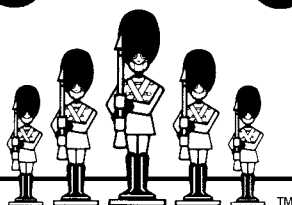


Winter
2005

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 28 Number 4
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Sets Britains Should Have Made

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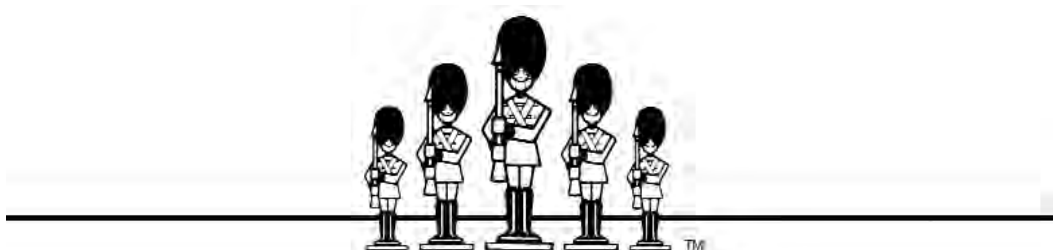
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ON THE COVER

Sets Britains Should Have Made

Photograph Courtesy William J. Miele

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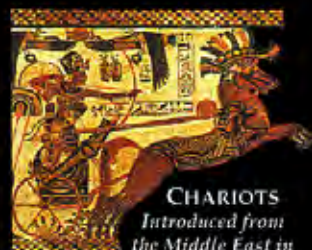


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Introduced from the Middle East in C.1650 B.C., chariots revolutionized warfare. Here, Tutankhamun fires arrows at Nubian enemies from the raised platform of his chariot.

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THE ROYAL HUNT

Our Princely Chariot is not our only Royal 'release' at this time... **AE15 The Hunting Pharaoh** is another. Pharaoh, Son of Ra,



has enjoyed a day of hunting - always a favourite Royal sport!

Here he returns to the palace followed by two loyal retainers carrying his 'kill'. **AE16 The Hunting Party** shows the two Royal servants with a pole carried between them - hanging from it a young desert antelope.

ANIMALS OF THE NILE

In Ancient Egypt a great variety of animals were revered and worshipped. Cats of all shapes and sizes were particular favourites. We have produced one of the Royal 'mascots' - a powerful young leopard together with his handler. This young animal would probably have been

raised as a cub in the Royal Palace itself. It was said that they were used for hunting although they could often prove unpredictable. As a safety precaution our set, **AE17 The Royal Mascot**, shows the handler equipped with a spear and a dagger!

TEMPLE GUARDIANS

Our final release among these new additions is a pair of *Sphinx* - like statues, **AE18**. These stone monuments often formed an avenue leading up to the entrance-way of the Temple and were thought to be 'guardians' of the building itself.

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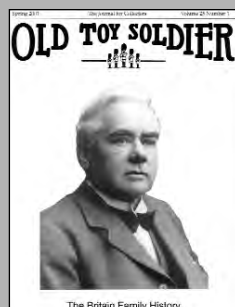
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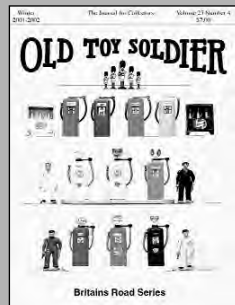
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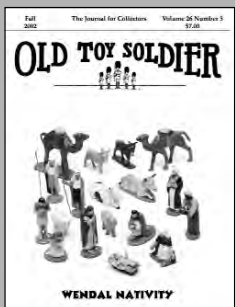
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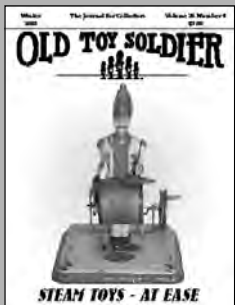
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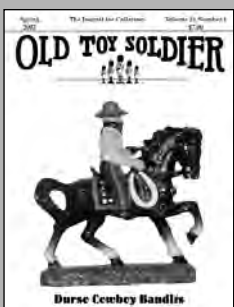


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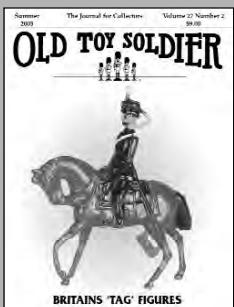


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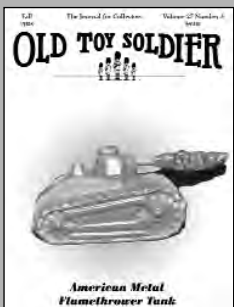
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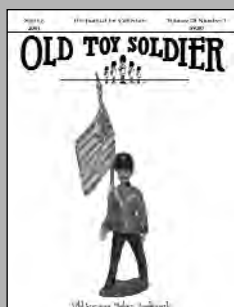


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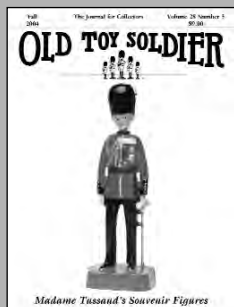
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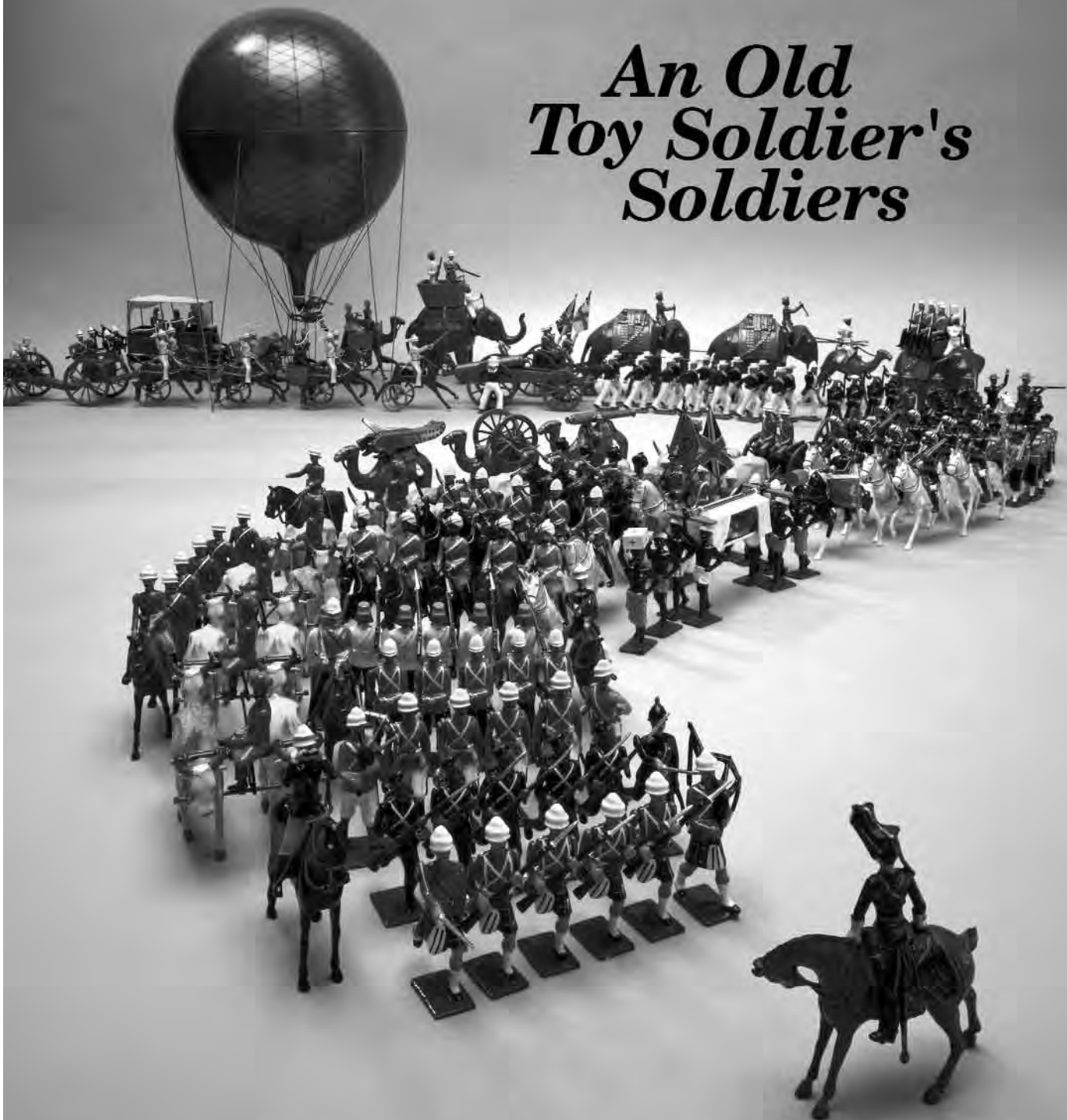
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Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men know how to march together and how to fight together and look smart doing it. Our men want to be thrown onto the battlecarpet and properly pummeled like the toys they are - not given some shelf job 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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Sets Britains Should Have Made

By William J. Miele

Ever fantasize about lead soldiers? I do it all the time! I especially enjoy thinking about sets that I wish Britains had produced; sets that would use existing figures not requiring new castings; just different configurations and combinations of existing figures and sets. The use of existing casting, painted differently, could have added greatly to displays and the enjoyment of collecting. For example, based on the Royal Marine Colour Party, only available at Hamleys in London, Britains could have easily produced colour parties of the Royal Marine Light Infantry and Bahamas Police. No new standards would have been necessary, just the use of the existing Queens Colours and Regimental Flag. Think of the display possibilities when combined with a band and detachment of soldiers marching at the slope. Combining a 7-person colour party with the 21 piece band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry and, say 3 sets of marching figures would make a magnificent 52-man display. Expensive but magnificent nonetheless. The same could have been done for the rarer Bahamas Police.

The creation of a Royal Navy Colour Party and band would have been fantastic. By the way, the only naval band ever produced by Britains was of the Royal Canadian Navy. It was a single 18 piece prototype in a plain red box done at the request of a Toronto collector. Combine with several sets of Bluejackets marching at slope and you have another fabulous display. Think of the grandeur when combined with a display of the Royal Air Force Colour Party, band and marching airmen and a similar group of Royal Marines. Colour parties add so much to any static display. It's a mystery why Britains didn't have more in their standard line. The following colour parties could have been produced from existing stock and would have been warmly received by children and collectors alike: Hussars, Line Infantry, Royal Fusiliers, Indian Army, U.S. Army, and Foreign Legion just to name a few. Having more colour parties would have stimulated more purchases so collectors could have built larger, more authentic mass displays. A mounted officer would have added even more to the aforementioned displays. How about a mounted officer leading a group of the Bahamas Police? A mounted officer followed by a colour party, band and a 24-piece detachment and you have something incredibly special.

Further, I wish Britains had produced a Royal Air Force display. Think of a large RAF box containing a monoplane, biplane, autogiro, pilots, fire fighters, and airmen marching at slope. A similar display set could have been done for the U.S. Army Air Corps. These sets would have required a standard Britains deep display



Examples of Standard Bearers that Britains could have made.



Royal Marine Light Infantry Color Party



Bahamas Police Color Party



Britains Naval Band commissioned by a Canadian Collector Post WWII

box for the aircraft and then double stacked for the foot figures. I think it would have been a big seller although, again, rather expensive. Collectors today would go wild for a display set of this type.

Another possible display set using only existing production models would be a British or U. S. Army Supply Column consisting of Royal Engineer wagon, ambulance, pontoon section, gun team, mounted officer and

Sets Britains Should Have Made (Cont.)

dismounted troopers. A mechanized column could also have been developed consisting of staff car, armored car, bren gun carrier, and an underslung lorry. No detachment of troops would have been necessary for this set. Also, it would have been nice if Britains had made cargo boxes for its lorries. The boxes could have been similar to the boxes used for the Boer War Supply Column.

Another great set would have been an Army Encampment using a large display box filled with Hugar buildings, gun emplacements together with guns and troops to man same. A typical configuration might have included several small field emplacement, Nissen hut, guardhouse, barracks building, sand bags and troops. A 10" flagpole would have been a nice touch.

Also, Britains could have improved its line by adding more bands. The previously mentioned Royal Navy band would have been a very sexy addition. Also, a few more mounted bands would have been nice, i.e. Hussar and Lancer bands. Imagine the interest in a dismounted 11th Hussar band in No.1 dress with peaked hats, blue tunics and burgundy trousers. The only foreign bands done by Britains



Bahamas Police Mounted Officer

were of U.S. forces. A Russian band using the figure from Set No. 2032 Red Army Infantry in Summer Dress Marching in Review had great potential. This marching figure had shoulder pins that are perfect for attaching arms with instruments. For authenticity, a Russian band would have had to be larger, say 32 pieces plus officer and drum major.



Russian Red Army Band in Summer Dress



US Naval Band utilizing figures from Ron Ruddell of London Bridge and painted by Neil Rhodes



Eleventh Hussar Band in Number One Dress



Mounted Officers that Britains could have made

Most Britains sets, whether mounted or foot, contained officers. There was, however, a dearth of senior-level officers. The only mounted set having senior officers was #201 General Staff. In foot figures only sets #1908 Infantry Officers and #207 Officers of the Royal Navy had senior officers. Some senior officers appeared in display sets such as #73, #130 and #131. Using the same castings, standard officers could have been embellished with broader cuffs, epaulettes, collars, and sashes to represent senior or general officers. A set containing five senior officers, including a field marshal together with two aides, would have made a nice addition to Britains line. This set would have added greatly to mass displays and parades. The same is true of member of the Royal Family including the King and Royal Princes.

Britains had quite a range of gun teams that were creative and artistic masterpieces. Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery were very well represented. One gun team that I would like to have seen was a Boer War era 4.7" naval gun pulled by a team of 8 water buffalo using Britains figure No. 968. The only modification necessary would have been to use large 4.7-type wheels on the limber. A mounted officer in colonial dress plus several drivers with whips and seamen could have been included for additional realism. This would

Sets Britains Should Have Made (Cont.)



King George the Fifth-Center and Senior Bemedalld Officers

have been a unique combination of Britains military and zoo figures. The result would have been sensational.

Coincidentally, members of the British Model Soldier Society must have had similar feelings based on the number of conversions done during the 1930's and 1940's using Britains figures. These fellows were quite talented and occasionally one of their masterpieces surface today. Their conversions are considered quite desirable. When not embellished, they add considerable animation when used with Britains figures and displays.

If you have been stimulated by this article and would like to have a special custom set, consider contacting Neil Rhodes of Washington, D.C. Neil has a strong museum background and is a great painter. He has captured the Britains style and his work is exceptional. Also, he's very easy to deal with on special commission items. Whenever I come up with a new idea for a set never done by Britains, my first call is to Neil. As Britains become harder to find, more custom made sets will be made in the future. Since the creation of custom sets is so labor intensive, costs will surely go up. In spite of this, more people will want to enhance their collections with a few of these masterpieces. This could become a new trend in collecting lead soldiers.



Royal Artillery with Mounted Officers accompanied by 4.7" Naval Gun



Boar War Era 4.7' Naval Gun with added limber pulled by 8 water buffalo adapting figures from Britains Set #28

All the photographs in this article except for the Eleventh Hussar Band are the creation of Neil Rhodes, Ron Ovark supplied the Eleventh Hussar Band

Editors Note

Britains did produce as a special order an Oxen Drawn Gun and Limber prior to World War II. The editor has seen an example of the Indian Ox with Yoke as listed in the Britains Factory Records assigned Mold #1374.

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Changes at the W. Britain Collectors Club

RC2 wish to announce the retirement of Lynn Kenwood from the W.Britain Collectors Club. Lynn has run the W. Britain Collectors Club for the past five years during which time the 'Standard' as its name implies has become a renowned publication amongst Toy Soldier Collectors and membership has doubled. We would like to thank Lynn for his much appreciated hard work, particularly in the early days of the club. I am sure all members will remember the special Jubilee dinner at the Imperial War Museum, a highlight of Lynn's reign. Lynn has been a constant source of direct communication with Club members and is sure to get many phone calls in the future. May I on behalf of RC2 wish Lynn the very best as he retires? Of course what retirement means for an old toy soldier is more soldiers! Lynn will have even more time to look for those elusive sets and to sell soldiers through his Guards Museum shop. A new era starts in January with the appointment of Mark Avery as Editor. Mark brings much experience of running a Toy Soldier magazine and a personnel interest in Toy Soldiers. We look forward to Mark building on the success of the Standard and to launch in January a new Napoleonic range of W.Britain Club sets. Look out for the competition to win the new RAF Band Limited Edition in the January publication and the special Nelson articles on the 200th Anniversary during the year. We are also pleased to announce the administration of the Club will be done by Karen Lee & Caroline Rozycki who most members already know and we will use the same address and telephone number as previously. That means no change of details for members to contact the W.Britain Collectors Club. Karen & Caroline have extensive knowledge of the W.Britain range and the needs of daily running the Club. I would also like to thank the many contributors to the Club articles and in particular Peter Cowan who has also helped considerably in the running of the Club particularly at various shows. As well the current articles we look forward to hearing from new writer's in the future so if you are interested contact Mark Avery. Finally a big thanks to those who are in the W.Britain Collectors and we look forward to many more joining in 2005. The benefits include a quarterly magazine the 'Standard', Club year figure (Napoleon 2005), Birthday /Christmas cards with vouchers, W.Britain catalogue, and much much more.



Lynn Kenwood (left) being presented with his retirement gift by Ray Wootton of Racing Champions

Mark Avery in addition to taking over as Editor of the William Britain Collectors Club Magazine "The Standard" has recently commenced publication of a new Toy Soldier Magazine entitled "Toy Soldier Collector". In the UK Mark was previously editor of Toy Soldier and Model Figure Collector and has joined forces with Rob Hendrie in this venture. Mark can be contacted via email - mark@toysoldiercollector.com

Old Toy Soldier Newsletter 25th Anniversary Show

Don Pielin is currently making arrangements to celebrate 25 years of the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show in Chicago during September 2005. Full details of this years show and special events will appear in O.T.S. hobby news in May 2005. Don aims to persuade some of the shows former participants to return for the 25th anniversary event. Please contact Don Pielin at 630 497 1239 or dimestores@aol.com

Obituary - Gerry Williams

The toy soldier world has lost another friend. Gerald Huntley-Williams passed away on Thanksgiving day.

A Londoner, Gerry had been a soldier (North Africa Royal Tank Regiment), a chef specializing in French cuisine, owner of two restaurants, a professional photographer, and for the past 20 years, proprietor of Windows of the World displays.



His first commissions were for KLM Dutch Royal Airlines and British Airways in 1:12 scale. He later turned to toy soldier scale and produced backdrop buildings for the Delhi Durbar which were put on display at the 1986 OTSN show. Since then, he built models of Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Fort Ticonderoga, the Alamo, Fontainebleau and a range of Victorian shops and townhouses.

Asked if he had a favorite in his line of backdrops, Gerry revealed the artist's temperament which constantly seeks new challenges. "My favorite?" he said. "My favorite is always the one I'll start on tomorrow."

- Jim Hillestad

Obituary - Bill Driscoll

Bill Driscoll passed away in 2004. Loud and jovial and a pillar of the N.C.M.C., his larger than life presence will be sorely missed.

Obituary - Alan Silk

Alan Silk, owner and manufacturer of Guard Corps New Toy Soldiers, died in 2004 after a long illness. Alan's often delightful yet unconventional approach to the Hobby along with his extremely helpful attitude to fellow hobbyists will be sadly missed.

Obituary - Mary Rollins

O.T.S. is sad to report the death of Mary Rollins, age 61. Mary died on December 26th. Together with her husband John, Mary was well known and respected throughout the U.S. and Europe for the sales of Old Toy Soldiers and



Figures. Mary enjoyed so much collecting non military and Britains Garden items. Always with a smile and kind word Mary became very knowledgeable on her subject and will be greatly missed. Mary is survived by her husband John and children Donna-Marie and John. John Rollins informs O.T.S. that donations in memory of Mary may be sent to the Masonic Angel Fund, P.O. Box 1389 Orleans, MA 02653.

JACK BINNS AND BILL BAKER WERE BINBAK

Making realistic toy forts for the discerning user

December 14th, 2004

By Allen Hickling

In the beginning....

Jack Binns and Bill Baker first came together when they were serving their terms as apprentices to the sign-writing firm of Alec Widd in Bradford during the 1930s. It was the start of a relationship which was to last for thirty-five years.

Both had always been good with their hands, which is probably why Alec Widd took them on. Jack could make almost anything out of wood, while Bill could create almost any effect with a paintbrush.

Then, when the war came, they were both called up. Jack found himself serving in North Africa as Lance-Corporal John Binns of the Black Watch. He fought in the Battle of Alamein where he was badly wounded – and sent back home. Eventually he made a full recovery, but he was invalided out of the services in 1944. So for the remainder of hostilities he lived at home with his parents, while working in a munitions factory in Bradford.

Bill found himself as Private William Baker in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was an outstanding marksman, and served with great distinction throughout the war with at least one citation for bravery beyond the call of duty. He was eventually 'de-mobbed' early in 1946.



A typical BINBAK toy fort from their first series

A new start



When things began to settle down, Jack approached Bill with a proposal to form a partnership in the manufacture of large wooden toys. Jack was to look after the basic construction, and Bill was to take charge of the finishing – while responsibilities for design and business strategy were to be shared. Bill agreed and, in 1946, they found premises in a Victorian house in Bradford (No.2 Simes Street) and began manufacturing. The firm of Binns, Baker & Co, using the trade name BINBAK MODELS, was 'in business'.

Jack was 'mad on cars' and it was probably this, as much as an eye for an opening in the market, which led to the choice of toy garages as their first product line. These were of the type much sought after by the owners of Dinky Toys that were at last becoming available again after the war. They made as much as possible out of wood, but when it came to parts difficult to make convincingly, such as the dials and tubing for the petrol pumps, they bought them in. They were the first in the field in the UK, and it is said that Harrods could not get enough of their top quality toys.

The firm went from strength to strength continuing to serve the 'top end' of the market with quality toys, including the original garages. Before long these included farms (5 models); dollhouses (3 models); a wild west stockade; and toy forts (at least 4 models), as well as specially ordered items such as large toy theatres. By the early 1960s the reputation of the company was such that they were commissioned to supply the Royal Family – the young princes received a toy fort while Princess Anne, not to be outdone, got a dolls house.

However, this article is about only the toy forts.

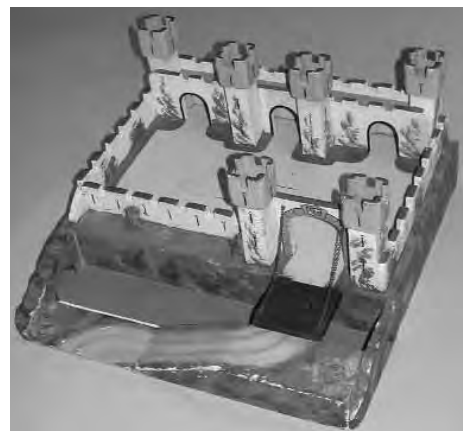
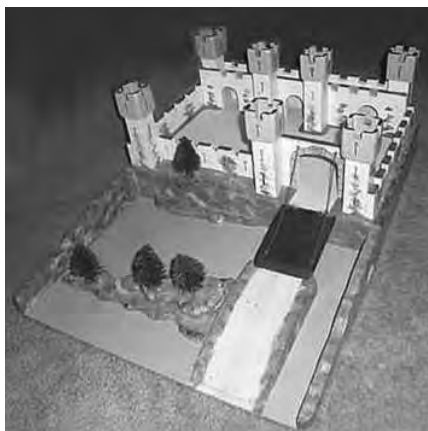
The first toy forts



The early BINBAK range of toy forts was characterised by the fact that all their models were made in one piece, unlike the more common demountable, pack-away-in-the-base types. This approach was pursued throughout the forty-five years of their production, with only a slight variation in the later stages. The clear advantage of this was that there were no small parts to get lost, but it must have made storage and shipping a significant challenge.

JACK BINNS AND BILL BAKER WERE BINBAK (Cont.)

The first series was unique in that, in front, the forts featured a sizable area of landscaping, which always included water represented by a special blue paint – in some models an area so large that it was more a lake than a moat. The bushes, made of loofah, were interspersed with a variety of model evergreen trees (conifers). These were out-sourced from a Christmas decorations manufacturer who produced, especially for BINBAK, small versions of their regular Christmas tree line. Different shades of green flock applied to the wet paint provided the appropriate texture to represent grass and foliage.



Various toy forts from the first BINBAK range 1950 to 1965. The vegetation in the landscaped areas was rather fragile and is missing on some of these.

There were two painting styles. One was essentially medieval and was painted mostly grey to represent stone. The other was a fantasy or fairytale castle range, which could be expected to house the handsome prince or beautiful princess. These were painted white with red trim.

At this stage of their development the buildings themselves demonstrated but a brief understanding of the architecture, and were slightly plastic in form. The towers were very thin with somewhat bulbous tops, and there was no significant accommodation for the garrison. As models they were of dubious value, but as toys they certainly worked well enough to be a commercial success – and to be played with by the Royal Family.

The move towards realism

Realism is pertinent in relation to Jack and Bill's use of the word "models" in connection with their adopted trade name - where others used the word "toys" (Elf Toys, Park Toys, Joy Toys, etc). It implies their ambition, which must have been to make their toys look more realistic than those of other manufacturers. Thus they faced the problem of scale head on.

All toy fort designers have had to face the fact that, built correctly to the scale of a 'standard' 54mm high figure, their creations would be enormous. The trick has always been to achieve a sense of grandeur in a relatively small item. It was usually achieved by actually making the buildings to a smaller scale, but retaining the proper size (relative to the toy figures), for those elements to which they were going to be most closely positioned – such as archways and battlements. Another trick was to reduce the size of the exterior spaces relative to the size of the buildings, resulting in small courtyards and shorter (and thus steeper) ramps.

Initially, as it seemed to be hardly a concern for the children using them, they had made their forts to quite a small scale (see photo). As time went on, probably realising that in fact it was actually adults who were doing the buying, they managed the challenge better. Attention to realism must have become recognised as, what modern marketing gurus would have termed, their 'unique selling point' – and their production finally reached a style to satisfy the most discerning user.



A second series BINBAK manned by 54mm figures

JACK BINNS AND BILL BAKER WERE BINBAK (Cont.)

The second series of toy forts



Their second series of toy forts took a major step in this direction. For example, the buildings were more substantial – the towers in particular were more convincing. As a result, to accommodate the increased bulk of the forts, the landscaped area became less of a feature. They also began to pay attention to how access was achieved from one level to the other, and the modelling of their staircases was really quite intricate with steps cut to a sensible scale.



Toy forts from the second BINBAK range from about 1960 to 1975. The move towards realism is clear; in particular, note the new 3D form of the towers. The two models on the left are different versions (and sizes) of the same model.

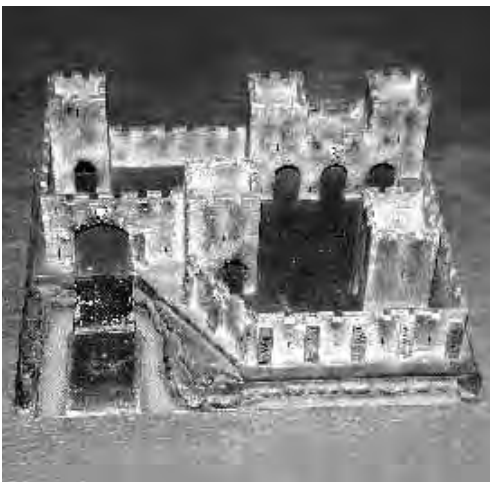
In addition, their medieval models were artistically rendered to express natural traces of weathering and patterns of heavy use. However, the clear exception to this was in the blue they used to represent water. Fine in connection with their fantasy castles, it was, nonetheless, a bit of an anomaly in the medieval context. The only explanation seems to be that it made them look attractive to the buying public.

The third series of toy forts



At this point it should be noted that, although different series representing developments in BINBAK's approach to toy-making can be identified, and such developments indicate progress, this does not mean that production followed in a step-by-step sequence. The series overlapped in time. For example the white and red fantasy range of the first series continued in production well into the 1970s when the fourth series was being developed – if not actually on the market.

The move to their third series was marked by a bold move away from the rectangular courtyard format, and a significantly more realistic layout – including the introduction of towers at the front of the courtyard. This



meant further reduction of the landscaping with minimal water features.

A further development was not so much to do with design as marketing. There must have been pressure from the retailers to produce something smaller, and, presumably, cheaper. The result was a much smaller model with a minimum of intricate detailing, such as landscaping, staircases and a drawbridge - although swinging doors were an added feature.

Two toy forts from the third BINBAK range 1965 to 1985. The two developments can be seen here: more realistic layouts, and a new range of small forts.

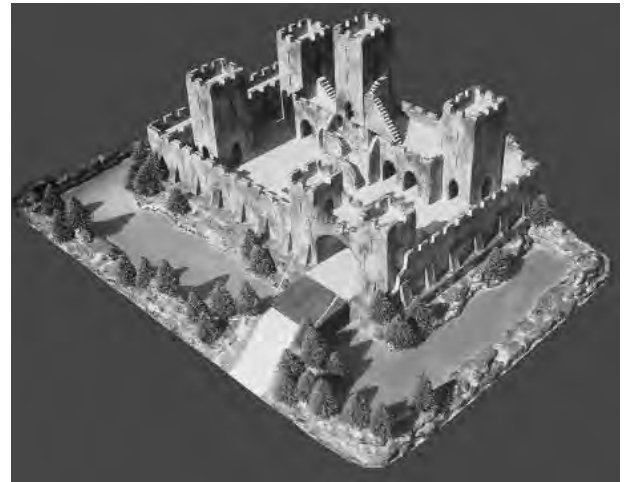
JACK BINNS AND BILL BAKER WERE BINBAK (Cont.)

Specials and one-offs

It is known that they produced specials from time to time, and that they were happy to make items to order.

From Jack's production and stock records 'super' forts appear only five or six times a year – out of a total annual production of 300-400 (counting toy forts only). Unfortunately these records are seriously incomplete so that it is difficult to know what these so-called 'super' forts were. The most likely candidate, which has four towers, a substantial gatehouse and many stairways, shows characteristics of the second, third and fourth series. Its size can only be estimated, but was probably over four feet (1.2 metres) across, and was taken only in small numbers by shops probably for display.

Another form of special was a standard second series model, made special with a dungeon built in under the front corner of the courtyard. It had a trap door, with steps leading down, and a small barred window looking out low over the moat at the front. They were no doubt quite fiddly to make on a commercial basis, but the increased play opportunities they provided must have justified the extra price, which would have had to be charged. Understandably, only a few seem to have been produced, which would explain why they are rare today.



BINBAK's so-called 'Super' Fort



Three views of the dungeon special: the trap door, the steps down and the window.

Two large one-offs are known to have been made. There was a model based on Windsor Castle, which was the one made for the royal family. It was extremely large – David Baker, Bill's son, who saw it as a child estimates it to have been about 10 x 12 feet (3 x 4 metres) - had a special moving belt on which toy soldiers could be made to march up and down. Another was a model based on Leeds Castle in Kent – a very BINBAK sort of castle with a very large expanse of water around it. It took a long time to make – coordinating its production with their regular orders – and the story is that the customer did not want it when it was finished. Apparently there was no question of forcing him to take it, so Norrie, Jack's wife, took it down to London where it was bought by the first shop she offered it to. Maybe they should have made more of them!

A big upheaval

In 1972, after more than twenty-five years as partners – and although the business was flourishing with expansion into the export market (especially the USA) – Jack and Bill decided to go their separate ways. This was a major setback, which caused a significant change of modus operandi for the firm.

In order to continue the business effectively, the factory was moved to Batley – in the barn behind Soot Hill Hall where Jack lived with his wife Norrie. This was mainly so that she could take a more active role in the business than previously. He was good at maths, but he was no businessman – so Norrie took over the finances, as well as exercising her artistic skills in doing much of the painting.

JACK BINNS AND BILL BAKER WERE BINBAK (Cont.)

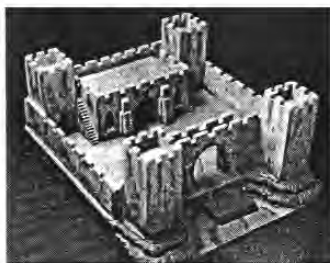
The fourth series

Designed, Hand Crafted and
Painted by
BINNS BAKER & CO.
THE BARN
OAKS ROAD, SOOTHILL
BATLEY, W. YORKS.
Telephone : Batley 474116

However, after a while he did elaborate the range. The principle changes involved reducing the water-front feature, yet again, to just enough water for the drawbridge to span, and making the buildings interesting with changes of level and more complex staircases to match. The series was also marked by the introduction of the occasional taller tower.

Various toy forts from the fourth BINBAK series from about 1975 to 1991. Clockwise from above: Camelot Castle as advertised in the USA; Castle Lancelot; and a more developed small model with a taller tower.

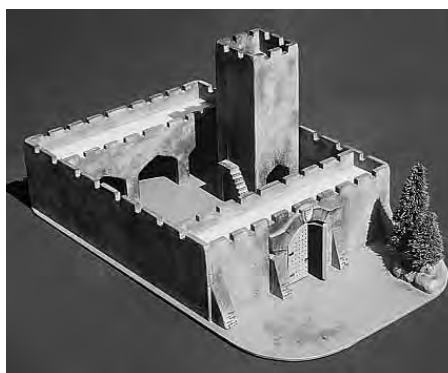
For some time after the move to Batley Jack changed little in the style of his fort production – setting up a new workshop and changes of personnel probably gave him quite enough to think about.



CAMELOT CASTLE

Designed, handcrafted and handpainted in England, this unique castle has a flat roofed building flanked by the two corner towers painted a weathered creamy sandstone. The front towers have the entrance in the center deeply recessed, and behind is a catwalk with steps on each side. The Armchair General discovered this English castle maker and was impressed with the wood material, the handpainting and the excellent craftsmanship. This castle will make a perfect setting for your soldiers. Designed for 54mm, 2½" height soldiers, the castle measures 20" x 18" x 9" high, Order No. BBCC \$130.00

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Castle Greystone (above), is the only known example of the fifth series. The two towers, the front one being on two levels, lifted off and were placed in the courtyard for packing.

The fifth series – a new style toy fort

From the point of view of storage, packing and shipping it had always been impracticable to build the forts completely in one piece. Now, stimulated by the growth of the company's export trade to America, which made shipping a much more serious consideration, Jack embarked on what was, for him, a completely new style of toy fort. He designed some parts to be dismountable. This allowed him, for the first time, to make the forts even more realistic. They were bulkier and more 3D which, in turn, enabled more accurately represented crenellation and stone detailing.

However, by this time, the British laws with respect to child safety had changed and he had to invent alternatives to the 'spike-in-the-hole' system of locating the loose parts. This challenge brought out the best in him, resulting in some ingenious yet nevertheless practical features, which produced some very convincing models. In all cases, it was difficult to detect where the separate part joined the main body.

The end of the story

The business settled down in Batley, and was once again running along smoothly and successfully when, in 1987 tragedy struck. Jack Binns died suddenly and Norrie had to take over running all aspects of the business. With the support of loyal staff – carrying on just as Jack had left it – she kept it going for four years.

Then, in 1991, the death of her sister meant she had to take on the family property business. There was no way she could do both that and the toy forts, so the toy business ceased trading that year – leaving the playing public to mourn the passing of forty-five years continuous production of the top quality toys, for which the name BINBAK had become synonymous.

Acknowledgements

The sort of research that underpins any article such as this, requires the help of various kinds from many others. In this case it has included: David Baker, Plymouth, UK • Peter Clark, Washington, DC, USA • John Friend, Sheffield, UK • Constance King, Ross-on-Wye, UK • Tony Moore, Burnham-on-Sea, UK • Doug Pask, Batley, UK • Norrie Pask (formerly Binns), Batley, UK • Jeff Scott, Arizona, USA • Steve Sommers, Chicago, USA

Allen Hickling is a regular contributor to OTS having previously written many articles on Toy Forts see From Dollhouse to Fortress V27 #2

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SHOW REPORT

THE LONDON TOY SOLDIER SHOW

A famous English soccer manager once said that "Football was a game of two halves" Well, this is a show report with two halves. The first show being the new venture in the old place, the second, an old venture in a new place.

The report kicks off with "The London Toy Soldier Show" organized by Ian Carrick at the Royal National Hotel, the original venue of "The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show" which has now moved to Alexandra Palace. Are you keeping up?

It was a brave decision by Ian Carrick to jump in quickly and organize a figure show when Vectis were only moving their show a few miles down the road. But organize it he did and the results were very favorable and it bodes well for the future. It was not the best of dates on which to hold the event, following straight on from the Sandown show, which is possibly the best in Europe, as dealers can experience great difficulty in restocking so quickly after a major event, but the well stocked tables gave little indication of any problems. Walking around the show I saw only full tables, there were one or two "no shows" but their space was soon filled by their neighbors. The mix between lead, plastic, new and old was very good, with plenty for all.

Talking with Ian, he was a little disappointed in the actual numbers through the door at the opening, but this was helped tremendously throughout the morning by batches of people arriving at regular intervals, all to do with the underground timetable apparently. The show was as busy as any I have seen and, according to one major lead dealer, he had fewer customers but they were spending more. The dates have been booked for the next year as Ian fully intends to offer a regular show at a venue popular with collectors for many years since the first show by Norman Joplin. For those who stay at the hotel it is great to just come downstairs in the morning for the show and then retire to your room during the day to either rest or offload your purchases ready to start again.

All the table holders I spoke to are returning for the Carrick calendar of events, with the addition of some who were unable to make it this time, so it couldn't have been that bad. Inevitably, comparisons will be made, Ian and his team put on a really good show, but you really cannot please all of the people, all of the time. There will always be those whose cup is half empty and the optimists with the half full beaker.

Ian Carrick, I am certain, will build on this show and, hopefully, we can look forward to this just being the first of many at the "Royal National"



London Toy Soldier Show organizer Ian Carrick
and his Fiance Irene Wong

SHOW REPORT

THE BRITISH TOY SOLDIER AND FIGURE SHOW

I am not really sure what I was expecting when I turned up at the Alexandra Palace for the first of the shows put on by Vectis. It was dark when I arrived and dark when I left so the outer building will remain a mystery for now. For the show visitor they are welcomed into a warm and impressive atrium to await the show opening. My first impression, upon seeing the main hall, was that there were insufficient dealers to fill the Great Hall as the tables were so widely spaced, but this was to do with fire regulations and worked well in the buyers favor. There is still plenty of room for expansion and the venue has excellent catering and toilet facilities.

Speaking to Bryan Goodall, of Vectis, He was concerned at the diminishing space on offer at the previous venue, and it would only have gotten worse. His main concern was to protect the show and take it further, maintaining the position as the leading show of its kind in Europe. All larger venues within the centre of the capital, with potential to hold the show, were so prohibitably priced so as to make the business untenable. If Vectis were to stay put then it would have meant not only putting on a smaller show but also refusing admission to some of the newer stallholders, something Bryan was not prepared to do.

Definitely not the easiest of places to get to, for me and many like me, but, in fairness, many were surprised at how convenient it was for them. The off-loading and loading was a little inconvenient on the Saturday morning as only ten vehicles were allowed into the compound at one time and they had to leave before others could take their place. The benefit of being able to set up on Friday afternoon took away this problem for many and, hopefully, next time more will take up the chance to set up early.

The show itself was excellent for the buyer, with many extra dealers in from the continent and the United States, some dealers were unable to cover their expenses but, maybe this can be said of many shows, there were, no doubt, stall holders at the Royal National with a similar problem. It would be unfair to attempt a comparison between the quality of the goods on sale at either event, they were both exemplary, and many people went away happy from both shows, I was able to buy well and my list of purchases would shame neither show. I felt comfortable in the familiar surroundings of the Royal National but was impressed with the quality venue, and the trouble taken by Vectis, at Alexandra Palace.

Most collectors have a limited budget and these events could stretch their finances so all will suffer, collectors, dealers and organizers. The main complaint that was heard at both shows was "double the costs, same turnover" and this was from buyers and sellers. Before too long, will the public realize that there will be a need to attend only one of these shows? Next year it gets even worse with the two shows following on consecutive weekends. Will buyers go to the first show and buy enough so they do not need to attend the second, will dealers hold back from the first to entice people along to the second? Personally, in attending both shows, I found it good, as things I could not afford at the first show, I was able to buy at the second event, so the dealers ended up getting more, but maybe not with only days in between. Who knows, will there be a winner in the "Battle of the Shows" or will they both co-exist? By next year it will probably have resolved and only one will remain, the public will decide with their feet and wallets. Sadly, though, there will be losers.....

How good it would be if they all got together to organize the calendar between them so there was a well spaced timetable throughout the year. Probably this tale should start "Once upon a time" ...



British Toy Soldier and figure show organizer Debbie Cockerill flanked by two guardsmen

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

British Toy Soldier and Figure Show Alexandra Palace London December 2004

The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show was held at the New Venue Alexandra Palace for the first time in December 2004. Vectis noticed an increase in the overseas attendance. The following photographs show many of the show attendees and dealers.



Colonel Donald Pudney and Arnold Rolak from Texas



Helen Hail and Bob Bailey - Seattle and Joe Saine - Ohio (center)



Bart Byerton



The Belgian Contingent L to R Marc Vandenbroeck, Marcel Vergeylen, Catarina Cultera, Alfons Marissen and Billy Debacker



Christian Keller - Pennsylvania



Customers line up at the start of the show



Ray Haradin and Nils Fischer from Sweden

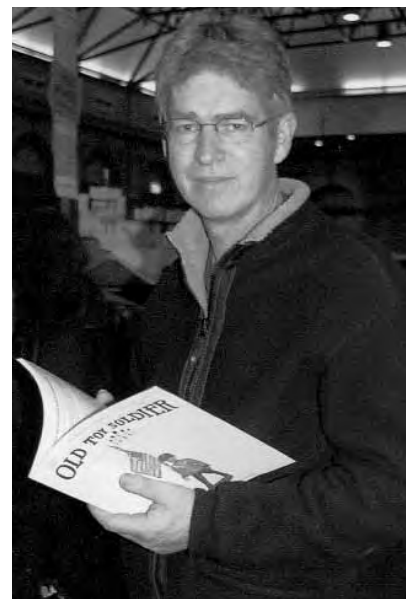
SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY (Cont.)



Peter Bergner – Germany



Gisbert Freber – Germany



Kieran Finnegan – Dublin



Gaston Hansen – Belgium



Carl and Pat Charles – Wisconsin, with Graham Mollard



Peter Ciarve – Washington D.C.



Vectis Auctions Staff Top L to R Vicky Weall, David Nathan, Show Organizer Debbie Cockerill, Seated Bryan Goodall and Mark Weall



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fitzgerald – Nebraska

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

22nd Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale Hackensack, New Jersey • November 7th, 2004

Ray Haradin



One of the country's top Britains collectors, Frank Leo, with an extremely rare 28pc. Bahamas Police Band.



Respected toy soldier author and auctioneer Henry Kurtz with Bill Murphy of the Hobby Bunker.



Chicagoland collectors Bill and Bob Richardson love attending the Hackensack show. It is the only show other than Chicago they attend.



Matt Murphy of the Hobby Bunker poses with his father's Foam Accessory Line. These customized buildings, walls and emplacements enhance any collection.



OTS author Vin Russo with his son-in-law Tim Veley displaying a fine selection of Durso figures.



New York dealer Vinny Pugliese with Florida Dimestore collector Dick Warner. Dick is shown here examining a Barclay Fireman with Hose.

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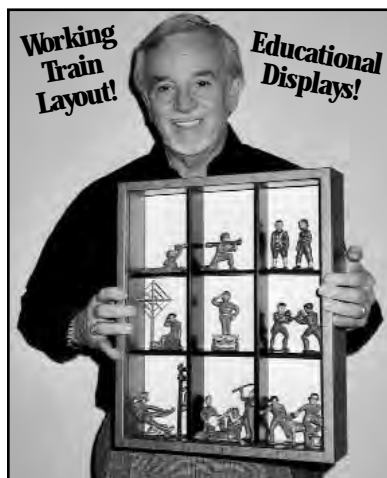
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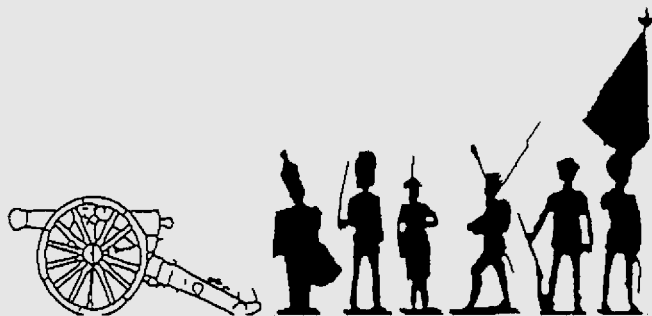
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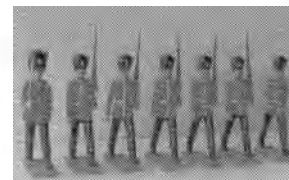
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BRITAINS SALESMEN SAMPLES

French Foreign Legion and Arabs

During the nineteen eighties Britains policy for selecting new items for each years production schedule was a formal procedure carried out by senior management.

Each year proposals were put forward for consideration and concept boards drawn up to be voted on by the management in conjunction with sales, marketing and public relations departments.

Many of these concept boards were included in the Arnold Rolak auction held in London by Christies in 2000.

Items were voted on depending on the allocated budget for each coming year and the successful products put into production; each year a number of items were rejected, either because of cost or because they were considered not to be viable sales propositions, due to the nature of the subject matter, hence the only record of these items remains the original concept boards.

One such rejected example was the proposed set of figures depicting Prince Charles and Diana in celebration of the couple's engagement in 1981.

Production costs and the fact that the Wedding took place later that year resulted in the 1981 idea being voted out as the marketing and sales opportunities would have passed by the time the figures were issued in 1982.

In less sophisticated times, during the nineteen fifties and sixties the method of choosing new products was left mainly to the retail toy store owners.

Sets would often be put together from existing figure lines, regrouped and tied in to plain red boxes known as travelers samples.

These samples were then given to the Britains travelling salesmen who would take them to the various stores in their designated sales area and seek the opinion of the store owners regarding the sales potential of the sample set.

Sylvia Hart owned a toy store in Bournemouth, England during this period and acquired the set illustrated, a combination of Arabs and Foreign Legion which never appeared in the Britains catalog or was issued a set number.

The marching Legionnaires and mounted officer from set numbers 1711, 2050, and half set 2136 were joined by mounted and attacking foot Arabs found in sets 164, 224, 2046, 2097 and 2147, together with Palm Trees from set 224.

This combination of Marching Foreign legion and attacking Arabs is therefore unique.

Perhaps there are other such sets languishing in collections? If so OTS would like to hear of them for future articles.



Britains Salemen Sample French Foriegn Legion and Arabs Set.

"THE CRUSADES"

By Schleich



The German company of Schleich has more than 40 years of experience in the production of plastic figures. Committed to producing figures of the highest quality, Schleich continues to employ its own artisans and manufactures the molds in their German factory.

Known for their excellent renderings of animals, Schleich has successfully produced ranges of Farm Life, Forest Life, Sea Life, Dinosaurs and domestic animals. Driven by this success, and the creation of Schleich North America, it was decided that a military range of figures would be created.

In September of 2003, the new range was produced. The "Schleich World of Knights" was introduced, debuting at the 2003 OTSN Show. This range of medieval knights has proven to be tremendously popular. Two distinct lines are available, each unique in their own right, the "Lion Coat of Arms" and the "Fleur-de lis Coat of Arms".

Each line has 13 different offerings of foot and mounted pieces. The foot figures are armed with a variety of weapons including sword, mace, and axe. Standard-bearers, archers and knights round out the infantry choices. Cavalry offerings include archers, standard-bearers, knights and princes. The "Lion Coat of Arms" are outfitted in predominately red, while the "Fleur-de lis" are uniformed in a combination of yellow and blue. This unique and historically accurate range of 26 figures has proven immensely popular, so popular in fact that it led to the creation of a new line; "The Crusaders".

Schleich generously submitted their entire 5 figure line of "The Crusaders" for review. Comprised of 2 mounted and 3 foot figures, "The Crusaders" line is extremely impressive.

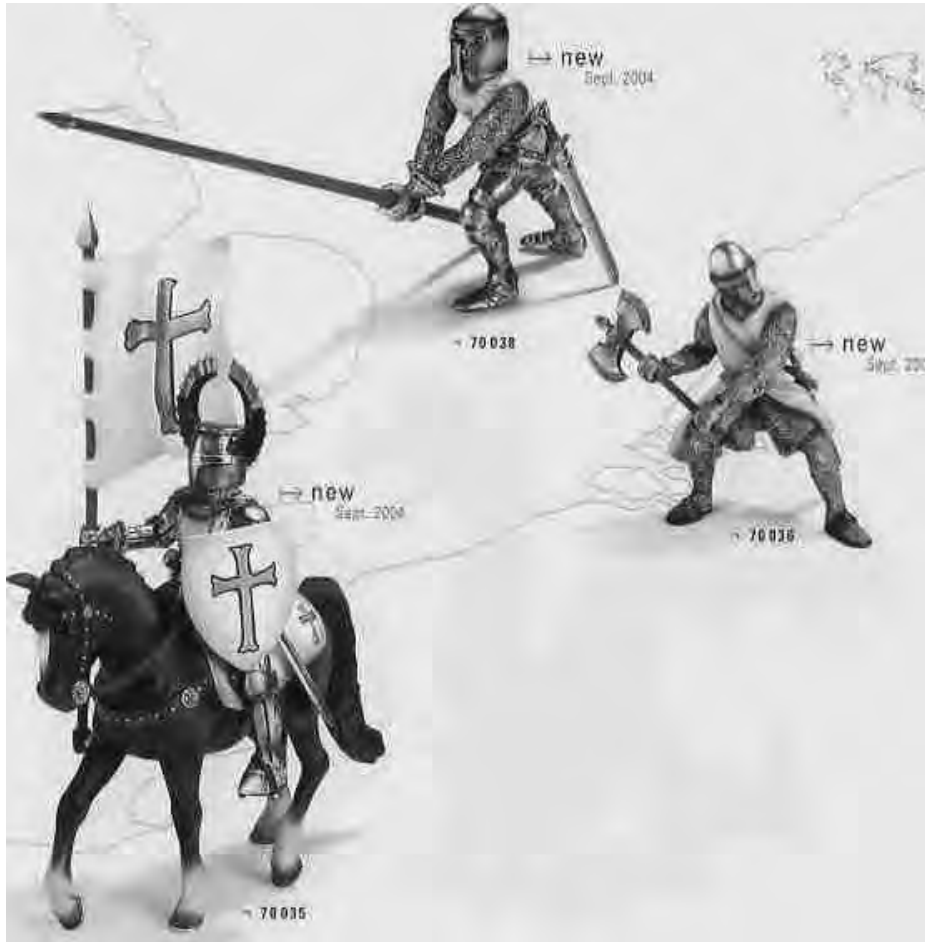
The 90mm foot figures are in action poses, conveying a very realistic impression. The figure with the battle axe is positioned as if drawing back his weapon in preparation to attack. His double bladed weapon appears very ominous even at this scale! The pikeman has his weapon set to ground ready to repel a cavalry charge. The pike itself measures a full 10", really making this a very striking figure. The war hammer figure (my favorite), is armed with a shield, and has the war hammer cocked behind his head, ready to deal the death blow to his foe.

The two 140mm cavalry figures are even more impressive than their pedestrian counterparts. A knight with sword and a standard-bearer complete "The Crusader" line.

The knight with sword is on his horse complete with white barding, his weapon



GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW (Cont.)



raised, ready to strike a foot opponent. The knight is able to protect himself with the shield he holds in his other hand. The standard-bearer is mounted on a walking horse and carries a white standard emblazoned with a gold cross. Like his mounted comrade he also carries a shield. His helmet is truly a masterpiece, with decorative helm painted gold and black. This portrays a very sinister and menacing appearance, bringing to mind the Teutonic knights in "Alexander Nevsky".

Molded in hard plastic, the detail is outstanding as is the painting, complete with subtle shading and highlighting. With the exception of the mounted swordsman, all weapons and standard are detachable. The poses of all the figures are most natural, conveying a convincing realistic impression. Each figure is truly an individual work of art. Different belts, footwear, helmets, swords and scabbards insure the individuality of each figure.

With the addition of "The Crusader" line, collectors now have a total of 31 figures to collect in Schleich's "World of Knights" range. Other items which may be of interest to collectors are a herald, court jester, squire, damsel, king, mounted "Black Knight", dragon and, yea, even a castle! Mounted figures are priced at \$12.50 and foot at \$5.00 making them an outstanding value. Regardless of whether you collect plastic or metal given the high standard of sculpting, painting and pricing, "The Crusaders" deserve a place in your collection.

Contact Information: www.schleich-s.com • www.michtoy.com

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PLASTICS ON PARADE

Steve Weston will be covering Plastic Figures for OTS and By way of introduction.....

I suppose that, like most Collectors of plastic figures, my interest was kick-started back in the heady days of the 1950's. Apparently, the Plastic Figure Industry was in full-swing by the time that I received my first figures towards the end of 1958/1959. I have neither looked back since, nor really stopped Collecting them!

I still have a few of my original items, although many have been replaced with un-damaged or un-broken items.

I have also stayed true to what I originally had –EVERY-THING! I had piles upon piles of World War II Soldiers, Knights, Guards, Cowboys, Indians – and my true love – U.S. Cavalry!!

This reflects the fact that, at the time, pricewise, they would have been deemed affordable, considering how little money was around, in England, at that time.

I lived in a small town in rural Essex, called Laindon (which lost most of it's identity to the then up and coming New Town of Basildon, that was in the first stages of construction). Being situated about 35/40 miles from the City of London, meant we were far enough away from the City, not to be considered worthy, at that time, of having any Major Stores in our Area. Therefore, finding someone that had Toy Soldiers for sale must have been a cause for excitement for older kids, and proved to be a real learning curve for myself! In fact, it was our local Barbershop, of all places, that had for sale figures made by prominent Manufactures such as Crescent and Cherilea!!

Imagine this grubby little six-year old, nose pressed up against the small shop window, eagerly viewing all of the products on display! They were, as far as my distant memory can recall, all in Trade boxes (what we refer to as Counter Boxes). I can remember seeing all these men getting their haircuts, and occasionally the Barber would come over to the window, make a selection, and a handful of figures would go into a paper bag, to be handed over to the Customer, before said Customer would exit the shop.

For years, I would beg my Mum for yet another haircut, before she eventually realised that I was not aware that you could actually buy these little wonders –without having to sit in that chair, on a plank placed across the chair arms, and let the Barber do his worst with the 'pudding bowl' cut that every child seemed to have at that time!!! How I hated feeling the hair fall down from my fringe and onto my face – but my reward for sitting still and behaving, was yet another plastic figure to add to my collection. If these hadn't been on sale in this shop, then I would have probably been like any other youngster – always fidgeting in the chair, squirming with every snip of the scissors and anxious to get outside with a ball - except that my dad was an ex-Regimental Sergeant Major from the Army, and you did what he said, first time, usually at the double.

Later, when I went to Senior School, I had to travel by Bus via the new town to get there. This opened up access to other Stores, as I had to make a route change on reaching the Town Centre.

Here there was a small chain of Stores which had a large variety of Plastic Toy Soldiers on offer, including Herald, (Solid) Timpo, Charbens, Speedwell and a few others, and all of this was capped off by the Display of the ultimate in Toy Soldiers – the Britains Swoppet. Now, I know that these first appeared in 1958, but that is the whole point of this Article –all of these figures took time to filter out to us, in the boondocks!

This range has assumed cult status, and even yet today, has remained the 'Holy Grail' of many a person's quest.

I acquired all of the Swoppet cowboys and Indians over a long period – these were considered expensive, and were only given on Birthdays and at Christmas! (I never obtained the Civil War Limbers, nor the Stage Coach until much later, and much older in life.)

A little after this Woolworths started keeping Airfix figures in both 1/72 scale and 1/32 scale! Wonderful!! My return trip from school started taking longer, and took even longer still when my lunch money got 'diverted' into other areas – I had the making of a Politician, at an early age!!

As an aside, I can remember receiving figures in the Lone Star range, in fact heaps of them! – but never recall seeing these in the Stores. I guess that our memories can still play tricks on us?



Linda and Steve Weston

PLASTICS ON PARADE (Cont.)

The added bonus for us, here in England, was that for every T.V. programme, you could probably buy a figures set.

We had Robin Hood, Ivanhoe, Lone Ranger, Sir Francis Drake, Wagon Train, Rin Tin Tin, Robinson Crusoe, etc , etc. I shall come back to the subject of the Media and there influence on us at a later stage.

These little fellows so interested me, that eventually I have ended up aiding other Collectors across the World via my Company –Steve Weston' Toy Soldiers.

So, after all this rambling, I guess what I want to know is how you first stumbled onto plastic figures, where did you buy them – a lot of you lived way outside of the nearest Town, what part of your Collecting was influenced by, say, Sears catalogues / other Store Catalogues. How did availability affect you? In Northern parts of the Sates, availability was obviously better than in Western States, that were , to a certain degree, undeveloped.

How does this compare for any European Readers? Were Plastic figures readily available? Marx figures were almost certainly the mainstay of most American Collections – or were they? Were makes such as MPC or Ideal as prolific? At what stage were English-made plastic figures arriving in the U.S.?

Steve Weston, Steve Weston's Toy Soldiers, England.

Plastics on Parade Update

O.T.S. Volume 28 #3 carried a "Where are they now" article on prehistoric animals. Several subscribers contacted O.T.S. with further information.

Don Boyden identified the figures as J.H. Miller items. They are described as "Waxy Plastic" and very hard to obtain unbroken. Eleven damaged figures from the series recently sold for \$336 on EBay. A web site <http://www.dinosaurcollector.150m.com/miller.htm> contains an article on this period. Oliver DePew also sent information regarding the same web site along with illustrations. Steve Rhea confirms Miller as the manufacturer and defends the fragile nature of this "Waxy Plastic" substance with a honeycomb-like center.

William Mattheessen of Pekin, Illinois recalls how he and his wife traveled the Rock Island Rocket from Peoria, Illinois to Chicago between Thanksgiving and Christmas during the sixties in search of toys for their three children not available in their home town. Spending the day looking at Christmas decorations and shopping at Marshall Fields, William recalls purchasing a set of these plastic Miller figures which have the name and size of the actual animal printed on them. Examples include Brontosaurus, seventy (70) feet long and Stegosaurus twenty (20) feet long.



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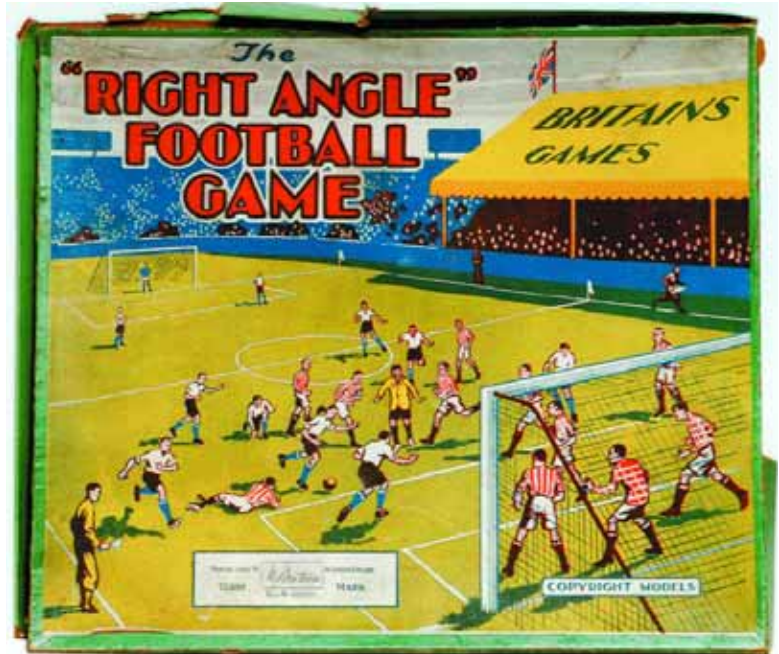
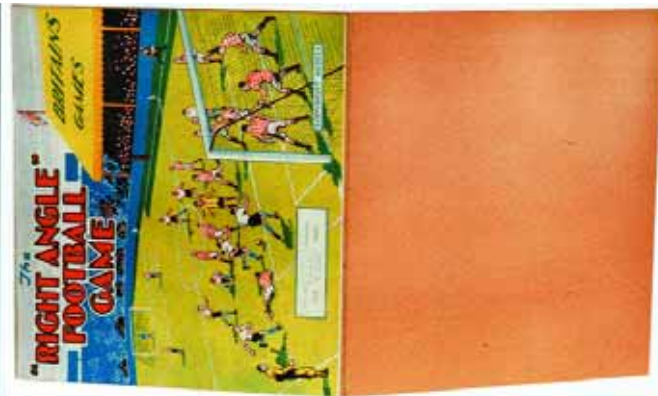
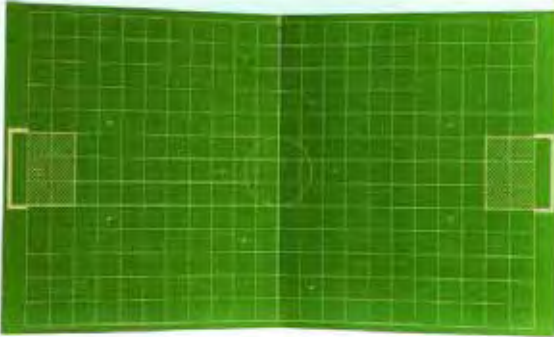
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Britains Right Angle Football Game

By Philip Dean

Many of Britains items produced during the late nineteen thirties are very rare, and consequently as many of these were introduced outside of the standard lines, seldom turn up.

The Britains right angle football game pictured in this article was found in the United Kingdom. Comparing the board game with the catalog illustration it became apparent that although standard 54mm figures are shown in the catalog as part of the game, the figures found with the game looked very different. The 1937 new lines list shows the set as #1524 while the 1938-1939 catalogs show the number #1528. Two sizes were produced and the smaller example sold for far less.



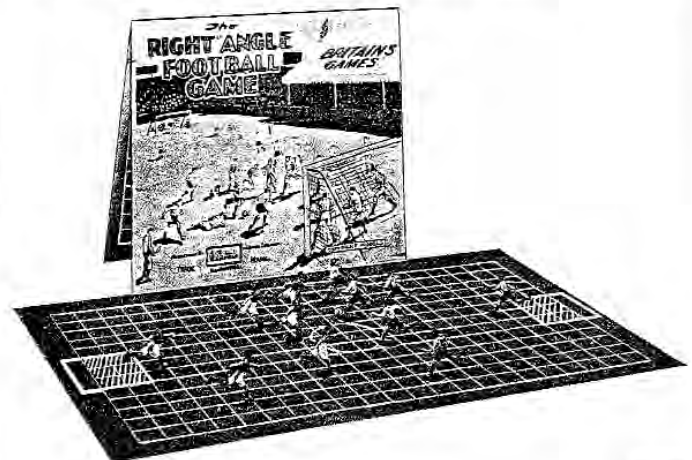
Britains New Lines

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Subject to certain conditions, some other Teams may be supplied on order.

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A row of four running figures, two red and two yellow, followed by a black die and a small ball. The figures are stylized, with a running pose. The red figures are on the left, and the yellow figures are on the right. The die is black with white pips, and the ball is small and multi-colored.

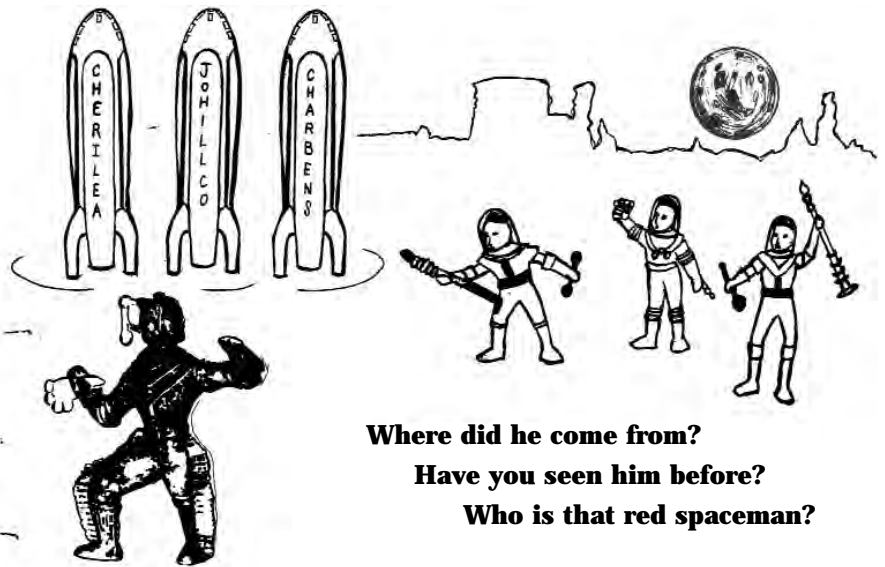


Outer Space Adventures The Continuing Saga of Johillco's Spacemen *By S. Mark Young*

A couple of years ago, Norman Joplin sent me his remaining Johillco spacemen molds for inspection. While one mold (the so-called "Lollipop" pose) and its associated figure had been sold in the Vectis auction of his collection, there were five still in his possession. Norman mentioned that the molds were never put into full production but from time to time individual figures from the molds would surface. None of these figures has ever appeared in any boxed sets to my knowledge, and I have always found this to be a point of curiosity.

About a year after seeing the molds, I acquired the figure with a space rifle in his right hand leaning forward and another weapon in his left hand from Norman. In comparing the figure to its mold (see S. M. Young, S. Duin and M. Richardson, *Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys*. Milwaukee, Oregon: Dark Horse Books, 2001; pg 114 and N. Joplin, *The Norman Joplin Reference Collection of Hollow-Cast Figures and Toy Soldiers*. Stockton-On-Tees: Vectis Auctions, Ltd, 1998; pg. 45), it became clear that the mold was not identical to the figure. First it did not fit easily into the two sides of the mold as the weapon was far too long for the allotted space. Could it be that these were early molds and that others were developed later, or that the weapon was molded separately?

I put all of the speculation aside until recently when a seller on Ebay offered a large lot of Johillco spacemen. There was no doubt that the figures were authentic even though the finish on them was rather dull compared to most of the Johillco figures I have seen. There were traces of green paint on their upper torsos and many had yellow or green belts around their waists. All weapons were painted red and just about every figure was sporting an original Johillco helmet.



Where did he come from?

Have you seen him before?

Who is that red spaceman?



Left, Spaceman with space rifle in one hand and another weapon in left.
Center, the "Captain" pose, Right, the "Lollipop" spaceman.

Outer Space Adventures

The Continuing Saga of Johillco's Spacemen (Cont.)

While most of the figures were in common poses, I was thrilled to see one of the lollipop spacemen and several figures with the space rifle in right hand and leaning forward in the lot. But as I looked more closely at the photos, I thought my eyes were deceiving me. There in all their glory were 3 figures in a new pose. I have been collecting space figures for over 15 years now and this was the first time I had ever seen this pose. Fortunately, I was able to obtain the lot at a rather hefty price but due to the rarity of the figures didn't think twice about it.

The new figure that I will christen the "Captain pose" has his right arm raised as if to signal the space troopers to follow him. His left arm is off to the side holding a ray gun. I went back to check on the photo of the molds in Blast Off! and sure enough the mold for Captain pose is contained with the others (see page 114, right-most mold). I checked with Norman and several others but none had seen this pose before. I speculate that this Ebay lot could have been produced towards the end of Johillco's production run and not yet completely finished. This would explain the lack of paint and the existence of three figures never put in to production. Of course, all of this is speculation and I would welcome any information that others might have on this subject. Regardless of their history, it is always a thrill to find new poses in an established toy soldier line.

As OTS was going to press, Wayne Jagielski, Illinois Space Toy Collector submitted an image of this two and one eighth inch size alien, hollow cast. It is not known to have surfaced before and is very similar in design to the Archer plastic figure featured on page 93 of Mark Young's book Blast Off. The question is, who made it? The markings indicate England and it is similar to other John Hill figures.



Previously undiscovered Hollow-cast space alien.

Mark Young has written several previous articles on Johillco Space figures, see OTS(N) Vol 17 # 6. Vol 19 # 4 , Vol 22 # 2 and Vol 26 # 4



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Nobunaga achieved control over the province of Owari (around the modern city of Nagoya) in 1559. As many other daimyo, he was keen on uniting Japan. Strategically and favorably located; he succeeded in capturing the capital in 1568. After establishing himself in Kyoto, Nobunaga continued to eliminate his enemies in turn. Among them were some militant Buddhist sects, especially the Ikko sect (Pure Land Sect) which had become very powerful in several provinces. Nobunaga destroyed the Enryakuji monastery near Kyoto completely in 1571 and his fight against the Ikko sect continued until 1580.

Nobunaga was rather fortunate concerning his two most dangerous rivals in the East: Takeda Shingen and Uyesugi Kenshin. Both of them died before they were able to confront Nobunaga! After Shingen's death, Nobunaga defeated the Takeda clan in the battle of Nagashino (1575), making use of the arquebus and modern warfare strategies. In 1582, general Akechi murdered Nobunaga and captured his Azuchi castle. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a general fighting for Nobunaga, reacted very quickly, defeated Akechi, and took over control. Hideyoshi continued to eliminate remaining rivals. He subdued the Northern provinces and Shikoku in 1583 and Kyushu in 1587. After defeating the Hojo family in Odawara in 1590, Japan was finally reunited.

Toyotomi Hideyoshi died of natural causes in 1598 leaving Japan open to the ambitions of Tokugawa Ieyasu.

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AUCTION REVIEW

Bonhams Lead Soldier and Figure Sale, November 24th, 2004

By Rob Wilson

The most recent sale of Lead Soldiers and Figures held by Bonhams in London on the 24th of November was the 2nd part of a two day sale. This also included fine trains, tinsplate and diecast toys, as well as dolls and Teddy bears. Those looking to buy themselves or a loved one an early Christmas present had plenty to choose from!

Having viewed the previous Sunday, your reviewer did not arrive until the sale was just about to start, to find a packed sale room with only a couple of seats left at the very front.

The lead figure section of the sale comprised some 500 lots, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Up-front were some "ancient" Britains, including some very rare and desirable sets. The hottest competition was for a set of 8 plug-armed Fusiliers with mounted officer. Estimated pre sale at £900-1100, they soon raced to double this figure. Two bidders in the room then slowly slugged it out before the figures were finally knocked down to the victor for £4000. With the very high rates of commission which now seem to be the norm for all the main auction houses, this mounted to a £4780 (almost \$9000).

Other fine sets included a boxed set of 9 plug armed lancers which was knocked down for £1850 (\$3330), a group of unboxed Territorial infantry, especially made just for the 1911 Coronation which sold for £2700 (\$4850) and set #72, Life Guards Diamond Jubilee boxed set which went for £3300 (just under \$6000). All these were well above the auctioneer's estimates. A number of other very early sets also attracted considerable interest but went for more modest prices

In addition to the "ancients" a number of other exciting Britains sets were on offer, including a special (for Hamleys) Marine Colour party (hammer price of £2000 (\$3600)). Other Britains special paint sets included a group of Indian Army (Baluch Light infantry) with mounted and foot officers, some exquisitely painted Carabinieri, with trumpeter and an officer (based on the casting normally used for the admiral), and a Royal Garrison Artillery team at the halt, towing a 4.7" gun.

Other manufacturers were also represented. A part set of 6 Fry Germans surrendering, in their original box, but missing their captor/escort went for a handsome £290 (over \$500). The end label bore the title 10a "Mercy Kamerad".

Civilian collectors were also not neglected. A good collection of Britains racing colours, most in very good condition and in their original boxes went for a minimum of £100 (\$180) a piece.

By contrast a very rare CBG Tom Thumb fairly tale set, in original box, with 7 compartmentalised scenes, went for what seemed to this reviewer a very modest £270 (just under \$500). Although these were flat rather than fully rounded figures this seems a very reasonable price for such a rare and charming set.

At the other end of the spectrum, the sale also contained a large number of lots of interest to the general dealer or to those who enjoy restoration and repainting. Many lots containing large quantities of damaged, restored and repainted figures were on offer and sold for just a few pounds per piece - something then for every taste.

The next sale is scheduled for the 18th of May, which for the author cannot come soon enough!



Exquisitely painted group of Carabinieri painted by Britains to special order – one of a number of special paint sets on offer in the most recent Bonhams sale.

AUCTION REVIEW

AUCTION REVIEW OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FIGURES AT VECTIS UK ON TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Sale was 540 lots of mostly Britains lead and plastics, predominately post-war.
85% was sold
Sales value \$150,000 (including premium).

Although the room was smaller than usual, probably because we were close to Christmas, there was a much larger proportion of pre-sale bidders and telephone bidders. However, with Ebay Live supplying 25,000 hits on the sale, over 200 lots being sold prior to the sale on Ebay and between 25 and 30 live on-line bidders at any one time, the sale was successful.



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AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



Illustrated: Britains plug handed Fusiliers marching at the slope with mounted officer, 1893. Sold in our 24 November 2004 sale for £4,780

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The Junior Commandos of WWII

By Jack Matthews

If Gen. Patton asked me, "What did you do in the [great] WWII, Sonny?", this nine-year-old would have answered, "I was a Junior Commando!"

Back in WWII, kids' "Patriotic Clubs" and "Societies" were big, big, big. Often identified with comic book and radio heroes¹, a kid got to join (and get a membership card, patch, badge and instruction booklet, etc.) by sending in a box top (radio), or clipping a coupon (comic book). We could be a member of any or all of the following:

- Captain Battles Boys Brigade
- Lone Ranger's Victory Corps and Peace Patrol
- Orphan Annie's Secret Guard
- Spy Smasher's Victory Battalion
- Captain America's Sentinels of Liberty
- Captain Midnight's Secret Squadron
- Junior Justice Society of America
- Superman's Junior Defense League

.... and so on.

Badges and other ephemera from these sixty-year-old outfits are among the rarest and priciest of collectibles, particularly if the original mailing package is included. A complete Captain Battles Boy's Brigade kit will cost you a few grand if you can find one!



But the outfit that definitely had the biggest effect on American homefront activity was Little Orphan Annie's Junior Commandos, based on the famous Harold Gray comic strip.

Annie's Junior Commandos zeroed in on the US government's WWII paper and scrap drives, utilizing cloth armbands given away free as a promotion gimmick by US newspapers which carried the comic strip. Photos 1 and 3 illustrate examples by the *Denver Post* and *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspapers. Nationwide, tens of thousands of TONS of paper and scrap metal were collected by Junior Commandos in major metropolitan areas through the efforts of these major newspapers. One of my favorite photos of WWII kids' homefront activities is the Junior Comando (note the misspelling!) scrap "turn in Head-quarters" (Photo 4). Do a *Google* search on the internet and you'll find dozens of WWII Kids' oral histories which report on their Junior Commando activities.

"Myself and the other neighborhood kids [were] Junior Commandos. We had ourclubhouseand collect[ed] whatever was not nailed down [for] the war effort."

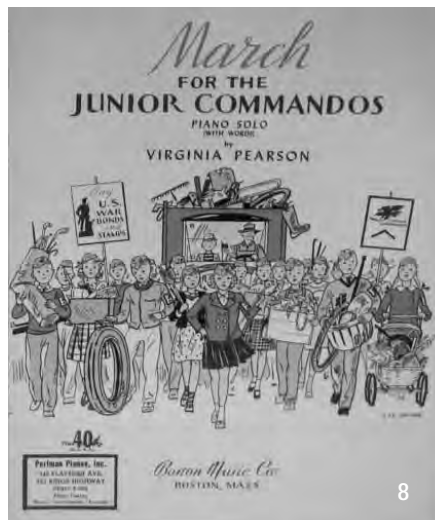
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Little Orphan Annie comics published Junior Commandos give-away booklets (Photo 5) and small posters (Photo 6).

The Junior Commandos of WWII (Cont.)



"Why scatter our fire by having dozens of war aims? Just one is ready for the Junior Commandos! Hang enough Hitlers and Herohitos so that never again will we have to hang Gold Stars in the windows...."



There were even songs² written for the Junior Commandos (Photos 7-8) and the Song Sheet cover even showed Jr. Commando rank insignia, which are particularly neat. Junior Commando clubs were organized in schools, and had ranks from 3-star generals on down (Photo 9).

In addition to these club items there were items of clothing produced in kids' sizes (Photos 10-14) including ties, hats and caps in kid's sizes. On eBay, I got



The Junior Commandos of WWII (Cont.)

the neat, mint boxed set of cap/tie and the little pre-war straw garden hat transformed into a Jr. Commando jungle pith helmet by the simple use of an ink stencil! (Photo 14).

In addition to Junior Commando stuff, there were oodles of "Commando" toys made of nonstrategic materials, mostly guns and games (Photos 15-18).

The highly-publicized British elite WWII Commandos which made numerous early war minor raids on German-held European coasts (mostly not very successful) were the basis of all of this. Little did we kids know that the true origin of the name was the South African mounted cavalry who gave the Brits a fit in the Boer War, a half century earlier.

¹ Many comics characters pages like "Terry and the Pirates", Joe Palooka, Buzz Sawyer, Capt. Easy "joined" the war. In Mickey Mouse comics, Mickey caught a spy, captured the crew of a submarine and became the guardian of war orphans.

² "We gather the rubber and the scrap to make bullets to get the Jap" March for the Junior Commandos. Words and music by Virginia Person © Boston Music Co. 1942.

Jack Matthews is a regular OTS contributor, see his recent article in OTS Volume 28 # 2



14



15



16



18



17

BOOK REVIEW

Barclay Toys: Transports & Cars 1932-1979

By Howard W. Melton & Robert E. Wagner

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek



One of the icons of American toy soldier manufacturing was the Barclay Manufacturing Company. From 1924-1971 Barclay produced a wide variety of toys, their most successful being military and civilian toy figures. During the 1930's to early 1940's Barclay was the nation's largest producer of lead alloy vehicles both military and civilian.

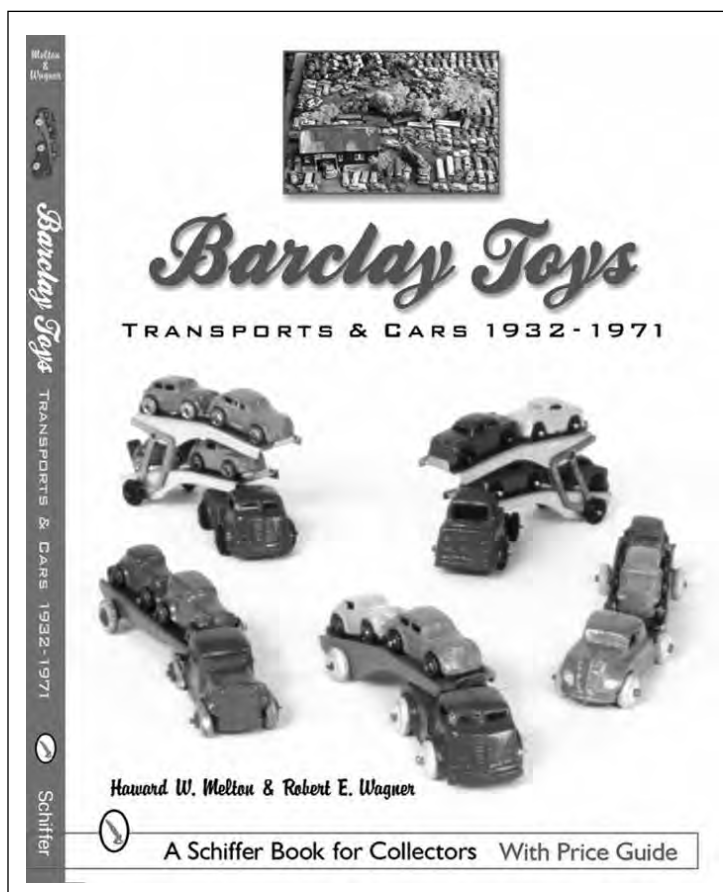
"Barclay Toys: Transports & Cars 1932-1971" by Howard W. Melton and Robert E. Wagner is an excellent reference regarding a niche of Barclay products previously not researched. The easy to read format combined with numerous color photographs does a superb job describing, identifying and clarifying the vast array of Barclay transports and automobiles.

The authors begin by breaking down Barclay production as it relates to transports and automobiles chronologically. Four distinct periods, called Series, are identifiable. Subsequent chapters discuss identification, painting, production, distribution and packaging of each Series.

The bulk of "Barclay Toys" deals with each of the four Series. Each Series chapter explores colors, cars, sets, trailers, cabs and packaging. The authors do an outstanding job explaining the numerous models and seemingly countless variations within each Series. Excellent color photographs and informative tables listing model types and colors help convey a clear, concise picture of Barclay's production. Throughout each chapter, color, condition and price for models in each Series are provided to further aid the collector.

In the final chapter, "Detailed Type Listings", all previous tables are consolidated. This format allows the collector to easily compare and contrast model types. Again, color photographs help to illustrate the information and help in identification of the various types of models.

Softbound with 128 pages and priced at \$24.95, Melton and Wagner have created an informative, concise and easy to use guide. Collectors are encouraged to regularly check the website; www.barclaytoys.com. The website includes updates of the tables, varieties and text of the book, plus information for contacting the authors. "Barclay Toys: Transports & Cars 1932-1971" is a superlative reference work which both novice and experienced collector will find helpful for exploring this long neglected area of Barclay production.





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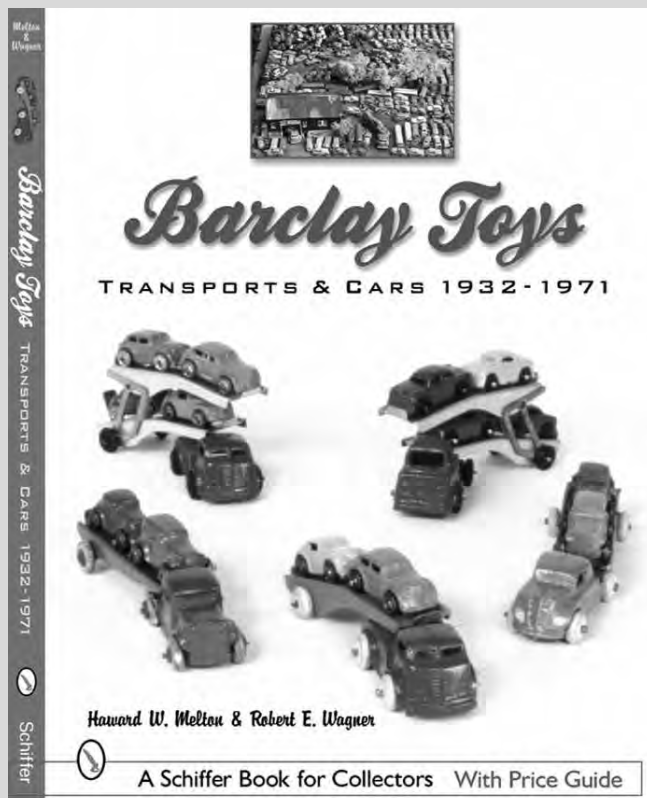
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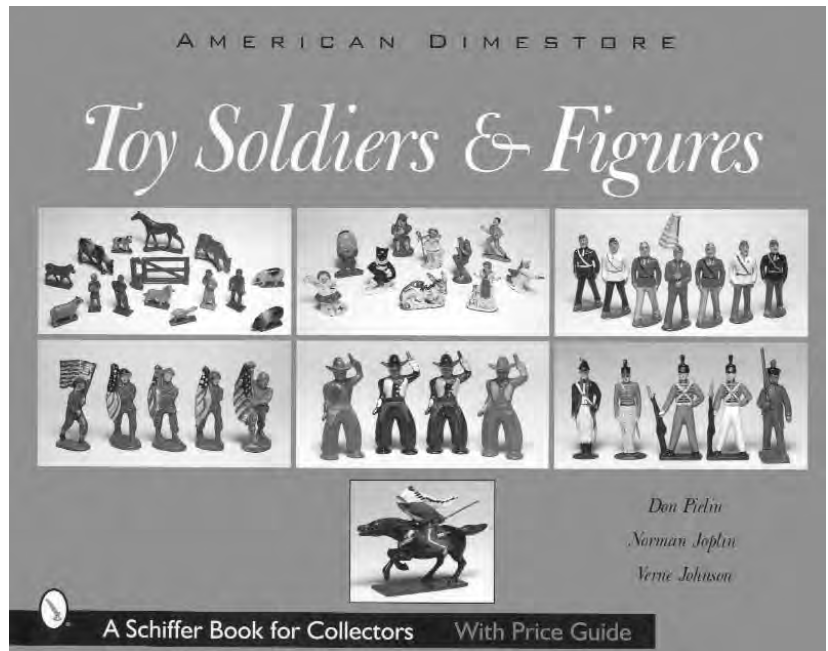
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A Look at the Labels and Trademarks of the Old German Makers

Part 2: What To Look For

By Earl Jorgensen

Have you ever watched a group of collectors attempting to identify the maker of some old German-made lead solids? The figures are passed around, each collector examining them from every possible angle in search of any distinguishing feature which might provide a clue to the identity of the maker. Conversation focuses on details such as the shape of a horse's tail or perhaps the presence of a particular type of metallic paint. While such "sessions" are always entertaining and often surprisingly informative, they also point out the difficulty of attempting to identify individual German-made lead figures. Conventional hobby wisdom tells us that the only way to positively identify an old German maker is to see the figures along with their original packing box. But even if you are fortunate enough to find an original box of figures, what do you do if you can't identify the maker's marks?



Photo 1: Three 58mm "Heyde" type figures. Since several of the old German makers worked in this scale, there is no way to positively identify the maker without seeing their original box. (author's collection)



Photo 2: A beautifully cast 85mm "Heyde" type figure with a removable bugle strapped to its back. The firms of Heyde, Heinrich and Haffner all produced figures in this scale. (author's collection)

As collectors of these figures quickly learn, the boxes of some of the old German makers can be quite a challenge to identify. Although the box labels were commonly marked "Made in Germany" or "Made in Bavaria" they seldom included the name of the maker. The old German makers used a system of trademarks or schutzmarkes to identify their boxes. These marks only displayed the maker's initials. In order to identify the maker of a box of German lead solids, you need to locate the schutzmarke, find the initials and try to match them with the names of known makers. If all this sounds a bit confusing, don't be discouraged. The schutzmarkes used by the old German makers were very distinctive. Once you know what to look for, the identification process becomes much less complicated.

Schutzmarkes can be divided into two general types or categories. In the first category the maker's initials were placed one upon the other to form a monogram. The best known example of this style of schutzmarke is the famous G.H. & Co. used by the firm of Georg Heyde & Company. (See Photo 3) Heyde used this mark from 1886 until his Dresden factory was destroyed by Allied bombings during the Second World War. A monogram-style schutzmarke was also used by the firm of Theo Krause which was founded in 1853. (See Photo 4)



Photo 3: A typical box label by the firm Georg Heyde & Co. Note the monogram trademark located directly beneath the inscription "Made In Germany"



Photo 4: A box label from the firm of Theo Krause. Note that the TK monogram is displayed on both sides of the label.

A Look at the Labels and Trademarks (Cont.)

Several other German makers also displayed their initials in the monogram style but, unlike Heyde and Krause, their box labels occasionally featured an additional schutzmarke which consisted of a registered picture or symbol. When this occurred, the two marks were displayed in separate locations on the box label. For example, boxes produced by the by the firm of Christoph Ammon were marked with a C.A. monogram, but often displayed a second schutzmarke in the form of a beehive. (See Photo 5) In a similar manner, the nautically-themed box labels used by the firm of Gebruder (the brothers) Zolles were marked with an ornate G.Z. monogram, but occasionally also included a pair of crossed sabers with a cannon barrel. (See Photo 6)

The firm of Johann Georg Rupprecht was also known to use a second schutzmarke but in a slightly different combination. The firm's primary identification mark featured a man with a long beard dressed in a fur trimmed coat and hat carrying a fir tree over his shoulder which bears an amazing resemblance to Santa Claus! (See Photo 7) It should be noted that this mark did not include the firm's initials. The J.G.R. monogram (See Photo 8) appears to have been the firm's secondary mark and was only displayed on some of its box labels.



Photo 7: The "Santa Claus" trademark representing the firm of Johann Georg Rupprecht.



Photo 8: The J G R monogram was used as a secondary identification mark.



Photo 5: A box label displaying the C A monogram representing the firm of Christoph Ammon. Note the secondary beehive schutzmarke located in the lower right corner of the label.



Photo 6: A box label displaying the G.Z. monogram representing firm of Gebruder Zolles. The firm's secondary schutzmarke can be seen in the lower right corner of the label.

In the second category, the maker's initials and its representative symbol were combined into a single schutzmarke design. For example, the firm of Joseph Bischoff was represented by a pair of crossed sabers and a cannon barrel. Although the symbol was very similar to the secondary mark used by the firm of Gebruder Zolles, the Bischoff schutzmarke can easily be identified by the initials J.B. which were located directly below the symbol. (See Photo 9)



Photo 9: The schutzmarke representing the firm of Joseph Bischoff. Note the J.B. initials located beneath the mark.

A Look at the Labels and Trademarks (Cont.)



Photo 10: The distinctive diamond shaped trademark representing the firm of Georg Spenkuch containing an exploding shell along with the initials G.S.



Photo 11: The schutzmarke representing the firm of Johann Haffner. Note the placement of the J H N initials around the figure.

The schutzmarke used by Georg Spenkuch featured a diamond-shaped outline enclosing an exploding bomb or shell along with the initials G.S. (See Photo 10) This type of marking was also used by the firm of Johann Haffner, whose schutzmarke featured a standing man in a full length cloak. The letters J. H. appear on either side of the figure while a third initial, the letter N (representing the firm's Nuremberg location), was located directly beneath its feet. (See Photo 11)

The firm of Gebruder Heinrich not only had the dubious distinction of sharing initials with the famous Georg Heyde & Co. but also used the most complex marking system of any of the old German makers. As a result, Heinrich boxes are often misidentified. The firm's registered schutzmarke was a mounted knight carrying a banner. The initials G.H. were placed in very small letters next to the banner. (See Photo 12) Some Heinrich box labels also displayed the inscription "Marke NORIS" presented in bold letters while others included the inscription "Grbr.H." Thus, depending on the label, a Gebruder Heinrich box may be marked with the firm's registered schutzmarke, the schutzmarke along with one of the inscriptions, or, as illustrated in photo 13, may display all three of the markings.

It should be noted that the above list of old German makers is far from complete. I have only focused on the schutzmarkes of makers I have encountered at shows and flea markets or offered for sale on internet auction sites. There certainly were additional old German makers, but I haven't yet had the good fortune to see them. If any reader has been fortunate enough to find a box of lead solids produced by an old German maker I have not mentioned, please send me a photo to share in a future update.



Photo 12: The mounted knight schutzmarke representing the firm of Gebruder Heinrich. Note the G.H. initials placed next to the banner.



Photo 13. A box label displaying the schutzmarke of the firm of Gebruder Heinrich. Note that the label also includes the inscription "Marke Noris" (upper right) as well as the inscription "Gebr. H" (lower corners).

Part one of this article was published in OTS Vol 28 # 1



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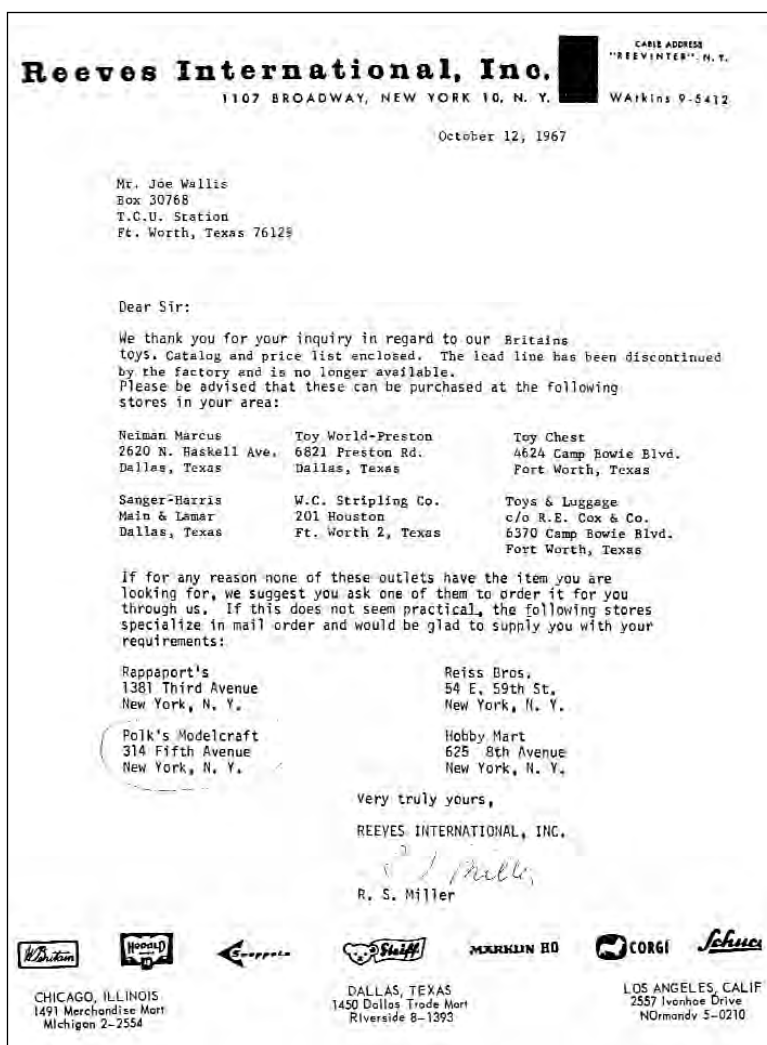
WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD BEFORE 1967

By Joe Wallis

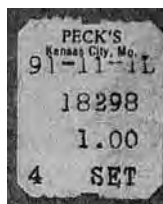
I recently rediscovered a letter that I received 37 years ago in 1967. It was from Reeves International replying to my request for a catalog, and for locations where I could find Britains lead soldiers for sale. Reeves was the American wholesaler for Britains Ltd. after about 1954, replacing George Borgfeldt and Company. Reeves' letter is reproduced as part of this article.

Finding the letter brought back memories of boyhood trips to toy shops, hobby shops, and department stores, and the lengthy process of choosing with great deliberation which set to buy with a hard-to-get \$2.25 in the early 1960s. (I accumulated five cents change from my daily school lunch money and collected empty glass soda pop bottles to get three cents a bottle at the grocery store in order to save up enough to buy a cannon or a cellophane-fronted box of Britains at Peyton's Hobby Shop in Midland, Texas). It took months of saving, and required that I refrain from buying comic books, candy bars, or baseball cards. Then, Britains lead soldiers seemed to vanish from the stores. I can vividly recall my younger brother and I had finally been given an allowance, but when we went to a toy shop in Lubbock, Texas in June 1965 with \$4 we had saved to buy soldiers, we found the plentiful stock of the prior year depleted. We were only able to buy Set #2097, the French Foreign Legion and Arabs display box for \$8 (a great set that had probably been passed over by others because of its cost).

These reminiscences led me to examine the Britains boxes in my collection to see how many had shop price tags. I found that only a little more than ten percent had such tags (many were probably removed when given as gifts), but that I had boxes from shops in North America, South America, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The idea for this article ensued, and I conducted personal interviews at shows and sent letters and e-mail to 75 collectors and dealers.



WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD BEFORE 1967 (Cont.)



BOSTON, MA:	Jordan Marsh Company Department Store
CHICAGO, IL:	Netcher's Boston Store
HACKENSACK, NJ:	Hobbyland
KANSAS CITY, MO:	Peck's Department Store
NEW YORK CITY, NY:	Gimbel's Department Store (could be from Philadelphia or Milwaukee), and Reiss Brothers
PORTLAND, OR:	Meier and Frank Company Department Store
ST. LOUIS, MO:	Famous-Barr Company Department Store
ST. PAUL, MN:	Kindermart
WASHINGTON, D.C.:	Corr's Hobby Shop (pick the better of the two), Hecht Company Department Store, and Woodward & Lothrop Department Store

In my research, I asked collectors to recall where they had bought or seen first-grade Britains lead soldiers before their demise from production after 1966. In order to keep the project to a manageable size, I have not included shops that handled only cheaper second-grade Britains lead figures, other makers such as Johillco, Crescent, Timpo, etc., or who had only plastic soldiers. Many collectors could remember exactly when and where they had bought particular sets. Many could remember the location (even Shanghai, China in the 1930s), but not the name of the store. Others thought back to days of long ago when they spent hours gazing through the glass of the shop windows and display cases of the classic old toy shops and the traditional department stores that have now almost entirely disappeared.

The following individuals named American stores that sold Britains lead lines before 1967: Dan Adams, Steve Ahern, Mark Anderson, Mel Aria, Ed Arundel, Steve Balkin, Will Beierwaltes, Gordon Callender, Barry Carter, Russell Caswell, Don Chalmers, Bill Claflin, Bill Connolly, Dave Dugas, Fred Fielding, Sam Floca, John Graham, Bill Grant, Bill Graver, Greg Hahn, Ed Hakala, John Hall, Ray Haradin, Cleves Howell, Verne Johnson, Lenoir Josey, Jim Kittrell, Richard Klein, George Lund, Bill McDade, Scott Morlan, Bill Nutting, Burt Onstine, Bud Ritter, Norm Rodriguez, Ron Ruddell, Mike Rumsey, Ted Sahlin, Mike Shore, Steve Sommers, Steve Strach, Neill Stroth, Joe Touhill, and "Doc" Wengert. My thanks to them and to anyone I have inadvertently omitted. The list shows that the largest cities had the most shops (as would be predicted), but some unexpected places show up too (some of them near military bases, such as Fayetteville, North Carolina). A complete list will never be achieved, but the reveries it summons are a worthwhile result of this exercise.

BRITAINS RETAIL OUTLETS IN THE U.S.A. PRIOR TO 1967

Allentown, PA	Bloch's Hobbies; Hess' Department Store
Anaheim, CA	Tinkerbelle's Toy Shop (Disneyland)
Ann Arbor, MI	Campus Bike & Hobby Shop; Rider's Hobby Shop
Appleton, WI	Family Fun Shop
Asbury Park, NJ	Colonial Hobbies
Atlanta, GA	Lenox Toy & Hobby Shop; Rich's Department Store
Baltimore, MD	Bob Bard Hobbies; Hochschild, Kohn & Company Department Store; Hutzler's Department Store; Kiddieland; Lloyd's Hobby Shop; Lycett's; Remington's Book Store; The Spot Hobby Shop; Stewart & Company Department Store; Winship Hobby Shop (Dundalk)

WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD BEFORE 1967 *(Cont.)*

Bedford, NY	Trella's
Bethlehem, PA	Mac's Hobby Hall
Birmingham, AL	Southern Toy Company
Bloomfield, NJ	Plumbech's
Boston, MA	Boston Baby Carriage (Natick); Filene's Department Store; Genbil's Department Store (Wakefield); Jordan Marsh Department Store; Lynn Hobby Center (Lynn); Rogers Department Store (Lynn); F.A.O. Schwarz Toys; Thread & Needle Toys;
Buffalo, NY	Clayton's Toyland; Hengerer's Department Store
Charlotte, NC	Ivey's Department Store; Jack & Jill's Toy Store; Johnny's Hobby House; Playhouse Inc.; Park Road Hardware
Chattanooga, TN	East Ridge Hobbies
Chestertown, MD	Fox's Store
Chicago, IL	Carson, Pirie, Scott Department Store; The Fair Department Store; Mandel's Department Store; Marshall Field's Department Store; Netcher's Boston Department Store; Pilot Paint Store; The Sentry Post (Winnetka); Vaughan's Seed Store; Weiboldt's Department Store
Cincinnati, OH	Arcade Toy & Novelty; Arnold's Fairyland; Brendamore's Hobbies; Pleasant Ridge Hobbies; Pogue's Department Store; Shillito's Department Store
Cleveland, OH	Higbee's Department Store; Halle Brothers Department Store; F.A.O. Schwarz Toy Store
Columbus, OH	Lazarus Department Store
Concord, NH	French's Hobby Shop
Dallas, TX	Neiman Marcus Department Store; Sanger-Harris Department Store; Toy World Shop; Young Ages Shop
Dayton, OH	Rike's Department Store
Denver, CO	Daniels & Fisher Department Store
Detroit, MI	Hudson's Department Store; Maxwell's Toy Shop; Model Hobby Shop
Doylestown, PA	Doylestown Hobby Shop
Fayetteville, NC	Fleishman's Tiny Town Toy Shop
Fort Leavenworth, KS	Fort Leavenworth Museum Gift Shop
Fort Worth, TX	R.E. Cox Department Store; W.C. Stripling Department Store; Toy Chest Shop
Hackensack, NJ	Hobbyland Shop (also see Southampton, Long Island, NY)
Houston, TX	McDuffie's Toys; Village Toys
Huntsville, AL	Jeff's Hobby Shop
Indianapolis, IN	L.S. Ayres Department Store; William H. Block's Department Store; Charles E. Meyers Toys; Bob Steele's Hobby Shop; Wasson's Department Store.
Jacksonville, FL	Burdine's Department Store
Kansas City, MO	Emery, Bird, & Thayer Department Store; Gateway Toys & Sporting Goods; Hall's; Harzfeld Department Store; Hoppenfuss Hardware and Hobby Shop; J.E. Vincent Doll Hospital; Joe Falk's Toys; Jones Department Store; Macy's Department Store; Peck's Department Store
Lancaster, PA	Watt and Shand Department Store
Lexington, NC	Toy Chest Shop
Los Angeles, CA	Broadway Department Store (Hollywood); Bullocks Department Store; Farmer's Market Toy Store; Hollywood Toy Store; Lesne's Little Shop (Studio City); North Hollywood Sporting Goods; Uncle Bernie's Toys (Beverly Hills); Valley Plaza Hobbies (North Hollywood)
Louisville, KY	Kentucky Model Shop; Stewart's Department Store
Memphis, TN	Youngstown Department Store
Miami, FL	Burdine's Department Store; Jordan Marsh Department Store
Midland, TX	Peyton's Bicycles & Toys
Milwaukee, WI	The Boston Department Store; Gimbel's Department Store; Schuster's Department Store
Minneapolis, MN	Dayton's Department Store; Fairy Doll House and Hospital; Holtzman's

WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD BEFORE 1967 *(Cont.)*

Montgomery, AL	The Hobby Shop
Mount Kisco, NY	Fox & Sutherland Department Store
Nashville, TN	Burk's Department Store; Harvey's Department Store; Phillips Toy Mart
Newark, NJ	Bamberger's Department Store; Hahne & Company Department Store
New Orleans, LA	D.H. Holmes Department Store; Maison Blanche Department Store;
	Royal Street Toy Shop; Westbrook's
New York City, NY	Bloomingdale's Department Store; F.A.O. Schwarz Toys; Gimbel's Department Store; Hobby Mart; House of Miniatures; International Models, Knight's Castle; Macy's Department Store; Madison Hardware; McCreery's Department Store; Polk's Hobbies; Rappaport's Toys; Reiss Brothers Toys; Riverdale Hobbies; Saks & Company Department Store; Stern Brothers' Department Store
Norfolk, VA	K & K Toys; Miller & Rhoads Department Store; Nornon's Drug Store; Toycraft Hobby Shop; Zephyr Miniatures
Oakland, CA	Bob's Babyland; Capwell's Department Store; Kahn's Department Store
Oklahoma City, OK	John A. Brown Department Store; Schmidt's Hobby Shop
Omaha, NE	Kilpatrick's Department Store
Philadelphia, PA	Bernie Rose's Hardware; Bob Todd's Hobbies; F.A.O. Schwarz (Paoli); Gimbel's Department Store; Lit Brothers Department Store; Snellenburg's Department Store; Strawbridge & Clothier Department Store; Turillo's Toys~ Wanamaker's Department Store
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Seattle, WA	Bob Hale's Hobby Shop; Bon Marché Department Store; Don's Hobby Shop; Frederick & Nelson Department Store
Southampton, Long Island, NY	Hobbyland Shop (also see Hackensack, NJ)
Spokane, W A	Columbia Cycle Shop; The Crescent Department Store; John W. Graham Store
Summit, NJ	Roy's Hobbies
Tampa, Florida	Maas Brothers Department Store
Washington, D.C.	Corr's Hobbies; Garfinckel's Department Store; Haskins Toy Shop (later renamed Chevy Chase Novelty Shop); Hecht's Department Store; Mr. Joe's Toy Shop; Rogers Toy Shop (Mount Rainer, Maryland); Sullivan's Toys; Woodward & Lothrop Department Store
West Hartford, CT	Creative Playtime Shop
Wheeling, WV	The Hub; Stone & Thomas Department Store

If you can add to this list, please e-mail me at joewallis@comcast.net. In a second article, I plan to list stores outside the U.S.A., and then do an update on both lists once I hear from readers of these two articles.

WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD BEFORE 1967 (Cont.)

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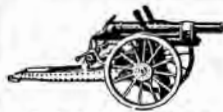
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No. 1718 Measures 2" high



No. 1730 Measures 3" wide



No. 1718 Measures 4 1/2" long



No. 1717 Measures 4 1/2" long



No. 1725

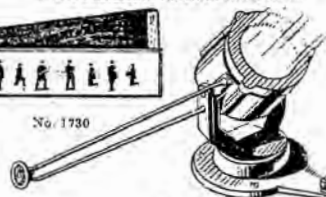


No. 1433

Illustrating these models combined.



No. 1730



No. 1640 Measures 2 1/4" high

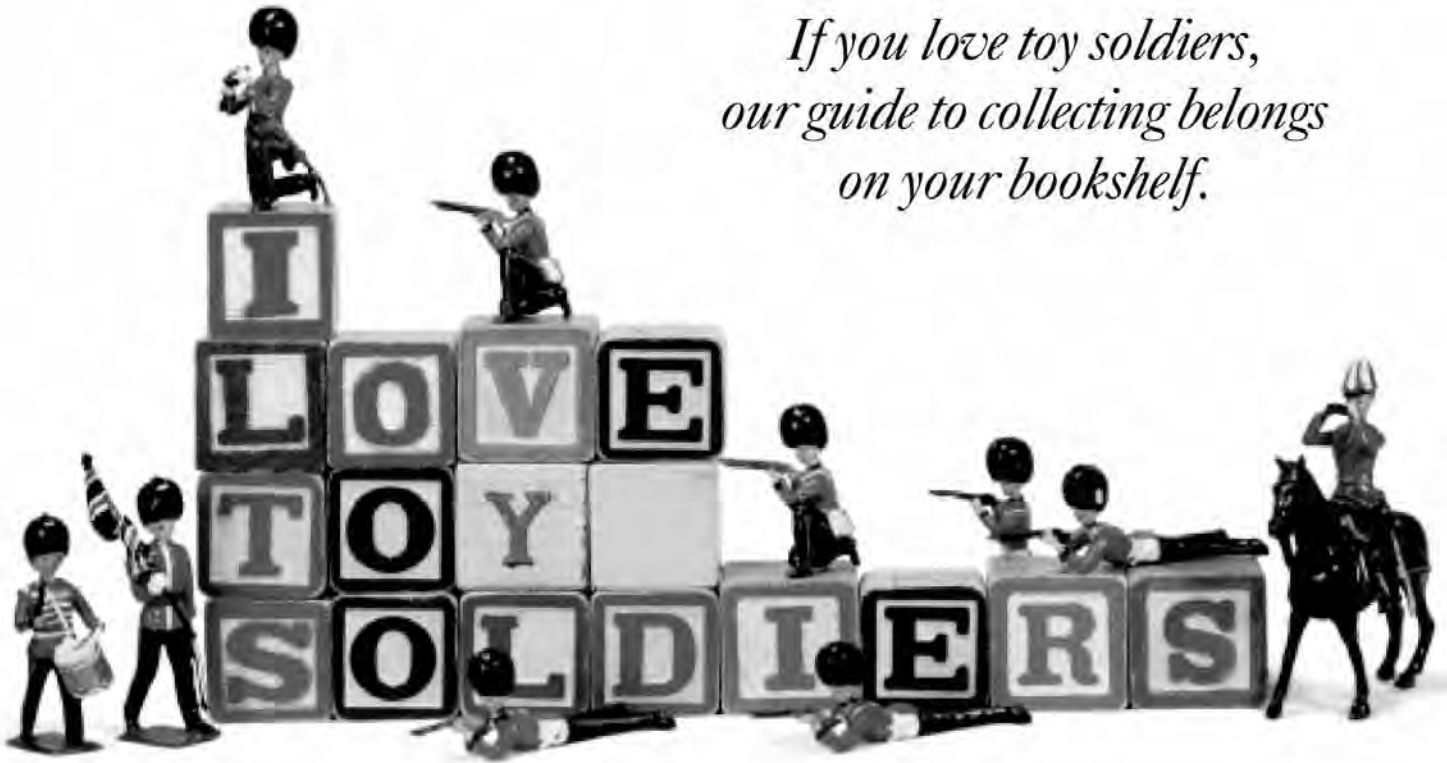


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Toy Soldiers and Antique Shops – Part 2

By Don Boyden

It's the weekend before Thanksgiving and my wife, Karen, and I head out to make the round of local antique stores. First stop, a small shop in our home town of Plymouth, Michigan. But, a sign on the door says they're going out of business. The only military toy is a small Marx tin tank at \$150. I pass.

Knightsbridge Antique Mall, Northville, largest in the area, is having a mall-wide sale. One booth has a handful of average Barclay civilians at \$10 each. Another booth has a nice variety – 7 Britains crawling Indians \$20 each; 8 pre-war Britains U.S. Marines for \$175 (no box); 5 average Lineol Beefeaters at \$20-\$30. Further on, a booth has plastic – Ideal tanks at \$20, Marx Thor at \$27, SAE figures at \$4, Miller plastic waxy rhino with broken horn at \$35. Next booth - 20 dime stores of average paint but priced at O'Brien mint. Last booth of interest has 2 Pyro box sets. #242 for \$275, and #243 for \$375, but not my area. I leave the mall empty handed.



Manoil Aviator
Carrying Bomb Sight



Miller Plastic Native Bearers

Next up is the Town and Country Antique Mall, Livonia. First items I see – fake Grey Irons from China at \$16 each! Then, booth after booth of nothing. Finally, toys! Several dozen dime stores, Britains civilians, and plastic figures priced at \$10-\$25 each. I settle on a Manoil carrying bomb sight for \$22 and 2 mint Miller waxy plastic Native bearers at \$10 each. These 3 pieces comprise my haul for the day. Not great, but we had a fun day out.

Weekend after Thanksgiving Karen and I head off for another day trip of local antiquing. First stop is a show I've never done before, the Circus Maximus Antique Toy and Pedal Car show in Kalamazoo, MI. First purchase, 4 Marx tin target ships from the Air and Sea Power set. Great condition, the mousetrap flip up mechanisms still work - \$20 the lot. Then, an almost mint Elastolin soldier on compo motorcycle - \$20 and into the motorcycle collection he goes. Further on I buy a Manoil pilot, a pose I love, for \$15 – he'll go into the airfield diorama. After that, it's all poor condition, over-priced pieces.



Marx Tin Target Ships

Toy Soldiers and Antique Shops – Part 2 (Cont.)

We leave the show for the antique shops in nearby Schoolcraft, Michigan. At the first shop, as Karen was paying for her finds, I told the owner what I was looking for. She asked if I saw her one soldier. She went into the aisles and dug it out - a broken Auburn tank defender at \$10. I identified it for her but politely declined. She proudly wrote the name of the piece on the tag, and probably marked it up after we left.

At Prairie Home Antiques a case held the only 2 toys in the place, a Britains Zoo hippo and baby MIB and 4 apes MIB. I saw no prices and had visions of a steal until the proprietor came up with \$85 each. Too much for me.

A couple more gift shops which Karen enjoyed and I did as penance for making her endure the toy show. Then, at the Antique Gallery on Grand I checked out a large cabinet with slide out drawers filled with smalls. One drawer was marked "Figurines". In it I found 16 Britains marching U.S. Marine band members. Most were in very good condition, all at \$5 each. I don't collect Britains, but I recognized these as older ones so I got them all, including the two with missing arms (can't leave a man behind).

Well, that's it. Until there is a toy soldier show every weekend, I'll just have to keep hitting the local shops!

This is the second in a continuing series by Don Boyden See OTS Vol 28 # 3 for Part one



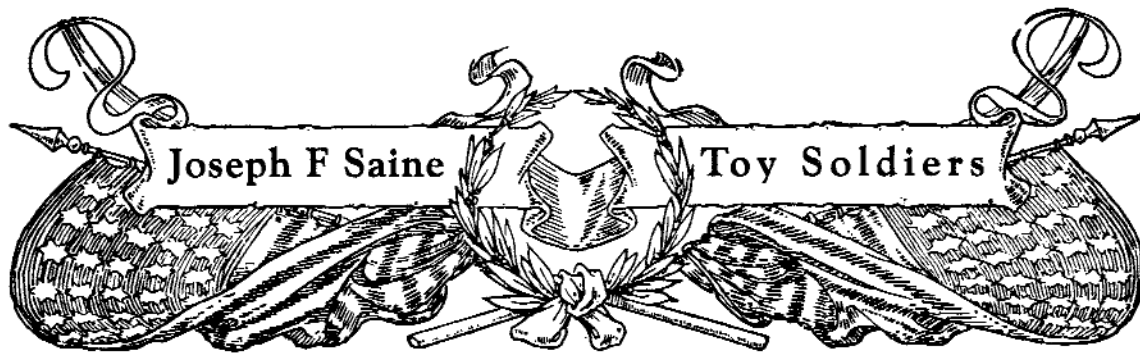
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BARCLAY'S SILVER POT HELMETS – AND THEN SOME

The Third in a Series

By Gordon Lattey and Bob Griffin

We started out a little over a year ago trying to establish the legitimacy of silver pot helmeted Barclay figures and to determine where they fit into the Barclay story (OTS winter 2004). By the time the smoke cleared our quest had become something greater and a great deal more complex.

One of the first difficulties we encountered is the fact that it would appear that Barclay altered its standard paint schemes of figures right from the beginning of production. This became apparent with the short-stride figures with early eyes having been issued with both orange and khaki puttees. Initially, we thought the non-painting of leggings and/or bases was a cost cutting measure, but as the investigation continued the pattern suggested that it was possibly Barclay's inability to fill demand at any given period that created these variations.

After 14 months of carefully logging some 12,000 Barclay figures (seen on e-bay and at shows, from collections and reader lists and photos), we are confident that we have achieved what we set out to prove and a great deal more.

Just what have we accomplished? We've established:

Σ That the silver pot helmeted figures are indeed a legitimate variation. To date, we own, or have seen, eight different silver pot helmet figures (of 12) – B201, B203, B204, B206, B208, B210, B211 and B212. And, in addition we found a previously uncataloged B205 with a white helmet (probably produced to accompany the band figures).

Σ That khaki-bases show up three times in the Barclay life-cycle – just before and just after World War II, and before the line transitions to pod feets.

Σ That the production of a number of tin helmet figures continued right up to April 1942 (cessation of production because of WWII). They included: B13, B15, B30, B32, B66, B76, B78, B79 and B105.

Σ All indications to date are that the B77 "Bomb Thrower" figure wasn't issued until after the World War II.

Σ That numerous painting variations in the military and civilian lines are the norm, and not the exception. This pattern of bases be painted or of a uniform color extends across the line of figures including in non-helmeted military and civilians figures.

Discovery of a rather extensive list of khaki-based tin WWI helmeted figures pretty much verifies that khaki-based figures existed immediately before World War II. Since the B72 Tommy Gunner exists with a black gun and the B73 Tommy Gunner is found with both dark green and khaki bases and black guns, it appears to indicate that these are pre-war issues. The same B73 units are found with green and khaki bases and red guns (the same color as the pot helmeted B207), we are confident that this pretty much verifies that khaki based figures existed both immediately before and after World War II.

But, the key item that we established is the "timeline" that we projected in the first article. While additional research may make minor changes in the timeline, we are confident it will stand the test of time.



The B201 flagbearer that doesn't seem to fit. Its Silver helmet and dark green base suggests early production. But, the figure then appears to disappear until the end of the production line.

1939	Barclay begins the switch to canvas style leggings and generally updates uniforms (B11, B19, B20, B76 and B126).
1940	Cast WWI helmets introduced. Injection molding is begun.
Late 1941	Decision made to halt painting bases to speed production.
April 1942	Production halted for duration of the war. Figures continue being sold as long as they are available.
Fall 1945	Barclay returns to production with silver WWI helmets with khaki bases.
1946	Continue silver WWI helmets with khaki bases.

BARCLAY'S SILVER POT HELMETS – AND THEN SOME (Cont.)

- 1947 Introduction of pot helmets – first run of which have silver helmets and green bases. Later in the year pot helmets are painted green. WWI helmets continue in silver but now with green bases.
- 1948 Pot helmet figures continue and sometime during the year switch to lime green bases. Also, the decision is made not to convert the remaining WWI helmet figures and they are switched to green helmets and lime green bases.
- 1949 Introduction of kneeling rifleman (B202) and the five band figures.
- 1950 Later in the year (after June 25), return to unpainted khaki bases.
- 1951 Late in the year production is halted on the large military figures and the introduction of the pod-foot line.

Of course, at the same time, we raised questions that have for the moment defied answers. One such is the existence of a silver pot helmeted flag bearer (B201) with a dark green base. However, we are yet to find the B201 green pot helmeted flag bearer with a dark green or lime green base. Logic says they are out there, but to date we haven't found them.

For a fleeting moment there was a possibility that we had located a green helmeted B145 anti-tank gunner (thanks to Ken Michelson, East China, Mich.). The figure appeared in a photograph in a book titled "Past Joys" by Ken Botto, published in 1978. We have been unable to establish if it is a legitimate "green helmet." Because the figure is badly worn as are most of the other Barclay and Manoil figures. Also, several appear to be possible repaints. No other green helmeted B145 has surfaced to date. Do we kiss it off?

Elmo Mattox of Maplewood, Minn., has a B76 "bomb thrower" with a khaki base which has also been seen on e-bay. Part of the puzzle that suggests that the B77 cast helmet "bomb thrower" probably wasn't released until after the War. Elmo also advised us that he has a B204 (Order Arms) with silver helmet (it has dark green base). And, he has a couple of "200" series figures with "white eyes" (B208 and B209).

The B120-B125 Standing at Searchlight is listed with eight known variations. According to Richard O'Brien it was introduced sometime in 1939. Did it survive World War II and if not, why so many variations? And, if it did, why so many variations?

Two figures – B130, falling with rifle, and B133, soldier with binoculars, just seem to disappear. Neither has been found with khaki bases and there is no indication they survived WWII. Was the B130 the Edsel of toy soldiers?

And, there is the question of the B131 soldier digging. We have yet to find him with a khaki base with either a silver or green helmet. Logic says there should be a silver helmeted, khaki based B131. This article concludes what we basically had set out to accomplish, but has also provided a wealth of unanswered questions, unique observations and reader contributed information which may form the basis for a more detailed study in the future. As always, readers are encouraged to forward their thoughts, memories and observations to us. Our e-mail is usslater@aol.com.



The previously uncataloged B205 officer with white helmet.

See V27 #4 and V28 #3 for previous Dimestore articles by Gordon Lattey and Bob Griffin

DIMESTORE COLOR VARIATIONS

By Barry Josephs

The common Barclay B60 Sailor with Signal Flags was produced in white with a green base and later with a white base.

I recently acquired a B60 signalman painted all blue, Since this was the only one painted in this fashion that i had ever seen the possibility of a repaint had to be considered.

The figure has some chipping, especially to the flags, which is frequently seen on the figures. The Barclay eyes, paint style and blue paint color appear to be genuine.

The figure stands up to inspection under a black light, however on very close inspection a thin rim of white paint can be seen around the chipped areas of the uniform.

In my opinion, the paint chips and playwear on the hat, nose, body and flag are too authentic for this to be an after factory repaint.

OTS submitted photographs of this item to Gordon Lattey on behalf of Barry. Gordon and Bob Griffith are currently undertaking research in to various non-standard Dimestore paint versions. (See this issue of OTS)

Gordon's comments are as follows and are based on his inspection of the photographs and not the actual item.

"The white that shows up under the blue bothers me. However if the figure is a repaint, it appears to have been done a long time ago.



Sailor white



Sailor blue



Sailor Blue rear view

The figure is reflective of the painting style employed for Barclay figures.

What I find interesting is that the base is the same color as the figure that could indicate that the painting was carried out during one of the "crunch" times, or that it was painted late in the production cycle.

The figure has no obvious flaws and could possibly have been part of a very limited production run "

OTS would like to hear from collectors who either have an example of the blue painted B60 or have counter opinions.



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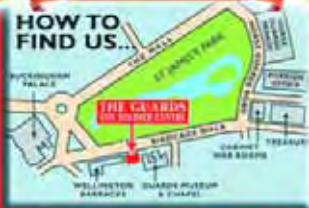


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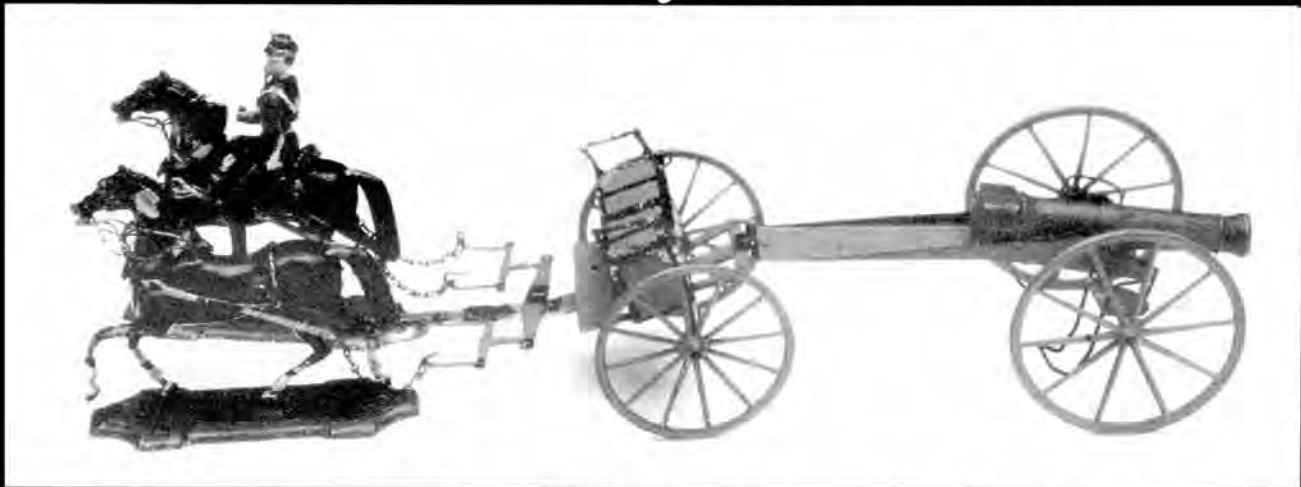
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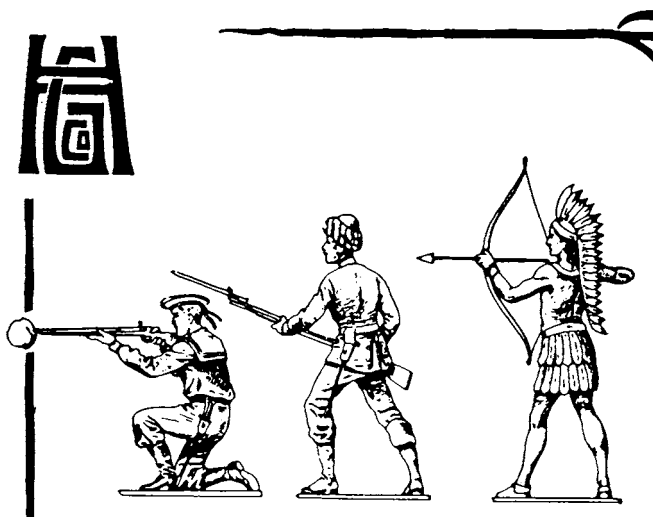
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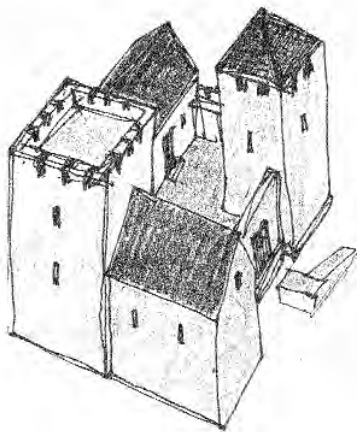
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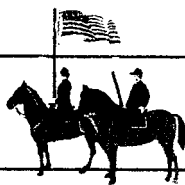
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March 6 - Sunday. "The West Coaster" Toy Soldier and Collectable Figure Show,9am-3pm. Irvine Marriott Hotel (Orange County Airport) 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Irvine. California.Contact Phone/Fax 760 724 7488. Write,PO Box 1755 Vista. California 92085. Hotel Bookings 1 800 228 9290

March 6 - Sunday. The Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm Hotel Adria 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, NY Contact Ed Gries 201-342-6475

March 12 - Saturday. British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Alexandra Palace.Alexanda Palace Way. Wood Green. London.10am-4pm. Contact Vectis 44(0) 1642 750616 Fax 44(0) 1642 769478 Email admin@vectis.co.uk www.vectis.co.uk

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March 20 -Sunday. The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figures Show 9am-3pm Tarrytown Hilton Hotel 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

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May 15 - Sunday. Ohio Toy Soldier Show. 10am -3pm Holiday Inn Hudson. Rt 8 and Ohio Turnpike, Hudson Ohio. Contact Doug McClure, PO Box 17 Medina.Ohio. Telephone 330 722 6751 Email dmcclure1@zoom-internet.net

May 18 - Wednesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London. Contact Leigh Gotch Telephone 44(0) 207 313 3137 Email leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

June 2 - Thursday. Christies Toy Soldier Auction, Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, London. Contact Hugo Marsh, Email hmarsh@christies.com Telephone 44(0) 207 752 3274

June 11 - Saturday. London Toy Soldier Show. Royal National Hotel.Bedford Way (off Russell Square. London. 10am. Contact Ian Carrick 44 (0) 1677 470841. Email i.c.toys@btopenworld.com

TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2005 (cont.)

June 11 - Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe 703 878 2922 or Ed Greis 201 342 6475

June 25 - Saturday. Vectis Toy Soldier Show. Alexandra Palace. Wood Green. London 10am-4pm. Contact Debbie Cockerill 44(0) 1642 750616 E Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

August 28 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military Miniature and Figure Show and Sale. 9 am-3 pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel 455 South Broadway. Tarrytown, NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

September 11 - Sunday. Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm Adria Hotel, 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside NY. Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

September 25 - Sunday. OTSN 25th Chicago Toy Soldier Show Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239

October 15 - Saturday. 8th Springfield Toy Soldier Show. 10am-2pm Holiday Inn Express. 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA. Contact Donald Case Telephone 248 335 5626. Email dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

October 16 - Sunday. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

October 16 - Sunday. 10 am - 3 pm Pacific Northwest Toy Soldier Show. Lake City Community Center, Seattle. Contact Bob Bailey 425-867-9314.

October 29 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad Telephone 570 629 7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

November 5 - Saturday. London Toy Soldier Show. 10am. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way (off Russell Square. London. Contact Ian Carrick 44 (0) 1677 470841 Email i.c.toys@btopenworld.com

November 13 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am - 3pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel. 455 South Broadway Tarrytown. NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

November 20 - Sunday. Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria, and Miniature Figure Show 9am-3pm Sheraton Bucks County Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne. Pennsylvania. Contact Ed Greis 201 342 6475

November 27 - Saturday. 4th Bloomfield Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm Marriott Hotel. 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac, Michigan. Contact Donald Case Telephone 248 335 5626. Email dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

December 3 - Saturday. Vectis Toy Soldier Show. Alexandra Palace. Wood Green. London 10am - 4pm Contact Debbie Cockerill 44(0) 1642 750616 E Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

December 3 - Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Annandale, Virginia. VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe 703 878 2922 or Ed Greis 201 342 6475

December 18 - Sunday. Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm Hotel Adria, 221, 17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

2006

April 23. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

October 15. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

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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