. loyalist units, and over 3,400 Indian units. There are still a lot of possibilities out there.

Back to the Nostalgias. In spite of the doubts I had about launching into a new collection, Nostalgias are proving to be a delightful journey.

To a collector, they provide a wonderful diversity of figures, including units that are not available from any other source. As there are only 148 sets, it is still possible to collect all of them. It is even possible to match up figures to build whole matched sets. With the limited production life for each set, figures from many (not all) sets are identical. There is also a limited quantity, as there were less than a hundred of each set made. If recent prices are any indicator, more collectors are recognizing them for the unique commodity they are. Further, if you are an historian who has an interest in the British Empire, many new doors to less well known places and events are opened for your enjoyment.

In closing, just a quick thank you, to the many hobbyists who have helped me gather information and build my collection. Along the way, these have included: Scott Morlan, Bob Hornung, Sam Floca, Joe Saine, Ed and Celia Reynolds, Peter Cowan, and many others. And especially to the gentleman whose knowledge and creativity has provided me with so many pleasant hours, Shamus O. D. Wade, Esq.

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N.374; the new Mafeking Black Watch, 1900



The last of the Nostalgias. N. 426: 1st Battalion, 21st Regiment, Bengal Native Infantry, 1815

PROLOGUE

During their era and the years that followed, much has been documented about the major toy soldier manufactures of Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron. Their domination of the United States' retail mass market, along with that of the lesser producers, faded rather quickly after the end of WW II. Plastic sets and smaller scale metal figures became way more popular. No longer could the stores profit from soldier figures selling for only five and ten cents.

However, recognizing that there still existed a penchant for the collectors to acquire additional figures of the same 3 1/4" size, a smaller aftermarket began to rise. The need was thus filled by a handful of venturesome producers and converters in showing their pieces about the country's many shows and by advertising in select hobby periodicals.

It is this group, that many collectors may just know by name only, that these forthcoming articles will address in a biographical photo story approach that will emphasize their contributions to our wonderful hobby.

PORTRAIT OF THE OL' SARGE

By Louis S. Steinberg

"I have collected a lot of toy soldiers, done conversions and restorations for other collectors for many, many years, and I'm known across the world from the USA to Japan as... "Brit."

The year was 1919. It was the sixteenth of August. Davenport, Iowa, was not quite muggy, but way balmy enough for its 87 degrees at this time of the year. Although fall was quickly approaching and the climate would change, the recent earlier rains had not been enough to cool down the city. However, the nightly mist off the mighty Mississippi River was sure to make the evening comfortable.

Celebration at their house, a few blocks from the river took the better part of the day for Fred E. and Mary Jane Britton. They welcomed the birth of their son Orville Clarence, whom they graciously endowed with the names of his two uncles.

Within the year, the Britton's clan with Orville and his three older sisters relocated to Kansas City and then shortly afterwards to Cleveland, Ohio. He says, "It's hard for me to imagine all that family moving in the mid twenties by train, of course. My father always seemed to get a better position with each new move, although I don't remember much of the details."

As Orville Clarence grew, he soon became O. C. and took the nickname, "Brit." He was quick to let me know it was necessary to condense the name to keep from getting beat up and anyway, it sounded much better. So O.C. "Brit" Britton became a tough teen.

"My father was a mental giant, an architectural draftsman, but his alcoholism made us at home feel the present depression more than most, and my mother, realizing I was running with a wild sort of bunch, urged me out of the house. It was true but we really never got into any trouble and it was better than growing up in Davenport as a river rat," he emphasizes.

He continues... "When I think back about my childhood, you know, different than a lot of collectors and being a product of those depression years, I don't ever remember having toy soldiers as a kid."

At seventeen he left home with very light baggage.

Well, Brit's life changed with a trip back to Davenport where his uncle Clarence gave him a chance at bartending at his Kelly's Tavern over on Locust Street. For background color, I must say here that Davenport was also the birthplace of Bix Beiderbecke, the famous musical genius in the jazz era of the 20's. Brit mentions, "I used to serve his father, also called Bix, shots and beers. A real gentleman he was." Oh yeah.. we all can imagine that with "shots and beers?"



Ol' Sarge, Brit, at workbench with trusted grandson, "sidekick" Jake.



Helmut, you dumkoff ! Da planes are up der!

PORTRAIT OF THE OL' SARGE (Cont.)



Mr. Joplin, the Ol' Sarge salutes you and through me he extends his thanks.



I still say the Navy's better than the Army.



When you follow the horses, you do what you have to do.



You know what burns me up?
A knock, knock joke.

Within a short few years the heaviness of World War II enveloped the country. The Army was expanding. More and more troops were needed. In April of '42 the draft took Brit.

After basic, he was assigned to a newly formed medical regiment at Camp Barkeley near Abilene, Texas, where he stayed thru '44 eventually becoming staff sergeant. "It took me awhile to make the grade. The Colonel and I, at times, did not have the same thinking. Colonels always win between themselves and sergeants."

However, during that year the best thing that happened to the young sarge was a beautiful wartime romance when he happened upon the looks and charm of Viola Louise Collins of Little Rock, Arkansas. "Vi and I were married in Abilene in October of '44. By then I was assigned to a general hospital unit. Shortly thereafter our unit shipped out."

"The unknown destination became the island of Tinian in the Marianas. Our orders were to build a hospital to prepare for the many wounded expected from our invasion of Japan. It never happened. The atom bombs, flown from a field about a mile from our area, removed the need for the invasion...(a long pause)....with so many guys the world over being killed and wounded, I was damned lucky to have stayed out of harms way...just doing my best with whatever assignment was handed to me," he said.

Uncle Sam thanked Brit for his service and discharged him from his Army in Ft. Lewis, Washington, in January of '46. Vi's family had already chosen to leave Arkansas and to relocate to Oregon where opportunities seemed much better. "Our first daughter was born in Oregon while I was still in the Pacific Theater," says Brit.

"We lived in Salem, Oregon, for six years. It was there that I learned the cabinet maker's trade and stuck with it. Working long hours, developing skills, learning the machinery, and raising a family took up most of every day. Toy soldiering hadn't yet found space in my already overloaded head," explains Brit.

It was 1953 when Brit returned to Cleveland to become a working foreman in a highly intense, creative shop, building displays for major corporations exhibiting at the many trade shows across the country. "I was occupied with lots of work and lots of travel."

Time was continually of the essence. Delivery schedules must be met. A massive welding job of some very intricate ironwork finally had been completed. Then Brit and his crew knocked off a few hours early. It was now time to unwind.

"While walking past some storefront antique shops, I spotted a small metal figure in one of the windows. I went in and bought it. As a late comer to the hobby, this was the beginning of my toy soldier collecting. I distinctly remember the figure was a Grey Iron Officer", said Brit.

He goes on with, "From that one figure I became somewhat addicted to collecting. At the toy shows I was buying every type of related soldier and accessory that I could afford. I hit the flea markets and forever looked forward to the bigger Chicago and Indy shows.

"At one show I picked up a flyer advertising toy soldiers by mail. So, I then also added more pieces by that avenue. A while later I discovered sellers' lists that offered figures for repair.

PORTRAIT OF THE OL' SARGE (Cont.)



I'll raise your five.....and bet my granma's gold tooth.



Can you blow "Back Home Again in Indiana?"

Realizing the tinkerer that I am, I bought and learned repairing by doing and experiencing the proven trial-and-error method on any wounded soldiers that I could find."

"During that time of obsession, I found and joined a toy soldier club of twenty plus members that was nearby our home in Olmsted Falls. It's a very informal group and we still have the same president for over twenty years. No one else wants the job.

"Oh, the club's name is 'The Western Reserve Mini Men' and the membership fluctuates. That is, people move away and some die. At first we had a few WW II vets attending. Now I'm the only vet left."

"I was repairing for a couple of club guys and had made some conversions using my own ideas. Soon I was asked by others to do work, which I did. I don't know, but somehow word got around that I was fixing and making stuff, most always Dimestore pieces."

"In our basement I have set up a pretty nice work area for cutting, sawing, reshaping, making and casting parts in plaster and rubber molds, soldering or epoxying and then painting.

"As for my tools of choice, I have always used a powered, Dremel, hand unit plus Swiss patterned needle files and a smallish cuticle tool that helps me shape molds for casting parts. Always loose the damned thing in all the clutter."

Brit often cast parts for the conversions he was working on, and had developed his own methods of using modeling clay to hold together the pieces for soldering. Busted up Manoil and Barclay soldiers are preferred to be used for his conversion efforts because there are so many available poses that can be easily re-configured. He says, "A sculptor I am not. By using various parts from the older figures, I shamelessly avail myself of the expertise of those long gone experts of sculpting. Anyway, if I took a lump of clay and spent the time to work it into something, it would still look like a lump of clay."



How 'bout tuning in "The Hit Parade?"



R & R in Hawaii. Is this great duty or not ??



With my gal, it's the only way I can get to first base.

PORTRAIT OF THE OL' SARGE (Cont.)

"Guess I have about done it all in conversions and restorations for collectors from the east coast of the USA to the west coast of Japan.

"Furthermore, I can say that I have always enjoyed doing so. It has been an enjoyable addition to an already enjoyable hobby, especially making a bunch of friends along the way," he states with a lengthy silence of deep reflection.

Now, that ol' tough kid; the ol' bartender; the ol' sarge; the ol' lover; the ol' cabinet maker; the ol' foreman; and, the ol' toy soldier artist, at the still spry age of 88, feels he has yet more soldiering ideas to fabricate into the best, conversion toy soldiers, he has ever made. May he be forever blessed with all the time he needs.

Vi and Brit will soon celebrate their 63rd year of marriage. Not bad for a first marriage! And, it is more than sensational for a wartime romance deemed by most never to be successful.

"After all this time, it must be OK," barking with authority, says the Ol' Sarge.



Come on, Habachi, we're only acting.



Mr. Eastwood, we're ready to take the scene.



Roll 'em! Momma wants a new pair of shoes!



Herr Capitan, please keep dat veapon sthll.



Fritz, I can't figure out what you're doin der?



Surveying....What chusky deployment.



Sure, Baby, we'll take you and your twin sister to America!



DYNAMITING!! Now that's what I like! Have a JUG swig.

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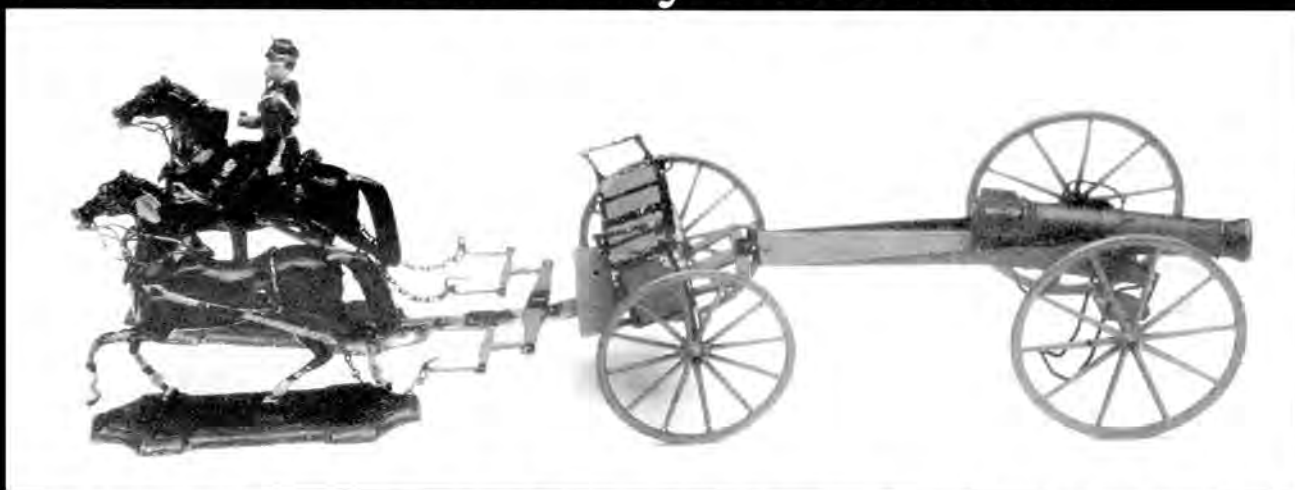
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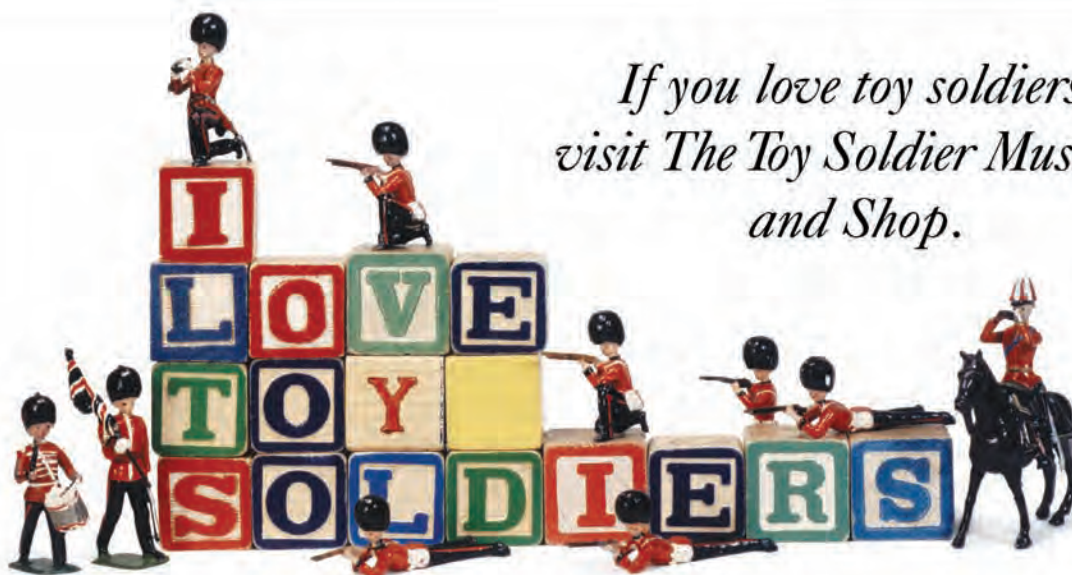
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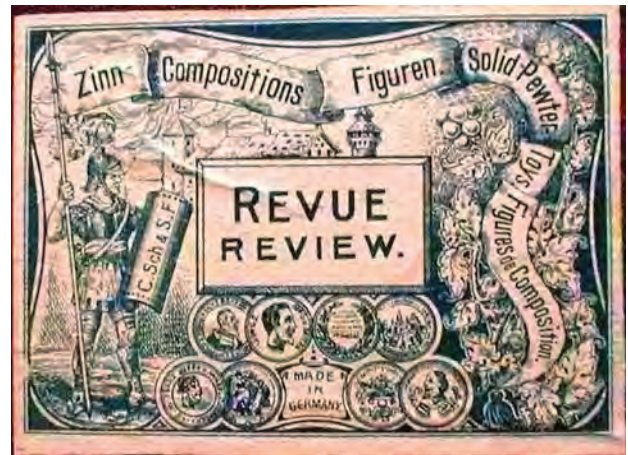
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A LOOK AT THE LABELS AND TRADEMARKS OF THE OLD GERMAN MAKERS PART 4: MORE NEW DISCOVERIES

By Earl Jorgensen

In the past few months, three boxed sets displaying the labels of some of the lesser known old German makers have been located on internet auction sites.

The first set features a very ornately engraved label displaying a trademark in the form of a standing Roman Centurion. In one hand he holds a lance with an unfurled banner which describes the contents of the box in three languages; "Zinn Compostion Figuren", "Solid Pewter Toys" and "Figures de Composition". His other hand holds a rectangular shield marked with the letters "C.Sch. & S.F." which represents both the maker's initials and location. In this case, the set is the work of Conrad Schildknecht & Son located in the town of Furth (1840-1900). The phrase "Made in Germany" also appears on the label.



A label displaying the trademark of Conrad Schildknecht & Son.



A figure from the Schildknecht set.

The label does not describe the specific type of "figuren" contained within but is simply marked "Revue" and "Review". The box contains a beautiful set of figures painted to represent the United States Army, circa late 1880's. Since we have the presence of a registered trademark along with the contents presented in multiple languages, the set was likely produced for the export market and the type of figures would indicate that the United States was the intended country of destination.

The label of the second box displays another rather unique trademark in the form of a circular medal or lapel pin with an attached bottom plaque. The circular portion contains a delightful illustration of a young boy playing soldier. His uniform consists of a folded paper hat and he carries a banner into battle, riding his toy horse over a half wreath of evergreen boughs and lighted candles. The banner is marked "Fine Compostions-Figuren" and the letters "M W N" are individually located at his sides and feet. Once again, the letters provide the maker's initials and location. The set was produced by the firm of Martin Winterbauer (Nuremberg). The attached plaque is marked with the phrase "Made in Germany".



The label and trademark representing the firm of Martin Winterbauer.

A LOOK AT THE LABELS AND TRADEMARKS *(Cont.)*



The Winterbauer set as found.

The label of third box is a bit of a puzzle. Unlike the two previous sets, the label displays neither trademark nor country of origin. It is only marked with a description of the contents, once again presented in multiple languages; "Cavalerie avec Infanterie", "Kavallerie mit Infanterie" and "Cavalry with Infantry". As indicated, the box contains a beautiful set of foot and mounted figures painted to represent the United States Army, circa 1890's. The figures are in mint condition and still tied to their original packing card.



The box label attributed to the firm of Carl Scheller.



The Scheller set box with figures (note American flag).

I've included this set because it represents one of the great unknowns for those of us who collect turn-of-the-century German-made toy soldiers, the mystery of the unmarked boxed set. Why would an old German maker produce a high quality set of toy soldiers and not wish to take credit for his work? Since a trademark was required for overseas export it could be assumed that the set was intended for the local marketplace or perhaps the set was produced for an overseas retailer who intended to place his own name on the box.

Fortunately, in this case our set can be identified. The label is identical to a photograph of a label found on page 189 in the Old German Toy Soldiers book. According to the author, the set was produced by the firm of Carl Scheller which was located in the town of Kassel (1840-1924). The fact that the contents are presented in multiple languages along with the presence of toy soldiers representing the United States Army would seem to indicate that Scheller likely produced the set for export to America but then again, we'll never really know.

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THE CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS, SET #1901

By Joe Wallis



Set 1902 Cape Town Highlanders in green Types of the Colonial Army Box

Three sets representing regiments of South African troops were introduced by Britains Ltd. in November 1940. They were the Regiment Louw Wepener of Set #1900, the Capetown Highlanders of Set #1901, and the Union of South Africa Defence Force Infantry of Set #1900. I will delineate the history of the most prevalent of these sets: the Cape Town Highlanders, for they remained in the catalog for twelve years, while the Louw Wepener were discontinued after 1949, and the Infantry of the Union of South Africa Defence Force ceased to be made after 1941.

On April 24, 1885, the Cape Town Highlanders were established as a volunteer regiment formed from the residents of Cape Colony, South Africa who had Scottish ancestry. They adopted the Gordon tartan—the only regiment other than the Gordon Highlanders of the British Army to wear it. The South African regiment also adopted the same regimental march “Cock ‘o the North” as the Gordon Highlanders, and shared the motto of “Bydand” (meaning Steadfast), as well as their Latin motto of “Nemo Me Impune Lacessit (meaning “no man challenges me with impunity”).



Set 1901 Cape Town Highlanders in Regiments of All Nations Box.

THE CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS, SET #1901 (*Cont.*)

The Cape Town Highlanders' first active campaigning was as part of the Bechuanaland Field Force that put down a native rebellion in the Langberg Mountains led by Chief Luka Jantje. The regiment received the battle honor of Bechuanaland 1896-1897 for their service. During the Boer War of 1899-1902, the Cape Town Highlanders numbered 464 men in 1899, and guarded lines of communication. Some of its officers and men volunteered to serve in "A" Squadron of Kitchener's Horse when this volunteer unit was raised in January 1900 to provide more mounted units to fight the highly mobile Boers. As part of the 1st Mounted Infantry Brigade, Kitchener's Horse participated in the Relief of the besieged town of Kimberly.

The First World War record of the regiment included helping to conquer German Southwest Africa (now Namibia) in 1915, fighting in Northern Africa in 1916 against the Senussi tribesmen, and then trench warfare in France from 1916-1918. Their most notable combat was as part of the 4th South African Infantry Battalion of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade at Delville Wood during the Battle of the Somme. Only 780 out of 4,000 men in the Brigade survived after 20,000 German artillery shells landed on a one-square-mile area on July 18, 1916.

Before World War I, the regiment had become the Duke of Connaught and Strathern's Own Cape Town Highlanders. In 1932, this title was rearranged to that of the Cape Town Highlanders (Duke of Connaught and Strathern's Own).

The regiment was mobilized for duty in 1939, but stayed in South Africa until 1941 when it escorted large numbers of Italian prisoners of war from Egypt to camps in South Africa. The Highlanders then went back to Egypt to serve with the 1st South African Infantry Division (so they missed the Abyssinian campaign, but fought in the Western Desert campaign against Rommel's Afrika Corps at El Alamein). After helping to drive the Germans out of North Africa, the Cape Towners obtained battle honors for Monte Cassino, Monte Sole, the Po Valley, and the Italian Campaign during 1944-45.

In 1947, after a hiatus following the death in 1942 of the Duke of Connaught, Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother—wife of King George VI) became Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. Accordingly, their title was changed to: "The Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders," and they guarded the Royal Family's quarters during the 1947 Royal Visit to South Africa. In 1961, when the Union of South Africa declared itself an independent republic and left the British Commonwealth, the regiment reverted to simply "The Cape Town Highlanders."

In 2000, the Highlanders paraded the Colour on the Horse Guards Parade in London on the occasion of the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday celebration, and they also provided a contingent for her funeral procession in 2002. The Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders appeared in the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006. They now serve in the South African National Defence Force as a mechanized infantry regiment, but still retain their kilts with the Gordon tartan for ceremonial dress.

The Britains Ltd. rendition of the Cape Town Highlanders featured khaki tunics and Wolseley sun helmets, kilts with the Gordon tartan (yellow hatching on dark green), grass green waist belt, and khaki gaiters. The seven men marched at the slope with fixed bayonets; their empty-handed officer wore brown gloves and a brown waist belt. Set #1901 appeared from 1940-41, but then was reintroduced from 1948-1959. In addition to the two sets illustrated I have also seen it in an Armies of the Worlds box. The casting used for the Cape Town Highlanders was derived from the Cameron Highlanders marching in Tropical Dress of Set #114, but with fixed bayonets and painted with the Gordon tartan.

After 1949, Set #1901, Cape Town Highlanders was the only remaining set in the Britains catalog representing South Africa (except for the Zulu Warriors of Set #147). It is interesting to speculate that perhaps they were revived in 1948 because of the publicity associated with the Royal Family's visit to South Africa in 1947, but it could simply be that as a Highlander unit they were an attractive and therefore popular set. The Cape Town Highlanders were not found in any other set than #1901.

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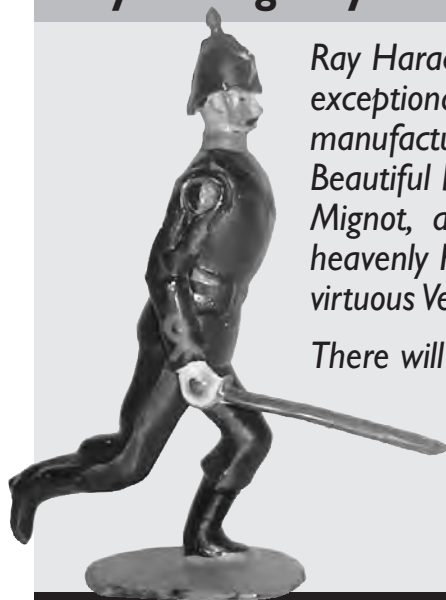
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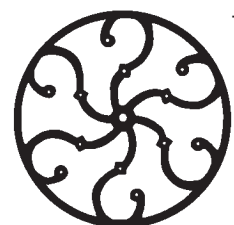
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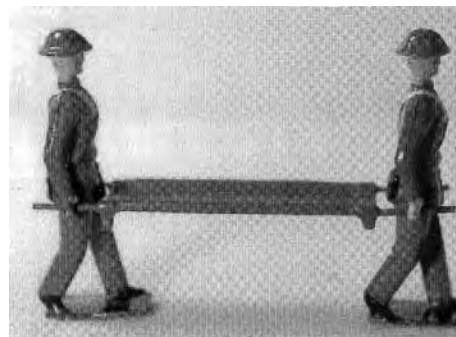
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HORRAY FOR EBAY SOME "NEW" TOY SOLDIERS

By Richard O'Brien

American Mint was a corporation that, sometime in the late 1930s, began selling candy containers whose circular outsides displayed brightly-colored soldiers of the world. There were four types; Troopers, Doughboys, Minute Men and Yanks.

When I reported on them in my book "Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers", I knew at least one illustration was missing: the soldier who represented Switzerland. Fellow-collector Tom Quinn and I vaguely believed at least one more needed to be added: A Yank in a rakishly-tilted campaign cap. But neither of us was quite sure of this.

Because of that possible Yank and the Swiss, from time to time I've trolled my computer for American Mints. Until this year I'd had no luck. Then, in one day I found not only those two questions answered, but learned about six Yanks I'd never heard of before.

A Yank "Ski-Trooper" was being auctioned off on eBay. And along with his photo was another of what seemed to be every known American Mint. There was "Switzerland"! And there too was the Yank with the askew cap Tom and I had thought we'd remembered! He was a "Military Police". Standing there with him at the bottom row was also the rest of the Yanks, who probably were issued shortly after World War Two began: "Admiral", "Pursuit Pilot", "Parachutist", "Infantry Man", "Nurse", "Marine", "Ski Soldier", "Army Officer" and "Gob". What an unexpected array!

I got in touch with the seller, Patrick Boyer, who told me he'd added all those pieces to the auction site in the hope it would stimulate information on the company. He and his cousin, William Kaiser, are American Mint aficionados. William began buying them in the late 1930s, for a penny apiece. In the 1950s, whenever Patrick had been "a very good boy", he was allowed to play with them. They've obviously researched the subject; Patrick sent me two photos of the building American Mint had been in, both about what it looked like when American Mint was in business, and more recently, after it had been converted to condominiums, with balconies added.



AMERICAN MINTS:

Top, third from left, "Switzerland".

Bottom row, left to right: all Yanks: "Admiral", "Pursuit Pilot", "Parachutist", "Infantry Man", "Nurse", "Military Police", "Marine", "Ski Soldier", a bit of "Army Officer".



The building which housed American Mint, at 114 East 13th Street, Manhattan, NYC



The same building, post-1984, after it had gone condo, with balconies (seen at left) added.

HORRAY FOR EBAY (Cont.)

Happily, I was able to furnish the two collectors with some new information. They'd never known that "Japan" existed. It looks exactly like "China", even to the same uniform color.

Apparently, like most collectors, Patrick has wound up with some extras. He's offered them on eBay, and told me he'd recently sold the Yank Army Officer for \$120, a Minute Man "Sweden" for \$70, and that last year he'd sold a few and averaged thirty to sixty dollars apiece, depending on their condition. However, he's never had a Yank sell for less than \$100. Wartime shortages may have curtailed their run.

Patrick's not really interested in selling. He lists them in the hopes "that others will see the prices they're bringing and sell theirs. I'm still, buying and upgrading (us old collectors never quit)".

This seems to complete the sets of American Mints. Except that I have a vague memory, far vaguer than my remembrance of the Military Policeman; a rather insane looking Yank general with a white moustache. I've told Patrick that I'm probably wrong, but who knows?

If any readers want to check out American Mints on eBay, I suggest they start with: 1930s American Mint Corp. That's how Patrick begins his headlines.

Two other "new" soldiers turned up last year, also on eBay. What was being offered was a boxed set of Toy Creations soldiers. The box top was the same as the one shown in my book. But some of the soldiers were different, and unlike any Toy Creations I'd seen. They were four pilots and two soldiers at searchlights. They looked like Metal Casts. I checked my book and there they were: 22A Aviator and 26A Anti-Aircraft Soldier.



Metal Casts produced and sold by Toy Creations



American Mint, left to right: "Gob", "Army Officer"

There was a possibility someone had just filled out the box with the Metal Casts. But another possibility was that Toy Creations had made new molds from the Metal Cast pieces. Or simply that Toy Creations had obtained the molds, which of course were sold to the general public.

After the auction was over, I got in touch with the winner (unfortunately I forgot to ask his permission to use his name, so I can't identify him; but the price realized was \$ 1025). He confirmed that the two "Metal Casts" had exactly the same paint as the others in the set, so obviously they'd originated with Toy Creations. He also compared them with his own Metal Casts and it was obvious to him they'd come from original Metal Cast molds.

So here's something more to look for, if you've got some American Alloys, whose paint you can compare to seemingly "Metal Cast" soldiers.

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HOW I CONVERTED A BARCLAY TOY SOLDIER TO A WOUNDED WORLD WAR I GERMAN SOLDIER (PART I)

By Roger Dubois

In the 2006 summer issue of *Old Toy Soldier* journal, I wrote an article that described six ways to convert a Dimestore toy soldier. As was noted a Dimestore figure may be converted by (1) repainting it with colors not used by the manufacture, (2) attaching equipment to it, (3) removing some part from it and repairing the holes and/or scratches left behind, (4) changing the position of one or more body parts original to it, (5) removing something intact or broken from a figure and replacing it with a new part not original to the figure, and (6) combining two or all three processes explained in categories 3 through 5.

Although many readers may have found this article informative, others with a desire to convert may have wished that the article had included a description on how I convert a Dimestore figure. Therefore, for those of you with that wish, I will describe in this article how I converted a Dimestore soldier to a wounded World War I German Soldier.

The figure that I chose to convert is the Barclay (711) short stride Drum Major. When I bought it, the upper extended portion of the baton was broken off, the tin helmet was missing, and most of the paint was gone. In that condition, the figure was a prime candidate to undergo conversion.

Materials:

Two-part epoxy putty will be the important material that I will use to convert this figure. It is manufactured by a number of firms, and can be purchased on the Web, at military miniature shows, from some hobby stores, and from many hardware stores.

Based on what I hear at shows, *A+B* and *Milliput* are popular brands among hobbyists. For this article, however, I will use *Oatey Epoxy Putty*. I chose this product because it is readily available, and can be found in the plumbing department of The Home Depot store.

Oatey comes in a roll consisting of a dark gray core surrounded by a white outer coat. To use this putty, I cut off a slice from the roll and knead it until all of it turns a light gray color. It will harden in about three minutes, so I must work fairly fast.

Besides epoxy putty, I will use paint remover, a hobby knife, toothpicks, needle files, super glue, and a cup of water.

In addition, I will also employ a miniature razor saw, a 1/16-inch drill bit with a split point that drills on contact (I use a Craftsman bit), motor tool to drill with, and 1/16-inch diameter brass rod that can be purchased at most hobby stores in one foot lengths.

Finally, I will need a tube of gap-filling putty that once again can be purchased at a hobby store. For filling small gaps and scratches, I use Bondo Glazing & Spot Putty that I buy from an automobile supply store. The product works well, and I get a lot of putty for my money.

Safety Precautions:

As you know, Dimestore figures are hollow casts made of lead, and lead is a toxic substance. Therefore, I take the following precautions to protect my love ones and myself.

Before sanding, grinding, or cutting into a lead figure or epoxy putty attached to it, I put on a dust mask that covers my nose and mouth so that I do not accidentally inhale or swallow some of these particles.

I wear safety glasses to protect my eyes.

And when finished for the day, I remove my work apron, brush myself so that I do not transport lead particles to other rooms in my house, vacuum my workspace and wash my hands.

Finally, I do not allow food, drink, or children in my workspace at any time.

Converting Process:

The first thing that I want to do to this figure is to remove all of its paint with paint remover purchased from a hardware store (Photo 1). Once this is done, I'm ready to begin.

The following is a list of steps explaining how I converted a Barclay figure into a wounded German Soldier.



Photo 1. Barclay 711 without paint.

HOW I CONVERTED A BARCLAY TOY SOLDIER TO A WOUNDED WORLD WAR I GERMAN SOLDIER (PART I) *(Cont.)*

1. Removing the baton and adding a walking staff: I cut the parts of the baton that extend from the arm with a miniature razor saw. Then I file the remaining part of the baton that rests on the figure's arm until the arm surface is flat.

With a 1/16-inch drill bit, I drill a hole through the figure's right hand that once held the baton. From my 1/16-inch diameter brass rod, I cut a 3 1/2 -inch length and insert this rod segment through the hole in the hand. The figure is now walking with a staff (Photo 2).

2. Making a backpack: A backpack of a World War I German Soldier primarily consisted of a pack that contained personal items, a mess kit attached to the back, and a roll tied to the right, top, and left sides of the back. Each of these three items is relatively easy to construct with epoxy putty.

I make the pack first by slicing about 1/4-inch from the putty roll and kneading it into the shape of a ball. Once the putty has turned a light gray, I set it down and go wash my hands with soap and water using a scrubbing pad. Fresh putty is fairly easy to remove with soap and water. When it hardens on thumbs and fingers, however, it takes some scrubbing to remove it. Better yet, you might consider wearing thin latex gloves when kneading putty. Dust the fingers with baby powder to prevent sticking.

With clean hands, I am ready to apply the putty ball to the back of the figure. But before we do so, I wet the back of the figure to prevent the putty from adhering to it. When completed, the full backpack will be easier to paint if it is separated from the figure. I will glue the backpack to the figure after it and the figure have been painted.

With wet fingers, I press the putty ball against the center back of the figure until the putty is about 3/16's of an inch thick. Then with the wet blade of a hobby knife I cut off the edges so that the pack is about 1/2 an inch long and about 3/8's of an inch wide (Photo 3). Once this is done, I carefully remove the pack from the figure and let dry.

Now comes the roll. Using the smallest amount of super glue, I tack the dried pack to the back of the figure. I knead more putty, wash my hands, and roll the kneaded putty back and forth on a clean surface until the roll is about three inches long with a thickness of about 3/16's of an inch. With the wet blade of a hobby knife, I cut one end of the roll to make an even surface.

I wet the back of the figure again, and using the side of a wet knife blade, I lightly press the cut end to the bottom right or left side of the pack and continue to lightly press the rest of the roll onto the pack.

When the roll is secured to the pack, I cut off the remaining excessive portion of the roll (Photo 4).



Photo 2. Figure with walking staff.



Photo 3. Shaping the pack with hobby knife.



Photo 4. Trimming the roll.

HOW I CONVERTED A BARCLAY TOY SOLDIER TO A WOUNDED WORLD WAR I GERMAN SOLDIER (PART I) *(Cont.)*



Photo 5. Making tie impressions.



Photo 6. Trimming the mess kit.



Photo 7. Flattening the hole cap.

While the putty is still soft, I use a toothpick to make indentation marks along each side where the ties would be located (Photo 5). I also make indentation marks on the inside bends of the roll along the top of the pack to show wrinkles (Photo 5).

The last piece of equipment to make is the mess kit. I knead enough putty so that when it is rolled out it will be no more than an inch long with a thickness of about 3/16's of an inch.

Next I slice the roll in half lengthwise with the blade of a wet knife. I place one of the halves across the top of the pack and lightly press the half roll onto the pack with the wet side of a knife blade. I trim the roll so that the mess kit will be about 3/16's of an inch in length (Photo 6).

Once the kit has dried, I gently pry the backpack from the figure with my knife. The backpack is now finished and ready for painting.

3. Capping the head opening: Because the helmet is missing, the hole in the top of the head needs to be capped. I begin by kneading a small amount of epoxy putty into a ball.

With clean hands and wet fingers, I flatten the ball to the size of a dime. Then I carefully place the flattened putty over the hole.

I use a wet toothpick or a wet knife blade to smooth the top and edges of the putty (Photo 7), trying to avoid pressing the putty into the hole. If I do, I don't worry about it because after the putty has dried, I can backfill with fresh putty.

Once the cap has dried, I file the top and edges until the head looks natural.

4. Making a head bandage: My conversion is of a wounded soldier. I could place a bandage any place on the body, but I chose the head.

I knead and roll out a small amount of epoxy putty. Using a wet tool, I press one end of the roll against one side of the forehead and continue pressing the putty around the head. I remove excessive putty with a wet knife blade.

I flatten the upper and lower edges of the bandage with my knife, and file the rough edges once the putty has dried. When painting begins, the bandage will be painted white and a spot of red paint will be applied to the forehead to depict the location of the head wound.

5. Making a collar: I'm not satisfied with the configuration of the figure's collar because it is part of an American uniform. I want a collar that looks more like its part of a German uniform.

I knead and roll out a small amount of epoxy putty. Using a wet tool, I press one end of the roll in front of the figure where a corner of a collar would be located and continue to press the roll about half way around the figure's neck (Photo 8). I then remove the excessive putty above and below the collar with a knife, and shape the collar edges and corner. Once the collar is dried, I then return to finish the second half. When the putty has dried, I file rough edges (Photo 9).

This two-step approach for making a collar is taken because shaping the two collar corners in close proximity to each other is a difficult task for me. I complete shaping one corner and as I work on the second, I often damage the first. So I construct a collar in two stages.

HOW I CONVERTED A BARCLAY TOY SOLDIER TO A WOUNDED WORLD WAR I GERMAN SOLDIER (PART I) *(Cont.)*



Photo 8. Applying putty roll to form collar.



Photo 9. The finished collar.



Photo 10. Filing-and-filling putties.

I learned to construct collars because I frequently rotate or replace the head of a figure. After I glue the head to a body, a seam exists between the body and head that needs to be covered. With the seam hidden by a collar, the figure takes on a more realistic look.

6. Removing the puttees: I want my figure to wear boots, not puttees. To remove them, I file the puttee ridges and fill the valleys with gap-filling putty (Photo 10).

After drying, I file the putty and inspect the results. I may need to continue to fill-and-file until I am satisfied with the appearance of the figure.

7. Making a mustache: The facial expression of many short-stride Barclay figures is not to my liking. I alter the expression, in a positive way from my point of view, by making a mustache, which I do by adding a small amount of rolled epoxy putty in the space between the upper lip and the cheekbone.

Once again with the wet side of a knife blade, I press down on the rolled putty and trim the edges. With the tip of the blade, I cut short vertical lines in the putty to give the mustache texture.

8. Prime the figure: I prime the figure and when dried, I check my work. I may find that the bandage or the puttees need more work, more filling-and-filing. I do whatever needs to be done to make the figure look pleasing to me.

After inspecting my German figure, I find the work is acceptable (Photos 11 and 12) and now I'm ready to paint. Soon I will paint the wounded German, and a photo of it will appear in my next article where I will offer some tips on painting Dimestore conversions.

In summary, I wrote this article to show readers how I converted a Barclay figure to a wounded German soldier of the Great War. For those of you who convert toy figures, I hope that you have found some useful bits of information.

If you have never attempted to convert a Dimestore, you might give it try. You need not convert the Barclay model figure that I have used in this article. Use your imagination and try another figure.

If you make a wounded conversion, you may decide to change the location of the bandage or add more bandages to arms and/or legs. Instead of a German soldier, you might just make an American soldier walking with a staff. In the end what you do or how you do it is totally up to you.

Finally, I wish to thank Lou Steinberg for taking time to review this article and for offering constructive comments and encouragement. And I also wish to state that I do not profess to be an expert in the art of converting Dimestore toy soldiers. However, if you have questions, e-mail them to me at dubois@umbc.edu and I'll do my best to help you. In addition if you feel that there is a better way of executing one or more steps that I have described or that I failed to mention something important in the section on Safety Precautions, please e-mail me your thoughts. Good luck converting toy figures, and see you at the shows.



Photo 11. Front view of finished figure.



Photo 12. Back view of finished figure.



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CATCHING HERRINGS

By John C. Stewart

My first contact with Herrings Toy Soldiers occurred several years ago at the Old Toy Soldier Show in Schaumburg, IL during the pre-show room trading. I had only recently caught the toy soldier collecting bug and set out to collect whatever caught my fancy. Like many, I was attracted to old Britains, so I was excited to find a dealer with an unboxed set #177 Austrian Infantry of the Line at an unbelievably low price. Alas, it was a case of too good to be true, combined with my own naiveté. I snatched the very good condition set, handed over a wad of bills and then (!) asked "What can you tell me about these?" hoping that the dealer would say something about how my new acquisition had once belonged to Douglas Fairbanks or Malcolm Forbes. But no. Instead he said, "Those? Those are Herrings." What could I do? So I confidently replied something like, "Ah yes! Of course. Good old Herrings." And then beat a hasty retreat.

Let me get the obvious pun out of the way right off. Initially, this set presented a red herring. It distracted me from my Britains collection, but then again there was something charming about these figures. With their bright colors, ramrod bearing, and rosy complexion, the set captured, for me, the delight of the traditional toy soldier art.

A few years later I met Alan Gwin of Florida at a Chicago show and purchased a boxed set of Herrings representing a British rifle regiment. But also from Mr. Gwin I purchased a set of French Matelots done by Richards Soldiers that sported a box label almost identical to Herrings. The plot thickened. Then, some time after this show, I discovered and purchased several more Herrings sets. Now Herrings has become its own focal point in my collection.

So what was the Herrings Toy Soldier Company? With the help of several authorities, I've pieced together only a few facts and conjectures. In many ways there ends up being more questions than answers, but my hope is that with this initial article, perhaps others out there in the world of toy soldier collectors will come forward with more information on this company.

Richard Herrings lived on the East coast, possibly Upstate New York or Greenwich, CT in the late 1970's when Herrings Soldiers first appeared. Most of the authorities I consulted agreed that Mr. Herrings was backed by a couple of investors by the name of Daniel Keefe and Don Silver, both of New York. Most authorities also suggested that Herrings, Keefe, and Silver were trying to revive the glory days of Britains. Perhaps, and not coincidentally, Herrings appeared soon after the Douglas Fairbanks Jr. toy soldier collection netted an until then unheard of figure of approximately \$14,000 at auction. So Herrings joined the parade of what Ron Ruddle of London Bridge Toys called the "First Revival" of toy soldiers after the demise of Britains, along with such makers as Brigade Miniatures, Panoply Knights, and Marlborough.

Part of this revival also included some fine tuning in that great toy soldier game of, "The sets I wish Britains had also made". Robert Helm, long time proprietor of the Military Miniatures of Greenwich Shop in Connecticut, remembers something Richard Herrings once said about wishing that Britains had put an officer in each box of infantry marching. Herrings Soldiers earliest numbered sets seem to bear this desire out. Sets Numbers 1, 3, and 4 all include an officer with sword. Oddly, the middle batch of sets; Numbers 5-7 at least, are all other ranks in uniform marching poses.

Herrings concentrated his output on pre-WWI figures. Steve Balkin of Burlington Antique Toys in Manhattan, who claims to have been the first shop to carry Herrings back in 1977, remembers a striking sample set of Belgian Machine Gun Crew 1914 complete with a dog drawn cart. Steve Balkin also remembered that Richard Herrings would do privately commissioned work as well. He remembers once visiting the widow of a former Peekskill, NY police officer who had a basement full of attractive displays featuring soldiers made by Herrings fighting a Zulu War battle and a "Land of Counterpane" type town with marching guards and band as well as a complimentary electric train. While no traditional Guardsmen in bearskin caps appear in Herrings Numerical List, occasionally sets of sixteen unboxed Scots Guards

CATCHING HERRINGS (Cont.)

do turn up on eBay. Whether these figures were once part of this or a similar display is not know. But years later, Mr. Balkin could still recall how impressed he was with this fabulous example of Richard Herrings' work.

But while it seems that Richard Herrings was the creative brains behind these efforts, it appears he wasn't the only muscle. According to Robert Helm, Herrings' college age son and at least one friend of this son did much of the early painting. Greg Hahn of Stone Castle Imports also remembers meeting Richard Herrings at his home and seeing his basement workshop where his wife did some painting. It is not clear who did the sculpting, mold-making and casting but it was probably Richard Herrings himself.

So what happened to Herrings Soldiers? Well, like many other small start ups, Herrings couldn't generate enough revenue. And Herrings' run wasn't long. The paper labels made some sets read "Herrings Soldiers. Copyright 1977."

Steve Balkin recalls 1977 as the year Richard Herrings first approached him to carry his soldiers at Balkin's shop. Robert Helm also remembers this being the time he began to carry Herrings. But by February or March of 1979, Ron Ruddle definitely recalls either Don Silver or Dan Keefe contacting him as to whether he would be interested in purchasing approximately 300 plain red boxes that had been left over after Herrings ceased producing sets. As to the number of sets, there weren't too many of those either. According to a numerical list of sets printed on a small piece of paper and now only sometimes found in boxed sets, Herrings soldiers began with thirteen planned sets:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. 41st Middlesex Rifle Volunteers | 8 |
| (Enfield Lock 1860) | |
| 2. Belgian Infantry 1914 | |
| 3. Rumanian Infantry 1916 | |
| 4. Austro Hungarian Cadets 1910 | 8 |
| 5. Royal Marine Light Infantry 1882 | 8 |
| 6. Scots Guards 1882 | |
| 7. Camel Regiment 1884 | |
| 8. Naval Brigade 1880 | |
| 9. 3rd London Rifle Volunteers 1891 | 8 |
| 10. German East African Colonial | 8 |
| Infantry 1916 | |
| 11. Gatling Gun 1882 with crew | 5 |
| 12. Belgian Machine gun 1914 with dog | 6 |
| drawn cart & crew | |
| 13. Transvaal Staats Artillerie | 4 |
| Gun 1899 with crew | |



Herrings Set #5 Royal Marine Light Infantry 1882

As the list suggests, Herrings Soldiers generally have a straightforward, eight man in a box design. From my own collection it is plain to see that at least set #1, 41st Middlesex Volunteers, 1860; and set #4, Austro Hungarian Cadets 1910 (my mistaken Britains #177!) share the same mold. The Middlesex Volunteers are painted in deep, rich Rifle green with red piping, except for the officer in his darker, almost black, green and no piping.

CATCHING HERRINGS *(Cont.)*



Richards Matelots



Herrings Set #5 Royal Marine Light Infantry 1882



Herrings Set #3 Romainian Infantry 1916



Herrings Set #6 Scots Guards 1882



Herrings Set #1 41st Middlesex Rifle Volunteers



Herrings Set #4 Austro Hungarian Cadets 1910



Herrings Set #7 Camel Regiment 1884

CATCHING HERRINGS *(Cont.)*

The A-H Cadets are resplendent in dark blue tunics with stunning red, nearly orange kepis and trousers. This eight man set also boasts an officer with drawn sword.

Set #5, the Royal Marine Light Infantry and set #6, Scots Guards are eight piece sets from the Egyptian Campaign of 1882. All eight privates are at the slope and wear khaki sun helmets. Set #7 continues the Egyptian campaigns of that era with the British Camel Corps of 1884. Again there are eight pieces, all are other ranks each in gray tunics and khaki trousers but this time they march at the trail. A nice touch is the green goggles around the helmets. But Robert Helm definitely recalls having ordered set #'s 11 & 12, however they were never delivered. This last bit of information is striking in that set #12, never delivered to Mr. Helm, did at least exist in sample form for Mr. Balkin to review in 1977.

It seems as if Herrings couldn't sustain itself as a viable company for a number of probable reasons. These reasons would most likely include undercapitalization, part-time labor and overcommitment in light of the number of artists involved. Additionally and specific to Herrings (though by no means unique) seems to be lack of a style identifiable as it's own, and the too often told tale of the financial backers and creative element not sharing a common vision. Finally, and perhaps most damaging, was simply the fact that Richard Herrings' son and his friend graduated from college and moved on. In this, Herrings seems to have lost a great deal of talent.

So Keefe and Silver parted ways with Richard Herrings. In doing so, they took the copyrighted Herrings Soldier name. Mr. Herrings tried to keep things going with Richards Soldiers. One sees the Richards Soldiers labels as a sad shadow of the former Herrings artwork. Instead of two dashing looking soldiers, there is one. True, a cannon has been added, but the Voltigeur looking figure now looks shriveled and forlorn and the rest of the artwork looks haphazard.

It was during the days of Richards Soldiers that Greg Hahn visited Herrings' basement workshop but Robert Helm also remembers hearing that some figures, at least, were being painted in the Caribbean somewhere. Richard Herrings also continued, as stated earlier, to take on private commissions. To see Herrings and Richard soldiers together is to see an interesting progression of development of the company's product. At least sets #1-4 are representative of a toyland approach to soldiers. By sets #6 & 7, the figures are not quite as static or toy like though they still portray a rather cheerful disposition. By the time we get to Richards Soldiers French Matelots, the figures have bulked up and while finished with a gloss shine, their countenance is now most grim and determined.

Despite the diminished box art, Richards Soldiers are quite attractive in themselves. And many of the Richards sets return to the tradition of the early Herrings sets by having one of the eight figures as an officer. It also appears that Richard Herrings, having struck out on his own, was more prolific in his soldier production. Until recently, Stone Castle Imports had over a dozen sets available and from time to time excellent condition boxed sets appear on eBay.

As a small time collector, Herrings Soldiers provide an opportunity to obtain an entire company's output. But for me, the attraction comes in the look of a product that appears to have been a real labor of love. And finally, there is this: At yet another Chicago show, I struck up a conversation with a well know Britains authority and asked him about Herrings. This gentleman replied that, "Yes, Herrings were charming figures but not worth much." And then he added in a rather cryptic tone, "But then again...they are getting old."

The author wishes to thank all those who shared information with him about Herrings soldiers. If any has further insights into this company feel free to contact the author at jkstewart@frontiernet.net.

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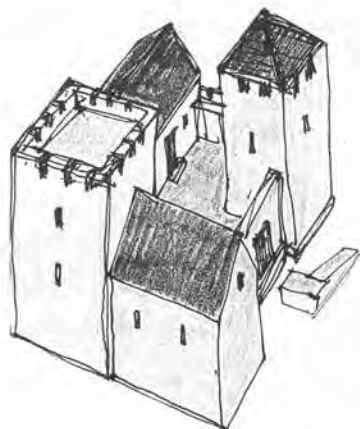
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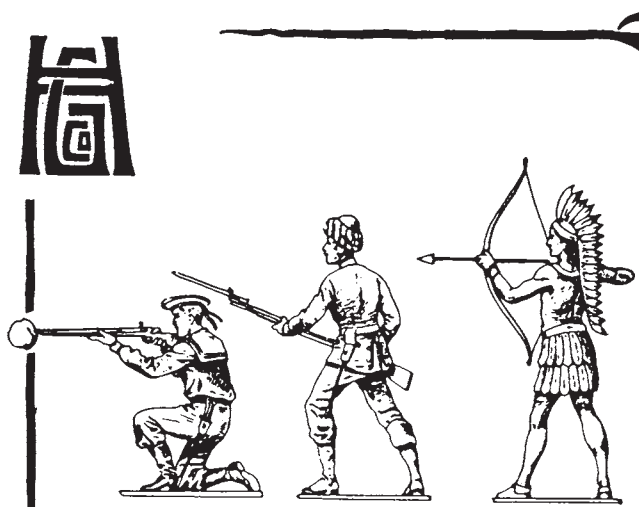
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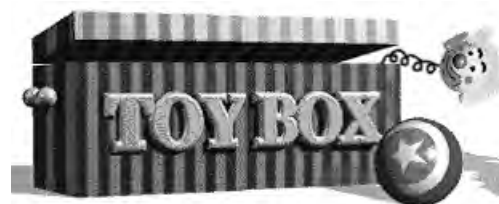
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May 26 – Saturday 10am - 6pm and May 27- Sunday 10am - 3pm. The Texas Show. Bolivar Hall - La Villita. 48 Villita Street. San Antonio. Texas. Contact Nick. Toy Soldiers of San Diego. 760 723 6583 Email tssd@sdsoldiers.com www.sdsoldiers.com Show web site www.sdsoldiers.co/texas_show.htm

June 3 – Sunday. Connecticut G.I Joe Show. North Haven Holiday Inn. Connecticut 10am-2pm Contact John Kozin 203 848 0980 Email onesixthsynd@aol.com

June 5 –Tuesday. Christies Toy Soldier and Toy Auction. Christies South Kensington, Old Brompton Road, London Contact 011 (44) 207 752 3274 Email hmarsh@christies.com

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

June 10 –Sunday. The New Jersey Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm Holiday Inn. 283 Route17 South Hasbrouck Heights N.J. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

June 12 – Tuesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knowle West Midlands. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk or Bonhams Leigh Gotch Telephone +44 8700 273 628. www.bonhams.com

June 17 – Sunday. Northwestern Pennsylvania Toy Soldier Show 10am – 3pm. Oil City Knights of Columbus Hall.111 Petroleum Street. Oil City. PA. Contact 814 354 6053 Email rasabousky@csonline.net

June 30- Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact Bob Neville +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoysoldiersshow.com

July 7 – Saturday. Annapolis Toy Soldier Show 9am-3pm Knights of Columbus. 2590 Solomans Island Road. Edgewater MD. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

July 12 – Thursday. Vectis Military, Civilian and Equipment Auction. Fleck Way. Thornaby. Stockton –on-Tees. England Contact +44 (0) 1642 750616 Email admin@vectis.co.uk www.vectis.co.uk

August 25 – Saturday. Dan Morphy's Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show.9am-3pm.York Fairgrounds Expo Center. West Market Street. York. PA. Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3435 Email dan-morphy@dejazzd.com

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

September 15 – Saturday. National Capital Model Soldier Society. 46th Annual Washington Show. Nova Community College, Ernst Center. 8333 Little River Turnpike. Annandale VA. Contact Glenn Merritt 703 938 6361.Email merrittgr@verizon.net

TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2007

September 23 -Sunday. OTSN's 27th Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show. 10am- 3:30pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, Illinois. 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630497 1239 Email dimestores@aol.com www.toysoldiershow.com

October 14 – Sunday. North East Toy Soldier Society. Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn. Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Matt Murphy 781-321-8855 matt@hobbybunker.com

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

November 3 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale. 10am- 4pm. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA. Contact Jim Hillestad Telephone 570 629 7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

November 4 - Sunday. 25th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-4pm. Rothmans Center. Fairleigh Dickinson University Hackensack, New Jersey. Contact Bill Lango 973 831 930 Email bill@vintagecastings.com

November 4 – Sunday. 8th Annual Toy Soldier Show. Cantigny Park and Museum, Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese 920-261-1323 Email camprandall@charter.net

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

November 20 - Tuesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knightsbridge London. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk www.bonhams.com or Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628

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

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

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

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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