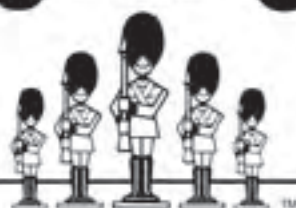


Winter
2008

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 31 Number 4
\$10.00

OLD TOY SOLDIER



GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS

COURTENAY KNIGHTS

19 MASTERWORKS



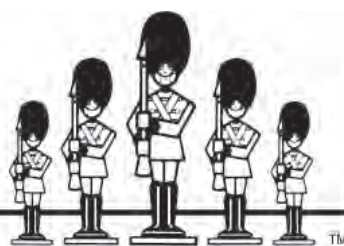
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ON THE COVER

GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS
Photo courtesy Philip Dean

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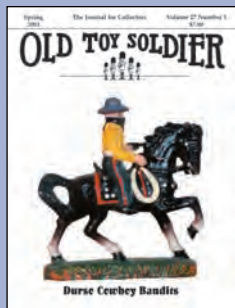
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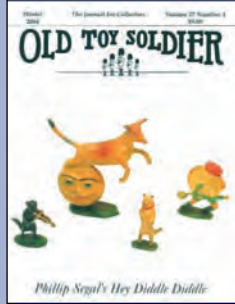
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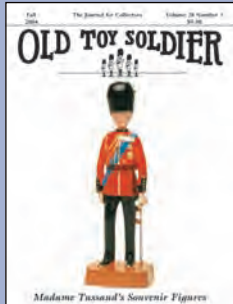
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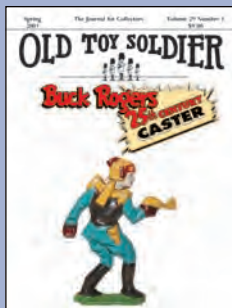


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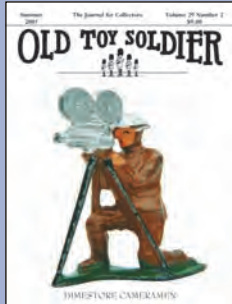


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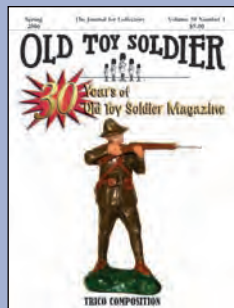


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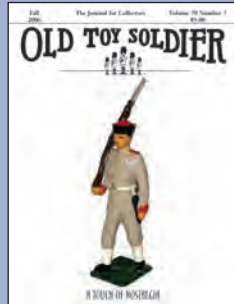
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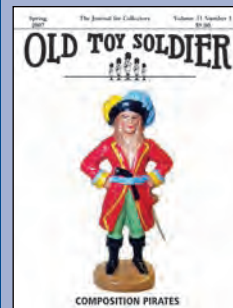


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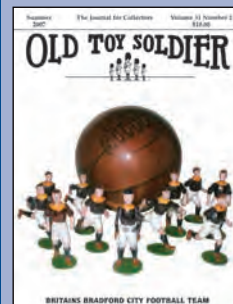


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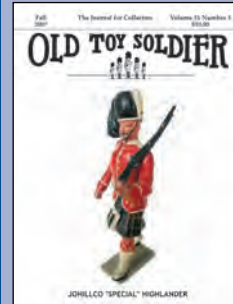
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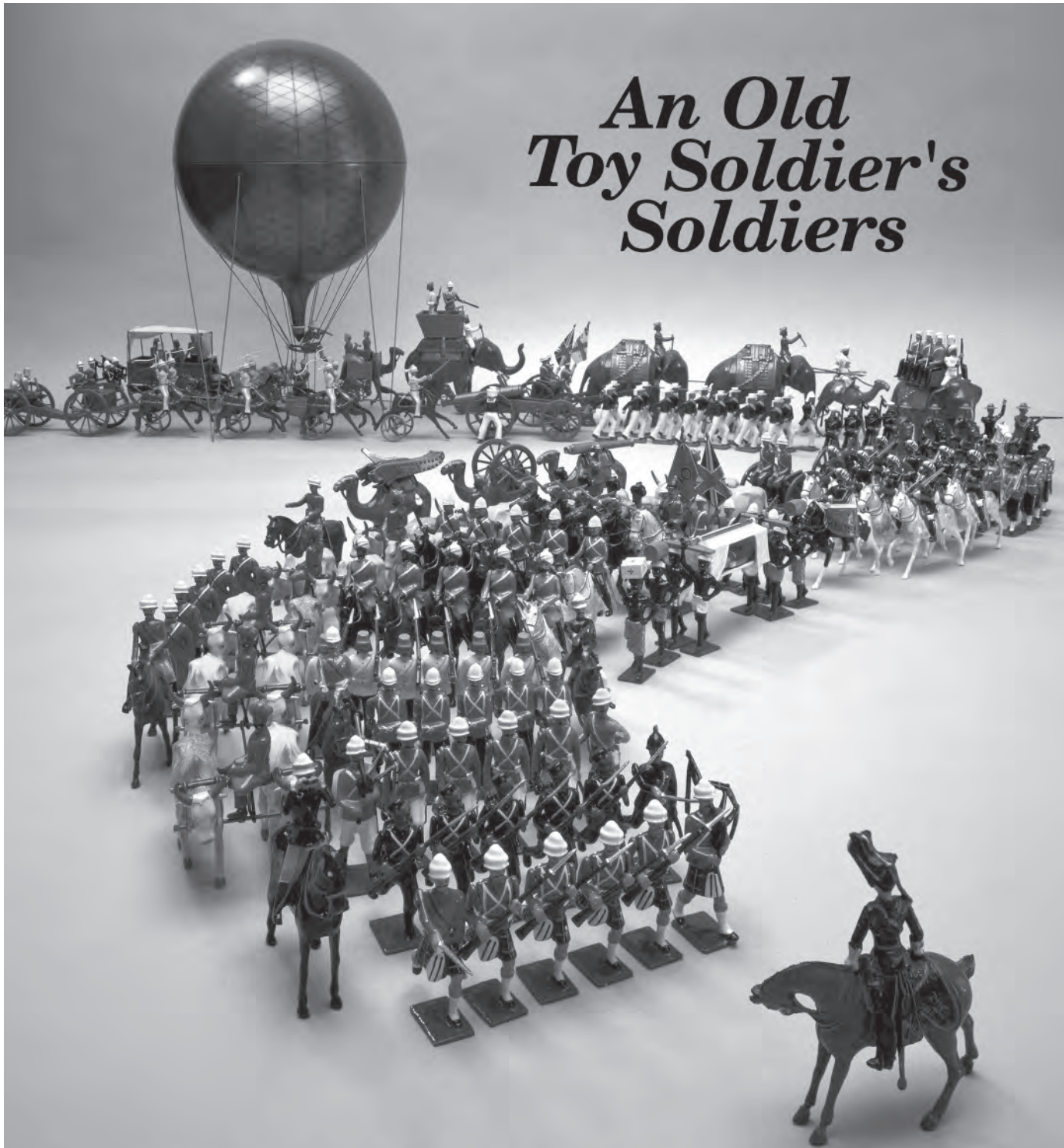


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An Old Toy Soldier's Soldiers



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GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS MANUFACTURER MYSTERY

By John T. Waterworth

As an avid collector of Britains Toy Soldiers both old and new I am always keen to acquire additions to the collection. Part of the fun for me is also the research aspect and when asked to co-author and assist Norman Joplin with the preparation of his book on Britains New Toy Soldiers, I was pleased to make my collection available to him for photography.

During the photographic process I produced my collection of Grants Whisky Highlanders issued by the Scottish Whisky Company.

Most were obtained via ebay, which I have only recently found to be a marvelous source of toy soldiers. Almost all the ebay dealers had indicated that the Whisky Highlanders were made by Britains. However, no concrete evidence of this was obtained, the base of each figure is very distinctive being very similar to the Deetail bases produced by Britains, but on a smaller scale, the figures are also smaller, averaging around 49 mm each.

I contacted a number of the ebay sellers and asked if they could provide proof that Britains were indeed the manufacturer of the Highlanders, no proof was forthcoming.

Norman contacted the previous Britains owners Dobson Park Britains Petite, Ertl and Racing Champions as well as current owners Britains /First Gear however none could confirm that the company had manufactured the items.

It was decided that these items did not belong in the New Britains Book and it is hoped that this article will bring forth from one of Old Toy Soldier Magazines subscribers the answer to the mystery manufacturer.

Photos of the Castle and group shots courtesy of Philip Dean items supplied by Lynn Kenwood of MKL Models.



GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS (Cont.)

William Grants Military Collection

This is a collection of nine military figures from Scottish regiments issued between 1989 and 1992 in three issues each of three figures - in the following sets:

Set 1 - numbers 1 to 3 inclusive.
(estimated 1989 - 1990).

Set 2 - numbers 4 to 6 inclusive.
(estimated 1991).

Set 3 - numbers 7 to 9 inclusive.
(estimated 1992).

Each figure measured from base of feet to top of head is 49mm.

Produced as a promotion for their whisky by William Grant & Sons Ltd (an independent family company for five generations); the packaging was designed to slip over the tops of the bottles.

To the best of knowledge, despite many unsubstantiated rumours and considerable enquiries, even with Grants themselves, to date no actual proof of the manufacturer of these figures has been established.

The green bases for the figures are embossed on the undersides as follows:

Set 1:- "Copyright sign" plus
"William Grant & Sons Ltd".

Sets 2 and 3:- "Copyright sign" plus
"1990" plus "William Grant & Sons Ltd".

The second set in the series (Nos. 4, 5 and 6) has a double folded holder with an application form on the reverse side to obtain direct from Grants any required missing figures numbers 1 to 6 inclusive for the purchase price of £2.50 each.

Also available and shown in picture form on the reverse of the holder is a specially commissioned detailed scale model of Edinburgh Castle, complete with parade ground, as an attractive presentation stand for all nine regimental figures produced. Each

unique model castle was individually hand finished, 170mm x 170mm x 105mm in size, available and costing £29.50 (incl p&p), direct from William Grants.

These offers closed 31/01/1992 and notified the issue in 1992 of the last set 3 (7,8 and 9).

The castle, which is made of resin, is a particularly rare item to find as its existence does not appear to be well known.

It is hoped that at sometime, somewhere, someone will come forward with proof of the manufacturer.

Knowledge of whereabouts and source of the Edinburgh Castles will also be of welcome news. I can be contacted by email: jwaterwor@aol.com



Rear view of holder showing model of Edinburgh Castle.

GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS (Cont.)

William Grants Military Collection Series; Set 1 - Numbers 1 to 3.



Number 1: Gordon Highlanders.
Private, Grenadier Company 92nd Regiment of Foot.

The Gordons were raised by the Duke of Gordon in 1794 for the war against France. It is said that the Duchess of Gordon helped raise the regiment by offering a kiss and a shilling to any man who joined. The Gordons first saw active service in Corsica during the short-lived British occupation and courage in battle was to win them honours in Africa (North and South), Europe and India.

The uniform shown was worn at Quatre Bras and Waterloo in 1815. The kilt is government or universal pattern with yellow overstripe, now known as Gordon Tartan. No sporrans were worn on campaign and officers often wore trews.

Number 2: The Royal Scots.
Sergeant Drill Order 1st Regiment of Foot.

The Royal Scots have the proud distinction of being the oldest regular regiment of the British Army and senior regiment of Infantry of The Line. It was raised with Royal authority in Scotland in 1633 for service in France.

The regiment reverted to British service in in 1678. Two years later they won, in defence of Tangier, the first of one hundred and forty seven battle honours gained in almost every campaign in which the British army has been engaged.

The Royal Scots served in all of Marlborough's major battles. The 3rd Battalion fought in the Peninsula Campaign, at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

The 2nd Battalion was the only British Regiment to take part in the capture of the Mahratta Capital of Nagpore in 1817, for which they were awarded a battle honour unique to the British Army.

The uniform shown was worn in 1887 and shows the Sergeant in Drill Order wearing trews of Government tartan.

Information with special thanks to Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Scots, Edinburgh Castle.

Number 3: Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders.
Private, Grenadier Company 72nd Regiment of Foot.
Raised in 1778 by the Earl of Seaforth, the regiment was recruited mainly from the MacKenzie estates in Ross-shire and Lewis.

Its early history included 17 years of campaigning in India during the Mysore wars. It was part of the force which captured the Cape of Good Hope in 1805, spending a further 17 years on foreign service in South Africa.

In 1873 the 72nd became the Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders with the distinctive uniform of Royal Stuart tartan trews and feather bonnets.

The regiment's subsequent record included the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny and the second Afghan War. In 1881 the 72nd was amalgamated with the 78th Highlanders, the combined regiment being designated the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, Duke of Albany's).

Information with special thanks to Regimental Headquarters, The Queens Own Highlanders, Cameron Barracks, Inverness.

Set 1 estimated issued 1990 (First set of three issues of 9 military figures from Scottish Regiments).



1

2

3

GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS (Cont.)

William Grants Military Collection Series; Set 2 - Numbers 4 to 6.



Number 4: Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
(Princess Louise's)
Sergeant in Drill Order, 93rd Regiment of Foot.
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)
were formed in 1881 through the amalgamation of two
Regiments - 91st Argyllshire Highlanders and the 93rd
Sutherland Highlanders.

It was in 1857 on the Balaklava Plain during the
Crimean War when the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders in
a formation just two men deep successfully defeated a
full Russian cavalry charge and earned themselves the
nickname of 'The Thin Red Line'.

The 93rd also saw service at New Orleans, in the West
Indies and the Indian Mutiny where they won a total of
seven Victoria Crosses.

The uniform shown was worn in 1873 and shows a
sergeant in undress wearing a kilt plus sporran.

Information with special thanks to Regimental
Headquarters, Argyll and Sutherlands, Stirling Castle -
home of the Regiment since 1881.

Number 5: Highland Light Infantry.
Officer in Full Dress 71st Regiment of Foot.

Originally raised in 1777 under the banner of Lord
McCloud's Highlanders, the Highland Light Infantry
was the first Clan Regiment to be formed.

In 1803, the Regiment was awarded the Assaye Colour
for their conspicuous gallantry at the Battle of Assaye
during the Central India Campaign.

The Highland Light Infantry was the only Regiment to
exercise the right to carry three Colours on parade;

King/Queen's Colour, Regimental Colour and the Assaye
Colour - a tradition maintained today by the Regiment's
successors - The Royal Highland Fusiliers.
The Regiment fought at Waterloo and in the Peninsula,
Central India and South African Campaigns.

The uniform shown was worn in 1849 and shows an
Officer wearing trews and sash over the shoulder.

Information with special thanks to Regimental
Headquarters The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Glasgow.

Number 6: The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
Private in Full Dress 25th Regiment of Foot.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers - 25th Regiment of
Foot were raised in 1689 to defend the City of Edinburgh
against the deposed King James II of England who was
also James VII of Scotland.

The Regiment first saw active service in 1689 at
Killicrankie and has gathered battle honours from all
over the world, from Korea to Canada, the northwest
frontier of India and in two World Wars.

The uniform shown was worn between 1902 and 1914.
The tartan trews are in Leslie Tartan commemorating
their first Colonel, The Earl of Leven.

Information with special thanks to Regimental
Headquarters, the King's Own Scottish Borderers,
Berwick-on-Tweed.

Set 2 estimated issued 1991 (second set of three issues
of 9 military figures from Scottish Regiments).



4

5

6

GRANTS WHISKY HIGHLANDERS (Cont.)

William Grants Military Collection Series; Set 3 - Numbers 7 to 9.



Number 7: The Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Piper of The 21st Regiment of Foot.

Originally raised as the Earl of Mar's Regiment in 1678 by Charles Erskine, it wasn't until the early 1690's that the Regiment was styled Fusiliers, the name appointed to Regiments armed with the then 'new' flintlock musket or 'fusil'.

At the end of 1745 the Fusiliers returned from overseas service to Scotland, and on 16th April 1746, outside Inverness, played an important front line role in the historic battle of Culloden which effectively ended the Jacobite rebellion.

The regiment also saw active service in the Americas during the American Revolt of 1776, in the West Indies and the Crimean War before being named 'The Royal Scots Fusiliers' in 1881 and subsequently serving in the Boer War, the Great War and World War II.

The Regiments' descendants - The Royal Highland Fusiliers more recently served in the Gulf War.

The uniform shown is that of a regimental Piper in full dress as worn in 1789 with Royal Stewart tartan and blue doublet with unusual red piping. The main role of the Piper was to communicate officers' tactical commands to their troops during battle.

Information with special thanks to Regimental Headquarters The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Glasgow.

Number 8: The Black Watch.

Drum Major of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment.

The oldest of the Highland Regiments, the 42nd was initially raised to police the Highlands and in 1739 the regiment became known as "Am Freiceaden Dubh" or "The Black Watch" - "Black" after the dark colour of the tartan and "Watch" after its task of patrolling or "Watching" the Highlands.

The regiment first saw active service in Flanders in 1743 and was subsequently posted to America, Canada and Ireland prior to their involvement in the American revolt

of 1776. The regiment also saw service at Quatre Bras, Waterloo, in the Crimean War and in India where eight members of the regiment received Victoria Crosses for their courage during the Indian Mutiny.

The uniform shown is that of a Drum Major in full dress as worn circa 1865 with Government tartan, scarlet doublet with blue facings and unusual red hackle in the bonnet which is unique to the 42nd. As the most senior drummer, the Drum Major took orders from officers and signalled to the corps of drummers (using his mace) commands which should be communicated to the troops.

Information with special thanks to Regimental Headquarters, The Black Watch, Balhousie Castle, Perth.

Number 9: The Ross-shire Buffs.

Drummer of the 78th Highland Regiment.

Raised for overseas service at the outbreak of war with France in 1793 by Frances Humberston MacKenzie of Seaforth, the regiment mainly enlisted its officers and men from the Ross-shire and Lewis region of Scotland. The 78th subsequently served in South Africa, Canada and India where, in 1857 the regiment was among the first British troops involved in the Indian Mutiny. It was through their tenacity and courage in capturing and defending Lucknow, that the regiment earned themselves the nickname "Saviours of India" and six Victoria Crosses.

More recently their descendants - the Queen's Own Highlanders served in the Gulf War.

The uniform shown is that of a regimental drummer in full dress as worn circa 1810 with MacKenzie tartan and pale buff coat with red facings. The drummer's distinctive uniform was in recognition that he was seen as the embodiment of the regiment - in essence the regiment's heartbeat.

Set 3 estimated issued 1992 (Third and final set of three issues of 9 military figures from Scottish Regiments).



Note:

The information on all figures is that which is supplied on the reverse side of the figure holding card.

Ray Haradin and Norman Joplin are pleased to announce!

OLD TOY SOLDIER

FIRST AUCTION

Saturday, May 17, 2008
The William Schneider
Collection and Other
Properties



AUCTIONS USA

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

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

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

If you are a collector, be assured that you will have a consistent supply of fairly represented figures for your choosing backed some of the most prominent names in the business.

If you are a collector who's time has come to sell, we will present your figures to the best of our abilities and work diligently toward selling your entire collection at a fair cost.

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

We will keep you posted as our work progresses.

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

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AUCTION PREVIEW

Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA Preview featuring
 The William Schneider Collection and Other Properties
 Saturday, May 17, 2008



AUCTION PREVIEW



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AUCTION PREVIEW

Wallis and Wallis Auction Preview February 18, 2008 Sussex, England

Wallis and Wallis of Lewes, Sussex England are offering the private collection of Antony Doggett. Long time collector Doggett specialized in boxed sets as well as single items, the collection contains many rare pieces. Information is available from Glenn Butler at 44 (0) 1273 480208, email: auctions@wallisandwallis.org.



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Illustrated:
Britains set 33, 16th Lancers at the halt. Sold for £720 in our Toy Soldiers and Figures sale on 21 November 2007

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HOBBY NEWS

BRITAINS/FIRST GEAR RECEPTION London • November 30th, 2007

Britains/First Gear continued with their program of receptions in central London prior to the December Toy Soldier Show London, this time again held at the Guards Museum Birdcage Walk, London.

W Britain Collectors Club members and specially invited guests gathered to view the upcoming years new products, enjoy a glass of “bubbly”, be entertained in the Marquee attached to the Museum by the 18th Century Guards Musical Group and listen to presentations by Richard Walker, general manager of W Britain, Ken Osen designer and Ian Knight who has been connected with the production advice for the 2008 Zulu War line.

Many of the new lines were on open display including the aforementioned Zulu War, Limited Edition Napoleonic Band, Victoria Cross series and American Civil War.

One of the great attractions of these events is that Britains /First Gear produces a special figure only available to those attending. This year catalog number 43014 Coldstream Guards Drummer 1815 compatible with The History of the British Army Series was presented along with a “goody” bag containing a bookmark and Christmas Card.

The accompanying images show scenes from the evenings activities.

On a sad note: In a hobby full of nice people, genuine enthusiasts and Toy Soldier collectors from around the world including W Britains Collectors Club members, it is a shame that there always seems to be someone intent on spoiling things for others.

It was noted at the end of the evening that a number of the prototype figures including some of the Zulu War items were missing from the displays.

Britains /First Gear had trustingly put these items on open display and were quite happy for attendees to closely inspect the product; however it seems that the temptation was too much for some. One only hopes that the pleasure derived by the culprit(s) when looking at the figures again in their collections is tinged with some guilt at the process by which the figures were acquired.



Left to right Ken Osen, Richard Walker and Sam Kiff



Ian Knight



Young Collectors Club member Zac Kellaway in a miniature Guardsman uniform.

HOBBY NEWS (Cont.)



Victoria Cross Crimean War



World War I



Napoleonic Guards Band



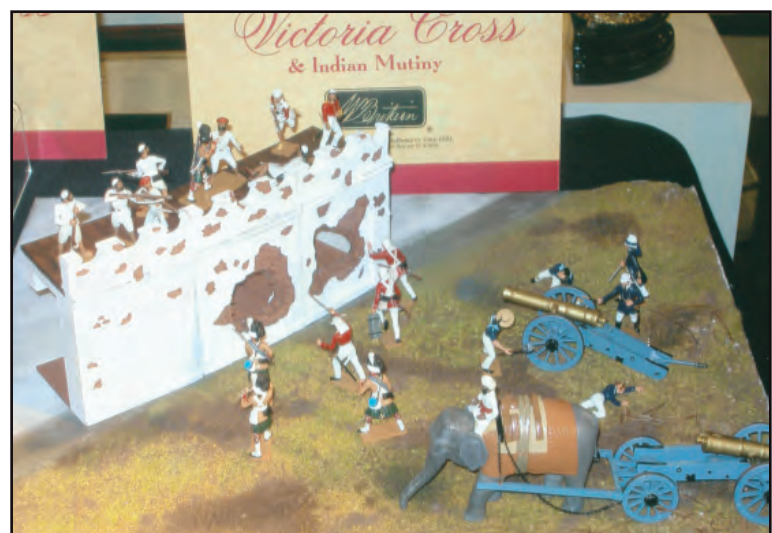
1815



The new Zulu War line



Red Coats and Blue Coats



Victoria Cross Indian Mutiny

SHOW REPORT

The 25th East Coast Toy Soldier and Figure Show Hackensack, New Jersey November 2007 *By Norman Joplin*

Bill Lango celebrated 25 years of organizing the East Coast Toy Soldier Show in Hackensack, New Jersey in 2007.

Old Toy Soldier Magazine congratulates Bill on this achievement. The organization is superb, attention to detail and friendly staff and helpers make this a very well run event.

A number of traders had attended all 25 years of the show and a photo call provided the chance to record their achievement.

Public attendance was quite overwhelming and the line stretched many hundreds of yards around the Rothman Center for the 9 am opening time. This earlier than normal start does make things rather hectic for dealer set up, but it all adds to the atmosphere of this special event.

The following photo gallery is a tribute to all in attendance and on a personal note I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of my wife Sue and myself to Bill Lango and his family for making our visit so enjoyable and providing us with a prime spot to promote Old Toy Soldier Magazine and Old Toy Soldier Auctions (USA) throughout the day.



Ron Ruddell and show organizer Bill Lango



The line waiting to enter the show

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Ben Michels grandson Christian Depalma with some Mignot sets



Left to right: Mike Ferguson, Bill Lango, Tony Ciccirello, Bill Murphy, Bob Hevner and Bob Shoulberg



Bill O'Brien



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kurtz

Steve Balkin



Sue Joplin with Don Pauleson

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY



Joe Saine



Left to right: Gordon Lattey, Bill Lango, and Norman Joplin



Left to right: Bob Havner, Bob Shoulberg, and Joan Shoulberg



Kent Kline talking with Alan Ernst



Stan Alekna



Tom Litras (left) had four tables



Vin Russo

SHOW REPORT

TOY SOLDIER SHOW LONDON

By Alwyn Brice

Those attending the December 1 event at the Royal National Hotel came from the four corners of the globe – a fact attested to by conversations this time around with the attendees, rather than the actual dealers themselves. In fact, it's only when you start to examine the make-up of those who trek to London that you begin to realize the draw of the toy soldier world – and the King and Country event in particular. Some of those we chatted to had even planned their trips around the soldier fair itself...

So, what of the faithful who come to this show? We began with Nick Marchant and his son Jack, who had driven over from Bristol to see what was on offer. Nick is very interested in Russian figures, that is to say figures made by Russian manufacturers. So keen is he that he'd just spent a four figure sum on the subject, which involved a beautifully executed war elephant. As for periods, Nick mentioned medieval and Greek as being amongst his favourites. He tends to buy white metal subjects and enjoys seeking out the connoisseur painted varieties.

"I've been attending this show for a couple of years now and really, this is the only big one worth visiting. I like to meet and talk to people and not simply buy off the Internet – there's more pleasure that way."

Nick let slip that although he's now into demolition as a career (!), he used to be an antiques dealer – but that he grew disenchanted with the business as it brought out the worst in people's natures.

On to Paul Day – another long distance traveller who was over from Capetown, South Africa, for a few days in London and who had timed his visit to coincide with the King and Country event. He looks out for the older Britains lead figures and is also a fan of King & Country painted figures, which he is able to source in South Africa without any problem. When asked about specific figures, he replied: "The older the better!" At the event he'd noticed (but not yet bought) an interesting Britains Medical set with ambulance that dated from around the first world war. A first time attendee, Paul liked what he'd seen and said that he would be coming back.

Tyrone Gomez and son Clayton had flown to the UK for a week from one of the last British outposts – Gibraltar. "We're here for shopping and, of course, the King & Country show," said Tyrone, a collector of toy soldiers who numbers some 7,000 in total in his home. "I've been a collector since I was a boy," he admitted, "and my particular liking is for gloss painted traditional toy soldiers. I collect post-war Britains, too, plus Blenheim and Marlborough products. As for periods, I'm interested in everything."

Most of his collection is boxed up but he did reveal that he has a room set aside for this mass of figurines. He's also a collector of militaria and has a number of uniforms back home, including those of the Royal Marines, the French Foreign Legion and the Spanish Foreign Legion.

And the show itself? "It all depends what you're looking for," he told us. "I haven't found anything particularly interesting yet." (Later though, Tyrone was spotted with a smile on his face, clutching a flagpole and base with attendant ropes!).

Rob Wilson is well-known on the toy soldier circuit as a dealer but he was taking time off on the Saturday in question. And a good job too, for he'd unearthed a quartet of old German mounted troops of uncertain origin. Around 85mm high, these subjects were drawn from the 12th Lancers and Rob believed the models to date from around 1880. What was odd about them was the fact that they comprised fully rounded cavalry mounted on semi-round steeds. "I believe that they might have been made by Ammon," he told me, "and there's an officer, two lancers and a trumpeter." Quite a find – and Rob mentioned that he'd be digging into their history at the earliest opportunity.

Another visitor, named John (he requested anonymity), has been a collector of toy soldiers for half a century – so one can guess that his cabinets are pretty full.

"I'm chasing the odd half-dozen figures that I don't have to make up certain sets. Actually, I'm also branching out into lead garden and domestic subjects and I've bought a few Britains figures today."

Commenting on the K & C show, John reckons that there is actually less and less lead about as time goes by – and that applies to the auction scene, too. "There's a number of dealers that I just don't see any more. I do these shows and Norman Joplin's and just four toyfairs each year. Really, I enjoy the thrill of the chase and it's good crack here, which is why I come."

Tim Corballis hails from Tipperary and he'd travelled over to the mainland specifically for this London event. His first K & C fair was in 2004 and he's another Britains lead devotee, collecting everything from racehorses to civilians. "I try to avoid boxed sets because I like to display my items. This is the only fair that I go to and I'm trying to arrange things so that I can be here in March." On the day he'd found a 16th Lancer from the 1276 set, a crawling Indian and a pair of marching Gordon Highlanders.

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Young Jack Marchant with a connoisseur-painted figure from Figarti



Tyrone (r) and Clayton Gomez had come hunting from Gibraltar



A happy couple from Carolina: Harold and Alison Pine



Irishman Tim Corballis with a pair of treasures found on the day



Rob Wilson shows off a very unusual semi-round subject, one of four bought at the show . See article in this issue.



Steve Pugh was pleased with his Lone Star set of Swoppet style Indians

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

"It's a fabulous show, with stock well displayed, plenty of lighting and you can see everything – it's just great!"

Another visitor who knows this event only too well is Steve Pugh. Small wonder really, for he used to exhibit here with John Begg. Steve does fewer shows these days and is fanatical about domestic animals, which make up the basis of his extensive collection. At the show he was delighted to have turned up a boxed set of Lone Star Swoppet Indians, which were of late manufacture and which still bore the price tag of £1.99. "I paid around £50," he divulged. So big has his collection become that he's been banned to the garage...

Author David Pressland was also spotted walking about with a bulging bag but he couldn't stop to talk as his car was on a meter. He did mention that he buys anything that appeals to him but does prefer the larger scale civilian figures.

Finally, all the way from North Carolina were Harold and Alison Pine. This was the first time they'd come to the event and they were fitting it into a Christmas shopping expedition. "I love the show," said Harold, who's a big fan of the K & C series figurines. "I used to collect plastic but I switched. The reason? My collection was destroyed..." he related that finding figures, both old and new, is no problem in the US and he also trawls the Internet for purchases. "I'll be back!" were his final words.

Old Toy Soldier Magazine Editor Norman Joplin was in attendance at the show and found two very rare, possibly unique items. A Gold Plated Britains New Metal Model Piper with an unusual stamp "WB" on top of the base. A rare Britains wild animal in the shape of an Indian Black Buck was being shown around the show by a collector who had discovered it in an antique shop on the south coast of England. This item, it was agreed by both James Opie and Norman Joplin was unique and has never before come to light. (see photos)

Toy Soldier Show London organizer Bob Neville supplied the following statistics, The total attendance was 1154 which included 65 early entry buyers, which achieved the highest since King and Country took over the event 7 shows ago. There were 101 dealers in attendance with participants coming from USA, China, France, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Australia, Italy and others.

Bob further commented, "Every one I spoke to after the Show and telephone calls on Monday said they had the best show ever. We are very pleased with the support we are getting from both the dealers and the collectors especially. It was encouraging to see the number of young collectors who turned up with their parents.

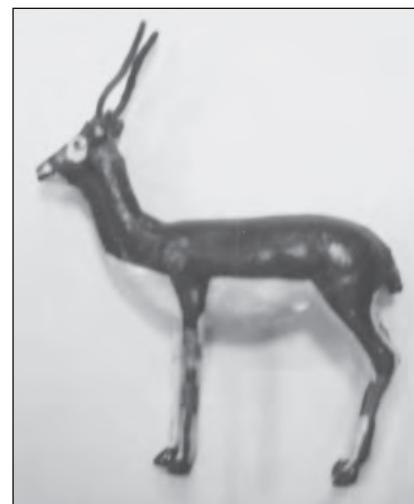
The Royal National is an ideal venue in both the facilities and location, just down the road from St. Pancras (Eurostar). In fact, in many ways it was quicker for visitors to travel from Paris than for us to travel down from Durham, which I believe helped to increase the number of European visitors. I know we had a customer travel from Prague. Regarding K&C UK we had the best show ever and that is 12 years of attending".

A recent innovation is the addition of K&CTV (King and Country TV) Participants both public and trade are interviewed at the show and TV clips are subsequently uploaded onto the King and Country UK website.

See calendar for this years show dates.



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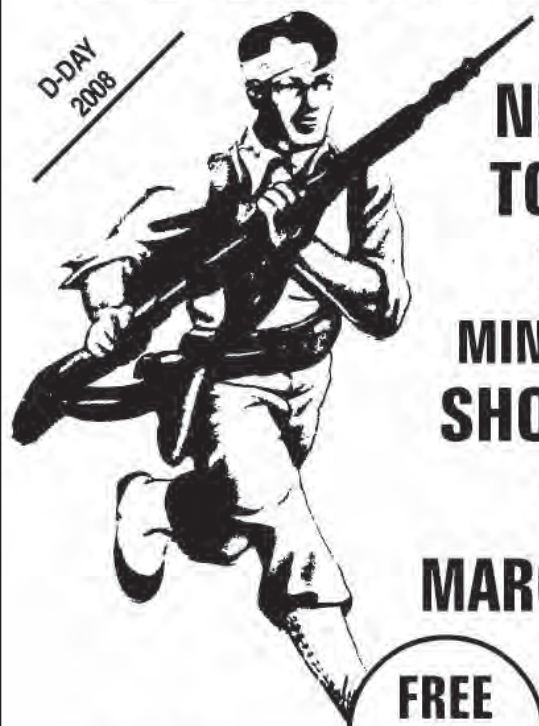
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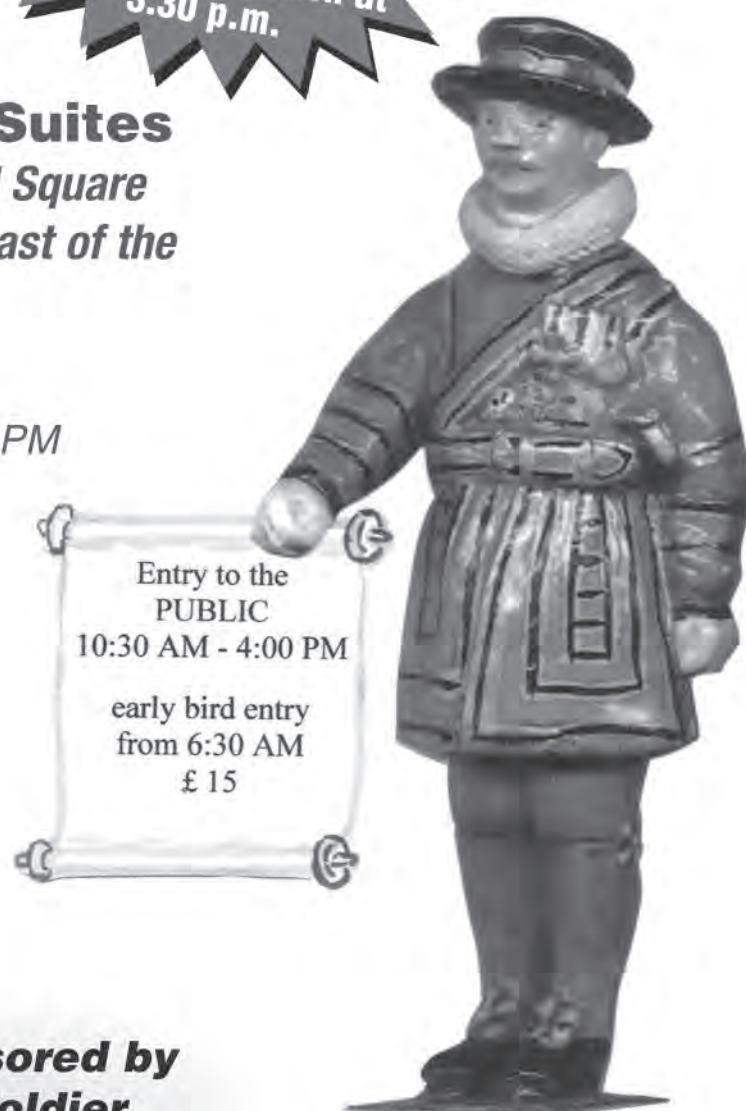
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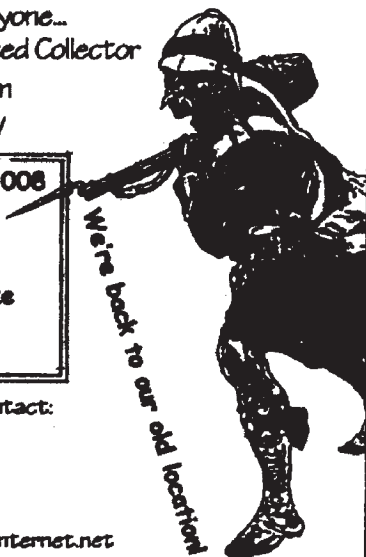
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OUTER SPACE ADVENTURES

New Discoveries and Connections to Archer Plastics, Inc.

By S. Mark Young¹

As an avid space figure collector, I am always interested when new items and variations turn up, but I become most excited when new information about a company is found. In this article, I will present some new finds and new information related to *Archer Plastics, Inc.*

While Mike Richardson, Steve Duin and I documented the rich, but short-lived history of the Archer Plastics, Inc. of Elmhurst, Long Island, New York in *Blast Off!*, I want to set the stage for this article by briefly reviewing Archer's main product line -- space figures.

Archer History

Archer, the brainchild of designer Robert Genin, was probably the most prolific space figure manufacturer of the early fifties (1952-1956) before changing its name and direction in 1956 to Child Guidance, a company that specialized in educational toys.

Archer produced three sets of 100 mm space figures. The first and probably best known are the set of seven first series figures, six of which are spacemen wearing helmets and the seventh being a robot with both arms raised in the air (see *Blast Off!* page 100 for a photo). These figures produced in hard plastic were sold in a variety of window boxes, as bin toys and in two large sets – *The Outer Space* and the *World of Tomorrow* playsets. The second set of figures were three female figures and a space boy (see *Blast Off!* page 94 for a photo). These figures were sold in pink and black window boxes under the label *Space People* and also as bin toys. The final set of six figures, the *Men of Mars* struck similar poses to the first series, but their hands were slotted (hence the term “slothands”) to hold six different types of space weapons. They also sported detachable “astro-pacs” or space bags on their shoulders. *The Men of Mars* came in window boxes as well as in Archer's *War of the Worlds* playset. In the mid-1950's Archer produced the first and second series of figures in soft plastic and sold them in header bags, labeling them respectively, as the *Moon Men* and *Satellite Men*.

The Archer first series spacemen and robot have been copied worldwide and their influence is widespread. One well known copy with a slight variation was produced by the English company, Tudor Rose, in the early 1950's. Tudor Rose produced a set of five 70 mm space figures, four of which were pantographed versions of four of the first series Archer figures includ-

ing the robot. They used a Premier spaceman as their fifth figure (see *Blast Off!* page 121). What is unusual is that unlike the Archer robot, Tudor Rose's robot is posed with the right arm down and the left one up. A number of years ago, an English collector sent me one of the Tudor Rose robots and shortly after that I came across a game by British maker, Merit. Merit used the Tudor Rose robot as part of its game, *The Amazing Magic Robot* produced in the early 1950's. The metallic green robot is glued to a magnetic base and holds a metal pointer in his right hand. Children ask the robot for answers to questions shown on game cards about inventors, transportation, etc. and the robot spins around (mysteriously) to reveal the correct answer.



Photo 1 caption (L to R): The robot in the Magic Robot Game, an original Archer first series robot and an original Tudor Rose robot.



Photo 2 caption: Merit's Magic Robot game

¹S. Mark Young is one of the authors (coauthors Mike Richardson and Steve Duin) of *Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys* (Dark Horse Books, 2001).

OUTER SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)

A year later I acquired a similar game called, *ASTRO – The Wizard from MARS* produced by *Peerless Playthings* of New Jersey in 1953. In this game, the Tudor Rose robot was now replaced by ASTRO, another hard plastic silver robot, with a somewhat silly expression on his face. Astro also holds a thin piece of wire in his right hand. Recently, a third robot figure, but no associated game turned up. This figure is the most intriguing of all and features a beautifully sculpted bronze colored robot wearing a perspex helmet, and also holding a metal rod in his right hand. A fellow collector mentioned that he thought this piece may have come from a 1950's French version of the robot game. Since the game was so popular, I am sure that other variations of the game and robots exist out there but all can be traced back to the Archer robot.



(L to R): The Magic Robot Game Robot, the unknown French robot and Astro, the Wizard from Mars.



Peerless Manufacturing's, Astro – The Wizard from Mars game.

New Archer Advertising

A second tie to Archer Plastics relates to some newly unearthed promotional material. Most of the advertising for Archer Plastics products that I have found appears in company sales brochures, toy catalogs and toy magazines. About 5 years ago I acquired a coffee mug and a pen-like instrument from Ebay. The seller labeled the pen-shaped object an "automotive tester." Both the mug and the pen were unsigned but had an image of the marching Archer slot hand figure, with left arm on waist, embossed on them. In addition the image features a small picture of Saturn in the top right hand corner, an orbiting planet around the figure's feet and the words, *from "Mars"* at the

bottom. Late last year, fellow collector, Jack Arata, alerted me to a mint condition 8-inch ashtray in its original box that was for sale on Ebay. The ashtray also evinced the slot hand logo, but this time the figure was holding a picture of a company building. The markings on the back of the ashtray helped to solve the mystery of the mug, testing device and ashtray for me. The ashtray had been produced by the *Larick Manufacturing Company* of New York City. Next to the company name there is a small flag that says, *Larick Sales Stimulators*. After a bit of Internet sleuthing, I discovered that Larick, founded in 1920 by Emanuel Larick, produced promotional items for companies. Emanuel's son, Stuart, joined the company in 1945 and the name changed to Larick Associates.

The Larick website revealed today the company is run by Nancy Larick, Emanuel's granddaughter, in Port Washington, New York. Hoping that the stars would align, I called Larick Manufacturing and Nancy herself answered the phone. While Nancy has no recollection about Archer or any other company Larick did business with in the 1950's she was extremely forthcoming in telling me how their company worked. "A customer asks us to create promotional products for their business. These products would be manufactured for the customer and then company executives would give them out to clients and friends as a promotion." When I asked how many items would be created in a batch she said, "All clients are different, but I would guess that there would be a minimum order of 100 items." After that conversation, I wondered if Bob Genin, the mysterious genius behind Archer, had actually given my ashtray as a gift to someone in the 1950's.

The Archer ashtray provides another piece of information that has never before surfaced. Since Larick was asked to promote Archer, it seems highly plausible that the building pictured on the ashtray is actually the Archer Plastics plant at 79-10 Albion Avenue in Elmhurst, Long Island. If this is true, then we now have the first published image of the plant since no public records seem to exist.



A coffee mug and automotive testing device with the Archer second series (slothand) space figure design by Larick Associates.

OUTER SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)



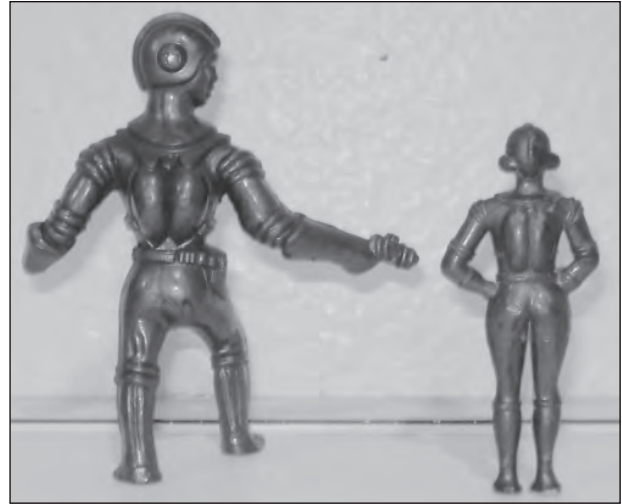
An ashtray featuring the Archer second series (slothand) space figure holding an image of a corporate building. The small brown logo, barely visible on the building, says "Mars" which could be an inside joke referring to the Men of Mars being produced in "Mars" plant. Could this be the never-before-seen Archer Plastics, Inc. building?



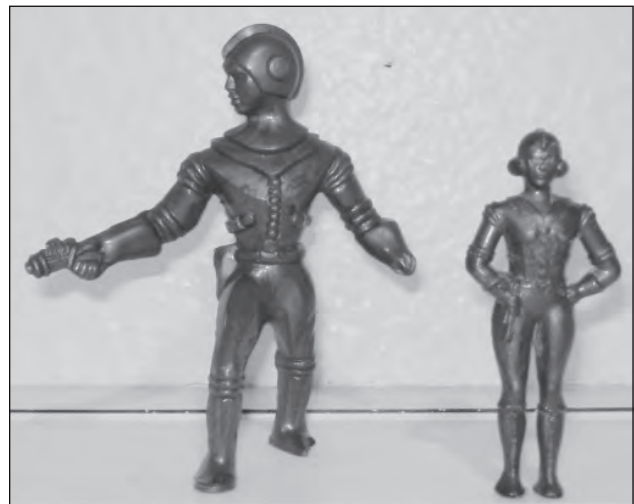
The Larick "Sales Stimulators" logo on the back of the ashtray (used with the permission of Nancy Larick)

A New Figure

The final connection to Archer Plastics is a figure that turned up six months ago again on German Ebay. The seller told me she found it at a Swedish fleamarket many years ago. The figure is a female robot that bears a striking resemblance to the robot, *Maria*, in Fritz Lang's 1927 futuristic, German film, *Metropolis*. Upon close inspection it seems to me that the Archer figures may have inspired the sculpting of this piece. Maria is made out of hard bronze-colored plastic, a material that is essentially identical in color and texture to the Archer first series figures. The features of this 70 mm female are highly reminiscent of Archer's -- both have a row of buttons coming down the front of their spacesuits, similarly layered collars around their necks, rings around their shoulders, elbows and knees, and rounded helmets with ear pieces. In addition, the backs of both figures show almost identically sculpted air tanks. Maria is a spectacular figure, and dare I say it, an extremely *rare* one, but much more needs to be unearthed about her. Was she part of a set, who made her, and does she really have anything to do with *Metropolis*? **The adventure continues...**



Back view of Archer first series spaceman and "Maria."



Front view of Archer first series spaceman and "Maria."



"Maria" from Fritz Lang's 1927 futuristic movie *Metropolis*

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Brigadier General Winfield Scott, commanded the First Brigade of the Left Division of the US Army. He had tried to obtain the correct blue uniform for his men during the spring of 1814, but failed and was forced to accept the grey jackets usually worn as fatigues or undergarments, instead of the regulation short tailed blue coat. His men would make this humble garment famous, and today the grey uniforms of the West Point Cadets are worn to perpetuate the memory of the Left Division during the 1814 Niagara campaign.

The British were already deployed on the plain. The British commander General Sir Phineas Riall, upon seeing the grey-clad Americans, believed he faced nothing more than "Buffalo militia". The British artillery were ordered to open up on the American lines and despite the heavy fire from the British guns, Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott's brigade stood firm. Riall soon realized he had made a mistake in identifying the American force as militia, and declared to his staff "Those are regulars, by God!"

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BOOK PREVIEW

BRITAINS NEW TOY SOLDIERS AND METAL MODELS 1973 TO THE PRESENT INTRODUCTION

Britains Toy Soldiers have since the introduction of their hollow cast figures in 1893 been world famous and are recognized throughout the toy industry as such.

The cessation of hollow cast toy soldier production in 1966 following British government legislation banning lead in children's toys left a void in the toy soldier market for several years. Collectors were quick to purchase remaining store stocks of the hollow cast line, but within a few years they were available only via the secondary market as dealers both in the UK and the USA started selling the items which are now highly prized and sought after collectible antiques.

A seven year hiatus followed the end of hollow cast production, with only connoisseur figures, plastics and Military Miniatures being available to the toy soldier collector. Several firms including Blenheim and Trophy started to produce solid white metal gloss painted toy soldiers in the style of the old hollow cast figures during the early nineteen seventies. Britains were somewhat slower to react to the demand for such items and it was not until 1973 that the first New Toy Soldier was issued by Britains, a die cast Guardsman with plastic accessories and a thick green die cast base adapted from the plastic Deetail line was the first to be issued. It was followed by a Lifeguard and Yeoman of the Guard (Beefeater).

The line was extraordinarily slow to develop and it seemed that Britains were content to have only these three figures in production and aim them almost exclusively at the toy and London tourist markets.

Many other New Toy Soldier manufacturers had started business during the nineteen seventies and early eighties and it was not until 1983 that Britains started to develop the line with the inclusion of Highlanders in their catalogue.

The company was at this time still owned by the Britains family. The company was sold in 1984 to Dobson Park Industries and became known as Britains Petite. Production moved from London to Nottingham in 1992 thus ending nearly one hundred years in the capital. The new toy soldier line grew



somewhat during that period, but in 1997 the company changed hands again, and was purchased by Ertl Europe Limited. These changes meant little consistency was evident in the products as new managers and designers struggled to standardize the line. A further change of ownership occurred in 1999 when Racing Champions bought Ertl.

First Gear bought the Britains name in 2005 and to date have made remarkable advances in production methods, bringing back the traditional style figures so reminiscent of the old style hollow cast figures.

This book covers the 35 year history of the traditional new toy soldier produced by the various companies under the name Britains.

In 1991 Britains Matte painted items began to appear in the catalogues, produced in the Far East and based very much on the style of their competitors items which were and are also produced in Asia. With thicker bases and animated poses these toy figures are very much after the Military Miniatures of the nineteen fifties and sixties. Matte painted figures are not included in the book.

Britains New Toy Soldiers 1973 to the Present covers the thirty five year period from the commencement of their New Toy Soldier line to the present day. The book focuses on the traditional gloss painted 54mm figures of the Britains Company through its many changes of ownership during the period. Over eleven hundred photographs and in excess of three thousand two hundred figures are illustrated with the emphasis being on military items: British Ceremonial troops, American Civil War, Indian Army

BOOK PREVIEW (Cont.)

and Delhi Durbar, World War I, Knights, Zulu War, Rorkes Drift, Limited Editions, W Britains Collectors Club Membership products, Britains Centenary and Millennium issues. The book also features non military sections on Home Farm and Circus. Special issues by the Britains Company and figures exclusive to Harrods and Hamleys department stores are all included. The book contains a comprehensive index of all gloss painted figures produced during the period covered, as well as a valuation guide to

each set or individual item. This reference book is yet another definitive work from the author(s).

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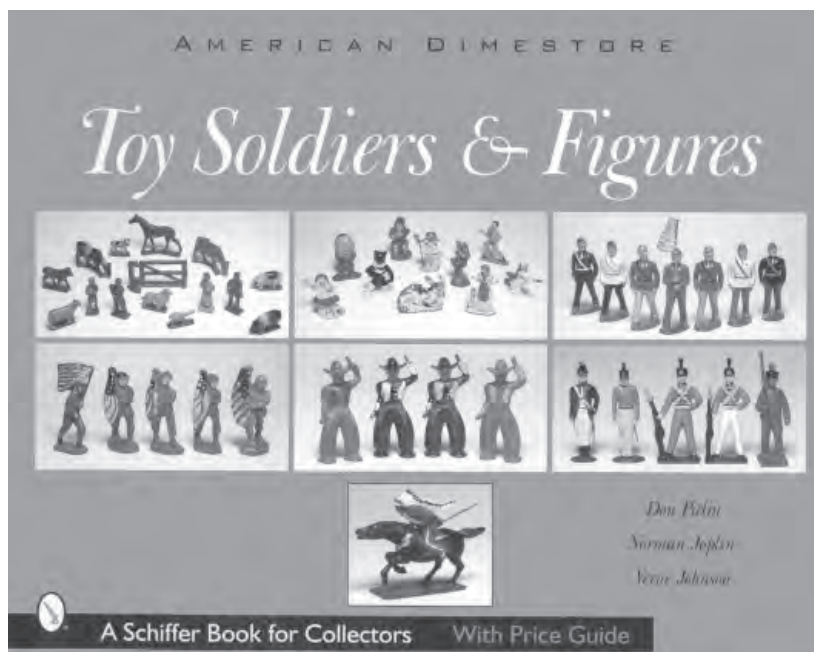
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THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF BARCLAY

By Stan Alekna

Most Dimestore collectors are aware that Barclay made battery powered headlight versions of two standard vehicles, the BV18 cannon car and the BV149 four-inch long race car, since they were pictured and described in the 2nd edition of Richard O'Brien's *Collecting Toy Cars & Trucks*.



BV18 Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft



BV149A Photo courtesy of Dick Ford Collection

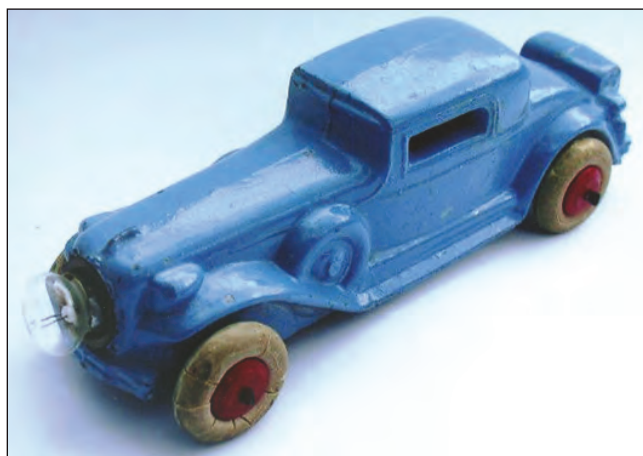


BV149A Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft

But very few collectors know that Barclay made a total of eight, and maybe even as many as ten, different vehicles with a headlight. Six more vehicles and photos from two catalog pages are pictured below thanks to the contributions of Doug Ehrenhaft and Dick Ford. All of these vehicles appear to have been made in the mid -1930's.



BV30A Photo courtesy of Dick Ford Collection



BV30A Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft



BV35A Photo courtesy of Dick Ford Collection



BV62A Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft

THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF BARCLAY (Cont.)



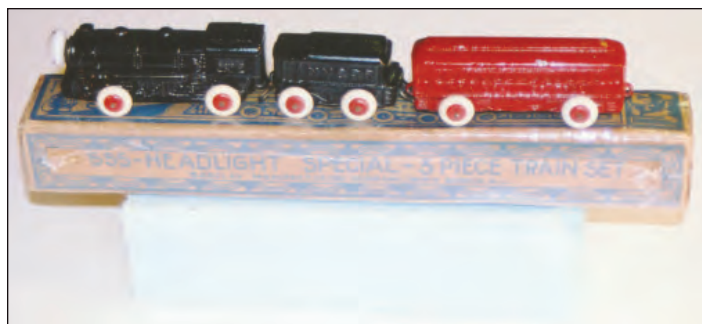
BV62A Photo courtesy of Dick Ford Collection



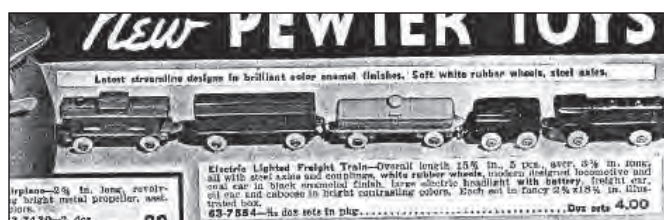
BV81A Photo courtesy of Dick Ford Collection



BV149A Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft



BV149A Photo courtesy of Doug Ehrenhaft



1934 Peg Hitch Train



1935 Wire Hitch Train

The reason I am hedging on the total number is that both of the 5-piece, lighted freight trains shown are from Butler Brothers toy catalog pages and I could find no one who has ever seen either train. The 1934 catalog page is clearer and shows what several "great Dimestore minds" have agreed is a slush cast, 5-piece freight train with a battery powered headlight and peg and loop hitches or connectors. The catalog page from 1935, which is pretty fuzzy, shows the same train but with what some think are wire hitches, like Barclay used on a few other vehicles. Why would Barclay change hitches from one year to the next? Let me offer a wild guess.

Lots of us have seen Barclay train cars with broken peg hitches and/or loops caused by little Billy's rough play. Barclay could have switched from peg to wire hitches simply to improve the durability of the toy. Sound plausible? Well if that was the reason for the change, why did Barclay switch back to the peg hitch on their last model #335, 3-piece die-cast train? We'll never know for sure if there were 9 or 10 lighted vehicles made by Barclay until somebody turns up one or both versions of the 5-piece train.

I believe that the lighted, 5-piece train (with either type hitch) is clearly the most rare and would command a price of \$700-800 dollars in 98% condition. I could not find any catalog photo or other reference for the #555, 3-piece, lighted passenger train but it obviously exists, and, mint-in-the-box as shown, would probably go for \$650-750. Any broken peg or loop hitches on any train cars would drop the price by a fair amount. The BV18 lighted cannon car is the most common but still sells for \$250-300 in excellent condition. The others would fall somewhere in the middle and would easily sell for \$450-500. Now that I have established these exorbitant prices, I'll have to offer two or three lighted vehicles in my next Dimestore mail order catalog! In the event you old timers thought your Barclay collection was complete, I'll bet you found a few of these rarities to put on your "MOST WANTED" list.



Barclay's Best & Brightest

If anyone has seen the 5-piece lighted train with either type hitch, or any other style Barclay vehicle with a battery powered headlight, I would sure like to hear from you.

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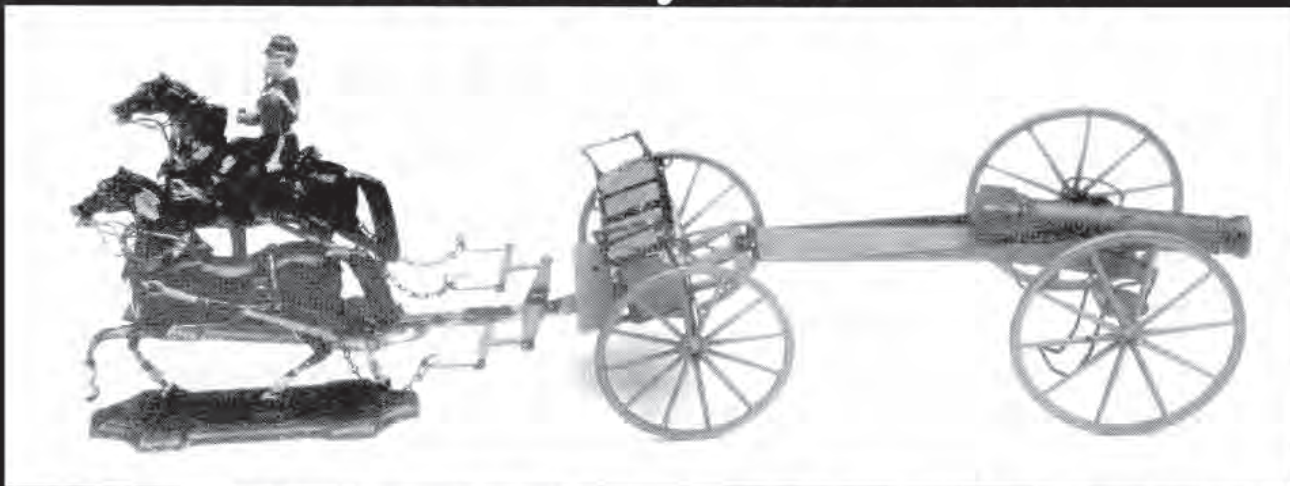
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COMBAT READY COLLECTIBLES 1987 -1999 THE REVIVAL OF THE DIMESTORE POD FOOT

By Louis S. Steinberg

The occasion could not have been more joyous, like being under the Big Top, facing Center Ring. In the background the circus marching band appeared and was blaring out the traditional "Entry of the Gladiators." The stilted MC, deliberately punctuating his every word, was loudly announcing, "Ladies and Gentlemen and Children of all Ages, now I bring to your attention" If Wayne A. Hill closed his eyes in 1987, he might well have imagined such a pompous introduction for his new company, Combat Ready Collectibles, as it previewed to its collector's audience the revival of his uniquely created and much expanded line of fresh Dimestore Pod Foot, toy soldiers.



Wayne A. Hill, owner CRC

It was October, 1941. The U.S. felt its first jolt of WWII when its Navy destroyer was sunk at sea by a German U-boat. Combat Ready Collectibles was forty-six years in the future. However, on the twenty-eighth of the month in Chicago, Illinois, the strong wintry winds rushing off Lake Michigan seemed to hum a merry tune when Margaret Johnson Hill and Harold Hill greeted with pleasure the birth of their child, Wayne A. Hill.

"I am not so clear of the earlier years, but around the age of 9 or 10 was when I first discovered Barclay's 'Pod Foot' toy soldiers," says Wayne.

"My allowance from weekly chores along with that of my friends couldn't propel us fast enough on Saturday mornings to Kresge's or Woolworth's five & ten cent stores. Here we began our lengthy and methodical selection process of buying the soldiers we wanted. Our funds were somewhat limited, and of course, there was still yet candy and Pepsi's that needed to be purchased," explained Wayne in a childlike way.

This was the days of yore when children actually played with their toy soldiers. Back then, collecting had a different meaning. Accumulating was to strengthen the ranks of everyone's armies and especially for the play value of any piece bought.

The following tells the reality of the excitement that Wayne and his boyhood friends had in an actual gaming battle with their Pod Foot Armies:

Wayne relates, "The basement floor of my house was the assigned battlefield area. Stored near one wall was four or five cardboard boxes marked in crayon with the names of my friends and filled with each of their combat troops. There existed a slight tilt to the basement floor, therefore, the positioning of our forces at different locations about the room was the key to the ensuing action. At times we even had to negotiate for the floor



Koreans in Fierce Battle



Koreans Taken Captive

COMBAT READY COLLECTIBLES (Cont.)

space we wanted. It was always settled by giving up several figures.

"Now that each battlefield was established, we all began setting up our forces. Once everyone was ready no more moves were allowed. The set-up became the key to the fight's outcome that usually lasted close to a fierce and scrappy thirty minutes.

"My father had made for each of us the ultimate knockdown weapon. It consisted of a board about eighteen inches long. Near one end he drilled a hole and inserted a two foot piece of pipe as a gun-barrel. Our ammunition? It was marbles! Hundreds and hundreds of marbles in lots of tin soup cans. Maybe ten cans or more for each of us.

"When the command, 'commence firing' was given, a filled tin can was placed against the pipe end on the board. A salvo of aimed marbles speedily went down the pipe, quickly rolling across the floor, directly hammering the opposing troops with the likes of precision machine gun fire.

"Accuracy of shooting and troop set-up usually determined the victor. When the first round of ammo marbles was expended, the action stopped for reloading. That meant picking up all the marbles up from the floor. We hated that! It was like cleaning up.



Boxed Set of Marine Color Guard for Add-on to Marine Band



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"The battle was over for each of us when all of our troops were knocked down. Prone figures were not allowed because they were already down. The two man cannon piece was my favorite, though at twenty-five cents each, it was very costly. However, because of its weight, it was the hardest to shoot down and its placement became everything."

Like for all of us, those playtime years vanish way too fast. It was 1959 when Wayne graduated Chicago's renowned preparatory school, Lane Technical High School.

The next eight years, '60-'68, during the Vietnam Conflict, were hosted by the United States Air Force, rank Staff Sergeant, Airborne Weapons Control Intercept Systems Specialist for the F106 Fighter Interceptor.

When all was said and done with Uncle Sam, Wayne spread his wings for many years crisscrossing the country while working with major computer and data systems companies. While with Teknekron, he began phasing part-time into the operation of his self-financed company, Combat Ready Collectibles.

"Its embryonic beginning happened in 1986, when I was browsing through an antique shop and came upon a Pod Foot figure. I had flashbacks to my childhood days. Continued searching through more antique stores netted more Pod Foots. It was then, I guess, I got serious.



Two Man Bazooka Team in Action

COMBAT READY COLLECTIBLES (Cont.)

"I began attending shows. Bought more figures. Subscribed to OTSN and TSR. Bought more figures. Then I attempted a few conversions and repairs which led to the creation of the Three Man Stretcher Team.

"At Bill Lango's show in New Jersey I met Bill and Sharon Holt and shared with them my new Stretcher Team. Some months later I visited the Holts in Florida where Bill introduced me to the process of mold making.

"Thanks to Bill, I started making molds and selling the Stretcher Team and then created the Two Man Bazooka Team. It was also Bill Holt, my mentor, that urged me to make the Marine Band which begot many other Bands," said Wayne, remembering those start-up times.

Expansion was triggering Wayne's brain cells when he enrolled in a class in Rhode Island which taught a course in Vulcanized Mold Making. From this came the investment in a spin casting machine and the making of vulcanized molds. The company grew quickly to six employees: Four local painters and two students.

He became a dedicated, full-time owner until hit by the recession of the very early 90s when he had to return to the computer field. Nevertheless, he did manage to keep CRC going until its sale in '99.

The following, taken from the "1998 Price List Catalog" of Combat Ready Collectibles, well defines its original

production intent to bring to the marketplace a compatible, high quality, embellished extension of those toy soldier and other miniature figures made by Barclay during the mid years of the twentieth century.

The figures manufactured by CRC depict the activity and dress synonymous with the 1950's and 1960's. The military figures are of the Korean War vintage and included newly created North Korean Infantry. CRC also produced Military Bands in full dress uniform. The Civilian Figures included a highly active Winter Festival Scene of Skaters, Dogs, Sleds, Snowmen, and Christmas Trees, as well as, accessories of barrels, packages, and sleds. This group was a magnificent add-on to the older Barclays. Other Civilian Figures included specially requested High School and College Marching Bands.

The catalog further emphasizes, "CRC's figures are made of the finest casting metal available and are meticulously prepared for the final painting process. Each figure is then hand painted using high grade paints to obtain a high gloss durable finish. New additions will be forthcoming in both the military and civilian lines of figures and you will receive notification of our latest releases."

Much credence was placed in the entire figure inventory produced by CRC Miniatures. All involved were themselves collectors and understood the fine quality of what was necessary for the collectibility of the pieces they created. It became very important



Winter Festival Complete Set of Eleven Pieces including Indoor and Outdoor Christmas Trees



Complete Ten Piece Navy Marching Band Set in Dress Whites. Navy Color Guard Set was an additional add-on.

COMBAT READY COLLECTIBLES (Cont.)



Medical Stretcher Team with Nurse Ratchet and RC Lab



Pilot with Take-off Crew Ready in Hubley Dive Bomber



High School and College Bands Were Made Available In Any School Colors



Three Man Howitzer Team with Shell Stacks and Howitzer is Combat Ready



Two Man Mortar Team



Marine Officers on Color Variation Horses



Navy Honor Guard

COMBAT READY COLLECTIBLES (Cont.)

that CRC's customers received enjoyment from the purchases they made.

Wayne encouragingly said, "We are always glad to hear your ideas and comments, so please let us know what your thoughts are for any new figures, or call if you would just like to discuss collecting."

CRC's Marine Band, developed and introduced in the first quarter of 1987, became the company's most staple product and continued to be one of its most popular figure sets. It was further stated in the '98 catalog, "The Band itself was designed to be compatible with the original 'Pod Foot' Marching Marine produced by Barclay during the 50's." Great care in painting and style was also given to enhance and match the Marine Dress Uniform of Barclay's original figure. A beautiful Color Guard, boxed set of four Marines, was available as an add-on to the marching band.

Everything that applied to the above Marine Band was also guaranteed for each item and to the newly listed Navy Marching Band dressed in either Whites or Blues.

The manufactured Weapons Teams that were really "combat ready" went far beyond anything made by Barclay. This category alone brought to the toy soldier enthusiasts an array of action sets like a Two Man Bazooka Team accompanied by a perfect modeled Explosion; a Three Man Howitzer Team with Shell Stacks and Howitzer; and, a Two Man Mortar Team with Mortar Explosion.

Sets were offered in khaki, green or camouflaged and came in specifically designed, yellow and blue, copyrighted, boxes that somewhat matched those of earlier Barclays. A transparent window, and insert card highlighting the figures, allowed the box with its soldiers to stand by itself as an impressionable vertical display.

Rounding out CRC's catalog was a Medical Mash compliment of a Stretcher Team with nurse and wounded soldier; an Aircraft Action Group including pilots, crew chief, kneeling crewman with wheel chock accessories. The design of the "pilot in cockpit" would fit Hubley's 12" Dive Bomber.

As for the Barclay Manufacturing Company of Union City, New Jersey, it began taking its last breaths of figure-production in the very early 50's. The Pod Foot line was to be the victim of what was happening in the changing national economy. The costs of labor, materials and all overhead were surely graphing skyward.

Barclay, recognizing the plight of the industry, had specifically designed the Pod Foot to be cost effective, ie: smaller in size; less metal in its base; less mold detail; less painting detail. All done with less employees.

By the very early 70's, taking several last gasps at survival, it was all over for Barclay.

There were no more Big Wars to interest and excite children. The young now marched to the tunes of rock music and its culture. TV, concerts, arcades, and theme parks were the new occupiers of funtime. Also, we must not forget that monster disease that arose, crept in, and overwhelmed the total toy industry. And that was called PLASTIC!

The months of recession of the down spiraling economy during the early 90's were tough for Wayne. His computer systems acumen landed him a position at Concurrent Computer Corp. In the meantime his tenacity kept CRC alive. The thought of a line of "Summer Fun" figures and "Circus" figures was left on the drawing board.

During its last days, Combat Ready Collectibles and Wayne A. Hill, exemplifying the best of business intentions while still displaying at shows throughout the country, sadly became the victim to an unstable national economy compounded by personal problems.

Today, the Pod Foot figures and sets produced by CRC are not that easy to find at the shows and are deemed to be very collectible by those in the Dimestore conversion tangent of the hobby. Hopefully the line may again prosper.

In recalling those traumatic times, Wayne expresses with sincerity, "I do wish to thank all of the wonderful folks who helped me and brought joy and, above all, friendship into my life."

Wayne lives on the Gulf Coast of Florida in his new house with his wife, Kay. He works as a Computer Consultant in his company, Operations Resource Group.

The demise of Combat Ready Collectibles came in 1999 through the action of a divorce decree that directed the sale of its assets. Joseph Saine of Toledo, Ohio is the present CRC owner and has begun limited production of its figures.

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HAMLEYS EASTER EGGS

By Daniel Agnew

Cardboard Easter Eggs were very popular in the UK pre and early post World War II. Designed to hold gifts at Easter, the eggs were made in two parts and often contained children's toys.

The accompanying illustrations show pages from pre War Hamleys catalogs and illustrate the contents of the eggs.

Britains obviously supplied the store with figures, Hamleys being one of the major retail outlets for toy soldiers etc.

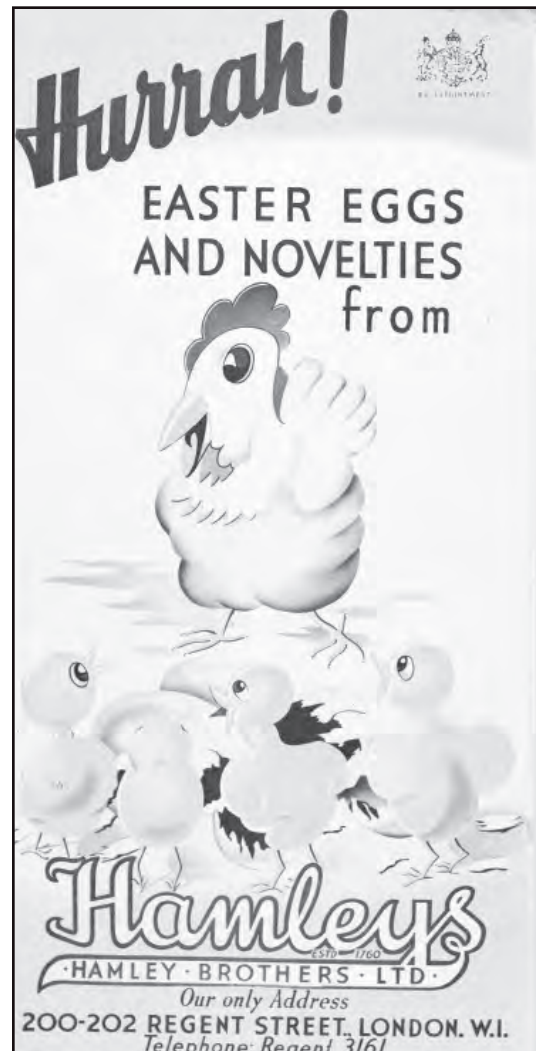
The eggs seem to be fairly substantial in size and structure, as the number of figures in each egg would have required this.

Zoo Animals, Fox Hunt, Soldiers, Cowboys, Indians and farm figures entitled "The Young Farmer" are included.

The Farm set may well give a clue to the vintage of this retail ploy in that the Farmers Gig shown is a pre War wire shaft version.

The early slotted arm Band of the Line set tied to an oval shaped cardboard base is of much earlier vintage, giving rise to the possibility that Hamleys may have issued eggs containing figures as early as pre World War I.

Daniel Agnew is director of the Toy Auctioneer in the UK and former Christies Auction specialist.



Hamley's Catalog cover



Britains Early Slotted Arm Band of Line

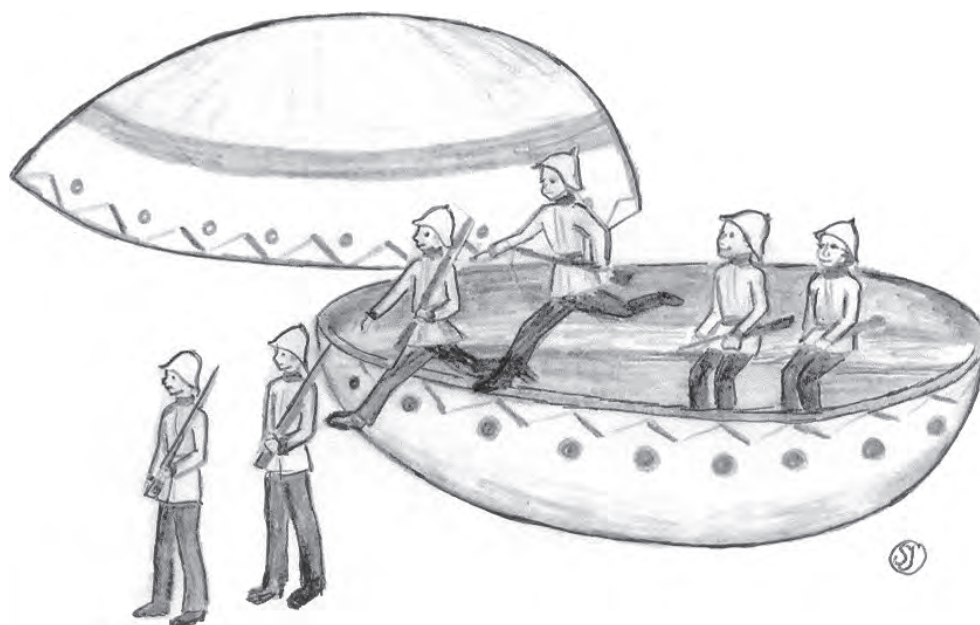
HAMLEYS EASTER EGGS (Cont.)



Pages from the Hamley's Easter Egg Catalog



Hamleys Catalog Cover 1937





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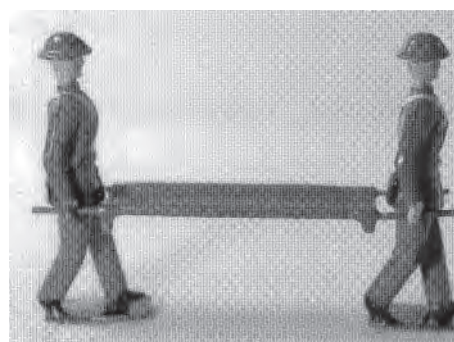
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AMMON

GERMAN MADE RARITIES

By Rob Wilson

The December King and Country toy soldier fair in London continues in the tradition of encouraging visitors and dealers from all over the world. Although a high proportion of the tables are now taken by purveyors of new toy soldiers there are a number of dealers in antique figures. Collectors of such items (the present author included) are to be seen scurrying from table to table in search of elusive treasure.

Dealers such as Andy Morant, Bill Kingsman, Adrian Little, with tables laden with the products of manufacturers including Britains, Heyde, CBG Mignot, Johillco, as well as more difficult to find figures by Courtenay and Lucotte try to meet this demand. They are assisted by various other collectors and dealers who occasionally turn up with unusual figures. At the December show the Germans were there in force, including Hans Henning Roer and Gisbert Freber.

However it was a well known English collector and dealer who came up with the find of the show, as far as the present author is concerned, with some highly unusual large scale comprising fully rounded soldiers and semi-ronde horses. He had picked these up a few weeks earlier at a general toy fair on mainland Europe and brought them along to the King and Country fair to try to find out more about them and to see if he could find them a new home. The figures depicted lancers, possibly in English, broadly consistent with the 12th Lancers. However they could equally represent a German regiment as lancers uniforms were fairly standardised in the second half of the 19th century across many European nations.

Although everyone agreed that they are of early German manufacture, there is considerable difficulty in identifying the precise manufacturer. There were a number of companies who

specialised in a combination of fully rounded figures on semi-ronde mounts, including Noris. A comparison of the horses from 54mm scale Noris set with the much larger mounts in this group shows considerable similarities, including the same shaped base (see Picture 8). However this is far from conclusive as a number of companies used the same sculptor/engravers who often produced very similar figures for different companies.

As noted above the well known expert on German figures Hans Henning Roer was present and able to cast an expert eye. Although he was not certain, he thought it most likely that the figures were quite early products from Ammon, citing the shape and colour of the bases as identifying features. Others thought that they might be by Haffner, who as part of their varied range of products also produced some unusual mounted figures. These are almost two dimensional, with a flat mounted figure sitting on a cylinder with a flat horse front and rear at either end. From the front or rear these present a quite realistic image, but from the side look distinctly odd. The present figures in contrast look best from a side view with the horse looking distinctly skinny when viewed head on. (see Picture 1 or 2).

Ammon operated out of Nuremberg from 1770-1921. Initially specialising in "flats" this company also produced semi flats. According to Garrett, Johann Wolfgang became a master in 1794 and was later succeeded by Christoph (1812-72) and Christian (1845-1921). The firm produced prolifically, specialising in English Lancers. They began making semi solids in 1860 although these were generally in small scale (20mm) Ludwick Frank was employed as an engraver before 1890 (also designing figures for many other famous German makers including Heinrichsen).

AMMON (Cont.)



Picture 1: Illustrating the semi-ronde horse - very fine from the side but distinctly skinny from head on.



Group shot showing the two lancers, officer and trumpeter.



Picture 4: Detail of the trumpeter – note the distinctive epaulettes.



Picture 5: Detail of the officer, with gold cross belt.



Picture 6: The lancers dismounted – usually they stand unaided providing some additional play value.



Ammon Horse (left) compared to 54mm Horse.

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AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WERE THESE THE MOST EXCITING TOY SOLDIERS OF THE 50'S?

By Andy Neilson

I am going to commit sacrilege in my opening paragraph... When I was a wee boy growing up in Scotland in the mid 1950's I didn't really like Britains!

Let me go back more than a few years and explain that seemingly outrageous statement. During that time, just 10 years after the end of World War Two, toy soldiers were readily available all around us kids... In dedicated toy shops... in newsagents (where your parents bought their newspapers, magazines and cigarettes)... even our local sub post office had a glass display cabinet full of soldiers and DINKY toy cars and tanks.

For little boys like me and millions of others all over Scotland and the rest of Britain these glass shelves and cabinets full of toy soldiers were a "magnet" for our pocket-money and any other funds supplied by aunts, uncles, grandparents or in fact anyone willing to part with the odd shilling or two.

The problem I had with Britains and their imitators was that to make a collection look good you needed hundreds of them. Most of the Britains I saw then were fantastic if you (or more likely your parents) could afford a full band... a colour party... a mounted officer and at least a couple of dozen marching figures to fill out the ranks.

At the same time "parade" figures seemed to limit this particular young boy's imagination. You could have them standing at attention... presenting arms... or marching along the table. I wanted "action" and lots of it! I wanted my soldiers to fight the kinds of battles I saw in the little "WAR" comics I avidly devoured in most of my waking hours. These little, almost square, black and white publications were the staple literary diet of a whole generation of British school boys of the 1950's and 60's. They depicted, in picture form, the daring, death defying heroic exploits of stern-faced and sometimes cheery British Tommies... Fighter Pilots... and occasionally Matelots (sailors) fighting off hordes of ferocious Huns, nasty Nips and deadly UBoats.

In addition to the comics the British cinema of the 1950's produced a steady stream of World War Two inspired movies that definitely did not focus on the parade ground at the expense of "real" action. "Dunkirk"... "Ice Cold in Alex"... "The Dambusters"... "Battle of the River Plate" etc. etc...

So, as you can see, even from an early age I wanted to see "blood 'n' guts" rather than nice glossy toy soldiers with little pink cheeks.

ALONG CAME TIMPO

Imagine my delight when one day, on one of my regular toy soldier scouting expeditions I discovered these all-new toy soldiers with gray helmets... brown jackets... blue gray trousers and lots and lots of different action poses... I was "gob-smacked".

Here were "bazooka" men... riflemen, kneeling, advancing, firing, charging... machine gunners... guys firing a mortar... military policemen... stretcher bearers...

They even had little soldiers doing their washing... eating a sandwich... studying their maps... using a field telephone. This, I thought, is more like it.

I remember asking the shop assistant who manufactured them and she replied a company called "TIMPO"... I had never heard of them before but I liked what I saw.

Even at that age, I must have been 6 or 7, I knew these little soldiers were not British Tommies. The kindly shop assistant informed me they were, "YANKS".

Now, I also remember hearing grown-ups talk about "THE WAR" all the time. It had only ended a decade before and was still a very vibrant memory for most of them. If and when "YANKS" were mentioned it was usually with fond memories (about how much money they had) and for old soldiers (about how much equipment they came with). Anyway I was already fascinated by America and Americans (mostly through the movies) and these first little miniature GI's were a small link to this great land of opportunity, promise and... excitement.

THE FIRST PURCHASE

For days after seeing these TIMPO "YANKS" I pestered my mum and dad to buy me some. Unfortunately for me it was between Christmas and my birthday and there was no way in those austerity-driven days that my folks would or could give their eldest son a few bob (shillings) to purchase half a dozen fighting GI's.

Lucky for me my Uncle Robert was home on leave from the Army (he was doing his two years National Service) and took pity on me. "Here's half-a-crown (about a quarter in US money) go and get some of your "YANKS"!"

You've never seen a kid move so fast... I grabbed the money, thanked Uncle Robert, and made a bee line for the toy soldier shop down the street where I had discovered my GI's.

WERE THESE THE MOST EXCITING TOY SOLDIERS OF THE 50'S? (Cont.)

My “half-a-crown” enabled me to buy five figures—each one cost sixpence and I must have spent an hour at least going over and over and over exactly what selection to make.

Eventually I placed my five choices on the glass counter... a kneeling firing infantryman... a buddy of his standing firing a rifle... an advancing GI with rifle and bayonet fixed... a “Tommy-Gunner” and... finally... a standing officer looking through his field glasses. Maybe not a rifle platoon or even a section’s worth of GI’s but definitely a good beginning...



WERE THESE THE MOST EXCITING TOY SOLDIERS OF THE 50'S? (Cont.)

As the months and years passed I continued to collect TIMPO's GI's in all their many guises. For me they were (and still are) the best and most diverse range of contemporary toy soldier action figures of the 1950's. Many years later I discovered that these highly original toy soldiers were conceived and designed by Roy Selwyn Smith... one of the "giants" of this great hobby of ours. It says much of TIMPO's management that they were bold (and brave) enough to develop such an extensive range of great figures. This back in the days when even a large company like Britains would come out with four great looking American Civil War infantry figures and flog them to death for years with virtually no other add-ons in the same style.

Until the plastic AIRFIX unpainted 1:32 boxed sets came onto the market in the 1960's there really was nothing to compare to TIMPO's GI's. Even now there is something very special about Selwyn Smith's creations. I know he did a lot more than these GI's but these ones are still my favourites.

LATER INFLUENCE

Flash forward to the mid 1990's and King & Country are just one of many small, independent toy soldier makers making... the same old same old—Zulus... Highlanders... Marching Bands... Colour Parties etc., etc. At long last we finally decide to go our own separate way and create a line of World War Two-themed toy soldiers that, we hoped, would be as extensive and varied as the TIMPO GI's.

That little idea eventually became "ARNHEM '44" our initial big success in the world of toy soldiers. That first fully developed and expandable line of British paratroopers was, to a large extent, inspired by all those TIMPO GI's I saw and bought almost forty years before.

Now, what you may wonder, happened to all my original TIMPO "YANKS" that I loved so much as a wee boy back in Scotland?

Well, sad to say, I no longer have my original collection. As many other collectors can testify... mothers can spell "death" to any kid's collection... In 1972 I joined The Royal Marines... off I went to do my basic training at Commando Training Centre in Lymstone in Devon, England. Several months

later I arrived home on my first "leave" and went to stay at my parents' house. Up in my room I was looking for something (I can't remember what) and came upon a large box where I had carefully kept and stored all of my toy soldier collection from years before and would occasionally inspect... The box was empty... When I questioned my Mum as to the whereabouts of my collection she informed me that as I was "all grown-up" she had decided to give my collection away to some little kids who lived on the same street. I'm sure you can guess the sorry outcome...

None of my precious TIMPO GI's survived more than a day or two with these little monsters. I did however see a couple of headless toy soldier corpses in the kid's garden a few days later...

ALL'S WELL THAT END'S WELL...

Since that fateful day a lot of water has passed under the bridge. TIMPO may be no more but King & Country certainly is and I get to visit Toy Soldier Shows all over the world. During these visits although I'm there to promote K&C I'm always in the lookout for TIMPO GI's and I've found them in some unlikely places... a flea market in Paris... an old toy shop about to close in Hong Kong... even one time in Singapore. But the three main places to get your TIMPO GI's are the "Old Toy Soldier Show" in Chicago... The "Westcoaster" in LA and... The "Neville's" London Toy Soldier Show. So, I can't complain too much. I've collected more GI's than I ever originally had (several times over) and I've relived my childhood even more times than that! How lucky can you get...?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANDY. C. NEILSON is the Cofounder & Creative Director of King & Country, one of the world's largest designers and producers of new-style toy soldiers and military miniatures.

Since leaving the Royal Marines in 1977 he has lived and worked in Hong Kong first as a policeman then as a freelance Graphic Designer and finally as the man behind King & Country. He is still an avid fan of TIMPO AND their "YANKS".



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RECONNAISSANCE

Over the past six years many readers have sent in pictures about their toy soldier and figure discoveries, the following are a few examples.



Rodney Hopson I.D.'d these tin target figures after finding them in a 1922 Sears catalog. They appeared in several earlier catalogs, but were unmarked as are most of the early figures listed. They were made by Wyandotte and sold as target sets with a Wyandotte target gun. I knew Wyandotte made paper soldier sets, but it never occurred to me that they made tin soldiers, but they were a natural choice since they are known for their target sets and pressed tin, commented Rodney.

RECONNAISSANCE (Cont.)



Johillco pre and post war Santa Claus' in red cloaks with an exceptionally rare green cloak version, recently found in Paris.



Britains rare Scenic Range wrapper with Esuffix catalog number. Any readers with further information on this range please contact the editor.



Cast iron figures possibly depicting pirates, these items have previously been illustrated in *Collecting Toy Soldiers* by Richard O'Brien. Do any readers have information about the manufacturer?

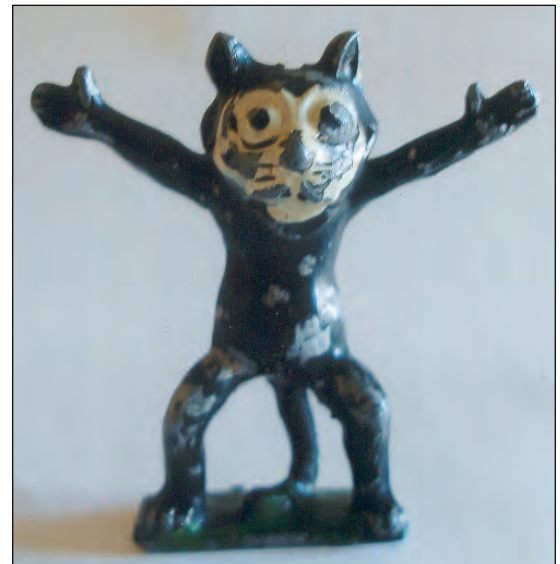
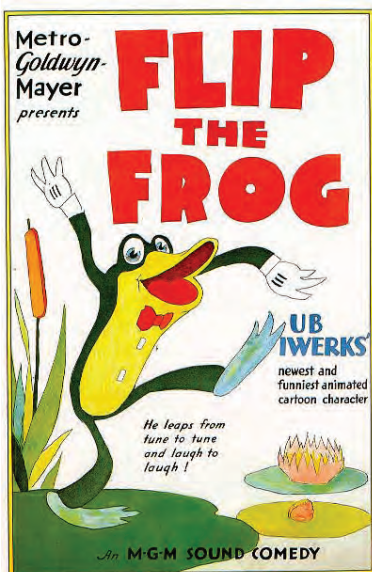


G40 Marine in White w/ red piping. Is this a previously undiscovered color version?

RECONNAISSANCE (Cont.)



This previously unidentified lion wearing a crown and sporting a flag on his tail turned out to be a 1937 British Coronation Mascot and was the feature of a story book published by Hudson. Manufacturer still remains unknown.



Felix the Cat possibly manufactured by Pixyland previously undocumented.

Rare hollow cast Flip the Frog cartoon character issued by wholesaler L Reed. The character was a feature of early Metro Goldwin Mayer cartoons and was a contemporary of early Mickey Mouse cartoons.

WORLD WAR I ADVERTISEMENT COMES TO LIFE

By Norman Joplin

Over the past 20 years or so I have accumulated a large amount of research material on toy soldiers and figures from toy trade journals, most of these have come from the UK and are a result of my work both in the British Museum Newspaper Library in North London or from the Bethnal Green Toy Museum.

Filed away by manufacturer many of these advertisements are from the World War I era and contain line drawings of items that are well known to collectors. Some illustrations however show pieces that have not come to light and it was particularly gratifying when the Reka Charge Boys set was found last year in Chicago.

Brought over from the USA for sale by British dealer Adrian Little, it brought the accompanying advertisement to life. I had never seen the piece, but had filed the CW Baker ad away in the hope that one day it would turn up. Sure enough some 93 years later here it was at the Chicago show.

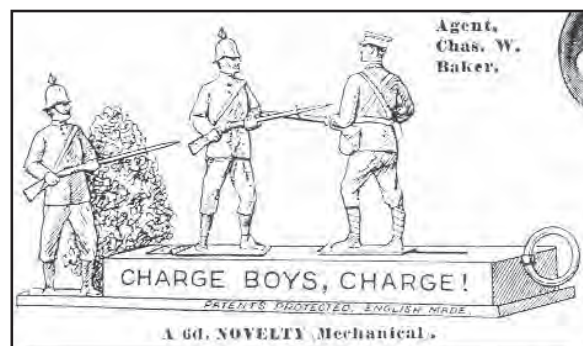
The tinplate base covers a spring mechanism which when pulled makes the British Tommy "attack" with fixed bayonet the "Hun". The example that I obtained was slightly damaged after years of play, but the figure and bush to the side of the base remained intact.

Another World War I find at the same show was the very rare, but still unidentified Soldier firing from tree. I have in the past owned a number of these figures, all sadly damaged in some way, but here on sale from Françoise Beaumont who travels to Chicago from Paris each year was not one, but two complete examples of the item. Unfortunately the complete items yielded no clue to the manufacturer of this World War I era figure as neither carry a manufacturers name or a country of manufacture. I therefore live in hope of another trip to the research facilities in London and the possibility of finding an advertisement which will provide positive identification. The obvious choices appear to be Hanks Brothers, Fry, Reka or perhaps one of the many companies known to exist during the period whose figures have not yet been identified.

If anyone has any positive information about the maker of the soldier in the tree please email the editor info@normanjoplin.com



Advertisement from the Toy and Fancy Goods Trader, 1915



Close-up of the REKA set



Unidentified soldier firing from tree



The item in real life

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THE MILITARY FIGURES OF HOWARD F. WILLETS

By Bill Grant

I was first introduced to Howard F. Willets and his artistry in the summer of 1964 when poking about gift shops in Bar Harbor, Maine. Amidst the tea trays, pine scented candles, spruce needle stuffed pillows and other gems of Down East culture, there appeared two wonderful military models; an officer of the Somerset Light Infantry and a mounted officer of the 12th Lancers. It was a Sunday, banks were closed, my cash was low and in '64, credit cards were mythical.. I could not afford the lancer but had just enough cash for the light infantry figure.

When I returned to our cottage and unwrapped my treasure, I was delighted to find that there was a card on the base of the figure which identified its creator

as one Howard F. Willets of Ilford, Essex. I sent a letter off to Mr. Willets the next day and within several weeks received a most cordial reply, saying that, yes, he did sell directly to individuals. He also included a list of figures he had in production. Thus began a correspondence which lasted some years and resulted in my acquisition of many of his models covering a broad range of British Army units. I told Howard I wanted to have at least one figure to represent each of a specific type of British regiment or corps such as lancers, hussars, foot guards, fusiliers etc. We decided early on that all cavalry would be mounted. In the event we worked out a roster of figures most of which are covered in this article. In addition to the ones featured here there was to be a mounted general



Officer of Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry (left) and # the Royal Army Service Corps (right). The light infantry officer was my first Willets figure



Drum horse of Life Guards circa, 1966. The drums are silver leafed.



The Pipe Major of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, circa 1966. This, I believe, was commissioned by the Regiment. It is one of my favorite pieces.



Officer of 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays). The reins and sword slings are painted leather and the tether line is cord. Bit, spurs, sword and buttons are metal.



Drum Major of the Royal Marines, circa 1966. This marine is some millimeters taller than the usual Willets figure.



Drum Major of the Welsh Guards, circa 1966. His staff is cast metal.

THE MILITARY FIGURES OF HOWARD F. WILLETS *(Cont.)*

officer, an officer of Royal engineers and a side drummer of some designated line regiment. Unfortunately, and for reasons beyond my recall, these last figures never materialized.

A brief description of the Willets style of figure is appropriate. Most models are in review order uniform of 1900-1914. The height of a standing, dismounted soldier without headdress is approximately 140mm compared to the 54mm of a Britains figure. This makes a Willets model fairly sizeable as military miniatures go. Figures were cast over an armature in one of the sturdier, gypsum variants of plaster. This has proved to be a very durable material for after more than forty years none of my figures show any of the stress cracks in necks and limbs so common in composition figures like Elastolins. Most uniform buttons were made of brass or silver capped metal pins. Spurs, bits, swords, rifles, cap plumes, pipe drones and chanters were cast in white metal. Reins, sword slings, etc. were fashioned of leather or plastic strips. Pipe streamers, cap lines, tethers and standards were of fabric or corded material. Each figure was mounted on a 1/4" high plinth painted grey which, in turn, was on a black base, 1 1/2" high. Paint was matte finish except for items such as boots and shoes etc. which were finished in high gloss. The overall effect is impressive for while the castings lend a feeling of sturdiness and precision to the figures, the leather and fabric materials tend to soften the effect. Howard often added touches to his work beyond the ordinary. He adorned my model of the 3rd Hussars with a busby plume of real feathers. He also included a cast plume because he knew the one of feathers wouldn't last, which it didn't. However, the feather he attached to the Glengarry of my Cameron Highlander piper is still in place as shown in this article.

Howard's models were issued in either limited or exclusive editions, the former of seventy figures Exclusive editions were commissioned items and were either one of a kind or very few in number. Some of these were made at



Standard Bearer of Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The fabric standard, normally carried by the officer has here been placed to one side so as not to obscure the figure.



Driver of the Royal Horse Artillery showing uniform details front and back. The label on the back of the base giving the limited edition number is characteristic of a Willets model.

Piper of Headquarters Unit Royal Engineers, 5151 District, circa 1966 (left) and # Piper of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (right) Note the real feather on the Glengarry of the Cameron piper. The engineer piper wears the Grant tartan. Drones and chanters are metal, pipe streamers of fabric.



Officer of 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys). Note the throat plume of corded material.

THE MILITARY FIGURES OF HOWARD F. WILLETS *(Cont.)*

the request of a British Army regiment or corps. A label giving the type of edition and figure number was placed on the base of each figure. A pound sign # before the name of a figure pictured in this article indicates that it is an exclusive edition.

My mother greatly admired Howard's work. She commissioned him to make a figure of a piper in the Grant tartan for each of her three sons. It was typical of Howard to not just paint up three, generic pipers. Rather, he did considerable research to find out that there were three territorial groups within the Highland Brigade whose pipers actually wore Grant tartan. Thus, each of the three figures he made for me and my brothers, was a model of an existing Highland unit.

There are no figures in my collections that have given me more pleasure over the years than those of Howard's creation. I have no idea why our correspondence terminated about 1969. In 1965-66 I was living in Oxfordshire. It seems natural that I would have gone down to Essex to meet with Howard in person, and can think of no reason why I didn't.. Of course, I now greatly regret not having done so.. I would greatly appreciate receiving through the editor any information about Howard Willets that a reader may be willing to share. Howard's work was not only unique but artistically captivating. He was one of the very best of all creators of military miniatures and should rightly be recognized and honored as such.

Note: The regimental badges shown in a number of the pictures are additions and were never a part of the original models. The badges of several Scots units are simply too large for display with their respective figures.



Officer of the the King's Royal Rifle Corps. A model of the same figure by Britains is shown for comparison. The Willets figure wears the shorter and rounder plume adopted about 1900. The tall plume on the Britains model is of an earlier date.



Officer of 3rd (King's Own) Hussars. The busby plume of cast metal has replaced the original, feather plume. The corded, throat plume has become discoloured over the years.



Officer of 12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers compared to a Britains figure of the same regiment. The shabraque worn by the Britains horse was discontinued in use after 1900.



Officer of the The King's Own Scottish Borderers (left) and a Sergeant of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers at the present (right). The Blackcock feathers of the officer's bonnet and the rifle of the sergeant are cast metal.



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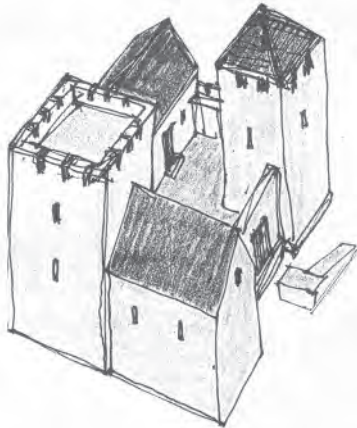
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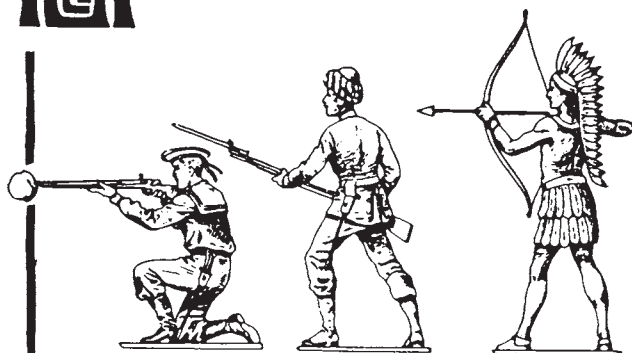
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2008

February 10 – Sunday. 14th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show, Scottish Rites Masonic Hall Lake Worth, Florida. Contact Mike Skurda Email mskurda@inbox.co, Alan McGhee (954) 431-9295 or John Lesinski (561) 968-5571 www.southfloridatoysoldier.com

February 18 – Monday. Wallis and Wallis Toy Soldier and Figure Auction, Lewes Sussex UK. Contact Glenn Butler Tel 44 (0) 1273 480208 Email auctions@wallisandwallis.org www.wallisandwallis.co.uk

February 23 – Saturday. “Cabin Fever” Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm. The Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike Annandale Virginia. Contact Eddie Gries 201 342 6475 or Bill Harlowe 804 448 1306

March 1 - Saturday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show. 9am-2pm Aria Hotel & Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Boulevard. N.Y. Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718 418 9439

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

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

March 12 – Wednesday. Vectis Toy Soldier and Figure Auction, Fleck Way Thornaby Stockton on Tees UK Contact Simon Clark +44 (0) 1642 750616 Email admin@vectis.co.uk www.vectis.co.uk

March 16 - Sunday. 12th Annual New Jersey Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show and Sale and The Little Giant Toy and Action Figure Show. 9am-3pm Crowne Plaza Hotel, Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, New Jersey Contact Eddie Gries 201-342-6475 or 201-257-2687

March 29 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London Contact Bob Neville /King and Country UK +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoyshow.com

March 30 – Sunday. Indy 2008 Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm. Sheraton Inn North, 8787 Keystone Crossing (1465 exit 33), Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact Barry Carter (765) 345-5665 Email indytoysoldier@hotmail.com

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

April 26 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale 10am-4pm. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad 570-629-7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

April 27 - Sunday. Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm Gettysburg Hotel (Best Western) One Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, PA Contact Wayne Stevens 717-253-7228 Carl Hoegermeyer 215-794-5606 or John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

May 10 - Saturday. Annapolis Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show 9am-3pm Annapolis National Guard Armory, 18 Willow Road, Annapolis, Maryland. Contact Eddie Gries 210-257-2687 or 201-342-6475

May 17 - Saturday. Old Toy Soldier Auctions (USA) Featuring the William Schneider Toy Soldier and Figure Collection and other properties. Contact Ray Haradin 1-800-349-8009 Email raytoys@aol.com or Norman Joplin 262-692-3913 Email info@normajoplin.com

May 18 - Sunday. Ohio Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 10am – 3pm Holiday Inn Hudson Rt 8 & Ohio Turnpike Hudson, Ohio. Contact Doug McClure 330-722-6751 dmccclure@zoominternet.net

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May 24 - Saturday 9:30am -3pm and May 25 Sunday 10am-2pm. "The Texas Show" Historical Miniature and Toy Soldier Event. Bolivar Hall- La Villita. 418 Villita Street, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Toy Soldiers of San Diego 760-723-6583 Email tssd@sdsoldiers.com www.sdsoldiers.com

June 7- Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier and Military Figure Show 9am-3pm. VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike Annandale. VFD Community Center. Contact Eddie Gries 201-342-6475 or Bill Harlowe 804-448-1306

June 28 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way, London Contact Bob Neville /King and Country UK +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoyshow.com

September 13 - Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Coram Street. London 10:30am -3:30pm. Contact Norman Joplin 262-692-3913 or 262-388-1140 Email info@normanjoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com or call in the UK Rob Wilson 01926 496062.

September 13 - Saturday. Toy Soldier and Figure Auction - The Toy Auctioneer. Holiday Inn Coram Street London. Commencing at 3:30pm. (at the close of the above Toy Soldier Show) Contact Daniel Agnew 44(0) 208 993 3217 daniel@thetoyauctioneer.com or Christian Braun 44(0) 7711 021443

September 13 - Saturday. The National Capital Model Soldier Society, 47th Annual Washington Show. 9am-5pm NOVA Community College Ernst Center. 8333 Little River Turnpike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Glenn Merritt 703-938-6361 www.geocities.com/ncmss

September 14 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439.

September 21- Sunday. Allegheny Mid West Passage Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm. Radisson Hotel, Sharon Route 18 & I80 West Middlesex, PA Contact Mike Luteran 724-854-0334.

September 28 - Sunday. 'OTSNs' Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago. 10am-3.30pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239 Email dimestores@aol.com Dealer Info www.toysoldiershow.com

October 4- Saturday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show. 9am-2pm Aria Hotel & Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Boulevard. N.Y. Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

November 1 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale 10am-4pm. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad 570-629-7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com (The day before the East Coast Toy Soldier Show)

November 2 - Sunday. 26th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Fairleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack. N.J. Sponsored by Vintage Castings Contact Bill Lango 973-831-8900 Email bill@vintagecastings.com Web Site www.vintagecastings.com

November 16 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

December 6 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London Contact Bob Neville /King and Country UK +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoyshow.com

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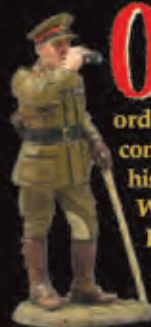
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ON 19 AUGUST 1914 the German Kaiser Wilhelm II ordered the commander of his army in the West, General von Kluck, to "obliterate the British and their contemptible little army".

FW024 When word of this was published the British Expeditionary Force... far from being insulted adopted the slur and began to call themselves... "The Old Contemptibles".

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Facing the mighty



onslaught of von Kluck's armies the "KOSBies" and their BEF comrades fought an almost continuous series of fighting withdrawals and rearguard actions through Belgium and northern France.

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KING & COUNTRY'S

1914

ALL OVER BY CHRISTMAS?



K&C's "KOSBies"

Our first Allied figures of "The Great War" series shows the "KOSBies" in action and firing on the advancing Germans... with one exception - Sir John French, Commander of the British Expeditionary Force.

FW024 shows the unflappable French calmly observing the enemy through his field glasses. Although personally brave and well liked by the troops Sir John was essentially a traditional 19th Century officer dealing with a very modern 20th Century war.

Standing nearby is **FW025** a "KOSBie" Staff Officer studying a map of the situation. Adding to the ranks are a range of individual soldiers in a variety of fighting positions laying down accurate rifle fire on the attacking "Huns".



A BRIEF REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Founded in 1689 this Regiment has had a chequered but glorious past. It has fought for the Crown all over the globe... from the lowlands of Europe to the burning sands of Egypt and the steamy jungles of South East Asia. It has served on the treacherous North West Frontier, the beaches of Normandy and the hills of Korea. More recently its soldiers have fought in Northern Ireland... Malaysia... Aden... and a dozen other "hotspots". It has also played an important role in the Gulf War of 1991 and the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2006 it has been amalgamated into the new, much larger Royal Regiment of Scotland.



Two 2-man sets complete this first release... **FW031**, a medic tends a seriously wounded soldier while **FW033** The Vickers Machine Gun Set spreads death and destruction across the battlefield.

These new figures are just the "opening volley" of "The Great War" series which promises to be just as expansive and exciting as K&C's many World War Two series. Look out for more in the coming months!

KING & COUNTRY

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Light Company Westphalia Regiment c.1812

(Left) Set no. 700SE1
An Officer, a Cornet and six Privates

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of only 75 sets**

Voltigeur Company 1st Swiss Regiment c.1812

(Right) Set no. 700SE2
An Officer, a Cornet and six Privates



Available soon:
More Crimean War sets
More French Cavalry of the Napoleonic period

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