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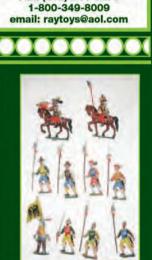


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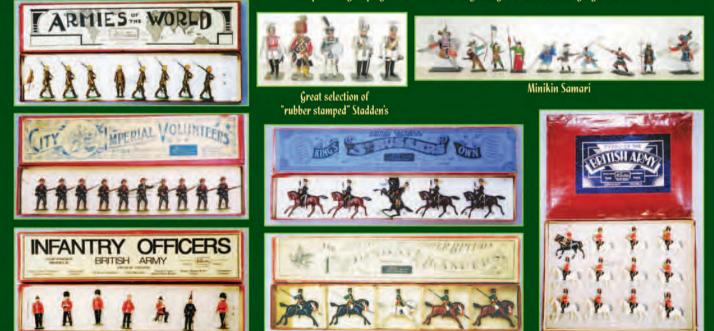
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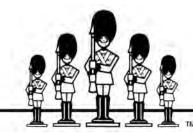


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Britains Bradford City Football Team Photo by Sue Joplin

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# **Advertising Rates**

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All display advertisements should be submitted on disc in MAC or PC format or as camera ready artwork. If submitted on disc, please include fonts and images used in layout. PDF files are acceptable with fonts embedded and images included. Photos should be CMYK with resolution of 350 ppi or grayscale with resolution of 266 ppi. Typesetting and layout are available at additional charge.

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# KING & COUNTRY'S

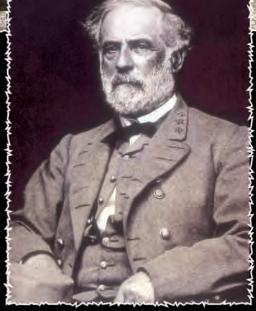
T EXACTLY 4:30 a.m. on the 12th of April 1861, the guns of Confederate General *Pierre Beauregard* opened fire in the still dark shape of *Fort Sumter* in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Less than thirty-six hours later a white flag flew over the battered bastion and the great American Civil War had begun...

Just over eighteen months later a British colonel, by the name of *Garnet Wolsely*, took leave of absence from his regiment in Canada to visit and see for himself the quality of the Confederate Army in the field. At that time *Robert E. Lee's* forces were

At that this the kober L. Let's forces were recovering from their battles at Harpers Ferry and Antietam. The first rebel soldiers he came upon did not impress him. "Every day I passed large groups of sick and wounded straggling to the rear," he wrote, "many of them without boots and shoes and all ill-clad". At the same time he observed the relatively smart and uniform appearance of a large contingent of Federal prisoners being escorted to the rear by Confederate cavalrymen.

Later Wolsely was invited by General Lee to attend a large scale military review of his troops.

As entire regiments and divisions of the Confederate army marched and rode past Wolsely cast an experienced eye over them. He could see an amazing and motley collection of both military and civilian attire as well as



equipment. He also noted that many of the soldiers had "long, unkempt hair and beards"... most unmilitary.

Despite their untidy appearance and lack of decent uniforms Wolsely was most impressed that their weapons were clean... polished and obviously well cared for. He was

KING & COUNTRY HEADQUARTERS Suite 2301, 23rd Floor, No.3 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong Tel : (852) 2861 3450 Fax : (852) 2861 3806 E-mail: sales@kingandcountry.com also impressed by their soldierly bearing. "These men had a unatural confidence in themselves and their officers and, most importantly, in their military abilities," he observed.

erates

"Never", Wolsely noted, "Have I seen an army that looked more like work!"

Our first release of American Civil War figures focuses on the Army of the Confederacy. Lean and mean, these self-reliant veterans are in camp and recovering from battle whilst preparing for the next. All of our pieces are available individually and either singly or together make an impressive display.

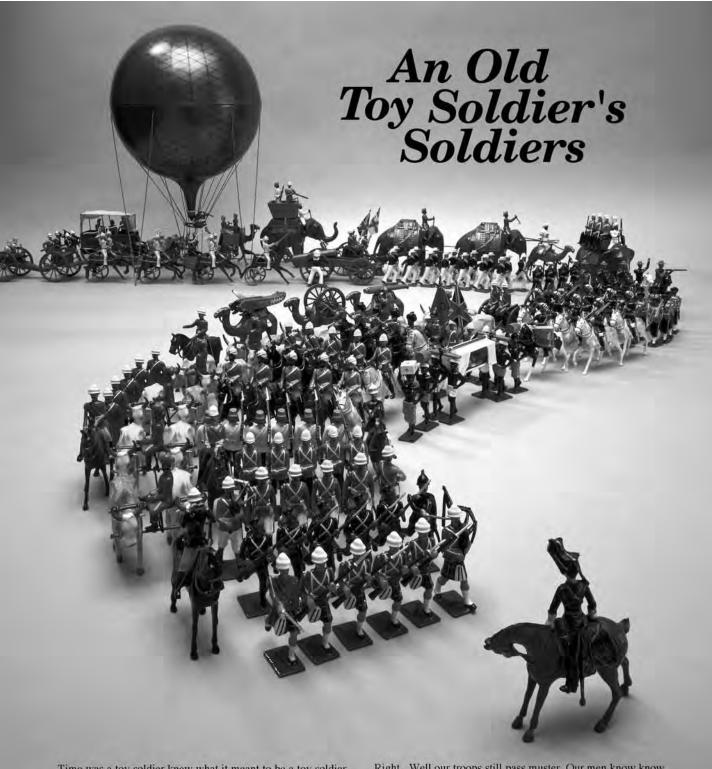
Among the "personality" pieces are mounted figures of Robert E. Lee... "Stonewall" Jackson... JEB Stuart and Bedford Forrest.

If you collect American Civil War you'll want to enlist these Confederates into your collection...



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Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group discipline, dull and wrinkled uniforms - refugees from some old diorama. And fat. Half seem to be dying. Can't speak English - Russian or Chinese more'n likely. Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men know know how to march together and how to fight together and look smart doing it. Our men want to be thrown onto the battlecarpet and properly pummeled like the toys they are - not given some shelf job commanded by a namby-pamby "connoisseur". Our men can take it and still shine. Our men know what it means to be a real toy soldier.

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Wm. Hocker, Proprietor

http://wmhocker.com



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## BRITAINS FAMOUS FOOTBALL TEAMS By Norman Joplin and Colonel Donald Pudney

In an absorbing hobby where rare finds and unique items still keep emerging, the discovery of the item featured in the following article is surely yet another rare Britians find. Britains famous football team, Bradford City.

#### BRITAINS FAMOUS FOOTBALL TEAM BRADFORD CITY

This article deals with what could be termed as another Britains mystery. Purchased by prominent U.S. collector Arnold Rolak during the early part of 2007, it represents the Bradford City Association Football Club and was obtained by legendary toy figure dealer Ged Haley in the UK.

Mr. Haley acquired the set at an estate auction in Derbyshire, England and contacted Arnold about his find; the intriguing cardboard football that came with the set prompted a swift purchase by Arnold Rolak.

The eleven Britains figures wear the distinctive colors of Bradford City, claret shirt with amber collar, claret socks and white shorts (See Armies of the World by Joe Wallis).

The Cardboard football illustrated (the real ball was leather with string tie laces to keep the ball inflated) came with the set and acts as the original box or container. It opens into two halves to house the figures. It is brown in color, as used in the early pre World War two football games and is very reminiscent of cardboard Easter Eggs made in the UK pre World War Two, which contained sweets (candy) or toys.

Hamley's Toy Shop in London is known to have sold Britains lead figures in such eggs during the prewar period (see future article in OTS).

The eleven Britains players that came with the ball are all dated 1904, suggesting early releases. The Goal Keeper wears the team colors, as in the early issue sets, rather than a plain jersey which was a feature of later sets. The military style moustache on



Britains figures with Cardboard Football



Two halves of the cardboard football showing the original shredded paper packing.



The cardboard football containing the lead figures.

# **BRITAINS FAMOUS FOOTBALL TEAMS (Cont.)**



Actual football used in the 1911 F.A. Club Final.

the Goal Keeper also indicates that perhaps this was one of the earlier painted sets of figures.

Britains listed 12 Famous Football Teams in their early catalogs, of which Bradford City was not one. The early 1920's saw a total of twenty seven teams available from Britains. Bradford City was included in this number, the total rising to 28 in 1936 with the addition of Plymouth Argyle.

The questions that arose once the set came to light were - If the Bradford City team purchased by Arnold Rolak was an early issue, what prompted the issue? As the team was not included in the Britains list until the early twenties, why was the cardboard ball with the team when purchased?

The answer may be found by examining the history of the Football Club itself.

Formed in Manningham, a suburb of the City Of Bradford, in 1902/1903, Bradford City Association Football Club grew out of the Manningham Rugby Football Club. The Rugby team was due to go into receivership when the Bradford City Association Football Club adopted the team colors previously worn by the Rugby team, claret with gold collars and adapted the teams hand held game into Football. The colors were, coincidently the same as those associated with The West Yorkshire Regiment in the British Army. The Regiment's barracks were also in Manningham Bradford.



Image of Dainty Dinah Toffee Tin from the mid 1900's souvenir of Bradford City's Cup Win.

The Club was nicknamed the Bantams and played their matches at Valley Parade in the city.

The Football club was only one of two elected to the Football League Division Two without ever playing a professional competitive game.

The standard practice of gaining entry to such a division was for teams to play and work their way up from a lower division and be promoted on performance.

Although Bradford City does not rank as one of the famous clubs today, their early history was quite impressive. They gained promotion from the second division to the first and highest tier after only 5 seasons in 1907/1908.



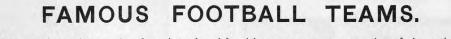
which inspired the Bradford City

Football Club team colors.

THE BANT AND

Bradford City's knickname is the Bantams (Poultry). Logo illustrated above.

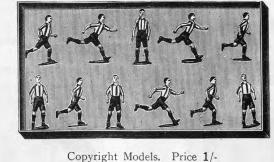
# BRITAINS FAMOUS FOOTBALL TEAMS (Cont.)



This striking novelty which has just been introduced furnishes an exact representation of the various well-known football teams in this country. The figures are modelled in excellent style, showing the various positions assumed by the players in the field, and the club colours are faithfully reproduced according to the team represented. The teams as below are now ready.

ASTON VILLA DERBY COUNTY SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY NOTTS COUNTY EVERTON

SUNDERLAND



MANCHESTER CITY PRESTON NORTH END TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR CORINTHIANS WOOLWICH ARSENAL BLACKBURN ROVERS

**Britains Catalog Image of Famous Football Teams** 

Their biggest claim to fame however was to win the coveted F.A. Cup (Football Association Cup) in 1911,and here, possibly is the answer to the "special set".

The F.A. Cup is the premier trophy played for in the English Football season and brings rich rewards both in fame and fortune. It was first contested for in 1872. (See article in this issue on Britains F. A. Cup)

The City of Bradford which is in the West Riding of Yorkshire England, was a very close knit community during the early 1900s. The enthusiasm for the team from local supporters, residents and retailers in the area when Bradford City played their way into the final of the prestigious trophy may well have warranted the request to Britains to produce the team colors.

However, the possibility also exists that Bradford City Football club commissioned this set directly from Britains.

There is yet another factor, albeit conjecture, that contributes to the theory that this was a special set. The actual Cup that had been contested for up until 1911 was presented as a gift to Lord Kinnaird to mark his 21 years as President of the Football Association.

The Football Association ordered that a new "Cup" be made and this Cup, prior to the knockout competition that started in 1910 for the 1911 Cup Final, was being designed and made in the city of Bradford by Messrs Fattorini and Sons. How fitting therefore, that the team from Bradford should eventually go on to qualify for and win the Cup made in their city.

The F.A. Cup Final of 1911 was played at the famous Crystal Place in London on April 22nd, 1911, Bradford City had formidable opponents in Newcastle United who had won the Cup the previous year and were strong favorites.



The F.A. Cup as it was about to be presented to the winning Bradford City Team.

# **BRITAINS FAMOUS FOOTBALL TEAMS (Cont.)**

The match itself was drawn (tied) and replayed in Manchester at Old Trafford on April 26th, 1911. The result was a one to nothing win for Bradford City who were duly presented with the Trophy.

Bradford City has never achieved another Cup Final win to date, but does hold another record in that the midweek game attracted 66,646 spectators, a record still not bettered.

Articles on Britains Famous Football Team have appeared in previous *Old Toy Soldier* (Newsletter) magazines authored by Joe Wallis, Philip Dean and Norman Joplin (Volume 4 #4, Volume 6 #5, Volume 13 #6, Volume 15 #6, Volume 26 #4, Volume 28 #4, Volume 30 #4).



The Bradford City Team of 1911.



A scene from the first match at Crystal Palace where the teams tied nil nil.



Bradford City's winning goal at the Old Trafford Manchester Replay.



1911 Cardboard Cup as displayed at the Bradford City Football Museum

Assistance in writing this article was provided by Joe Wallis.

# **HOBBY NEWS**

#### **OBITUARY**



Arnold J. Rolak, Senior April 16, 1912- May 11, 2007 (Pictured with Mr and Mrs. Arnold J. Rolak, Jr. on left.)

Born in LaGrange Texas, a Galveston resident since 1932.Member of Central United Methodist Church, Veteran of World War Two and retired Postal Employee.

Mr. Rolak Senior was for over 50 years a member of the American Legion.

Toy Soldier collectors and dealers will remember Mr. Rolak senior for his attendances at Toy Soldier shows throughout the US when accompanying his son Arnold junior.

Mr. Rolak attended the Christies Auction in London during 2000 when the Arnold Rolak Jr. Reference collection was auctioned.

#### Christies Auctioneers South Kensington, London

The Toy, Doll and Teddy Bear department at Christies will close in September 2007. The last Toy Soldier and Figure auction took place on June 5th 2007.

Questions and inquiries will be dealt with up until September 2007 by Daniel Agnew.

> Email dagnew@christies.com Telephone (44) 207 752 3335

#### **Toy Soldier Collectors of America**

The 2007/2008 Members handbook is now available. Subscribers will receive the directory listing collectors throughout the USA along with dealers lists, shops and a show diary. Toy Soldier Collectors of America is a non profit making organization.

Contact TSCA.PO Box 179 New Ellenton SC 29809 Telephone 1-803-652-7932 Email toysoldiercollectorsamerica@yahoo.com Web site www.toysoldercollectorsamerica.com



#### Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) Valley Forge



After many years at the Valley Forge, King of Prussia Convention Center, MFCA will move locations to The Chase Center on the River front. 800 South Madison Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

The 2008 show is scheduled for Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th, 2008.

Contact Vern Minkwitz 302 239 3884 or 302 757 3419 Email vmink@msn.co Web Site www.mfcashow.org

# For Sale At Chicago's Old Toy Soldier Show









**Eureka Sailors** 



McLoughlin US Infantry and Cavalry



Heyde Greek Infantry



Heyde Infantry of the Line



McLoughlin US Infantry



Heyde British Calvary Display



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Heyde British Guards



Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

Wednesday 19th- Saturday 22nd

**September** 

ROOM 4312 And on show day Sunday 23rd September

A Fine collection of Heyde with other early German and American Toy Soldiers, including McLoughlin,

American Soldier Company and Eureka.

Heyde Large Size US Artillery Full Dress



Heyde French Line Infantry

# SHOW PREVIEW

### Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show Holiday Inn Bloomsbury London – Coram Street September 8th, 2007

This annual specialist show for Old Toy Soldiers and Figures with a date line of 1980 opens to the public at 10:30 am.

Over 70 tables and 50 dealers from the UK, USA and Europe will be in attendance offering the most comprehensive selection of Old Toy Soldiers and figures to be found any-where in one location.

This thematic show is believed to be the only one of it's kind in the world and provides collectors with the opportunity to meet, buy, sell and trade vintage and antique figures.

All of the UKs professional dealers and many collectors will be attending and will have on offer Lead, Plastic and Composition Toy Soldiers and Figures from the worlds most famous toy soldier companies - Britains, Heyde, Mignot, Lucotte, Timpo, Charbens etc etc.

International participants from the USA, France and Germany also attend and the opportunity to buy from the world's foremost dealers is presented to collectors at the show.

Britains/First Gear will again be in attendance and Collectors Club representative Mark Avery will have on display the latest lines from both their History of the British Army and History of the American ranges.

A feature of the Britains/First Gear stand will again be an exhibition of items from the company archives. This year the theme is 1950s and 1960 advertising material for Britains Plastic models including Herald, Eyes Right and Swoppets, much of which as never been publicly displayed.

Old Toy Soldier Magazine, co-sponsor of the show and Toy Soldier Collector Magazine have trade stands as well as Bonhams and SAS Auction houses.

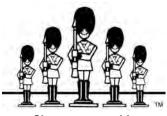
British Model Soldier Society members also attend along with representatives from Toy Soldier Collectors of America.

Show Organizer Norman Joplin has gathered together the cream of the crop of the Old Toy Soldier World and is grateful to the many sponsors who are supporting the show, including Ray Haradin (Toys Of Yesteryear) MKL Models, Peter Cowan, Rob Wilson, Arnold Rolak, Colonel Donald Pudney, Adrian Little (Mercator Trading) Roger and Steve Maryon (The Toy Cupboard) Douglas Treadwell, Britains /First Gear, Peter and Jilly Greenhill, Christian Keller, Old Toy Soldier magazine and Reg Auckland of Toy Soldier Collector Magazine.

For further information or to book a table please contact Norman Joplin Email info@normanjoplin.com or telephone Rob Wilson in the UK on 01926 496062.

Admission to the show is 3 pounds, with early bird entry from 6:30 am being available at 15 pounds.





Show sponsored by Old Toy Soldier Magazine

# Norman Joplin's OLD TOY SOLDIER and FIGURE SHOW (UK) SATURDAY 8th OF SEPTEMBER 2007

# Holiday Inn London - Bloomsbury Coram Street, London WC1N 1HT

# **The Turner and Booker Suites**

(Only 2 minute walk north of Russell Square Underground Station and 1 minute east of the Royal National Hotel)

# **ADMISSION £3**

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

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

Rob Wilson Telephone: 01926 496062 Entry to the PUBLIC 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

> early bird entry from 6:30 AM £ 15

Show sponsored by Old Toy Soldier Magazine



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

# SHOW REPORTS TSSD's "THE TEXAS SHOW"

The "first ever" toy soldier show in Texas was held Memorial weekend, 2007. Unique in location, the venue chosen was an old historic building in downtown San Antonio, Texas. With it's close proximity to The Alamo, The River Walk, Buckhorn/Texas Ranger Museums, Imax Theatre and other points of interest, the area proved to be very popular with both dealers and collectors alike.

Going against traditional "show taboo" it was held on a holiday weekend. This proved to actually be a bonus for show attendance, as many families utilized the extra day off to spend the long weekend in San Antonio. It was after all "Memorial Day".

Dealers / manufacturers present included: Hobby Bunker (Boston), Ron Barzso Playsets, Inc. (Chicago), King & Country (Hong Kong), King & Country (San Antonio - King's X Store), Brunton's Barracks (Prescott, AZ), Playset Magazine (Colorado Springs), The Marx-Man (New York), TSSD (San Diego), BMC Toys (New Jersey), Tiny Troopers (Walnut Creek, CA), Rick Eber & Craig Remington (New York), and A Band of Two Brothers (Socal).

Also wheeling and dealing were 3 Texas dealers: Ed Gannon, Gary Beadel and Robert Cowgill – all from the Dallas area. Compton Creel, also a native Texan, put on an inspired "figure painting" performance during both days, while his wife Karyn sold tickets!

Dealer "set-up day" was all day Friday, followed by a "preshow" party at "Mad Dogs & Englishmen" along the river walk. The cocktails and cigars pretty well set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Saturday morning there were "collectors" outside and anxious to get in, so the show opened an hour earlier than planned. A steady stream of collectors passed through the doors for nearly the entire day, with the military being offered free admission. Even some of the "Daughters of the Republic of Texas" came for the event.

On display were about 50 tables loaded with metal, plastic, new items, older items, vintage Marx Playsets, buildings, terrain pieces, die cast tanks, Alamo parts & pieces – all in 54mm scale, plus some 60mm, 1/72nd, 1/6th, 1/18th, and other scales. Everything from "Army Men" to "Zulus"!

The dealers all reported good sales for Saturday, and many a collector went home with a big smile and bags of new soldiers. What was also present – were a lot of young people – kids, and some folks a little older than kids. Fox News was also present and filmed a story which was broadcast on the evening news in San Antonio and Dallas, that we know of.

Sunday was more of the same with a good traffic flow for most of the day. Craig Remington helped by standing in front of the Alamo and herding people to the show!

All in all, very positive feedback and good times were reported by all. So much so, that there will definitely be a second Texas Show, same place, same time, next year, 2008. A search is under way for a larger venue for 2009.

Thank you to everyone that participated and we hope to see you all, and many more, next year! Nick / TSSD

# **George Kearton's Warriors North West**

It would be nice to report that for this events inaugural show it was a runaway success, but in the real world, this never happens.

Not a million miles away from Darwin, which was the last host town for a North West show, Wigan is far easier to access for those travelling from the Midlands, London or the South and West of England.

The venue was perfect, being large, airy, and spacious and very well lit – which is unusual for virtually all of the U.K. Toy Soldier Shows.

Access from both the town of Wigan and from the nearest motorway was very good, ample car parking was available, and for those that don't drive, the station was not too long a walk, cab-ride or bus journey away.

Unloading for the dealers was very close by, and without problem.

On offer were some of the finest old plastics ever to grace the same venue at one time. Mike Harding, Kevin McDonald , Joe Bellis, Stewart Hindson and Eric Critchley displaying many good quality, much sought-after pieces from years gone by. One or 2 stalls had a smattering of the later plastic figures, whilst we supplied the demand for current production items.

George, himself, had on offer an eclectic assortment of treasures, including metal and plastic figures, and assorted items of interest.

Ted Gardner had nice artillery pieces, as did most of the other participants. Their stalls contained an interesting mix of books, metal figures, early Britains and civilian figures, wooden Toy Soldiers and much more! For those that like to delve way back into the past, these were the stalls for you. The B.M.S.S. were represented by the booming Max Hundleby, an authority on the WWI German A7V, and who also had an interesting A7V on display, made of tin!

Bill Bird was on hand with 6 tables piled high with older Wm. Britains metal figures, all on offer at greatly knocked down prices – so if this is what you collect, and you missed this show, you can now kick yourself.

There was no rush, as the doors opened, but the volume of people attending increased at a steady pace throughout the day. Some were collectors who came with a purpose, some were new faces keen to find out what was available, others were simply curious as to what was going on, and spent a great deal of time examining what was on offer.

What was missing were the dealers that make their own metal range, and those that supply the makes seen in the glossy magazines – where were all of these people?

The hall could easily accommodate another 10 or more tables, without loosing any of the ample space provided to dealers.

Maybe this clashed with too many other events? It seemed well planned and well placed within the Toy Soldier Diary of Events.

It has the promise of better things, and once word filters out to dealers and collectors alike, I am sure that this will become a regular, well-attended event.

Dealers that I spoke to were quite positive in their intention to re-book, as we ourselves would, should this event be repeated next year.

George confirmed to me that it would indeed take place, so mark this one down on your diary as one to attend next time!

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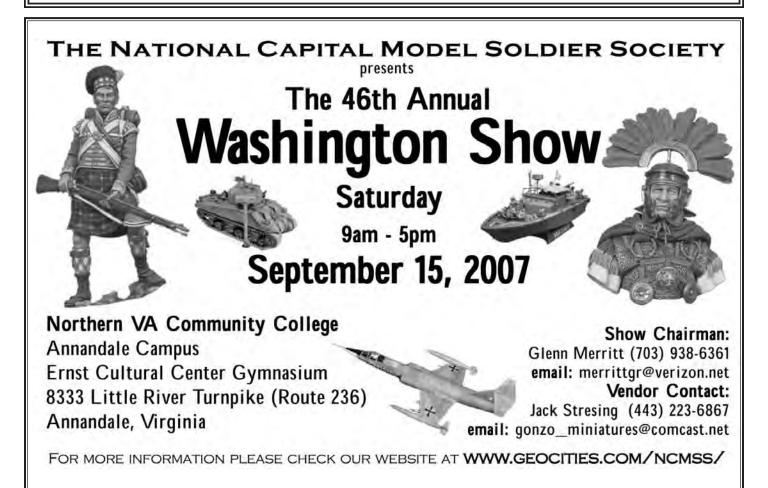
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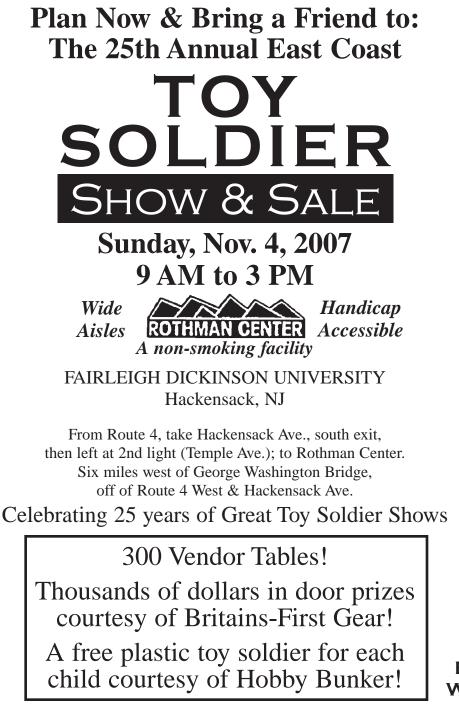
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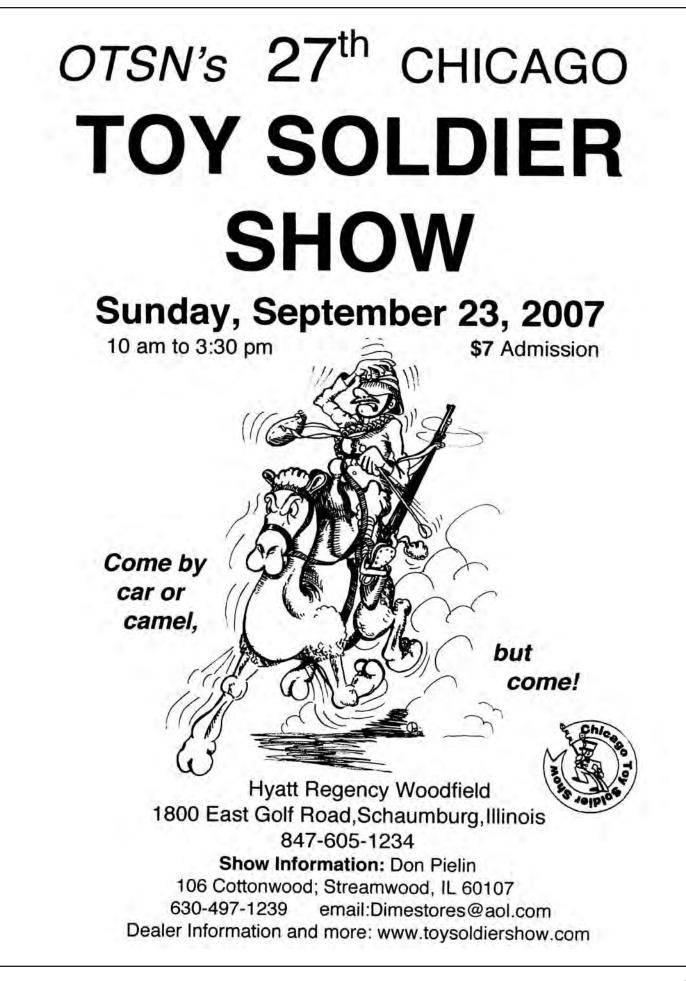
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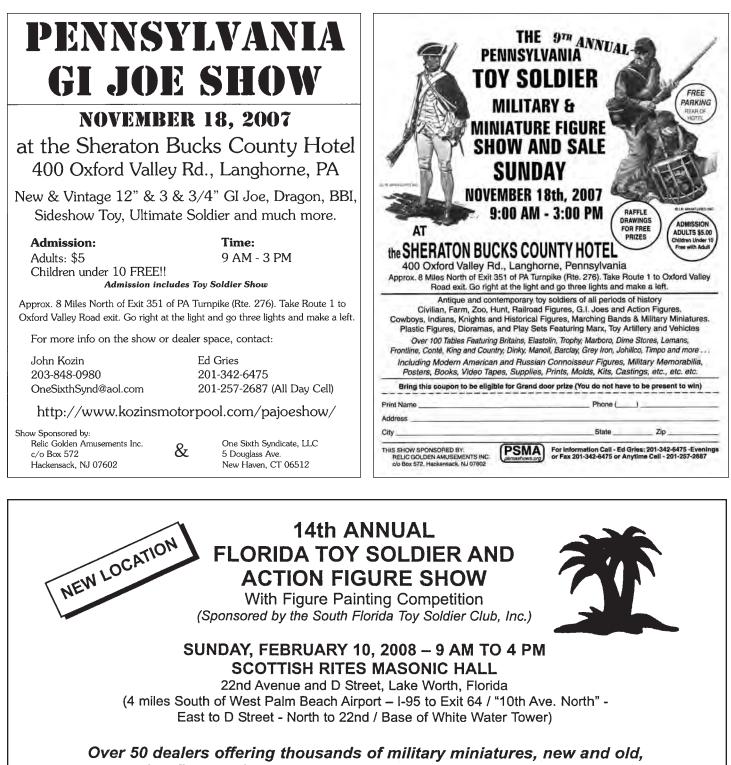
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Table rental: Mike Skurda, E-mail: mskurda@inbox.com General Information: Alan McGhee (954) 431-9295 • John Lesinski (561) 968-5571 www.southfloridatoysoldier.com BRITAINS F.A. CUP By Norman Joplin

The accompanying article in this issue of OTS relating to Bradford City Football Team mentions the Britains F.A. Cup (Football Association Cup).

The Cup made by Britains and illustrated here was not the first F.A. Cup contested in English Football.

The first F.A. Cup Final was played in 1872 and was won by a team named The Wanderers. The cup continued to be contested up until 1895, when Aston Villa, a team from Birmingham, were the victors.

Aston Villa loaned the Cup to a local trader who displayed it in his store window. Unfortunately, the Cup was stolen and a new Cup had to be made in 1896.

Sheffield Wednesday won the Cup in that year and by order of the Football Association the Cup was a direct replica of the trophy stolen the previous year.

Britains, who had started producing lead figures and souvenirs in 1893 may have been inspired to add the Cup to their novelty range during this period.

Although no definitive date has yet been agreed upon by experts in the field, James Opie mentions the Cup within the 1904 chapter of his Great Book of Britains.

The Britains Cup was illustrated in the 1914/1915 catalogue, but by this time the example of the Cup made by Britains was out dated as the actual ("obsolete") trophy had in 1910 been presented as a gift to Football Association President Lord Kinnaird in recognition of his 21st year as the Football Associations President.

The Cup was presented to Lord Kinnaird in 1910 after having been won by Newcastle United. It was auctioned at Christies London in May 2005 and raised \$840,000.

Bradford City won the "New" F. A. Cup in 1911, this example being a plainer version without the footballer figurine on the lid and coincidently manufactured in Bradford by Messrs Fattorini and Sons (see accompanying article on Britains Bradford City Football team in this issue).

The Britains model of the F.A. Cup is always very much in demand.

The first example of the Britains Model F.A. Cup appeared in the Britains archive auction in 1994. Christies subsequently offered the same Britains model cup in the Arnold Rolak Reference Collection and the Philip Dean Reference Collection Auction 2000 and 2006 respectfully.

Much of the information regarding the F.A Cup in this article was supplied by Max Dunbar, of Christies Auction House Sports department. He is now Collections manager of the Rugby Football Museum in Twickenham, England.



Beautifully Designed Model of the Football Association Cup. Registered Design. Silver or Gilt. Actual Size. Price 1d. each.

Britains Model of the F.A. Cup



The actual 1910 F.A. Cup

# The Geauga County Historical Society



Lt. Col. Lyle Thoburn

We all know of collections hidden away in small towns across our county. They are the stuff of legend. Unfortunately, most of these collections go unappreciated by their true fans—the collectors. Most never become available during our lifetimes. However, they are the fuel that fires our search. One of these iconic collections was stored at the Geauga County Historical Society's Century Village Museum in Burton, Ohio. The collection has been known to me since the late 1980's and has frequently been a topic of discussion between myself and Bill Miele, one of the great Britains collectors of our time. Housed within the museum was an astounding assortment of figures collected by another great collector of his time, Lieutenant Colonel Lyle Thoburn who served in the 5th Air Force from



1942 though 1945 and settled in Ohio after the war. He loved toy soldiers and his collection quickly grew. Lt. Col. Thoburn purchased figures from virtually every soldier manufacturer. In the end amassing nearly 6,000 figures: great Britains, both boxed and unboxed, Courtenay, Mignot, Authenticast, Comet, Heyde, Dinky, Vertunni, Dimestore and the largest and most comprehensive collection of Berdou that I have ever heard of. In failing health, Lt. Col. Thoburn and his wife decided to bestow the collection on the Historical Society.



Ray Haradin in front of the museum's Berdou Case.

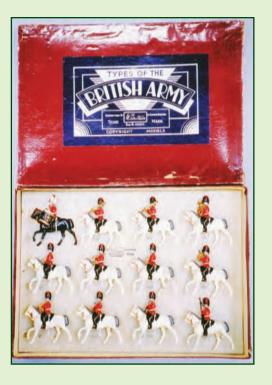


One of the world's largest and finest groupings of military figures by famous sculptor and painter Roger Berdou.

Between 1974 and 1984 they made a number of donations and finally in 1984 Lyle parted with this favorites—50 figures made by master figure painter Berdou. Lt. Col. Thoburn died in 1992. Alas, our conversations always ended with "but it's in a muse-um and museums never sell".

Here is the part of my job that I love: The phone rings and Bill Miele informs me that the Geauga County Historical Society would like to "deaccess" the Lyle Thoburn collection of toy soldiers to raise capital! Within 15 minuntes a meeting was set. A few days later, I was able to tour the collection. Housed in a large 20' long and 10' wide room that was literally lined floor to ceiling with toy soldiers, I instantly knew this was a great world class collection. Something I had to buy and make available to my clients.

Not so quickly--there was another dealer in the wings and word had it that he too really coveted the collection. He had been after the collection for as long as I and it was literally in his back yard.





An exceptional grouping of early pre war sets in near perfect condition.



An impressive grouping of Richard Courtenay's Knights and Personality Figures

After analyzing the collection for several days and having seen the true strength and beauty of the soldiers I knew the collection was mine. I was not going to be outbid.

Now it is available to you. This is a great opportunity to add something nice to your collection. It is all fresh to the market. Most is in outstanding condition and I am sure it will bring a smile to your face.

Catalogs will be available in late August. Please send \$35 for a soft bound catalog, \$55 for a hard bound. Add an additional \$10 for international catalogs. Send payment to Ray Haradin, 1039 Lakemont Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15243. Note on check "Historical Collection".



Great selection of "rubber stamped" Stadden's



Heyde German Landsknects set



A great sampling of Lucotte and Mignot





An array of Britains partial sets in near mint condition



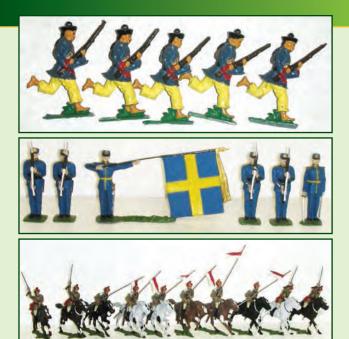
#### Some wonderful Comets

#### MANUFACTURERS OF THE LYLE THOBURN COLLECTION

- Authenticast
- Ballada
- Barclay
- Berdou
- Britains
- Carmen
- Comet
- Courtenay

- Farish
- Greenwood and Ball
- Gordon
- Heyde
- Jones
- Lucotte
- Manoil

- Mignot
- Minikin
- Scheid
- Spenkuch
- Stadden
  - rubber stamped



Extremely Rare Mounted Authenticast - Along with a large assortment of foot sets



Some near mint Jones, Barclay and Manoil figures.



Wonderful German sets including this terrific Spenkuch, Cowboys with attacking Indians



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Illustrated: Britains boxed sets of Regiments of the British Army: (left to right): Set 1582 Buffs, East Kent Regiment £500 - 600. Set 1537 Territorials at the slope £500 - 700. Set 1577 Royal West Kent Regiment £600 - 800. Set 1545 Australian Infantry at Present £600 - 800. Set 1595 The Green Howards £700 - 900. Set 1618 Rifle Regiment in walking our dress £600 - 800. Set 1599 Royal Northumberland Fusiliers £600 - 800. For a free and confidential valuation with a view to selling at Bonhams or for further details regarding the auction please contact:

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# Ray Haradin and Norman Joplin are pleased to announce!



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

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

Norman and I will use our combined knowledge and expertise to produce an accurate and honest representation of the figures and present them in such a way that even the sellers will be tempted to start collecting again. Each item in our auctions will be intricately cataloged and described.

If you are a collector, be assured that you will have a consistent supply of fairly represented figures for your choosing backed some of the most prominent names in the business. If you are a collector who's time has come to sell, we will present your figures to the best of our abilities and work diligently toward selling your entire collection at a fair cost.

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

We will keep you posted as our work progresses.

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



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# TOY SOLDIER, TRAIN, AND TOY AUCTION Saturday, September 1, 2007 @ 10:00am

#### PREVIEW: Friday, August 31, 2007 4:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday, September 1, 2007 Beginning at 7:30am

**Brownstone Masonic Lodge** 

215 West Governor Road, Hershey, PA 17033

**Directions:** Corner of Governor Rd/Rte. 322 and Hockersville Rd. One mile east of Hershey Med. Ctr on Rte. 322. Catalog (available Aug. 21) & Photographs Available: www.ClassicEdgeAuction.com

**Toy Soldiers:** 

- Britains unboxed sets and singles, c. 1900-1966, mainly British regiments. Some very early figures.
- Several Britains boxed sets, both pre- and postwar.
- Mignot, several unboxed sets of Union and Confederate infantry, c. 1950. Possibly other nationalities and eras.
- American Dimestore, several lots of higher grade Barclay, Manoil, and Grey Iron soldiers and civilians.
- German Composition, several lots of prewar Elastolin and Lineol soldiers.
- Old German Flats, at least a half dozen mint-in-box sets of Kilia and others, c. 1930s-1960s.
- A rare boxed set of American Metal Toys, "Jones," standing firing redcoats, c. 1935.
- Several lots of Britains and Johillco, etc. civilian figures.
- SAE (South African Engineers), several lots of the smaller figures, esp. American Revolutionary War.
- Possibly several lots of newer toy soldiers, all mint-in-box: All the Queen's Men, Britains, etc.
- Minikin figures, c. 1930s Japan.
- Older connoisseur figures, most c. 1950s-1970s on flat metal bases. Possibly some Stadden.
- Various older plastic toy soldiers.
- Military prints, some framed.
- Large quantity of old military decanters and whiskey bottles.
- Large quantity of repairable and repaintable older figures.
- Many additional lots!

Trains: Early Lionel Trains in Original Boxes. Toys: Selection of High-Quality, Antique Toys.

Auctioneer's Notes: Food stand at auction. 10% Buyer's Premium. Cash, Checks, Visa, Master Card and Debit Cards.

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Auction Consultant: Christian B. Keller 703.942.6613 or doktorkec@aol.com

Please direct questions to the auctioneer or Dr. Keller.



Catalog (available Aug. 21) & Photographs Available: www.ClassicEdgeAuction.com



## THE MYSTERIOUS RED TANK By Stan Alekna

I picked up the pictured, 3-inch long, die cast red tank shown below on eBay thinking that it was a unique paint variation of a Tootsietoy's #4647 Renault-style tank because that was the only tank I knew of that had the white rubber treads. When it arrived, I saw that it was not a Tootsietoy so I searched through Richard O'Brien's reference books to see if I could identify the maker. It was marked "MADE IN U.S.A." so at least I had that much going for me. There on page 593 of O'Brien's 2nd edition of Collecting TOY CARS & TRUCKS, and on page 638 of Richard's 3rd edition of Collecting American-Made TOY SOL-DIERS, were photos of not just a similar tank, but photos of the same tank I had just acquired. It was easy to I.D. because the paint chips were in the exact same location on the vehicles. Photo credits were given to Ed Poole and Roger Johnson respectively, two friends and early pioneers in our hobby. Both photos carried the caption, "maker/manufacturer unknown". No one seems to remember how the tank traveled from/to New Jersey, from/to Texas to New England to the person from whom I bought it. To add to the mystery, all the other items I bought from this individual were Barclay, circa 1930's, old-store-stock, cannons and military vehicles. The red tank was the only item that was not made by Barclay and that had been owned (and maybe played with a little) by at least 4 different persons.

The red tank is also marked "LICENSED UNDER PATENT 1334539" and I was surprised that a search of the U.S. Patent files disclosed that



**RED MYSTERY TANK 2** 



**RED MYSTERY TANK 1** 



**BARCLAY BV56 1** 

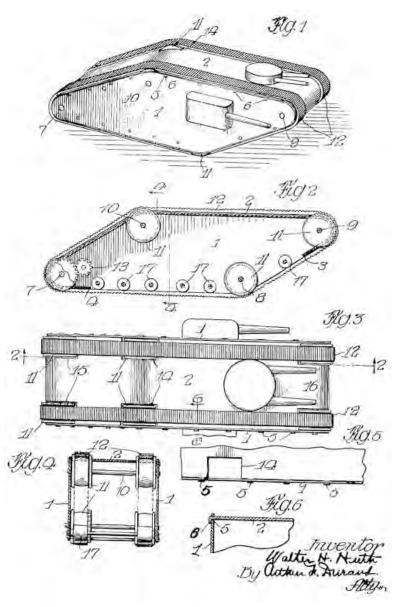


TOOTSIETOY #4647

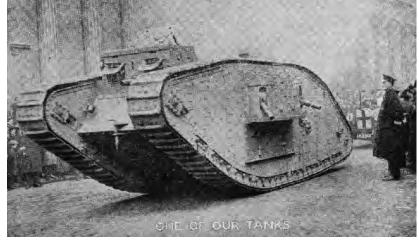
THE MYSTERIOUS RED TANK (Cont.)

Walter H. Huth, a Chicagoan, made application for this patent on March 23, 1918. The application was renewed on September 18, 1919 and the patent was issued on March 23, 1920. The drawings that accompanied the application depicted a heavy, British, Mark I style tank (see photo) that was first used in WW1 in September 1916. In the narrative of Mr. Huth's patent application, he described his "TOY FIGHTING TANK" as "resembling the so-called tanks now in use by the British Army in France". His use of the words "so-called" was because the term "tank" had only recently been coined to describe the tracked military vehicle. The term originated from the word "TANK" being stenciled on the crates that concealed the British Mark I tanks being sent to France in an attempt to keep this new weapon a secret from the Germans. Yet my little red tank does not begin to "resemble" the British Mark I (See photo/photos) but is modeled after the very popular and famous French Renault (FT-17) tank.

Well, I needed to do some research on the history of tanks in WW1 to try to make some sense out of this confusion. The lighter, more maneuverable French designed and manufactured Renault (FT-17) tank, which featured the first 360degree rotating turret, did not see significant action until the end of 1917. It was



MR. HUTH'S PATENT DRAWING



**BRITISH MARK I TANK** 



FRENCH RENAULT FT-17 IN MUSEUM

# THE MYSTERIOUS RED TANK (Cont.)

not until May 31,1918, six months before the war ended, that the U.S. Army Tank Corps in France, under the command of George S. Patton, received the first 25 Renault tanks from the French car-maker. (See photo/photos)

So when Mr. Huth applied for his patent in March of 1918, the British were using the Mark I's in France, as stated in his application, and he probably did not know of the existence of the Renault tank at that time. However, by the time his patent was granted in 1920, the Renault tank had been adopted by most European countries and the United States as the tracked armored vehicle of choice. So Mr. Huth, or whoever acquired his patent, apparently decided to manufacture a toy, Renault-style tank rather than the Mark I for which the patent was issued. The use of the Renault tank by the armies of the world continued until the beginning of WWII which explains why Barclay's BV56 and TOOTSIETOY's #4647 vehicles, that were made in the 1930's, were patterned after the Renault style tank.

However, the question remains why (or if) the Patent Office permitted the manufacture, by what is an unknown company, on an unknown date, of a Renault-style toy tank under patent number 1334539 and adds even more to the mystery of this old toy. Perhaps all toy tanks were considered "TOY FIGHTING TANKS" back then but I would think there would have been more attention to accuracy and consistency by the U.S. Patent Office than to permit such broad use of a patent.

If anyone can shed any light on the mysteries surrounding the little red tank, I would sure be interested in hearing from you.

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



PATTON & RENAULT TANK, FRANCE 1918



**RENAULT TANK PHOTO** 



SCALE MODEL OF RENAULT TANK

# GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW SOUTH AMERICAN TREASURE-BEAU GESTE

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

The business of toy soldiers is truly a global enterprise. The last two decades have seen the production of toy soldiers expand from North America and Europe to all corners of the globe. A true gem of the toy soldier world is to be found in Buenos Aires, Argentina-Beau Geste.

Beau Geste is owned by the husband-wife team of Daniel and Ana Donzino, along with associate partner Cristian Fernandez. Prior to creating Beau Geste, the Donzinos had been manufacturing a line of 65mm metal models called Donzino & Donzino. In 1999, the Donzinos decided to produce their own distinctive line of 54mm toy soldiers done in the traditional glossy style.

The Donzinos prefer to produce figures and regiments of historical periods which most manufacturers choose to ignore. Diligently researching the uniform of a chosen regiment, the next step is for the talented Daniel Donzino to sculpt the masters. Once cast, a team of ten highly talented painters flawlessly and accurately paint each figure to the highest standard.

Being collectors themselves, the Donzinos are in the envious position of creating the figures for the historical periods they prefer. Together with the popular Napoleonic, American Civil War, and World War I period, they have also ventured into the Dehli Durbar of 1903, Boxer Rebellion and the Russo-Japanese War. Within these conflicts the Donzinos choose to focus on the more unique regiments.

Flawlessly sculpted and painted, the Beau Geste figures are without doubt among the finest toy soldiers available today. Fortunately for collectors, the Beau Geste range is available from Treefrog Treasures who provide excellent service.

Collectors are encouraged to frequently visit Beau Geste's excellent website. Numerous pictures of current and most importantly future sets are available for viewing. In addition, Treefrog Treasure's website also provides collectors with an extensive number of pictures of Beau Geste sets.

Peter Reuss of Treefrog Treasures was kind enough to submit five sets for review, including the magnificent "Elephant of the Maharaja of Alwar" set. Collectors will have an opportunity to view the Beau Geste range in Treefrog Treasure's room at this year's Chicago Show.

#### French Foreign Legion at Camerone 1863

Napoleon III's ill-fated military excursion into Mexico from 1863-1867 gave birth to the French Foreign Legion's greatest legend-Camerone.

On April 30, 1863, Captain Jean Danjou ordered his reconnaissance team of sixty-two legionnaires and three officers to halt near the small village of Camaron. Lookouts signaled approaching Mexican guerillas on horseback, forcing Danjou to form a square. After a devastating volley by the legionnaires, Danjou ordered his men inside the Hacienda de la Trinidad, a square walled farmhouse. The ten foot high walls offered protection, but the intense heat and lack of water caused the legionnaires to suffer terribly.

Several attempts were thwarted, but not without heavy losses. By late afternoon, Danjou was dead, a terrible fire raged inside the Hacienda, and only five legionnaires were left. Fixing bayonets, the five defenders charged the Mexicans who unleashed a volley killing two Frenchmen. Quickly surrounded, the remaining three survivors surrendered. The defense of El Camaron, or Camerone as the French call it, became an example of courage and heroism which is celebrated every year by the Legion.

Beau Geste has chosen to portray the defenders of Camerone with an excellent five piece set. Four foot figures firing and charging are highly animated in very natural poses. Uniforms are painted to a very high standard and are historically accurate. The mounted officer is extremely well done, all buttons, braiding and edging of the uniforms again well executed.

#### Marines of the Imperial Guard

One of the lesser known units of Napoleon's Imperial Guard was the Marines. Raised on 29 July, 1804, as the Battalion de la Marine Imperiale, it was composed of five companies each of one hundred forty men.

Nicknamed the "Naval Hussars", because of their *dolman* and plumed shako, the marines participated in the Battle of Austerlitz, the campaign in Spain, the 1812 invasion of Russia and accompanied Napoleon to Elba.

The seven piece Marines of the Guard set focuses on drummers and buglers. Four drummers and two buglers resplendent in their medium blue uniforms and a single marine in dark blue uniform comprise this set. The braiding on the jackets is expertly rendered along with the decorative stripe down the side of the pants. All the cording on the shako and Hungarian Knots which appear on the pants are completed to the same high standard. This is a great set of a unique battalion.

#### 2nd Regiment Dragoons-Sheldon's Horse

On December 12, 1776 the Continental Congress ordered Elisha Sheldon of Connecticut to raise a regiment of light horse. Finally on June of 1777, the regiment was completed consisting of four troops from Connecticut and a troop each from Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Sheldon's Horse saw action at Brandywine, Trenton, Saratoga, White Plains and Yorktown. When General Washington was in the Hudson Highlands, Westchester and Connecticut, the regiment served as his escort and bodyguard.

Beau Geste has two sets representing Sheldon's Horse; a mounted two piece set and a seven piece dismounted set. Both sets are meticulously painted.

The mounted set is of a trooper and bugler. The trooper is in a pose rarely seen; firing from the saddle. The tactics of the period decreed that cavalry was nothing more than mounted infantry. As a result, firing from the saddle was a common and encouraged practice. Typical of the period, musicians wore reversed colors of the infantry for their uniform. In this case our trooper is wearing a blue coat with yellow cuffs, collar and turnbacks. Conversely, the bugler is extremely colorful in his yellow jacket with blue cuffs, collar and turnbacks.

To depict Sheldon's Horse in their dismounted roll, the seven piece set has dragoons advancing, firing, officer firing pistol and a wounded trooper. The entire set accurately reflects the skirmishing role which was frequently carried out during the war.

American Revolution War cavalry sets are few and far between for collectors. Beau Geste's two sets nicely fill this void, especially for collectors who wish to correctly depict skirmishing cavalry.

## **GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW**

### Elephant of the Maharaja of Alwar

The Dehli Durbar of 1903 was held to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra as Emperor and Empress of India. The two full weeks of festivities planned by Lord Curzon comprised a degree of pageantry and wealth as the world had never seen before.

Maharajas accompanied by exquisite retinues, many meeting for the first time attended. Each Indian prince as a show of power and wealth adorned himself with the most fabulous gems and jewels of his collection.

Beau Geste has an amazing thirty-six sets depicting this extravaganza. *Old Toy Soldier* magazine was pleased to receive for review the most impressive "Elephant of the Maharaja of Alwar" set.

The set includes the *mahout* (driver), seated in the *howdah* a member of the prince's entourage, and a standing maharaja.

Obviously the costumes are a virtual palette of color. The massive elephant is draped in a series of colorful blankets and a metal headpiece is adorned with tassels. All in all, an extremely well done set which conveys the power, elegance and color of the Dehli Durbar of 1903.

Collectors of this line will be pleased to learn that an additional three sets are currently in development.

> Contact Information Beau Geste: Website; www.beau-geste

Treefrog Treasures: Toll free: (866) 394-2418 Email: sales@treefrogtreasures.com Website: www.treefrogtreasures.com



Delhi Durbar 1903



Marines of the Imperial Guard



Foreign legion at Cameron



**Sheldon's Horse** 

### **Mignot Philadelphia Light Horse**

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Mignot's rendering of this small but elite unit is historically correct. The set is typical of all six piece Mignot cavalry sets: an officer, trumpet, flag and three troopers. Completed in typical Mignot fashion, a nice touch is the black outlining helping to define the pants, vest and belts. A most welcomed set to their Revolutionary War line, Mignot collectors will not be disappointed.

> Contact Information Le Petit Soldat: Website; www.lepetitsoldat.com Email: jcarleton@aol.com Toll Free (866) 862-3311



CBG 263A Mignot Philadelphia Light Horse

# HOW I PAINT DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (PART II)

By Roger Dubois

In the 2007 spring issue of the *Old Toy Soldier* journal, I described how to convert a Barclay (711) figure to a wounded World War I German soldier. At the end of that article, the conversion was primed and ready for painting. The figure has now been painted and is shown in Photos 1 and 2. In this article, I'll describe how I paint my Dimestore conversions, employing at times Photos 1 and 2 to illustrate my points.

When I first began painting Dimestores, I found the entire process daunting. I had many questions but there was no one around to help me. For example, setting color aside, what kind of paint should I use? Regarding paintbrushes, what size and shape should I buy and how many will I need? After a figure has been primed, what part of it should I paint first? Is there a preferred paint stroke that produces good results? How do I hold my hands and figure steady so that I can carefully paint my conversion? With time and experience, I found to my satisfaction the answers to these and other questions.

But before I present these answers as tips for your consideration, you should know that I have never had any kind of formal training in the art of painting. The painting skills I have acquired over the years have come solely from the school of trial-and-error. Nevertheless, at shows my painted conversions have frequently received favorable comments and have even won a few awards. So with that in mind, let me pass on to you what I have learned and what has worked for me.

**Paints:** There are three kinds of paint: oil, enamel, and acrylic. I use the latter two with either a gloss or flat finish. I have not tried oil paints. The manufacturing brand names that have given me good results include Model Master Enamel and Acrylic, Poly, Tamiya Color, and Testors. All can be purchased at any well-stocked hobby store.

When I begin to paint a uniform that I have never painted before, my major challenge is to choose an appropriate set of colors. The colors must reasonably match the colors of the real uniform and must work together to make a figure aesthetically pleasing.

For color authenticity, I consult my reference books. My conversions at this time are of World War I soldiers (American, British, French, and German), and over the years I have collected a number of references that show the colors of uniforms of many nations for that war.

Of these references, my favorite is *World War I in Colour Photographs* (Europa-Militaria No. 3) written by Laurent Mirouze and published by Window & Greene, London, 1990. I frequently take this book along with me when I buy paints.

My next challenge revolves around my aesthetic values. After choosing the most authentic colors I can find and after I have painted the first coat, I sometimes discover that collectively the shades of colors are not visually pleasing; they simply don't go together. For example, the shade of green I chose for the uniform and the shade of brown for boots and belts are not aesthetically pleasing to me when painted side by side. So it's off to the hobby store to buy different shades of green and brown.



Photo 1. Front view of painted figure.



Photo 2. Back view of painted figure.

# HOW I PAINT DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (PART II) (Cont.)

If the colors are authentic, then why am I concerned about the aesthetic appearance of a figure, which is relative anyway? It is because the aesthetic appearance of my figure is extremely important to me, and for that reason I'm willing to sacrifice a bit of authenticity, not to mention time and money. Looking at what I regard as an aesthetically pleasing toy soldier makes me happy.

On the other hand, if I wanted to paint a conversion so that it looks like an original Dimestore soldier, then obviously I would need paint that would match the colors of the old figures. To find that kind of paint, I would begin by consulting Ron Eccles' Dimestore catalog.

**Brushes:** Artists who paint military miniatures tell me that Windsor & Newton brushes are the best on the market. I paint with Loew-Cornell brushes that I purchase at a local craft store. For one of these brushes, the average price is about \$4.50. The best advice that I can give about brushes is to resist the temptation to buy inexpensive brushes or a bag of brushes for a few dollars. Buy quality brushes.

When I began painting my conversions, I bought cheap brushes, which impaired my ability to control where I wanted the paint to go. My paint jobs looked terrible. Every figure had sloppy edges where two different colors met. In addition, my inexpensive brushes had a tendency to shed bristles. This made matters worst if I did not find and remove them before the paint dried.

It was at this time that I nearly gave up converting. Why bother to convert a figure if it will look horrible after it has been painted? However, instead of quitting I invested in better brushes. In return they gave me control of where I wanted the paint to go and with practice that has made all the difference.

Paintbrush heads come in numerous shapes such as rounds, liners, and spotters. Rounds have a full body of bristles that come to a point. They hold quite a bit of paint for a given size and in the hand of an artist, they are great for painting detail work. I have not developed the skill to use this type of brush for detail work because I often press too hard on the tip thereby spreading the paint to areas where I don't want it to go.

As the name indicates, liners are used to paint lines. I use them instead of rounds to paint an even edge that separates one color from another such as where the skin color of a neck meets the color of a collar. Lastly, spotters are used to place a dot of paint at a specific location. I use one to paint buttons on the front of some uniforms.

Each of these shapes comes in different brush sizes as indicate by a number marked on the handle: the larger the number, the larger the brush head. For example, a number 5 brush has a larger head than a number 3, and a 3 has a larger one than a 0. Larger heads hold more paint, but can be more difficult to control in tight spaces.

Below the number 0, brush sizes progressively decrease as 00, 000, 6/0, 10/0, respectively; in this case, the larger the number before the slash, the smaller the brush head.

I use a number 1 or 3 round (Series 7000 marked on the handle) to apply paint without much regard for neatness. When neatness counts, I switch to a 6/0 or 10/0 liner (Series 7350) to paint an even edge between two different colors. I paint buttons with a number 4/0 spotter (Series 7650). So in the end, I draw on only a few brushes to paint my conversions; I need just two when I don't paint buttons.

Finally, enamel and acrylic paints dry rather quickly on figures and brushes. When paint dries on a brush, it stiffens the bristles and decreases my ability to control the distribution of paint. This leads to a sloppy paint job. Therefore, when painting with one color, I frequently clean my brush during a work period that exceeds the paint's drying time. After I finish painting with one color, I immediately clean my brush before I start painting with a different color.

I clean wet acrylic paint from a brush by washing it in a container of soap and water and then rinsing it in clean water. I remove dried acrylic paint as well as enamel paints, wet or dry, with lacquer thinner followed by a rinse in clean water.

**Steady Hands:** To me an important factor that leads to good work is to have steady hands and a steady figure when painting. I steady my hands by resting them on the edge of my work surface, which happens to be a plywood board resting on an open drawer of my basement workbench.

When sitting next to this surface, which is 34-inches high above the floor, my hands rest comfortably on the rounded edge of the board. At this height my hands are relatively close to my face, thereby giving me a good view of a figure. I hold a figure steady on the board with one hand while painting it with the other hand (Photo 3).

# HOW I PAINT DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (PART II) (Cont.)



Photo 3. Resting hands and figure on a work surface.

Sometimes shortly after I down a mug of caffeinated coffee and then try to paint, my painting hand begins to shake uncontrollably. To control the shakes, I rest my forearm and painting hand on the work surface. That usually stops it, and from that position, I proceed to paint.

Hanging from the ceiling, a bank of fluorescent bulbs lights my workspace. I prefer fluorescent to incandescent light.

Painting and Finishing Touches: There are primarily two styles of painting Dimestore conversions: traditional and precision. The traditional style follows the way figures were originally painted by factory workers. Because production time directly equates with cost, figures were painted fairly quickly. This resulted in a rudimentary paint job in that colors often extended into areas that they should not have. For example, the flesh color of hands and/or the head often extended onto a uniform and vice versa. To many collectors today, the traditional style yields a visual appearance that typifies what a Dimestore figure should look like.

The second style emphasizes precision painting. In this case, the flesh color of the hands and head stops right at the edges of the cuffs and collar, respectively. The color of one article does not run onto the color of another article. Therefore, the signature of this style of painting is the smooth edge that separates one color from another.

Which style you follow depends on your aesthetic values. I prefer the second style. Therefore, the remainder of this section will focus on precision painting. I will not attempt to offer any tips on the traditional style mainly because I have not tried painting in this manner.

Before I start painting, I fortify my lap by placing an old towel across it for the simple fact that loaded paintbrushes and open paint bottles have been known to suddenly leap out of my hands and bomb my lap, for reasons heaven only knows.

After a figure is primed, I begin by painting the face, neck, and both hands with a flesh color making sure that the paint overlaps onto the collar and cuffs. Next comes the uniform, which I paint to the edge of the flesh color, followed by the boots, waist belt, and base.

Once the flesh color is dried, I go over it with a second coat. As you may have surmised by now, neatness does not count during these early painting stages.

Now comes the serious painting. If I have not done so, I put on strong reading glasses. Although my hands are relatively close to my face when resting on the edge of my work surface, I want a very close look at what I'm about to paint.

Using a liner, I dip the tip of the brush in the paint color of the uniform. Then beginning at a corner of a collar, I paint a smooth line along the collar-neck border until I reach the next corner. Because the brush head is small, I have to dip for paint a few times before the task of painting over the flesh color on the uniform is completed.

I use a specific stroke over and over when painting an edge separating two different colors. With my painting hand resting on the edge of the board, I always *draw the paintbrush away* from me in one smooth motion. After I finish a segment of an edge and while holding the position of my painting hand fixed, *I turn the figure* with my other hand until the figure is in the most optimum position for my painting hand to continue to draw the paintbrush away from me. And so it goes until an edge is completed: paint, turn the figure, and paint some more.

I have found this stroke very effective for painting straight edges. And in turn, the visual appearance of a figure is vastly improved when edges are painted straight.

After I complete the collar, I move on to paint the edge around each cuff followed by other edges that separate different colors on the torso, arms, legs, and feet. Once the edges are completed, I return to the uniform, boots, belts, and base to give them a second coat, being carefully not to paint

# HOW I PAINT DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS (PART II) (Cont.)

too close to finished edges. I finish by painting details on some uniforms such as piping and buttons (Photo 1).

After the paint has dried, I turn my attention to the head. Using a liner and brown paint, I start the hairline at the top of one ear and paint down, then across the back of the neck, and finally up to the top of the second ear. From the top of the second ear, I paint down a bit to form a sideburn, then up and across the top of the forehead. From here I paint down, stop next to the first ear to form the sideburn, and then paint up slightly to the top of the ear where I began painting the hairline. After the hairline has been painted, I paint the rest of the hair on the head. For the conversion in this article, I painted the mustache brown and the head bandage white with an added touch of red to show a bloodstain on the bandage (Photo 1).

I end work on the head by drawing the eyebrows, eyelashes, and eyes with pen and India ink, and paint the lips red making sure I stay within the upper and lower lip margins.

If there is equipment that will be attached to a figure such as a backpack, I paint the equipment and the surrounding area on the figure where the equipment will be glued. I do not, however, paint the surfaces where the pieces will come together. When both are dried, I fasten the equipment to the figure (Photo 2) using two-part epoxy glue.

After I have painted a figure, I spray it with a clear-gloss acrylic coat to preserve the paint and prevent the ink in the eye area from smearing, to smooth out minor surface irregularities, and to even out the finish of different types of paint (gloss and flat) I may have used. I like the appearance of a glossy toy soldier and the silky smooth feel of the finish. On the other hand, if you dislike a glossy appearance, you can coat your figure with a matt finish. And instead of spraying, you may choose a brush to apply a protective coat.

When a figure is completed, I sign my last name under the base and spray it with an acrylic coat followed by a second coat after the first has dried.

**Summary and Conclusion:** In summary, if you are starting to paint toy figures or are planning to do so, I offer the following tips that with practice should improve your painting skills. (1) Buy quality paintbrushes, and (2) keep them clean. (3) Before you start painting, find a way to steady your hands and your figure. (4) Wear some type of magnifying glasses so that you have a close look of what you

are painting, and (5) paint under good lighting. (6) When painting edges, you might try drawing the brush away from you. (7) If part of a finished paint job does not meet your high standards, repaint it, which is what I *often* have to do. (8) Keep in mind that it may take some time to develop painting skills that will yield favorable results, so be patient and above all don't give up.

If you have questions or comments, pass on your concerns to me at dubois@umbc.edu or when you see me at toy soldier shows. As I stated at the beginning, I'm not a trained artist but I'll do my best to help you. By the way, if you are a trained artist and have noted that I have omitted something important that every figure painter should know, please do not hesitate to e-mail me your thoughts.

Let me conclude by offering a suggestion. If you are looking for a way to escape from normal daily stresses, try painting toy figures. When I'm painting, the problems of the world simply disappear.

Painting consumes my full attention. There is no time to think about anything else. After I put on my reading glasses and look down at what needs painting, my vision is totally filled by a conversion in one hand and a paintbrush in the other hand; that's all I see. No other space exists. In turn, my mind is focused on placing just the right amount of paint at just the right location on a figure, and that's the only thing that matters, nothing else.

With such an intense focus on painting, it is not unusual for me look up at the wall clock and see that an hour or more has passed since I began painting, although in my mind, it seems like I just started a few moments ago.

Consequently while I'm working, space shrinks to the size of a toy soldier, time nearly stops, and the only thing that matters is painting a figure. I am truly lost in my hobby. Even after I have finished painting and have walked away from the workbench, my mind is still focused on the figure and the next painting task. It frequently takes me a few moments to come back to reality.

Interestingly enough, others who paint figures have told me that they have experienced basically the same thing.

So, want to make the world go away for a while? Paint toy figures.

# **BOOK REVIEW**

Corridas De Tores – Bull Fighting Toy Figures (Spain, France, Germany and United Kingdom)

> By Jose Manuel Allendesalazar Reviewed by Norman Joplin

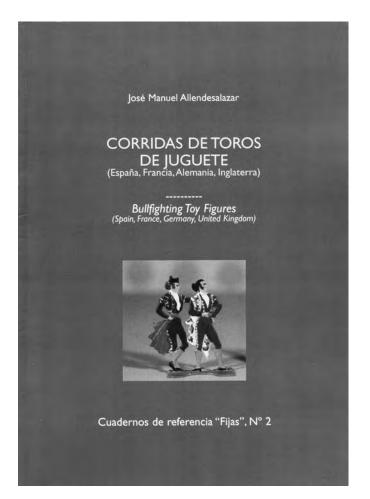


Mr. Allendesalazar has written two previous toy soldier and figure books in Spanish, he is a former Spanish Ambassador to the U.S.A.

Bull Fighting Toy Figures is a sixty seven-page account of some of the worlds most famous and not so famous toy figure manufactures interpretations of the subject.

The love of the subject is clearly relayed to the reader from the author even though the subject matter is highly specialized.

A brief history of Bull Fighting is included along with an index of manufactures and over 90 color illustrations.



Many of the thirty toy soldier and figure companies represented, listed and illustrated are household names within the toy figure hobby and include Britains, CBG Mignot, Charbens, Crescent, Casanellas of Spain, Heyde, Imrie /Risley, Quiralu, Reamsa and Starlux, the other twenty nine may not be so familiar to the reader, but never the less include some very interesting items.

For further information including details of the authors Toy Soldier and Figure Museum in Spain contact the author –

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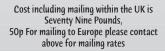
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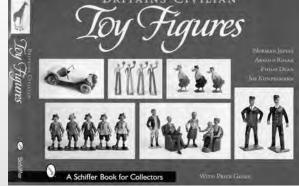
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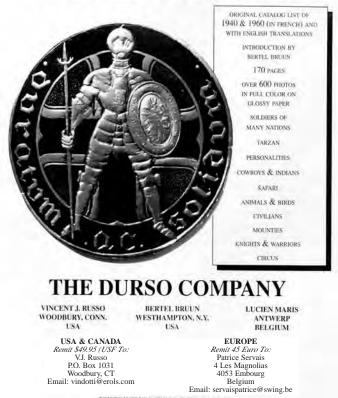
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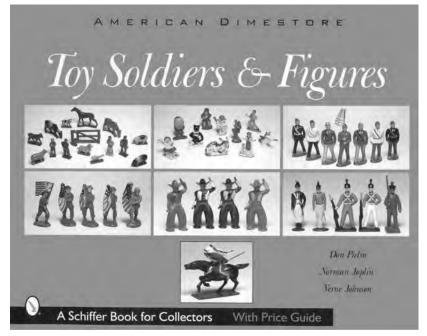
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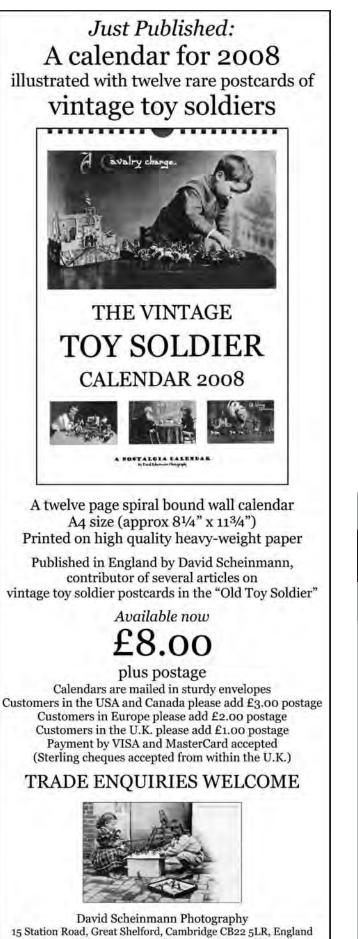
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### SALUTING HOLT'S HOBBIES 1984-1999 By Louis S. Steinberg



FROZEN IN TIME FOREVER SALUTING HOLT'S HOBBIES



### Sharon and Bill Holt

"Sharon and I began Holt's Hobbies in June of 1984. Within the next fourteen years we created, manufactured, and delivered direct to individuals by far the largest variety of new and compatible, Dimestore-size, toy soldiers since the end of the big three...Barclay, Manoil, and Grey Iron," proudly exclaimed Mr. Lynton "Bill" Holt.

### *What follows is a very nice and easy story to tell:*

Bill Holt and his wife, Sharon, have already documented in their past catalogs; order forms; memos of new releases; and personal letters, so very much information of their life; the history of their hobby business; and their success in applying the oldest law of marketing – that is: "Find a Need and Fill It."

The Holt's Hobbies illustrated catalog, distributed in 1990, relates the beginning of Bill's early interests in toy soldiers.

He writes, "My introduction to toy soldiers occurred on Christmas day of 1941 in Clinton, Iowa. My parents had set up a boxed Barclay hospital with the #199 tent, the stretcher bearers, and the wounded soldier. They had embellished this with a low wall of sandbags around the tent and a profusion of soldiers were standing on the colorful packages under a brightly lit tree.

"Santa Claus really started something that Christmas, and for many years he added new troops to my growing collection. We played hard in those "radio days", our imagination fueled by the newsreels of the period. Trenches were dug around shade trees in the back yard. Sand box battles raged on lazy summer days, and when it rained, we set up our armies on the bedroom floor."

The above, for so many of us, addresses from those times past such a delightful picture by the way in which Bill most profoundly captured those innocent years of his childhood. Sad, how our bio-clocks give us rather little time to live in, enjoy, and remember those ever fleeting years, so filled with many youthful and exciting fantasies.

However, I must return to a few years earlier. It was then 1937, as the Great Depression was slowly recovering from its shocking downturn of the US economy, that William Bruce and Lorraine Holt heralded the birth of their son Lynton Bruce Holt as the newest member of Clinton's growing population of almost twenty-six thousand.

"While growing up I took the name, 'Bill', from my father's first name simply because I liked it," he pointed out. So now, the words to that old song really should read, "Along came Bill, a-not so-ordinary kind of guy."

"My father was with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad for years and often would surprise me with gifts of toy soldiers upon his return from trips. Unfortunately, he was involved in a major train wreck that took his life," said Bill.

Soon after graduating from Saint Mary's High School, in 1956, Bill entered the Air Force. Coincidentally, a young lady by the name of Sharon Hunter then attended nearby Clinton High.

"During my career of twenty years in the Air Force I was stationed in six States plus Iceland and Viet Nam. It was in Texas and Nevada that I worked on a special project for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Whenever I saw something that needed correcting, rewriting or a new presentation, I made it a point to do it!" said Bill in a determined manner.

He wrote a specific systems manual and taught the primary maintenance course on the F4E aircraft for transitioning pilots. He provided a new checklist for the T-38 Talon jet trainer aircraft. The Talon is still in use today as the aircraft of choice that "chases-in" each space shuttle when landing. He was on flight status for both the T-33 and T-38 aircraft.

Within the later part of President Johnson's Administration, Bill was honored by receiving an Outstanding Young Men of America Award and two Air Force commendation medals.

Vietnam had been bubbling with US advisors for years. In May of '65 the first combat troops arrived. By the end of '66 US troop level reached 389,000. It escalated to 463,000 by the end of '67. In 1968 the North

Vietnamese Army along with the Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive by attacking throughout the South a hundred plus cities and towns. Bill was there. In the thick of it!!

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Upon his return from Nam, Bill was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base a bit south of Miami, Florida. He said, "During my last few years in the Air Force, I was school superintendent of Fighter Aircraft Maintenance for the 9th Air Force F4E Phantom II program for foreign and domestic students. Our school was named as the best in the Air Force."

Some Specially Made one-of-a-kind German Conversions



Limited Edition "Teamwork" with K-9 Ammo Runner



#H2 Was the First Soldier Produced Wounded WW 1 Doughboy in a Foxhole



Accessories with Rare 1984 Rifle Rack

Bill retired from the Air Force, in 1976, as Senior Master Sergeant, having completed two decades of most honorable and dedicated service to our country.

Packing up his uniforms and donning civvies, he accepted a position in Miami Beach with Washington Federal Savings as Vice President of Administration Services.

"Five years later, I accepted a teaching position with Baker Aviation in Miami as a jet lab instructor on aircraft engines. I re-wrote [why did I know this would happen] the course for FAA qualification and testing for FAA licensure," Bill said



**Motor Scouts and Sidecar Variations** 



More Specially Made one-of-a-kind German Conversions



**Doughboy Six Piece Medical Speciality Set** 



A Grouping of Combat Ready Doughboys

But wait! Let's back up a little. Remember Sharon Hunter of Clinton High yonder in Clinton, IA? Well, now it is 1970. Sharon, who was still a surgical nurse and had been so for many years, ran into Bill again in Tampa, FL, through her sister whom had married Bill's best friend. Yep, this is a cute class B movie.....

Bill married Sharon six weeks later and adopted her three little ones. All's well that ends well. For sure!

Picking up again from the Holt catalog, Bill writes, "Early in 1984, Sharon and I were wandering through an antique show on Miami Beach when I spotted the #199 hospital tent and sixteen Barclay soldiers. I had no idea that toy soldiers had outlived the Red Ryders and M-80's of the 50's! I also had no idea there were other collectors in the world. But, I knew then that I was hooked.

"Not knowing where I could find more soldiers in quantity, I bought some new zinc soldier molds to see how molds were made. The idea of producing my own army intrigued me, and I began to whittle a soldier out of balsa wood. I wanted something in a battle pose that neither Barclay nor Manoil had made. Thus was born the wounded soldier in a foxhole." (# H-2 on his sales order list of WW I Doughboys)

With further explanation, Bill states, "After lots of reading, much experimentation and a few major disasters in mold making, my desired effect was achieved. I was delighted with the results!"

When those frustrating months had passed, Bill's diligent trial-and-error methods became more comfortably proficient. However, a much needed spark of genuine encouragement yet was to be found. It finally happened while attending an antique show where he met and discussed soldiering with Phil Savino, a dealer in old toy soldiers from nearby Micanopy, Florida. He says, "I showed Phil my efforts and he most strongly urged me to continue the line and manufacture my soldiers."

Wow! A little spark, as usual, began the blaze. A preppie became a pro when in June of 1984, Holt's Hobbies became Bill's fulfilled realization.

"We created a new line of Dimestore-like-toy-soldiers in action-posed positions that were never produced by the old American companies, but emulating their same tradition. They all are originally sculpted, hollow-cast, metal figures of a corresponding 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch scale, intended to continue where the Barclay and Manoil pieces of the 30's and 40's left off. They certainly are more animated, more carefully painted, and do faithfully match the original colors. In fact, the soldiers are first filled, cleaned, painted in high-grade acrylic enamels, and then baked," relates Bill.

Technically, it is interesting to note the procedures used to fabricate a hollow-cast item. Bill explained, "I accomplished it in one of three ways: two pieces soldered together at the waist; out the back with a field pack soldered over the sprue hole; or, drop-cast out the bottom where the void is then visible. As a small company, we were limited to the quantity of figures that could be handcast and finished. Due to the complexity of the casting, some figures required the soldering of several units, while others simply could be made using a two part mold."

By 1988, the order sheet of Holt's Hobbies offered a broad selection of individual, WW I, Doughboys and German soldiers; many multi figure specialties; as well as, several signed and numbered Limited Editions; plus, an expanded array of complimentary and compatible Soldier Accessories.

Orders for toy soldiers were on the increase. It seemed the hobby was growing by leaps and bounds. Business was so brisk that new releases were cut to only two per year.

Bill and Sharon left the warmth of Miami and ventured up north to the "Big Dance," The Chicago Toy Soldier Show, and to the annual New Jersey East Coast Show. Bill said, "This is 'Dimestore Country' and I put on an intense one day exhibition that is a must for collectors. We returned home from each show sold out. I mean, we even sold our painted-up display of new releases. Thankfully, we also generated a handful of new orders to fill, along with those that waited at home in our overstuffed mailbox."

The Holts, if you can imagine this, were a fine tuned two person quintet with each tending to several functions within the production cycle. The newly found hobby business now became Bill's sole activity. Or should I say "soul"? For it was with great enthusiasm that he began the needed research to mentally conceive, sketch, and then design, sculpt, mold make, cast, file, assemble, and paint each and every figure. Occasionally, the painting job was out-sourced to several nearby student art majors. "Horses and the multi colored, German figures driving those painters nuts....painters driving me nuts!" yells Bill.

Sharon handled the business end of processing and scheduling every order by postmark for production; arrangements for shipping; developing a premier catalog; composing all the frequent news releases with pictures; and, of course, keeping all the material suppliers current. Plus, every three or four months the growing list of customers were notified by a flyer accompanied by a color photo of the very newest, copyrighted figures. Bill adds, "Pressure cooker type endeavors are killers, but working hard at something that is enjoyable does relieve the stress factor immeasurably."

Business now showed even more of an upswing. Since all figures were made to order, delivery time became three to six weeks depending on the work load. The customer base rapidly continued to grow, as did its demand. It was not uncommon for production to be more than several hundred pieces behind. And just think, interspersed amongst the orders, it became somewhat of a priority to complete plenty of inventory to have on hand for attending the various soldier shows. It was a year of constantly keeping three activities in the air and two in the hand.

In the spring of '89, Sharon and Bill finally took a much needed months respite from the never ending daily chores of toy soldiering. It was off to the Netherlands to visit their daughter, Karen, and her husband, Gerard. He

says, "We had a delightful rest once we got over the 'culture shock' of Amsterdam. For years I was mind chattering about developing a Renault Tank as an accessory to my soldier line. I sketched one up and researched the tanks while fully clothed, and I say again, "fully clothed", on a nude beach at a lake in the Netherlands. Funny...but, every time I think of that, I remember the blond next to us." (Funny...the tanks never made it to the production stage).

What did get produced and distributed in the last quarter of 1990 was the long awaited catalog that photographically documented to date the entire Holt line. It also included a bonus of several diorama pictures displaying soldiers in action and, naturally, a teaser to watch for additional new releases.

By 1991, business was outstanding. You know what is said about when it rains. Well, the orders poured in, fostered by more new releases. Many were for just several soldiers. But, a few customers rang the bell at the top of the pole for as many as fifty to seventy figures. Delivery schedules increased to four to nine weeks. Workdays became twelve hours plus.

Amongst this seemingly never-ending "hectivity", could making toy soldiers get even more exciting? To be sure it did! It happened right at the middle of the year.

Holt's Hobbies was contacted by 20th Century Fox Studio in Los Angeles to provide a parade of miniature soldiers for its movie, "Toys", staring Robin Williams, to be released in the beginning of '93.

The military parade was conceived and designed by the studio to be actually twenty-four feet long and to include the various service groups in large marching units; a big motorcycle contingent; multiple bands; troops on horseback; and, color bearers with honor guards. Certainly, this was thought to be rather ambitious for the hobby.....but, not for the magic wand of Hollywood.

Bill's comment was, "Our motto should be, 'We thrive on CHAOS!' If it gets too slow, then we make things happen." Fox Studio finalized their needs and placed, with payment, their order. Of course, consistent with movie making, there was as usual a crunch-time-frame for the delivery. Thus, the magnanimous work load was split up between Holt's company, Ed Burley's Toy Soldiers and Ron Eccles of Eccles Bros. in Iowa.

Although Bill was already swamped with orders, he did manage the many extra hours of production to make a final delivery of soldiers to Fox in early April of '92. The "atta boys," stating that the Studio was elated with its big parade, were quickly received.

Word had spread. Many, many hobbyist and collectors were excited and anticipated that the huge display of so many toy soldier miniatures, featured in such a quality, nationally distributed, motion picture surely would kindle great public interest, to both young and old, in the hobby. Just guess what transpired??

Discouraged and with a crescendo of disgust by all those involved, it never happened! Only the film editors

and their cutting room floor saw the tremendous beauty of the big, twenty four foot, colorful, toy soldier parade. It was eliminated in the movie's final cut. Although, a poorly lit, ten second clip of some Holt figures did make it to the silver screen. Big Deal! That's it? Ten seconds!!

Why? Oh Why?? Well, who can explain \*#)+%=! Hollywierd?

At this juncture, the nicer parts of this story abruptly turn, absolutely, to a threatening, real-life disaster, when in mid August of '92 Hurricane Andrew unleashed its Herculean, category 5, force on all of Southern Florida. The trauma to Holt's Hobbies of Miami was nearing its apex.

Sharon and Bill fortunately had taken heed of the earlier warning weather reports to vacate. Bill chokingly tells, "We felt lucky to be alive and tremendously thankful, that on the day before the storm hit, we were able to pack up our business records, molds, and antique collections and remove them to a place of safety

"Two days after the exit of Andrew we returned to the devastated remains of our home. The house and everything else seemed totally destroyed. Miraculously, still standing and intact like a stately obelisk, we spotted Sharon's china cabinet, as well as my complete workshop. I was able to salvage all the items I needed to work with in order to continue producing soldiers. After a long pause.....My military research library along with Sharon's first edition book collection was completely ruined. I wish that not one of you ever have to share our experience."

During the next few months Holt's Hobbies was on the merry-go-round of moving four times until permanently settling in the Orlando, Florida area. The plan was to be in full operation before Christmas. "Despite the tragedy that precipitated this necessary hiatus, we are still in business," reinforced Bill. Because of such a jolting interruption, so many orders that were in progress had yet to be filled. The trust that Bill's customers placed in him was overwhelming. There were no cancellations. Not a single one!

Holt's Hobbies definitely had its ear to the marketplace. Most importantly it listened. Bill's creativity for new releases was buoyed up by the many customer requests for the figures they would like to have in their own collections. He said, "You are the people who, as a group, determine our future releases. Therefore, in keeping with the themes of the majority, we are offering this entirely, unique, six-piece, medical action set which in itself depicts a small diorama."

The acceptance of Holt's Hobbies soldier line was due to the fact that, now available, at this time, was a quality, new collectible, so fashioned to be an immediate current extension of the figures of the past decades. The style look of "The Great War" had well established the garb for these small pieces. Tin helmets; high collar tunics; riding type breaches with leg wrappings made the line fit perfectly. Sales proved it to be so.

Soon after the entry of the United States into WW II, our government issued a new uniform to the troops. Bill vividly remembers the battle dress of those wartime years.



Set of Pilots discussing Aerial Combat



Two Piece Set of Barber Shaving Doughboy

Ever since his entry into soldier making, he was silently obsessed to produce the Army infantry, the island hopping Marines, and the Japanese combatants of that war era.

"Playing catch-up with catalog orders and compounded by the large delivery to Fox Film, affected my ability to focus on the WW II line," says a disheartened Bill. "The fun, however, for me is coming up with a gamut of new troops. And, I still need for the World War One guys some bivouac items, such as field kitchen sets and bakeries. The rest to me is just doing the job of the nuts and bolts."

From over several hundred individual items generated and offered by Holt's Hobbies, the artillery sets, both U. S. Doughboy and German, I do believe to be the "piece de resistance" of the line. Running a close second, in my opinion, has to be the exquisitely mounted personality figure, right down to his brass buttons and spurs, of WW I's General "Blackjack" Pershing saluting his troops. This was released in 1991. Bill tells me, "The large guns by themselves (Americans using French 75mm and Germans 7.7cm field guns) were extremely difficult to make. Lots of hand work is involved; lots of molded parts; several different, low-melt, alloys – and, a few days for finished assembly. Pretty much of the same applied to the good General."

It was at the end of 1993 that a shocking flyer of "NOTICE" arrived in the mailbox of every customer of Holt's Hobbies. The following was stated: "Effective January 31st, 1994, our current line of World War I figures, with the exception of our Limited Edition Series, will be out of production. For three years I have been wanting to produce those WW II Pacific Island Sets for my own penchant and to satisfy the ever-consistent requests of our customers."

Production ceased for new orders. Nevertheless, Sharon and Bill were still buried with a backlog of orders to fill. Bill emphasized that delivery time would vary considerably and ended with, "We are currently working on one order alone of over 400 pieces and this will take some time!"

In November of 1998 a long awaited, customer flyer introduced the first eight piece set of the World War II



German and Doughboy Combat Gassers



Germans Advancing. Figures were sold separately.

"Island Series" that may be purchased in one of two color variations – that is, khaki, U.S. Infantry, and/or O.D. green with camo helmet cover, U.S. Marines.

Determined not to get entrapped in a bottleneck of sales-order overkill, Bill staggered the mailout of his new announcement to his customers; eliminated magazine advertising; and limited production to a few sets at a time. "This will prevent 'toy soldier burnout' I am sure," he said, standing tall.



WW II Pacific Island Series of 1998 Set Shown is of U.S. Infantry



Three Piece Set of Light Mortar Crew

My own Army Infantry Island Set came near the end of 1999. Many have commented that it is the best of everything produced. It is really a beaut! But....The "General" still gets my vote.

In every specialty toy venue that I may attend, I inevitably come across other collectors seeking Dimestore-size toy soldiers. Naturally, the soldiering talk begins. It always starts with, "Find anything?" From there it glides into a discussion of our own collections and then to those of others. More frequently than not, I am asked, "Do you have any Holts?"

The soldiers of Holt's Hobbies, over the years, have become a primo collectible to acquire. The internet with its auctions and copious toy soldier websites have awakened many dormant interests to our hobby. Prices have definitely risen. Shipping and handling costs are heavy.

To this day, Bill gets an occasional phone call for WW I troops. He gently tells the caller, "They are out of production." The party, in dismay, angrily retorts, "What do you mean, Out of Production!!"

Bill said, "I retired, having survived the Air Force; The Viet Nam Tet Offensive; Hurricane Andrew; Diabetes, Colon Cancer and Chemotherapy; as well as Mr. Toad's Wild Ride at The Magic Kingdom, Disney World." Sharon and Bill live in Longwood, Florida, in close proximity to their children, grand children and great-grandchildren in whom they take great pride, pleasure and enjoyment.

It is my truthful, expressed wish that the preceding story, having been told, will succinctly serve for Bill and Sharon and their Holt's Hobbies, to document their contributions to a recognized place within the annals of Dimestore-size, toy soldier lore.

Man.... Do I miss Holt's Hobbies!!

I miss the vast variety and workmanship of new, quality, Dimestore-type soldiers. I miss Sharon's pictured proclamations of new releases, and the charm of her phone voice when I would infrequently call. I miss the "people person" of Bill .... His letters of updates; his phone conversations; his genuine interest in all of his customers; his dedication to the tasks he created; and, his large accomplishments in a wee niche in the big toy store of our dreams.

Thus, in closing, I sincerely ask those who now have read this far..... "How many Holts do you have??"

Oh yeah, bye the bye, I forgot. Whatever was purchased from Mr. Lynton "Bill" Holt of Holt's Hobbies always included free shipping.

I also miss that too!

### WHEN SOLDIERS RULED THE BEDROOM FLOOR

The rainy afternoons we spent In golden days of yore With childhood fantasies played out Upon my bedroom floor. . . . .

We'd run a sheet across two chairs To block each others sight Of how we set our armies up – (Security was tight!)

We made our forts of wooden blocks And Lincoln Logs and river rocks While each would boast in childish prattle That his would stand up best in battle!

Old Easter grass and hairnets plucked From boxes in the garage Were skillfully laced and carefully placed Providing camouflage.

When everything was set to stay (And often it took half the day) Each man in position, and piled ammunition The chairs were pulled away.

Manoil cannon filled the air With firecrackers armed with care (And Mom would shout from way downstairs "Not indoors, boys!") We'd sigh, alter our battle plan, Exposing each and every man, And bring about the last decision – Matchsticks fired with great precision!!!

Then out from mother's hairnet ground A windup tank so tightly wound It climbed the bastions easily To knock down standing infantry.

Wounded were cured by Dr. Brown (He did his very best) While Dr. White relieved at night To give him needed rest.

A nurse with soup had joined the group To feed the ailing men And treat their wounds so they'd survive To join the fight again.

Barclay's soldiers, Grey Irons, too. With an Auburn rubber team Fought hand in hand to gain the land Of enemy esteem.

As Manoil allies waited there, Carrier pigeons filled the air To bring the general up to date Requesting help (if not too late!) As we grew older, we were bolder With our leaden men, And often used our B. B. guns To bring the battle's end.

At thirteen years, myself and peers (We weren't very wise) With cherry bombs and slingshots forced Our soldiers last demise.

Survivors have become antiques With prices sure to raise the brow. What was a dime has come in time To be of value now.

I hadn't seen my troops except In toy shows now and then. I've bought a few so I can have Those memories again.

Nostalgic memories to enjoy Of how it was to be a boy -Revive those golden days of yore When soldiers ruled my bedroom floor.

By Lynton "Bill" Holt Holt's Hobbies, 1984



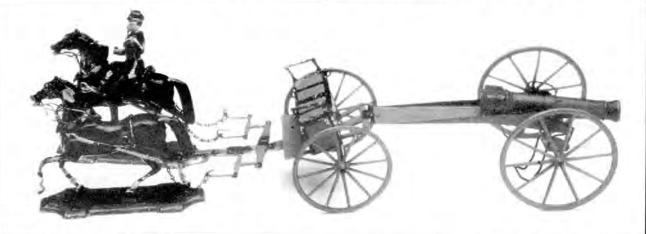
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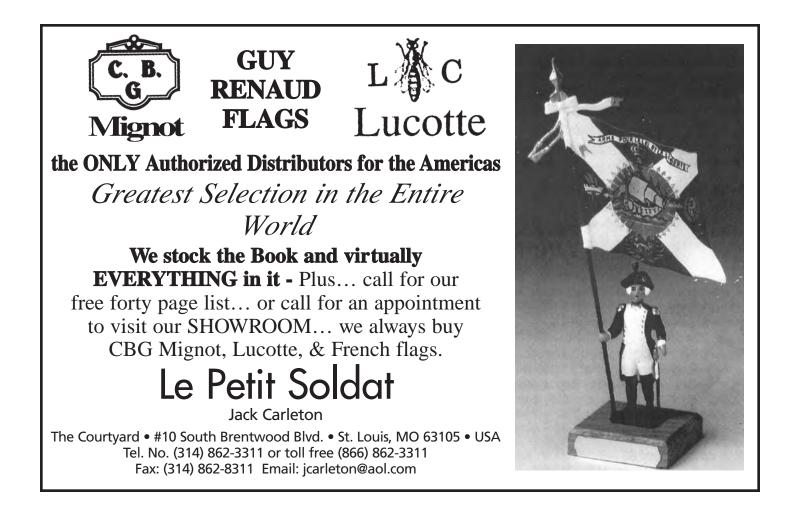
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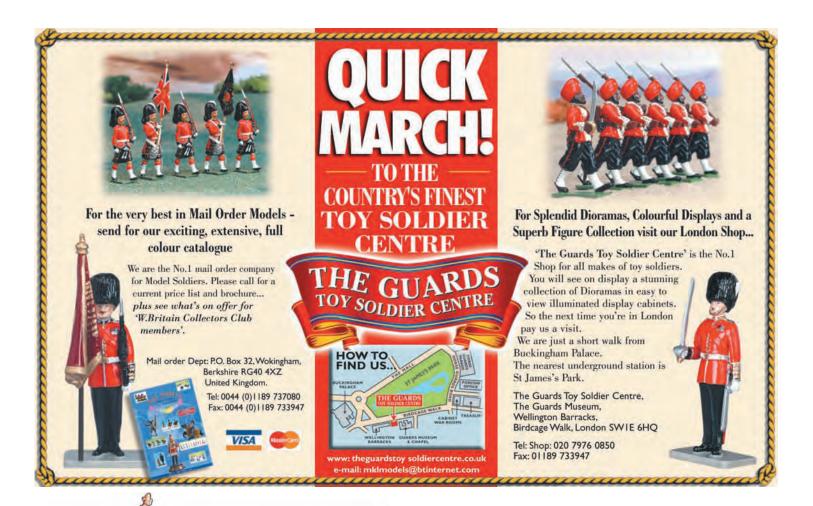


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### AND NOW SOMETHING THAT BRITAINS DID NOT MAKE – OR DID THEY?

By Norman Joplin

Queen Victoria Bust manufactured by James Renvoize

Britains novelty items of the early nineteen hundreds included many busts of British Royalty. The first were probably produced in 1901 and included King Edward the 7th, Queen Alexandra, The Prince of Wales, later George the 5th and in the Jubilee year of 1935 King George the 5th and Queen Mary.

It seems inexplicable that the Britains company did not produce a bust of Queen Victoria. Perhaps the Jubilee of 1897 celebrating the Monarch's 60 year reign came a little too early for them?

Until recently, no models of Queen Victoria by any of the early conventional toy soldier manufactures have surfaced.

Ebay once again provided the basis for this article and, not for the first time, surprised those of us who are actively researching within the toy soldier hobby.

The listing on Ebay simply read "Renvoize Queen Victoria Bust" and for those searching under Britains it would have been completely missed.

I have long been interested in the early competitors of Britains, hence my delight in finding this item.

The Bust is clearly in the Britains style. It is marked on the back of the figure- Copyright J Renvoize 7.31.1902.



**Queen Victoria** 



Renvoize Queen Victoria Bust



Renvoize Queen Victoria Bust and an unidentified Souvenir Bust, possibly by Kew Manufacturing Company

### AND NOW SOMETHING THAT BRITAINS DID NOT MAKE – OR DID THEY? (Cont.)

Queen Victoria died on January 22nd 1901. James Renvoize is known to have operated from various North London locations from 1901 and was registered as The British United Toy Manufacturing Company. An advertisement in Games and Toys magazine- February 1927 stated that the firm was established in 1894.

Renvoize, although listed in Kelly's London Post Office Directories between 1901 and 1927, did virtually no advertising in the toy trade magazines. The entries in the directories were vague and from time to time listed "Our Armies in lead, reproductions of every Regiment modeled by English labour". He did also advertise Drill Frames (see Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Volume 13 #2)

Examples of Renvoize toy soldiers are rare given that he seemed to be producing for nearly 27 years. He was successfully prosecuted by Britains in 1902 for copying their Imperial Yeoman figure which he marked "WB1"

The discovery of the Queen Victoria Bust does seem to give Renvoize some credibility for producing his own unique item, albeit after the death of the Queen. That is, until someone turns up a Britains version.





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### A TOY SOLDIER ODYSSEY How a Britains U.S. Marine Band Traveled 10,000 Miles and Wound Up Selling at Auction For a Record Price

By Henry I. Kurtz



In October of 1979, a Britains 21-piece United States Marine Band in winter dress (Set #2014) went on the auction block at Phillips, Son and Neale in New York City and sold for \$3,000 - a record price at that time for a single lot of toy soldiers sold at auction. This is the true story behind the sale of that band. It is a story I know only too well, as I was the person who consigned that set of miniature musicians.

The saga of that toy soldier band, which traveled 10,000 miles before finally coming to rest on the auction block, began one fine spring day in 1955 when I sauntered into Polk's Hobby Shop, then located on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue near the corner of 32nd Street. I had spent most of my Saturdays at Polk's during my high school years. Marty Fine was the miniature soldier specialist on Saturdays and a little informal club of toy soldier buffs gathered there religiously every week. It was here that I met Bill Imrie (later to join with Clyde Risley to form Imrie/Risley Miniatures), Jack Scheid (of Scheid Miniatures) and Vic Weill, who was then the preeminent dealer and collector of Courtenay and Stadden Miniatures.

But all that was in the past on that fateful day in 1955. I was now a freshman at Columbia and my interests had shifted from toy soldiers to the more sophisticated connoisseur figures. (I even tried my hand at painting some quality figures, but happily for the hobby few of my efforts have survived.) Anyway, to make a long story just a bit shorter, as I wandered about the toy soldier department, located at the front of the store's ground floor, my eye caught the glossy glare of a magnificent 21-piece scarletcoated U.S. Marine Band, which, along with other Britains sets, was tacked to one of the walls. (This was the first version of the band, in winter dress uniforms, produced from 1948 to 1955; later Britains would produce an even more impressive 25-piece set in summer dress.) Now in spite of my shifting interests, I had retained my childhood toy soldier collection, which included about 40 Britains sets. But perhaps because of the cost, I had never acquired a complete band. (A check of old store catalogues reveals that in 1953-1954, at Corr's in Washington, the Britains Marine Band was listed at \$7.75; at Polk's during the same period it was selling for \$8.75.)

I had some discretionary money from a part-time job rattling around in my pocket, so it seemed just the right time to add a proper full-throated band - and an American one at that - to my miniature army. So I plunked down a \$10.00 bill and told the sales clerk to wrap it up. If memory serves me, the price of the band had by then risen to \$9.95 - a substantial sum for that era.

For many years after, I displayed my Britains Marine Band as a centerpiece of my toy soldier collection. But as time passed and I moved from one apartment to another, most of my collection ended up in storage. Then one day in 1977, while reading <u>The New York Times</u> I came upon a headline that proclaimed: "21 Toy Soldiers Auctioned for \$1,392.00." The article under the headline described the sale of the actor Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.'s toy soldier collection at the Phillips, London saleroom. The featured set, a Britains Band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, had achieved what was then a record auction price for a lot of toy soldiers.

Immediately, I thought of my collection gathering dust in a storage bin. It was possible that I was sitting on a

### A TOY SOLDIER ODYSSEY (Cont.)

small gold mine. Since I wasn't collecting anymore, it seemed the right time to dispose of my toy troopers and reap whatever rewards might result. Phillips was not conducting sales in New York at that time, but Christie's was, although not toy soldier sales. So after consulting with the Christie's staff in New York, my entire collection (except for a few connoisseur figures by Stadden, Imrie and Greenwood and Ball), was packed up and shipped to Christie's South Kensington in London.

A chap named Richard Lane was then in charge of the soldier department at Christie's South Kensington and he did a nice job of cataloguing and presenting my collection in a sale held in early 1978. I was knowledgeable enough about auctions to insist on having reserves (the minimum price that a lot can be sold for at auction) placed on all of the items. The reserve on the U.S. Marine Band was about \$500.00 (when converted from pound sterling). The prices achieved by my lots were generally excellent, for this was the beginning of a two-decade period when the hobby burst into full bloom, resulting in astounding prices for toy soldiers. Only a few of my lots failed to reach their reserves, and one of them, surprisingly, was my U.S. Marine Band.

Richard Lane was eager to reoffer the band and my other unsold lots in the next Christie's sale. But some hand of fate seized me and a quiet voice whispered "Have them send the lots back." So I did. My travel-weary Marine Band, having already logged 7,000 miles (3,500 when first shipped from the Britains factory in 1955 and another 3,500 when sent off to Christie's), was now on the last leg of its Homeric odyssey - a final 3,500 mile transatlantic journey.

My unsold lots arrived back in the United States in the spring of 1979. By now, Phillips had opened up salerooms in New York City, and in December of 1978 had held its first toy soldier sale -- which featured the Stacy Holmes collection. I decided to offer my returned lots, which included some Mignot Civil War sets, a small fleet of Authenticast World War II identification model warships, and the fabled Marine Band. Anxious to sell the remaining items, I lowered the reserve on the band to a modest \$300.00.

So it came to pass that on a bright sunny Saturday in October of 1979, my U.S. Marine Band went on the auction block for the second and last time. Early in the sale, my Mignot lots sold for strong prices, which was encouraging. At about the mid-point in the sale, the Band was displayed and the auctioneer read the lot description. To my utter amazement, the auctioneer started the bidding at \$850.00 - the result of absent or "book" bids. In \$50.00 increments, the bidding quickly jumped to \$1,000, whereupon the auctioneer switched to \$100.00 increments. As my state of shock increased, the bidding went on -\$1,200, \$1,300...\$1,800, \$1,900. At \$2,000, the increments spiraled up to \$250.00. There was a stunned



Douglas Fairbanks Jr. at home in Hollywood with his Toy Soldier Collection Photograph supplied by Joseph Saine.

silence in the saleroom as the auctioneer reached \$3,000 and the remaining room bidder dropped off. "Fair Warning," said the auctioneer and then hammered down the lot "Sold for \$3,000.00 to the absent bidder." The announcement was greeted by a burst of applause, which was renewed when the auctioneer added, "We have a world record price for a lot of toy soldiers."

In fact, if you add the I0% buyer's premium (the rate back then), the actual price was \$3,300. Later, I found out that the successful bidder was an ardent Britains collector from California, whose name, for reasons of confidentiality, I will not reveal. The under bidder, who went to \$2,750, was an equally ardent U.S. Marine Corps buff. (It should be noted that the "world record" was topped a few months later, in December, when a Britains Salvation Army Band sold at Phillips, London for about \$3,200.00.)

Ironically, as I was selling off my childhood collection, I became re-involved in the toy soldier world, both as a collector and dealer. Two years later, in 1981, I became the lead soldier specialist at Phillips, New York, and later the head of its collectibles department. Simultaneously, I began work on my book <u>The Art of the Toy Soldier</u>. So an impulse purchase of a Britains toy soldier set had longrange consequences that, in my wildest imagination, I could not have imagined.

Henry I Kurtz is a toy soldier collector and dealer, as well as an author, whose most recent book is <u>Men of</u> <u>War</u>. See his ad on page



# PERSONAL NOTES ON A NOSTALGIA SET

### By Arnold Rolak

The two articles written by Gus Gardner, Volume 30, number 2 &3 on Nostalgia figures reminded me of the sets I purchased long ago.

In the 80's while living in Bermuda as the CEO (Managing Director) of an Offshore Insurance Company, Vanguard Insurance, LTD I purchased Toy Soldiers from Shamus Wade's mail order lists.

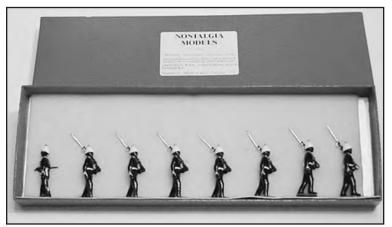
Very few Toy Soldiers were made depicting Bermudan Troops and when Shamus Wade offered sets of the 'BERMUDA ARTILLERY MILI-TIA 1897" for sale I purchased 10 or 12 sets. These were to be given as gifts to visitors who came to the island.

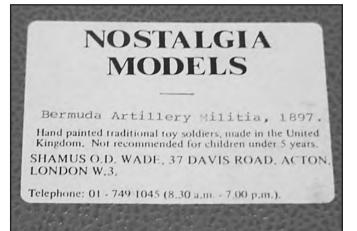
Thanks to my good friend Col Donald R. Pudney I had been introduced to various individuals of the BERMUDA REGIMENT. Resulting from this I presented one set to the Regiment's Officers Mess and at their request a further set to the Sergeants Mess.

Later, the Commanding Officer of the BERMUDA REGIMENT asked me to donate another set which they would have mounted on a Bermuda Cedar plinth and presented by us to the surviving members of the Bermuda Artillery Militia, a Regiment disbanded in the 1960's.

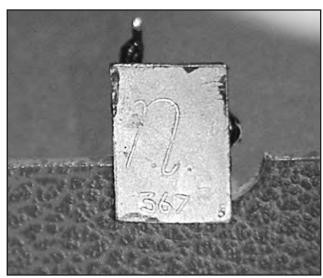
Some years later after my return to Houston, Shamus Wade wrote and asked if I still had any of the Sets. He said he was putting together one set of each of the Nostalgia Sets for himself and had realized he had not kept this one. He offered and I was pleased to accept \$100 for one!!! After all, I still had two more left.

Please see pictures of the set. There is no set number shown on the box but under the base 367 is shown which must be the set number.





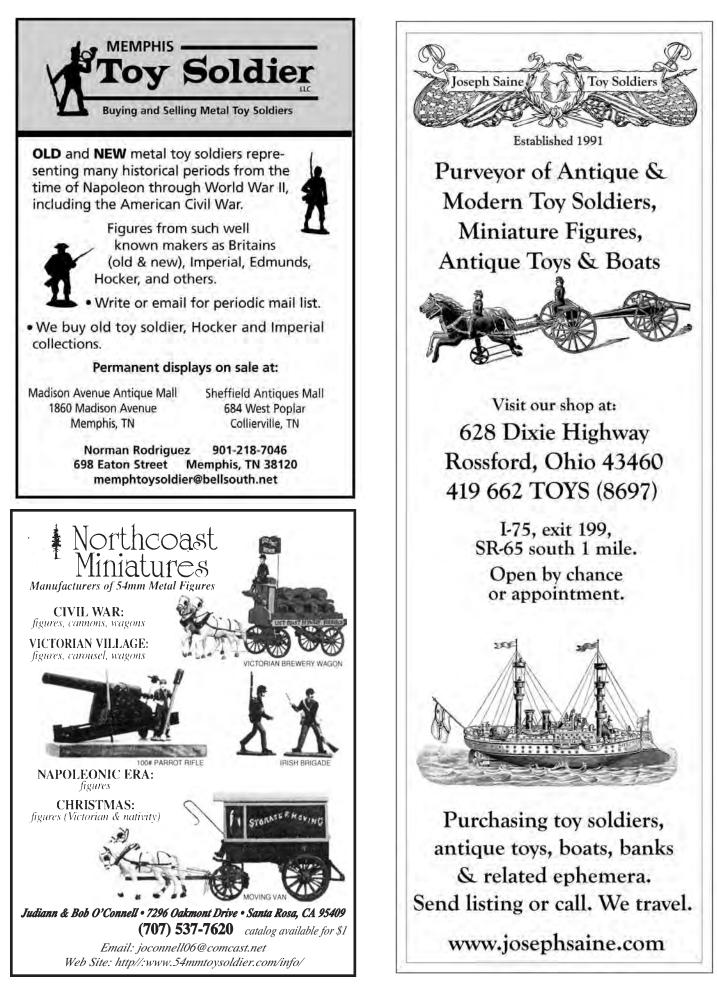
Nostalgia original box.



Numbered base 367 for Bermuda Artillery Militia.



Bermuda Artillery Militia.



### BRITAINS COLONIALS TURN UP AT THE CHICAGO 2006 SHOW!

### By Rob Wilson

Colonel Sam Floca was one of the happiest people leaving the Chicago 2006 toy soldier show. Not because of what he found there, but as a result of confirmation of a piece of good fortune a few months earlier.

As a historian Sam was aware of the role of the ANZACs in World War I. Ever since first hearing the ballad "Waltzing Matilda" he had felt a soldier's attachment to the "Diggers". After seeing the Australian production "ANZACs" he was hooked and determined to acquire all Britains' Australian and New Zealand pre-war and postwar sets. Getting the slope arms sets (#1542 and 1544) was not too difficult, but finding those at present arms (#1543 and 1545) was another matter.

Sam, like many collectors, spends a fair amount of time surfing the web. In November 2005 he saw what he thought was set #1545 on eBay, listed simply as "Australians." The seller was based in Australia and not a dealer in toy soldiers. The picture on eBay showed the box top to be a rather beat up example, with a yellow "Types of the Colonial Army" label, but with the original slot card and backing. The condition of the figures was generally good, apart from a couple of missing bayonets. Following an exchange of emails, the seller confirmed there was no end label on the box and that the broken bayonet tips were not with the set.

Sam thought he had struck lucky when he managed to pick up the set for a modest sum. Bidding was complicated as the seller wouldn't accept anything but Australian currency. Fortunately Sam had collector friends in Australia and they agreed to handle the entire transaction. Sam's bid for the equivalent of \$437 US dollars was successful and the figures were eventually shipped to his Australian friend.

Just as well, as the vendor like too many other sellers on eBay had no clue how to pack toy figures. Fortunately, they had not too far to travel and arrived in one piece, not too much the worse for their rough journey (having been allowed to rattle around inside the box with just a small piece of bubble wrap to cushion them against the tender mercies of the Australian postal service). Sam's Australian friends, who were themselves Britains collectors, emailed him, with congratulations on getting the set at a great price, not noticing anything of particular note. In due course the troops crossed the Pacific and were set up in new barracks on one of Sam's shelves in the USA, logged as set #1545.

To complete his section of Britains' ANZACs Sam now needed only the New Zealanders at present, (set #1543). These were soon acquired from an American dealer, but on arrival Sam was surprised to discover another set of Aussies. rather than the expected Kiwis. He was about to call the dealer to complain, but first compared them to the eBay set. Sam noticed that in his eBay set all the ranks wore long brown boots rather than the more normal khaki puttees. Closer inspection also revealed that the set from the seller in Australia didn't have the usual cast head with the Emu feather, but simply a swatch of grey green paint on the upturned side of a plain slouch hat. Baffled, Sam decided to keep both sets. Soon afterwards he subsequently acquired #1543 at auction, content that he had now completed his cameo collection of ANZACs.

Later, one evening sometime after, Sam was rereading the Fall 2004 issue of *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* (Volume 28, no.3) and discovered the article by Col. Pudney describing "The Colonials", set #1536. Before then Sam was not aware that such a set existed. According to Colonel Pudney's research, based on the factory records, set #1536 was a short lived set brought out to help celebrate the 1937 Coronation. The figures, along with various other sets, were designed to complement the State Coach procession, lining the route, presenting arms to the new Sovereign.

Colonel Pudney's description of the Colonial figures seemed to match the figures Sam had obtained. Rather than the usual puttees and short ankle boots all the figures were wearing long knee length leather boots. Sam's excitement mounted. Could he have chanced upon a set of Colonials!

Down they came from the shelf and the comparisons began with the set described by Col.

### BRITAINS COLONIALS TURN UP AT THE CHICAGO 2006 SHOW! (Cont.)

Pudney. On close inspection there seemed to be a number of discrepancies. The eBay figures had no cast Emu feather, just a painted grey green (rather than black or brown) swatch on the upturned hat. There was no label on the box top end, and the label was yellow, not blue as described by the Colonel. Sam checked Joe Wallis's "Armies of the World" . Wallis describes set #1536 as containing "the figure from set #1545, wearing the slouch hat with the left side turned up." No mention is made of the cast Emu feather. The pictures of Col. Pudney's set were on a Britains tie card, not a slot card like Sam's, and clearly showed a cast Emu feather. Sam thought of calling Old Toy Soldier Magazine with the intent of contacting Colonel Pudney, but never followed it through.

Sam did send a couple of the booted Aussie other ranks to a friend, (a recognized Britains expert). He put them under black light. Although not entirely comfortable with the facial paint as compared to others of the period, he could find no other problem. Nevertheless Sam was somewhat deflated. To satisfy his own curiosity, Sam decided to take all his pre-war Aussies, slope and present, boots and puttees, and subjected each to a black light test, focusing on facial paint, the brown of the boots, and the Emu feather. This failed to reveal any anomalies. The facial tones matched almost perfectly those of the Aussies at the slope; all the boots were a flat brown shade and the feathers dull and identical in colour under the light. He even blacklighted his pre-war Kiwis for comparison, finding no obvious differences in tone. Yet there were the inexplicable differences compared with the Pudney set. As it was now late summer, with the Chicago show imminent, Sam decided to take the figures along to try to find out if anyone could confirm his hopes. Packing the Officer and a couple of the booted other ranks, Sam made his annual pilgrimage to Chicago to get some other opinions.

Consultation with various well known collectors seemed to confirm Sam's suspicions. But how could he be certain? Eventually Sam ended up telling his tale to the present author. This was a serendipitous meeting, since I had only recently acquired the self same set of Colonials from Colonel Pudney at Norman Joplin's Old Toy soldier show in London the previous May! Initial examination of Sam's figures seemed to confirm that they were similar to those in the Pudney set. Unfortunately the latter figures were not available for immediate inspection, but a promise was made to carry out an ID parade on the author's return to the UK.

Pictures were taken and promises of further more detailed comparisons and checks made. On return home the author was able to make a direct comparison, at which point the mystery deepened. Closer inspection confirmed the subtle differences. In particular, in Sam's set the slouch hat, with the left hand side turned up, had a grey/green plume simply painted on rather than the moulded feather plume usually found on the figures in the Australian set. The accompanying pictures show Sam's discovery, the Pudney set and some other examples owned by the author.

It is well known that there is a variation of set #1542 New Zealand infantry marching at the slope that used a smaller head for just a few months before the more familiar large size "scout hat" was employed. Could it be that there was a similar minor change in head gear for the Australians in set #1545? The figures in Sam's set use a head casting similar to that used on the Boer, CIV and US infantry sets. Perhaps this was used as a stop-gap before the mould for the version with the cast in plume was adopted. This could explain Sam's set turning up in a box for set #1545 (Australians). Alternatively, maybe the set was originally sold in the elusive box labeled "Colonials", as in the case of the Pudney set. We shall probably never know for certain. What seems certain is that Sam has turned up yet another very rare find on eBay!

In conclusion, Sam's own words sum up the joys of collecting:

"I don't know if the authenticity of my figures can ever be verified 100% but I do know that working with them taught me a great deal about the study of pre-war Britains and, best of all, I made new friends in the process. For me, it's the collectors who make this the greatest hobby in the world!"

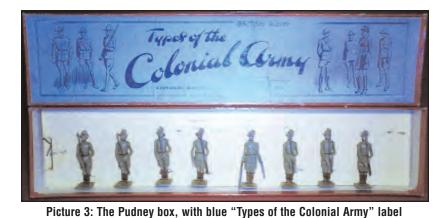
### BRITAINS COLONIALS TURN UP AT THE CHICAGO 2006 SHOW! (Cont.)



Picture 1: Sam's Figures - note the knee length brown boots for both officer and trooper, brown buttons, moustaches and the painted on grey green plume



Picture 2: The Pudney set, details: note long boots on both officer and trooper; moulded in plume (brownish grey tone); gold buttons and no moustaches



COLONIALS At Present Made in England No. 1536

Picture 4: The Pudney box end label, showing the generic "Colonials" title and set number 1536.



Picture 5: "Standard" Set 1545 Australians at present, with moulded plume and short boots compared with what is possibly another set of Colonials with painted on plume and long brown boots (both sets originally without moustaches, although the officer on the right hand side has been embellished with one)

With thanks to Colonel Sam Floca.

As well as sets including the State Coach (#1470, 1476, and 1477), in 1937 Britains released various sets related to royalty (sets # 1471-1475, 1478, 1503-1506), as well as sets depicting units in the Coronation Procession or designed to line the route (#1510,1511,1515,1537,1538 and1540-1545).

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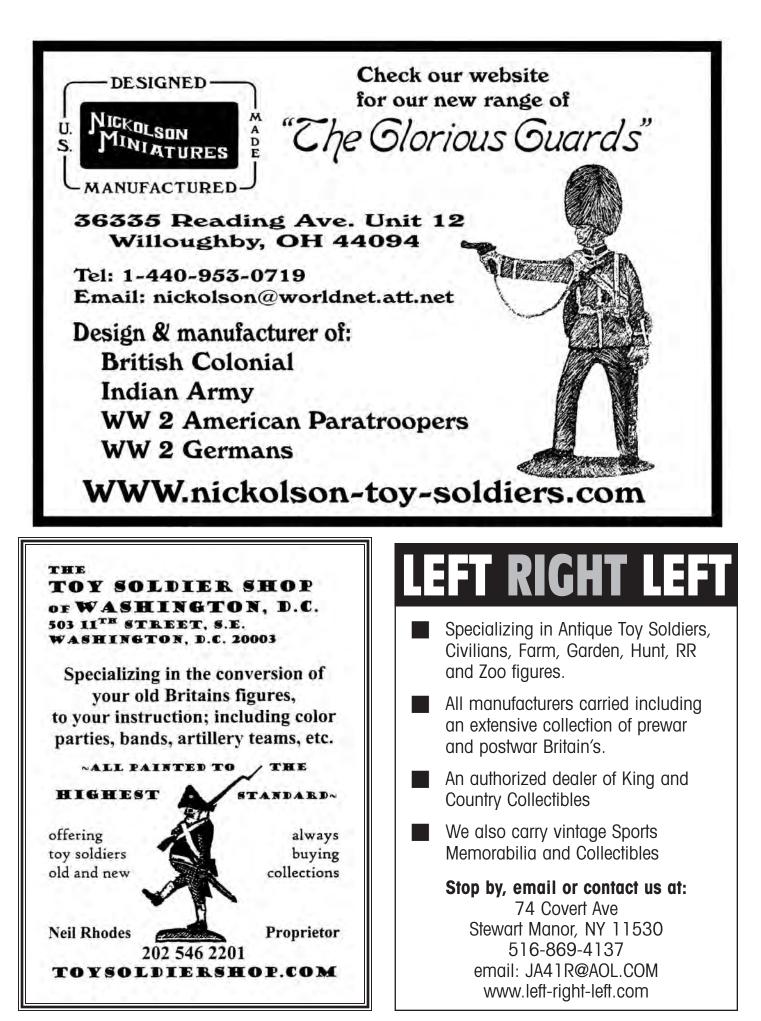
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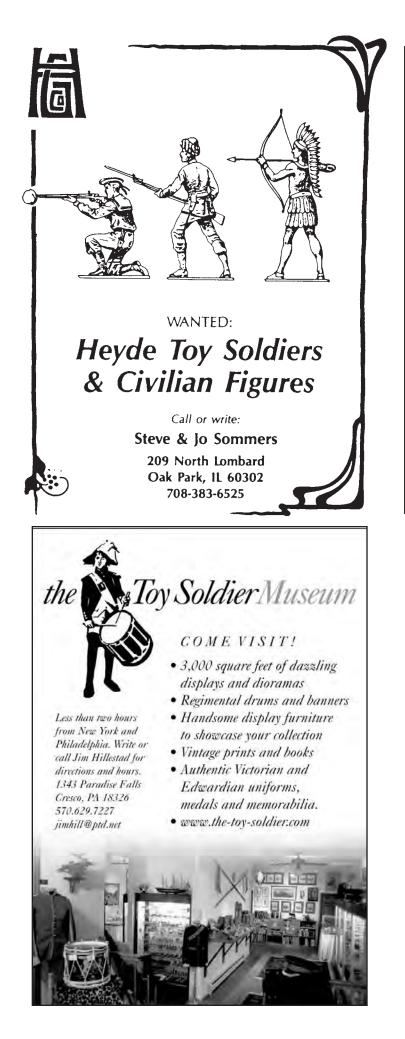
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Holger Eriksson Collectors Society Newsletter HE seeks information about New Yorker Frank Rogers, Comet-Authenticast sculptor of toy soldiers whose initials "FR" are incised on base bottoms of his 54mm figures. We wish to preserve his story as thanks for the wonderful figures he created in the shadow of Comet's other designers Holger Eriksson and Lennart Norrke of Sweden. Please contact Lou Sandbote, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 802, Dallas, Texas 75206 or Iou.sandbote@charter.net or call collect to 214-823-2125.

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

#### <u>2007</u>

**August 11- Saturday.** South Carolina Military Miniature Society Toy Soldier Show. State Museum, 301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC. Contact Dennis Fontana (803) 419 6747 Email Fontana@sentry-box.com

**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 danmorphy@dejazzd.com

**August 26 – Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier & Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites, 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 (Downtown Area). Contact 718-418-9439.

**September 1- Saturday.** Classic Edge Toy Soldier, Train and Toy Auction, Brownstone Masonic Lodge, 215 West Governor Road, Hershey, PA 17033. Auction starts 10 am, preview August 31, 4pm –8pm and on day of sale from 7.30 am. Contact 717 534 9000, appraisals@classicedgeauction.com or Consultant Dr. Christian Keller 703 942 6613, Email doctorkec@aol.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

**September 16 – Sunday.** The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show and Sale, 9am-3pm. Ramada Inn Adria Hotel, 221-17 Northern Blvd, Bayside, Long Island, NY. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439.

**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

**September 30- Sunday.** Albany Toy Soldier Show. Best Western Inn, 200 Wolf Road, Albany, NY. Contact (518) 458-1000.

**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

**October 20-21- Saturday and Sunday.** Atlantique City Holiday Megafair. New Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact 1-800-526-2724.

**October 28 Sunday.** Antique Collectible Toy and Doll Show, Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, Illinois. Contact (773) 736-5140, Email chicagotoyshow@aol.com www.chicagotoyshow.com

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**December 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

#### <u>2008</u>

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

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

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

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

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

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



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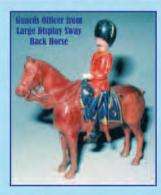
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