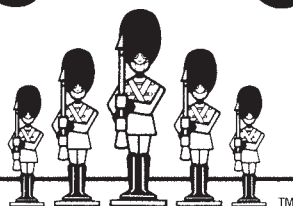


Winter
2009

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 32 Number 4
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OLD TOY SOLDIER



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KING & COUNTRY'S

AE032



AE034



ANCIENT EGYPT

IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG since King & Country's last release of Ancient Egyptians... However with these latest releases we hope to make amends to collectors of this colourful and exciting series...

Once more we return to the land of the Nile in the time of the Pharaohs to bring you eight new figures and the long-awaited obelisk without which no Ancient Egypt collection is complete!

On this occasion our figures are celebrating a wedding... Not just any wedding but a noble member of the Royal Household.

AE032 shows the "Wedding Couple" themselves... obviously in a good mood and looking forward to their honeymoon already!

AE032



AE033 "Another Dancing Girl"... Either to help entertain the guests or perhaps just to demonstrate her agility this nubile dancer makes a welcome addition to our other dancing girls AE023.

Overseeing the ceremony is AE034 "The High Priest of RA"... Decked out in all his finery these priests were not only temple functionaries but also politically powerful.

AE035 "Hand Maiden to RA"... a female assistant of the High Priest's entourage at the wedding.

AE033



The translation of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics (pictorial writing) was lost until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 by the French Army in Egypt. On the stone, the same message was written in both hieroglyphics and classical Greek which allowed modern scholars to decipher this ancient Egyptian visual language.

K&C's Obelisk measures 14 inches high (35.6 cm).



AE035



It was a great honour for an Egyptian girl to be picked to assist the High Priest in religious ceremonies...

AE037



K&C's latest portrait of the Pharaoh depicts him wearing the magnificent 'Khepresh' or Blue Crown...

AE036



Finally, we have AE038 our "Egyptian Obelisk"... more commonly called "Cleopatra's Needle". Skillfully cast in strong, sturdy polystone this 2-piece structure makes a perfect backdrop for any display of Ancient Egypt figures.

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Obelisks were prominent in the architecture of the ancient Egyptians who placed them in pairs at the entrance to temples. The obelisk was meant to symbolized the sun god Amun Ra.

Please Note:
figures shown only for scale and are not included with AE038.

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ON THE COVER

Britains West India Regiment

Subscriptions

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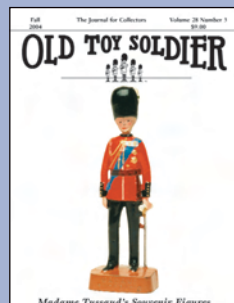
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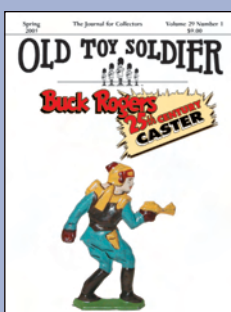
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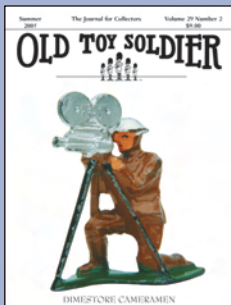
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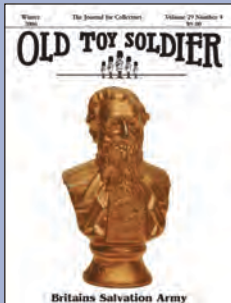
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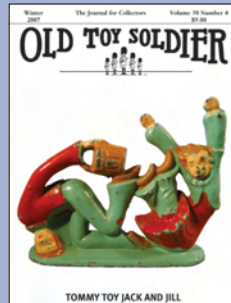
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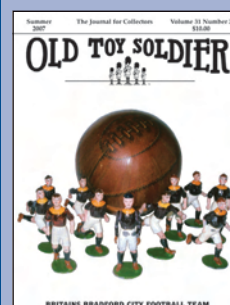
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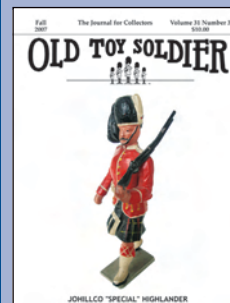
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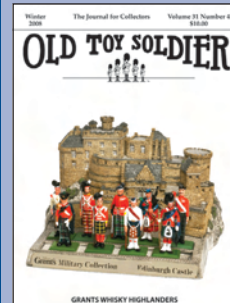
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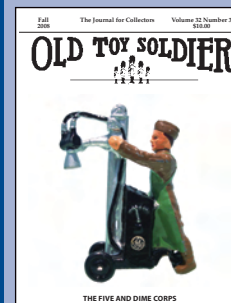
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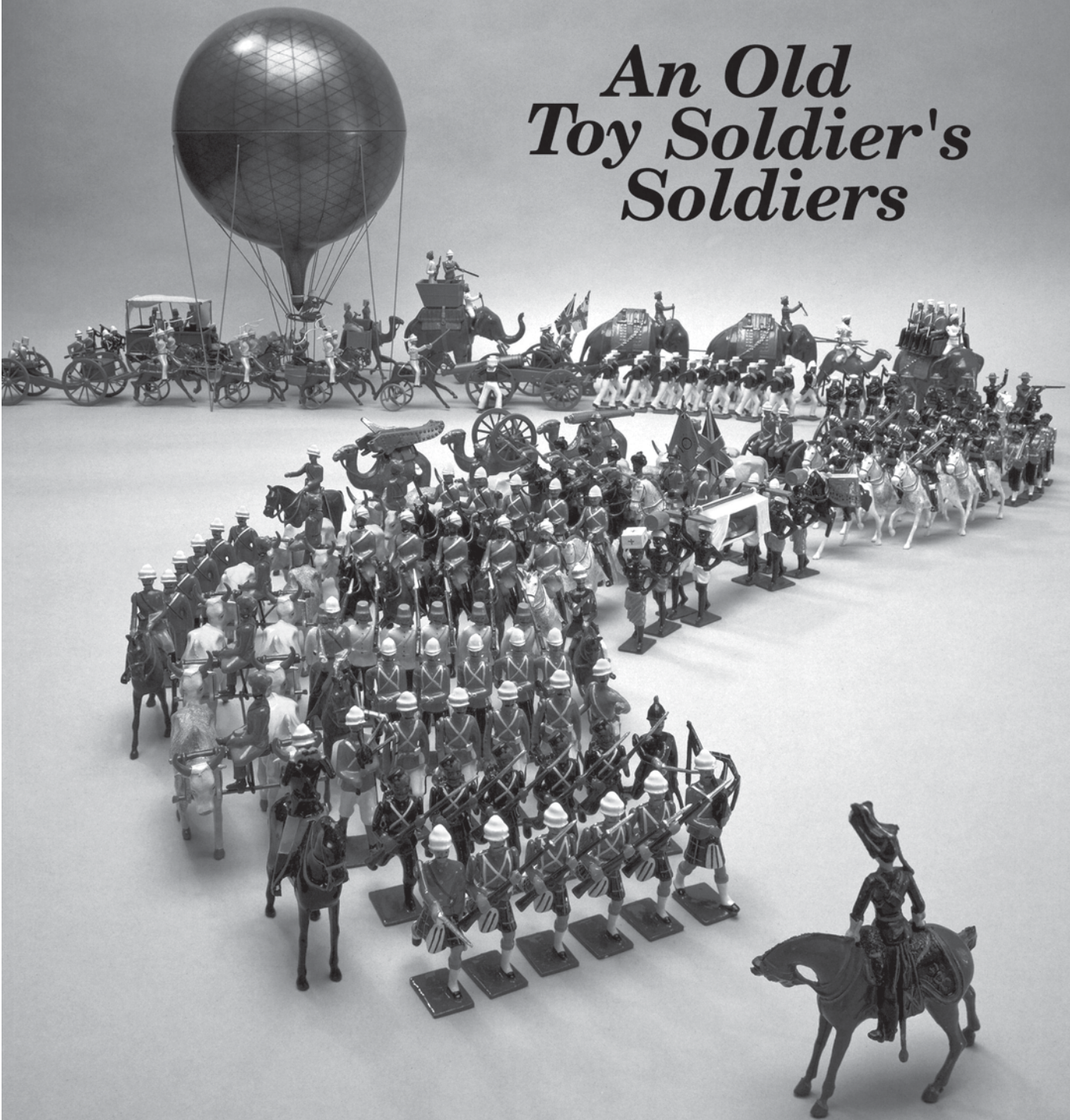
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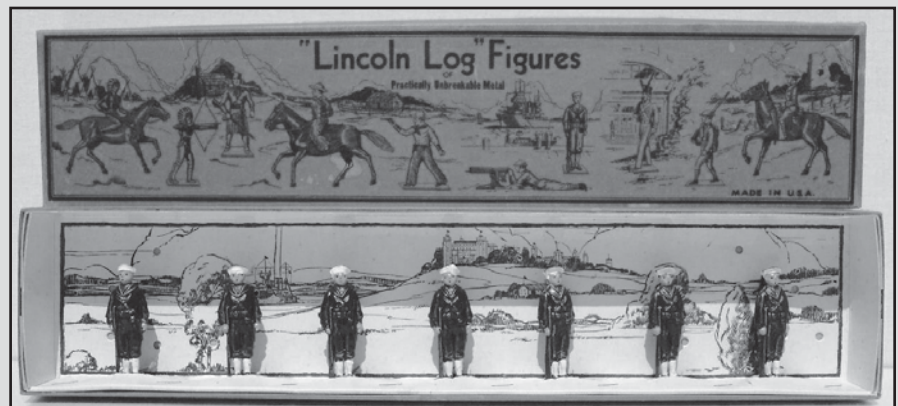
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In 2009 Britains Toy Soldiers referred to, as "New Toy Soldiers" will be thirty-seven years old, many of the early figures are now very difficult to obtain as are figures produced for members of the early Britains Collectors Club.

More recent items with a short production and catalog life are also becoming hard to find and the specials made for Britains various events along with the Hamleys and Harrods boxed sets only available from those London stores are now eagerly sought after by Britains Collectors.

The recent issue of my book Britains New Toy Soldier 1973 to the Present has further increased the interest in Britains "New Toy Soldiers" and many who have purchased the book have commented that some of the items illustrated were previously unknown to them.

After 40 years in the Toy Soldier Hobby I am now offering the chance for collectors to obtain some of the harder to find items, some of which are illustrated here and most of which are illustrated in my new book.

I will be producing regular sales lists of Rare and out of production models.

If you have specific wants for your Britains "New Toy Soldier" collection contact me with your requirements and I will be happy to locate the item(s) for you should they not be immediately available.



Norman Joplin
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Email info@normanjoplin.com
Telephone 262 692 3913



EUROFIGURINE MAGAZINE

Old Toy Soldier was pleased to receive a sample copy of *Eurofigurine* magazine.

Eurofigurine is a quarterly publication of twenty-four pages that is published in France.

Although the text is in French, *Eurofigurines* is loaded with numerous excellent color photographs. The issue received contained a total of eighty-five pictures. All types of toy soldiers are examined, hollowcast, aluminum, plastic, composition and more. A separate pull-out sheet is included providing details of future shows and subscribers want ads.

Those interested in subscribing should contact the Secretary of *Eurofigurines*, Jean-Marc de Vion, who will reply in English. The cost of a subscription is forty Euros which may be paid conveniently by PayPal.

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EUROFIGURINES

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Magazine n° 16 4ème Trimestre 2008



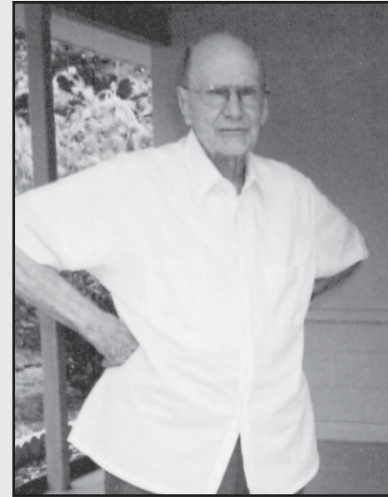
Les figurines OUGEN



Figurines en composition SFBJ
Les plombs creux : coloniaux avant guerre.
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MOKAREX, OUGEN, JIM BD,
Infos et petites annonces pour collectionneurs.

La cavalerie du 1er Empire - STARLUX années 60

Obituary John J. Giddings



May 20, 1924 - December 17, 2008

I am sad to report the death of my friend and a friend to many of you, John Giddings. He was a lifelong toy soldier collector but lost his early collection when his grandmother gave them away as John was in the Navy serving his country in WWII. He always said, "I received a real Dear John letter and was heartbroken."

Much of John's life was spent in Milwaukee where he was an active member and president of a hobby club, the 4M Club. Later, after moving to Florida, John, Lanny Helford and I formed a club many of you were members of, Toy Soldier Collectors of America. During most of its first 25 years, John was Mr. TSCA. He did it all, and very well. TSCA was formed to help collectors connect with each other. The most popular benefit was the annual directory of members. I have used it to contact and visit collectors in other states while traveling.

John loved toy soldiers, but he loved people even more. The hobby will never be the same without John.

Alan Gwin



HOBBY NEWS

New OTS Websites Subscribe Online To Old Toy Soldier Magazine

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Toy Soldier Collectors of America

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Toy Soldier Collectors of America founded by the late John Giddings (see obituary in this issue) continues to thrive. Over thirty eight thousand visitors have viewed the club website. Support T.S.C.A. by visiting www.toysoldiercollectorsofamerica.com

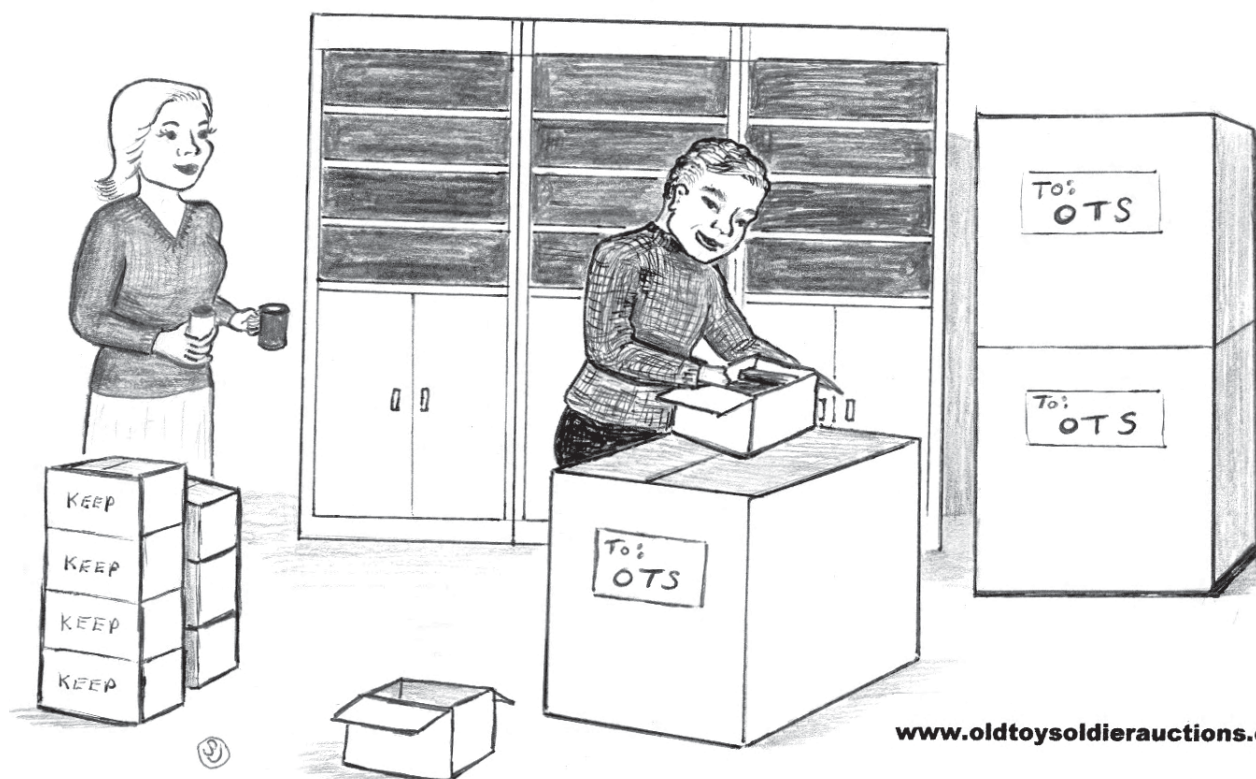
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THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT BRITAINS SET #19

By Joe Wallis



One of the most exotic units of the British Army was the West India Regiment, raised in 1795, primarily from Africans abducted from West Africa and shipped to the West Indies to be sold as slaves. After 1807, England had made the slave trade illegal, and the Royal Navy's West African Squadron expended an unswerving effort throughout the Nineteenth Century to end the slave trade by capturing slave ships and freeing their cargo.

A total of 12 West Indian Regiments were incorporated by 1798 to fight the French for possession of the wealth-producing sugar islands of the Caribbean, but four (the Ninth through the Twelfth) were disbanded by 1802, and four more (the Fifth through the Eighth) disappeared by 1817. The Third West India Regiment had an intermittent history: it was broken up in 1825, reformed in 1840, disestablished again in 1870, and then reformed briefly from 1898 to 1904. Similarly, the Fourth West India Regiment was taken out of service in 1819, reestablished in 1840-to be finally disbanded in 1869. The First West India Regiment existed continuously from 1795 to its merger with the Second West India Regiment in 1888, when the First and Second Regiments were retitled as the First and Second Battalions of the West India Regiment.

The colossal fatality rate of European troops stationed in the West Indies was the impetus for the formation of the West India Regiments, the only black regiments of the British Army. (Many colonial units composed of black troops were also established in Africa and the West Indies, but they were not formally part of the British Army, and they did not attain the lengthy history of the West India Regiment.) Casualties from malaria, yellow fever and dengue fever often wiped out the majority of British troops, and invalidated many of the remainder. It would be the beginning of the Twentieth Century before it was recognized that mosquitoes were the transmission vector for deadly fevers.

After 1815, the end of the Napoleonic Wars removed the French threat to the West Indies and confirmed the British conquest of all but a few of these tropical islands so prized for their sugar production. The West Indian Regiments garrisoned numerous islands such as Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Demerara (British Guiana) on the northern coast of South America. After 1844, Nassau in the Bahamas and Jamaica were garrisoned by the West India Regiment, in addition to British Line Infantry regiments stationed in Jamaica and other islands to maintain order amongst their large black population.

In 1823, the West India Regiments began serving in West Africa, which was another locale aptly described as "the White Man's Grave" because of deadly tropical fevers. The black troops of the West India Regiments had developed much greater immunity to disease from centuries of exposure, so their battalions began to alternate tours of duty between several years in the West Indies, and then being stationed in the Gold Coast (now Ghana), Gambia, or Sierra Leone in West Africa.

The campaigns of the West India Regiments after 1815 included British Guiana (Guyana) 1823 (the Mehaica insurrection), 1842, and 1856; British Honduras (Belize) 1848-49, 1861, 1866-67, and 1872 (defense of the town of Orange Walk); Jamaica 1865 (the Morant Bay rebellion); Gambia 1831, 1849, 1853, 1855, 1861, 1864, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1898, and 1901; the Gold Coast Ashanti Wars 1823-24, 1848, 1854, 1863-64, 1873-74, 1895-96, and 1900; and Sierra Leone 1831-32, 1855, 1883, 1887, 1891, and 1898. They protected convoys of bearers carrying supplies against ambush, cut paths through the bush, and assaulted wooden stockades. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Regiment: Samuel Hodge won his medal at Jubabecolong in Gambia in 1866 for opening an enemy stockade gate with an ax under heavy short-range fire; William Gordon won his

THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT BRITAINS SET #19 (Cont.)

Victoria Cross at Toniataba in Gambia in 1892 in a similar manner when he was seriously wounded in saving his commanding officer's life by heroically leaping in between him and several muskets that had just been thrust through the stockade gate that a 12-man squad of the West India Regiment was attempting to open with a battering ram. During the First World War, the West India Regiment fought in the Cameroons 1915-16, German East Africa 1916-18, and Palestine 1918. In 1920, the Second Battalion was broken up, and finally in 1927 the West India Regiment was entirely disbanded.

At first, the uniform of the West India Regiment consisted of the same shakos and short red tunics worn by contemporary British Infantry regiments. This was dramatically altered in 1858 after Queen Victoria approved a new uniform based upon the popular attire of the Algerian Zouaves of the French Army that had fought alongside the British in the Crimean War against Russia. It combined a red sleeveless jacket worn over a white waistcoat with dark blue "baggy" trousers, and a red fez with a white turban wrapped around it. The regiments were differentiated by their facings and cap tassels-the First West India Regiment had white cuffs, while the Second Regiment wore yellow cuffs. The Zouave uniform continued in use until the Regiment's termination in 1927.

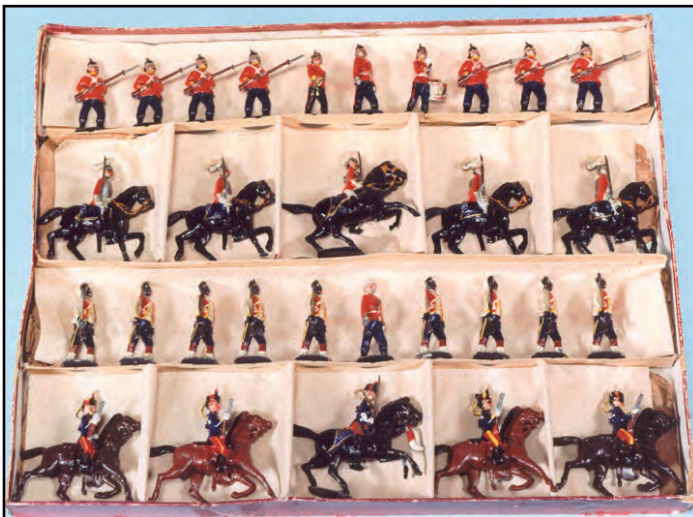
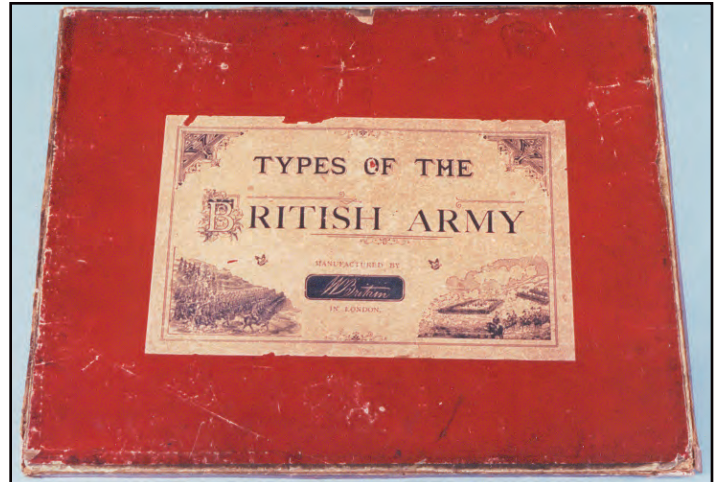
Britains Limited customarily capitalized upon current events in choosing new models to issue. The exploits of the West India Regiment's bush fighting in West Africa were in the newspaper headlines of the 1890s. Thus in 1894 or 1895, the firm released a set representing the West India Regiment. By 1897, this box was assigned Set #19. Its yellow facings verify that the Second West India Regiment is the one being depicted. A magnificent illustration adorned the box lid for Set #19 and was used throughout the pro-



Britains Set #19 Variants



THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT BRITAINS SET #19 (Cont.)



Britains display set # 21 containing West India Regiment from Set # 19

duction life of the set (Fred Whisstock never designed a label for Set #19). It included the Battle Honors of Dominica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Ashantee, along with a battle scene of the regiment engaging African tribesmen on the left side of the label, and a camp scene showing the regiment in front of its tents standing at support arms.

Set #19 began with a fixed-arm "bemedalled" white officer on foot wearing a white spiked helmet, but after a couple of years the mounted officer with a sun helmet introduced for the Mountain Artillery of Set #28 and for the Royal Sussex of Set #36 was reenlisted (with a red jacket) into the West India Regiment. The early walking horse had its head down and its left front leg lifted. Two versions of this early mounted officer were featured in Set #19: the first wore a "bee-hived" shaped helmet, while the sun helmet of the later version was more correctly shaped. By about 1910, the mounted officer for the Mountain Artillery and the Sussex was remodeled with an improved casting with the horse striding along with

all four hooves on the ground and the horse's head up. The substitution was also made in Set #19. The other ranks were standing at support arms with their rifles on their right sides held by the wrist of the rifle's stock off the ground. About 1925, the men were re-designed slightly-changing from oval to rectangular bases. The number of pieces was reduced from nine to only seven in 1937. Sometimes no officer at all was included during the 1930s. Set #19 lasted from 1894 to 1941. The West India Regiment was a component of Display Box #21 prior to 1920; a single piece was included in noncatalogued Set #1872 sold by FAO. Schwarz in 1941.

The design of the basic mold, and of the box label, reflect the high quality work achieved by Britains Ltd. Little change was needed over the 47-year production period of Set #19. Its discontinuation after 1941 was due to the decline of the British Empire and the demise of the West India Regiment rather than being caused by any shortcoming of the models sold in Set #19.



Archive Collection



The first two sets from the new Archive Collection that made their debut in 2008 instantly disappeared, proving there is still some considerable interest in classic W. Britain figures. Adding then to this popular collection in 2009 you will find two new sets: Cameron Highlanders in Active Service Order and King George the V's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Each set is reproduced faithfully down to the true 54mm size, the shades of paint, style of painting and even the classic burgundy W. Britain half box with figures tied in. A Fred Whisstock style label on period pastel paper completes the replica packaging. Please note that the only variation in these figures to the originals is that they are not hollowcast (with lead safety restrictions today it is not possible to make a truly hollowcast figure anymore) but lead-free solid cast figures. These sets are limited to only 400 sets worldwide and come with a serialized limited edition certificate. There are more sets in the Archive Collection already planned and underway for later in 2009, so be sure not to miss out on these first two editions of the year.

The sets featured above are:

#49003 King George the V's Own Gurkha Rifles
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#49002 Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders Marching in Active Service Order
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AUCTION PREVIEW

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Britains Set #19



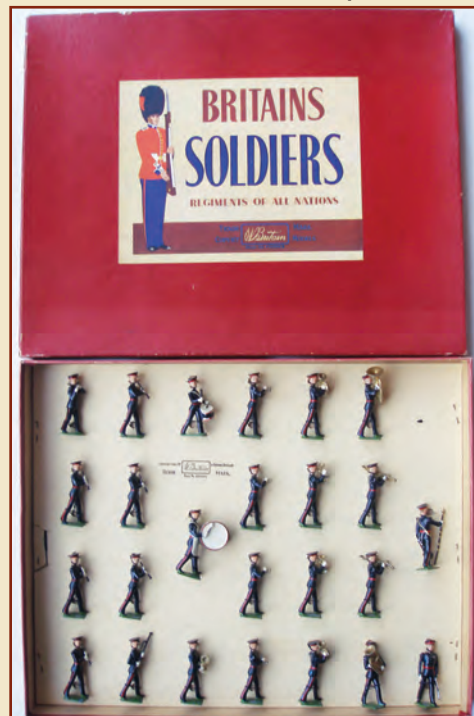
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AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



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Britains Pre War Boxed Sets



Britains Early Pre War



Panache By Thomas Tin



Britains Farm and Hunt



Britains Eyes Right



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Britains Post War Boxed Sets

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Set 73



Britains Black Watch Pipe Band



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AUCTION REVIEW

Some of the highlights and prices realised from OTS Auctions sale May 2008.
Visit www.oldsoldierauctions.com for full results of May 2008 sale.



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Lot 385 \$2000



Lot 223 \$800



Lot 265 \$800



Lot 388 \$1500



Lot 121 \$950



Lot 351 \$1200



Lot 364 \$1500

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



Lot 384 \$1200



Lot 345 \$5000



Lot 1900



Lot 179 \$700



Lot 321 \$1100



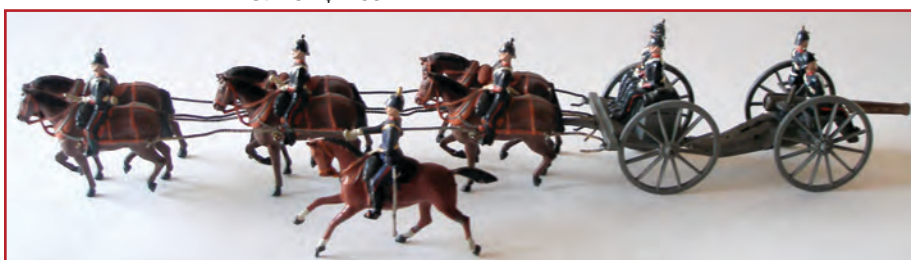
Lot 370 \$1600



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Artillery at the Halt
Estimate: £1,500 - 2,000
Britains set 436, U.S.A. Monoplane with
Pilot and Aircraftsmen
Estimate: £1,500 - 2,000

Bottom row - left to right
Britains set 2186, Band of the Bahamas Police:
Estimate: £1,500 - 2,000
Britains set 1913, Cameronian Rifles
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Britains RARE set 1734, Guard Room:
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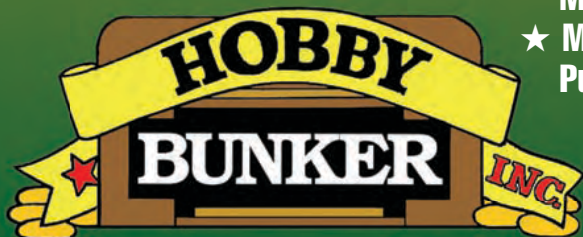
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History Cast in Tin

Kamerun: December 20-21, 1884

By Earl Jorgensen

In the fall of 2003 I purchased a very old and rather delightful cast lead gunboat decked out with a four man crew, a cannon mounted on the bow and an oversized tiller mounted on the stern. Of even greater interest, however, was the name "BISMARCK" which was clearly marked on the gunboat's side.



Photo 1 BISMARCK from the author's collection.

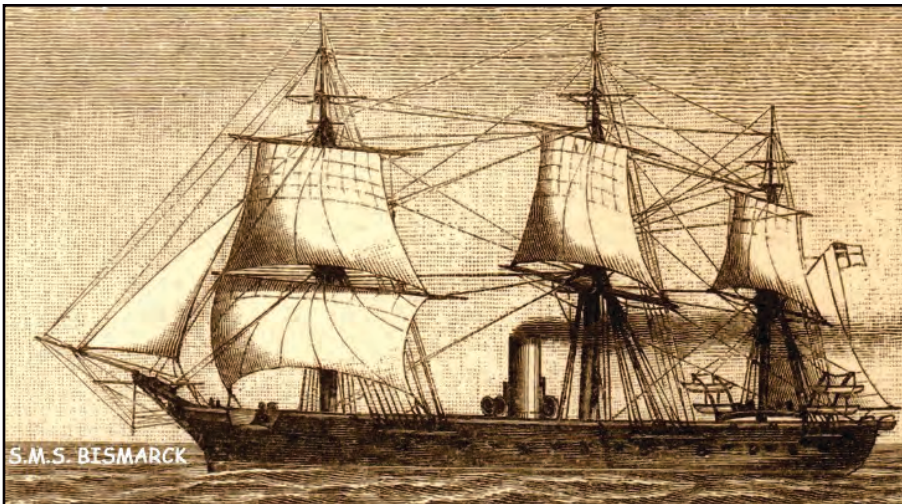


Photo 2 A period post card image of the S.M.S. Bismarck

I would guess that most people are aware of the story of the Bismarck; the exploits and eventual sinking of the famous WW2 German battleship have long been immortalized in literature, art, film and song. Since there was no way that my little gunboat could possibly have been made to represent that Bismarck, a question immediately came to mind: could there have been other German navy ships that shared the Bismarck name? I was determined to find out exactly what my little BISMARCK did to earn its place in an old set of toy soldiers.

Fortunately, correspondence with the seller had provided me with a clue. BISMARCK was originally part of a large set of flat toy soldiers that had been in his family for generations. He remembered his father telling him that it had something to do with a battle fought "in a place called Cameroon". A few minutes on Google quickly provided the information I was looking for.



Photo 3: Bismarck (2008 version) front side.



Photo 4: Bismarck reverse view.

History Cast in Tin (Cont.)

The Bismarck of WW2 fame was actually the fourth German naval vessel to carry the name. The first to do so was the *Kreuzerfregatten* S.M.S. Bismarck which carried a crew of 404 along with 16 cannons. It was commissioned in 1877 and served as the flagship for the *Westafrikanische Geschwader* or West African Squadron under the command of Admiral Eduard Knorr. In September of 1884, the squadron was dispatched to the region of the *Kamerun* river delta on the western coast of Africa with orders to use whatever force necessary to suppress a native rebellion in the newly declared German colony of *Kamerun*. On December 20, the *Kreuzerkorvetten* S.M.S. Olga shelled native villages located upriver while Bismarck launched and supported an amphibious naval assault party. Within 24 hours order had been restored and the German colony was secured.



Photo 5: OLGA

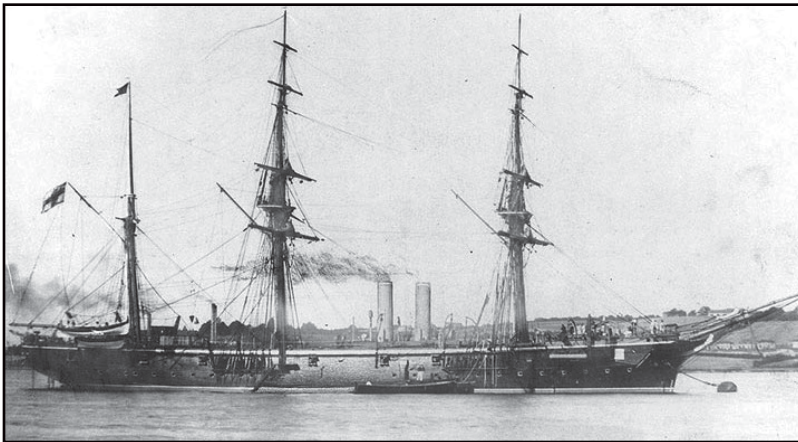


Photo 6: A period photo of the S.M.S. Olga

I finally had my answers. BISMARCK had played an important role in German history but this knowledge also made me wonder if any other old German toy soldier makers had produced sets based on the Cameroon campaign. It would be very interesting to see how other makers might portray BISMARCK. I finally got the opportunity to find out in the fall of 2008 when another old German made Cameroon set was located on a German auction site. Not only did the set provide another version of BISMARCK but it also included toy ships marked with the names "OLGA", "KAMERUN" and "AUGUZTA".

Although my research found no references to any German naval vessels named KAMERUN or AUGUZTA it does not necessarily mean that the vessels didn't exist or that they were not involved in the Cameroon campaign. Remember both Bismarck and Olga were large, heavily armed, state of the art warships. If you look at the photos of KAMERUN and AUGUZTA it's clear from the relative size of the onboard figures that both represent much smaller vessels. Bismarck and Olga would have been equipped with a number of such boats and would have used them to transport the amphibious assault party to the shore. I would venture a guess that two of the smaller boats used in the assault were actually named KAMERUN and AUGUZTA. While this type of information would have been considered far too trivial to be included in the official reports written to document the campaign, it certainly would have been recounted in the more detailed newspaper accounts read by the general public, including our two unknown old German toy soldier makers.

The S.M.S. Bismarck was decommissioned in 1891. It was then modified, secured in a protected anchorage and served as a floating warehouse until it was finally scrapped in 1920. The S.M.S. Olga was damaged by a hurricane in 1889. It was repaired and remained in service as a training ship until 1906.



Photo 7: AUGUZTA



Photo 8: KAMERUN

HACKENSACK SHOW REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008

A collage of five photographs featuring collectors and their hobby items. Top left: John Tintera, a man with glasses and a dark shirt, stands behind a large collection of Osprey Books, including titles like 'The Vikings', 'The Roman Empire', and 'Rome at War'. Top right: Pete Grossman, an older man with a mustache wearing a blue shirt and a red and black hat, stands next to a display of miniature figures. Bottom left: A close-up of a red box containing German soldiers in French uniforms, with a label that reads 'ARMÉE FRANÇAISE INFANTRIE SOLDATS DE PLOMB MASSIF'. Bottom center: Bill Conover, a man with glasses wearing a maroon cardigan, sits at a table displaying a large collection of miniature cowboy and Indian figures. Bottom right: A close-up of the German soldiers box, showing the figures in detail.

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY (Cont.)

Rick Berry and Ted Deddens
with daughter



Larry Weindorf



Richard Conte



Show promoter
Bill Lango and Family



Ron Ruddell and Bob Hevner



Rare Britains 67F - See Text



Britains Prototype Aircraft
- See Text



SHOW REPORT

W BRITAINS/FIRST GEAR DECEMBER 2008 EVENT

W Britain - First Gear held its annual London event in December 2008 on the Friday evening prior to the Toy Soldier Show London. This annual get together for W Britain Collectors Club members and invited guests is held at the Guards Museum, Birdcage Walk London and adjacent to Wellington Barracks.

The Gathering gives Collectors Club members an opportunity to view the upcoming years new products, converse with the W Britain - First Gear Staff and obtain a special figure from the Redcoats line, limited to 300 models and only available at the event or by prior application.

The 2008 figure is # 44009 Fifer 2nd (Coldstream) Foot Guards 1815 and compliments the Drummer issued at the event in 2007 (See accompanying photos). A postcard showing the actual uniforms worn by both soldiers was also included in the package given to the guests.

On view were a number of items scheduled for release in 2009 including a Delhi Durbar Elephant which will be part of the new Durbar range released in matte paint July 2009. More details to follow in OTS Magazines May issue.



#44009 2008 Special



Sam Kiff and Sandra Olinski
Britains First Gear UK



SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

Wendy Meyer and Reg Auckland
Toy Soldier Collector Magazine



Richard Walker
Britains First Gear

Patrick Adams



Collector Ted Knight USA and Norman Joplin

Tony Neville (K&C) and
Shannon Reuss (Treefrog)



Britains Matte Durbar
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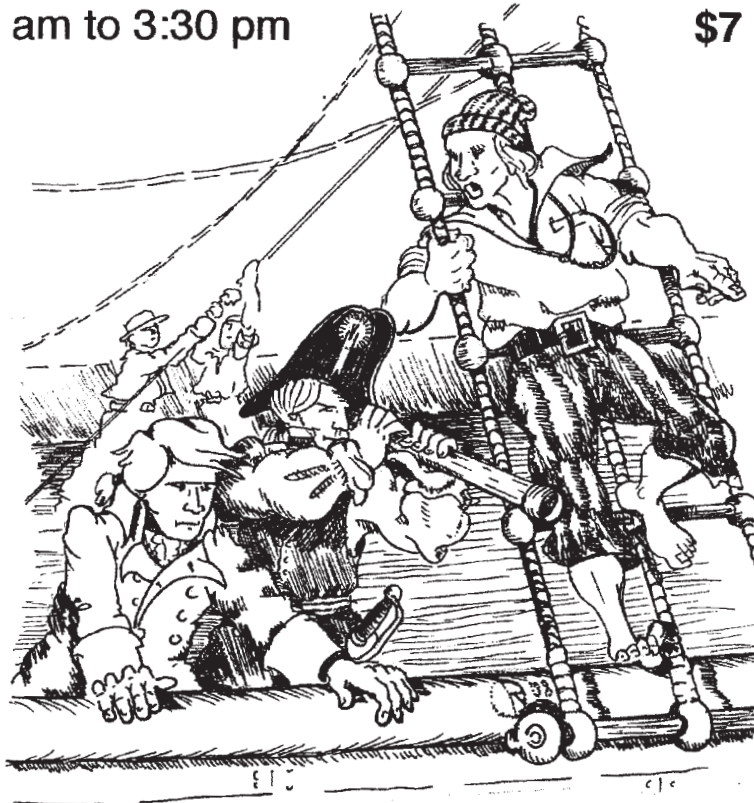
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E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT FIVE AND DIME CORPS AND OUT'N OUT REPRODUCTIONS AND NOW....COMMANDANT MINIATURES

By Louis S. Steinberg

Part Two: Childhood, Adolescence, Education, Marriage, U.S. Navy, Medical Practice, Toy Soldiers

Before I continue to dwell once again upon the toy soldiering pastime of Ed Poole, I have this compelling desire to expose, up front to all, the genealogy of the man, himself, and his throng of relatives.

Ed Writes, "I discovered that we were not related to any signer of the Declaration of Independence as family folklore has claimed. And, I had to point out to other blood connections that a joyfully discovered relationship to a prominent clan of reivers on the Scots-English border only meant we were descended from 'one of the great criminal families of the borderland' and, through them, from some particularly aggressive Vikings.

"More mythic bonds to English sheep-stealers and condottieri have not been verified. Positive results from genealogical studies have yielded many happy hours tramping over Civil War battlefields in the steps of my grandsires.

"However, both of my parents, my Father, Edward S. Poole and my Mother, Pauline Bolar Poole, were of western European stock, descended from multiple nationalities and strongly influenced by the Scots-Irish strain that emphasized education, hard work, thrift, patriotism and above all independence and the distrust of elites. Coincidentally, many streets in our little town of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania were named for American military heroes."

Ed, in following family predecessors, entered military service to our country in 1959 as a Medical Officer. He Honorably Resigned in 1967 as Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps, United States Navy. He proudly recalls, "I was the first in my family to go to sea.

"My forbears frequently served in the militias or the U.S. Army from the Revolutionary War onwards. Mostly they were farmers, small business owners and, occasionally, clergy. Nearsightedness stopped my ambitions to attend West Point."



From Little on
I've Always Wanted to
be A Commandant

During recent years, it has been interesting to hear the many stories expressed around the collecting community as to how and when each hobbyist became involved in the specialization of Dimestore toy soldiers. The most prominent and expected probable answer always has been, "I played with them as a kid."

The likelihood for such a retort almost becomes movingly factual for any American boy born within the time frame preceding, or the years following, World War II. Along with electric trains, the toy soldiers that then sold in the nation's Five and Ten Cent Stores or its Department Stores were most certainly, for boys, the era's playtoys of desire.

It was 1939 when Ed started grade school. World War Two was also in its European childhood. By 1941, with the United State's entry into the War, youngsters throughout the country now were obsessed with war-like play-acting and gravitated to the toys that sparked their combative imaginations. Dimestore toy soldiers easily became a natural interpretation for such play.

Ed's Mother, while giving piano lessons at home, now and then had to admonish him and his friends for the noise they were making while engaged in war

gaming. This occasionally would cause his retreat to Grandma Poole's house where he also maintained a well stocked repository of war toys.

So was it for young Edward. He informs us, "Grandma indulged me by herself eating the cereals that got me the best prizes...tanks cut from the boxes; plastic warplanes inside the box or decoders received from sending in the boxtops. My friends and I were totally absorbed by the war and all of our play involved combat of some sort, distinctly politically incorrect by today's standards.

"There was of course the standard shoe box full of Barclay and Manoil lead soldiers to maneuver both indoors and out. And, a bag of wooden blocks and Lincoln Logs to build their fortifications. Also a scuffed wooden toy box containing a Marx tank; a pressed steel bomber; a spring-firing cannon and some Tootsietoy or Keystone ships, the latter water-logged from bathtub naval engagements.

"Furthermore, I do remember in my only toy soldier activity that involved a girl, Cousin Stephanie and I lined up parades on Grandfather's back porch which, at her insistence, included such non-military items as fire trucks and a pressed steel ice wagon."

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT (Cont.)

Many other war games were conducted in the woods behind Ed's Grandpa's house. Forts and hideouts were assembled. Cap and squirt guns were the weapons of choice till his father and some of the fathers of his mates helped by fabricating in wood much larger Lewis Gun pieces.

Other scrappy contests like "Capture the Flag" were engagingly more active. Ed said, "We discovered a pile of wooden insulators behind a clump of bushes. They made wonderful 'potato mashers' hand grenades until one bopped a girl bystander who promptly *told the teacher on us*."

Continuing with childhood memories, Ed said, "Two of my Christmas presents in 1941, before all metal became war strategic and was forbidden to toy manufactures, were significant to my later hobby activities. The first was an A.C. Gilbert home casting set with which my Father helped me produce my own toy soldiers, pouring hot lead into firmly clamped two-part molds. The other was a wondrous Lionel train layout, on a platform under the tree, complete with lighted Japanese cardboard houses, miniature bottle brush pines and Britains Ltd. people and animals.

"The train was great for transporting troops but was also an introduction to the model railroading hobby that taught me, through the pages of *Model Railroader* magazine, techniques of pattern and mold making and characteristics of casting materials. These were valuable in making miniatures later."

Often times the space for the article allowed may be constrictive to storytelling when so much bio material has been acquired. Ed's colorful and structured narrative, *My Life and Toy Soldier Times as Told to Lou Steinberg*, offers a copious amount that could easily be fully quoted. However, the weight of summarization is on every computer key stroked.

Ed had become a high school student within the Vandergrift public school system. Although by now toys were mostly forgotten. The family Christmas trips of the early 40s to Pittsburgh were still fresh holiday recollections when keeping in mind the surprise of all the toys in the animated window displays of the department stores. Ed mentions, "In 1942 I would be given a dollar with which I usually would buy a Britains field piece rather than a boxed set of eight soldiers for the same price."



WW II Soldiers in ID Model Jeep



Cart Drill with Browning 30cal Machine Gun

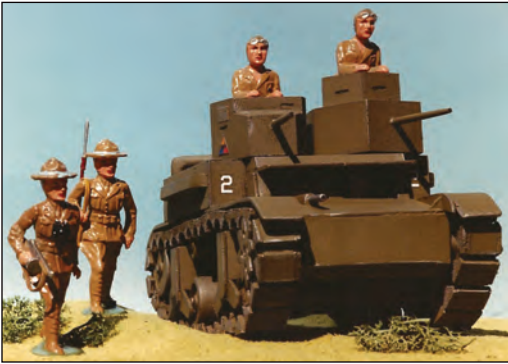


Rare Five and Dime Corps German Conversions



Why Not ??

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT *(Cont.)*



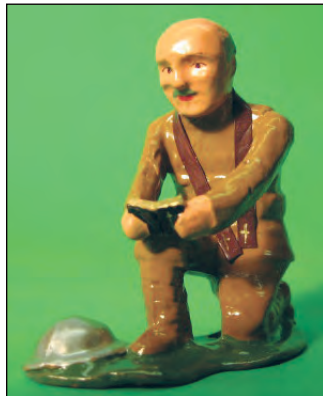
Strombecker Tank Kit with Five and Dime Corps



Fighting for Love



Red Cross Medics in Action



Bless You in Battle



Five and Dime Corps Machine Gun Squad Pulling Out



Officer & Enlisted Marine

High School was completed for Ed in 1951 with senior year remembrances as a member of the Rifle Club and owning his own Remington .22 rifle and .22 Ruger pistol. Summertime was spent jerking sodas at Kuhn's Drug Store. It was here where he met and became friendly with some college students that were WW II vets and who, along with his parents, fostered him to enroll in college.

The vets emphasized, "Learn something practical and do service later as an officer." After all, the Korean War had already begun when in 1950 the North Korean Democratic People's Republic crossed the 38th Parallel and headed south towards Seoul.

Ed's Grandpa Bolar had success as a druggist and Ed put in many hours as a drug clerk. He cited, "I was not entirely persuaded about college but heard there was a Navy rating called 'Pharmacist's Mate' so I was off to the University of Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy where, in 1951, I became a 'Pharmacy Apprentice,' my first professional certificate. In 1955, I received my B.S. degree in Pharmacy.

"However, after my freshman year, fate did change my course of life. An evening position for drawing blood was offered at Northside Pittsburgh Hospital. My veteran friends were working there, but when I arrived the job already had been taken. There was, in

spite of that, an opening for an emergency x-ray night call technician. I spent a summer in the radiology department learning the basics. After that, I was an x-ray technician. In those days medical technology was a lot less formal.

"Soon, I began taking extra night courses to qualify for pre-med and soon I left for Philadelphia to attend Jefferson Medical College.

"There was one other fateful and very momentous encounter while I worked at the Northside Hospital.... On one Saturday morning, through an open door between a hospital library and an adjacent storeroom, I spied a lovely young girl restocking supplies for the hospital's business office.

"Margery Jean Heuer became my Wife in August of 1956; my support through medical school; and partner through the challenges of Navy life and medical practice; and, the mother of our four children."

Ed received his medical doctorate from Jefferson in 1959. The years through medical school saw sparse income and tight budgets. So strict, that even \$8.00 for a really desired Britains Mountain Gun Set was out of the question. Further medical training as a hospital intern proposed very minimal pay. As apparent fatherhood came to be a reality, family finances had to be pondered that much more. Money is the

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT *(Cont.)*



M2 Medium Tank Auburn Conversion



U.S.A. M5 with 3" Gun



U.K. Light Tank Vickers MK VI



U.K. Infantry 'Matilda' MK II



U.K. Cruiser 'Covenanter' MK V



U.K. Infantry 'Churchill' MK IV



German Pz IV Afrika Korps



German Pz Kpfw I



Japanese Amphibian Tankette

undeniable quandary that most often concerns young families. The Pooles were no different.

"It was at this point that joining the armed services once again became attractive," states Ed. "I memorized the eye chart at the Philadelphia recruiting office and was readily headed for an eight year career as a Naval Medical Officer. This included training and the 'pay-back' years, meaning one at sea and three at a naval hospital." Good Lord! What about toy soldiering?

Well you can take the man out of the hobby, but not the hobby out of the man. Surely some loquacious Southerner must have sobbed that. Anyway, 1960 rolled around very fast. Ed found himself homeported in Newport, Rhode Island as a Medical Officer for Destroyer Squadron 20 which happened to travel extensively. He said, "My collecting interests were revived. I acquired sets and/or figures from Gibraltar, Naples, Barcelona and Karachi.... Plus, a fund of sea stories."

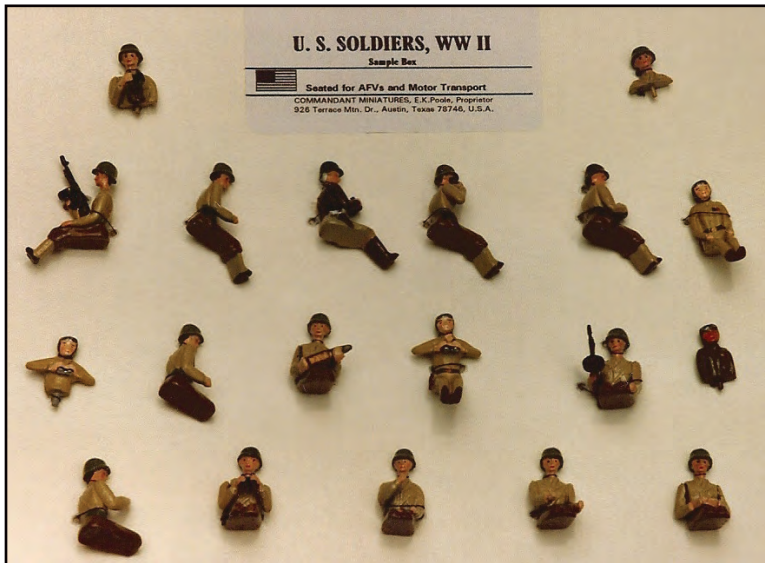
Destroyer Squadron 20, in 1961, was assigned to the Project Mercury Recovery Force. Ed humorously expresses, "I have bored hearers ever since enumerating exciting tales of my high-lining between ships and waiting tensely to recover space capsules."

"For my final Navy years, 1965-67, I was Chief of Radiology (in fact, the only radiologist) and Radiation Safety Officer at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. I had received from the American Board of Radiology certifications in Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine."

Now donning his civvies and entering into civilian medical practice in Austin, Texas, Ed experienced radiology that was quite stimulating as many newer technologies had been advanced. Luckily, the supervisors within the small group with which he worked allowed time for family life.

Hours were engaged in Cub and Boy Scouting. For years Ed and Margie were adult Scout leaders, ultimately seeing their three sons becoming Eagle

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT (Cont.)



U. K. WW II Soldiers for AFV's and Motor Transports



U. S. WWII Soldiers for AFV's and Motor Transports



Vickers Machine Gun and Crew in Britains Ltd Lorry

Scouts. There were also church and Sunday School activities, six years for Ed teaching sixth grade. Let's not forget PTA, band concerts, school plays, sport events and, for their daughter, the choir and drill team performances.

For all things considered, both career and family life were progressing smoothly. Ed affirms, "After renting for a few years, we built a home outside Austin that included my dream of a 'large train room.' The big model train layout never materialized. But soon, to my wife's dismay, toy soldiers filled the room to overflowing." Strange. Bet a lot of us collectors have encountered a similar experience.

An evolution to creativity was building towards a special purpose. Through Ed's unique "lists of wants" he reactivated his WW II childhood interests in building and collecting the wooden military Strombecker kits. After obtaining and constructing a few, he surmised, "They would display better with Dimestore-type crews."

Remembering years back when he helped his eldest son with his school project to form a castle and to provide its defending archers, it was then he first attempted making a plaster-backed RTV mold that would cast the Britains plastic-type bowmen in lead.

The wooden vehicles, however, were mostly fragile and required a lighter than metal casting material. Ed's usage of two-part epoxy paste to fill his RTV molds became an unfortunate one.

He said, "By the time epoxy cans asserted disclaimers stating the product was known to cause cancer, I had been slopping the stuff over my hands for some years, packing it into molds and then cleaning up with acetone. I developed a bladder cancer at a younger age than it usually occurs, fortunately a superficial and curable type. I am still very careful with the little epoxy I presently use.

"Lead toxicity or talc inhalations never have been a problem, probably because all my early casting was done out of doors and later, in workshops with powerful exhaust fans over the melting pots. Blood lead levels have always been normal." Caution is the indicative procedure for all of us.

The vehicle crews were only the beginning of Ed's conversion venture. The undertaking of many, many variations on the current Dimestore figures followed. His *Five and Dime Corps* grew

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT (Cont.)

to more than twenty-plus categories that were well documented for *swaps only* in his sundry catalogs.

He suggests, "In general, my interest was to create figures that the Dimestore manufactures of the 30's might have created had they had time and inclination to expand their ranges. By the time I ceased production I had an extensive idea list of never-to-be-realized future projects." Way too, too bad, for all of us Dimestore buffs that this was unable to materialize.

However, another subsidiary, *Commandant Miniatures*, was engendered in the few years before Ed retired in 1992 from his Austin medical practice.

Aiming at the 54mm niche market and presently having the capability of spin-casting, production geared up for the smaller vehicle parts and crews. Most types of seated soldiers, infantry, machine gun sections, platoon and brigade headquarters are offered for display in Britains and similar vehicles. All with the correct weapons, when customary, are boxed for sale or may be acquired singly.

Ed explains, "At peak production, I employed, with varying success, as many as three high school students to do figure painting. My prime painter, James Peacock, then in college, now has his own toy soldier manufacturing business in Tyler, Texas. I yet continued to do the vehicle fabrication. My marketing was at shows, by mail via ads and the website, www.commandantminiatures.com which is still operative."

Occasionally time permitted Ed to be away from his medical practice. Then he and Margie would enjoy attending nearby toy soldier shows as well as those back East. Before long Ed was to experience one of life's overwhelming nadirs. Ed said, "Margie and I were together for forty six years, until her death in 2000."

It was evident that he would be moving to a smaller lodging after her demise. There would be no room for hordes of toy soldiers along with their complimentary toy items, as well as, the *Five and Dime Corps* and *Out 'N Out Reproductions*.

"When I became a widower, I had the great good fortune to meet at church a very beautiful lady, Dorothy Newton Coates, widowed earlier that same year. I did remember teaching years ago in Sunday School some of her children. So, in my being reverential over coffee, Dee and I learned we had much in common, including an interest in recycling....i.e., she with her antique business and me dealing with toy soldiers.



Daimler Armoured Car Mk I



Britains Ltd Style Loyd Carrier and 54mm Crew



Dodge 3/4 Ton Command Car with General & Crew

E.K. POOLE, COMMANDANT (Cont.)

Ed and Dee were married in late December of 2000. They have been living happily ever after, as Ed avows, "searching through fairs, shops and auctions on two continents for our many various interests. We do less shows each year but I always get a corner of Dee's antique booths to sell Toy Soldiers Old and New, sewed into attractive new red boxes."

Commandant Miniatures now maintains two well-equipped workshops, one being in a rural New Hampshire summer cottage and the other in home-based Austin, Texas.

Aside from the maniacal life of toy soldiering, Ed has never lost his penchant for toy trains. Today, against the fence of his beautiful Texas backyard, he is constructing along with the electrical assistance of his son, David, a magnificent Marklin, large scale, garden model railroad. One day soon it will be chuffing about, adjacent to "Deezie Park" and the grandchildren's play equipment.

Ed muses, "Restorations yet remain part of my hobby life. The direction although has been recently channeled towards antiques and finally, I have learned to accomplish delicate soldering, I try to be faithful in my restorations but, in rare instances, succumb to temptation, reverting to my old conversion tricks by arming a Zulu with a tommygun or dressing a Britains cowboy in a top hat."

Well, "Doc" Poole, now working on three score and fifteen, misses the camaraderie of his good collecting friends who have either died or left the soldier show circuit. Ed says, "One of the most rewarding aspects of the hobby had been corresponding with fellow collectors."

"At one point, two file cabinet drawers bulged with letters, but now only e-mail is common. I can remember an East Coast letter commenting on Auburn

Rubber production with concerns regarding a tank soldier, running and looking skyward. That figure still has not been verified. Yet, I have been corresponding with Richard O'Brien, the premiere Dimestore researcher of us all, for thirty years."

Edward Kern Poole, retired Lt. Commander, U.S. Navy Medical Corps and retired private practice, Medical Doctor, is to be given thanks for serving his country and, of most importance, for the valued years for serving his fellow man.

Our toy soldier hobby, by comparison, may be considered to occupy the smallest aisle in our mind within the great basement of life's toy store. Most of what we collect is not looked at with the same enthusiasm as it was when we were searching for it. Nevertheless, like so many others, we are still always in want. It must be the mania of the collector.

Toy soldiering may not be the ultimate pastime we could have wished for. But now, that we are at the party, we might as well enjoy everyone else attending.

Ed Poole was the best in a Dimestore conversion era when versatility and adroitness became essential.

The author, Vida Scudder, wrote, "It is through creativity, not possessing, that life is revealed." I am of the belief the reason for Ed's talent is that it was intended for him.

In the diversion of Dimestore toy soldiering Edward Kern Poole's creativity rang the gong; grabbed the brass ring; moved the needle; set the pace; hit the jackpot....etc., etc., etc.

His Dimestore inventive reputation in a niche of our much larger hobby will be long praised by honest men.



When We Get There I'll Update You in a Future Issue on More About Commandant Miniatures



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DONNING WAR PAINT!: SOME FURTHER RARITIES FOR BRITAINS AIRCRAFT COLLECTORS

By Rob Wilson

In 1940 the clouds of war were thickening over Europe, but Britains were still turning out a few toys for export to the USA and other countries not yet embroiled in the conflict. By May 1941 Britains had ceased production of toys, turning their capacity over to helping to make munitions and not returning to the manufacture and distribution of toys until the end of 1945.

During the 1930s Britains began to provide modern mechanized equipment to support their troops. This included in 1930 the introduction of the (RAF) Monoplane with pilot (Set # 433). This was closely followed in 1931 by a slightly larger set including additional pilots and aircraftmen (Set #434). Looking towards the US market, US Army Air Force versions of the same sets were also produced (Sets # 435 and 436 respectively). Following real life practice at the time, the RAF set was issued in a flash silver livery, in keeping with the spirit of the *art deco* period. In contrast, the US set was issued in a rather more functional dark olive/khaki drab.

In 1930 the monoplane was at the cutting edge of technology. A large proportion of the RAF aircraft fleet at the time was still made up of traditional biplanes. These were produced by a myriad of small companies such as Hawker, Bristol and Gloucester. *The famous monoplanes that played such a crucial part in the "Battle of Britain", the Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane, were still gleams in their designer's eyes rather than operational aircraft.* The Britains model was not obviously based on any particular real life prototype. Despite it being somewhat under-scale, with its square cut wings, radial engine and open cockpit, it captured the essence of flying in this pioneering period of the development of military applications of the *monoplane*. Recall that in 1933 the Wright Brothers were only just celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first powered flight, and the appropriate strategy and tactics for use of this "new fangled" weapon were still being developed.

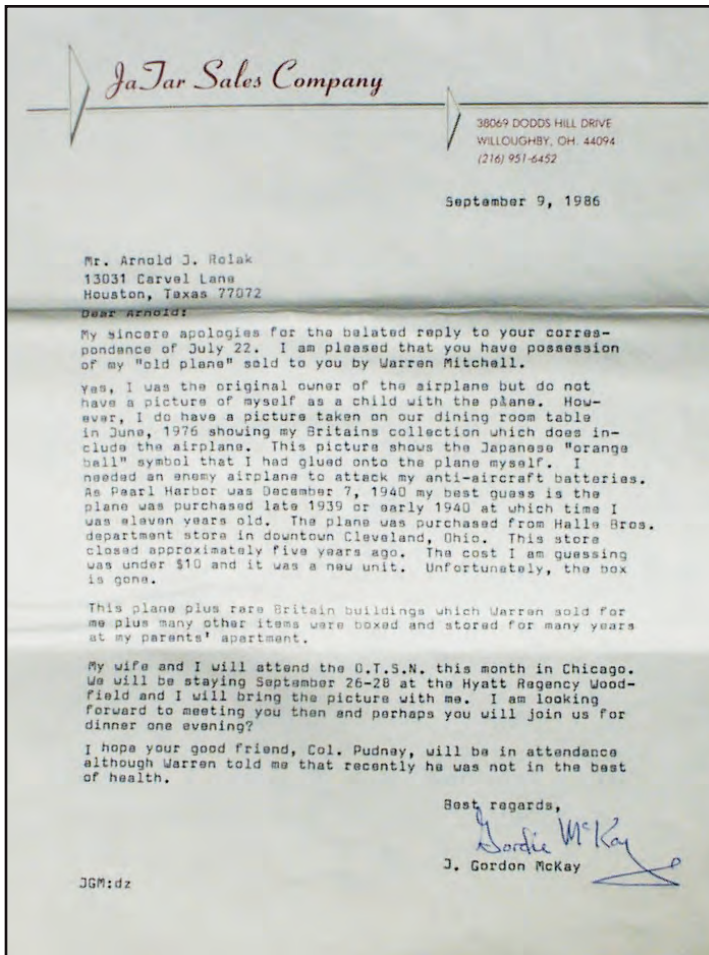
In 1937 Britains, somewhat belatedly, introduced a biplane (Set #1521). This used many of the same components as the monoplane, including fuselage, tail plane, undercarriage, engine and propeller, as well as the pilot, and the *same* box. The latter was an ingenious design which allowed the base/



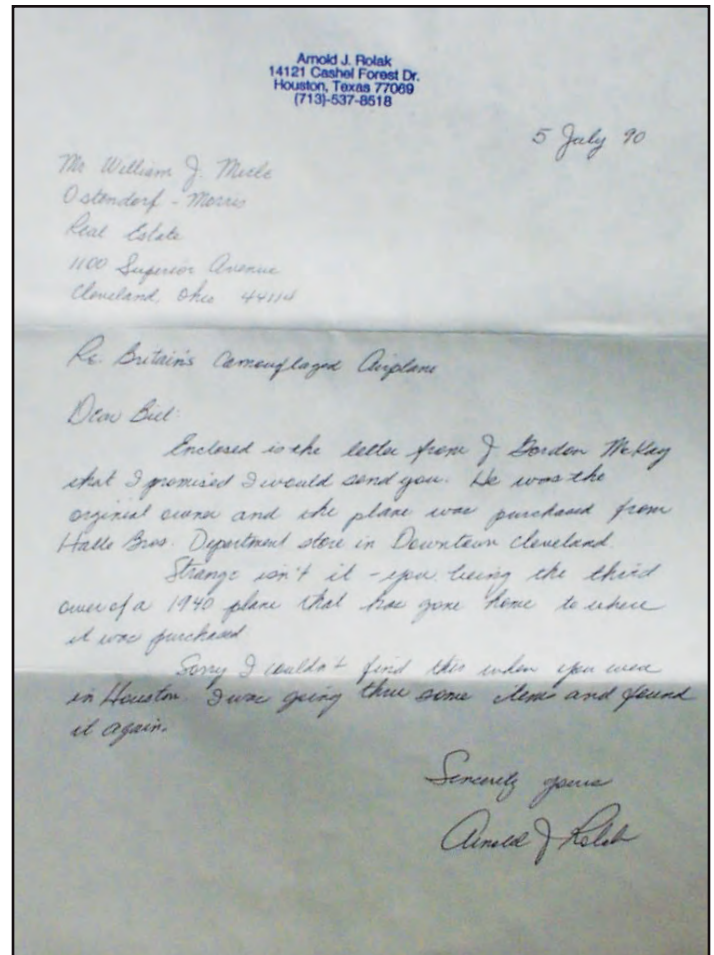
Picture 1: The British Monoplane in its "War Paint"

tray of the box to be used as a small hanger with pitched roof. This latter feature was emphasized on the illustrated label. According to James Opie this label was the first for 20 years NOT to be illustrated by Fred Whistock. One change in the biplane compared with the earlier sets was that the wings were redesigned with rounded tips to give a more modern look. The same improvements were also introduced to the monoplane sets, which now used the same new box label with the biplane in the foreground. The rounded wings made the monoplane model a little more like the real life Spitfire and Hurricane that were just being introduced to the RAF (although these both had enclosed cockpits and radial engines). These much faster and more powerful machines were soon to make the traditional biplanes obsolete, and by the start of hostilities only a very few biplanes remained in service with the RAF and the Fleet Air Arm. This may explain why the Britain biplane was not very popular and is now a great rarity, despite continuing in the catalogue for 4 years.

DONNING WAR PAINT!: SOME FURTHER RARITIES FOR BRITAINS AIRCRAFT COLLECTORS (Cont.)



Picture 2: Letters of provenance 1, from the original owner to Arnold Rolak



Picture 3: Letters of provenance 2, from Arnold Rolak to Bill Miele

As the war clouds gathered the real aircraft were donning their war paint. Camouflage schemes, rather than the bright silver that was *de rigueur* for air shows, become the norm. In Britain there was a standard camouflage scheme introduced around 1938/39 of Dark Earth (brown), over painted with large irregular areas of dark green, to a set pattern. This was applied to the top surfaces of aircraft such as the Spitfires and Hurricanes that were to play such a major part in the "Battle of Britain". This battle was fought out in 1940/1941 between the Luftwaffe and the RAF for control of the skies over Great Britain. As indicated in his famous speeches, Churchill regarded the RAF's victory in this campaign as a crucial milestone in WW II.

At some time during the early years of the war Britains followed suit and began for a very short period to issue their aircraft with a spray painted

camouflage finish, both over and underside. The original real life aircraft had a more complex paint scheme. Initially the undersides were painted somewhat bizarrely with one side black and the other white or *duck egg blue*! This was *later* followed by a single duck egg blue finish for all under surfaces. This was obviously too complicated for a toy and Britains simply applied the same finish to top and undersides

Such examples are exceedingly rare, and until recently I thought that I might be the owner of the only surviving example. This was purchased a few years ago at the Chicago toy soldier mecca. It came with an impressive provenance, via Ray Haradin, Bill Miele, Arnold Rolak and long time dealer Warren Mitchell. The latter bought the item directly from the original owner (Mr J. G MacKay), who later wrote to Arnold to explain a little of the history from his

DONNING WAR PAINT!: SOME FURTHER RARITIES FOR BRITAINS AIRCRAFT COLLECTORS (Cont.)

perspective. Arnold found a “hanger” and this is the set now shown in Picture 1. Pictures 2 and 3 show the letters of provenance from Mr McKay to Arnold Rolak and from him to Bill Miele. The latter comments how strange it is that this little aircraft should have returned to Cleveland Ohio where it was originally purchased (in 1939 or 1940). Since then it has emulated Alcock and Brown and made the Atlantic crossing from West to East (albeit with a bit of help from British Airways!).

Up until recently, I had never heard of another example. Imagine then my excitement on looking through the catalogue of a small English country auction house to find one listed amongst a lot of other Britains items dating from around 1940. Somewhat ironically, this one turned out to be a US model, Set #436 with aircrew and pilots. The latter are a slightly odd combination, with two Privates from Set #334, one each from Set #330 and 331 and two pilots (one in sidcot suit and one in short coat). All are absolutely mint and match perfectly.

The colour scheme of the aircraft is identical to the RAF example, apart from the national insignia. In both cases, the underlying colour is dark earth, with a light overspray of dark green on both top and undersides. Unlike the Britains adult giraffe, which used a fretwork frame enclosing the model to impose a common pattern on the spray over coat of dark stripes, this has been done by hand on the monoplanes, with a few quick strokes of *the spray gun*.

After the war, Britains re-released Sets #433 and 435 although they were deleted in 1947. A number of these aircraft were issued in bright colours although this was probably as much due to the shortage of silver paint as for any deliberate choice. These rarities were described in the earlier piece in OTS by Bill Miele (OTS Volume 28, no. 2, Summer 2004). Despite all the research that has been undertaken, new variations and oddities continue to surface. How many other examples are there in existence? Was the biplane ever released in a camouflaged “war paint”? Please get in touch with the author if you have any more information on this fascinating aspect of Britains production.



Picture 4: Set 436, USA Monoplane in camouflage finish, with air crew, in original “hanger box”. The latter has suffered from storage in damp conditions but the aircraft and figures are virtually mint.



Picture 5: US Monoplane, pilot and attendant air crew pose for a group shot.



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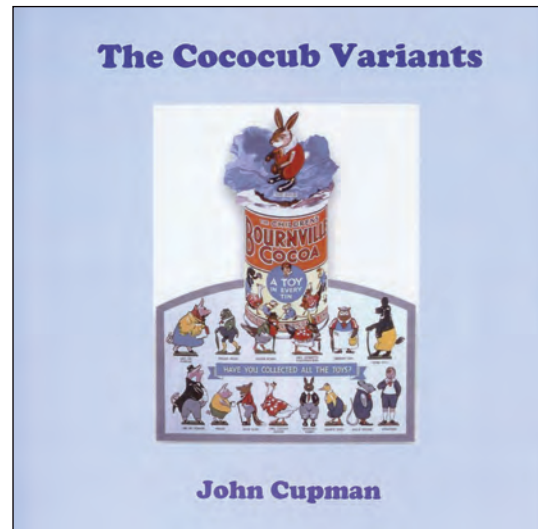
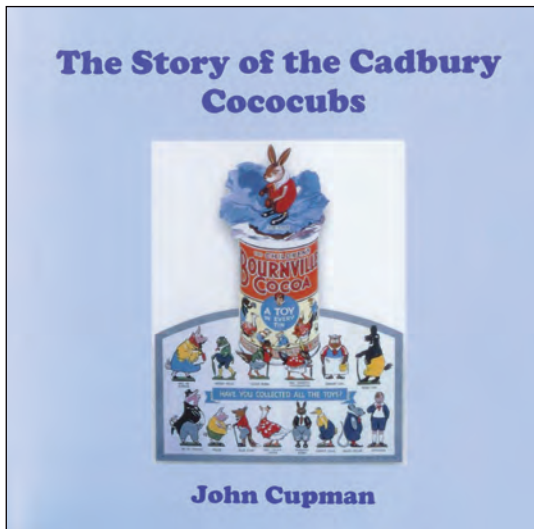
BOOK REVIEW



THE STORY OF THE CADBURY COCOCUBS AND THE COCOCUB VARIANTS

By John Cupman

Reviewed By Russ Bednarek



The Cadbury Cococubs will always be remembered as one of the most successful commercial promotions ever. Initially started as a “give away” item in tins of Cadbury Cocoa, the charming diminutive figures became the collecting rage of England during the mid 1930’s. The unanticipated success of the Cococubs completely exhausted Britain’s inventory within weeks. To meet the overwhelming demand, Britains opened a new factory that proved to be only a temporary solution. When Britains contracted with an additional two factories, it was only then that enough Cococubs were produced to satisfy young collectors.

The immense popularity of the Cococub figures led to the creation of numerous related items. There were games; “Cococub Race Game” and “Cocub-The Cococub Game”, the newsletter; “The Cococub News”, postcards, cardboard buildings, membership badges and more.

The fascinating story of the Cadbury Cococubs and related memorabilia is the subject of John Cupman’s “The Story of the Cadbury Cococubs”. Cupman provides the reader with a chronological history of the Cococubs, describing precisely when items were created and introduced into the Cococub world. The author does an amazing job of telling the Cococub story enhancing an easy to read text with pictures of Cococub related objects and the delightful artwork of vintage advertisements.

Once Cupman has you hooked on the Cococubs, you will definitely want his second book, “The Cococub

Variants”. An invaluable guide for Cococub collectors, “Variants” is simply page after page after page of full color, close up photographs of all the known Cococub variants. The format is; left page color photograph of the variants, right page corresponding text. Using the figure of “Willie Mouse” as an example, the left-hand page shows the four variants of the figure. The right-hand page text reads, “34. Red suit with blue patch, white collar, blue tie, white socks, white shoes”. “34a. As 34 except no patch”. This format is used for all the Cococub figures.

“The Story of the Cadbury Cococubs” and “The Cococub Variants” provides a detailed history and record of Britains most unique endeavors. The two charming 7”x7” hardback, self-published books are the result of John Cupman’s passion, knowledge and dedication to telling the Cococub tale and related collectibles. Both titles are available from John Cupman.

Contact Information

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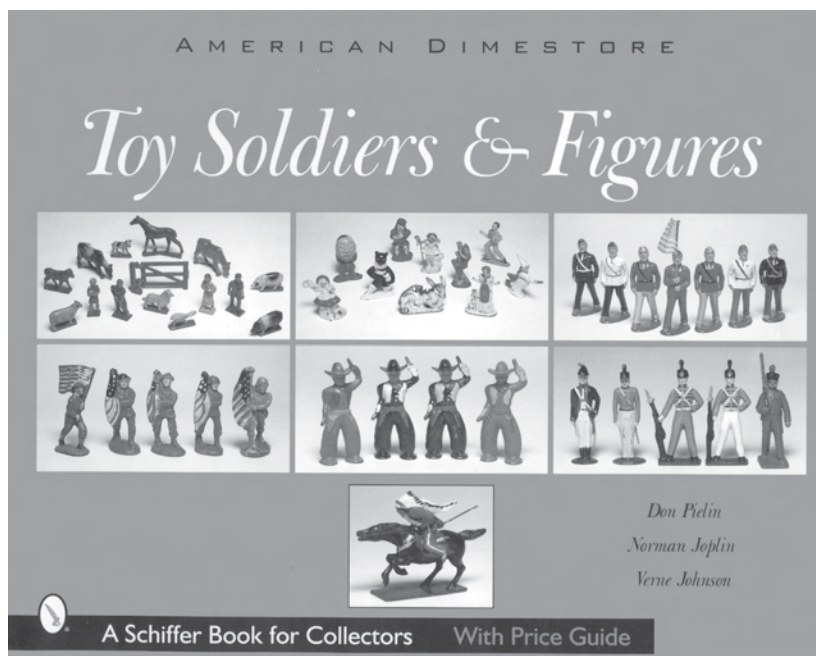
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DIMESTORE UPDATE

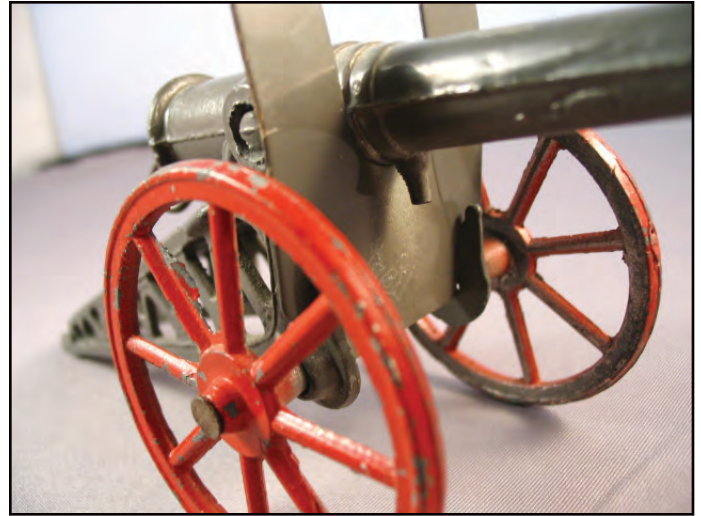
By Stan Alekna

Here's another edition of DIMESTORE UPDATE that is intended to continue the flow of information and documentation on new Dimestore discoveries and variations. Since it is fairly certain that there will never be an update to Richard O'Brien's 3rd edition of Collecting American-made TOY SOLDIERS, this forum in the OTS magazine is all that we have to continue to chronicle our hobby. Please take a few minutes to share your Dimestore discoveries by contributing items to DIMESTORE UPDATE so that our hobby continues to grow in knowledge and participants. As you can see from the items in this UPDATE, all it takes is mailing or emailing a photo and a brief paragraph to Norm Joplin of OTS and he will take it from there.

I am compelled to begin this DIMESTORE UPDATE with a correction to an unforgivable error in my previous DIMESTORE UPDATE. The segment on Grey Iron's G40 Marine in white stated that "there is not, nor has there ever been, an official, all white dress uniform of the Corps". Well I was dead wrong and this former Marine heard from some other former Marines about my error. The photo shows a Marine officer in an all white dress uniform. He can't be a real Marine though because you can see the hanger creases in his trousers, which would be grounds for court martial. The white dress uniform was only for officers and was discontinued some time ago but was valid issue when G40's were being painted white in Mount Joy, PA. Forgive me General Chesty Puller, Sir!



In OTS VOL 26 Number 4, Winter 2003, I wrote a short article on two variations of Barclay's early BC1



cannon. One version had a narrow, plain, tin shield and a square patterned lattice work in the carriage. The other one had a wide tin shield with punch press holes and a diagonal patterned lattice work in the carriage. Pictured is a 3rd variant of BC1 with the narrow tin shield, diagonal lattice pattern and a short knob on the underside of the barrel near the shield.



The Barclay B134 paratrooper shown is the only one I have seen with a solid piece of casting between the legs. It is painted the same color of brown as the rest to the figure and could simply be flashing that a Barclay worker failed to remove and decided to paint. Anyone ever see a B134 like this?

This Barclay B93 military motorcyclist is unlike any pictured in O'Brien based on the configuration of the sprockets, drive train and other engine features. It is similar to B93c but B93c has "MADE U.S.A." markings on the front fender that are not present on the pictured

DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)



figure. It looks like another variant of B93, which I will dub B93X. Finding this figure has prompted me to embark on a project to identify and provide a set of clear photos and descriptions of all B93 variants in a future OTS article. I would sure appreciate any help in the way of photos or information.

Although it was made in the 1930's, (the painted metal wheels date it) the two-piece, 4-3/4" long, Barclay, B175 "GASOLINE" tanker was never catalogued, numbered or pictured until the publication of the 4th edition of Collecting TOY CARS & TRUCKS. I don't know where it was hiding all those years but it is quite rare and would sell for \$200-\$225 in the condition pictured.



While not a variant per se, the photo of the mint-in-box Manoil vehicles is a great rarity that I thought DIMESTORE collectors would enjoy seeing. The box is designed to be formed into a garage. The box lid indicates that one of the "SPEEDSTERS" was a police car and shows a Manoil No. 707 painted in the two-tone, green and white color scheme used by

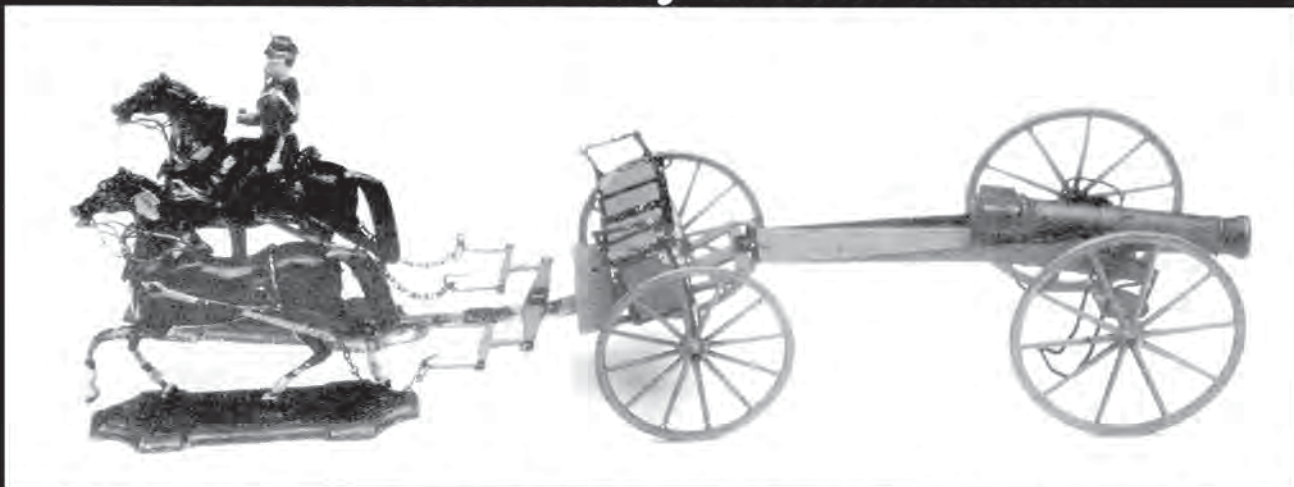
Barclay for some of its die cast and slush cast police cars. However, the No. 707 in the box is solid blue. Also, all vehicles have black tires, not the white tires on wooden hubs as shown on the lid. This old-store-stock boxed set was discovered in August 2008 so there are still lots of great finds out there if you keep digging.



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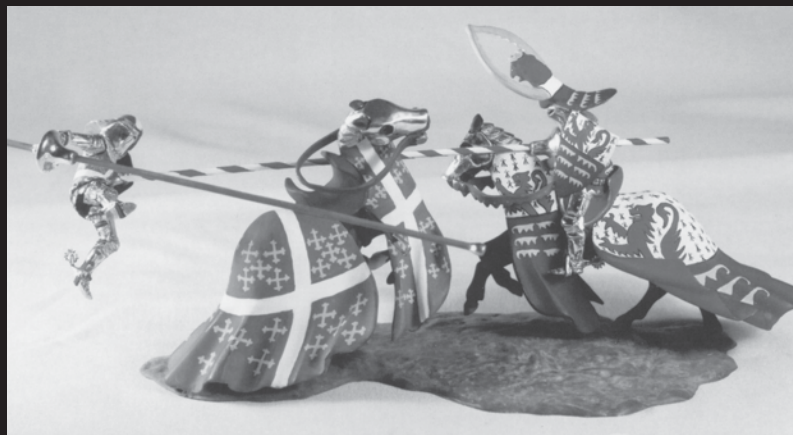
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NEW RELEASES FROM BEAU GESTE

Reviewed By: Russ Bednarek

South American toy soldier manufacturer Beau Geste continues to provide collectors with a steady stream of new releases. Matte finished toy soldiers currently dominate our hobby, but Beau Geste remains true to the traditional gloss painting style. The gloss paint in combination with Beau Geste's distinct sculpting style results in a truly charming toy soldier. Exceptional historical accuracy and the quality of Beau Geste's figures have enabled the company to become and remain one of the most popular products of the hobby.

With a focus on subjects that other companies tend to ignore, Beau Geste has cultivated a dedicated collector base. Typical of this "non-mainstream" philosophy is new release **Set 255-Dutch Bicycle Band, Fanfarekorps Koninklijke Landmacht, Regiment Wielrijders 1917**. The Netherlands has a tradition of bicycle bands dating back to the 1880's that continues to today. The twelve piece set is comprised of eleven musicians playing six different instruments and a conductor. The musicians are depicted playing their well sculpted instruments while standing astride their expertly rendered bicycles. Clad in a khaki uniform with kepi, this set will definitely be a most unique addition to your collection.

The most impressive and massive new release is **Set 250-Elephant Band Of Orchha, Retainers Review**, from the Delhi Durbar 1903 range. The Delhi Durbar of 1903 was held to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, as Emperor and Empress of India. The ensuing review was an opportunity for the native chief retainers of each state to display their wealth, power and splendor by parading their infantry, cavalry, bands and elephants.

The Elephant Band Of Orchha is Beau Geste's most current addition to their Delhi Durbar range and is a true work of art. A total of five figures, four musicians and a *mahout*, (driver), sit atop the adorned elephant. Two musicians play the massive kettledrums attached to the sides of the elephant. The remaining musicians play a small pair of cymbals and a large brass instrument resembling an oversized baritone. The elephant is a virtual palette of color. The vibrant elaborate drapings worn by the elephant are further enhanced with various patterns and colors of embroidery. The large kettledrums appear even more prominent as a series of three flower decorated drapes encompass each drum. The final figure is a walking escort with spear.

The Beau Geste Delhi Durbar range now numbers an astonishing forty-seven sets. Even more impressive is that the Elephant Band Of Orchha is now the tenth pachyderm of the Delhi Durbar line. The entire Beau Geste line is available from Treefrog Treasures, (see their ad in this issue), who provide excellent customer service.

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Standard Oil Advertising Premiums

*by Rodney Hopson
and Norman Joplin*

Standard Oil was a predominant American integrated oil producing, transporting, refining, and marketing company. Established in 1870, it operated as a major company trust and was one of the world's first and largest multinational corporations until it was broken up by the United States Supreme Court in 1911. John D. Rockefeller was a founder, chairman and major shareholder, and the company made him a billionaire.

As the company grew through effective business practices, it developed other strongly anti-competitive strategies, including a systematic program of offering to purchase competitors. After purchasing them, Rockefeller shut down those he believed to be inefficient and kept the others.

In 1897, John Rockefeller retired from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the holding company of the group, but remained a major shareholder.

By 1890, Standard Oil controlled 88% of the refined oil flows in the United States. The state of Ohio successfully sued Standard, compelling the dissolution of the trust in 1892. But Standard only separated off Standard Oil of Ohio and kept control of it.

On May 15, 1911, the US Supreme Court upheld a lower court judgment and declared the Standard Oil group to be an "unreasonable" monopoly under the Sherman Antitrust Act. It ordered Standard to break up into 34 independent companies with different boards of directors.



"What a Neck" The Ostrich



"Spotty Dot" The Leopard



"Leaping Lena" The Kangaroo

Standard Oil Advertising Premiums (Cont.)

The successor companies from Standard Oil's breakup form the core of today's US oil industry.

The accompanying photos were submitted by Rodney Hopson www.rodneysdimestoregallery.com and are obviously premium/advertising figures possibly dating back to the mid nineteen thirties, they show named character animals made of die-cast, vehicular in style and with rubber tires, and one is reminded of the similar Britains Cadbury Cococub scheme which was developed during the same period in the UK.

If any readers have examples of these items or information on their release, please contact Rodney via his web site or the editor of Old Toy Soldier Magazine at info@normanjoplin.com



The underside of a figure showing slush casting



"Roaring Leo" The Lion



"Hillbilly" The Bear



Left to Right: "Tuffy Tom" The Tiger, "Hillbilly" The Bear, "Roaring Leo" The Lion, "What a Nose" The Elephant, "Hee Haw Harry" the Zebra



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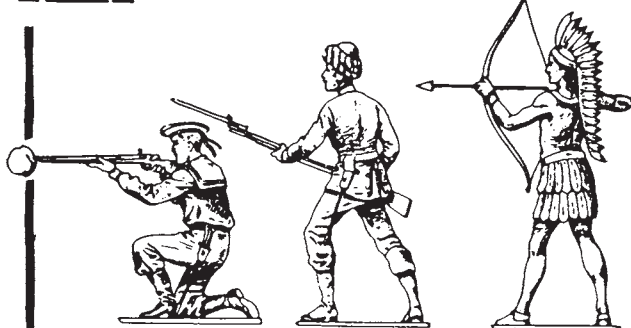
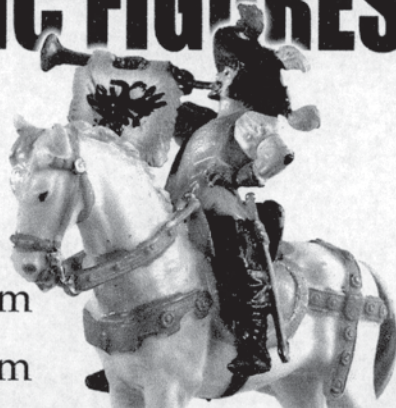
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THE MILITARY STATUETTES of - CHARLES d'ORVILLE PILKINGTON JACKSON A.R.S.A. F.R.B.S. F.R.S.SA. (1887-1973)

By Norman Joplin

Charles d'Orville Pilkington Jackson born in Cornwall England in 1887 studied sculpture and was awarded a scholarship in 1910. His first major commission was to execute the Rothsay War Memorial in Scotland in 1922, later becoming the supervising sculptor for the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.

His most famous work is the statue of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn, a copy of which was later erected at Calgary College of Art in Canada.

He worked in several materials including Aluminium (Aluminum) and Fibre-Glass and produced for the forecourt of Chivas Brothers Distillery a sculpture entitled Robert the Bruce in Battle.



Robert the Bruce Statuettes

The carved wood oak Statuettes by Jackson on view in Edinburgh Castles Scottish United Services Museum are nothing short of spectacular, representing Scottish Regiments from the period 1633-1918 they are to a 3.5 inch to one foot scale in size and 104 were produced with the work starting in 1930

An original set of postcards was produced by Rafael Tuck, more recently reproduced and illustrated here, showing many of the original wooden carved sculptures in the Edinburgh Castle collection. The collection was also featured in the London Weekly News in 1933

A number of toy soldier manufacturers took inspiration from Jackson's work, in particular this influence can be seen in the products of Minikin, produced in Japan post World War Two. (See American Dimestore Toy Soldiers and Figures by Joplin, Pielin and Johnson, published by Schiffer Publishing)

The Trophy manufacturers Ballantyne of Scotland were recently commissioned to reproduce, in a smaller scale a number of Jackson's examples of Scottish Soldiers.



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Pilkington Jackson (Cont.)



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The Queens Own Cameron
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The Seaforth Highlanders
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The Argyll and
Sutherland
Highlanders 1822



The Royal Scots The
Royal Regiment 1850



Minikin Figures were inspired by the
5 sculptures shown on the first page of
this article.



The Cameronians
1826



The Argyll and
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1801

Pilkington Jackson (Cont.)



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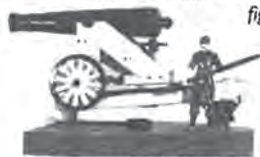
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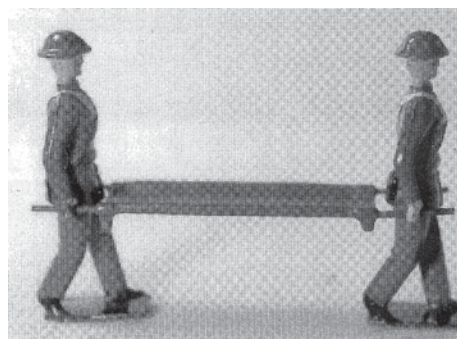
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THE TOY SOLDIERS OF CHARLES LINDBERGH

By John Stewart

This past summer, after dropping the kids off at summer camp in North Central Minnesota, I paid a visit to the Charles A. Lindbergh Historic site maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society. After passing through the well stocked gift shop, I descended a flight of stairs into the heart of the exhibit area. As this site highlights the boyhood days of the famed aviator, the visitor is treated to those objects and experiences that were formative to young Lindbergh. Here I was pleasantly surprised to find prominently displayed amongst this collection, Charles Lindbergh's beloved toy soldier collection. [picture #1 German type 45/8 mm on parade]



Picture #1 German type 45/8 mm on parade

Although the collection itself is small, it is significant for several reasons. First, these objects belonged to Charles Lindbergh himself. Lindbergh, born in 1902, is seen as one of the iconic figures in 20th century United States history. The lone son of a U.S. congressman from Little Falls, Minnesota, a small city about 100 miles northeast of Minneapolis-St. Paul, he had to entertain himself in creative ways. His solitary pursuits were perhaps of even greater value to Lindbergh than most boys of this era as his parents openly separated while he was quite young. It was this shy man, who had learned self-reliance the hard way, who first successfully flew the Atlantic non-stop, alone. It was also this reserved man whose life was doggedly followed by the press through his marriage, murder of his young son, and fall from grace as a misunderstood pacifist. It was also this Lindbergh who unofficially flew combat missions with the U.S. Marines in the Pacific during World War II and wrote numerous best selling books. [picture #2 Young Lindbergh and dog Dingo]



Picture #2 Young Lindbergh and dog Dingo

To know that Lindbergh played with these toys as a boy is quite a thrill. But even beyond knowing that these were the playthings of a famous man, we also have documentation of how important his soldiers were to Lindbergh himself. In a 1983 interview with a boyhood friend of Lindbergh's named Alex Johnson, Mr. Johnson remembered that, "On rainy days we played with toy soldiers in the dormer." Lindbergh himself confirms this in an article about his boyhood on the upper Mississippi. "On rainy days I would spend a good deal of time playing in upstairs rooms and in the basement. For a number of years after the house was built the upstairs rooms were left unfinished with no doors and rough pine floors. I had the entire floor practically to myself. As a result, my toys, stone collection, and other articles of interest were scattered about." [picture #3 Lindbergh house, Little Falls, MN]



Picture #3 Lindbergh house Little Falls, MN

It is certain amongst his beloved toys were the soldiers that one can currently see in Little Falls today. Lindbergh

THE TOY SOLDIERS OF CHARLES LINDBERGH *(Cont.)*

wrote about the importance of his toy soldiers to him in his 1977 book Autobiography of Values. "The first values of my memory naturally centered on food, seeking attention, and on toys. My toys particularly manifested the history and adventure of the period. I had both horse-drawn vehicles and automobiles, leaden Indians with bows and arrows and soldiers with rifles. These toys merged almost daily with the reality of life."

Lindbergh also loved his collection of cannons as noted in a letter from his mother to his half-sister dated June 30, 1909. "Charles' mortar battery came and he is surprised and pleased and a little puzzled as to how to load it...He has all the cannons and guns more carefully arranged in his room. These mean more to him than his soldiers." [picture #4 Young Lindbergh with toy cannon] That meant a lot, for as Lindbergh biographer, A. Scott Berg noted "Lindbergh became an ardent collector of stones, arrowheads, cigar bands, coins, stamps, guns, lead soldiers, marbles, cigarette cards – almost anything he could find and stash under one of the attic eaves." And while the old rough pine floor attic has long since been finished off, visitors can still see one of Lindbergh's "secret" hiding spots for his most valued possessions. This spot behind the kitchen wainscoting was found years ago during a renovation by the Historical Society. The elderly, yet energetic Lindbergh explained that when he would accompany his congressman father to Washington for nearly six months, during which time the house would remain unoccupied, he would stash his most valued possessions away like a squirrel. [picture #5 kitchen hiding place]

As to the soldiers themselves, Lindbergh's collection, although small in number of actual figures, is quite interesting. The distinct groupings of figures are as follows:

-He had 15 48mm hollow-cast parade figures. Five are blue with red plumed helmets and 10 have red tunics with black kepis. The bases are somewhat oval with some bases painted yellow and others green. Although they appear to be of German design, their non-movable, somewhat bulky arms suggest an American copy of a German mold. As all figures were attached to their plexiglass shelves, it was not conveniently possible to look under the bases. One of these figures is a flag bearer with the stars and stripes and there are men and officers. The figures look to have been considerably played with.

-There are five sailors and a volunteer officer that appear to be American Soldier Company 54mm hollow-cast, although the rectangular bases are a departure from the usual oval ones that are found. [picture #6 American Soldier Co. 54 mm hollow-cast]



Picture #4 Young Lindbergh with toy cannon



Picture #5 kitchen hiding place



Picture #6 American Soldier Co. 54 mm hollow-cast sailors

THE TOY SOLDIERS OF CHARLES LINDBERGH *(Cont.)*

-The next group is of six Indians, four with rifles and two chiefs with tomahawks. Those are most likely Feix. [picture #7 Feix Indians]

-Continuing with the Indian theme, there are seven 46/8mm size #2 Heyde as well as seven smaller Johann Georg Rupprecht of Bavaria figures. One of these is mounted on a horse. [picture #8 Rupprecht Indians]

Then there is Lindbergh's beloved collection of cannons with nine in all displayed and appear mostly to be of early American toy soldier production era. All of these groupings are displayed along with Lindbergh's other toys including celluloid animals and ships, iron fire trucks, wagons and automobiles, metal airplanes and baseball gear. [picture #9 Lindbergh's cannons]

As to the toy soldier collection, noted collector Steve Sommers commented, "The key thing (about the collection) is that Lindy was playing with figures from the U.S. and Europe, in hollow and solid covering, a big range of play themes."

This brings us to the question of where Lindbergh acquired these figures. Little Falls, Minnesota has never been a big city and it is hard to imagine this variety stocked in the general type department stores of that community during the 1900's. Did Lindbergh acquire soldiers on his travels east with his congress-

man father or during stays with his mother's relatives in Detroit? We'll probably never know. We do know that this small collection was kept intact largely because after Lindbergh was swept into fame, many of his boyhood possessions were stored away for nearly 40 years by his mother. Upon her death in the 1950's, items associated with Lindbergh's early days were unpacked and sent to various museums with the toys of young Lindbergh making their way logically to his boyhood home in Minnesota.

In that same home, one quiet day, perhaps about 1910, young Charles Lindbergh was playing alone in the attic. Perhaps he was playing with his beloved soldiers. His solitude was broken by the sound of a motor. He soon realized the motor was louder and different than any automobile he had ever heard. He climbed out the window and onto the roof and there he saw for the first time...an airplane.

The author wishes to express thanks to Charles Pautler, the site manager of the Minnesota Historical Society's Charles A. Lindbergh Historic site (www.mnhs.org) and assistant site supervisor Melissa Peterson for spending several hours personally guiding me around the Lindbergh home and collection. Also thanks to Steve Sommers for help with figure identification. Any questions and comments are welcome. John Stewart 1953 S Shore Dr, Worthington, MN 56187. jkstewart@frontiernet.net



Picture #7 Feix Indians



Picture #8 Rupprecht Indians



Picture #9 Lindbergh's cannons

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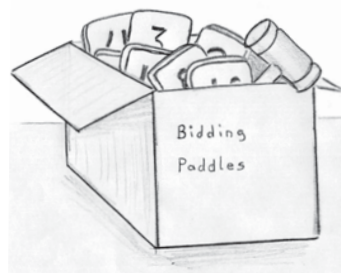
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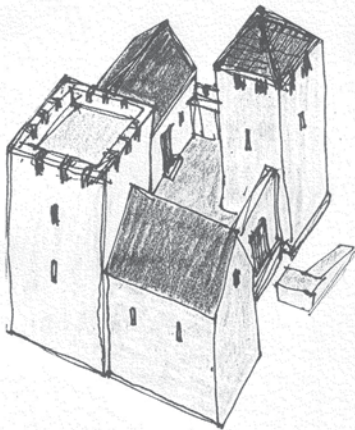
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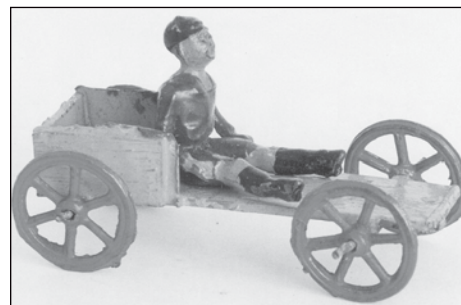
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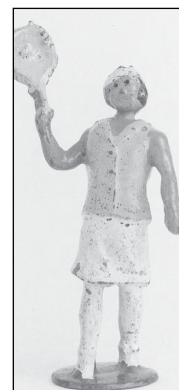
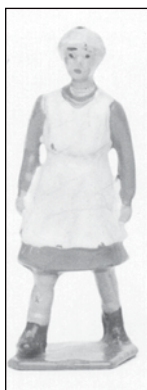
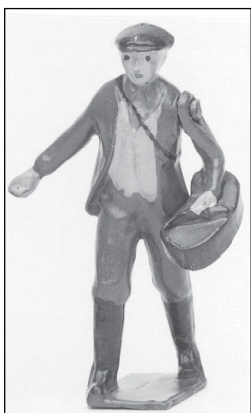


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2009

February 7- Saturday Dan Morphy's Toy Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds. Memorial Hall 334 Carlisle Av York PA Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3435 Email danmorphy@dejazzd.com www.aagal.com

February 8 - Sunday. Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall Lake Worth Florida Contact Alan McGhee 954 431 9295 or Mike Skurda mskurda@inbox.com www.southfloridatoysoldier.com

February 21 - Saturday. "Cabin Fever" Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm The Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687.

February 22nd - Sunday. Little Giant Toy Train and Action Figure Show. 9am-3pm The Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687

March 8- Sunday. 20th Annual West Coaster Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show. 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriott Hotel, 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Irvine, CA Contact 760 758 5481 www.westcoaster.com or www.oldsoldierhome.com

March 8 - Sunday. Little Giant Toy and Action Figure Show. 9am-3pm Crowne Plaza Hotel. Two Harmon Plaza. Secaucus, New Jersey. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687.

March 8 - Sunday. 13th Annual New Jersey Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale - 9am-3pm Crowne Plaza Hotel. Two Harmon Plaza. Secaucus, New Jersey. Contact Ed Gries 201 257 2687.

March 28 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Sq
Contact www.thetoysoldiershow.com

March 29 - Sunday. 20th Indy Toy Soldier Show. Sheraton North Hotel, Keystone Crossing. Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact Barry Carter indytoysshow@hotmail.com Telephone 765 345 5665.

March 31 - Tuesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knightsbridge, London. Contact Leigh Gotch Telephone +44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

April 5 - Sunday. North East Toy Soldier Society (NETSS) Dedham Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn. Dedham, Mass. 9am-3pm Contact matt@hobbybunker.com Telephone 781 321 8855.

April Friday 24th and Saturday 25th. MFCA Miniature Figure Collectors of America (Previously Valley Forge) Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, Delaware. www.mfcashow.com

April 25th - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale. 10am-4pm. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad Telephone 570 629 7227 jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

April 26 - Sunday. Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show Gettysburg Hotel Contact Mike Luteran 724 854 0334

May 30 & 31 Saturday and Sunday. Texas Toy Soldier Show. Menger Hotel. San Antonio, Texas. Contact Toy Soldiers of San Diego www.sdsoldiers.com Telephone Nick Verseeg 760 723 6583.

June 13 - Saturday. ON PARADE 2009. Ontario Model Soldier Society's Annual Show. 10am-4pm Fort York. 100 Garrison Road, Toronto, Ontario Contact Brendan Furlong. Telephone 905 278 7998 b.furlong@sympatico.co or Scott Drummitt Telephone 705 939 1028. scottjd@sypatico.ca

June 27 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Sq
Contact www.thetoysoldiershow.com

August 22 - Saturday. Dan Morphy's Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds- Memorial Hall. 10am-5pm. 334 Carlisle Avenue PA Contact danmorphy@dejazzd.com www.aagal.com Telephone 717 335 3435

September 12 - Saturday Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn Coram Street, Bloomsbury, London 10.30-3.30 Contact Norman Joplin 262 692 3913 or 262 399 1140
Email info@normanjoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com Call in the UK Rob Wilson 01926 496062.

September 27- Sunday OTSNs Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago. 10am-3.30 pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630 497 1239 Email dimestores@aol.com www.toysoldiersshow.com

October 31 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale. 10am-4pm. 1343. Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad Telephone 570 629 7227 jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

December 5 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Sq
Contact www.thetoysoldiershow.com

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