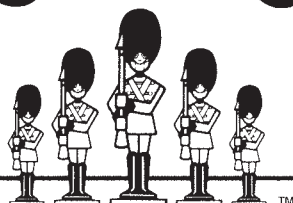


Summer  
2010

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 34 Number 2  
\$10.00

# OLD TOY SOLDIER



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**ON THE COVER**

Timpo GI's

Photo Courtesy Steve Sommers

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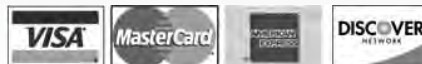
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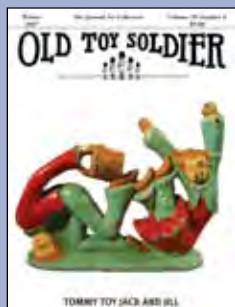
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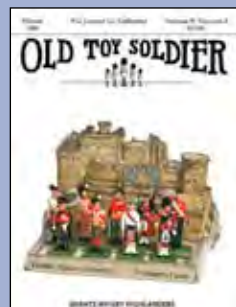
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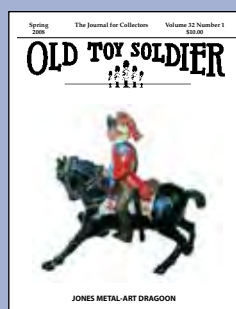


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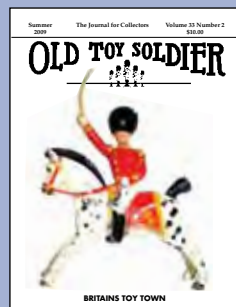


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# *An Old Toy Soldier's Soldiers*



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

Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men 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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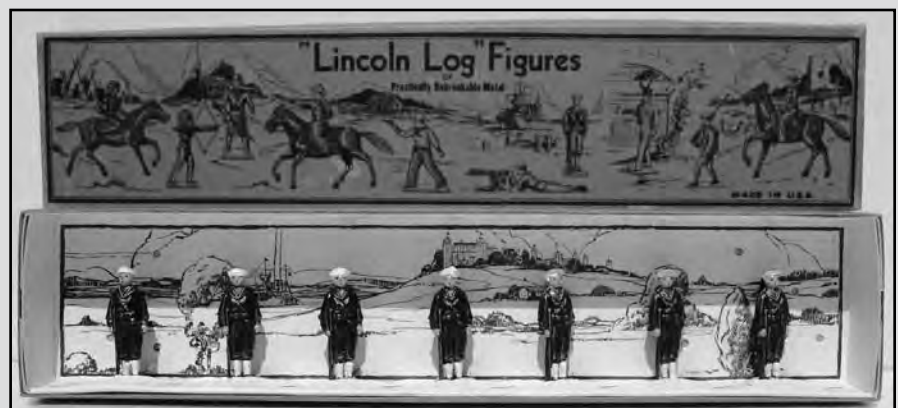
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# Timpo GI's: A Remembrance

*By Norman Joplin*

Dateline October 1976 Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Volume1 Number 1

Editor Steve Sommers wrote a brief illustrated article in the first Old Toy Soldier Newsletter, listing the Timpo GI figures that were his childhood favorites. Steve mentions that the L.W Richards article that appeared in a British Model Soldier Society Bulletin stated 32 figures in the Timpo GI line, but Steve lists only 24 of them. Research has moved on in those 34 years, many reference books and articles have been published. So, motivated by Andy C. Neilson's recent article, Old Toy Soldier magazine is bringing the complete list of the Timpo GI figures up to date with catalog numbers, Timpo's actual descriptions, images of each piece and a look at pages from the early 1950s Timpo Catalog.

Steve made no mention of the GI figures that were later to emerge painted as Negroes. Legend has it that only one in a hundred were painted that way, although some of the poses, including 9007 Despatch Rider, are still to be found in this paint finish, Unless of course one of our subscriber/collectors can help with an illustration.? Timpo US Naval figures are also included in the following list.



9000 At Ease



9004 Soldier Crawling



9008 Kneeling with Walkie-Talkie



9001 Marching with Slung Rifle



9005 Officer Kneeling with Map



9009 Officer Crouching with Pistol



9002 Observer with Binoculars



9006 Sitting with Field Telephone



9010 On Guard with Fixed Bayonet



9003 Mine Detector and Operator



9007 Despatch Rider



9011 Standing Firing

## Timpo GI's: A Remembrance (Cont.)



9012 Mortar Unit



9018 Kneeling Firing



9024 Stretcher Party



9013 Charging Fixed Bayonet



9019 Lying Firing



9025 Walking Wounded



9014 Grenade Thrower



9020 Marching at the Slope Ceremonial Uniform  
9021 Standard Bearer Ceremonial Uniform  
9022 Officer Ceremonial Uniform



9026 Kneeling with Mug and Sandwich



9015 Advancing Tommy Gunner



9027 Sailor Marching



9016 Kneeling Bazooka



9017 Seated Machine Gunner



9023 Sitting with Washing Bucket



9028 Sailor with Telescope



9029 Sailor at Slope



## Timpo GI's: A Remembrance (Cont.)



9030 Naval Officers



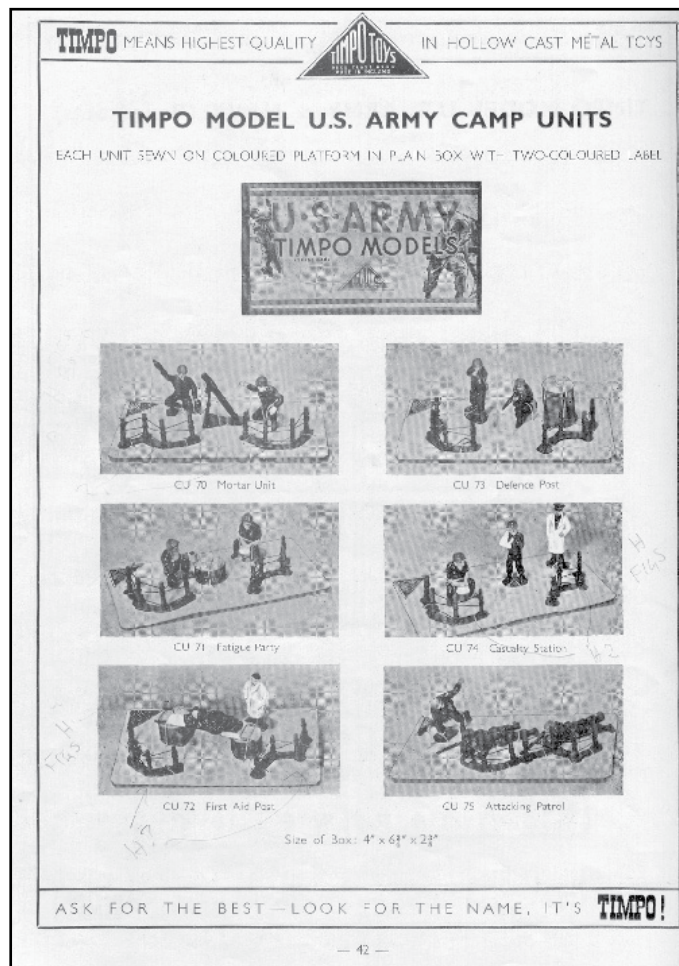
9032 Military Policeman



No Number Doctor based on the  
Railway Boy Passenger



9031 Not Listed in any  
Timpo catalog.  
Believed to be a Female Nurse  
based on the Police Woman  
figure illustrated in  
*The Great Book of Hollow Cast  
Figures* by Norman Joplin  
Page 257 Photo 506



No Number Doctor with Hat  
based on the Railway Station  
Master

The rarest items are the two Doctors and Nurse, The Doctors having been available only in the Timpo Camp Unit sets, see illustration from catalog.

## September 26, 2010 is the 30th OTSN Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

Helping celebrate this milestone will be visitors and vendors from both coasts, Europe, Asia, Latin America and beyond. Sunday Show traditions continue, like donated give-away figures to many in line and King & Country's free carry bags. In addition there will be a special 30th Year Show gift to everyone setting up and through the gate, co-sponsored by sixteen of our most enthusiastic vendors. And probably there will be a few other surprises during the "convention-days"- "room-trading" before the Sunday public show. Don says he is not going to let the "cats out of the bag; you'll have to come and enjoy the fun!"

Of course, other traditions unique to The Chicago Toy Soldier Show continue, like Sunday Manufacturers Row where you can see the newest products and future releases of several of the Hobby's major manufacturers. This area will include Britains, Blackhawk Miniatures, Collector's Showcase, Figarti, King and Country, and Old Northwest Trading Company. Their representatives will answer questions about their wares before, during and right up to the end of the show, but do no selling. Sales are left to the vendors at the Show.

And there will be dealers, 350 tables of them, as always filling two ballrooms and all the space between. There will be something for everyone: from old figures in lead, tin, rubber, plastic and composition to current production in every material and scale. Besides those on Manufacturers Row, new toy figure makers at the show include new plastic playsets from Toy Soldiers of San Diego and Ron Barszo; St. Petersburg, Lead Army and Medallion Miniature will offer exquisite Russian painted figures. And there will be a dozen other metal makers from traditional French Mignot to Wm. Hocker figures in the classic British toy soldier style. Check the Show's website in mid August for the list of 2010 Vendors attending the show: [toysoldiershow.com](http://toysoldiershow.com)

(As always the Sunday September 26th show will open to the public at 10:00am with a \$7.00 adult admission, children 12 and under are free. Early buyers admission begins at 7:00am with a \$30 fee.)

Steve Sommers July 2, 2010



Ray Haradin and Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA will hold their annual Bargain Room Event at this years OTSN Chicago Show.

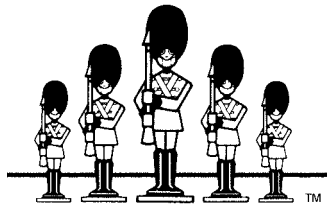
Saturday, September 25th  
Room 4311  
Hyatt Hotel



Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA announce that a two day auction is scheduled for November 20-21, 2010.

Day one will feature old toy solders and figures. Day two will be devoted to new toy soldiers. 600 lots each day, see Auction Preview in this issue.





## Old Toy Soldier Magazine

# TRIVIA QUIZ

### Win a 2 year subscription -8 Issues of Old Toy Soldier Magazine.

Send your answers to the following 10 Questions to the editor via email: [info@normanjoplin.com](mailto:info@normanjoplin.com)  
or mail to: Norman Joplin, 535 Fir Street, Fredonia, Wisconsin 53021

Closing date for entries October 10, 2010. Winner announced in November 2010 issue of OTS.

#### Question 1.

Which Britains Military Set shows a harmonica on the box label?

#### Question 2.

What is the number of the only Britains Band Set to include a Drum Major with moveable arm?

#### Question 3.

Which Britains Zoo Animal was given two different names although still being issued as the same figure casting?

#### Question 4.

Which Britains Set was issued in both Matte and Gloss Paint, but still retained the same set number?

#### Question 5.

Which Britains Plastic Set contained a figure not included or available in any other set or as a single item?

#### Question 6.

Name the figure (as in Question 5.)

#### Question 7.

Apart from Hamley's and Harrods which London Department Store commissioned a special Hollow Cast Set from Britains Post World War II?

#### Question 8.

In the song *American Pie* by Don McLean which toy soldier manufacturer is mentioned in the lyrics?

#### Question 9.

Which American Dimestore figure is considered by collectors to be the rarest?

#### Question 10.

What was the first name of Dennis Britain?

# Schoenhut's "U.S. Armory" and Other Early Military Toys

*By Bill Nutting*

The A. Schoenhut Company of Philadelphia produced only a few military toys along with a long list of toy pianos (for which the company is best known), jointed circus toys (for which it is best loved by toy collectors), and timely and now famous toys such as a Teddy Roosevelt African hunting set.



Soldier collectors know Schoenhut through the 1903 ad found and reproduced by Richard O'Brien in his Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers reference books. There are Schoenhut books and clubs and collectors but not much is known about the military toys, and few toy soldier collectors own any Schoenhut toys.

Finally the beautiful – even though incomplete, damaged, and repaired – example pictured here was turned up by Don Pielin at an antique shop in Wisconsin. Although the wood doors and towers are missing and some of the rifles have been restored, the painting (in that final era of blue and red American uniforms with gold buttons and gold eagle crests) on the 4 ½" composition soldiers and the interior paper print are splendid and vibrant.

As for other military toys, Schoenhut's 1906 catalog, reproduced by the ATCA (Antique Toy Collectors of America), pictures toy swords, toy guns (including a "spring air gun" for which Albert Schoenhut received patent #676,279 on June 11, 1901), target sets, children's uniforms, toy cannons and "Military Forts."

The toy cannons are "painted blue with red stripes" with a "barrel, gold bronzed." These large (up to 24" long) wood cannons appear occasionally on dealer's tables and on Ebay at very high prices.


As for the forts, two different sizes are described: 13" x 16" and 17 ½" x 18 ½". The forts are "made of wood and covered with paper . . . When the main tower of the fort is struck with a projectile (cork or rubber ball), it will tilt over, and the American Flag, attached to a staff and arranged with a string, will fly up, thus causing everlasting amusement for children. Besides the main tower on [sic] large fort, No. 186, three of the minor towers are also arranged

PLAYTHINGS.


**New U. S. ARMORY New**

**WITH SOLDIERS**

Retail Price,  
**\$1.00**



OPEN



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Another GREAT and NOVEL TOY for 1903 is our Armory, made of wood and covered inside and outside with handsome SCENIC LITHOGRAPHS. The front is hinged so that it can be opened. When open the centre presents a perspective view of the DRILL ROOM, the left wing a scene of SOLDIERS ON PARADE, and the right wing a CAMP LIFE scene.

EACH ARMORY is accompanied with eight soldiers (American Style) made of a composition similar but superior to papier mache, and very artistically painted in regulation colors. These Soldiers in combination with the Armory make a very pleasing and cycloramic effect.

This is by all means the best and most ATTRACTIVE ARTICLE of its kind ever put on the market. It sells at sight and requires no explanation.

**The A. Schoenhut Company, Manufacturers**  
**PHILADELPHIA, PA., U.S.A.**





# Schoenhut's "U.S. Armory" and Other Early Military Toys (Cont.)

**TOY CANNONS.**

**HARMLESS TO CHILDREN.      MADE ENTIRELY OF WOOD.      BEAUTIFULLY FINISHED.**

All our cannons are made to pop and shoot corks and rubber balls, with the exception of the Nos. 192 and 192 T, which shoot large rubber balls only.




Each in pasteboard box, with two corks and one rubber ball.

**189 (Cabin)** Size, 14 x 7 in. Weight, 1½ lbs. each. Per doz., \$7.50



Each in pasteboard box, with two corks and two rubber balls.

**190 (Cucina)** Size, 21 x 9½ in. Weight, 2½ lbs. each. Per doz., \$14.00



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**191 (Cade)** Size, 28 x 11½ in. weight, 3½ lbs. each. Per doz., \$38.00



Each in a large wooden box, with four large rubber balls.

**192 (Camel)** Size, 36 x 15 in., weight, 11½ lbs. each. Per doz., \$76.00

**190 T (Candy)** Size, with Truck, 29 x 9½ in. Weight, 3 lbs. each. Per doz., \$18.00


**191 T (Cade)** Size, with Truck, 36 x 11½ in., weight, 5½ lbs. each. Per doz., \$44.00

**192 T (Camel)** Size, with Truck, 49 x 15 in., weight, 35 lbs. each. Per doz., \$84.00

with hinges, and can be shot down." Other than having a tin ear for the pleasure of shooting the American flag, the copywriter describes a fort with a lot of play appeal. There were other target-type and exploding forts made by other early American toy makers, but I certainly haven't seen anything remotely like the massive turreted fortress pictured.

**TOY MILITARY FORTS.**

Interesting!      Amusing!      Endless Fun for the Boys!



Each packed in a nice pasteboard box.

**185 (Crier)** Toy Military Fort, 13 x 16 inches. Weight, 1 lb. each . . . . . Per dozen, \$3.20

**186 (Crime)** Toy Military Fort, 17½ x 18½ inches. Weight, 1½ lbs. each . . . . . " 6.50


The cannons and the fort were still listed in the 1915 catalog that also has been reproduced by the ATCA. Although the cut below appeared in both catalogs, the fine prints explains that the soldiers are for illustration purposes only and were never made.

In 1915, Schoenhut launched a "Naval War Toy" in which a wooden submarine shoots pellets at a gray wood Dreadnought that "explodes" on impact into its component pieces. For scale, the dreadnought and the box are both about 12" long. (This toy was invented by an Englishman Maurice Audsley living in New York and later Philadelphia who received two U.S. patents # 1,134,579 and #1,225,393 for these exploding toy ships.) One of a long line of submarines on American toy shop shelves, these sets appear on Ebay regularly at between \$75 and \$200 depending on condition.


**Schoenhut's Toy Cannons and Military Forts**

**Harmless to Children.      Made Entirely of Wood.      Beautifully Finished.**

All our cannons are made to pop and shoot corks and rubber balls.      Each packed in a pasteboard box.



**RETAIL, 75c EACH AND UP**



*The cut represents the Cannon with Truck.*

According to the web site of the current incarnation of Schoenhut (toypiano.com), "[b]y the time of Albert's death in 1912, Schoenhut Piano Company was the largest toy

## Schoenhut's "U.S.Armory" and Other Early Military Toys (Cont.)

company in America." Looking at the old catalogs and the few examples that have survived, it's easy to see that the important Philadelphia toy company Schoenhut does hold a certain place in the history of American toy soldiers – a position even greater than that justified just by the single ad in the O'Brien books that has tantalized collectors for years.

**SCHOENHUT'S "BIG HIT"**  
PAT. APR. 8, 1915



**Submarine and Dreadnought NAVAL WAR TOY**  
NOT TO BE USED IN WATER A TOY FOR YOUNG AND OLD

*Sells at Sight  
Everybody Buys It  
Samples Now Ready*



*The Submarine ready to attack the Dreadnought*



*The Submarine, with one shot well aimed, putting the Dreadnought out of commission*

This Toy consists of two boats, a Submarine and a Dreadnought. They are both made from Wood and are almost indestructible. The Submarine has a perfect mechanical arrangement for shooting wooden projectiles the shape of torpedoes. In firing the torpedo the player aims at the red target or vital spot of the Dreadnought. When this spot is hit it releases a mechanical contrivance within the hull of the Dreadnought, and the whole deck is blown up. The deck goes one way, the turret another; in fact, smoke-stacks and all go up in the air, resembling a most realistic destruction. Lucky it was a Toy, because in a few seconds the whole Dreadnought can be reassembled and ready for another attack.

280/50 Dreadnought 12 in. long. Submarine 6 1/2 in. long.

Without doubt this is the Greatest Toy Novelty for 1915. Everyone that sees it wants one. A Popular Price Try.

Make sure with it with as much interest as boys.







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AUGUST 14, 2010 AT 10AM

Preview: Aug 9 - 13, 10am to 4pm & Aug 14, 8am - 10am

We are proud to present this fine collection of toys and soldiers & figures from the American Dream Museum. This fabulous collection contains character toys, merchandise and advertising items. Also included are vintage and modern toy figures and soldiers by Britains, including over 250 boxed sets, Heyde, Mignot and dimestores and more. The catalog is available on our website and at [www.liveauctioneers.com](http://www.liveauctioneers.com). To order a CD of the catalog that is compatible with all computers, please contact us directly or visit our website. A text-only list is available to all attending bidders. The price key is available online a few days after the auction.



*Norman Joplin's*  
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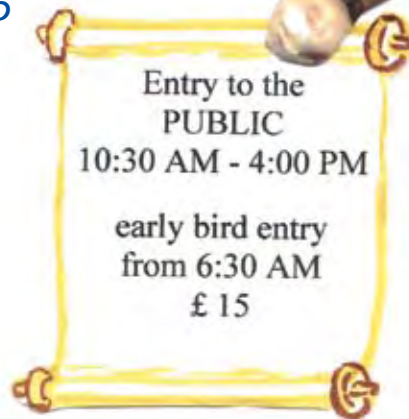
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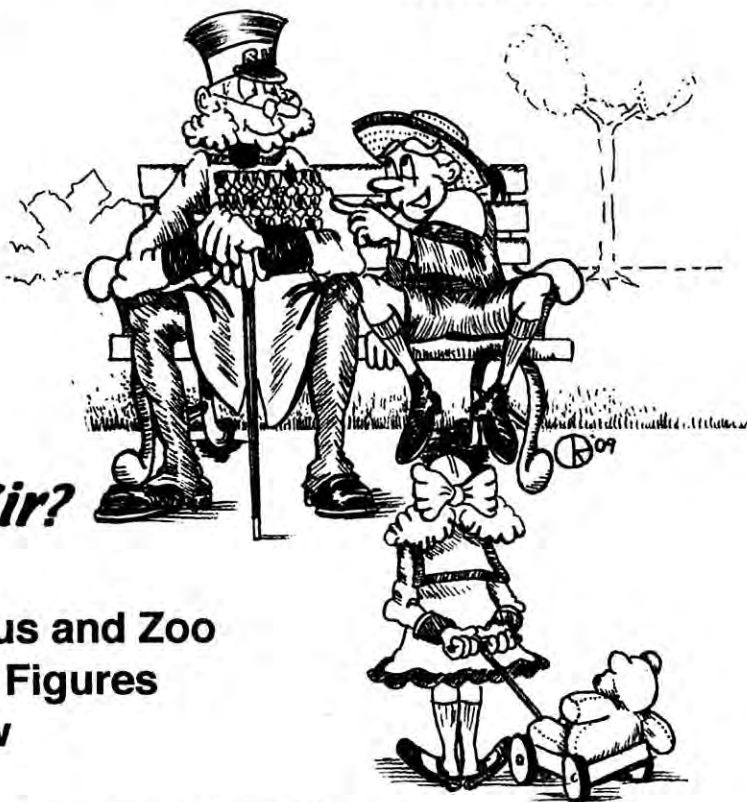
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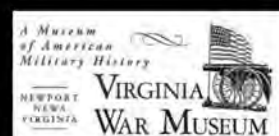


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# AUCTION PREVIEW

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Lucotte Napoleonic's.



Phillip Segal Jack and Jill.



Britains Pre War



Mignot Napoleonic's.



King and Country Rare Gloss Highlanders  
in Foreign Service dress.

# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Centurion Tank Sand Colour.



Britains Army Staff Cars.



Britains #42 large Zoo Display set.



Britains Post War.



King and Country Rare Gloss Camel Corps.



The Bumbles Exceptionally Rare 1950's British TV Characters.



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



# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Picture Packs.



Elastolin large size Continental Armies.



Timpo and Charbens boxed GIs.



Beiser Knockdown set.



Greenhill/Courtenay Knights.



Heyde Landsknechts.



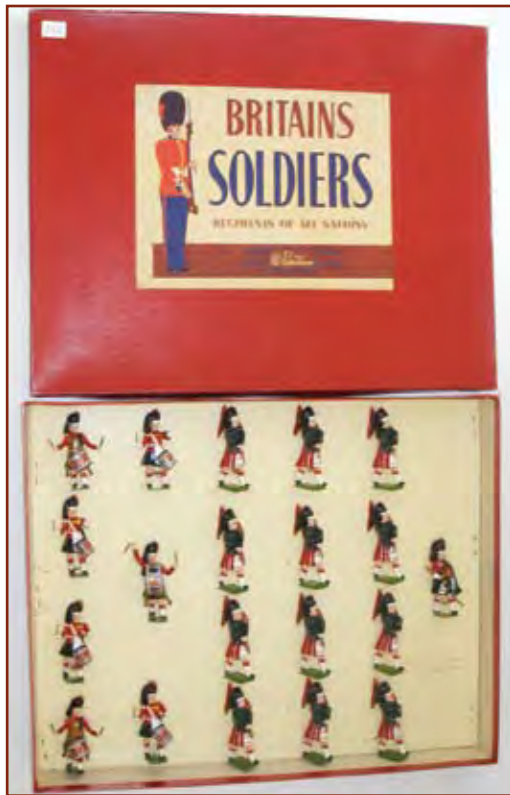
Britains Royal Field Artillery.



Britains Pre War Bikanir Camel Corps.



# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Black Watch Pipe Band.



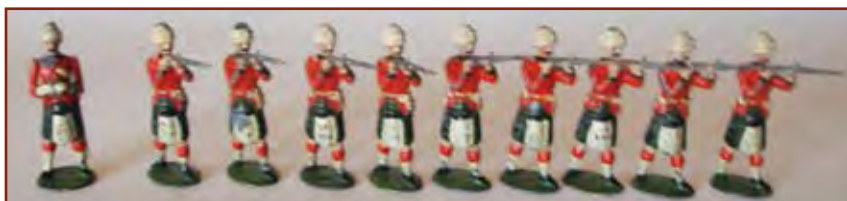
Cherilea Boxed Sets.



Britains Racing Colours.



Jones Charging Highlanders.



Britains Black Watch with Very Rare round based Officer.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Boxed sets by Crescent and Johilco.



# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

## DAY 2 ~ NEW TOY SOLDIERS



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King and Country Ambulance Jeep  
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King and Country Reece Jeep  
Limited Edition



King and Country Armored Car  
Limited Edition



King and Country  
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Hocker Queen's Own Presentation Box



# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Ducal Guards Band



Pottsdamer Zinn Soldaten



Hocker Continental Infantry



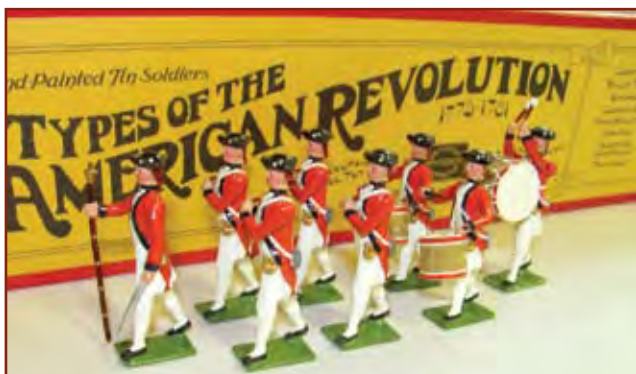
Kingcast Stretcher Set



Kingcast R.C.M.P.



Hocker Continental Artillery



Hocker Continental Infantry



Imperial Pioneers

# AUCTION REVIEW

## Old Toy Soldier Auctions chalks up 'best sale to date' as Thompson, Graham collections score top prices

*By Chatherine Saunders-Watson*

PITTSBURGH – Ray Haradin's Old Toy Soldier Auctions operates in a world of miniature antiques, but prices on top lots were strictly big league in the company's May 1 auction featuring the collections of John Graham (part III), brothers Bill and Don Thompson, and other consignors.

"At \$229,000 with 99 percent of the lots sold, it was, by far, our best sale to date," said Haradin. "I was impressed with the result."

The 645-lot auction inventory featured an extraordinary toy soldier collection that was established in the 1940s by two brothers from Chicago, Don and (the late) Bill Thompson. When their family moved to California in 1947, the boys' carefully wrapped and boxed toys made the journey as well, but they would remain in quiet storage until 2009, when they were unwrapped and assessed for auction purposes.

"We got terrific prices on the Thompsons' soldiers because they were very desirable, early pieces in fabulous condition," Haradin said. "I think condition was the reason there were so many new bidders for this sale. I suspect many of them were younger collectors, too, since 47 percent of the purchases were made through the Internet."

Among the highlights from the Thompson collection was an exceptionally rare version of Britains' 1937 Coronation Coach Set #1476 containing a single figure of the uncrowned King Edward VIII. The 28-piece boxed set, which also included grooms, footmen and Yeomen of the Guard, topped its high estimate to settle at \$5,015 (all prices quoted in this report are inclusive of 18% buyer's premium).

Another lot with an Edward VIII connection consisted of a figure of the British monarch in his Coronation robes. Made by Britains prior to the King's abdication, it came in a box with both a yellow label marked "King Edward VIII" and a Marshall Field department store \$1 price sticker. In Old Toy Soldier's sale, it concluded its bidding run majestically at \$3,422.

There was widespread interest for a Haffner (German) 21-piece military set featuring Frederick the Great

with mounted troops, two drummers, a flag bearer and other figures. The very rare ensemble mustered a winning bid of \$3,186 against a presale estimate of \$1,200-\$1,500.

Competition was also keen for knights produced by the British firm Courtenay. A signed and numbered (XX1) hand-painted figure known as "Le Borge de Prie" was pushed well beyond its \$400-\$600 estimate to close at \$1,062.

An early production by the still-active British company King and Country depicted a dashing corps of Seaforth Highlanders in foreign active service dress, complete with piper and mounted officer. The 26-piece set garnered a within-estimate price of \$590.

Unlike W. Britains, whose origins date to the mid-Victorian era, King and Country was a late entry on the toy soldier playing field, Haradin said. "They started in the early 1980s but didn't become popular till the mid-1990s. Now they rival Britains in sales and maybe even surpass them. There's a very dedicated following for this brand when its offered in our auctions. Newer collectors want to buy the pieces that came out before they got into the hobby."

Speaking of the playing field, bidders came from all directions to pursue a seldom-seen Cherilea postwar baseball set featuring 11 figures, including a black-suited umpire. In its original, colorfully lithographed box and with each of the pieces still tied in place, the like-new set estimated at \$1,800-\$2,400 crossed home plate in championship style at \$4,425.

Other notable boxed sets in the auction included a Britains 8-piece prewar "Los Rurales de la Federacion" Mexican Infantry Set #186, \$1,770; a 1937-1941 British Army Active Service Display Set #1328, also by Britains, \$1,298; and a postwar Mignot (French) 6-piece "Gardes du Corps du Roi" set #294 featuring an officer, trumpeter and standard bearer, \$325.

"What impressed me most about this sale was that it was strong across the board. We made sure we catered to every type of collector, and we didn't note softness in any category," Haradin said.



# AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)

Old Toy Soldier Auctions is expanding its operations. Joe Saine of Toledo, Ohio, an expert in both new and old toy soldiers, is joining the company's staff to assist with future sales. Additionally, OTSA will conduct its first-ever two-day sale over the weekend of Nov. 20-21. The auction will feature part I of the late Fred Wehr's collection, which contains many rare, early Britains, approximately 140 King and Country sets, German-made Heyde figures, and an extensive se-

lection of figures by Bill Hocker, a boutique manufacturer from California whose contemporary toy soldiers are often favorably compared to Britains.

To contact Ray Haradin and Old Toy Soldier Auctions, call 412-343-8733 (tollfree: 800-349-8009) or e-mail raytoys@aol.com. Visit the company online at [www.oldtoysoldierauctions.com](http://www.oldtoysoldierauctions.com).



37 – Britains Mexican Infantry Set #186, pre-World War II, \$1,770.



70 – Britains Set #1328, British Army Active Service, second version, 1937-1941, \$1,298.



77 – Britains Set #1473, King Edward VIII in Coronation robes, in original box with Marshall Field department store \$1 price sticker, \$3,422.



80 – Extremely rare version of Britains Set #1476, Coronation Coach with single figure of uncrowned King Edward VIII, made in 1937, \$5,015.



# AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



126 – Courtenay figure Le Borge de Prie, numbered XX1, \$1,062.



333 – Cherilea 22-piece postwar baseball set, \$4,425.



457 – Haffner Frederick the Great and troops, prewar, 21 pieces, \$3,186.



587 – Mignot Set #294, Gardes du Corps du Roi, 6 pieces, original box, \$325.



593 – King and Country Seaforth Highlanders in foreign active service dress, 26 pieces, \$590.





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# MY OWN DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART I)

*By Roger Dubois*

Attaching non-original parts to a Dimestore toy soldier is, for the most part, a simple way to convert a piece. One can purchase parts such as German helmets, rifles, gas mask canisters, stick grenades, or other items and glue them on a figure. One can also scratch-build a part to be glued on a figure or build one directly on a figure. Scratch-building parts, however, may appear as a daunting task to some hobbyists. And so in this article, I'll describe my way of scratch-building items directly on the surface of a Dimestore using two-part epoxy putty. The work is not difficult to do, and the results often improve the appearance of a conversion.

All sorts of military equipment as well as items of clothing can be made with epoxy putty. This article will zero in on making three pieces of equipment: (1) a cross on the arm of a stretcher-bearer, (2) an ammo waist belt, and (3) a holstered revolver on the side of a figure.

The materials and tools needed to complete the three projects are few and simple: *A + B Epoxy Putty*, a hobby knife, toothpicks, a flat needle file, a round brass tube with a 1/16th inch opening, and a small container of water. Water is needed to wet the knife blade and the tip of a toothpick in order to keep fresh epoxy putty from sticking to them.

Following safety precautions is very important. After kneading two-part epoxy putty, which takes me about a minute or less, I set the putty down and immediately wash my hands with soap, water, and a scrubbing pad, not stopping until

every bit of putty is off of my fingers and thumbs. Some hobbyists use latex gloves dusted with baby power to knead epoxy putty.

Shaping and trimming fresh putty on a figure will be done with the wet blade of a hobby knife except in a few instances where, as will be noted, the tip of a toothpick will be used.

## **Making a Cross on an Arm**

A cross will be fashioned on the left arm of a Manoil Stretcher Carrier with Medical Kit (32) and painted red to distinguish the figure as a noncombatant.

1. The project begins by removing paint from the arm area where putty will be applied. Normally, all paint is removed from a figure before I start converting it, but in this case doing so would increase the shininess of the figure, thereby making it difficult to shoot quality close-up photographs of my working steps.

2. After kneading a small amount of epoxy putty, the putty is rolled back and forth on a clean flat surface to form a roll. I carefully place the roll vertically along the upper arm and spread the putty into the shape of a rectangle.

3. The putty is then squared.

4. Because of its mushiness, I find it difficult working with *A + B* fresh putty, and so to stiffen it a bit, the putty is left to cure for about an hour. Sometimes to speedup curing, fresh putty is placed under a 60-watt incandescent light for 30 minutes or less depending on the thickness of the putty.



**Photo 1. Etched cross in fresh epoxy putty.**

5. Once the putty has stiffened, work continues. Along each of the four sides, two parallel lines are etched in increments of a third of the horizontal side distance and up a third of the vertical side distance. The combined effect of these etched lines produces a cross in the putty (Photo 1).



**Photo 2. Outer four corners removed from fresh epoxy putty.**

6. The four outer corners of the putty are removed, thereby leaving a cross of putty on the arm (Photo 2).



# MY OWN DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART I) *(Cont.)*



Photo 3. Converted Manoil.

7. Steps 1 through 6 are repeated on another similar stretcher carrier. The crosses are left to cure overnight.

8. Once the crosses have cured, the figures are ready for painting. The completed figures are shown in Photo 3 as Prussians during the early 20th century.

The job of converting the carriers could have been made a lot easier by simply painting a white band with a red cross on each left arm, and doing so would have given an authentic appearance to the figures.

However, from an aesthetic point of view, I prefer looking at a raised red cross on a carrier's arm; in my opinion, it's what a toy soldier carrier should be wearing.

## Making an Ammo Waist Belt

Most Barclays and Manoil came with an ammo waist belt, but a few like the Barclay Soldier Sentry (736) did not, and so one will be added to a sentry.

1. Along the back of a sentry, the existing waist belt is filed away.
2. A small amount of putty is kneaded and then shaped into a roll with a length long enough to span the sentry's back waist.
3. The roll is carefully placed along the waist, flattened, and left to cure for an hour or so (Photo 4).
4. Once the putty has stiffened, the upper and lower edges of the belt are trimmed.
5. Vertical lines are etched into the putty to define the ammo pouches (Photo 5).



Photo 4. Fresh roll of epoxy putty.



Photo 5. Roll flatten and etched.



Photo 6. Left side etching of pouch cover.



Photo 7. Right side etching of pouch cover.

# MY OWN DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART I) *(Cont.)*



Photo 8. Flattening pouch below cover.

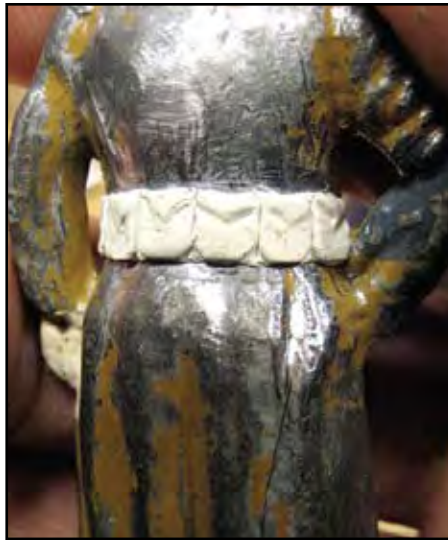


Photo 9. Completed ammo belt.



Photo 10. A rectangle of fresh epoxy putty.



Photo 11. Lower left side of fresh putty removed to form outline of pistol.

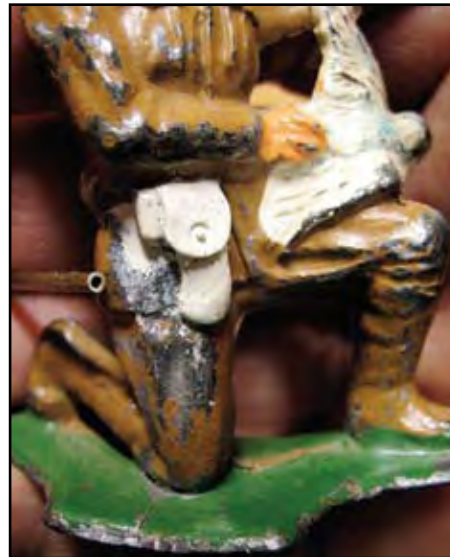


Photo 12. Flap added to holster. To the left of figure is a brass tube used to make snap button on case.

6. Now comes the task of making a pouch flap. Using the tip of a wet toothpick, I etch a diagonal line at the top of a pouch to begin delineating the pouch cover and then etch the other side to complete the job (Photo 6 and 7).

7. To accentuate the appearance of the cover, the putty just below each cover is flattened a bit (Photo 8). Now each pouch has more definition (Photo 9).

8. Steps 1 through 7 are repeated for the front waist.

9. After curing overnight, the ammo belt is ready for painting.

## **Making a Holstered Revolver on the Side of a Figure**

Few Dimestore manufacturers made toy soldiers with side arms, and so adding one to a conversion makes it stand out a bit more than it would otherwise. A holstered revolver will be fashioned just below the ammo waist belt on the front right side of a Barclay Soldier Pigeon Dispatcher (731).

1. The job begins by removing the paint from the work area.

2. A small amount of putty is kneaded, shaped into a roll, placed perpendicular to the waist belt, and spread laterally to make a rectangle (Photo 10).

3. The putty is left to cure for an hour or so.

4. Once the putty has stiffened, a small rectangle is removed from the lower left side to form the basic outline of a revolver (Photo 11). A bit of putty is added down the length of the case to add bulk where the barrel resides. The edges of the



## MY OWN DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS USING EPOXY PUTTY (PART I) *(Cont.)*



Photo 13. Converted Manoil with ammo belt and holstered revolver.



Photo 14. Converted Barclay with bandolier.



Photo 15. Converted Barclay carrying a tin helmet.



Photo 16. Back view of Converted Barclay.

holster are rounded with the tip of a wet toothpick (Photo 11).

5. The putty is left to cure overnight.

6. The job is completed the following day with the addition of a holster flap. A small amount of putty is kneaded, shaped into a small roll, and placed along the top of the holster. A thin layer is spread about half way down the holster while making sure that the putty does not totally cover the pistol handle. When completed, I want to see part of the handle sticking out of the holster.

7. For an hour or so, the putty is left to cure.

8. Then the putty is shaped into a curved flap and straightened along the top edge of the flap (Photo 12).

9. Finally, a snap button, which in the real world would secure the flap to the case, is added by simple pressing one end of a round brass tube, with a 1/16th inch opening, into the lower center of the flap (Photo 12).

10. The holstered revolver is now

finished and after curing overnight will be ready for painting.

Photo 13 shows a Manoil Ensign (16) with an added ammo waist belt and a holstered revolver. The head was replaced with one of my castings and his right arm with hand was repositioned to clearly expose the holstered revolver. In my opinion, both belt and holster add a nice touch to this figure.

### Other Examples

In Photo 14 the conversion wears a bandolier that was fashioned by placing a roll of putty around the neck with the ends extending onto the chest. The putty was then flattened, let cured for a while, and shaped with a hobby knife.

In addition, the conversion is carrying a helmet as a souvenir. The brown leather lining inside the tin helmet was made by placing a small roll of putty along the inner circumference of the helmet and flattening it with a knife (Photo 15).

On the back side, a metal cast canteen rests on a bread bag made

from two layers of epoxy putty (Photo 16). The second layer was added after the first had hardened.

### Concluding Comments

Dimestores conversions can be easily enhanced by adding items made from two-part epoxy putty. Constructing equipment directly on the surface of a figure is not difficult and the outcome, although not an exact miniature of the real thing, fits very nicely into the design style of Dimestores.

This article described how to make a few items, but clearly far more "stuff" can be made. For those of you who convert and who have not attempted to add to your conversions equipment made with epoxy putty, you might give it a try. The materials and tools are simple to use and few in numbers. All that is required is imagination and a little practice.

In Part II, the focus once again will be on using epoxy putty to convert a Dimestore, but this time the emphasis will be on altering the top-coat of a figure.

# BOOK REVIEW

## AIRFIX'S LITTLE SOLDIERS

*By Jean-Christophe Carbonel*

*Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

Competition in the business world generally benefits the consumer. In an effort to be profitable, creative innovations are often the result of a company's research and development efforts designed to increase the sales of their product. The toy soldier market is no different. The quality of painting, sculpting and casting continues to constantly improve, providing the collector with a seemingly endless amount of flawless figures to purchase.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's wargaming became very popular. Battles could be waged on tabletops or living room floors using miniature armies with written rules governing movement, melee, and morale. The new hobby created a market for rules, paints, books (you needed to know how to paint your army's uniform) and most importantly, figures. The dominant company at this time was Mini Figs. Their metal 20mm figures were the benchmark of quality; finely detailed, cleanly cast and a seemingly endless list of choices. Mini Figs were constantly venturing into different time periods; Napoleonic, Seven Year's War, Ancients, American Civil War and Colonials. It seemed Mini Fig was intent on producing figures for every conflict known to man. There was only one drawback to Mini Figs: cost. The price of Mini Figs was out of reach for most enthusiasts who didn't have a job. This left a huge market of consumers 16 and under untapped.

In an attempt to capture the younger market, Airfix, a company known mostly for their model kits produced 20mm unpainted plastic figures. Their first effort was in 1959 with the inaugural set of 44 figures being the Guards Band. For the price of half a dozen Mini Figs, you could purchase an entire box of Airfix figures. Besides the economic advantage, the sculpting, detail and proportions of Airfix figures were superior to Mini Figs metal castings. Eye catching colorful box art and a cellophane window that let the consumer see the figures helped spur sales. As sales increased so did Airfix's offerings. New releases often complimented each other.

When the British 8th Army set was released, the next set released was Germany's Afrika Korp. This innovative marketing strategy not only increased sales but led to the creation of specialized offerings such as; forts, playsets, action sets and vehicles.



"Airfix's Little Soldiers" documents the history of Airfix's most successful venture. Author Jean-Christophe Carbonel has carefully reconstructed the timeline of every one of Airfix's boxed sets of HO/OO figures. The book is a true visual delight for enthusiasts of Airfix's diminutive warriors. Each page has several high quality photographs of the colorful boxed sets. Many times photographs of both the front and back of boxes are provided. A typical page will show front and back photographs of a boxed set, complimented with a photograph of the set's figures. A brief but succinct text keeps pace with the photographs.

After the 75 page study of the boxed sets, forts, gift sets and other related items, the author briefly examines Airfix's competitors; Almark, Atlantic, ESCI, Fujimi, Matchbox and others. These competing companies receive the same quality examination of text, color photographs of box art and figures.

The final 11 pages are a chronological summary of Airfix's HO/OO boxed releases. Once again color photographs of boxed sets and a descriptive text are utilized to help the collector. A color page of box edges and sides presented in chronological order is also of value to collectors.

"Airfix's Little Soldiers" provides plastic enthusiasts with a valuable tool to help date and value the numerous offerings of Airfix's HO/OO range. This 106 page softbound book is sure to bring back many memories for us who grew up collecting, painting and playing with these great figures.





## FIRST LEGION'S MINUTEMEN AND REDCOATS

*Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

Never has there been a better time to be a collector of new toy soldiers. Regardless of your preference; matte or glossy paint, traditional or detailed sculpting, 54mm or larger, basic, outlined or "connoisseur" painting, manufacturers are catering to the very specific tastes of collectors. With so many companies producing outstanding figures it is indeed difficult to agree who currently produces the finest toy soldier. If your taste leans toward a highly detailed and exquisitely painted figure, then there is only one choice.....First Legion.

I first discovered the First Legion line at last year's OTS N Show. The 60mm Napoleonic figures were simply breathtaking. The quality of the sculpting and excellent painting portrayed the figures in a most realistic aura; it almost appeared that the figures were capable of marching and galloping off the table. In addition to the superlative sculpting and painting, First Legion traditionally offers a large variety of figures lending them to be displayed in large dioramic scenes.

Following the success of their Napoleonic and World War II ranges, First Legion has ventured into the American War of Independence. They have just released their first offering.....a staggering 20 piece range of Massachusetts Minutemen. There are officers, a drummer, standard bearer and enough Minutemen to display their heroic stand at Lexington Green, or manning the redoubts on Bunker Hill. The Minutemen come in various "uniforms", i.e., coats, jackets, shirts, some appear bare-headed, and the selection of poses is excellent. It is refreshing to have several options of standing and kneeling firing figures. The same may be said for the remaining Minutemen loading, standing on guard, and at the ready.



Opposing the Minutemen will be First Legion's next line; the Grenadiers of the 5th Regiment of Foot. This regiment faced the Minutemen at Lexington/Concord and Bunker Hill. The initial release for the 5th Foot is a mounted officer, flag-bearer and wounded/dead grenadier. A second set of grenadiers, 1 officer and 3 grenadiers, may be viewed on the First Legion website. The superlative quality continues with 5th Foot. All poses are extremely natural and life-like.

The attention to uniform detail is excellent. The sculpting is done to such a high standard that faces are different on all the figures, both the Minutemen and the 5th Foot. The one quality that I was impressed with was the consistent and realistic standard of proportion in the sculpting. No big hands, or heads as tends to be common with other manufacturers. The scale of the weapons is correctly done and reinforces the realistic presence of the figures.

First Legion's criteria has successfully created figures that reflect the quality of painting found in the "Russian school" figures. They have also raised the bar with their sculpting being superlative to that currently being produced in China and Hong Kong. When considering the type of figure First Legion has managed to create, the most amazing fact is that it is affordable for collectors.

First Legion figures are available via mail order from the First Legion secure website. There is currently no US distributor, although George Guerriero of Minuteman Toy Soldiers will have figures at shows only.

If your taste is highly detailed, exquisitely painted figures, then you must collect First Legion. Additions to current ranges occur on a frequent basis, enabling enthusiasts to continue to expand their collections.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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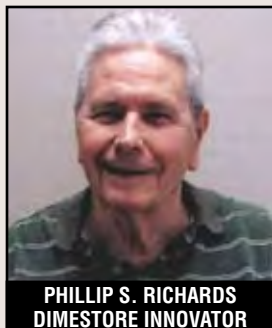


# PHIL RICHARDS' .... NEW ERA METAL MODELS

## Specializing in New Dimestore WWII Germans and Japanese

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By Louis S. Steinberg and Alan Gwin



*Several years ago, while having a phone conversation with Roger Dubois about our own Dimestore conversion figures, he made reference to his article he had written for Old Toy Soldier. Moments later he mentioned that maybe I should write something about the earlier guys I knew and their "conversions" that I had collected and for which I still have a true fondness.*

*Some time passed. The thought never seemed to go away to document those producers of Dimestore toy soldiers that had come upon the scene to fill the voids left by the major national suppliers.*

*After having contacted Norman Joplin to solicit his thoughts and hopefully gain his approval regarding an OTS article, I bounced around with him the new Dimestore innovator names of Poole, Holt, Burley, Hill, Hall, Britton, Hornung, Bobline and Richards.*

*Back then, a phone call to the above makers tendered exciting results. A letter, outlining my intention along with the asking of a few questions, was also forwarded.*

*However, the name, Phil Richards, totally disappeared from all sources.*

*I mean, I tried off and on for over two years. He was thoroughly unable to be contacted. Last addresses, phone numbers, name of his business, real estate firm, son's closed business, other collectors, listings from older publications, everything ..... but, nothing at all helped. No Phil. No Phil!*

*Then on one relaxing evening, I received a call from Alan Gwin who had a question regarding some of Ed Burley's Barclay type figures.*

*Alan reminded me that, in 1992, he was the one that purchased all the remaining toy soldier stock of Phil's New Era Metal Models which also included his 54mm figures. "Ah Ha!! Was he able to help?" I mused. Alan had known Phil since 1983.*

*As coincidence would have it, Alan was planning a business trip over towards Gainesville which is about two hours from his Florida home. He mentioned that he could pass by Phil's old address to see if anyone around could offer some information as to his whereabouts.*

*Phil's son told the story of Phil buying a few acres up in northern Florida and of his plans to retire there. Alan obtained an address and phone number. Da da! The hunt was on!*

*What a stroke of luck! With this information I hurriedly priority-mailed a letter and packet to Phil for his review. And, then I tried calling him.*

*I tried calling. I tried calling again ...and again. One more time. There was never an answer. AT&T said the line was open. Phil must have been on a trip.*

*Alan mentioned in our phone conversation that he also was trying to reach Phil without success. It was once again coincidental that Alan at this very time was planning to make a trip up into the northern Florida area. He said that he would be near enough to pay Phil a visit. This news was terrific!*

But before I proceed with the re-discovery of Phillip S. Richards allow me some time to relate as Alan phrased it about Phil, "He and **New Era** did play a meaningful part in the evolution of Dimestore toy soldiers and collecting."

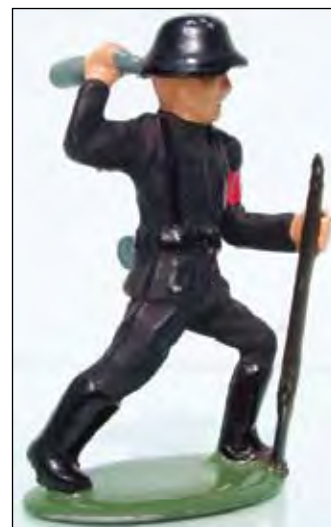
Alan received a copy of the packet I had previously forwarded to Phil. When they finally met he was extraordinarily bountiful in culling a lot of the following condensates.

Phil entered our world at Miami, Florida, in 1931. His first memory of toy soldiers was when his father took time off from his drugstore to take the family shopping downtown. He was then given some nickels and dimes to buy toy soldiers. Yep, can you recall nickels and dimes? Why regular gasoline then was about 18 cents a gallon!

Within his high school years, while growing up in Miami, was when Phil developed an interest in mechanical en-



Series 200  
Fighting SS Advancing  
Photo from Rodney Hopson



Series 200  
SS Throwing a Potato Masher  
Photo by Rodney Hopson

## PHIL RICHARDS' .... NEW ERA METAL MODELS (Cont.)

gineering, which ultimately progressed, in 1954, to an Engineering Degree from the University of Miami.

Being selected to work for North American Aviation moved Phil to California. Then soon, during the Vietnam War, it was two years with Uncle Sam's Army, serving in a research Unit to engineer, evaluate, and improve field kitchen equipment, which finalized into the Corps newest portable bakery.

Post War, Phil landed in Gainesville, Florida, working as an Engineering Inspector for the City and later for a Consulting Engineering Company till his young retirement in 1981. Toy Trains and soldiers were just only a hobby, but then in '82 his small business popped up for repairs and experimental toy soldier production.

A half year later an invented entity arose.... **New Era Metal Models** ... proudly commenced. In 1983 its only catalog was published and presented.

Alan reported, "Phil was the archetypal of independence. He did just what he liked and enjoyed. His own Dimestore toy soldier displays manifested a paucity of enemy troops. He was obsessed to create the enemy he so often envisioned."

During those years I also had a compulsive fixation to acquire fighting figures of Dimestore size. By receiving Phil's new catalog of enemy troops, my leisure-time bucks became challenged.

The cover of Phil's new catalog announced, "American Made toy lead soldiers in the tradition of the original Dimestore armies of the 1930's are again available. This time they are enemy figures to oppose all the fire-power of the Barclay and Manoil troops massed on collector's shelves everywhere."

Well, it was inevitable. I pursued the War Dept. (my wife) to approve a substantial financial stimulus package.

Alan's notes reflected that Phil said, "My original new figures were developed and converted from existing Dimestore pieces. They were cut apart and reassembled. Then, I created from rubber molds new bases; new heads and helmets; arms and hands; plus weapons. As for finishing, I followed pictures and blended my own paints... had no help in assembly."

The years of the mid 70s and early 80s, as Phil was priming his soldiering concepts, did experience several minor economic recessionary periods of about two years each. Dimestore collecting felt the bite. Traveling to all the eastern shows became expensive.

Phil conceptualized mounting a massive dioramic display at the Chicago Show to visually introduce and promote his extensive **New Era** line of Dimestore German troops. This did materialize and was set-up in the entrance to the Show in 1984.

"Although Phil did not openly tell me," Alan surmised, "I however, supposed from our conversation that he expected a much larger reception to his **New Era** line than he received. If a bitterness was withheld, it may have been that Phil thought inwardly that the Show's audience was more interested in 54mm than the present availability of a depth of his New Dimestore figures."

A propagation of creative choices it surely was! **New Era's** catalog of all metal model, Dimestore size, German toy soldiers of WW II outlined the complement offered through its "Parade and Marching, Series 200," with its 250 variations. Therefore, you were able to order the complete look of your decided figure. The Series 200 also included a German Marching Band.



Brownshirt Drum Major  
Thanks to Rodney Hopson



Series 200 Nazi Flag Bearer in SS Black Uniform  
Photo courtesy Rodney Hopson



Infantry Unit Passing in Review  
Photo courtesy Danielle Gwin



## PHIL RICHARDS' .... NEW ERA METAL MODELS (Cont.)

These modifications, at no additional costs, were included: soft cap or steel helmet; full backpack or none; rifles with or without bayonets; right and left arms with various automatic weapons, saber and saluting. Painting was done in regular all grey uniform or special, all black, SS uniform.

What were the costs? Well, in 1983, the finished figures you ordered with all the included variances that you wished were \$7.00 each. Flags for flag bearers were \$5.00 each. However, the "Series 200, German, Marching Band" figures, painted and complete with your choice of instrument, were \$10.00 each.

A one page, legal size, "Order Blank" simply outlined each assemblage of the unpainted basic castings. Also listed at an \$8.00 pricing was "Series 400, World War II Combat Figures." These were eighteen German Army figures, animated and posed as fierce-fighters for immediate battle.

Completing Phil's line was "Series 100, Japanese Army." This was a rather unique set of just four pieces. An Army officer and two infantrymen were holding, with rifles and a pistol pointed, a seated, captured American soldier whose hands were tied behind his back....a most creative war mini-diorama.

Phil's very last creation, of which he produced maybe only a dozen sets, was another Japanese mini-diorama, displaying the wartime attempted beheading of an enemy troop, a U. S. doughboy.

To further emphasize Phil's creativity and unrivaled uniqueness, he developed and merchandised for Dimestore soldiering a "build-your-own" soldier kit comprised of the castings of your choice. For \$3.00 you could acquire all the unpainted, clean castings needed to assemble your own inventive enemy item.

In 1985 Phil purchased a spin casting unit, mold press and melting furnace to service bulk orders and to create more volume in sales, as well as having in-house control of all production. Thus, the Series 200 pricing became \$8.00 per copy.

A **New Era Newsletter** of the winter of 1988/89 expressed how successful business had become, stating that, "my output using current methods can not keep up with the volume of orders." Of course, Phil was still a one-man-band.

Yet in '89 Phil created a novel sales approach to sell to retail outlets. Based on a "pay as you sell" idea, Phil would ship various production figures and get paid after the retailer received payment. Never heard how it really worked out.

Shocking news arrived in August of 1991.... "I have suspended **New Era** toy soldier production since February. It is not clear if I will have to move to another building."



Japanese Searching for Escaped Doughboy  
Photo courtesy of Rodney Hopson



Japanese Officer at the Ready to Kill Captive  
Photo by Danielle Gwin



SS Guard Passing in Review  
Photo by Danielle Gwin

## PHIL RICHARDS' .... NEW ERA METAL MODELS (Cont.)

*Here is where I wish to share part of a most personal letter I received from Phil in March of 1992. It touches on so much, which so many of us ol' fogies have had to face or are confused with aggravated trepidation to finally face.*

*Phil wrote.... "Lou: Am clearing out my collections. Kind of sad in a way. The grand kids couldn't care less about all this old stuff. My three kids all have their own homes with inadequate storage and really don't want it even if they had room. Of all the other collectors I know, it is the same. We only relate to what we enjoyed in our youth and the only way to sell this stuff is to sell it to someone in our age group."*

*Profound and philosophical, and I do believe to be a solid truism.*

*Alan told me that he also had lost contact with Phil since 2000. It was now January, 2009, that he would try again to meet with Phil at his new home of privacy in Jasper, Florida.*

*Upon arriving Alan discovered that Phil had been in real bad health and was confined to a Nursing and Rehabilitation Home. Alan had a good*



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*visit with Phil. He said that Phil probably has not done much with toy soldiers in the past five years.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed co-authoring this article with my friend Alan Gwin.*

*Without Alan's investigation, input and solid dedication, this article would have been far less informative or even untold.*

*My Gosh! How could I have forgot? Alan told me why Phil was so unreachable by telephone. Yes, he did have a phone! However, the mechanism that caused the ringing sound was disconnected. Phil used the phone to just call out. He never heard if anyone was calling in!!*

*In closing, thanks to Danielle Gwin and Rodney Hopson for so many pictures.*

*Although, Phillip S. Richards still has strong interests to launch some new figures of personalities when he returns home. Alan says, "I do not think he will be able to do that in the very near future. There is, however, always hope."*

*Whenever you pray, please pray for the wellness of Phil Richards.*



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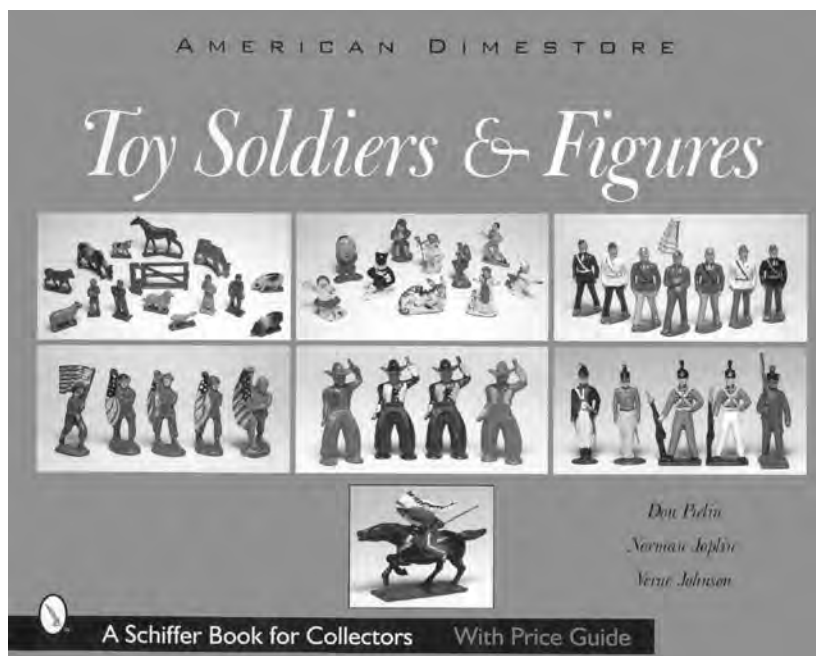
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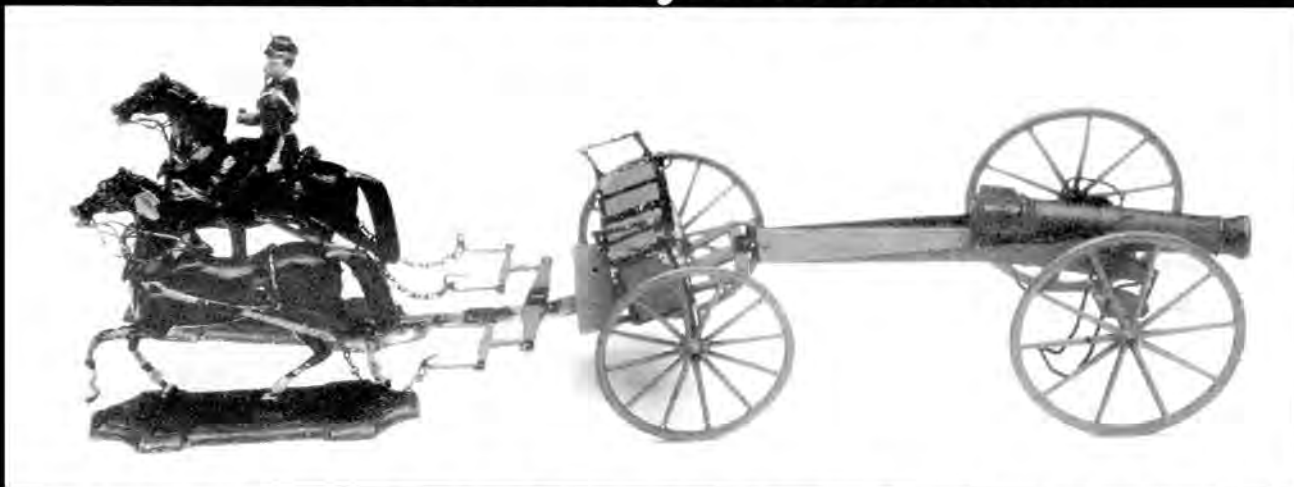
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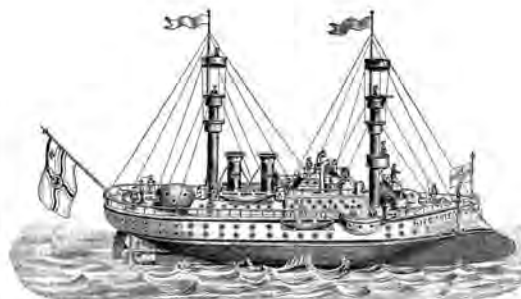


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# Composition Figures of Belgium “Incamim”

*by Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais*

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## I. Introduction

In our continuing efforts to highlight the excellent craftsmanship of Belgran made composition figures. The Authors are pleased to now feature the “Western Series”, produced by “Manufacture MIM”, and marketed under the name of “Incamim”.

These figures were produced during the period from 1938 to 1948.

## II. Background

Emmanuel Steinbach was born on Christmas Day, 1909, in the town of Houffalize in The Luxembourg Province of Belgium.

In 1930 he started a Publishing business in Paris, but moved back to Belgium, and in 1938 he founded “Manufacture MIM” at 85 Rue du Prevot in the city of Brussels. The purpose of this company was to produce figurines, and its slogan was “Maximus In Minimis”, which essentially meant getting the most detail into a small figure.

Production of figures was divided into two main sections:

First there were lead figures marketed under the trademark “MIM” (Maximus In Minimis), and also composition figures featuring the trademark “Incamim”. (This name was derived from the slogan “Incassable MIM”, meaning unbreakable)

The lead “MIM” figures portrayed excellent example of:

1. “Antiquity Era” - Egyptians, Assyrians and Persians along with Gallic Warriors and Roman Soldiers.
2. “Consulate” - Hussards and Cuirassier (1799-1804)
3. “Napoleonic” - 1st French Empire (1804 - 1946)
4. “Modern Soldiers” - Figures of the WW2 Era (1945 - 1946)

These lead figures were marketed solely to the “high end” or “luxury” retail outlets and toy stores.

Production of the composition “Incamim” figures was limited to three “sets”

1. “Western” - Cowboys, Indians, etc.
2. “Sahara” - Meharistes, Touaregs, Camels, etc.
3. “Tiger Hunt” - Maharajah, Hunters, Elephants, etc.

In all approximately 70 different Incamim composition figures were produced, and were marketed mainly in “supermarkets” (dimestores).

These figures could be purchased separately or in boxes of a few different figures.

## III. General

Mr. Steinbach’s stated purpose in founding his company was also two-fold.

First of all he wanted to produce figures that were attractive and would be sought after by collectors. (Little did he know, at the time, that his production would be limited to only 10 years, and that his MIM and Incamim figures would become hard to find, and therefore, quite rare.)

Secondly, he wanted to make his figures “for the children”, and provide them with realistic figures of high quality that would be used to enhance their education and bring history to life.

To help him accomplish these goals, he hired his first “painter”, a young woman artist named Alice Vander Elst, who would later become his wife.

In order to supplement the small Belgran Market, lead and composition figures were exported into other European Countries and to the United States. However, in 1947 the export licenses into France and Switzerland were revoked, sounding the death knell for Mr. Steinbach’s Company.

“Manufacture MIM” ceased production in 1948.

Emmanuel Steinbach died on January 5, 1993.

## IV. Incamim/Durso

Michel Klimov, founder and owner of The Durso Company, purchased the Incamim composition molds in 1948, and immediately began to introduce some of these figures into The Durso line.

However, rather than using the molds as purchased, Mr. Klimov opted to gradually incorporate the designs into “new” molds utilizing The Durso logo.

As a result of this we may find the same figure marked with “Incamim” on the base, some with no marking, and eventually some marked “Durso”.



## Composition Figures of Belgium “Incamim” (Cont.)

### V. Incamim “Western” Series

As our readers will see, Incamim produced a wide variety of Cowboy and Indian figures, and the catalogs even differentiated between Indian Tribes.

Examples of “foot” figures are shown below: (All numbers listed were taken from The Incamim Catalog of 1947)

#### Catalog No. Description

- I-1A “Sitting Bull”, standing with spear
- I-1B “Red Cloud”, standing with spear
- I-1C “Sioux Sachem”, standing with spear
- I-2A “Huron” Bowman, Kneeling
- I-2B “Huron” Bowman, Kneeling
- I-3A “Blackfoot” Scout, Prone
- I-3B “Blackfoot” Scout, Prone
- I-4A “Iroquois” Warrior with “Mohawk” Scalp
- I-4B “Iroquois” Warrior with “Onondaga” Scalp
- I-5 “Mohican” Running with Spear\*
- I-6 “Mohican” Running with Tomahawk\*
- I-7 “Mohican” Running with Club\*
- (\*all 3 are wearing war paint)
- I-15 “Sioux” Chief, standing with Rifle



I-1A  
“Sitting Bull”  
Standing with  
Spear



I-1B  
“Red Cloud”  
Standing with  
Spear



I-1C  
“Sioux Sachem”  
Standing with Spear



I-2A  
Huron Bowman, Kneeling



I-2B  
Huron Bowman, Kneeling



I-3A  
“Blackfoot” Scout, Prone



I-3B  
“Blackfoot” Scout, Prone



I-4A  
“Iroquois Warrior  
with Mohawk Scalp



I-4B  
Iroquois Warrior  
with Onondaga Scalp



I-5  
Mohican Running  
with Spear



I-7  
Mohican Running  
with Club



I-6  
Mohican Running  
with Tomahawk



I-15  
Sioux Chief  
Standing  
with Rifle

(All are wearing war paint)

## Composition Figures of Belgium “Incamim” (Cont.)

Incamim also produced an extensive line of mounted figures, including a well known “personality”



I-8  
Captain W. Cody, “Buffalo Bill”,  
on Horseback with Lasso

I-9  
“Comanche” on  
Horseback with Rifle

I-10  
“Comanche” on  
Horseback with Spear

I-11  
“Comanche” on  
Horseback with Tomahawk

I-12  
“Cheyenne” on  
Horseback with Bow

- I-8 William “Buffalo Bill” Cody,  
with lasso
- I-9 “Comanche” with Rifle
- I-10 “Comanche” with Spear
- I-11 “Comanche” with Tomahawk
- I-12 “Cheyenne” with Bow
- I-13 “Sioux” Scout with Shield
- I-29 Indian with Lasso



I-13  
Sioux “Scout” on Horseback  
with Shield

I-29  
Indian Rider  
with Lasso

To Compliment The Indian figures, there were also Cowboys:

- I-14 Cowboy with Rifle and Revolver
- I-56 Cowboy, searching
- I-57 Cowboy with Rifle Overhead
- I-59 Cowboy with Lasso
- I-61 Cowboy Firing Rifle



I-14  
Cowboy on Horseback  
with Rifle and  
Revolver



I-56  
Cowboy on Horseback, Searching



I-57  
Cowboy on Horseback Defending  
Himself with Rifle



I-59  
Cowboy on Horseback  
with Lasso



I-61  
Cowboy on Horseback,  
Firing Rifle



## Composition Figures of Belgium “Incamim” (Cont.)

Then, of course, there were the usual “Casualties of War” (prisoners)

### Catalog No. Description

- I-46 Cowboy at Torture Tree, with Axes
- I-47 Cowboy at Torture Tree, with Arrows
- I-48 Cowboy at Torture Tree, with Knives
- I-49 Mounted Cowboy Prisoner
- I-50 Mounted Cowboy Surrendering



I-48  
Cowboy at Torture  
Tree, with Knives



I-49  
Cowboy Prisoner on Horseback,  
hands bound behind back



I-46  
Cowboy at Torture  
Tree, with Axes



I-50  
Cowboy on Horseback,  
“Hands Up”



I-47  
Cowboy at Torture  
Tree, with Arrows

No western scene would be complete without the “Bad Guys” Incamim made a figure of a masked outlaw on horseback, which they aptly titled “Pirate of the Prairie”.

### Catalog No. Description

- I-51 Masked Outlaw on Horseback

Note:

Listed in the 1947 Catalog are two figures that have never been seen by collectors. These are:

- I-54 Sioux Indian on Foot, Throwing Knife
- I-55 Sioux Indian on Foot, Throwing Tomahawk

Finally, along with other types of “wagons”, Incamim marketed a superb stagecoach which was modeled after The 1875 “Deadwood-Cheyenne” Mail Coach.

This came with teams of 2, 4 or 6 horses, (all at full gallop), and was complete with driver, outrider, and 2 guards, along with mail sacks, luggage and harness. (There were no passengers.)



I-51  
Masked Outlaw on  
Horseback  
 (“Pirate of the Prairie”)



I-51  
Masked Outlaw on  
Horseback,  
 (“Pirate of the Prairie”)

## Composition Figures of Belgium “Incamim” (Cont.)

---

The stagecoach came in 3 colors:

- Blue, with red wheels and white horses
- Brown, with yellow wheels and brown horses
- Yellow, with green wheels and brown or white horses.

An example of this stagecoach, along with its original box (very rare) is shown:



Stagecoach



Original Box

### VI. Closing Note

Some Collectors refer to these composition figures as Incamin (not Incamim). This most likely traces back to the fact that in the French language no word ends in the letters (im) and therefore the name was written as Incamin.

### VII. Conclusion

The Authors hope our readers have enjoyed this brief journey back in time to the “frontier” days of the United States (made possible by a Belgian Manufacturing Company).

Can't you visualize a scene where the stagecoach is being attached either by Indians or Outlaws?

We want to once again thank “*Old Toy Soldier*” Magazine for this opportunity.

### VIII. Acknowledgements

Photos by Veronique Servais

Stagecoach photos supplied by Lloyd Ralston Gallery.

### IX. Editors Note

See the advertisement for the book, “*Composition Figures of Belgium - The Durso Company*”, by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 62 of this issue.



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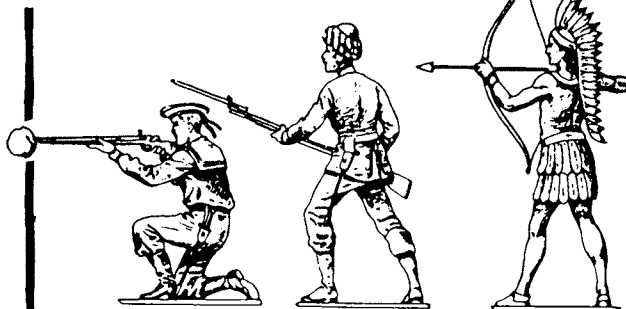


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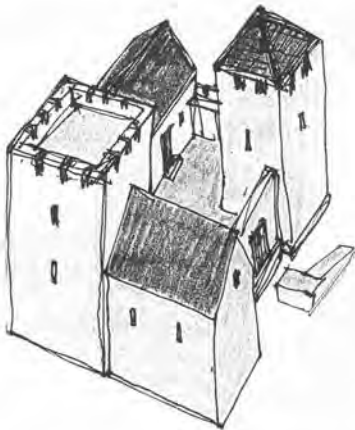
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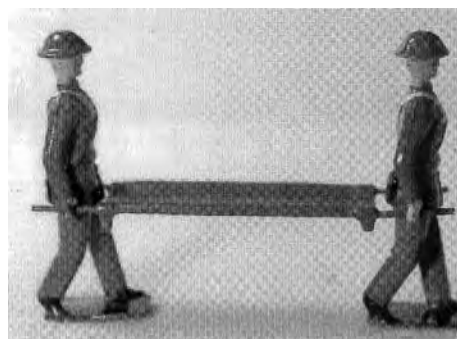
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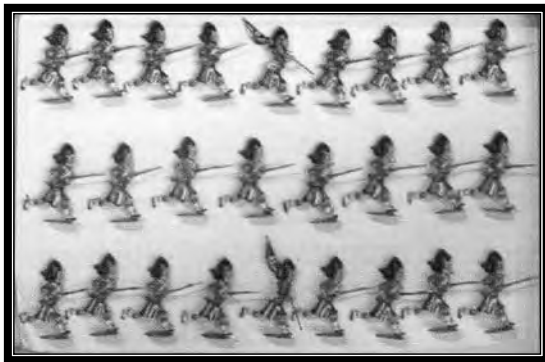
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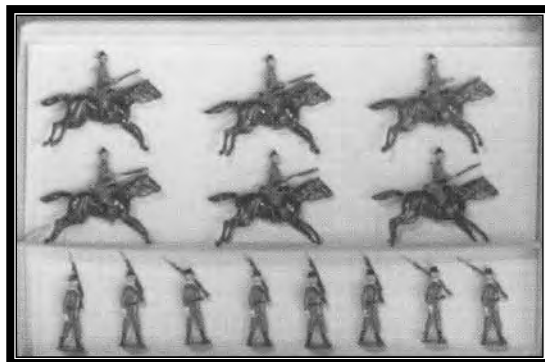
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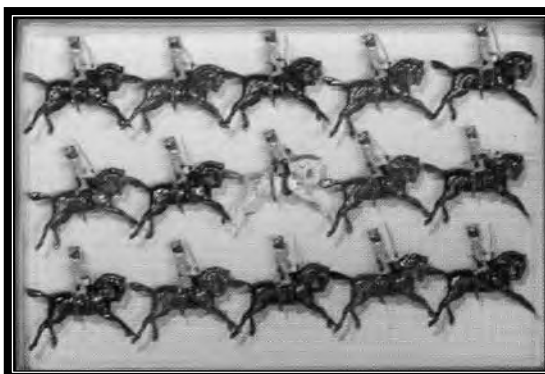
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# TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2009-2010

## 2010

**August 14-Saturday.** Lloyd Ralston Toys. Toy Soldier Auction from the American dream Museum.  
See full page ad in this issue.

**September 11-Saturday** Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier & Figure Show. Holiday Inn Coram Street  
Bloomsbury London. Contact [info@normanjoplin.com](mailto:info@normanjoplin.com) [www,normanjoplin.com](http://www.normanjoplin.com) Tel 262-692-3913 or in the  
UK 01926 496 062.

**September 11-Saturday.** National Capital Model Soldier Society's 49th Annual "Washington" Show.  
Nova Community College, Ernst Center. 8333 Little River Turnpike. Annandale Virginia. Contact [www.nc.ss.org](http://www.nc.ss.org) or  
Email [merritgr@verizon.net](mailto:merritgr@verizon.net)

**September 19-Sunday.** New Jersey Miniatures Associates Expo Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Wayne PAL, Wayne New  
Jersey 10am-5pm. Contact Al Green Email [ma52557@aol.com](mailto:ma52557@aol.com)

**September 26 - Sunday.** OTSN. Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago. Hyatt Regency Woodfield. Schaumburg, Illinois.  
Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239. Email [dimestores@aol.com](mailto:dimestores@aol.com) [www.toysoldiershow.com](http://www.toysoldiershow.com)

**October 9 and 10 - Saturday and Sunday.** Fun Fair Sat. 10-8 Sun. 10-5. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA  
1-800-225-1007 [funfairantiques.com](http://funfairantiques.com)

**October 10 -Sunday.** 2nd Annual Fredericksburg Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 10 am-3 pm. Fredericksburg Expo Center  
Virginia Contact John Sengel 718-418-9439

**October 16 - Saturday.** 21st International Collector's Convention. 61231 Bad Nauheim, Germany. 10 am - 3 pm at the  
Landesärztekammer. Tel +49 30 392 94 90 Email: [redaktion@figuren-magazin.de](mailto:redaktion@figuren-magazin.de) [www.figuren-magazin.de](http://www.figuren-magazin.de)

**October 16 & 17 - Saturday & Sunday.** Military History Weekend. Williamsburg Virginia The Hospitality House Hotel.  
Contact for info [www.militrayhistoryweekend.com](http://www.militrayhistoryweekend.com) Tel First Gear Inc.1-888-771-5576

**October 17th - Sunday.** Columbus Ohio Toy Soldier Show. Fort Rapids indoor Water Park. Columbus Ohio.  
Contact Rod Chapman [chappy1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:chappy1@columbus.rr.com) Tel 740-924-2531.

**October 30-Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale 1343 Paradise Falls Cresco, Pa.  
10am-4pm. Contact Jim Hillestad 570-629-7227 Email [jimhill@ptd.net](mailto:jimhill@ptd.net)

**October 31 -Sunday.** East Coast Toy Soldier Show Hackensack. Fairleigh Dickenson University. Rothman Center.  
Contact Bill Lango Tel: 973-831-8900 [bill@vintagecastings.com](mailto:bill@vintagecastings.com)

**November 7- Sunday.** 11th Annual Cantigny Park Toy Soldier Show, 9am-4pm. Cantigny Park and Museum.  
Winfield Road. Wheaton Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese 920-262-1323. Email [camprandall@charter.net](mailto:camprandall@charter.net)

## **November 20 and 21 Saturday and Sunday.**

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[www.oldsoldierauctions.com](http://www.oldsoldierauctions.com)**

**December 4 -Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Square.  
Contact King and Country. [www.thetoysoldiersshow.com](http://www.thetoysoldiersshow.com)

## 2011

**January 30 - Sunday.** 17th Florida Toy Soldier, Action Figure & toy Collectibles Show. 9am-4pm. Scottish Rites Masonic  
Hall, Lake Worth, Florida. Contact Tel 954-699-6040 or 561-968-5571 [mskurda@inbox.com](mailto:mskurda@inbox.com)

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

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

*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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**FW067**



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**FW061**



**FW066**



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