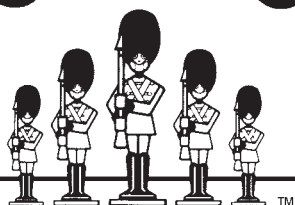


Winter
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 29 Number 4
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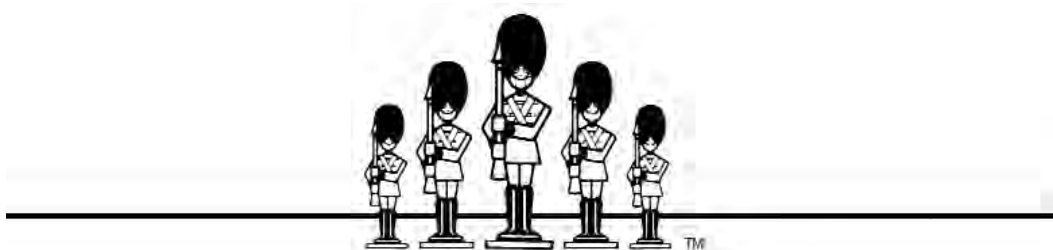


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ON THE COVER

Britains Salvation Army

Photograph courtesy Philip Dean

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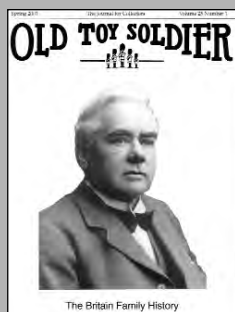


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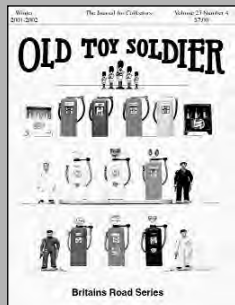
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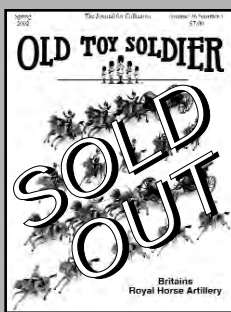
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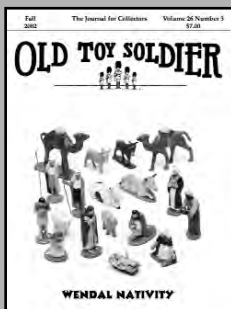
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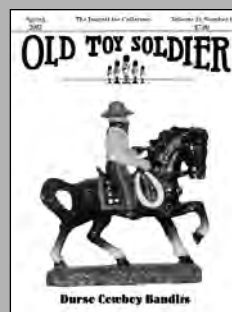
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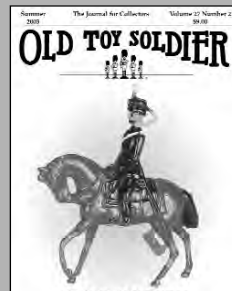
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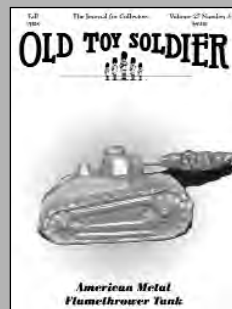
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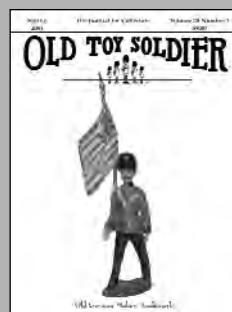
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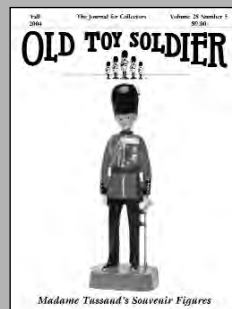
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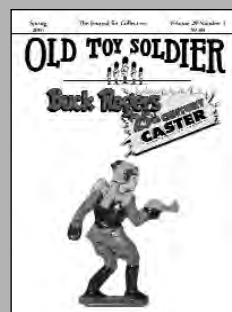
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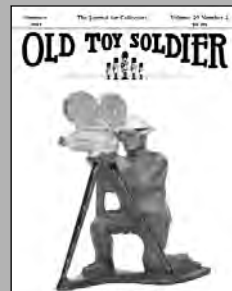
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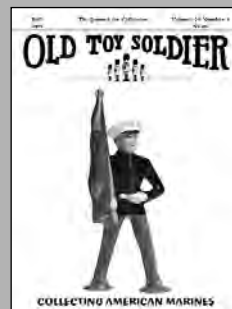
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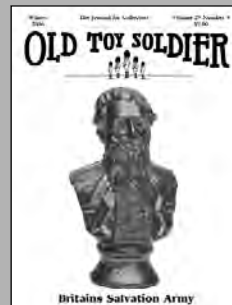
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AE20



AE21 "Banquet Guests" a rich Egyptian nobleman takes his ease on a comfortable sofa... his favourite concubine sits near him.

AE22 Another of Cleopatra's guests has his wine cup refilled by a palace maid servant. Additional amphoras of wine are close by.

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The last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt she tried to save her country from the Romans, using her legendary charm to seduce first Julius Caesar and then Mark Anthony. But, when Roman general Octavian (who later became the Emperor Augustus) invaded Egypt in 30 B.C., she committed suicide.



AE23

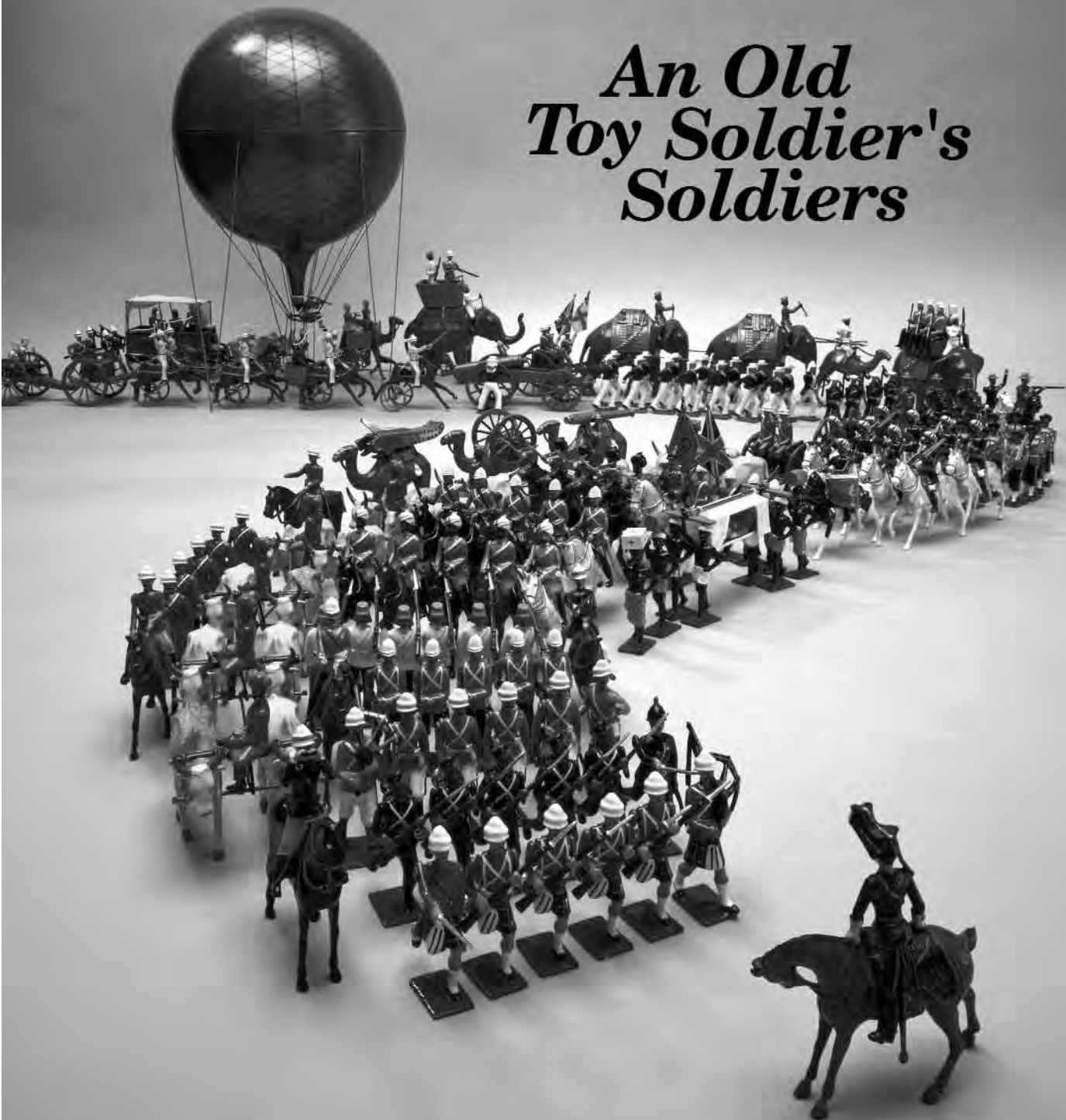
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An Old Toy Soldier's Soldiers



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

Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men know how to march together and how to fight together and look smart doing it. Our men want to be thrown onto the battlecarpet and properly pummeled like the toys they are - not given some shelf job commanded by a namby-pamby "connoisseur". Our men can take it and still shine. Our men know what it means to be a real toy soldier.

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BRITAINS SALVATION ARMY 1906 Version Boxes and General Booth, Mysteries Solved - Part One

By Norman Joplin



As Old Toy Soldier magazine approaches it's thirtieth year, some of the articles from the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter archives will be brought up to date and hopefully a number of Britains and other companies mysteries solved.

Old Toy Soldier contributor Joe Wallis, in his 1983 article on Britains Salvation Army figures (OTSN Volume 7 # 6 December 1983) touched on both the Britains issue of a bust of Salvation Army founder General Booth and the set numbers in which Salvation Army Bands and figures were available both pre World War One and World War Two.

Why was the General issued in bust form? Did Salvation Army bands ever come in boxes? and if so why, apart from the instrumentalists in set #10 have none been found in boxes ?

During 2005 whilst checking various Internet sites, I came across the Salvation Army Heritage site, having emailed with some general questions a response was received from Gordon Taylor who was working at the Army Headquarters as an archivist.

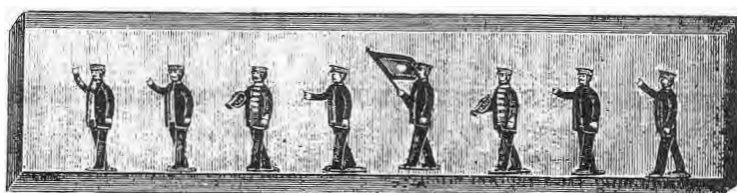
Mr Taylor agreed to help try and locate information for me from the Salvation Army publication The War Cry in relation to any connection that Britains had with the Salvation Army pre World War one.

Having supplied Gordon Taylor with dates and details of what was already known of Britains Salvation Army figures, his reply at first was slightly disappointing, nothing during the periods mentioned showed up in The War Cry, but Gordon suggested perhaps as these items were toys, mention may have been made of the figures in the Junior Edition of The War Cry, namely The Young Soldier.

Bingo, there it was in July 14 and October 13, 1906 and November 1907 issues of Young Soldier, advertisements for the first version series of figures known to have been issued in set numbers 10 and 14 along with line drawings of the figures.



Mr Gamages Great Toy Bazaar catalogue cover.



No. 10. Officers, Band and Colours. Price 10½d.

Caption Salvation Army Set # 10 as shown in Mr.Gamage'sGreat Toy Bazaar Catalog



No. 14. Women Officers, Timbrel Band and "The War Cry." Price 10½d.

Set # 14



Salvation Army figures used in a story about a gift to Bob. Young Soldier November 24 1906

BRITAINS SALVATION ARMY (Cont.)



Britains Set #10 with original box. Salvation Soldiers Officers, Band and Colours. Photo Courtesy Hank Sigourney



Salvation Army Flag Bearer from set # 10



Salvation Army Officers from Set #10



Salvation Army Women from set # 14.

Female Salvationists were nicknamed "Miriams" a name derived from Miriam, sister of Moses who lead the dancing to the beat of a tambourine (Exodus 20:15)

The numbers used in these advertisements were #1 and #2, different of course to the Britains catalog numbers 10 and 14, both of which had featured in Mr. Gamage's Great Toy Bazaar a reprinted catalog from the 1902/1906 period (Published in New York by Hastings House Publishers, 1982.)

In keeping with Gamages policy the sets were offered at the discounted price of 10.5 Pence rather than the official price of One Shilling.

The Young Soldier advertisements –

Set #1 was referred to as Eight Men Soldiers, made up of one Officer, one Sergeant-Major, one Colour-Sergeant, two Bandsmen and Three Soldiers.

Set # 2 Consisting of eight Women Soldiers, two "War Cry" Sergeants, three Lassies with Tambourines and three Soldiers (the latter three being empty handed.)

Price was one shilling per box and were available from The Manager Publishing Department, 79 & 81 Fortress Street. NW (London)



You do not want your children to play with toy soldiers of the usual type, which suggest to their minds ideas of bloodshed and strife. We have just made a new departure, and are offering for our Army children

TOY SALVATION SOLDIERS

Beautifully Modelled in Lead, with Moving Arms, and Enamelled in Colours.
Box No. 1 contains Eight Men Soldiers, made up as follow:—1 Officer, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 Colour-Sergeant, 2 Bandsmen, 3 Soldiers.
Box No. 2 consists of Eight Women Soldiers:—2 "War Cry" Sergeants, 3 Lassies with Tambourines, 3 Soldiers.

**A PRESENT WHICH WILL BE HAILED WITH DELIGHT BY BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS.
ONE SHILLING PER BOX.**

**THE MANAGER, Publishing Department,
79 & 81 Fortress Road. N.W.**

Advertisement from Young Soldier July 1906



A Present which will be hailed with delight by both Boys and Girls.
ONE SHILLING PER BOX.

THE MANAGER, Publishing Department, 79 & 81 Fortress Road, LONDON, N.W.

Advertisement November 1907 Young Soldier

FOR THE LITTLE ONES SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW. TOY SALVATION SOLDIERS.

Beautifully Modelled in Lead, with Moving Arms, and Enamelled in Colours.
Box No. 1 contains Eight Men Soldiers, made up as follow:—1 Officer, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 Colour-Sergeant, 2 Bandsmen, 3 Soldiers.
Box No. 2 consists of Eight Women Soldiers:—2 "War Cry" Sergeants, 3 Lassies with Tambourines, 3 Soldiers.
**A PRESENT WHICH WILL BE HAILED WITH DELIGHT BY BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS,
ONE SHILLING PER BOX.**

THE MANAGER, Publishing Department, 79 and 81 Fortress Road. N.W.

Advertisement October 13th 1906 Young Soldier



BRITAINS SALVATION ARMY (Cont.)

The November 24, 1906 Young Soldier publication carried a picture and details of the figures, centered around the story of a gift of the Salvation Army figures to a boy named Bob. The illustration was credited to and published by kind permission of the Editor of the "Sketch"

This leaves me with another research task, as the “Sketch” was a newspaper, perhaps finding a copy in the British Museum Newspaper Library may throw light on why the illustration appeared in that particular paper.

Spurred on by my finds and with the help of Gordon Taylor, on my next trip to the UK I scheduled in a visit to the British Museum Newspaper Library in Collindale London.

Having secured a visitors pass and negotiated the security of the Library, requests were placed for copies of the Young Soldier and War Cry from the 1906 and 1907 period, my aim this time was to try and locate information about the Britains General Booth Bust.

Many hours later and after finding the advertising images of the Salvation Army figures pictured above, time was running out and still no luck with finding anything on the General, I decided to concentrate on the Young Soldier Publications of the mid thirties hoping to find details of the post World War one figures made by Britains in the nineteen thirties, this proved more successful.

As there had been no mention of the Britains Bust of General Booth in the Young Soldier it became apparent that perhaps it was not produced as a toy, but rather as a souvenir piece and may have been directed more towards the adult Salvationists.

So back to The War Cry and a starting point of 1906, the date which is inscribed on the rear of the figure 23-3-1906 (March 23rd 1906).

Nothing appeared in the first three months issues of *The War Cry*, however a large advertisement for a rally at Crystal Palace in celebration of the Generals 77th Birthday on April 7th 1906 did appear in the April issue.

ADMIRED BY EVERY ONE.

Extract from a letter lately received.

"I am greatly pleased with the national policy of **ALL** our ILLUMINATED POSTERS, and I wish you had sent to my order. I think very worthy of a frame to decorate my sitting-room, where I intend to put it in a conspicuous place."

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Fully illustrated and attractively bound in green cloth with picture of The General's Car in white.

Price 1s. 6d.
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READ WHAT THE GENERAL SAYS (in "Training of Children," pages 6d.)

"I keep away from children as far as possible such amusements and recreations as are calculated to lead to the loss of life."

"I am in order that you do not waste the time of the boys with the main objects of giving training is present to the mind."

"I am in order that you do not waste the time of the boys with the main objects of giving training is present to the mind."

"I am in order that you do not waste the time of the boys with the main objects of giving training is present to the mind."

War Cry August 11th 1906

THE BUST OF THE GENERAL.



The successful Little ornament which was first introduced at the Crystal Palace 1853 April, has been selling in thousands. The model, which was sent to America, is 2½ inches high, and is made of lead enameled in either Terra Cotta, Blue or Copper. The price is within the reach of every man. Only 1d. each.

TOY SALVATION SOLDIERS.



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Current Models, Enamelled in Colour.

STEPHEN GRELLET.

This is a most interesting biography of Stephen Grellet, who, adopted the sobriety of France, and adopted the name of Stephen upon becoming a "Pious." He saw the last days of the great French revolution, shared the miseries of the old French nobility, traversed Europe on a mission of mercy during the wars of the first Napoleon, and served after the peace in the development of a new period.

Stephen Grellet was one amongst the evil and forward workers for the abolition of slavery, and aided in the advancement of the United States Republic in its great greatness, and had helped to subvert of the last century.

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THE WAR CRY.

LONDON'S CELEBRATION OF

**The General's
77th Birthday**

AT THE

**CRYSTAL
PALACE**

Sydenham, S.E.,

ON

Saturday, April 7th, 1906,

From 2 to 10 p.m.

Great Thanksgiving Assembly. Foreign and other Demonstrations.

PHYSICAL DRILLS by Young People of The Army.

**50 BRASS BANDS.
2,000 SINGERS.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS in the Theatre and Concert Hall.

GRAND
Band Festival at 7
AND DECLARATION OF THE RESULT OF
SELF-DENIAL APPEAL.

THE Demonstration will be under the Direction of

THE GENERAL

MANAGED BY

THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF and MRS. BOOTH,

Commissioners BOOTH-TUCKER, HOWARD, CARLETON,
NICOL, COX, STURGESS, CADMAN, OLIPHANT
(Germany), ESTILL (Holland), and Representatives from
United States, Holland, Germany, South America, Japan,
India, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and South
Africa.

BRITAINS SALVATION ARMY (Cont.)

This announcement prompted further searching through the War Cry but it was not until July 1906 that at last an advertisement appeared.

The Bust had in fact been made by Britains to be issued (sold ?) at the Crystal Palace rally and examples were offered in the July 1906 copy of the War Cry.

The Bust was available in either Terra Cotta, Gilt or Copper and was offered at a price of One Penny.

Britains must have produced a printing block in order to have the line drawing illustrated in the War Cry, however it is uncertain if the item ever appeared in a Britains Catalog

The same July 1906 advertisement in the War Cry for the first time carried details of the Toy Salvation Soldiers.

Despite continuing to read the remaining issues of the paper through to the end of 1906, no further mention was made of either the Bust of the General or the figures.

Towards the end of 2005 I was privileged to be able to view and examine a number of the original Plaster Master Molds from the Britains factory and was intrigued to find that the mold for the General Booth Bust still existed some 100 years after it was produced.

Toy Salvation Army Soldiers were advertised again only once in the War Cry on August 11th 1906, but the last publicity for these items remains the Young Soldier advertisement in 1907 (see above).

James Opie in his book, The Great Book of Britains lists the end date of sets 10 and 14 as 1908

An article of Boys Own Newspaper dated August 20th 1910, and authored by Arthur Page Grubb recounts his visit to the Britains factory and interview with Alfred Britain, Grubb was shown a variety of items in the factory including Salvation Army figures. Alfred Britain stated that the Salvation Army figures had "not taken on" and that "They did not appeal to the general public, and even the Salvationist parents preferred the real thing"

It seems therefore that by 1910 the first version Salvation Army figures which were dated 3.5.1906 (May 3rd 1906) had become obsolete although examples were obviously still present in the factory.

Photos by Philip Dean.

Acknowledgements – Keith Watson for images of the general Booth bust.

Christies Auctioneers of South Kensington London for permission to reproduce images from the Arnold Rolak reference collection auction and the Philip Dean reference collection

Gordon Taylor of the Salvation Army International Heritage Center.

Joe Wallis for his support and encouragement

John Ruddle of the British Model Soldier Society.



General Booth Bust front view



General Booth Bust rear view showing date.



General booth playing soldiers.

King and Country UK Global Collectors Convention Imperial War Museum Saturday, December 3, 2005

By Alwyn Brice

King and Country Collectors Convention was hosted by the Neville family at the Imperial War Museum. This ticket only event gave collectors a chance to meet like minded collectors and founder of King & Country, Andy C Neilson, Co Founder and Creative Director.

Present on the night was a group from the POW Association, including its President Mr Les Allan AMinst BE Knight of the Order of King Leopold II, a number of WW2 re-enactors as well as Dr Simon Trew, who is Deputy Head of Defence Studies at Sandhurst, and who has provided commentaries for historical television programmes including the recent 60th Anniversary remembrance for the BBC .

Bob Neville opened the proceedings and spoke on the encouraging state of the model soldier industry and outlined the future progress of the King & Country UK enterprise. Andy Neilson, who founded King & Country in 1984 to make his own model figures whilst living in Hong Kong then spoke about the past, present, and future of King & Country.

He was followed by bomb disposal expert Nick Pettit, the UK's most decorated serviceman since the second world war. Holder of the Queen's Gallantry medal and the George Medal, this unassuming ex-serviceman ("I'm not a brave soldier") illustrated to an attentive audience the rigours and realities of life in the Royal Engineers.

All in all, a superb day for those who had the stamina to attend both the fair and the evening at the museum. What will the Nevilles come up with next?

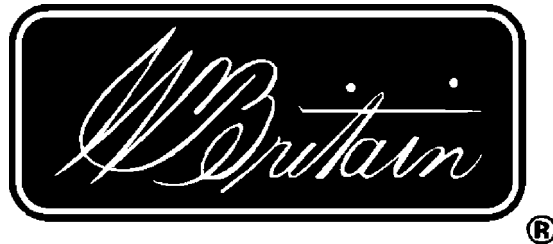


Andy Neilson, the artist behind King and Country



At the museum L-R Simon Trew, Bob Neville, and Nick Pettit

W. Britain/First Gear Nostalgia Exhibition – Continuing the Tradition Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury London May 13th, 2006



W.Britain / First Gear will be holding and exhibition of archive material and items of historical and nostalgic interest entitled Continuing the Tradition. The event will be held in London on May 13th at the Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury.

The exhibition will be part of Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure show (UK) and will include many items from the Britains factory, which are being exhibited for the first time to the general public.

Many rare and unusual photographs from the factory dating back over 85 years will be displayed as well as a number of artifacts, figures and moulds previously unavailable for display.

The exhibition is a joint venture between W.Britain/First Gear, Norman Joplin and a prominent Britains collector, who has kindly loaned items from his private collection.

In mounting this exhibition W.Britain/First Gear are emphasizing their ongoing commitment to preserving the heritage and name of W.Britain whilst at the same time capturing the Britains Old Toy Soldier style in their new History of the British Army range.

W.Britain Collectors Club representatives will be on hand at the exhibition and show with examples of six figures from the History of the British Army range of gloss painted toy soldiers, these new 2006 issues are indicative of the original Britains Hollow Cast figures and inspired by the Armies of the World and Regiments of all Nations lines of old.

Members of W.Britain Collectors Club will be entitled to discounted admission to the show and exhibition on production of their membership card.

The show and exhibition opens to the public at 10.30 am on Saturday May 13th, the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury is situated in Coram Street, only yards from the Russell Square Underground Station and a few paces east of the Royal National Hotel.

A special rate is available at the hotel for those wishing to stay on Friday May 12th, contact the Holiday Inn for details on 44 (0) 870 400 9222 or contact Norman Joplin (01) 262 692 3913, email info@normanjoplin.com for further information.

For full details of the show and exhibition see show preview in this edition of OTS.



W. Britain Salutes the British Army National Army Museum – London December 2, 2005

By Ed Fitzgerald

The W Britain event at the National Army Museum on December 2nd 2005 attended by approximately 80 guests and organized by the new owners of W. Britain First Gear Inc, gave collectors a glimpse of the new lines to come from the new owners in 2006.

Fortified by hors d'ouerves and libations the evening was hosted by First Gear Inc chief executive officer Rich Knight and Richard Walker, General Manager of W. Britain.

Held in the opulent surroundings of the National Army Museum Waterloo Art Gallery, many of the company's new 2006 issues were on display.

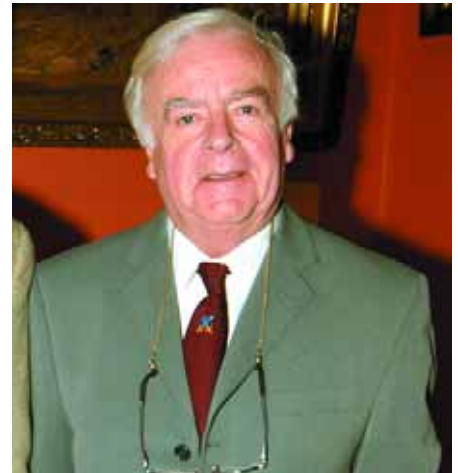
A feature of next year's products is the range entitled History of the British Army, a special limited edition British Foot Guards Private of 1805 was issued to all attendees, gloss painted and capturing the style of the traditional figures that Britains have been renowned for during their 112 year history.

Two further figures from this series will be on general release in 2006, # 43001 Private 1st Foot Guards 1795 and # 43004 Grenadier 1st Foot Guards 1755, with another ten planned during 2006.

Other 2006 products previewed were a limited edition Grenadier Guards Drum and Fife Band and Pipes and Drums of the R.A.F (Auxilliary), both sets in keeping with the gloss painted range already available.



Richard Walker Britains First Gear and guest of honor Clare Camplin



John Ruddle of the BMSS



Private, British First Foot Guards 1805 limited addition available only at the National Army Museum event.



Grenadier First Foot Guards 1755 and Private First Foot Guards 1795 from the history of the British Army range



Nancy and Ed Fitzgerald

HOBBY NEWS

British World War One Troops, additions to the World War Two German Army series, the reintroduction of the Napoleonic range and further American Civil War figures were also on display.

It was the History of the British Army series that really caught the eye and collectors of the more traditional style gloss painted figures will surely greet the return to a period and style of this type with great enthusiasm.

In his speech Richard Walker outlined the acquisition of W Britain by Iowa based First Gear and emphasized the commitment of the company to preserve the heritage of the W Britain name through innovation and quality.

Richard introduced the evening's guest of honor Clare Camplin, Daughter of Dennis Britain and thanked, in his absence Lynn Kenwood for his work as W Britain Collectors Club organizer, Lynn has recently retired from his post and Richard Walker indicated that the collectors club administration would be brought "in house" with facilities in both the USA and UK.

Club members are to be given the opportunity to have a choice of two club figures for 2006, one gloss and one matte. Richard also touched on the substantial investment needed in the tooling of new figures and further stated the intention that First Gear have of pre-



RAF Pipes and Drums (Auxiliary) Band Set 2006 release



Britains German Paras on Kettenkrad



Britains Grenadier Guards Fife and Drum Band 2006 release

Obituary *Alfred Emsig*



March 16, 1945 - October 25, 2005

Alfred Emsig, Al as I knew him died October 25th 2005.

To say Al was the gentle in gentleman is an understatement, always courteous, a peaceful man with a subtle sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye, generous to a fault and always willing to share the hobby with others.

All who were his toy figure friends will sorely miss him.

Al leaves his partner Ellen and many fond memories for all who crossed his path, Al was a dedicated figure collector, although not of military items.

Toys of peace were his trademarks, a title which befitted the nature of the man. Al's profession as a landscape gardener and architect inspired his miniature collection of gardens by Britains and others.

Al mounted an exhibition at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society featuring garden displays from his collection and

was featured in OTS magazine.

He collected civilian bands and a variety of butlers, waiters and various figures depicting servants, which, said Al with wry humor, would look after and entertain him in the life to come. This aspect of his collection was again inspired by his training in England as a butler, gentleman's gentleman as they are known in the UK, a description tailor made for Al Emsig.

As each season approached, Al would meticulously set out his figures to represent that season in his Boston area home and along with the figures would display appropriate art work to complement the scene.

The hobby has lost a gem in Al Emsig and I along with many of his toy figure colleagues have lost a dear friend.

Norman Joplin (Editor OTS Magazine)

Obituary *Lee C. Fielden* *(1921-2005)*

Lee Fielden, known to a great many of us in the hobby, died on September 18th in California. He is survived by Connie (his wife of many years), two sons and six grandchildren.

Lee graduated from Yale University and was commissioned in The Field Artillery. He saw combat in the Philippines, and then returned to attend Yale Law School. He was recalled to duty in The Judge Advocate General's Department during Korea, and then spent the balance of his professional career as a partner in the law firm of Robinson, Robinson and Cole in Hartford, Connecticut. His two major hobbies were hiking and toy soldiers, especially Composition figures. He humorously complained that he couldn't rival Jack Matthews because he had to put two sons through college. He was active in the New England collecting group and attended shows over much of the country, as well as collecting in Europe when he hiked in the Alps.

Lee was a straight forward man of great integrity. His friends will miss him.

W. Britain

PRESENTS

History of the British Army

REDCOATS

Classic Collection

The Redcoats Collection traces the history of the British Army from the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 up to the present day. Guards, foot, cavalry and artillery regiments will all be covered in the series. The collection begins in 2006 with 12 figures representing the Guards Regiments over the last 346 years. These figures are reminiscent in size, look and feel to the original W. Britain toy soldiers of the early 20th century. While not exact representations of those early Britains they very well reflect what William Britain might have made had he started making toy soldiers in 2006.

Look for these figures and other W. Britain new releases at your local retailer. To find a retailer near you please contact W. Britain at:

In the United States and North America contact:

First Gear / W. Britain Consumer Services Department at:
Toll free (888)771-5576 or (563)582-2071.
or Email consumerservices@1st-gear.com or visit
www.firstgearonline.com

In the U.K. and Europe contact:

1st Choice Collectables at +44 (0) 1253 886112
Email: colinsummerbell@1stchoicecollectables.com



43004

**Grenadier, 1st Foot Guards,
1755, 1 Piece Set**
Available April 2006

The distinctive mitre cap on this figure marks him as a Grenadier with the motto – "NEC ASPERA TERRENT" – "Difficulties be Damned"!



43001

**Private, Battalion Companies,
1st Foot Guards, 1795
1 Piece Set**
Available April 2006

This is a typical private of the 1st Foot (Grenadier in 1815) Guards with black gaiters, neat round cuffs and blue facings.

Preview the new W. Britain release at:

The Westcoaster
March 5-California

The Toy Soldier Experience
March 25 - London

The Toy Soldier Shoppe
Trunk Show
April 22 - Wisconsin

MFCA Show
Valley Forge
May 5,6 - Pennsylvania

Norman Joplin's
Old Toy Soldier Show
May 13 - London

SHOW REPORT

The Toy Soldier Show London Spit 'n' Polish *By Alwyn Brice*

In case you missed it, the Country's premier event took place on December 3rd at the Royal National Hotel. The theme this time around was the Second World War, and so a number of re-enactors turned up for the event, with boots polished and webbing blanco'd. Two halls were easily filled with a host of traders who had brought along lead, plastic, composition, white metal and even aluminium figures: besides that there were kits, books and even medals for sale.

Erstwhile film-star (yes, honest!) and plastics dealer Mike Mordaunt-Smith perhaps best summed up the event:

"Certainly better than all the other shows."

His comments were echoed elsewhere on the day.

The Neville family, behind King & Country UK, have been credited with saving this important figure fair from what looked like possible collapse a couple of seasons back. Without doubt, their ideas and approach have worked, for on this day there were more traders than ever before. Although many of the faces were regulars, a number of other dealers turned up, obviously inspired by the success of the last show. Christmas may have been around the corner for the collectors, but that didn't stop people spending...

Where to begin? How about lead figures? Maybe these are the mainstay of the older collector, who had them as a child, but nonetheless their attraction still lives on. Peter and Eileen Rumsey are known to one and all as purveyors of good lead figures as well as die cast and tinplate accessories - and at the fair their table didn't disappoint.

Apart from a mouth-watering display of Britain's military vehicles (I noted a good barrage balloon set and truck with winch in small scale for £185; an under-slung lorry at £225; and a Royal Artillery Mobile Howitzer boxed set for £330), there was a superb little two man morse operating crew, with box, by Elastolin. This carefully crafted German WW2 set actually featured a over-scale taper and appropriate lead, which would have allowed the child to tap out authentic morse messages from the equipment. An ingenious memory of the 1930s, it was for sale at £225.

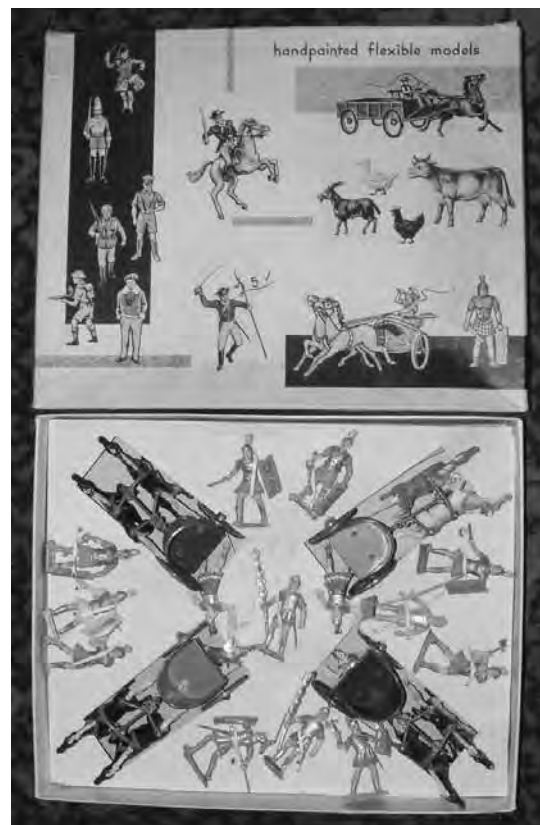
"I sold a nice tinplate Kubelwagen this morning. It's a good show for us." Peter Rumsey

Doug Butterfield isn't a regular at this show; in fact, he'd come along to sell off some of his childhood toys. And what toys he had! Two original boxes (albeit with restored tops) caught my eye. One contained a set of Taylor & Barrett Auxiliary Fire Service staff (three in all) with a water hydrant/cart and two lengths of piping. This really evocative WW2 era set was just £75. Around £180 would have secured the more interesting set of six ARP staff by the same company: these figures were involved in gas decontamination duties. This box even had the original paper sticker on the base, which described the contents. His other treasure was more costly: again by Taylor & Barrett, it was the orange horse-drawn milk float, complete with the all-important Milkie. Sadly, the vehicle's tyres were starting to perish but that aside, it was in great shape for its age.

On to Steve Maryon, who showed me an interesting Crescent WW2 US infantry set which was still strung in its original box. Apart from the delectable box art, this selection of infantry also included an officer on a white horse. In lovely condition, Steve reckoned the set would be worth around £150. Equally interesting was the Japanese set of Robin Hood figures. One chap on the box art did look a little oriental (the manufacturing company was RHI, by the way) but the figures were a refreshing contrast to the likes of Lone*Star. In mint state, they were pegged at £175.



Stunning miniature Elastolin Morse Code Set which actually worked



Rare Cherilea Roman boxed set

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

"A terrific show - it's getting bigger and better with more "old stock" dealers. Lots of new people here, so a good show for us" Steve Maryon

Andrew Woodall had brought a selection of manufacturers' products but the lead and metal models that stood out were by Taylor & Barrett. When did you last see (if ever) the ARP set, which comprised two servicemen in a car? That was up for grabs at £275. Also rare was the Fire Car (the same vehicle but in red) at £165. Better still, though, was the fire engine itself; complete with ladder and with everything working, it came with the appropriate personnel: that was £325. For television-related collectable lovers, he had the bizarre pairing of Hank and Silver King, a cowboy and horse, in hollowcast metal: dating from the 1950s and with the all-important box, this creation of Francis Coudrill was priced at £275.

More modern, but a bit cheaper, was his boxed set of Garden Folk by Britains. "These peaked at around £350 a couple of years back but now can be had for around £250," he told me. Which, funnily enough, was exactly the price he had in mind...

From lead we move to plastic: Steve Viccars had a pile of Hausser 4cm figures for sale, with prices starting at £5. A good Britains boxed African elephant was just £25 whilst a number of white Britains promotional stands in plastic were marked up at £45 each. An assortment of Britains Floral Garden flowers, borders and other items was for sale as a lot (£100) or individually and Steve's was one of the few stands to actually feature this collectable. I also noted a stack of Airfix HO/OO boxed figures: most attractive was his set of civilians, still on their sprues, at just £25: the last time I saw an early set of these, untouched by human hands, it was marked up at £90! Lastly, eight large scale composition Guardsmen by Elastolin with a choice of rifle or sword were being sold off at £10 each.

"Best show that I've done in three years. It's very busy, nicely run - the management have got into their stride." Steve Viccars

John Begg and wife Eunice are well-known in this arena and John deals exclusively in plastic. At the K&C show he'd almost entirely concentrated on Britains merchandise, which remains very popular amongst plastic collectors. Aside from several catalogues (one of which was priced at £155!), he had a colourful assortment of Swoppet Wars of the Roses knights (from £15 to near £40) as well as some Swoppet Cowboys in their original box (£180) and their deadly enemies, the Red Indians, in a similar box, for the same money.

Nearby, were two first timers: Allan Colclough and Steve Hall, from Small Wonders, had brought along a section of fortress to suit 54mm figures, beautifully painted and moulded from a master. In resin, this Torre de Belem was based on a Lisbon fortification and its style meant that it could be used in displays ranging from around 1520 to the Napoleonic Wars. A stunning piece, sections could be bought individually; alternatively, you could buy a whole fort! The pair had just been invited to Portugal to show off the castle. Had the show been worthwhile?

"We've been very pleased with the event. It's easier to get to than we thought and everyone is very friendly." Steve Hall



2 Sets of Britains Swoppets seen on John Begg's stand



England expects... Replicants latest set evokes Trafalgar



Just part of Peter Rumsey's military display

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

Belgian dealer/museum curator Jean-Claude Druart is a regular at the King & Country events and this time, once again, he'd brought along some seldom-seen and quite sought-after plastic, as well as some superbly painted metal flats by Ochel. I fell in love with his Cherilea Roman boxed set, which comprised several Romans on foot and a quartet of chariots, all neatly displayed in cut-outs. Even better was his Elastolin board game, Rome v Carthage, which featured a selection of the German company's 4cm models. Complete and in a pretty good box, which only bore slight damage, this set was around £350, approximately the same cost as the Cherilea product. In contrast, Lone*Star Medieval foot figures were much cheaper at £5 each and their metal siege equipment was £7.50-12.50.

"Well organised, and good buyers. Better than the last venue at the Alexandra Palace." Jean-Claude Druart

Nearby, Steve Weston and his wife Linda were kept busy by hordes clamouring for cheap modern plastic. The new soft plastic Airfix Bedford lorry was on show at £8 and he had some fresh releases from IMEX (AWI artillery) as well as DSG (Hitler's Brownshirts and Napoleonics). The Replicants' new issue stole the show, though. This was a 22 figure set from the days of Nelson, set on a double deck stand, with all the useful addenda. The latter included a sheet of flags to make up the famous "England expects..." as well as a facsimile of the London Gazette dated 1805, to get you really into the Hornblower mood.

"An excellent venue, well-run with easy access." Steve Weston

Other new products, this time in white metal, were to be found on the Fusilier Miniatures stand. There, Mark Turner was displaying a well-finished diorama depicting the Napoleonic retreat from Moscow. All mud and snow and wrecked equipment, this set piece well conveyed the harshness of the campaign. These figures are around £12 each and he now musters over 100 in the range.

"There's a lot of interest in the era," he affirmed, "and most of my sales go to the US." He, too, was busy on the day.

"A good show, with more approachable staff and well-organised." Mark Turner

It wasn't all about figures and vehicles, though. The odd man out, so to speak, was indubitably Bryan Charman of the Premier Emperor. Yes, he did have quite a few composition figures with him (I noted some scarce Hitler Youth types at £75-80 each as well as a very rare RAD flag bearer at £285) but his other items were quite fascinating. Next to a box of aluminium Mignot knights and serfs (a lovely set of 12 at £160) was a box of gallantry medals. The best group included medals from the Turkish Crimea, the Second China War and the Crimean War (this lot was £650) and there was a good Crimean two bar medal awarded to a Royal Scots Fusilier at £360. A rare world war two German "25 Assaults" medal was for sale at £595. But most impressive of all was his British 12th Lancers helmet of 1830 vintage. Although the hat (more correctly a chapska) had been re-made, based on an existing original in a museum, the frontal plaque was the real thing. Beautifully executed and obviously highly desirable, Bryan was hoping for around £3,500 for this showpiece.

Alma Figures' Mike and Sue were also enjoying the day and the pair, who recently relocated to Snowdonia, reported that they were settling in well. Their white metal Crimean War range continues to expand: British Guards firing were new at the show and each figure can be made in four different positions. More figures, needless to say, are in the pipeline.

Alan Goodwin of Good Soldiers was kept busy painting on the day, showing how to add the final touches to white metal kits and models. The extra space that was the result of splitting traders up over two halls paid off, for there was no jostling and squeezing around to see things. He mentioned that many passers-by had stopped to seek explanations about his skills. Had the dual hall approach worked for him?

"It was a bit quiet at 10.30 over here but it got busier as the day progressed. I've done more trade than usual." Alan Goodwin

Alan Forrest had his habitual little table over near the entrance to the second room and he was keen to show me his latest acquisition: a Timpo Wells Fargo four horse stagecoach, which was released in 1976. This was the version that contained both a male and female passenger and had the stage driver's accomplice leaning back to fire his rifle. This latter's pose was unique to the range. It's hard to find now, especially complete, and will easily sell for over £200. It wasn't for sale, though...

"I've done all the shows since 1991. The organisation and running of this show is near perfect – they really look after us. No hassle at all!" Alan Forrest

A quick word from Dmitriy Selifonov of Ages, a St Petersburg-based supplier of exquisitely-painted 54mm miniatures, can close this report. He and his colleagues had come over to see the show and had brought a fine array of connoisseur-quality figurines, spanning the ages. Foot figures were £20, mounted £35 and then there were chariots and war elephants to admire too. Had his long trip been worthwhile?

"It's an excellent show. To be honest, we expected success before we came – and we've been very satisfied." Dimitriy Selifonov



Jean Claude Druart's Rome v Carthage board game
on offer for 500 Euros

SHOW PREVIEW

Second Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show Scheduled for London

The success of Norman Joplin's inaugural Old Toy Soldier and Figure show in London last September and the numerous requests received from dealers and collectors of old figures has prompted the organizer to schedule a second event in 2006.

Saturday May 13th is the date and this new event will be housed in the ultra modern Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury, yards from Russell Square Underground and within one block of the Royal National Hotel, the spring event venue offers the opportunity for increased table capacity, whilst still being situated within the area so familiar to toy soldier and figure collectors.

The show remains a dateline event and with a focus on Old Toy Soldiers and Figures manufactured prior to 1980, the September 2005 show was the first dateline toy soldier and figure show held in London, the concept having received much acclaim will continue and be expanded over the coming years.

A smaller specialist show of this kind affords the collector the chance to acquire items specifically related to their needs. Press reports in Toy Soldier and Model Figure collector magazine and others on the September 2005 show reflected the camaraderie experienced at this type of event along with the quality and comprehensive amount of old figures available in one venue.

The Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury is situated in Coram Street and within easy reach of 3 main line rail stations, Euston Kings Cross and St Pancras, Russell Square Underground is only fifty paces from the hotel, there is an underground car park attached to the hotel and restaurant and Pub facilities are within the venue.

Many of the UK's major dealers in Old Toy Soldiers and figures have already confirmed their attendance as have a number of US dealers together with participants from Germany, France, and Belgium.

Christies and Bonhams auction houses have also indicated their intention to attend.

A free prize draw will be in operation once again and open to all paid attendees, the first one hundred customers will receive a free copy of Old Toy Soldier magazine and further special events are planned.

The May show opens to the public at 10.30 am and admission is 3 pounds.

For further information please contact Norman Joplin via email info@normanjoplin.com or telephone 262 6092 3913, (prefix 01 from the UK)

Or call Rob Wilson in the UK on 01926 496062.

Table bookings: At this stage there are only a few tables available, anyone wishing to secure a table booking for the show should contact the above ASAP.

For overseas visitors to London in May there is a chance to attend the Bonhams Toy Soldier auction on May 10th just prior to the show, see Bonhams advertisement in this issue of OTS.

STOP PRESS!

W. Britains will be attending Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show at this event and will be mounting an exhibition entitled "Continuing the Tradition" in which a display of rare archive material will be on view as well as the new 2006 History of the British Army Range. See Hobby News in this issue of OTS for more details.

Dan Morphy's
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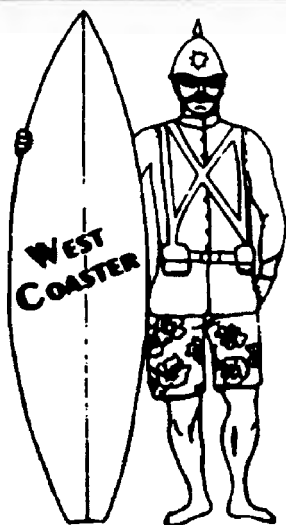
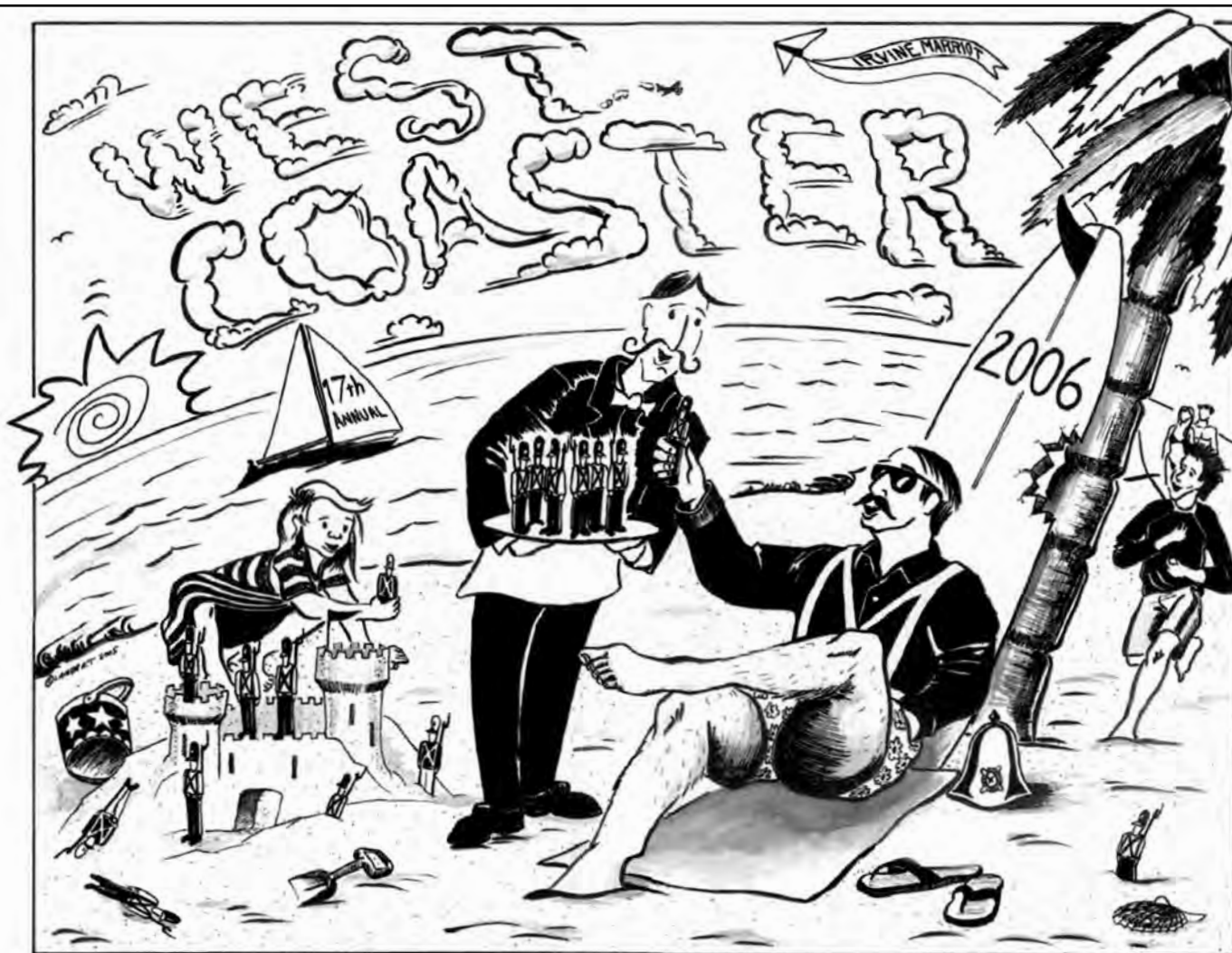
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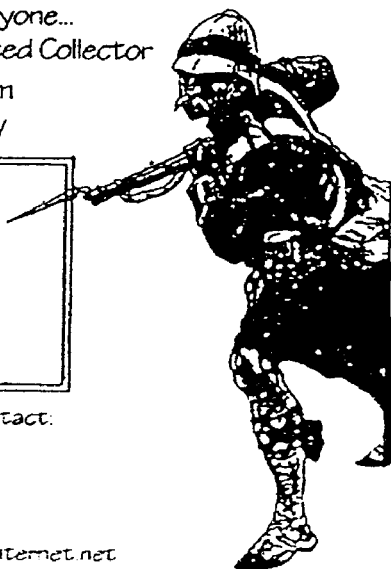
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AUCTION REVIEW

Military, Civilian Figures and Equipment Auction Vectis - November 16th, 2005



The Sanchez Collection [first half of the sale] encompassed two major collecting themes - Britain's and Composition with associated vehicles and equipment figures.

The Britain's section of the sale contained a rare Zulu Kraal set dating to 1914 that fetched £1380. Two 1930's aircraft which were still contained within their original "Hanger" boxes both sold for £1380 and £1035 apiece. Finally, a rare uncatalogued Bahamas Police set achieved a price of £800.

The highlight of the composition collection, a magnificent Hausser/Elastolin 88mm Anti-Aircraft Gun, Towing Vehicle and Crew, in near perfect condition sold for £2760.

In the second half [other vendors] of the sale the "Star" lot, a Britain's - Paris Office - French Field Artillery Gun Team in Active Service Dress dated around 1918 sold for a massive £6670.

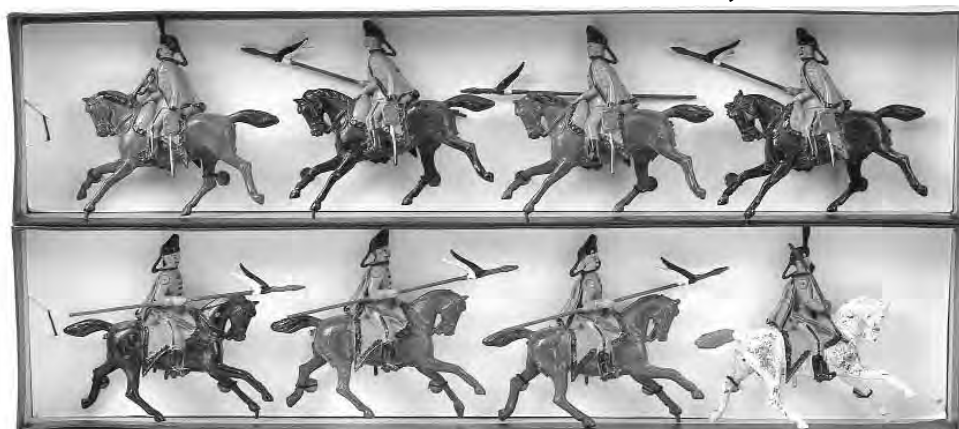
The surprise lots in the second half of the sale turned out to be two Elastolin/Hausser post-war plastic sets of siege equipment with both selling for £920 apiece - a possible World record for a plastic siege tower?

The Civilian Section of the Sale contained two sets of Britain's Famous Football Teams, both selling for £1035 each. Finally, the catalogue section containing Britain's Catalogues was extremely popular with a 1939 Trade Catalogue with inserts making £435 and a small advertising plate in the form of a ROAN label £530.

All prices include commission.

AUCTION PREVIEW

VECTIS - FEBRUARY 16TH, 2006



The next sale of Military, Civilian Figures and Equipment will take place on February 16th, 2006 and will contain around 800+ lots. Including Part II of the Sanchez Collection. The sale includes a rare set of Britain's Paris Office Prussian Hussars in a special paint finish, a large collection [100+ lots] of early and extremely rare Herald/Britain's military and civilian sets and figures including a large 1957 Herald set retailed in a special Britains box with ROAN top label.

A Tipp German aircraft in original 1937/8 paint scheme, a comprehensive section of modern issue sets and equipment' the usual selection of boxed/unboxed Britain's sets in both pre and post war versions and selections of Conflict Simulation Games, Artwork and Military/Figure Books.

AUCTION REVIEW

Christies. South Kensington London, December 2005The Philip Dean Collection of Civilian Toy Figures.

The Philip Dean collection of Civilian toy figures, which went under the hammer at Christies in London December 2005, must rank, as the best and most comprehensive auction of it's kind.

The discerning eye of the owner when it came to accumulating a quality collection both in content and condition certainly paid dividends with 96% sold and a total of 180 thousand pound realized (excluding buyers premium)

Many of the 590 auction lots were in mint-boxed condition, Philip having sought out the best when assembling his collection.

Prior to the sale and viewing the superbly illustrated color catalog it was obvious that most of the lots were going to attract many bidders and achieve high prices.

Some of the smaller lots and those by lesser known manufacturers sold surprisingly well, in particular Wendal pieces seemed to be the flavor of the month with buyers.

With a battery of telephones in operation, Christie's staff was occupied throughout the sale; one European buyer choosing to remain bidding on the telephone throughout the entire sale scooped nearly 50% of the lots.

With a full saleroom there was plenty for all resulting in many happy collectors and dealers at the conclusion of the sale.

The following list is just a sample of some of the prices achieved.

Lot 26 F Kew and Co Tiger Tim's Bruin Boys.....700	Lot 108 Wendal two White Hunters and two Natives.....200.	Lot 386 Britains Famous Football Team Liverpool boxed1000
Lot 42 Morestone Teddy Bear Sociable500	Lot 188 Britains Trade pack of Fina Petrol Pumps750.	Lot 387 Britains Famous Football Team Derby County boxed1100
Lot 46 Wendal Elephant Rides and School Children600	Lot 246 Britains Gnomes500.	Lot 388 Britains F.A. Cup.....950
Lot 53 Wendal Toy Town Soldier boxed.....240	Lot 248 Britains Snail.....260.	Lot 393 Britains factory sample famous Racing Colors and Jockeys4000
Lot 54 Wendal toy Town Soldiers Boxed600	Lot 258 Timpo My Pets Salesman's sample box1500.	Lot 394 Britains Duchess of Norfolk "Mickey Mouse Racing Colors boxed900
Lot 56 Quiralu Toy Town Soldiers Boxed650	Lot 293 Phillip Segal Old Woman in a Shoe boxed1600.	Lot 459 Kay Civilian Medical Set boxed.....500
Lot 63 Britains #1444 Mammoth Circus Display.....3800	Lot 301 RACO Little Red Riding Hood set boxed1000.	Lot 472 Britains Civilian Motorcycle and Sidecar1000
Lot 67 Britains # 1441 Flying Trapeze900	Lot 305 Exella Three Pigs Houses with Pigs6000.	Lot 476 Britains # 476 Corporation Motor Ambulance boxed900
Lot 68 Charbens Big Show Circus....900	Lot 306 Exella Three Pigs and Big Bad Wolf.....2800.	Lot 480 Britains # 90F Davis Estates Builders Lorry boxed...4000
Lot 69 Charbens Mimic Circus.....900	Lot 331 Britains #1R Railway set950.	Lot 481 Britains #1513 Volunteer Ambulance boxed.....1100
Lot 70 Charbens Mimic Circus Display.....160	Lot 360 Britains #1316 Salvation Army Band and Escort.....3500.	Lot 568 Timpo Hopalong Cassidy set boxed.....1100
Lot 80 Wendal Circus performers unboxed.....480	Lot 361 Britains #1317 salvation Army.....1400	Lot 585 Taylor and Barrett Visitors to the Zoo Tea Party1700
Lot 89 Sacul Disney Characters950	Lot 371 Wendal Noahs Ark with animals..... 650.	Lot 590 Britains # 912 Adult Giraffe boxed800
Lot 99 Britains Madame Tussaud HRH the Prince of Wales.	Lot 372 Wendal Nativity scene boxed.....300.	
Lot 104 Britains # 188 Zulus and Zulu Kraal Display1000	Lot 384 Britains Famous Football Team Everton boxed950.	
Lot 107 Timpo Tiger Hunt Boxed ...1000	Lot 385 Britains Famous Football Team Aston Villa boxed1200.	

All prices are in British Pounds and exclude buyer's premium

Philip has collecting in his blood and it will come as no surprise that he retained a number of items in order to start a cameo collection, he is currently specializing in the products of John Hill and Company (Johillco) and has started a small collection of American Dimestore figures.

We will still see Philip at the Toy Soldier Shows in England and the USA.

Selling his privately published book on Wendal and Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures, co-authored with Norman Joplin. We can also look forward perhaps to another Philip Dean auction in the future.

AUCTION REVIEW



56 Quiralu Toy Town set



388 Britains F.A Cup



371 Wendal Noahs Ark set



89 Sacul Disney figures



107 Timo Tiger Hunt



568 Timo Hopalong Cassidy



246 Britains Gnomes



480 Britains Davis Estate Lorry



393 Britains salesmans sample Famous Racing Colors



585 Taylor and Barrett Zoo Visitors at Tea

AUCTION REVIEW

Landmark Paris Auction

December 21, 2005 is a date that Lucotte collectors will remember for many years. An auction held by the French firm Neret-Minet of Paris offered a Lucotte collection which was epic in every sense of the word. The auction offered exactly what every collector desires; quantity, quality and rarity.

Collectors were offered 238 lots with well over 200 of them solely Lucotte, totaling 1500 figures. Not since the landmark auction of the late Dr. Hanington collection of May 2-3, 1984 has such a collection come to market. The Dr. Hanington auction was held by Phillips in London and a total of 728 Lucottes were sold.

The overall quality of figures was very high, with the majority of lots being pre-World War I production, and the remaining being no latter than 1920's fabrication. As is typical of Lucottes of this period, the quality of painting is of the highest realm.

Several rare sets were available and in many cases, these were a once in a lifetime opportunity for collectors.

Rarely seen sets of British regiments were present; Royal Horse Guards on charging horses, Guard Dragoons, and 1815 infantry of the line. The Kingdom of Naples provided some of the rarest sets; Hussars of the Guard, Line Hussars, and the 7th foot, "Africans" regiment. Numerous Russian, Swiss and Rhine Confederation regiments were available in addition to various French units. Due to the fact that many of the afore mentioned lots were special order sets, the painting was executed at a much higher level, and hammer prices reflected this quality. Desirable sets of "head of the column" and both foot and mounted bands presented Lucotte aficionados the opportunity to add these to their collection.

The auctioneer moved at a blazing pace; within two hours all 238 lots were sold. Bidders had virtually no time to contemplate their next bid, for if they did, they lost the lot. An eight figure group of



Russian Grenadiers



Naples Line Hussars



Eighth Hussar and Ninth Hussar Trompettes

AUCTION REVIEW

Landmark Paris Auction (Cont.)

English line infantry took top honors with a selling price of 9500 Euros. The Kingdom of Naples sets did extremely well; Guard Hussars selling for 6200 Euros, the Line Hussars for 7500 Euros and the 7th regiment "Africains" brought 8000 Euros.

Other notable lots were grenadiers of the Vistula Legion at 2900 Euros and four Saxon Hussars bringing in 2400 Euros.

Neret-Minet employed the services of collector/author Christian Blondieau to serve as expert to catalogue the auction.



Naples Hussars of the Guard



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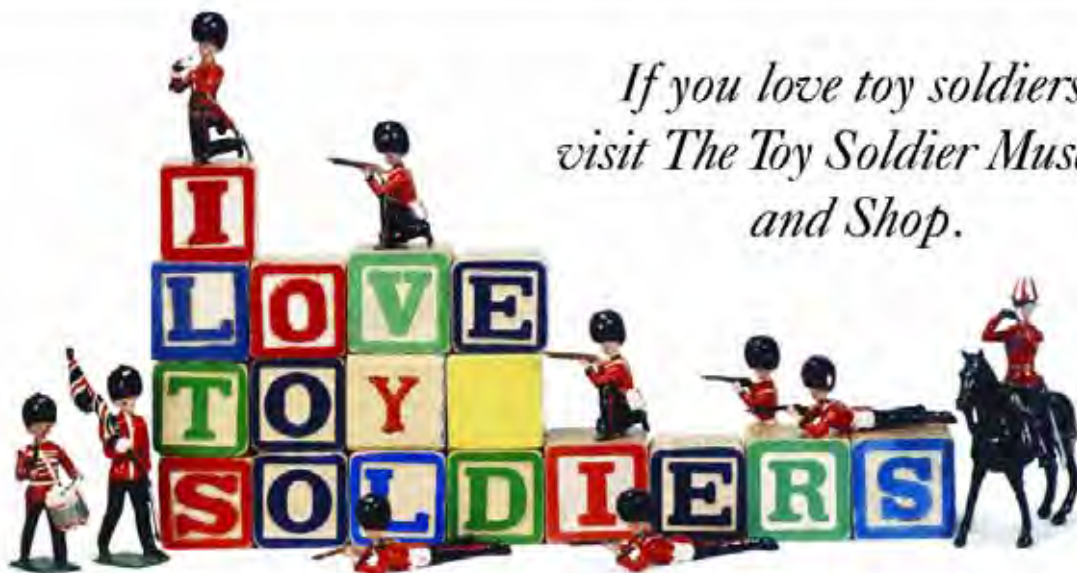
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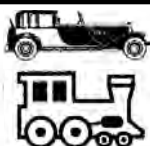
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A Look at the Labels and Trademarks of the Old German Makers

Part 3: Some New Discoveries

By Earl Jorgensen (efjorg@yahoo.com)

For several decades prior to World War One, German-made toy soldiers dominated much of the world market. With the passage of time, many of the early German makers have unfortunately faded into obscurity and remain little known to today's collectors. Fortunately, on rare occasions boxes of lead soldiers displaying labels of long-forgotten German makers are discovered, each providing an opportunity to better understand the historical aspects of our hobby. In the past few years I've had the good fortune to locate four such boxes.

The first box, containing a mint set of semi-solid 40mm Belgian Infantry, was found on the web-site of La Boite De Soldats. The label is dominated by a large illustration of a mounted knight holding a banner displaying a CK monogrammed schutzmarke. A secondary schutzmarke in the form of a woman on horseback with a falcon on her wrist appears in the label's upper right corner. The phrases "Made in Germany" and "Superfine Solid Pewter Figures" also presented in French and German complete the label. According to shop owner Francois Beaumont, the box is attributed to the firm of Conrad Koch (Furth), circa 1900.



A 40mm mounted Belgian Infantry Officer from the "Paris" CK box. (courtesy Francois Beaumont)



A comparison of the labels from the two boxes attributed to Conrad Koch. The "Paris" box is located to the left (courtesy Francois Beaumont) and the "East Coast" box is located to the right (courtesy Steve Sommers).

I recently received photos of another CK marked box discovered by Steve Sommers while visiting the East Coast. Except for a few subtle variations, the two labels are identical. The label of the East Coast box features a different illustration of the knight figure and the phrase "Made in Germany" has been replaced with "Made in Bavaria." Steve also shares the opinion that the sets can be attributed to Conrad Koch. It should be noted that the East Coast box also contained 40mm semi-solid figures.



The label from the "Living Soldiers" box. The word "Germany" is located beneath the central illustration.



Figures from the "Living Soldiers" set along with the brass maneuvering mechanism.

A Look at the Labels and Trademarks (Cont.)

The second box was found last year on eBay. The dominant feature of the label is an illustration of toy soldiers marching on a mechanical grid as operated by a pair of child's hands. Directly above is found a trio of flags representing the United States, France and England along with the phrases "Living Soldiers" and "LeBende Soldaten." The word "Germany" is found in very small letters directly beneath the central illustration. A schutzmarke consisting of a miniature grid and initials "LSM," along with the notice of patent "in all countries" and the phrases "Bewegan sich auf Kommando" and "March as Commanded" complete the label. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to locate any information about this set. Its origins remain a mystery.

Box number three was found on the eBay Deutschland site. The label displays a schutzmarke in the shape of a Christmas tree containing the outlines of three burning candles and the name "Vedes". Although the label is decorated with several Germanic military scenes the word "Germany" does not appear. I could not find any mention of Vedes in the literature, but an inquiry sent to German collector Gisbert Freber provided some very interesting background information on the firm. It appears that the firm did not actually produce lead soldiers but rather functioned as a middleman or distributor. Lead soldiers were purchased directly from small makers and sold under the Vedes label.



The label of the Vedes box.

A second Vedes box containing a set of semi-solid "Cavallerie" figures was found on the same site in Nov, 2005. Although the listing contained clear photos of the Vedes label, the set was attributed to "Heyde or Haffner" in the listing.



"Cavallerie" figures from the set contained in the 2005 Vedes box.

Although box number four is of relatively recent production and technically should not be considered the work of an "old" German maker, I've included it as a reminder that when viewing an unknown set that's almost too good to be true, you need to be a little cautious. I recently received some photos showing a boxed set of Nazi-era figures. The label was marked with the name "Hammer" and featured an illustration of a Waffen SS trooper along with a schutzmarke in the form of a SS cap eagle pin and the initials MA. The back of the box lid contained a hand written inscription including a drawing of a swastika dated 1944.

By all appearances, the set was likely produced in Germany sometime in the late 1930's but I was unable to find any reference to the firm in the literature. Once again, I sought out the expertise of Gisbert Freber. In his opinion, the box and label are authentic period production but most likely were meant some type

of a game. The figures were likely produced well after the date on the box indicates. In other words, someone took an old box and filled it with much newer figures. Unfortunately, we will never know if the figures were simply placed in an old box for storage or if the set was assembled with the intent to deceive. Some things are best left unknown.

My research into the labels and trademarks used by the old German makers is an ongoing project and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you have a box in your collection that you can't identify or have the good fortune to find a box with an unusual label, take a photo and please pass on a copy to me.



The label and contents of the "Hammer" box. (courtesy Norman Joplin)



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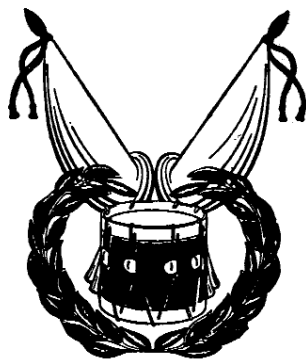
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Belgian Composition Figures “Civilians”

By Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais

Introduction

Our readers will note, that over the past years, we have written several articles on composition figures produced by The Durso Company. Surely The Durso Company (1938 – 1988), founded by the late Michel Klimov, is the most recognized and respected (based on quality, scope and longevity) of The Belgian composition producers. However, it must be pointed out, that in addition to The Durso Company, there were several other small and “short lived” companies that also produced composition figures.

Although in general, the output from these companies did not equal that of Durso, they all were an integral part of the “History of Belgian Composition Figures”, and as such, should be included in our discussions, along with those of the Durso Company.

In the latter part of this article, we will feature the work of one of these companies, “Clairon”. Then as opportunities arise, we will discuss other Belgian companies in future articles.

Background

In order to complement his extensive production of “military” figures, Michel Klimov, from the very beginning of his company’s existence, started producing “civilians” and other non-military figures.

“Civilian” production can be divided into six (6) major groupings:

- 1) Rail Road
- 2) Garage
- 3) Civilians in Plain Clothes
- 4) Scouts
- 5) Farm
- 6) Hunter & Fisherman

This article will focus on the first three groups (“Rail Road”, “Garage” and “Civilians in Plain Clothes”)

Again, as the opportunity presents itself, we will feature the remaining groups in future articles.

“Durso” Civilians

As we have stated, civilian figures at Durso are as old as the company itself. Prior to 1938, before the official start of The Durso Company, and before the adoption of The Durso name, which was embossed on the underside of the base of every figure, Mr. Klimov made figures identified as “Fabrication Belge” and “Belgium”.

Many civilians were included in this production, as depicted in the following photos.

(Note the comparison to the “Durso” figures)

We must point out at this time, that unfortunately the “Fabrication Belge” and “Belgium” figures were never cataloged, and so as a result, it is always a pleasant surprise



Left – Man in Soft Hat (“Fabrication Belge”)
Center – Man in Cap (“Fabrication Belge”)
Right – Man with Cane (“Belgium”)



Left – Station Master (“Belgium”)
Center – Station Master (“Durso - #9006”)
Right – Station Master (“Fabrication Belge”)



“Bases” of Figures in Photo #2



Left – Baggage Handler (“Fabrication Belge”)
Right – Baggage Handler (“Durso - #9009”)

Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)

when a new “discovery” surfaces.

“Civilian” figures were included in the very first Durso catalog (1939). They were listed under a category entitled “miscellaneous”.

Following is that initial listing (all figures were 7cm in size and were first issued in 1939):

Number	Description
*9005a	Station Master, Red Cap, Right Foot Forward
*9005b	Station Master, Red Cap, Left Foot Forward
9006	Dutch Station Master, with signal
9007	Train Master, Black Cap
9008	Dutch Baggage Handler, White Jacket
*9009	Baggage Handler, Blue Jacket
9017	Dutch Man from Volendam
9018	Dutch Woman from Volendam
9019	Dutch Man from Zeeland
9020	Dutch Woman from Zeeland
*9021	Traveler with Melon Hat (Bowler)
*9022	Traveler with Soft Hat
*9023	Traveler with Cap

*These figures were assigned new numbers in the 1948 Catalog, and the “Miscellaneous” category was replaced by “Rail Road”.

These civilian figures were painted in different color combinations for variety, but most likely to increase sales.



#9021



#9022



#9023

After the Second World War, the Dutch figures “disappeared” from the catalogs, but the two sets of “Volendam” and “Zeeland” (name was changed from “Zeeland” to “Beveland” in 1940) couples reappeared in the 50’s as part of a separate catalog entitled “Souvenirs”.



“Volendam”



“Zeeland/Beveland”

Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)

As with most production of Toy Figures, "variations" start to surface. The following photo is one such example of a Durso variation.

In 1947, a smaller size of 5cm civilian figures were introduced. These figures were initially listed under the heading of "Rail Road/Garage". Following is that listing (all figures were 5cm in size and were first issued in 1947)

Number	Description
9050	Policeman with Arm Raised
9051	Policeman Directing Traffic
9052	Traveler in Overcoat
9053	Traveler in Jacket
9054	Woman Traveler
9055	Priest
9056	Soldier on Leave
9057	Station Master
9058	Train Master
9059	Baggage Handler
9060	Newspaper Vendor
9061	Gendarme



Left – Station Master, Right Foot Forward (#9005a)
Right – Station Master, Left Foot Forward (#9005b)

In 1952 two more 5cm figures were introduced. These were: 9062/1 Mechanic in White, 9062/2 Mechanic in Blue



5cm figures



5cm figures

Note:

Figures #9050, #9051 and #9061 were depicted in a previous article on "Durso Police".

Additions to the 7cm series also appeared in the 1952 catalog. (All figures were 7cm in size and were first issued in 1952)

Number	Description
9076/1	Standing Garage Master, in white
9076/2	Standing Mechanic, in blue
9077/1	Kneeling Garage Master, in white
9077/2	Kneeling Mechanic, in blue

In 1956, a new listing appeared in the catalog: #9078 – Traveler in "Bowler" Hat. It is presumed that this entry was in error due to perhaps, some confusion on the part of the person writing the catalog. The words "boule" and "melon" are different words indicating "bowler", and it is believed that the figure, in fact, is #9021 (Traveler with Melon Hat).

To this date, a figure #9078 (different than #9021), has not surfaced anywhere in the world. If any of our readers have any knowledge of this "Mystery Figure (#9078), PLEASE CONTACT US.



Left – Standing Garage Master in white (#9076/1)
Right – Kneeling Mechanic in blue (#9077/2)

Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)

Before we conclude our discussion on Durso civilians, we must relate an interesting situation that happened in 1948. Mr. Klimov decided to add two additional figures: A Traveler waving his hat (#9075), and A Chauffeur (#9079?)*

Actually, these figures were Franklin Roosevelt and Marshall Zhukov (from the WWZ "Personality" series), painted differently.

These figures did not sell very well because they were still identified with the war, and children preferred to play with non military figures, such as Cowboys & Indians, Canadian Mounties, etc.

*We have given the number #9079? to the Chauffeur, but in reality, this figure never received an "official" catalog number designation. These two figures seem to be the only "World War II Personality Figures" that were ever modified.

Finally, a Durso figure has surfaced, which is believed to have been made in 1938, was never continued into 1939, and was never cataloged or identified. (Undoubtably, there may be more.) See illustration far right.



Traveler Waving Hat - #9075



Chauffeur - #9079

Unidentified 1938

"Clairon" Civilians

On March 1, 1923, Jean Ciset opened a shop in Belgium specializing in the repair of dolls and the sale of imported Toys. This shop was at 34 Jean d'Outremeuse Street in Liege. As business increased, he outgrew this space, and in 1929 moved to 37 Quai de Grande Bretagne, also in Liege. Some years later he decided to produce composition figures at this new address.

Jean Ciset officially adopted the Clairon (Bugle) emblem as his trade mark in February 1940. Each figure was embossed with this "bugle" emblem and "made in Belgium" on the underside of the base. The factory "Line" included, Military, Cowboys & Indians, Royal Guards, Napoleonic, Nativity, and of course, Civilians.

Unfortunately the output was never cataloged, and to this day, no one knows the total number of different figures that were produced.

In general, the quality of the "Clairon" figures is considered to be somewhat crude, but it appears that this is because of considerable "over use" of the molds. Early production figures are quite nice and much more desired by Collectors.

All production of Clairon figures stopped in 1950. Following are examples of Clairon Civilian figures:



Women in Overcoats



Young Girls

Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)



Left – Man in Jacket
Center – Coal Miner
Right – Man in Jacket



Left to Right
Seated Gentleman, Hiker, Mailman,
Drunkard with Gin Bottle



Left to Right
Baggage Handler, Baggage Handler, Train Master, Station Master

Note

Many collectors refer to Clairon figures as “Trompette”, most likely due to mistakenly identifying the emblem on the base as a “Trumpet” and not a “bugle”. This most likely was caused by an elongated image from a well used mold.

Conclusion

As we have shown, composition figures of Civilians made by Durso and other Belgian manufacturers, covered a wide variety of subjects and many walks of life.

In this article, we limited our discussions to only Clairon as one of the “other” Belgian manufacturers. This is because Clairon was the only “other” Belgian Company to produce figures from the 1st three major groupings that we were covering (see background)

The authors plan to continue this subject matter in subsequent articles, and at that time we will discuss other Belgian Companies that produced figures in the remaining “Groupings” of Civilians.

We invite our readers to visit the Durso website at: <http://durso.stools.net>

Acknowledgement

Photos by Veronique Servais

Editors Note

See the advertisement for the book: “Composition Figures of Belgium – The Durso Company” by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Brunn and Lucien Maris on page 50 of this issue.

PLASTICS ON PARADE

Musing on Crescent Civilians

By Steve Weston

It was whilst putting up Christmas Decorations that I was reminded of the Santa Claus, his sleigh and the group of reindeers that The Crescent Toy Company had made back in the 1950's.



Sitting looking at it, at marvelling at the work that had gone into the whole set – which when produced probably never raised much interest – also jogged my memory as the various Civilian figures that this British Company had also made.

Up until the coming of the Economic European Community, the U.K. had been a farming country, and a great many of our toys were therefore based on this important part of our culture.

Most major toy figure manufacturers listed Farm-orientated items in their Catalogues.

Long before Herald produced the amazing range of farm and zoo related animals and figures, Crescent had come up with some really wonderful examples, which I believe that today are really overlooked. Small in quantity but big in quality – and maybe even size too, as these were between 54mm and 60mm.

Exceptionally well sculpted and observed figures that were finished in rather nice complimentary colours using paint that more or less managed to stick to the plastic used at that time. Even today, some 50 years on, it is possible to find exceedingly good examples, with virtually all of the paint still intact. Shop around and these can be had for very little money, indeed!

My feeling is that only one sculptor was responsible for these figures, and therefore, consistency of quality was ensured. The faces are different for each figure – unlike Companies such as Timpo, who on close inspection, must

have used the same face/head for many of their early figures, which were then transposed onto the Action Pack Range, and finally ended up on the Swoppet Range. For comparison look at any of their (Timpo) early Plastic figures, compare them with the face of the later Action Pack Arabs or Foreign Legion, then those of the mounted Civil War – they are all either the same, or very similar (Unlike the very early Timpo Civilians, where there appears some variations in size and proportions of figures, suggesting there was more than one sculptor).

The Crescent Civilian range consisted of a Farmer/Landowner/gentleman with shotgun and hound (cleverly moulded to one base), a girl with bucket – maybe about to feed the goose that is also moulded to the base, A blacksmith whose quality far exceeds that of the similar Charbens figure and has the look of a sturdy lad about him, a nice country bumpkin type farmer wearing a pork-pie hat and who is rather stocky – as you would expect, a really nice depiction of a young girl running with a lamb – once again both items are moulded to the one base, and finally, a tractor Driver, who is leaning back, half-turned as if he is watching the progress of this work, one hand outstretched as if resting on part of the tractor. This is what I mean about well-observed. That is exactly how I remember seeing these people act, from my youth. (I cannot recall having this tractor, nor seeing it, but am certain that it would have been Die-cast).

Unfortunately, my example of the tractor driver is eluding me, so I cannot supply a picture – however, I am told that here was one made in 54mm and also a 60mm item (which is what I have -somewhere!)

For someone wishing to collect British plastics, who has maybe no idea where to begin, I could offer no better place to start, other than with any of the Crescent products.

It would be easy for me to pirate much of what has been written about Crescent, but I wouldn't feel justified in doing this. Paul Morehead, of Plastic Warrior magazine has an excellent Crescent Checklist available, complete with pictures, and has a wealth of knowledge to go with it. For a copy of this booklet, contact Paul at www.plasticwarrior.co.uk or at 65, Walton Court, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5EE, England.



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BOOK REVIEW

Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures

By Norman Joplin and Philip Dean

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

Interest in collecting civilian toy figures has seen a dramatic increase in recent years. Options of what to collect and how to amass a collection of this genre are almost unlimited; by manufacturer, animal, mythical, sporting and so on. What led to this recent explosion of civilian toy figure collecting? The answer is...information. Once a written and photographic history of what appears to be an infinite number of toy figures was made available, an entire new spectrum of collecting and collectors was born.

Information regarding civilian toy figures was first documented in 1993 with Norman Joplin's, *The Great Book of Hollow-Cast Figures*. Although numerous military subjects were shown, civilian pieces comprised a significant portion of the items pictured. The first book devoted entirely to the civilian theme was, *Britains Civilian Toy Figures* written by Norman Joplin in 2002. This 255 page work contained 970 high quality color photographs and is the definitive work pertaining to Britains non-military production.

Norman Joplin continues to share his encyclopedic knowledge of civilian themed subjects with his newest book, *Hollow Cast Civilian Toy Figures*. Joplin's focus in his latest work is the hollow cast civilian toy figures which were produced world-wide from 1900 to 1966. The efforts of over 75 companies from Argentina, England, France, Germany, Japan and the United States are represented.

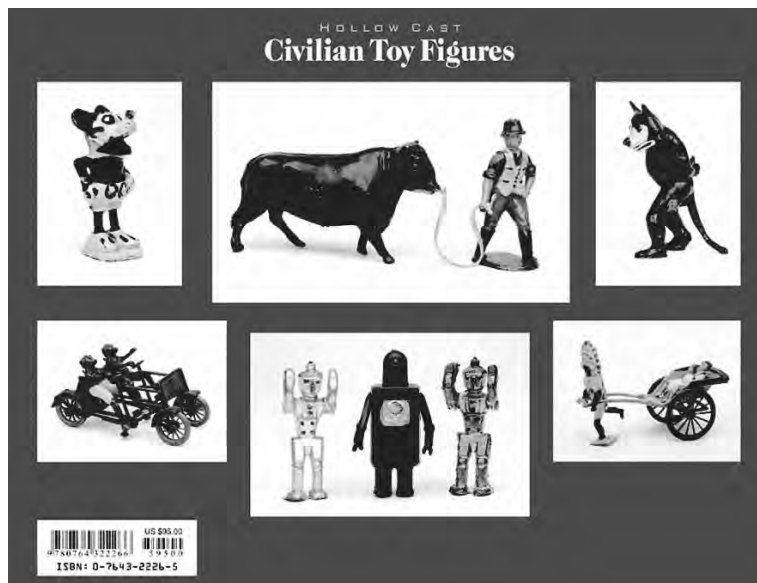
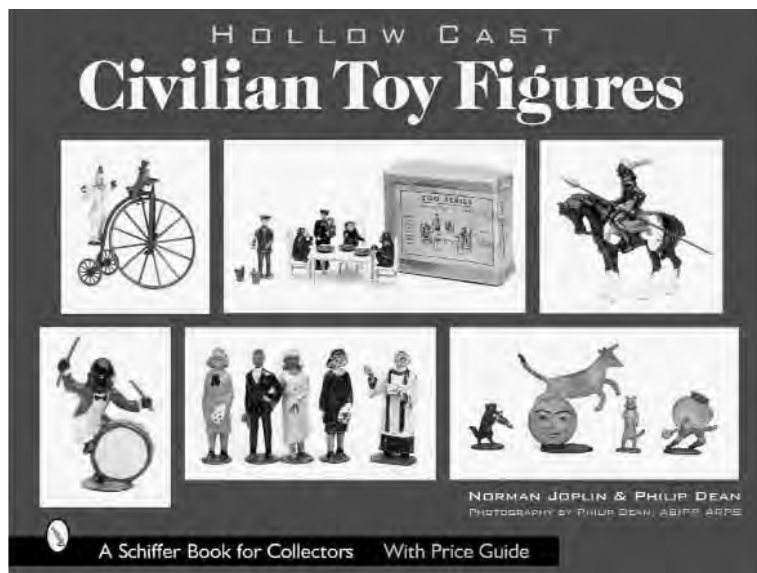
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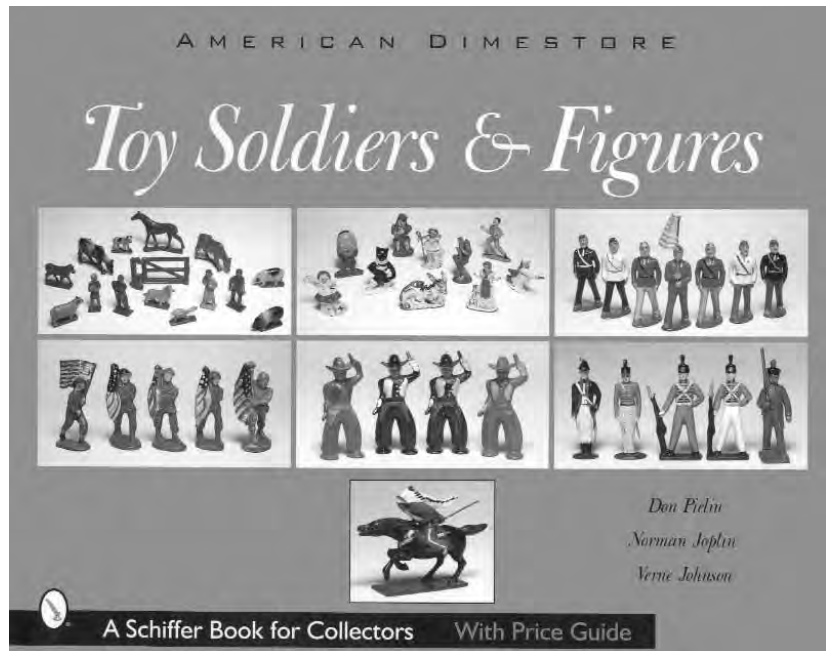
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WAR ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM 50s STYLE

By Steve Sommers

Open up a copy of True: The Man's Magazine, May 1950 and you'll find the expected: adventure and sports stories, cartoons, and even book reviews. And, of course, the ads: Mercury outboard motors and Vitalis "live-action" hair care, Arrow sport shirts, and a new Nash sedan, Rhonda Fleming selling Chesterfields (my grandfather's smokes) and Raymond Massey mixing a Schenley Reserve old-fashioned. But tucked between these ads I found my childhood dream and adult compulsion. Color pictures of toy soldiers in action: "War Across the Living Room", a pictorial feature by Pierce G. Fredericks, with photos by David B. Eisendrath, Jr. Those images started my collecting and got me to rediscover a copy of the magazine several years ago.

The text of the article didn't interest me much when I was six, but the commentary holds up well 55 years later. Most startling may be how much commonality we have with the infancy of our hobby. Just after the war, Fredericks interviewed several pioneer collectors known to long-time OTS readers. For example, Otto Gottstein estimated that there were "100,000 collectors — men with over 1,000 figures — in the world." Well, Gottstein was primarily a flats collector and counting every branch of the hobby from model painters to wargamers that would have been an ambitious guess for 1950 or any era. (For more on Gottstein see OTS V8#2, p. 15). As a boy though, I was struck by part of that line, however: 1,000 figures to be a true collector! No matter how many plastic figures and B-B shot Dimestores I added to my Britains, Hill and Crescent, I never got to the thousand mark as a kid.

Other collectors interviewed were mostly members of the Miniature Figure Collectors Society of Pennsylvania, today's MFCA club. Then as now, this group included figure painters, wargamers, and old and new toy soldier collectors. Ashton McDonnell's comments and collection are the source of most of the other text and photos in this True article.

McDonnell was a one-man composite of the hobby: he table-topped wargames with Napoleonic Mignot; converted and displayed old and then current production Britains in dioramas; paid big money (\$20 each) for Courtenay knights and Greenwood (and Ball) figures. He commissioned Maryland's Harry Barker to do special groups for him. Not much has changed. Substitute Russian figures for Courtenay and our current toy soldier makers for McDonnell's vintage Britains, Mignot, and Authenticast, then multiply 1950s dollars by 10, and most of the article sounds very familiar.



May 1950 True Magazine cover.



Coronation pageant employing primarily Britains figures still readily available on store shelves at the time of publication. Ashton McDonnell Collection.



Open two-page spread of "War Across the Living Room" by P.G. Fredericks, True, May 1950.

WAR ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM 50s STYLE (Cont.)

But it was the color pictures which excited me in 1950 and still do. One was a scene labeled a George V and Mary Coronation pageant; it uses mostly Britains figures that I now imagine had been “improved” as was the style in 1950. Royal Marines at present, mounted Hussars, Guards at attention, and a line of mounted officers at the halt fill the foreground. A Britains coronation coach is at the center, led by a line of custom figures (perhaps Greenwood) and incongruously, Mignot mounted Life Guards. Around the reviewing stand full of conversions are Britains Life Guards, Beefeaters, and Waterloo highlanders plus a mix of Hussars. Nice, but it was the action scenes which got my juices flowing.

Another largely Britains scene, mislabeled “foreign legion post”, is obviously a mixed lot of Britains Guards, Cameron Highlanders in action, charging BlackWatch, Royal Medical Corps, and Mountain Mule Team. They are being attacked by a broad African coalition of Britains foot, mounted, and camel riding Arabs, Togoland Warriors, Zulus, and Turks; a few mounted French Dimestore Arabs are mixed in. One Britains wild horse runs in the middle of this desert battlefield.

That was great, but my favorite was the two page spread of Eriksson Comet-Authenticasts. Authenticast WWII Tommies in action at left meet Authenticast Germans from their sought after Raiding Party and Grenadier sets with a few lying firing figures in for good measure. Eriksson figures, often cast with only one foot on the ground, literally leapt into action. The accessories are equally as interesting. The scene uses 1/35th size WWII identification model tanks: an Authenticast Churchill is in the foreground, and a lend-lease, exploded Framburg-made Grant tank is top center.

Three more Framburg ID Panzers are at the right; they flank a building that likely began its life as a pre-war Britains Hugar #1869 RAMC Casualty Clearing Station Thatched Barn. There is a French upturned cart, metal rail fence by Heyde, and even Plasticville split rail; two kit model airplanes and rubble from the junkbox complete the scene.

These WWII Authenticasts were out of the shops when I looked in the 50's; I found only a few HE Swedes in action, but when I started to collect again as an adult, these were some of the first figures I looked for and found. I guess most of us did similar things.

Today a score of new toy soldier makers produce lines of figures that encourage us to fill shelves with our own version of those 1950s displays or wargames, or collect special castings, or even pour and paint our own. So May 1950 isn't as long ago as it seems. But Gottstein's 100,00 collectors, well.....



Battle of British troops and African peoples; a table-top diorama. Ashton McDonnell Collection. (These Britains figures were mislabeled in the original caption as Foreign Legion post.



The title page scene of WWII Comet-Authenticast Tommies and Germans in Action.

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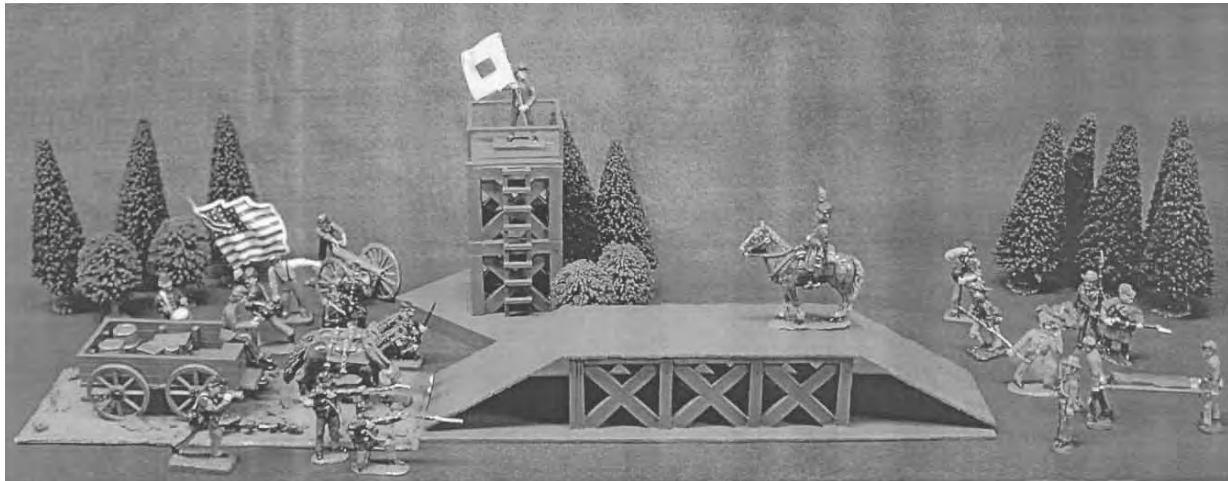
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Barclay Timeline Up Date - Part I

By Gordon Lattey and Bob Griffin

In our first article (OTS, Vol.27, No.4), we stated that one of our goals would be to develop a timeline for Barclay 3-1/4 inch high figures. At this point we feel that we have made some progress, and we will offer our theories for the collectors' consideration in a two-part series. This article will deal with the line from its inception in 1935 until WWII halted production in the spring of 1942. Part II will cover the reintroduction of the line in 1945 through its discontinuation in 1951. Although our theories center on the helmeted soldiers, they can also be applied to the entire line of figures produced by Barclay during these periods.

In establishing these timelines a number of points required consideration:

- 1) Numbers assigned to an item are design numbers, and do not necessarily indicate if, or in what sequence that item might have been manufactured.
- 2) Changes in molds no matter how minor, and the acquisition of new tooling requires time. Therefore, major design changes would not necessarily occur simultaneously.
- 3) Although the nature of the business may have been to fill orders as received, consideration has to be given to what may have been an economical production run.
- 4) Demand influenced by a variety of circumstances may have caught Barclay understaffed from time to time requiring adjustments in production. One of these adjustments being the deviation in painting of puttees, bases, and trim.
- 5) Pressure from competitive companies may also have influenced Barclay's production and painting practices.
- 6) There is a time lag between design, acceptance, tooling acquisition, manufacture and distribution.



Barclay's Early Eye 1935-36

Combining the these points with our observations of variations in Barclay figures over the course of this study to date, we present to the reader this timeline up date. Please note that the dates are at best an approximation influenced by our research, and the extensive earlier studies and interviews conducted by Richard O'Brien. Using O'Brien's book "Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers, Edition #3" as a guide and starting point, we refer the reader to the photograph on page V, and the introduction to Barclay, pages 60-65.



Marked base introduced 1939

1935 - The 3-1/4 inch high soldier line is introduced - numbers 701 through 723 (O'Brien). The helmeted soldiers are 701 through 711. We have noted on these early figures that the uniform color is a light brown (tan), the eye is a curve with a dot attached on left end, and have either orange painted or uniform colored puttees. We feel that the initial variation is:

Short stride figure, early eyes, glued tin helmet, orange puttees, green base.

It would appear that the initial successful marketplace demand required an understaffed Barclay to eliminate one painting operation (orange puttees) thus creating the second variation:



Late style marking found in cast helmet figures

Barclay Timeline Up Date - Part I (Cont.)

Short stride figure, early eyes, glued tin helmet, uniform colored puttees, green base.

Late in 1935, but no later than January 1936, O'Brien feels that the Italians and Ethiopians are introduced. We have seen a (B42) #726 Italian Soldier with early eyes, which conforms to this.

1936 - Numbers 728 through 741 are introduced (O'Brien) and we feel possibly the B54, B54a and B57 with their tin hat inserts are replaced by the B55, B55a, and B58 having solid caps. Second variation soldiers still appear early in the year, with the highest number found to date being a B69. During the year the later eye is introduced, curved lid with unattached dot centered beneath. This eye becomes the standard and is used until 1942 and later for postwar production. This creates the third variation:

Short-stride figure, late eyes, glued tin helmet, uniform colored puttees, green base.

Also, Barclay having solved possible production problems returns to painting orange puttees and another variation appears:

Short-stride figure, late eyes, glued tin helmet, orange puttees, green base.

Late in the year long-stride figures begin replacing selected short-stride figures. In reference to the photograph in the O'Brien book on page V, we have been able to identify the following figures; B6, B15, B16, B25, B26, B30, B65, B66, B68, B70, B71 and B147. Of significance is that we can assume that B5, B14, B23, B29 and B24 as well as other selected short-stride figures are replaced at this time. These long-stride replacements create the next variation:

Long-stride figure, late eyes, glued tin helmet, orange puttees, green base.

Note: to date no long-stride units with early eyes have surfaced, and Sculptor Frank Krupp leaves the company at the end of the year (O'Brien, page 62).

1937 - Early in the year, or possibly late 1936, numbers 743 through 746 arrive followed by 747 through 760 and possibly 761 (O'Brien). We question this, as there is evidence that the glued on helmet was still in use during the year. We are in possession of a B87, have seen the B64 and B91 with glued on helmets. And, the B101, B115 and B104 to date have only appeared with the clip on helmet.



L to R Long stride sharp shooter early B87-late 1936 and last version B88 with Khaki base 1942



L to R short stride marching, early orange puttees, late khaki puttees, tin helmet & legging version and cast helmet & legging version



One of the five known figuers with orange leggings - B76 1939



15 major casting and paint versions of Barclays helmeted soldiers beginning top left with the short stride example and ending bottom right with the unmarked Khaki based cast helmet variation

Barclay Timeline Up Date - Part I (Cont.)

O'Brien writes that the clip helmets seem to have appeared by 1936, although blueprints for the clip are dated February 1938. Since co-author Griffin has extensive experience in manufacturing, he is convinced that the blueprints carry more weight and so for now, at least, we are going with early 1938 as the introduction of the clip on helmet. Another consideration is the B79a Machine Gunner (#742?) that may have had its origin at this time. Possibly due to the introduction of Manoil and Grey Iron cast helmet figures in 1936, or maybe due to the problems with the glued on helmets, Barclay may have experimented with developing a slush cast helmeted figure. It appears that this was not successful since the figure had a relatively short run coupled with only a single casting of this type. It suggests possible production problems and may have led to the development of the clip on helmet as an alternative approach. We do not consider the B79a to be a variation.

The last of the prewar foreign troops were also introduced in 1937. Probably using the same numbers previously assigned to the Italians and Ethiopians, the Japanese and Chinese figures were marketed this year (O'Brien). Besides the replacement of the Italian and Ethiopian troops, it should be noted that the B87 probably terminated the B86.

1938 - Early in the year Barclay replaces (possibly under pressure from retailers) the glued on helmet, with a newly designed clip type unit. This creates the next variation:

All figures have late eyes, clip on tin helmet, orange puttees, green base.

The numbers 762 through 773 now appear (O'Brien). Another question we have is -- did these figures, as well as several that appeared in 1937, reflect the talent of sculptors Olive Kookan and Margaret Cloninger who had joined Barclay in 1936-37, or were they carryovers from the Krupp era? Also, during this year we think Barclay's uniform color changes from the light brown (tan) to a darker brown (khaki). This is another tough call, since paint is affected by many things and tends to lose its color with age. For that reason we are not placing a lot of emphasis on this. We assume that the B102 with open hand introduced the year prior, is replaced by the B102a for obvious reasons and that the B117 was introduced this year since it appears to be the last new soldier issued with puttees.

1939 - This was a year of change for Barclay, with the introduction of the B19 and B75 tall soldiers, the B20 and B76 that replaced them, and the replacement of the B9 with the B10. New issues were the numbers B119, B120 and B126. The two tall figures have baffled collectors for some time. Why were they produced and just where do they fit in the puzzle? We believe they were introduced early in the year and that possibly they were designed by someone unknown between the period that sculptors Frank Krupp left and Olive Kookan returned to the company, possibly Bill Rucci (see O'Brien's Toy Soldiers, Edition 3, page 62). The short production run may also have resulted from the immediate redesign of both these units into the long running B20 and B76 figures by Kookan upon her return. While this seems logical, we have nothing to substantiate it and it creates a whole list of questions for which we have no good answers for at this time.

We can not believe that Kookan and Cloninger could be responsible for the design of these two figures, but the bottom line is that we may never know the real story. What we do know, is that these as well as their replacements and the others mentioned above were the first to be marked on their bases with the company name, "USA made", and the model number. Also, they were the first to undergo a uniform change from puttees to leggings. The variation would be:

Figures with khaki uniform, clip-on tin helmet, orange leggings, green marked base.

Another interesting discovery is that the B20 and B76 both have laced type leggings and the only other castings that we have found with this feature are the B118, B132 and B133. Could it be that these were originally planned to have clip helmets? Or, perhaps they were the first cast helmet units to be introduced, possibly in late 1939? Another observation is that the B19, B20, B75, B76 and the B126 have all been confirmed as having orange leggings and a limited number of soldiers with orange puttees have marked bases. This would be an indication that Barclay began to phase out orange puttees and leggings in 1939, possibly as a cost reduction or an effort towards being more realistic, or both. However, with the extensive line being offered at that time, reworking the molds for identification (possibly to aid retailers with inventory and ordering) was at best a lengthy process. Therefore, we have the following variations:

Barclay Timeline Up Date - Part I (Cont.)

Figures with khaki uniform, clip-on tin helmet, orange puttees, green marked base.

Figures with khaki uniform, clip-on tin helmet, uniform colored puttees, green unmarked base.

Figures with khaki uniform, clip-on tin helmet, uniform colored puttees, green marked base.

The B119 is believed to have been introduced early in the year, since it has been confirmed with an unmarked base. When the B126 went to uniform colored leggings, possibly mid year, the B120 probably appeared as well. The B10, we feel, was a late issue since it replaced the B9 which was now sporting a silver gun instead of its usual red one. Note that the B10, B120 and B126 all have strap type leggings which Barclay continued to use on new issues through 1942. The last variation for 1939 would be:

Figures with clip-on tin helmet, uniform colored leggings, green marked bases.

1940 - The transition is now complete. Unmarked soldiers with orange puttees and leggings have been phased out. Soldiers with clip on tin helmets continue with marked bases. With the introduction of several new cast helmet figures to the line, made possible by the upgrade to die-casting tooling, the "made in USA" and model number is now cast on the figure. The new figures include the B118, B132, B133, B17, B128, B129, B134, B140, B21 (replacing the B20), B90, B127 (replacing the B126) and the B143 in approximately that order. The variation for these new issues would be:

Silver cast helmet, uniform colored leggings, marking cast on figure, green base.

1941 - Barclay starts to embellish both its cast helmet and clip-on helmet figures still in the line with red trim on selected pieces. Trim includes bandoliers, cartridge belts, packs, utility bags, etc. New introductions include B62 or B63 replacing the B61 which now has a silver gun, B22, B88 (replacing B87), B107a (replacing B107), B109 (replacing B108), B130, B131, B141 and B144. This provides two new variations:

Figures with clip-on helmet, uniform colored puttees, red trim, green marked base. Figures with silver cast helmet, uniform colored leggings, marking cast on figure, red trim, green base.

Towards the end of 1941, Barclay's numbering system which has been consistent begins to change and we find some new introductions with only the model number, or just "made in USA," or no markings at all. Our theory is that Barclay's management, aware production would cease soon due to rationing of materials and the need to have military contracts filled, instructed their mold makers to move as quickly as possible ignoring un-necessary markings. We find that the following fall into that category; B11 replacing B10, B27 & B28, B73 replacing B72, B92 replacing B91, B135-6-7, B142 and B145. The variations is:

Figures with silver cast helmet, uniform colored leggings, partial or no markings, green base.

Late in the year, again due to increased orders overwhelming production and Barclay's desire to get as much product on the market as possible, it ceases painting bases, but the red trim is retained for the most part as on previous production. The variations are:

Clip-on helmet, uniform colored puttees, red trim, uniform colored marked base.

Silver cast helmet, uniform-colored leggings, marking cast on figure, red trim, uniform-colored base.

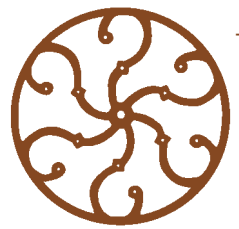
Silver cast helmet, uniform-colored leggings, partial or no marking on figure, uniform-colored base.

1942 - Production continues as in late 1941 until April 1st when production is halted for the duration of WWII. However, the figures continued to be available in retail stores through 1942 or possibly into early 1943, depending on the demographics of the areas where the stores were located. Griffin recalls receiving 15 Barclays for Christmas 1942, his last until 1946.

Obviously, this timeline is still being refined and all numbers are not included in this up date. We will continue investigating individual figures in more detail in an effort to determine when they may have been introduced or dropped from production. The reality is, however, that a precise timeline is not possible and we put forth our findings only as a guide, which hopefully will make the hobby of collecting dimestores more enjoyable. As always we encourage your comments and input. You can contact us at: usslater@aol.com (Gordon), tylov37@yahoo.com (Bob) or direct snail mail to: Barclay Soldier Study, PO Box 697, Guilderland, NY 12084-0697.

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BINBAK FOLLOW-UP

By Allen Hickling



The newspaper cutting from the Bradford Telegraph and Arjos

Sometime during 2004, when the manuscript of my first article on Binbak (OTS Vol.28, No.4) was virtually 'put to bed', I was very pleasantly surprised to be contacted by David Baker – the son of Bill who was the 'bak' part of Binbak. He said at the time that he had, somewhere filed away at home, some papers referring to his father's association with Jack Binns (the 'Bin' part of Binbak), but I was not to hold the article back, because it may take some time to find them.

It did take some time, but the wait was worth it. This follow-up, amongst other things, consists of one of the papers he was referring to. It is a newspaper cutting from the Bradford Echo about 1955-60. It is in quite poor condition, so I have re-constructed it on the next page.

Some comments on it might be appropriate here:

- It is of interest because whereas, in this day and age, all businesses have Mission Statements, Quality Assurance, and the like, nothing of the sort remains for Binbak – if, indeed, it ever existed. But this article records, in their own words, the approach to toy making taken by Jack Binns and Bill Baker.
- Its date is placed at before 1960 because there is no mention of the toys that they were commissioned to make for the royal family – an achievement which would surely have featured in the article.
- Rather surprisingly they chose the strength of their toys as their distinctive characteristic – to the exclusion of realism, although the word 'model' rather than 'toy' features prominently.
- The K.O.Y.L.I. stands for the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, which is a regiment long since swallowed up in army re-organisation.
- The weight of Jack and Bill is described in stone (st.) – a unit of weight equal to 14lbs. – so their combined weight on the toy farmhouse would have been 364lbs.
- The sterling currency (3s.) is old pounds, shillings and pence, and the three shillings per square foot for plywood was a lot of money in those days (about £6 or \$11 present day value).
- In the photograph Jack is pretending to paint detail on a toy service station-type garage with a brush, while Bill is pretending to spray paint what is probably a toy fire station. Between them is one of their toy shops. On the table are components of their toy garages (pumps, fascia signs and lifts) and fire stations (a Dinky Toy (or similar) fire engine).



The workshop and offices of Binns, Baker and Company in Batley

Another part of the Binbak saga emerged last summer. Thanks to Doug Pask (Norrie Binns' husband after Jack), I was able to get access to the old barn in Batley which had served as the Binbak office and workshop for the twenty years 1972-1991. Unfortunately it was not the time-capsule I had hoped, but nor was it a total loss. It had been partially cleared out, but there remained a lot of seriously rusty hand tools; the stencils and jigs for about twenty-five toy buildings; and junk – a lot of junk – much of it personal to Jack.

However I did come across about forty-five colour slides of various Binbak products. Among these were half a dozen images which confirm Jack and Bill's continuing pride in the strength of their toys. They are photographs of Jack Binns' car, a 1960s English Ford Cortina Mark II, parked atop four Binbak toy garages from 1970 – somewhat more than the "standing test" on one of their toy farmhouses!



Four Binbak toy garages support Jack Binn's car.

BINBAK FOLLOW-UP (Cont.)

Children don't break these toys



Mr. Jack Binns (left) and Mr. Bill Baker in their toy-making workshop

Jack Binns reached for a model farmhouse lying on a shelf in his workshop.

"It's strongly built," he said. "If I stand on it, it won't break. Look I'll show you." So Jack hoisted his 11st. onto the roof of the model and his 15st. partner, Bill Baker, climbed on, too.

As the two of them stood there Jack explained: "Everything is fastened twice. Either it's screwed and glued or it's nailed and glued. These things are made of thick plywood, too, which adds to their strength."

Jack and Bill started their toy-making business in 1946 when Bill was demobilised after fighting through France and Germany with the K.O.Y.L.I. Jack had been discharged from the Black Watch some time before with rheumatoid arthritis after service in North Africa.

BRADFORD PREMISES

Jack had always been a very able woodworker, Bill was a trained sign-writer, and they decided to start making their "almost unbreakable" toys.

So they moved into premises in Simes Street, Bradford. Jack had some treadle equipment and a lot of ideas about construction. Bill had his sign-writing skill and some ideas on design.

At first they made only model garages – most of them very similar to the ones they make now – and always they used the "standing test." Jack recalls that a buyer from a London Store from whom they were trying to get an order believed the model they stood on was specially made, and ordered two or three more, one at a time by telegram, to make sure it wasn't.

Then he ordered in bulk.

Gradually the old treadle equipment was superseded by electrical machines and the range of models widened. Jack began to produce "jigs" of the various parts of each model and, with a new jig-saw, to cut them out more quickly. Now they produce about 2,000 toys every year.

ALL DOUBLE CHECKED

Among them are model Punch and Judy stages, model farms, forts, shops, and puppet theatres. Jack designs them all, cuts them out and assembles them. Bill does the decoration.

It is with the assembling of the parts that mechanisation ends. Jack does it all. Average time for each model is an hour and a half. "You see," he says, "to make them as strong as we want them, everything has to be 'double checked' so to speak." He picked up a small model garage. "That has 260 nails in it and every part is glued as well," he said.

Bill's painting also has to be done by hand. He uses paint-spraying equipment for the larger surfaces but all the small work, lettering and so on, has to be done with the brush.

"That's why our stuff seems so expensive," says Jack Binns. "So much of it has to be done by hand, and some of the multi-plywoods cost up to 3s. a square foot.

PUPPET THEATRE

Slowly their work is becoming better known. This year their products have gone to Brazil, Australia, Egypt and the Persian Gulf, and they have done a number of spe-

cially commissioned models.

One was a doll's house for the daughter of an architect. "Dolls' houses are difficult things to design and execute," Jack says, "because there are so many bits and pieces. But this one was easier – the architect had drawn up a plan for us to work to."

Their models vary in weight from about a pound and a half to ten pounds, but both often think of a model they made a couple of years ago, which took five months to complete, and which weighed a ton and a half.

It was a puppet theatre with a stage 10ft. wide and 8ft. deep, which they made for an amateur enthusiast. It had complete and authentic theatrical lighting and drapes, and was so big Jack could only just get it into his workshop. It was "more or less pre-fabricated" in construction because it had to be dismantled for removal from the workshop.

"That was a dickens of a job," Jack says, "but at least there was a sense of achievement when it was finished."

It is often said that people who work with wood are happy. In the case of Jack Binns and Bill Baker it certainly seems true.

Acknowledgements

The type of research that underpins this sort of article, requires the help of various kinds from many others. In this case my thanks are due to:

David Baker, Plymouth, UK; John Friend, Sheffield, UK; Doug Pask, Batley, UK; Norrie Pask (formerly Binns), Batley, UK

GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

By Russ Bednarek

Several companies have released new figures spanning all eras of military history. In most cases these new issues are to complement existing lines. Collectors are encouraged to read the advertisements of the mentioned companies in this issue of *Old Toy Soldier* for ordering information.

LUCOTTE/MIGNOT

A number of new and exciting releases are now available from Lucotte/Mignot. All sets and figures mentioned are available from Jack Carleton of Le Petit Soldat.

Lucotte has decided to re-issue its much sought after *Etat Major* (general staff), series of the Napoleonic era. Utilizing the original 1920's molds, Lucotte has made available twenty figures of Napoleon and his various marshals. Quality of painting and workmanship is of the highest standard, as is usual for Lucotte.

Mignot has issued several new sets. A motorcycle/sidecar combination of the 1939 French Army is well executed. Especially interesting is the *meharist* (camel corp), set. *Meharist* units were used to patrol France's vast holdings in North Africa after World War I. This six figure set of officer, flag, trumpet and three riders is a welcomed addition to Mignot's Colonial range.



#201 - Gouvion, 202 - Poniatowski, 203 - Napoleon (Lucotte)



#0287 - Meharists on camels



#240 - Spahis on Gerbeau's horses

GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW (Cont.)

Mignot has produced numerous sets of Spahi cavalry throughout the company's history. Collectors will be pleased to learn that the Spahi set is now available mounted on the Gerbeau horse. More stylish and artistically modeled than the typical horse, the Gerbeau mount originated in 1906 and has not been used for sometime, until now.

KING & COUNTRY

The ever prolific King & Country never fail to surprise. As usual, the quality of figures and vehicles is first rate, representing an excellent value for your collecting dollar.

The new "Fields of Battle" series depicting Dunkirk and the Fall of France is now available. Initial releases are four British and four French figures, plus an outstanding model of the French B1bis tank. The "Berlin '38" range boasts eleven new figures plus an excellent Panzer I tank. "Ancient Egypt" has six new releases, several being a banquet theme plus Cleopatra. The ever popular "Streets of Old Hong Kong" has seven new sets including an excellent police station. The "Imperial Collection" of China's Ching Dynasty has eleven new pieces including guards, mounted officers and a Manchu tent. An excellent French farmhouse and accompanying courtyard set allow collectors to utilize these pieces from the time of Napoleon to World War II. Finally moving to the Napoleonic era, the British Army has eleven new releases. A model of the Duke of Wellington, two Black Watch Highlanders and eight King's German Legion figures are offered.

OLD NORTHWEST TRADING COMPANY

Continuing their Normandy theme, Old Northwest Trading Company has released two new sets, one German, the other being American.

"The Hell Machine", a five figure set consists of four panzer grenadiers and an assault gun commander. The panzer grenadiers are depicted in various combinations of camouflage clothing, armed with different weapons.

"Hello 2nd Armor", is another five piece set of four GIs of the US 2nd Armored Infantry and a .50 caliber machine gun with gunner. Interestingly three GIs are in camouflage uniform representing the 17th Engineering Battalion of the 2nd Armored Division. Armed with a variety of weapons, this set looks great atop a M43A Sherman tank.

Both sets display high quality sculpting and painting. This is a great new range for World War II collectors. Available from Michigan Toy Soldier Company.

PHILLIP DEE SCOTT

Some Notes On Restoring And Repairing Dimestore Toy Soldiers, is a spiral bound illustrated guide to repairing Dimestore figures. Author Phillip Dee Scott has illustrated and self-published this most useful 34 page guide. This book contains much useful information for those who repair/restore Dimestore figures. Available from:

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Dan Walker



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Toy Soldier Motorcyclists

By Don Boyden

I got into collecting toy soldiers in the first place because of a motorcycle. I wanted a new one, but my wife was leery of my record of crashes and tickets and she steered me towards a safer hobby – I landed on toy soldiers. I guess it's only natural then that within my soldier collection I would develop a sideline of motorcycle pieces. They add action to a diorama, and most are not too difficult to find. As a cross collectible (you have to fight off both soldier guys and motorcycle guys) they can be pricey, especially the German compo and tin pieces. I wasn't sure on the angle for this story - there have been at least 2 great articles in OTSN already. Jack Matthews did one on German compo, many more and much nicer pieces than I have (such as the rare ones with side cars with machine guns and search lights). Steve Sommers covered dime stores. So, I settled on doing a cross category survey based on what I have in my collection – compo, dime store, British, American plastic, even a few new ones.

Dimestore

1. American Metal - The piece is compact. A machine gun is mounted on the handle bars (could you really fire it – reload? Aim?). The bike itself is odd, engine looks like a square four? Like a Henderson?
2. Breslin – seems based on the American Metal. No real differences other than “Canada” on the left rear fender. Feels much denser than the typical American Metal piece.
3. Barclay dispatch – The same mold seems to have also been used for their Police bike, just by painting the rider blue instead of khaki. Nice looking V-twin.
4. Barclay bike with sidecar – Complex piece, must have been a bear to assemble. Wooden wheels, v-twin bike, sidecar has a machine gun (usually found with broken barrel), full fender skirts on the bike.
5. Manoil bicyclist – not a motorcycle, but what a great piece. A Michigan collector has a whole grouping of these – a military tour de France.
6. Manoil motorcyclist - Have both versions of the early bike, (with and without the



Dinky, Britains, Barclay, Elastolin



American Metal, Breslin



Barclay, Historical Miniatures, Eccles



Barclay, Auburn Rubber



All Manoil

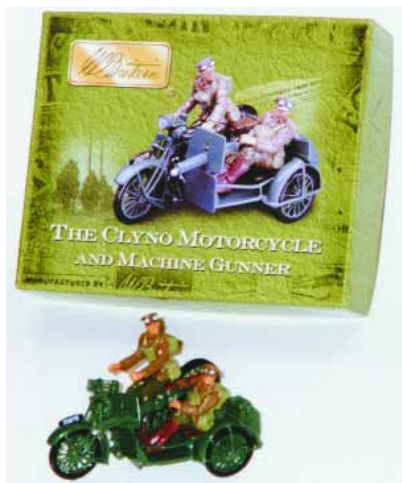
Toy Soldier Motorcyclists (Cont.)



Playwood Plastics, Marx



Merrill



Britains



Britains, Britains, Timpo



Lineol, Elastolin, Elastolin

grass base under the rear tire). The make of the bike it's modeled on is not clear – but it's not a v-twin Harley or Indian. Looks like a shaft drive, box-style engine, almost clip-on style handlebars. Interesting leather helmet with goggles, looks like he has headphones on.

Plastic / Rubber / compo / tin / paper

7. Pyro hard plastic motorcycle w/sidecar. Got this with the 21-piece U.S. Army box set (has beautiful cover graphics). Unusual among all my motorcycles in that it has no rider.

8. Marx tin flat, motorcycle messenger. Nice detail on the bike, has a springer front end.

9. Marx plastic – yellow, HO train scale? Cop on a Harley. I think it came with a group of other yellow figures, with a gas station play-set?

10. Marx German – Another playset piece. Looks like he's on a BMW. Very accurate bike design, with a shaft and a horizontally opposed engine. Is there supposed to be a sidecar? Was there ever a U.S. GI version?

11. Tim Mee – Not the usual Harley, looks like a one-lunger. Great bike detail. Have owned a lot of these, hard to find one that stands upright unassisted.

12. Paper soldier – Merrill. The graphics on these paper items (like the coloring books) are just amazing. One piece in the set is dated 1940. The bike has a holster on the forks (for a Thomson?), and a rider with goggles and a saddlebag. It looks like he has the same "ear-phones" as the Manoil – what are those?

13. Auburn Rubber with sidecar –Almost exactly the same as the Barclay motorcycle with sidecar, but seems slightly smaller. Which came first? Still need the Scout version, but he always seems to be priced over \$75 (update: a mint one just hammered on eBay at \$127. A great piece, but yikes).

14. Playwood Plastics - I'm not a big fan of American compo, too bulky and not much detail, but the bike is well done with detail on the bike and rider. Scale is odd, bigger than a dimestore.

German

15. Elastolin – German soldier on a compo bike, with compo wheels. The engine is a bit more stylized than on a Lineol, but still clearly

Toy Soldier Motorcyclists (Cont.)

a shaft drive horizontally opposed twin. Has rolling, metal outriders. Because the wheels are fixed compo they also put small rolling wheels inside the compo wheels. Very complex toy.

16. Elastolin - American GI on a compo bike. Tin wheels and fenders, outriders for balance, a separate saddlebag for the seat (or the forks?). I kept getting outbid on these on EBay, then I did the smart thing and bought one for a reasonable price at a show where I knew the dealer and could touch the piece.

17. Elastolin - Small scale bike, these appear to be pretty common with an endless variety of paint jobs and molding details (helmets, rifle on right or left, different saddlebags).

18. Lineol - Fixed rider and separate passenger on a compo bike with tin wheels. Great bike detail, amazing painting on the riders.



Both Elastolin



Pyro, Timmee, Marx, Marx

British

19. Clyno - this is a new piece. I tend to stay away from the newer stuff, but this one is so impressive, great detail on the sidecar with machine gun. Not really a toy soldier, more of a model.

20. Timpo U.S. GI dispatch rider - separate rider. Got this one in the box. The bike looks like a standard British twin.

21. Britains - not sure of the date - pre-Deetail? Separate rubber rider, looks U.S. Also have the same piece done as a police bike.

22. Britains - Dispatch rider - I have two paint versions. Bike is a generic British twin. Rider is cast as part of the bike. Just lost out on a box set of 4 of these on eBay that went for \$177.

23. Dinky - I have a couple variations of this nice line of very small motorcycles. I have the solo policeman and the auto club with sidecar. I don't have a military one yet.

New

24. Eccles - nice customization of the Barclay dispatch rider, rifle across back, black tire, great painting and casting, solid.

25. Historical Miniatures (out of Port Richey, Florida). They make a line of German pieces. His motorcycle is also based on the Barclay dispatch rider. Painted German grey. I prefer the Eccles painting over this one, but it's still an attractive piece.

The wish list:

Other than the gaps noted above, wouldn't it be great if All-Nu, or Grey Iron had done a bike? How about an American Metal motorcycle in German Grey? Barclay should have made a pod bike, or at least CRC should have. Well, that's the survey. I don't have them all by any means, but that's what keeps you going.

INFANTRY TANK Mk II THE "MATILDA" TANK

By E. W. Fitzgerald and Robert Yeknik

Matilda is a woman's name meaning "Mighty Battle Maid," an apt sobriquet for a small but effective early World War II tank. First tested in 1938, almost 3,000 were produced by Vickers between 1940-1943, by which time its slow speed and lack of fire power made it obsolete. The Matilda served in France and North Africa and with its heavy armor (3" turret), it easily repelled German 37mm anti-tank rounds of the day. Heavy side skirts protected the Matilda's tracks (Picture A).



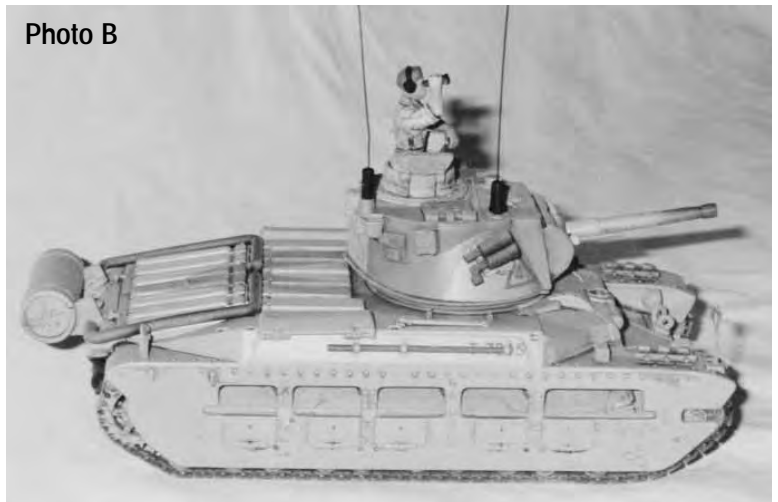
Photo A

Specifications

Main armament	40mm (2 pounder)*
Secondary armament	7.92mm MG (.31 cal.)
Power plant	2 x 95hp Leyland diesels
Speed	15mph road
Range	150 miles
Crew	4 (commander, gunner, loader, driver)

* Same as the Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun.

Photo B



The Model

During 2004, Forces of Valor produced a nice 1/34-scale model Matilda tank finished in the proto-typical camouflage used in the desert fighting at El Alamein in 1942. Flat colours used were desert sand, light blue and green in a dazzle pattern to break up the outline of the tank (Picture B). The model has working tracks, a rotating turret and a main gun that elevates. It's topped off with a British tank commander scanning the horizon for the enemy (Picture C). The Matilda bears tactical markings of the British 7th Armoured Division, the "Desert Rats," which featured the Jerboa indigenous to the North African Desert.

Photo C

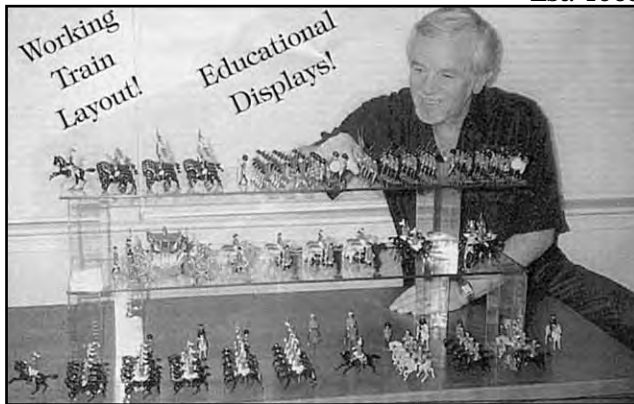


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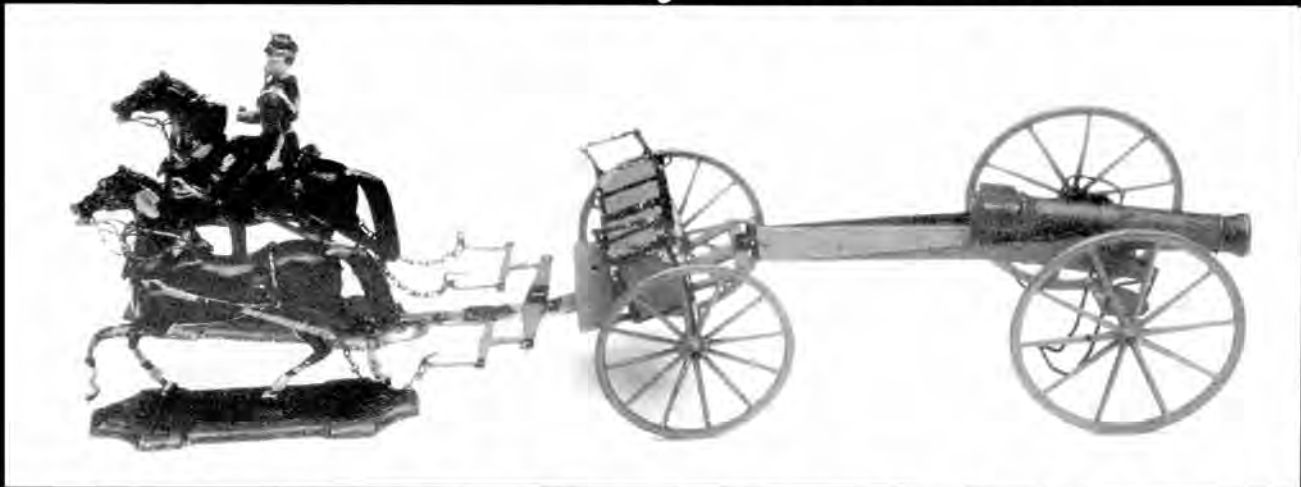
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THE BARCLAY BABY CRIB

By Stan Alekna

For you toy soldier purists, this may not be a biggie but to those compulsive collectors like me who want to acquire one of every single item made by Barclay, this recent find is huge. The Barclay Baby Crib is perhaps as rare as the Barclay Legionnaire Flag Bearer as I have seen the same number of each in 25 years of collecting Dimestores (please note the capital "D"). The only known documentation of this rarity is in Richard O'Brien's THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK, on page 20, shown below, and this is a copy of an old Barclay catalog page, not a photo of the actual item. The verbiage under the picture refers to the 1936 Butler Bros. catalog and helps to date the manufacture of this toy.

I saw a Barclay crib without the baby or the mattress at the Brimfield, Massachusetts antique market about 15 years ago and passed on it because I did not know it was made by Barclay. I realized what it was sometime later when I spotted the photo while browsing through THE BARCLAY CATALOG BOOK. I have never seen another one until this one nor has anyone else that I know. Most amazing in my find of this item was that it appears to have the original celluloid or plastic baby and the lace trimmed mattress which shows definite signs of being 70-75 years old. The baby looks a little different from the one in the catalog photo but since such accessories were jobbed out, per Richard O'Brien, there could have been more than one supplier of babies. This one fits nicely in the crib. The pink, slush cast crib measures 3-3/8" long; 1-1/2" wide and 2-1/8" tall, with white rubber tires.

The catalog photo and the one I saw at Brimfield both have rubber tires on wooden hubs versus the solid rubber tires on my specimen but we know that variances in the types of wheels/tires used by Barclay were quite common during this period of manufacture.

Finding this "jewel" was probably my biggest Dimestore high in the last five years and I am pleased to provide this information to the collecting community. We all know that Dimestores are becoming increasingly scarce so it is comforting to know that rarities are still out there for those who want to dig for them. So keep on digging and when you discover a treasure, please take the time to share it with others by authoring an article for OLD TOY SOLDIER.

The item pictured in this article is for sale and interested parties may contact me at:

Stan Alekna

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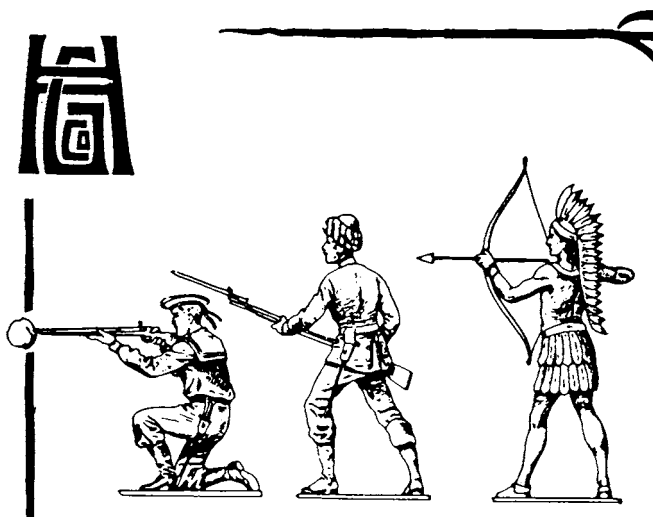
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No. 151 Crib with doll. Advertised in a May-June 1936 Butler Bros. catalog. The doll, its clothes and mattress would have been jobbed out.






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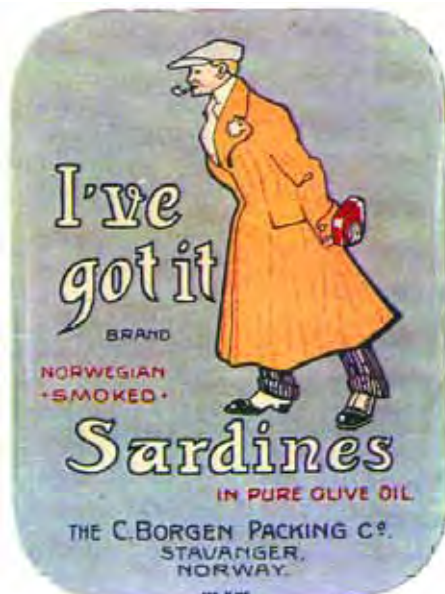
By James H. Hillestad

The cigarette cards produced by tobacco companies such as Players, Ogden, and Wills were – and still are – eminently collectible. Originally, the collectible cards were used to boost sales and in the process, promote national pride. They depicted a wide array of subjects, many having to do with the Royal Family and the British Military. Most people have seen or at least heard of cigarette cards.

But it may come as a surprise that sardine tin labels were designed with the same purposes in mind, and often, with similar subjects. For their avid collectors, the colorful labels were an introduction to a new world of Kings and Queens, trains and planes, warships and submarines, and celebrated events. One estimate is that more than 25,000 different designs were produced.

The sardine industry was in its heyday during the first half of the 20th century. The Norwegian city of Stavanger was the center of the canning trade, and in 1922, there were 70 canneries in the city, employing 50 percent of the workforce. Today, thanks to the discovery of oil and gas in the North Sea, Stavanger is a booming oil town, and the sardine industry has moved elsewhere.

Canning is a manual, labor-intensive industry, relying on human hands rather than machines to process and pack the small, delicate fish in olive oil. (When the fish are packed in tomato sauce, it is often to disguise imperfect sardines!) Ninety percent of Norway's production was exported and many labels were custom-



Canning Propaganda (Cont.)

designed by foreign importers specifically to appeal to their local markets. Reproduced here are labels created for German importers during World War I, promoting the war effort, contrasted with labels used by British merchants, glorifying the Royal Navy and the English way of life.

It is understandable that the colorful labels attracted interest and became collectibles. The first collectors' society was formed in 1910 by the Norwegian Stamp Collectors Club, and the labels continue to be traded today much like postage stamps, baseball cards, and other ephemera.

When the labels were introduced a century ago, they were printed in four colours, an innovation at the time. The process of transcribing the original artwork to the printer's lithostone required skill and exacting use of specialized tools. The images were etched onto wax-coated lithostones, and then inked onto printing plates for the actual printing of the sheets of labels. This process involved the printer's using glass marbles to clean and polish the lithostones. When the marbles became worn, they were given to local children, who delighted in playing games with them, a pastime with a long heritage – the game of marbles dates to 2,000 BC, in Egypt. (In England a marble championship was first held in 1588 and the annual event continues to this day, making it the oldest national championship of any sport or game.)

When you next see a can of sardines in the market, remember that you are looking at an historic collectible!

Special thanks to Piers Crocker, Director of the Norwegian Canning Museum in Stavanger, for his help in researching this article.

Jim Hillestad is the proprietor of The Toy Soldier Museum and shop in northeastern Pennsylvania.



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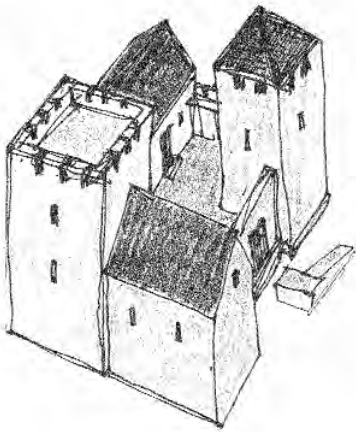
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February 17th Friday and February 18 - Saturday. Dan Morphy's Toy Doll & Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds, York, PA 717-335-3435 Email: danmorphy@dejazzd.com

February 25-Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Sale. 9am -3pm The Annandale VFD Community Center 7125 Columbia Pike. Annandale Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

March 5- Sunday. 17th Annual West Coaster Toy Soldier & Minaiture Figure Show. 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriot Hotel, 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California. Contact (760) 758 5481. www.oldsoldierhome.com

March 12 – Sunday. The New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Military Miniature show and sale 9am-3pm. Shuetzen Park, 32nd Street & Kennedy Blvd North Bergen, New Jersey. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

March 18- Saturday. South Carolina Charleston Toy Soldier Show. 9am-4pm. Patriots Point Holiday Inn, 250 Johnnie Dodds Avenue, Highway 17 Mount Pleasant. Contact Captain Marv Pontiff (843) 884 6598 after 6pm. Email pontiffm@bellsouth.net

March 25 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141. Email info@thetoyssoldiersshow.com www.thetoyssoldiersshow.com

March 26 - Sunday. 17th Indy Toy Soldier Show. Sheraton North Hotel. Keystone Crossing. Indianapolis. IndianaContact Barry Carter indytoysoldier@hotmail.com Telephone 765 345 5665.

April 2 - Sunday. Albany Toy Soldier Show. Best Western Colonie NY Contact 518 235 4729 evenings

April 22 - Saturday. British Model Soldier Society, annual show. Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London. Contact Alex Riches 44+208 698 7334

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

April 23 - Sunday. Antique-Collectible & Doll World Show. 8am-4pm Kane County Fairgrounds Randall Road, St Charles, Illinois. Contact. Valerie or Dale Kelley773 736 5140

May 4- Thursday (10.30am –4pm) and May 7 – Sunday (Noon- 4pm). The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA. Contact Jim Hillestad email jimhill@ptd.net Telephone 570 629 7227 www.the-toy-soldiers.com (The days before and after the M.F.C.A. Valley Forge show)

May 5 & 6 Friday and Saturday. 65th Miniature Figure Collectors of America Show and Mart. Valley Forge Convention Center. Contact Dennis Levy (865) 665 8909

May 6 – Saturday. Plastic Warrior Show. (21st Anniversary) Queen Charlotte Hall. Parkshot, Richmond. Surrey. England. Contact Paul Morehead. 01 (44) 01483 722 778 email editor@plasticwarrior.freemove.co.uk www.plasticwarrior.com

May 7- Sunday. See The Toy Soldier Open House above.

May 10- Wednesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Montpelier Street. Knightsbridge London. Contact Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273628 Email leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

May 13 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show (UK). Holiday Inn Bloomsbury-Academy Booker and Turner Suites. Coram Street. London. Next to Russell Square Underground Station and within one minutes walk of the Royal National. 10.30am-4pm. Contact Norman Joplin email info@normanjoplin.com Telephone (001 44) 262 692 3913 or 01926 496062 within the UK.

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May 14 - Sunday. Ohio Toy Soldier Show & Sale. Holiday Inn, Hudson, Rt. 8 Ohio Turnpike.
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May 20 - Saturday. Northwestern Pennsylvania Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 10am-3pm Rocky Grove Firehall, 28 Shuffstall Street, Franklin, PA. Contact Randy Sabousky. Email rasabousky@sonline.net
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May 31- Wednesday. Christies Toy Soldier Auction. 85 Old Brompton Road, Kensington, London.
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September 2 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) 10.30am - 4pm.
King Edward and Queen Alexandra Suites, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London.
Contact Norman Joplin. Telephone (01) (44) 262 692 3913. email info@normanjoplin.com

September 24 - Sunday. OTSN's Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency Woodfield. 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Informaton- Don Pielin Email dimestores@aol.com Telephone 630-497-1239.
Or Write 106 Cottonwood. Streamwood, IL 60107.

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

October 21 - Saturday. Toy Soldier Show Bad Nauheim. Contact Andreas Pietruschka Verlag Figuren Magazin Email redaktion@figuren-magazin.de

October 22 - Sunday. Birmingham's Central 16th Model and Toy Soldier Fayre. 10.30-4pm The Clarendon Suite. 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston. Birmingham. England. Contact David McKenna. Email dave_mckenna20@hotmail.com Telephone (44) (0) 121 628 1397

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

November 5- Sunday. The 24th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show & Sale. Rothman Center, Farleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack New Jersey. Contact Bill Lango Telephone 973 831 8900 Email bill@vintagecastings.com

November 15 - Wednesday. Bonhams Lead Soldier and Figure Sales. Contact LeighGotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com James Opie +44 (0) 20 7794 7447 evenings and weekends

December 2 – Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London.
Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com www.thetoysoldiershow.com

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

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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