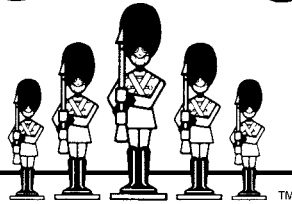


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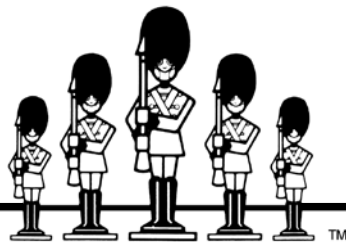


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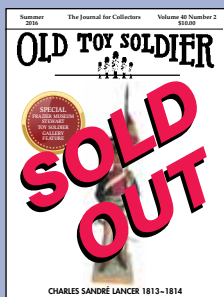
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Sentry Box Models

Photo courtesy: Will Beierwaltes



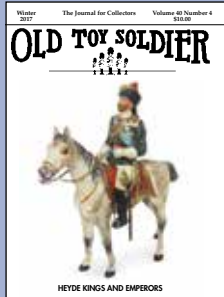
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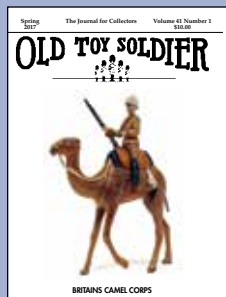
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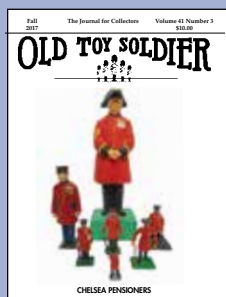
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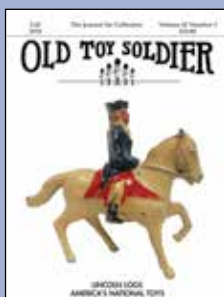
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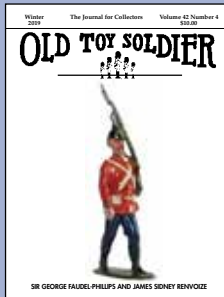
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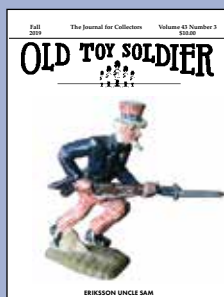
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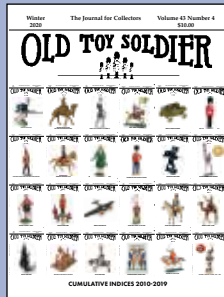
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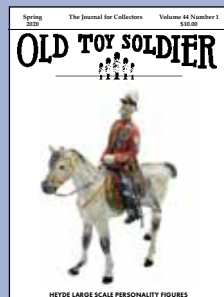
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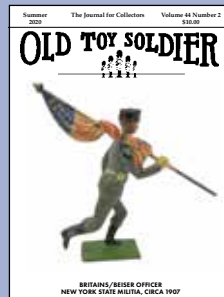
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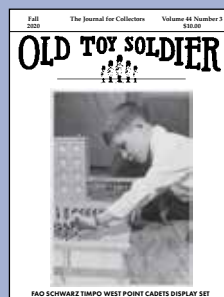
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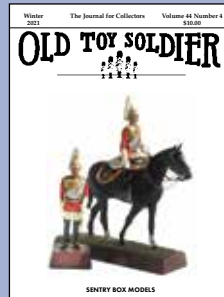
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## ~ Editorial ~

This issue marks the 1st annual anniversary of my role as Editor. It has been a strange year, with the Covid-19 pandemic dominating the news and events. This, of course, has also influenced our hobby in all kinds of ways. The cancellation of most shows, including and especially the Chicago event, has been a major blow to many of us. The Lockdown is not all bad news however, as noted in the *Reconnaissance and Letters to the Editor* sections that follow.

Hopefully, with the possibility of vaccinations bringing the virus under control and life back to something more like normal, we



can look forward to better days ahead with the prospects of shows in Kulmbach and Chicago (amongst others) later this year. We will keep you posted.

The Lockdown has also offered the opportunity for getting “pen to paper” for a few more authors. We welcome in this issue Brian Holly’s contribution on Ducal figures, as well as new contributions from old friends (Will Beierwaltes and Allen Hickling). Hopefully, a few more readers will be persuaded to turn into authors before the lockdowns end and other excuses get in the way!

Rob Wilson,  
January 2021



## Chicago Toy Soldier Show 2021

**Although the pandemic caused the 2020 Chicago Toy Soldier Show (CTSS) to be cancelled (albeit replaced by a virtual event), plans are going ahead for September 2021 in the normal format.**

Jan and Roger Garfield, the show’s organisers and promoters, have sent us an update. Contracts with the host venue have been signed. They are now moving forward with plans for 40th CTSS anniversary celebration. Readers will be pleased to hear that

they are planning on the regular show format (as we have known it for the previous 39 events). However, Roger emphasises that, should fate throw the world, toy soldier collectors, and CTSS another “curve ball”, they are fully prepared for all eventualities!

**So, mark your calendars for Sunday, 26 September 2021  
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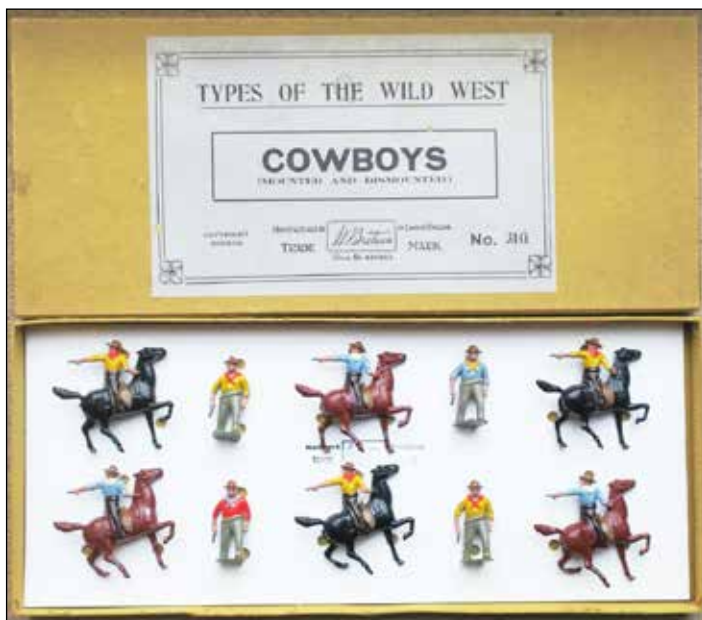
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# RECONNAISSANCE

## SOME RECENT FINDS AND MYSTERY FIGURES

The “Lockdown” that most of us have been experiencing over the last year or so does have a few silver-linings. One is the opportunity to sort out our collections. One of the delights of this process is rediscovering things acquired a while ago that we had forgotten about.

*Britains Set 31G:* I purchased the set illustrated here some 7-8 years ago at the Chicago Show. I did not recognise it as a regular set and thought it was worth picking up as a novelty. I have been trying to find more about it ever since! Rediscovering it while sorting through my collection, I decided to see if anyone could help me. Having discussed it with our hobby's two World Experts in Britain's figures (James Opie and Joe Wallis), as well as Norman Joplin, I am now a little wiser, but the set remains a bit of a mystery.



The figures are b-size. The paint finish of the figures is 1st grade. The box is similar in finish to the plain card used for AA equipment, such as the Barrage Balloon around 1939.

The nearest equivalent I could find in Britain's catalogues was set W171 “Cowboys (mounted and on foot), 9 pieces”. However, I have not been able to find an illustration of that particular set. Set W165, which is illustrated in the Britain's catalogues, shows 3 mounted and 6 foot figures.

James and Joe both confirm that the figures look pre-war, but have never seen a G suffixed and numbered box before. Their view is that the set was probably some special retail deal or something similar that was not made widely available. It could be a sample box.

Can any reader throw any further light? Do other similar sets exist?

*Britains Toytown Figures:* James Opie's *Great Book of Britains* (page 490) describes and illustrates a prototype set of Toytown toy soldiers aimed at a younger customer

than their normal target audience. This was one of the last projects conceived using the hollowcast technique (as Britains made the move into plastics). James illustrates this with a photograph of a boxed set of 17 figures, including both Blue and Redcoats. James opines that this is probably the only set in existence.

Since then a few odd figures have surfaced in auctions, but it is clear that these figures are exceptionally rare. Imagine my surprise therefore, while spending some spare time surfing the net (another benefit of lockdown!), to find a group of such figures coming up for sale at a small local auction in north London. The figures were part of larger lot, including various other figures of little consequence. After checking with the auctioneer, I was convinced that my eyes were not deceiving me and that these were what I thought they were. After a short but sharp bidding competition, I managed to secure the lot at a reasonable modest price (albeit, well above the auctioneers very modest presale estimate). Obviously at least one other eagle eyed bidder had realised the rarity of these figures!



After a nervous wait for the figures to arrive, I was delighted to find that they were indeed the genuine article. Subsequent conversations with the auctioneer confirmed that the lot was sold by a recently widowed lady, whose husband had worked for Britains. She had absolutely no idea what the figures were and had been pleasantly surprised by the final hammer price.

The group comprised a mounted officer in red uniform, with 4 marching and 5 guardsmen at attention. The photo shows the group with the addition of a further restored piece acquired much earlier. The sprayed paint finish is a perfect match, suggesting that all these figures were probably produced in a single batch.



# SENTRY BOX MODELS

*By Will Beierwaltes*

Sentry Box Miniatures is an interesting company in that most collectors recognize their large and heavy 120 mm figures but don't really know much about their history. In general, this is because they started as a producer of fully assembled and painted military miniatures and were never targeting the traditional "toy soldier" collector. However, shortly after the war the difference between toy soldiers and the advent of military miniatures for the hobbyist was really not as distinct as it is today. Many books on model soldiers of that time period incorporate conversions and improved painting of toy soldiers, and it was this interest in a more realistic non-glossy military figure that seeded the development of the historical fine miniature, whether as an unpainted or unassembled kit (like Rose, IR or Stadden figures) or fully painted connoisseur figures (such as Vertunni, Ballada, MIM or Courtenay). Today, Sentry Box figures are most often found in the hands of toy soldier collectors.

Sentry Box Models was founded in 1952 by J. Lovell Barnes with Nancy Wynne Jones. Barnes was a Psychiatrist by trade but an avid hobbyist. They began making 12 cm plaster figures representing units of the British Army. However, it really all started in the halls of the British Model Soldier Society. Barnes, like many of the BMSS members of that day, wanted to get involved with toy soldier/miniature production. He teamed up with fellow BMSS members W.Y. Carman and master of flats Otto Gottstein to produce a small range of 54 mm historic personalities cast in plaster they called the "Carbago" line (derived from Carman-Barnes-Gottstein). This featured an assortment of historical subjects as suggested by Gottstein, and included, according to John Garratt<sup>1</sup>, some 42 figures representing English monarchs and royals to be sold under the name Argosy



figures. The figures did not prove particularly successful as even for that era the figures were rather bulky and simple, and the Argosy project was abandoned. However, the 54 mm molds were taken over by one of the original designers, R. Britton Riviere who tried to market and significantly expand the plaster 54 mm line under the names "Faber" (Historical themes) and "Matchlock" (Military) but still without much success. He then re-combined with Barnes and folded these figures into the formation of Sentry Box where they were offered in their catalog (see Figures 1 and 2), first in plaster, and then later in metal. The later "metal" 1978 catalog only lists some 20 different personality figures. However, with the advent of metal production, the line was expanded into a number of civilian figures from different eras, and included different options for posing, including arm, leg and dress configurations

that could not be done in plaster, and was consistent with the target of the military miniature hobbyists who wanted such options. It even included a sedan chair for seated figures. In 1978, the Carbago-based line of 54 mm figures of Historical personalities only included some 20 historical-based personalities and another 14 generic civilians from historical periods.

However, the 54 mm figures were not really the focus of this company. It was the large 120 mm figures that most collectors identify with Sentry Box. The scale is 2 cm/foot, resulting in a standing foot figure about 5 inches tall. The primary source for material on the early origins of the company is John Garrett<sup>1</sup>. The large 120 mm scale figures were designed by Barnes, R. Britton Riviere (who had joined Sentry Box with the 54 mm castings, see above) and Simon Hunt. (of Hinton-Hunt fame). The earliest representations are rather simple but clearly the sculpting improved over time. The line focused on



**Figure 1. 54 mm personality figures of Henry VIII and his 6 wives (in metal)**



**Figure 2. 54 mm personality figures of Cardinal Wolsey and William III (in metal)**



## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*



Figure 3. Brass name plates on metal factory painted figure bases.



Figure 4. Examples of assembled but unpainted metal castings, 1800 Napoleonic uniforms of a French Lancer, British Dragoon and the Royal Horse Artillery.



Figure 5. Unusual plaster mounted figure of the Royal Horse Artillery.

uniforms of the British Empire from the early part of the 20th Century up until the advent of World War 2. The plaster figures were fully assembled and painted, and had tin alloy accessories such as swords. Figures were only available in the sculpted pose. The plaster casts were 'cupronized' to increase durability (painted with a copper infused primer which gave additional strength to the plaster casting and reduced chipping). In many of the early plaster figures, the base of the figure is still finished in this copper-metallic finish, and this dark copper finish was maintained on the bases of metal production, though it was now unnecessary.

Production of the plaster figures continued for 13 years, until Ms. Jones retired from the company in 1965. According to Garrett<sup>1</sup>, she was replaced by one of their more versatile employees named Yvonne Edmonds who had been with the company since 1954. Mrs. Jones was the administrator whom ran Barnes' medical practice, but had helped out the soldier business from the beginning<sup>6</sup>. Apparently quite skilled and innovative, she undertook a complete re-vamping of the company, focusing more on the hobby market and converting the fragile plaster production into all metal lead-tin alloys. She spearheaded a dramatic change in the company by improving or replacing most of the early simplistic molds with improved sculpting, anatomy and more natural poses. Figures were produced in both 90 and 120 mm scale<sup>2</sup>. Additional sculptors were recruited, such as the accomplished John Niblett<sup>2</sup> who had done work in various scales for Airfix, Lesney, Britains and others. Beyond the improvements, castings could now be adapted using different legs and arms to achieve different poses, and head-swaps could expand the available uniform and unit options easily. The 65-page catalog<sup>3</sup> from 1975/78 focuses on customers ordering customized figures by choosing various poses of arms and legs, and uniforms in traditional examples or customized to specific units. This suggests they had a "stable" of painters who worked for them producing the finished figures. The catalog offered the option of using, if desired, a specific painter from the factory for your figure. The painting was accurate with pretty good detail, and was totally flat (in sheen) and

without any shading or attempt to give depth. The figurines were mounted on painted wood 2 1/2" square bases with brass colored regimental name plates and on the front and a makers I.D. plate on the back or a paper Sentry Box label on the underside (Figure 3). They also changed their line to offer unpainted castings or completely unassembled kits for the military hobbyist to do themselves or fully assembled but unpainted figures (Figure 4) at a significantly reduced price. The unfinished figures did not come with bases, paper labels or name-plates. The only draw-back to the expanded metal line and focus on customized mail order (versus a retail shop) was the postage, as the weight of the solid metal foot figure was typically well over a pound. Also, with the change in focus and material came a minor change in name from "Sentry Box Models" to "The Sentry Box."

The metal catalog also expanded from British regimentals to include historical British uniforms, British Empire uniforms such as the Indian Army, and a small number of foreign troops. The biggest change was the expanded introduction of mounted troops. I used to believe that the mounted figures commenced with metal production, as producing horse legs in plaster would seem problematic. That is until I found a mounted Royal Horse Artilleryman in plaster (Figure 5). The horse is more robust than the metal horses, and apparently designed by Riviere<sup>6</sup>, but the trooper is identical to the metal mounted figures suggesting late ('63-64) production. Another plaster mounted figure is shown in plate 67 of Garrett's "Model Soldiers"<sup>6</sup>. After 1965 the available mounted figures in metal were expanded. Horses were cast in white metal in a manner similar to other (smaller) military miniature manufacturers with a two-piece semi-hollow body, and a head and tail that were plugged into the body as it was assembled. This allowed for different horse poses, including the position of the legs, the fall of the tail and the stature of the head. Despite the partially hollow horse body, the mounted figures were quite heavy; the completed figure weighing from 5.5 to 6.5 pounds. They were mounted on a finished wooden plinth base. The default uniforms of the mounted figures were the dress uniforms of 1897, chosen as a period when both shabraccs and sabretaches were still used, but these could be customized to different era

## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*



Figure 6. "Jubilee" edition of a 120 mm mounted figure of Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards, circa 1977. (courtesy Vectis Auctions).



Figure 7. "Jubilee" edition of a 120 mm figure of mounted Kettle Drummer of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, circa 1972. (courtesy Vectis Auctions).

uniforms if a client desired.

The company also produced a limited "Jubilee" edition of four figures to capitalize on the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's ascension. These included a 120 mm mounted figure of Queen Elizabeth (J.4) as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards riding her horse "Burmese," circa 1977 (Figure 6), a mounted Kettle Drummer of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (J.1), circa. 1972, (Figure 7) a mounted figure of George Washington (J.2) and a foot figure of George Washington (J.3) in his Blue American Revolution uniform of 1778. The choice of George Washington for a Jubilee issue is really curious, but presumably was made to target the American market or American tourists. These figures were not available in multiple poses, or in unpainted or kit form. The Kettle Drummer was limited to production of 60 pieces, Queen Elizabeth to an issue of only 50 pieces, and each of the George Washington's to a rather optimistic 250 pieces. They came with a special black base with a Jubilee tag (Figure 8) and typical limited-edition certification paperwork. The catalog states that if the molds wear out prior to completion of the run, no more figures would be produced. I expect that the amount of heat generated by pouring 5-6 pounds of molten lead alloy did deteriorate the molds rather quickly.

These impressively large figures were pretty expensive compared to most military miniatures or toy soldiers. They seem to have been primarily sold through custom catalog orders from the factory, or as completed figures by a few expensive gift and military shops in the United Kingdom such as Hummel's<sup>7</sup>. Their main clients were in general military collectors with adequate expendable income or individuals with British Regimental ties who wanted figures representing their units. The market focus was on the British collector, and little effort seems to have been made to exploit the American market until the limited editions of George Washington appeared. The existing advertising was in the British hobby publications such as Military Modelling, Airfix Magazine and the BMSS

Bulletin. A search through contemporary American military magazines or the big shop catalogs from Bob Bard, House of Miniatures or Corrs brings up no mention of Sentry Box. It is likely the British focus and the shipping costs of overseas sales played into this limited market.

The catalog priced figures using a letter code, presumably so they could increase prices without reprinting the whole catalog. A basic foot figure was for example price code "E." Price codes included A1, A1X, A2 (for pipers and musicians), and B, C, D, E for fully painted 120 mm foot figures. The first code designation; A1 or M1, was the most expensive. While this may not completely reflect the factory pricing, the '68 Hummels catalog<sup>7</sup> lists price code E as 84/- (shillings, pre-70's currency). When corrected for the change in currency structure, accounting for inflation and converting, that comes to \$105.85 in current U.S. Dollars. A Scottish officer at code B would be 100/-, or \$132.31. The A1 and A2 designations were 7 pounds and 6 pounds, 2 shillings and 6 pence, equivalent to \$185.22 and \$162.07 in current US dollars. The mounted figures were assigned price code M1 for kettle drummers, M2 for French Imperial Guards, any cavalryman wearing a pelisse (the 1815 and 1854 Hussars and 1897 Royal Gloucester Hussars, the Hungarian Lifeguards and the 10th Hussars if they had a cowrie shell harness). All other mounted figures were price code M3. The Hummels catalog does not carry any of the mounted figures, so what these codes represents can only be speculated upon. No price codes are given for the 54 mm models, but all the painted 54 mm models were the same price. Unpainted figures cost less, but were not assigned a



Figure 8. Special "Jubilee" edition labelling (courtesy Vectis Auctions)



Figure 9. Two original boxes with end labels and the Sentry Box label on the underside of a wooden base.



## SENTRY BOX MODELS (Continued)



Figure 10. An Indian Army figure in plaster. Also, an officer of the Royal Navy and a Yeomanry Dragoon, also in plaster.



Figure 11. Officer of the Gordon Highlanders, piper of the Royal Scots Greys and an officer of the 42nd Blackwatch.

price code. *Airfix Magazine*<sup>5</sup> from 1969 included the text for the following advertisement. "SENTRY BOX – Metal figures of any British Regiment or Service. In kit form at 54/(Shillings); Assembled 70/(Shillings); or painted to order at reasonable prices." Converting to modern British currency and then accommodating 51 years of inflation, this comes out to \$48.00 for a 120 mm foot figure "kit" or \$61.00 for an assembled but unpainted figure in 2020 US dollars. This is not dissimilar to the current cost of a King and Country foot figure, or a Pegaso military miniature. The 120 mm figures were sold in rather nondescript yet substantial tan cardboard boxes (Figure 9) with a red on white SENTRY BOX label. The 54 mm figures, after transforming to lead, were sold in a "Perspex" plastic display box on a small wooden plinth.

Sentry Box never produced a model of a sentry box (which would have looked great with many of their static guards' figures). The accompanying catalog lists are from the 1978 catalog, which was first published in 1975. This likely represents the zenith of their production of 120 mm figures in metal, as two years later, after 28 years in business, the company ceased production.

The author has been unable to find a photograph of the founder, J. Lovell Barnes. Nor have I been able to determine what the price codes of fully painted mounted

figures represent in real monetary value, either for the early plaster figures (1952-65), the later metal foot (1965-80) or the metal mounted figures. I have not found or heard of a catalog of the earlier plaster production, so if someone has one, let us know. I learned from perusing an extensive collection of metal Sentry Box figures offered in a 2004 Vectis Auction Catalog<sup>4</sup> that the company seems to have stopped production in 1980, but was unable to determine what caused the demise of this unique and prolific producer of military figures.

### THE CATALOG

**120 mm Figures on foot.** It is not at all clear how many different plaster figure molds were available. Plaster production lasted 13 years, so there must have been a pretty good variety. Some molds like guardsman and line infantry could obviously be used for multiple units with different paint. Others were probably unique to that catalog item. While the bulk of production was British Regimentals, they did produce some Indian Army in plaster (Figure 10). With the advent of metal production, the scope and variety of available figures was hugely increased. Whereas in plaster, single figure molds did not provide much flexibility in the offerings, the metal figures provided an almost infinite realm of possibilities and customizations. The 1975/1978 catalog<sup>3</sup> provides an extensive list of some 277 different figures



Figure 12. Three figures in Napoleonic uniforms of 1800, including the Rifle Brigade, British Line Infantry and a French Lancer (all in metal).



Figure 13. Royal Scots officer and piper (courtesy Vectis Auctions)



Figure 14. Beefeater, Household Cavalry bugler in State Dress and a Gentleman at Arms.



Figure 15. Troopers of the Gwalior Lancers and Haryana Lancers (courtesy Vectis Auctions).



## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*



Figure 16. The Life Guards, mounted and on foot (in metal).



Figure 17. Mounted officer of the Royal Scots Greys.



Figure 18. Trooper of Skinners Horse Indian Cavalry (courtesy Vectis Auctions)



Figure 19. Officer of the 12th Lancers mounted.



Figure 20. British officers in India for the 23rd Sikh Pioneers and the Outrans Rifles (courtesy Vectis Auctions)



Figure 21. Officers, Welsh Guards, Grenadier Guards and Royal Scots Fusiliers (in metal)



Figure 22. Officer, 17th Lancers, 18th Hussars and Royal Rifle Corps (in metal).

of British regimentals, Yeomanry, historical, empire and foreign troops available. These could all be ordered in various poses by changing arm or leg positions. Most of the list are officers, but other ranks for all units could be accomplished primarily by minor modifications and changing paint, so the actual catalog may represent over 800 different options available. The foot figures came on a 2.5"x2.5" by 1" tall wooden plinth. The majority of their production was created in response to custom orders. The more popular figures like household cavalry, pipers or guardsmen, were probably kept made up, and the limited retail shops they sold to likely placed their own orders for units most readily recognized by tourists and casual collectors. The 1968 Hummels catalog<sup>7</sup> lists only generic British regiments (depending on what was on hand), an unspecified Indian Army figure, Yeomen of the Guard, and a variety of Scottish officers and musicians (clearly what was most popular with walk-in traffic).

In the following lists I have recited the '78 catalog<sup>3</sup> text as it is presented. There may be some inconsistencies with the actual organization of the British Army, especially pre-versus post- 1922. The history of the British Army in the 20th Century abounds with the continual reduction in its size and thereby the merger of many famous regiments.

In 1922, five infantry regiments whose recruiting districts were located in Southern Ireland were disbanded because Ireland was no longer part of the United Kingdom. It had also become obvious after World War I that the 31 cavalry regiments of the British Army were too many—therefore five Dragoon Guards regiments and one Dragoon regiment were united into three merged regiments, eight Hussar regiments were reformed into four merged units, four Lancer regiments were joined into two regiments and the 1st and 2nd Life Guards combined. Thus 31 regiments became 22. By the 1960s, the British Empire had been greatly condensed and so had the need for overseas garrisons. So, by 1971 there were only 16 Cavalry regiments after the union of two more Dragoon Guards regiments into one, the merger of four more Hussar units into two regiments, the combination of two more Lancer regiments into one, the consolidation of the 1st Royal Dragoons with the Royal Horse Guards, and the amalgamation of the 3rd Carabiniers with the Royal Scots Greys. Similarly, 64 Infantry regiments in 1922 became 52 by 1968, and then there were only 10 Cavalry and 34 Infantry regiments by 1994. These ongoing restructurings explain some of the otherwise confusing multiple entries in the Sentry Box Catalog.

## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*



Figure 23. 1815 uniforms of the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Scots Greys (*courtesy Vectis Auctions*)



Figure 24. Two different but similar Yeomanry cavalry demonstrating different available poses (*courtesy Vectis Auctions*).



Figure 25. Two versions of officers, Royal Marines (*courtesy Vectis Auctions*).



Figure 26. Royal Military Police and Royal Field Artillery (*courtesy Vectis Auctions*)



Figure 27. Example of "Mess Dress," Prince of Wales own.

### The Basic Catalog of 120 mm foot figures. (circa 1978)

#### Household Cavalry, dismounted:

Officer of the Life Guards, 1975  
Officer of the Blues and Royals, 1975  
Officer of the Royal Horse Guards, 1970  
Household Cavalry Trumpeter in State Dress  
Queen's Bodyguard, Yeoman of the Guard  
Honorable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms

#### Dragoons, dismounted:

Officer, 1st King's Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards  
Officer, the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)  
Officer, 3rd Carabineres  
Officer, 3rd Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 5th Royal Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 6th Dragoon Guards (the Carabineres)  
Officer, the Royal Scots Greys  
Officer, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards  
Officer, 6th Dragoons (Inniskilling's)  
Trooper, Dragoon Guards and Dragoon Regiments, Levee Dress (overalls and Gloves)  
Trooper, Dragoon Guards and Dragoon Regiments, post-war #1 dress, Blue tunic and flat cap  
Piper or Pipe Major, Royal Scots Greys (before 1971)  
Piper or Pipe Major, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (post 1971)

#### Hussars, Officer or Trooper dismounted:

3rd Queen's Own Hussars  
4th Queen's Own  
7th Queen's Own  
8th King's Royal Irish Hussars

10th Royal Hussars

11th Prince Alberts Own

13th Hussars

13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)

14th King's Hussars

15th The King's Hussars

15th/19th the King's Royal Hussars

18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)

19th Royal Hussars (Queen Alexandra's Own)

20th Hussars

Hussar Officer in Levee Dress, pantaloons (for all the above)

#### Lancer Regiments, dismounted:

Officer, 5th Royal Irish Lancers  
Officer, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers  
Officer, 12th Royal Lancers  
Officer, 16th Lancers  
Officer, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers (after 1922)  
Officer, 17th Lancers  
Officer, 17th/21st Lancers (after 1922)  
Officer, 21st Lancers  
Lancer officer in Levee dress (all the above units in blue overalls)  
Lancer Officer, all in post-war number #1 dress  
Royal Horse Artillery Officer  
Royal Horse Artillery Battery Sargent-Major  
Royal Horse Artillery Gunner  
Officer, Royal Field Artillery  
Officer, Corps of Royal Engineers  
Officer, Royal Corps of Signals (pre or post war #1 dress)

#### The Guards Division

Field Officer, full dress, Grenadier Guards  
Field Officer, full dress, Coldstream Guards  
Field Officer, full dress, Scots Guards



Figure 28. The basic Sentry Box Logo on a base label.



Figure 29. An unusual mounted officer of the Austrian K.U.K. Lifeguards is an example of non-cataloged custom production offered by Sentry Box.

## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*

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Field Officer, full dress, Irish Guards  
Field Officer, full dress, Welsh Guards  
Guardsmen, Grenadier Guards, 1930  
Side Drummer, Scots Guards  
Piper, Scots Guards  
Pipe Major, Scots Guards  
**Infantry of the Line** (all regiments available)  
Officer, Spiked helmet  
Officer, Fusilier in Bearskin  
Subaltern  
Other Ranks, circa 1914 uniform  
Side Drummer  
Bugler  
Officer in Mess Dress  
Officer in #1 Dress  
Piper, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers  
**Highland Regiments:** All of the below available as either 1) the Black Watch, 2) Seaforth Highlanders, 3) Gordon Highlanders, 4) Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, or 5) Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (in feather bonnet and kilt)  
Officer  
Side Drummer  
Drum Major  
Levee Dress (Gordon Officer only)  
Piper, Black Watch, Feather Bonnet  
Pipe Major, Black Watch, Feather Bonnet  
Piper, Other Highland Regiments, Glengarry  
Pipe Major, Other Highland Regiments, Glengarry  
Officer, Highland Light Infantry (Trews and Shako)  
**Lowland Regiments,** either the Royal Scots or the King's own Scottish Borderers  
Officer, Scarlet Doublet, trews  
Officer, #1 Dress in blue tunic, trews  
Piper, Royal Stewart kilt and glengarry  
Pipe Major, Royal Stewart kilt and glengarry  
Officer, Royal Scots Fusiliers in scarlet tunic or #1 dress in blue  
Piper, Royal Scots Fusiliers  
Pipe Major, Royal Scots Fusiliers  
Officer, the Cameroonians (Scottish rifles) Green doublet and trews or #1 dress)  
Piper, the Cameroonians  
Pipe Major, the Cameroonians  
**Rifle Regiments,** (Green Tunic, Black overalls) including either  
Officer, of the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps,  
Officer, Royal Ulster Rifles (post 1922),  
Officer, Royal Irish Rifles (pre 1922)  
Officer, the Rifle Brigade  
Field Officer, "the Royal "Green Jackets (1st, 2nd or 3rd)  
Field Officer, Royal Ulster rifles  
Field Officer, all rifle brigades (above), post-war #1 dress, Green tunic and flat cap  
Field Officer, Royal Tank Regiment  
Field Officer, Royal Army Service Corps (Blue Tunic, ball helmet)  
**"Sundry" Army figures**  
Major General (cocked hat or white tropical helmet)  
Officer Cadet, RMA Sandhurst circa 1975  
Combat Dress Infantry on Guard  
Parachutist in Jumping Kit  
Officer, The Royal Navy  
Chief Petty Officer, The Royal Navy  
Officer, Royal Marines  
Bandmaster, Royal Marines  
Side Drummer, Royal Marines  
Drum Major, Royal Marines, circa 1973

Officer, Royal Air Force  
**Yeomanry and Territorial Regiments, Dragoon-style uniform,** dismounted (all in Levee Dress)  
Officer, Berkshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry  
Officer, Hertfordshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Montgomeryshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Westminster Dragoons  
Officer, Derbyshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Glasgow Yeomanry  
Officer, Hampshire Yeomanry  
Officer, North Somerset Yeomanry  
Officer, Northamptonshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Shropshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Yorkshire Dragoons  
Officer, Essex Yeomanry  
Officer, South Irish Horse  
**Yeomanry and Territorial Regiments, Hussar-style uniform,** dismounted, Officer or Trooper  
Denbighshire Yeomanry  
Dorsetshire Yeomanry  
Lancashire Hussars  
Northampton and Hussars  
Oxfordshire Hussars  
Staffordshire Hussars  
Warwickshire Yeomanry  
West Somerset Yeomanry  
Wiltshire Hussars  
Ayrshire Yeomanry  
3rd/4th Company, London "The Sharpshooters"  
Suffolk Yeomanry  
Cheshire Yeomanry  
Middlesex Yeomanry  
Officer, Royal Gloucestershire Hussars in 1850-style uniform with Pelisse  
Officer, Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry in 1850-style uniform with Pelisse  
Officer, Royal 1st Devon Hussars (RHA-style Hussar Uniform)  
Officer, Leicestershire Yeomanry (RHA-style Hussar Uniform)  
**Yeomanry and Territorial Regiments, Lancer-style uniform,** dismounted.  
Officer, City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders)  
Officer, East Riding Yeomanry  
Officer, Lanarkshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Lincolnshire Yeomanry  
Officer, Surrey Yeomanry  
**Yeomanry and Territorial Regiments, Rifles-style uniform,**  
Officer, London Rifle Brigade  
Officer, Post Office Rifles  
Officer, Queen's Westminster Rifles  
Officer, Robin Hood Rifles  
Officer, Inns of Court Infantry  
**Yeomanry and Territorial Regiments, Unique-style uniform,**  
Officer, Kensington Rifles (Grey)  
Officer, Inns of Court Cavalry (Hussar Style)  
Officer, Norfolk Yeomanry (Dragoon helmet, lancer tunic)  
Officer, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry (Dragoon Helmet)  
Honorable Artillery Company. Infantry Adjutant (Similar to Guards Uniform)  
Honorable Artillery Company. Infantry Troop, #1 dress  
Officer, The London Scottish  
Piper, The London Scottish



## SENTRY BOX MODELS *(Continued)*

### **Figures of the 19th Century** (Napoleonic)

Field Officer, The Rifle Brigade circa. 1800

Field Officer, The 60th Rifles, circa. 1800

Field Officer, The Royal Horse Artillery, circa. 1815

Dragoon Captain dismounted, circa 1870 for any regiment except 6th Carabineers, Royal Scots Greys or the Inniskilling's Officer, of the 7th, 10th, 15th, or 18th Hussars, circa 1815, dismounted.

Officer, circa 1854 dismounted (any Hussar regiment of that period)

Officer, Royal Wagon Train, circa. 1828.

Other ranks (not officers) of Cavalry Regiments, circa 1897, Walking out dress

Infantry field Officers circa. 1897 in Levee dress

Lady in Evening Dress, puff sleeves with fan, circa. 1897.

Officer, The Royal Scots Greys, circa 1815, dismounted

**Infantry of the Line, 1800-1815** (Napoleonic), Any Regiment below the rank of Sargent. Provides multiple poses, heads, headgear, accessories and weapons to order.

Sargent for the Above, 1800-1815, with Pike in right hand.

3rd Foot Guards, 1800-1815

**Cavalry of the Indian Army** (before Independence, 1947), dismounted

British Officer, Skinners Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry)

British Officer, 3rd Skinners Horse

British Officer, 2nd Royal Lancers (Gardner's Horse)

British Officer, 9th Hodson's Horse

British Officer, 4th or 10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse)

British Officer, Probyn's Horse

British Officer, 6th or 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's Horse)

British Officer, 16th Cavalry

British Officer, 21st P.A.V.O. Cavalry

British Officer, 11th Frontier Force

British Officer, 32nd Lancers

British Officer, The Scinde Horse (35th or 14th)

British Officer, 17th Cavalry

British Officer, 15th Lancers

British Officer, Poona Horse

British Officer, 6th K.E.O. Cavalry

British Officer, 18th K.E.O. Cavalry

British Officer, The Deccan Horse

British Officer, 25th Cavalry

British Officer, 5th Cavalry

British Officer, 22nd Sam Browne's Cavalry (12th Frontier Force)

British Officer, 7th Haryana Lancers

British Officer, Tropical helmet, Pre 1922. 26th, 27th or 28th Light Cavalry

British Officer, Tropical helmet, Post 1922. 7th, 8th, or 16th Light Cavalry

British Officer, Tropical helmet, Post 1922. 4th Cavalry

Indian (native) Officer, the Gwalior Lancers

Indian (native) Officer, the Mysore Lancers

### **Infantry of the Indian Army**

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, The Brigade of Gurkhas (all regiments)

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 125th Napier's rifles (Rajputana Rifles)

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 123rd Outram's Rifles

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 13th Frontier Force Rifles

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 10th Baluch Regiment

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 8th Punjab Regiment

British Officer, Rifle-type Uniform, 23rd Sikh Pioneers

British Officer, (any Regiment) wearing Infantry uniform and tropical helmet

British Officer, Central India Horse dismounted

British Officer, Indian Medical Service

British Officer, Dhrangadhra Makhwan Infantry

Indian Commandant,

Indian (native) Officer, Sikh Infantry

Subadar Major, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners

Sikh Side Drummer, 16th Punjab Regiment

Punjab Sepoy, circa. 1954.

The Gurkha Engineers Pipe Major, circa 1970

### **Foreign Troops:**

**First Empire of France** (Napoleonic) 1795-1815

1st Regiment (Polish) Garde Imperial Chevaux Legers Lancers, trooper w/lance dismounted

Trumpeter, 1st Regiment (Polish) Garde Imperial Chevaux Legers Lancers, dismounted

2nd Regiment (Hollandaise/Dutch) Garde Imperial Chevaux Legers Lancers. Trooper dismounted

Trumpeter, 2nd Regiment (Hollandaise/Dutch) Garde Imperial Chevaux Legers Lancers dismounted

### **Troops of Other Countries**

Trooper, Dutchy of Warsaw Lancer, circa. 1810, dismounted

Trooper, Lancers of Berg, circa. 1813, dismounted.

Belgian Trumpeter of Les Guides, circa 1970.

Canadian, any Infantry Regiments such as the Royal Canadian Regiment, Canadian British Columbia Regiment (Rifles),

Officer, Canadian Black Watch Highlanders

Royal Canadian Air Force (post WWII)

Australian Royal New South Wales Lancers Trooper dismounted

New Zealand Dunedin Highland Rifles

Officer, German 17th Brunswick Hussars, circa. 1913, dismounted.

### **120 mm Portrait Figures** on foot

Sir John Moore, General Officers Uniform, circa. 1800

General George Washington (Jubilee series) circa 1778

*End catalog listing of 120 mm foot figures*

**120 mm Mounted Figures:** With the advent of metal production, horses could be customized to either standing or walking, with the head either straight ahead or arched down. Three different tail variations were also available. Customization of the cavalryman to either officer, trooper or kettle drummer was also an option, even though the catalog lists virtually every entry as an officer. The horse was mounted on a wooden base 7.5"x2.5" by 1" high. Like the foot figures, the mounted figures could also be purchased as an unpainted kit for a considerably lower price, but unlike the foot, the wooden base was included (presumably because metal posts under the hooves slotted into the base as these figures did not stand alone).

The catalog list of available mounted figures is considerably shorter than that for the foot figures. Several factors should be considered. First, the catalog says that they can, with some effort, create virtually any mounted regiment in the British Cavalry, Yeomanry or Indian Army as the basic castings would be similar but the painting different. They could produce drum horses of units when applicable. Thus, any cavalry figure from the "foot listing" should be able to be produced with

# SENTRY BOX MODELS (Continued)

that uniform as a mounted figure as well. Next, the size and effort to produce a mounted figure must have been considerably more than for a foot figure, and therefore also the expense. This would suggest fewer mounted figures were produced from a practical standpoint. Packaging and shipping costs would also have played into the equation. For all of these reasons, the mounted figures are considerably harder for the collector to find today than the myriad foot figures.

## The 1978 Catalog of 120 mm Mounted Figures

Officer, the Life Guards, circa 1970  
Officer, the Royal Horse Guards, pre-1970  
Officer, The Blues and Royals, circa 1970  
Officer, King's Troop of Royal Horse Artillery, circa 1970  
Officer, Royal Horse Artillery, circa 1897  
Officer, Royal Scots Greys, circa 1897  
Officer, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, circa 1970  
Officer, 10th Royal Hussars  
Officer, 11th Hussars, circa 1854  
Officer, 15th Hussars, circa 1897  
Officer, 15th Hussars, circa 1815  
Officer, Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, circa 1897  
Officer, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry  
Officer, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars  
Officer, City of London Yeomanry  
British Officer, Indian Cavalry (available for all regiments listed in foot figures)  
Indian Lancer Trooper (available for all regiments listed in foot figures)  
Emperor Franz-Joseph I, Austro-Hungarian Empire, circa 1900  
Officer, Hungarian Lifeguards, circa 1900  
Lancer, French 1st Regiment Imperial Garde Chevaux Legers circa 1810-1812  
Trumpeter, French 1st Imperial Garde Chevaux Legers circa 1810-1812  
Lancer, French 2nd Imperial Garde Chevaux Legers circa 1810-1812  
Trumpeter, French 2nd Imperial Garde Chevaux Legers circa 1810-1812  
**Mounted Special Figures** (all from the jubilee series)  
Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards, circa 1977,  
Kettle Drummer of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, circa. 1972  
George Washington, American Revolution uniform of 1778.

**The 54 mm Sentry Box Figures.** The notes of Garrett<sup>1</sup> and others would suggest that in the early 1950s, this line was much more extensive than what shows up in the 1978 catalog<sup>3</sup>, and it is likely that old molds deteriorated or were retired as the primary focus of the company was on their 120 mm figures. These figures had their own unique catalog numbers, and all the 54 mm figures cost the same.

## The 54 mm line of British Royalty and personalities:

15/1 King Edward IV, 15th Century  
15/2 Queen Elizabeth Woodville, 15th Century  
16/1 Henry VIII, 16th Century  
16/2 Katherine of Aragon  
16/3 Anne Boleyn  
16/4 Jane Seymour  
16/5 Anne of Cleves  
16/6 Catherine Howard  
16/7 Catherine Parr  
16/8 Queen Elizabeth I  
16/9 Mary, Queen of Scots  
16/10 Cardinal Wolsey  
17/1 King William I, 17th Century  
17/2 Queen Mary II, 17th Century  
18/1 Bonnie Prince Charlie, 18th century  
18/2 Flora McDonald, 18th Century  
18/3 Louis XV, King of France, 18th Century  
18/4 Madame de Pompadour, 18th Century  
18/5 Prince Eugen of Savoy, 18th Century  
19/1 Queen Victoria, 19th Century

## The 54 mm metal civilian figures from history included:

20/1 Lady seated, 1906  
??? Gentleman seated  
Sedan Chair with carriers for seated figures  
18/5 Gentleman, 1700  
20/4 Lady, 1906  
16/11 Yeoman of the Guard, 16th Century  
17/3 Footman, 1690  
18/11 Gentleman, 1740  
19/2 Music Hall Lady, 1895  
19/3 Lady, 1897  
19/4 Lady, 1897 Matron  
19/5 Young Lady, 1897  
20/5 Schoolgirl, 1900, pleated short skirt  
0/6 Schoolgirl, 1900, plain short skirt

## Bibliography

1. Garrett, John G. *The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers*. Fredrick Muller, London. 1981.
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3. *The Sentry Box 1978 Catalog*. Bryson Printing, Essex. 1978
4. *Vectis Auction Catalog*, June 10th, 2004 (Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, UK)
5. *Airfix Magazine*. Volume 10, 1969
6. Garrett, John G. *Model Soldiers; A Collectors Guide*. Seely Service & Co., Ltd. London. 1971
7. *Hummel; Toys, Models, Miniatures 1968 Catalog*. Henry T. Cook & Co., London, 1968.

## Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank Simon Clark and Louise Harker of Vectis Auction House for providing numerous photographs, as well as Neil Rhodes of the DC Toy Soldier Shop who also provided photographs of examples of Sentry Box figures. Also, thanks to Joe Wallis, Rob Wilson, Stephen Dance (the BMSS Archivist) and Dan Jones; all of whom helped in the research for this article. *wb*

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# AUCTION PREVIEW

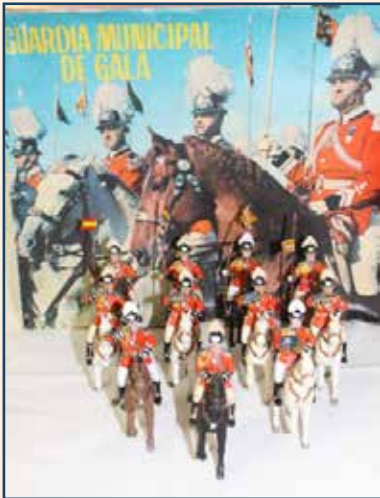
## OLD TOY SOLDIER



## TM AUCTIONS USA

## TOY SOLDIER VICTORY

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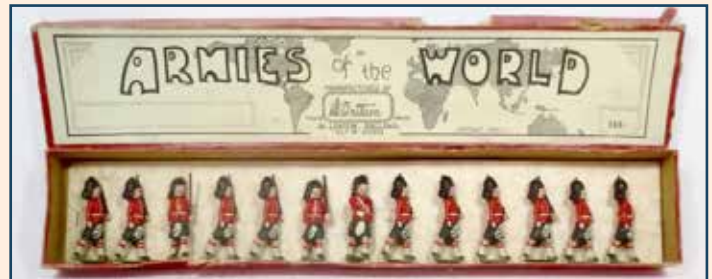
Reamsa Guardia Municipal de Gala,  
Barcelona



Arthur, Royal Horse  
Guards



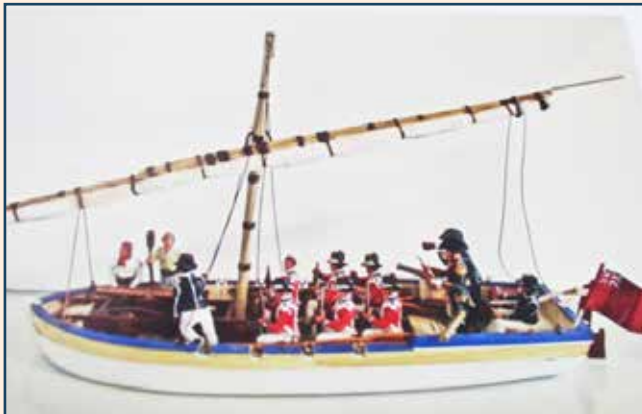
Demi Ronde Artillery and Bombed Village



Britains Set #449 Black Watch



Vertunni Colonel of Cuirassiers



Alexanders Toy Soldiers Waterline Gunboat



Beau Geste #185A Carabinieri's Camel Corps



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# **AUCTION PREVIEW** *(Continued)*



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**Timpo RARE Mary Marvel**



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**Britains RARE Paris Office French Artillery**



**Rodden 9 Inch Edward the Black Prince #9 1988**



**Rodden 90mm The Joust Series #1 1992**



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# BRITISH TOY FORTS OF THE WILD WEST

*By Allen Hickling*

Over the last five years or so I have become increasingly aware that the UK's role in production of toy Wild West forts is seriously undervalued elsewhere – especially in the US. In fact not so much undervalued as unrecognized, maybe even unknown. So here is something that is intended to redress the balance a little, and be perhaps an eye-opener for many! It is gleaned from my personal collection and one or two others. This was not pursued avidly like my medieval collection and is not, therefore, in any way complete. It is not intended as a criticism of anyone in any way.

In my experience there were approximately ten major manufacturers and a number of lesser producers. By major I mean most prolific. The major ones were as follows:

- Joy Toys
- Elf Toys
- Binns & Baker (Binbak)
- Tudor Toy Co. (GeeBee)
- Park Toys
- Toy Importers (Timpo)
- Tiger Toys
- Mettoy (Playcraft)
- Victory Toys
- Cherilea Toys.

The lesser ones were as follows:

- Debtoy
- Pennine
- A J Halliday (Givjoy Toys)
- Clyde Model Dockyard
- Woodland Toys.

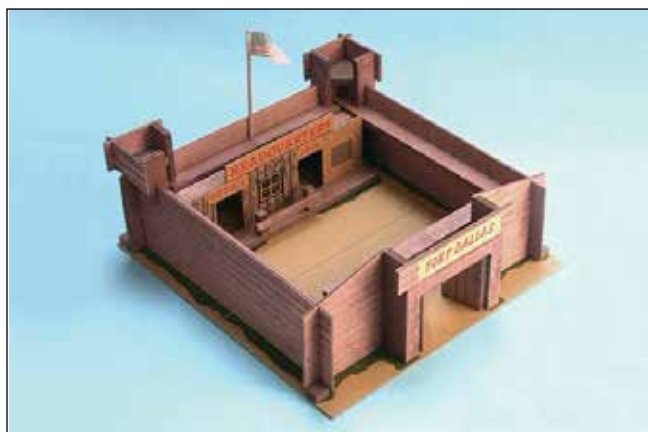
It is important here to say that this is not a definitive listing of British manufacturers, although it is a definitive listing of the ones I can vouch for. They were all producing in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, which reflected the rise in popularity of westerns in the movie houses. This was unlike in the US where production was well under way throughout the 1930s, if not earlier.

I do urge you to refer to the photos whenever you need clarification.

The material used initially had to be wood, because that was what these forts were made of in the real world. Slightly later came plywood and hardboard (Masonite in the US), usually moulded to vaguely represent log construction. This led naturally to the use of plastic, moulded quite realistically to look like wood logs and rough sawn planks. This had considerable advantages when it came to the process of manufacturing. Most of these, with few exceptions, were made in semi flat-pack format – that is the larger pieces, the perimeter walls were flat-pack, but the buildings were not. Many manufacturers put two sizes on the market, both of which came in different versions as they were produced over time.

I shall start with those requiring little imagination in their design. The manufacturers of these classics were Joy Toys, Park Toys, Timpo, Woodland Toys, and Tiger Toys. They were usually manufactured in two sizes, the smaller ones approximately 16" square and the larger ones about 22" square. They created a reasonably small and compact structure when erected - but they were clearly toys, and as such suffered all the problems of reduced size affecting particularly forts and castles of any type.

They all came with a baseboard and relatively high flat walls made of plywood, hardboard or plastic. Some had a small platform quite high up for figures to stand on. Then there was a building, usually full width with various facilities indicated on it (office, stables, headquarters, jail, etc). But these were just that, an indication. All of them were unrealistically small, and none of them provided any accommodation for the men. There was also a hitching rail, a flag pole, and in some cases a ladder or two. The principle differences between the forts came in the look-outs, which varied from small cabins which slotted over the walls near the top, to those built-in, usually in conjunction with the gate.



Joy Toys, Malvern, England  
Fort Dallas. Later version. c1975



Joy Toys, Malvern, England  
Fort Cherokee. Second version. c1970

# BRITISH TOY FORTS OF THE WILD WEST *(Continued)*



Joy Toys, Malvern, England  
Fort Dallas. Third version. c1975



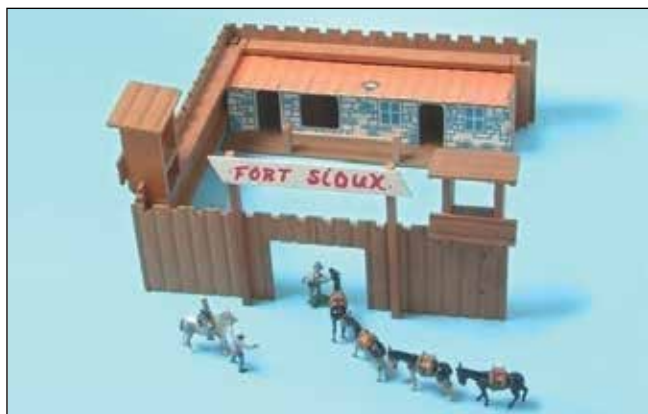
Joy Toys, Malvern, England  
Fort Cherokee. Fourth version. c1985



Park Toys, England  
Fort Sioux. Only known version. c1970



Park Toys, England  
Fort Cheyenne. Only known version. c1970



Tiger Toys, Petersfield, England  
Fort Sioux. Early version. c1965



Tiger Toys, Petersfield, England  
Fort Sioux. Later version. c1970



Woodland Toys, England  
Fort Apache. Only known version. c1980

A slight variation came with the provision of watch towers. These were cabins with long logs so that they could see over the walls. Often they came with the same small cabins which fitted over the walls. The basic forts were otherwise the same as the ones just described, and examples were produced by Elf Toys in their early Fort Cherokee, Tiger Toys in their Fort Cherokee, and Playcraft in their hexagonal Fort Cheyenne.

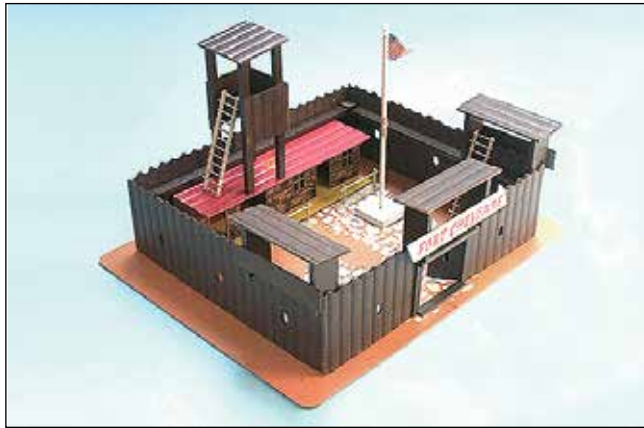
# BRITISH TOY FORTS OF THE WILD WEST *(Continued)*



**Elf Toys, Stourport-on-Severn, England**  
Fort Cherokee. Early version. c1955



**Elf Toys, Stourport-on-Severn, England**  
Fort Cherokee. Slightly later version. c1960



**Tiger Toys, Petersfield, England**  
Fort Cherokee. Later version. c1970



**Mettoy, (Playcraft), Swansea, Wales**  
Fort Cheyenne. Only known version. c1975

The next level of complexity lay in the provision of more buildings inside the perimeter wall. This had the advantage that a variety of spaces could be incorporated. To some extent the criticism of inadequate accommodation for the men could be

answered, not that this went nearly far enough to capture a feeling of reality – but maybe this was not important in making a toy. These were not usually in flat-pack format. Although this was not impossible, as demonstrated by Elf Toys in their early Fort Dallas,

while Pennine in their Fort Apache were not quite so attracted to the idea. Perhaps Elf Toys thought that the way two flat-pack walls slotted together at a corner gave an impression of log construction.



**Elf Toys, Stourport-on-Severn, England**  
Fort Dallas. Early version. c1955



**Pennine Toys, England**  
Fort Apache. Only known version. c1965



## BRITISH TOY FORTS OF THE WILD WEST *(Continued)*

Then there was a very common type with fixed walls, which was basically an early concept. Nearly all the forts of this type in my collection were some of the earliest produced.

They rarely survived the flat-pack revolution. In this type the high perimeter walls formed a fixed sort of frame within which the buildings could be arranged. They then formed

the sides of the box in which all the loose parts could be housed. The buildings were all located up against walls leaving a central courtyard.



**Tudor Toys, Hull, England**  
**Fort Laramie. Only known version. c1975**



**Clyde Model Dockyard, Glasgow, Scotland**  
**Fort Custer. Early version. c1965**



**Victory Toys, Nelson, Lancs. England**  
**Fort Laramie. Early version. c1965**



**Victory Toys, Nelson, Lancs. England**  
**Fort Laramie. Later version. c1980**



**Debtoy, Wyverstone, Suffolk, England**  
**Name of fort unknown. Early version. c1965**



**A J Halliday, (Givjoy), London, England**  
**Fort Cheyenne. Early version. c1960**

Lastly, there was just one manufacturer which produced forts with a little more imagination, but having said that it was not by much. This was Binns & Baker who

produced Binbak Models. These were robust forts that were different in two ways. Firstly they broke away from the basic rectangular form, and secondly they introduced large, high

towers for look-out and defensive purposes. Otherwise, for example in the provision of accommodation, there is little to set these particular forts apart from the rest.

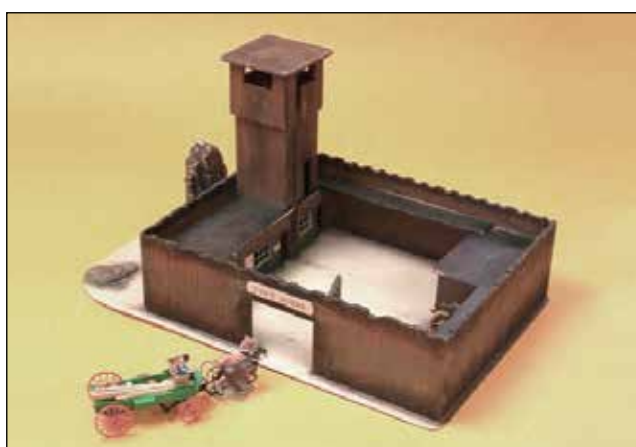
# BRITISH TOY FORTS OF THE WILD WEST *(Continued)*



Binns & Baker (Binbak), Bradford, England  
Fort Worth. Only known version. c1970



Binns & Baker (Binbak), Bradford, England  
Fort Abiline. Only known version. c1965



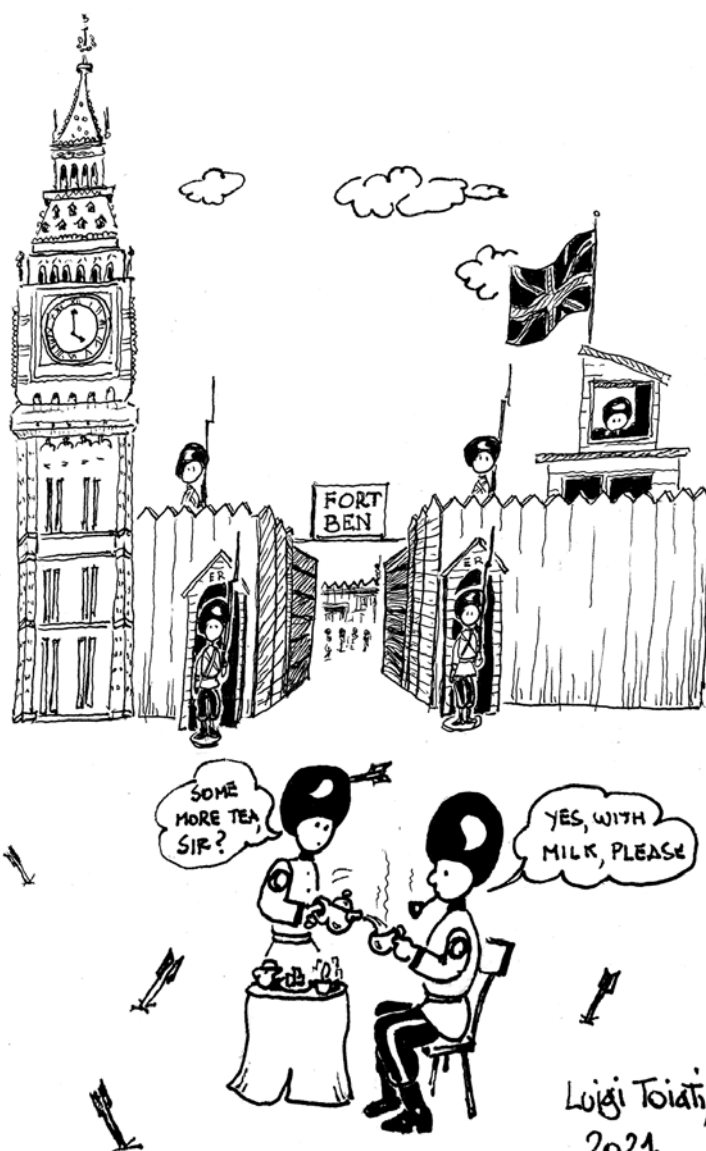
Binns & Baker (Binbak), Bradford, England  
Fort Huron. First version. c1965



Binns & Baker (Binbak), Bradford, England  
Fort Huron. Second version. c1970

So there you have it. Here is an incomplete but reasonably representative listing of the British attempt at having a go at Wild West forts. I hope it will begin to reconcile the somewhat unbalanced view of their efforts held by various others. If I am wrong in this i shall be pleased to hear about it from anyone.

Allen Hickling, December 2020  
Contact details - ahtoyforts@gmail.com



Luigi Toiati,  
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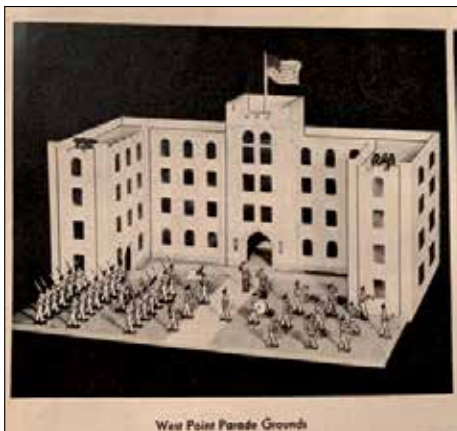


# WEST POINT REVISITED

By Rob Wilson

Following the piece in the previous issue on West Point Cadet (WPC) sets distributed by FAO Schwartz (FAOS) I received a number of interesting contributions from our readers which throw a bit more light on this subject.

Bill Nutting, who has often been a contributor to the magazine, has built up a comprehensive collection of the sets sold by this famous store. He was able to check through his collection of catalogs. The same illustration of the set with Heyde figures, with same set description and price, is in both the 1937 and 1939 catalogs. There was nothing on the subject in the 1940 catalog and Bill was unable to track down catalogs for 1936 or 1938.



The Heyde West Point set as illustrated in the 1937 and 1938 FAOS catalogs

The FAOS Christmas 1952 catalog had WPC figures made by Timpo, but did not feature a set with a building. There was nothing at all similar or related in the 1950 and 1951 catalogs. The WPC figures that came with the Timpo based set featured in my previous article appear to be a combination of sets F 17-14 and G 17-6 from the 1952 catalog. Set F 17-14 is described as a 15 piece set including a mounted office while G 17-6 is a 17 piece band with a band leader and a flag bearer.

**A 19-93 CORONATION SET** ..... \$58.00  
Very colorful, very solemn, very dignified—much of the atmosphere of the coronation parade has been portrayed in this English made set. There are too many dignitaries to mention but preceded and followed by a brigade of mounted guards passing between a line of foot soldiers in dress uniforms of "present" arms, is the gilded Royal Coach drawn by 8 horses. All 140 pieces are hand painted lead figures, foot soldiers measuring 1 1/2" tall, mounted 2" tall. Ship. wt. 20 lbs.

**4-96 CORONATION COACH** ..... \$5.00  
The royal coach as illustrated in above set. 16" long overall. Ship. wt. 3 lbs.

**B 11-25 LARGE FORT WITH SOLDIERS** ..... \$30.00  
18 yrs. up—The fortress rises to the dignified height of 20" covers a 12" square area with four towers, "great hall", draw bridge, ramp and vault courtyard, all on the green wooden base 2 1/2" high. Of wood construction, finished in grey with stone outlines, painted green vines on walls—all done to resemble stone most effectively. The 24 "British" metal soldiers, are mounted and about. An Exclusive. Ship. wt. 22 lbs.

**C 11-31 CASTLE WITH KNIGHTS** ..... \$16.75  
14 yrs. up—A perfect setting for "King Arthur and His Knights" like all good castles this castle has towers, battlements, arches, parade ground, ramp and draw bridge. 10 x 10 1/2" x 22". Entirely of wood and realistically painted to resemble stone. Appropriately dressed are 10 mounted knights with spears, 12 knights on foot with spears and 4 crusaders with shields and swords. Ship. wt. 12 lbs.

**D 4-42 KNIGHTS-CRUSADERS** wt. 3 lbs. .... \$4.50  
Just as original Crusaders (the 2nd) came from England so do these. Nineteen figures in all, 5 mounted (2 in plate armor, 3 in chain-mail), 14 on foot (6 in typical white and blue robe with sword and shield and 8 in gold plate-armor). Average height 2 1/4" tall. All are of solid metal colorfully hand painted. An historically famous group.

**E 4-41 UNION CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS** ..... \$3.95  
Set consists of 20 metal soldiers, 16 in various fighting positions, two flag bearers and two commissioned officers. Half wear the gray of the Confederate Army, the others the Union blue. Standing figures 2 1/4" tall. Ship. wt. 3 lbs.

**F 17-14 WEST POINT CADETS** Ship. wt. 3 lbs. .... \$6.75  
A set of metal figures 2 1/2" tall, hand painted with white trousers, grey jackets with black plumed hats. Of the 12 carrying rifles 6 are marching with right shoulder arms, 2 presenting arms, 4 standing at ease. The one leader is marching and has a sword, another with sword is saluting, while the 15th figure is mounted on a fine grey horse.

**G 17-6 WEST POINT PARADE BAND** Ship. wt. 5 lbs. .... \$8.00  
A full 17 piece marching band with flag bearer and leader besides. Dressed in uniformless white trousers, grey jackets with broad and black plumed hats, they are truly worthy of heading any procession. Made of metal 2 1/2" tall, hand painted.

**H 4-44 QUO VADIS FIGURES** Ship. wt. 3 lbs. .... \$4.50  
A grand addition to any metal figurine collection. Each piece is of hollow cast metal painted by hand. Set consists of four 2 1/2" tall warriors with shields and swords, a lion tamer and 6" Roman chariot, drawn by 2 spirited white horses, with driver.

**J 4-34 ROMAN CHARIOT** Described above. Ship. wt. 2 lbs. .... \$3.75

Page from FAOS 1952 catalog illustrating Timpo sets of WPC

The 1954 FAOS catalog threw another blank, but in his copy of the 1953 catalog Bill struck gold. This shows the Timpo set with the buildings, exactly as described in my previous article. The title is *West Point Hall (Exclusive)*. Set A 10-174 in the 1953 catalog was priced at a handsome \$36. While a substantial sum, this seems quite modest compared to the Johillco Coronation Set (A 19-93 in the 1952 catalog) which was priced at \$25.

The description of the WPC set reads as follows: "The imposing 4 story 'stone' structure made entirely of wood painted gray with a parapet walk around the top measures 36" long 18" deep and 12" high. Parading past it, preceded by two mounted officers and a flag bearer are 28 cadets stepping along in true West Point precision to a march supplied by an 18 piece band."



## WEST POINT REVISITED (Continued)

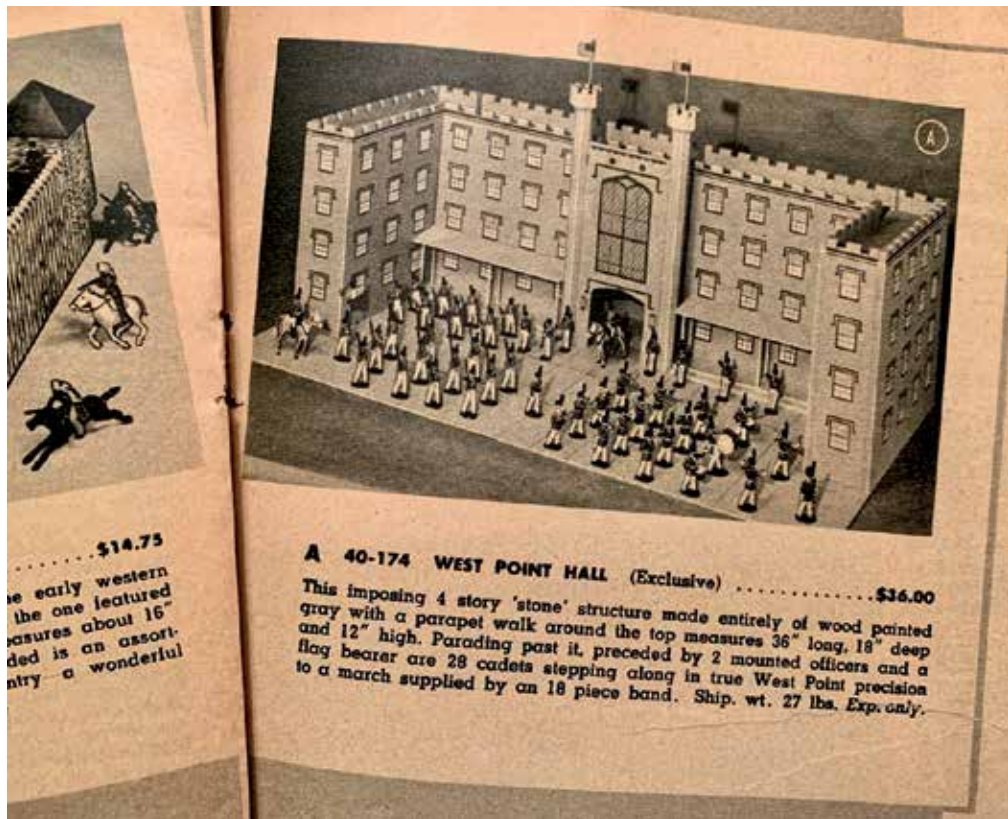
From this it is apparent that the full complement was two sets F 17-14 and one G 17-6 from the 1952 catalog. Obviously, I will have to find another mounted officer to make up a full set, as well as two US flags to fly proudly from the twin turrets. A Toy Soldier Collector's work is never done!

It seems likely that FAOS might have used standard sets of figures as supplied by Timpo. Norman Joplin

has chipped in with further information based on the catalogues issued by that British company. However, life is never that easy.

The next image shows a boxed set from Norman's photo archive. Unfortunately, we have not been able to establish when and where this set was sold. If any reader has more information please let us know. Norman was able to check the 1954 and 1956 Timpo catalogues. He found

a set listed as *Boxed Display set #6* containing 52 pieces (wholesale per dozen - 450/- Retail 65/6 each). There are 48 figures in the image, plus the mounted officer's horse, plus two obvious gaps (one taken up by the bass drum). However, there are two different flag bearers and no figures in non-marching positions. It is therefore unlikely that this would be the set as supplied with the *West Point Hall*.



Page from the FAOS catalog for 1954 highlighting the WEST POINT HALL (Exclusive) set

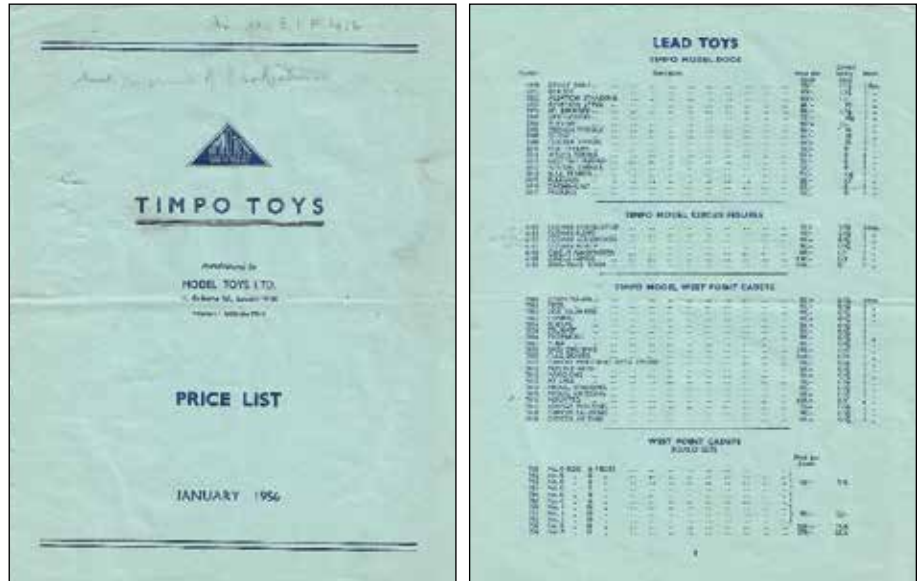


Image from Norman Joplin's photo archive -unidentified large Timpo Display set of WPCs

## WEST POINT REVISITED *(Continued)*

Norman also supplied images from the 1956 Timpo catalogue (this example was previously owned by Len Richards). This shows the set numbers for the various WPC sets offered at that time. There is no set number 3, which Norman suggests could also be a larger display set. The largest set in the 1956 catalogue was #4 (with 21 pieces), while set #2 had 16 pieces. The latter is consistent with FAOS F 17-14 (which had 15 figures, plus a horse, making 16 pieces). Unfortunately G 17-6 (19 figures) does not seem to square up with Timpo's set #4, unless we count the drum and a flag as separate pieces.

A final interesting comment came in from Peter Clark who pointed out that the famous German manufacturer Gottschalk also produced a model of the West Point "fortress". This is shown in our final picture.



Pages from an original Timpo catalogue from 1956, previously owned by Len Richards



Gottschalk's model of the West Point "fortress" from Peter Clark's collection





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# DIMESTORE TOY SOLDIER ART

*By James D. Spina, Ph.D.*

When I was about five years old, my cousin "Fritz", gave me his old collection of dimestore toy soldiers. It was one of the best gifts I had ever received, and I was thrilled to add them to my much smaller group of little men in uniform. It was a cold winter night and I protected my treasure in the heavy paper bag that held it as my grandmother and I rode home in the open rumble seat of a two door Ford Model A. Bumpa-bump... bumpa-bump ...all the way home, with grandma holding down her hat.

My collection grew as a reward for being a "good boy" when my mom, aunt and grandmother took me with them as they shopped in downtown New Haven, Connecticut. The highlight of the day for me was when we visited Kresge's or Woolworth's to buy a soldier or two for me. Little did I know that twenty-five years later I would re-discover the thrill of

collecting them once again. I never realized the hidden art treasure they offered.

Some readers might think that toy soldiers portrayed as an art form is a stretch too far. But to my mind, a piece of art evokes an emotion or two as it is observed. Sometimes it is the color or shape or style or time of the piece that re-awakens the feelings in the mind and heart of the viewer.

For me, memories of growing up in the atmosphere of WW2 were brought to my mind when I rediscovered the toy soldiers later in life. One cannot forget the scary news on our Zenith radio, the blackouts or the air raid drills of the time but these little guys always made me feel safer.

A few years ago, I visited a private art gallery in Annapolis, Maryland. As I stood in front of an intriguing oil painting, I heard a soft voice.

"I see that you paint, am I correct?"

The gallery host had been watching me for a little bit of time, but I had not been aware of her presence.

"Yes", I replied. "How did you know?"

She smiled and said, "The painters who visit view the pieces very differently from others. What were you looking for in that one?"

"As usual, I was seeking to understand how the artist solved the challenges of painting to express the feelings and emotions of the work", I replied.

"I understand", she said. "I paint too."

Perhaps this short article will help the reader to see toy soldiers in an entirely new way through a lens focused on the art of the toys.

## A GALLERY OF DIMESTORE ART



General George C. Patton



An example of a soldier by Manoil that portrays a sense of pride, respect, authority, and power along with a flash of color and style.

There are times when the overwhelming seriousness of a situation is too much to bear.



Grey Iron nurse & wounded soldiers.



Barclay nurse, Grey Iron wounded & Manoil stretcher bearer

## DIMESTORE TOY SOLDIER ART *(Continued)*

Fortunately, all situations are not so serious.



**Barclay band and Manoil banjo & letter writer**



**It's Manoil's paymaster & payday in the army from time-to-time!**

Chow Down ...Barclay Potato Peeler & Manoil Cook & Helper  
A time for our veterans to tell us about army food.



For the cast of TV's M\*A\*S\*H, there seemed to be strong feelings about the grub.  
Manoil's tank solution to such woes is shown below.



"Keep jabbing..."

However, sometimes it is very serious at the front.



With portable Manoil mobile searchlights showing the way, the pugilists hammer away.  
The fellow on the left doesn't look too good!  
Manoil boxers, photographer, audience & a Barclay doctor.



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Remember the film "30 Seconds over Tokyo?"



## DIMESTORE TOY SOLDIER ART *(Continued)*



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Manoil paratroopers



"Hitchhiking?" Manoil



"More Trouble at the Front" Barclay Enemy



"Hey...Wait for Us" Barclay



American Metal & Dubois German Remake

"Defenders of the Sky"

"Payback"



Manoil Snipers



Auburn Rubber

## DIMESTORE TOY SOLDIER ART (Continued)



"The General" by Miller - Plastic Cadets Unknown



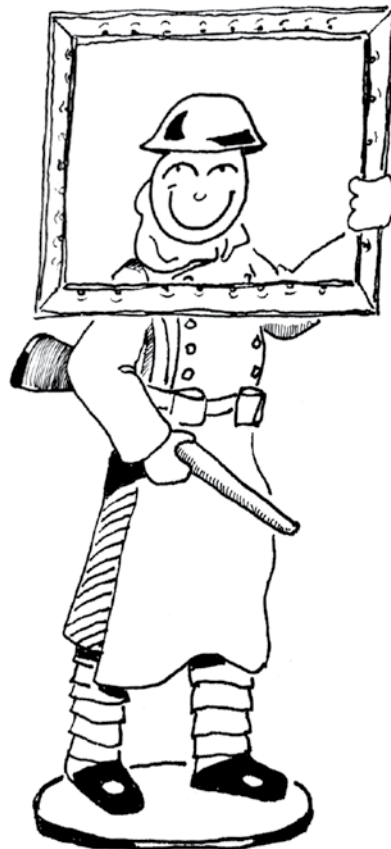
Barclay Sailors & Trico Troopers "ON PARADE for the GENERAL"

There are many adjectives used to describe the adventure of collecting toy soldiers. Certainly, many prominent people have created and built large collections of figures from all historical eras. Evidence of toy warriors has appeared in the research on the days of ancient Egypt.

Writing in the well-known book, The Art of the Toy Soldier by Kurtz and Ehrlich<sup>(1)</sup>, Britain's former technical director Roy Selwyn-Smith talked about the "charm" of the old toy soldier awaiting your command in a fantasy world.

Richard O'Brien used terms such as "sleek", "lively", "vivid", jaunty" and "down to earth" when he described these little works of art made by major dimestore toy soldier companies in his book, Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers.<sup>(2)</sup> Check this book for more detail on the gallery soldiers.

Henry I. Kurz, in an "American Heritage" magazine article<sup>(3)</sup>, described toy soldiers as "rugged", "rough and ready", "bright" and "expressive".



Luigi Toiati  
2024



May we add "joyful" in the eyes of a five-year old in the 1940s and "pleasing" to the eyes of someone quite older in 2020? What can you add to the discussion of "Dimestore Toy Soldier Art"? Let us know.

Note: a detail-oriented collector will know that nearly all forms of toy soldiers made by 10 different companies are shown in the gallery. Also, there are five grading sets of figures included and quietly arranged to illustrate a new system for the evaluation of condition.

Remember to spread the word and enjoy the hunt along the way!

(1) Kurz & Ehrlich, The Art of the Toy Soldier: 1987; Abbeville Press, New York.

(2) O'Brien, Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers 1997; Books Americana, Florence AL.

(3) Kurz, "Dimestore Doughboys" Dec. 1986; American Heritage Magazine



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# WILLIAM BRITAIN, JR. INTERVIEWS LUIGI TOIATI

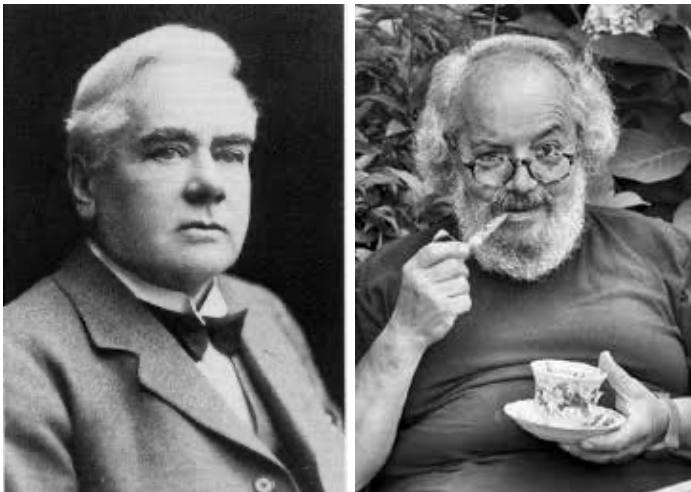
Dear OTS readers, we publish herein an exclusive article, submitted to us from a very reliable source, but one who wants to remain anonymous. The OTS Editorial Staff

Dear Readers, Angels, Archangels, Cherubs, Virgins, Saints, Martyrs and Blessed -The attention of our brother William Britain, Jr. was drawn to a rumour about a book that recently appeared on Earth, 'The History of Toy Soldiers' by Luigi Toiati, Pen & Sword Publs.

Being directly involved in the subject matter, and intrigued both by the novelties described therein and by the odd, socio-semiotic perspective of the author, he asked my permission to interview the latter. Permission was immediately given. It is with pleasure that we publish here the interview in full, in time for the Sunset Vespers edition. The Almighty, Editor in Chief, *The Heaven Herald*, 2020, Terrestrial time.

**'There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio...' An interview with Luigi Toiati on his book 'The History of Toy Soldiers' by William Britain, Jr.**

Our special correspondent brother WB and the interviewee...in a quandary with one of the questions ...



*W.B.: Good morning Mr. Toiati and thank you for granting this interview.*

*L.T.: I am the one who should be thanking you Sir, and let me say that I am very excited to be interviewed by my idol, indeed by the idol of all those who love toy soldiers.*

*W.B.: Really, well, ahem, hu, that's quite a tribute, thank you. Would you like to tell me about your book?*

*L.T.: With pleasure, haven't you read it?*

*W.B.: Uh, not yet. Amazon shipments sometimes, uh, struggle to get here. We're, ahem, a little distant.*

*L.T.: If you'll allow me, it would be a pleasure to give you an autographed copy.*

*W.B.: Thank you, the pleasure is mine. So, you were saying...*

*L.T.: Yes, I'll explain right away.*

My aim was to tell the story of toy soldiers and at the same time to describe why a given type of toy soldier was born at a given historical and social moment in a given country. I also describe in my book each type of toy soldier - flat, semi-flat, solid, hollow cast, etc. And all kinds of materials they were made of - wood, plaster, metal, plastic, even breadcrumbs, and so on. Of course, I also cover the various brands, scales, and sizes, including your own range of products of course!

*W.B.: Sounds fascinating, perhaps you can tell me more? For example, very briefly please, what did you have to say about my invention of the hollow cast toy soldier?*

*L.T.: I will try, Sir.*

Over the course of about a century, ownership of toy soldiers had gradually been extended to the middle classes. They demanded figurines more substantial than the flat or semi-flat ones that had up until the late 19th century been the standard. Germany was a leader in toy soldier production, and had with little conviction introduced the hollow-cast figure, it had not followed the technique through to its logical conclusion. Germany had invaded the UK toy soldier market with solid figurines which were sold at very expensive price, in good company with no less fierce competition from France.

Is that correct so far?

*W.B.: Yes, I would say so, please Mr. Toiati, pray continue.*

*L.T.: The experience of your hollow mechanical elephant, and the need to produce lighter toy soldiers to make children able to shoot them down with your new pom-pom gun and its deadly peas, plus taking inspiration from the hollow cast experience abandoned by the Germans, did the rest.*

*W.B.: Yes, of course, metal was quite expensive...*

*L.T.: More expensive than labour, thus, to kill two birds with a stone, you decided to save money with the hollow cast technique, and to produce national toy soldiers to a standard scale...*

*W.B.: Only employing British labour .....*

# WILLIAM BRITAIN, JR. INTERVIEWS LUIGI TOIATI *(Continued)*

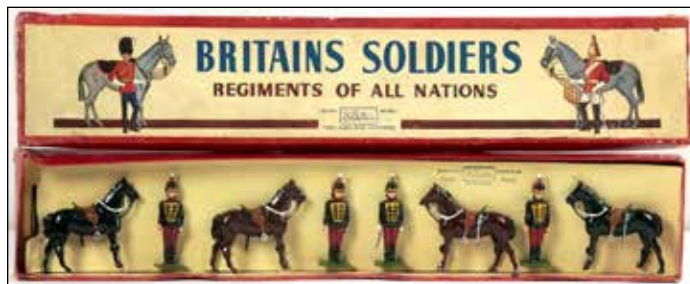
L.T.: Yes, but may I ask you a question? Did you realise that, even if did not apply specifically to your employees, the social classes to which they belonged generally bought their toy soldiers from your competitors rather than from Britains?

W.B.: *What on earth do you mean by that?*

L.T.: Britain's toy soldiers were quite expensive, generally sold only in boxed sets, mostly in formal parade poses, with that delicious stiffness that made them more suitable for the playthings of the officer or ruling classes. In contrast, your competitors sold their toy soldiers individually, unboxed. This meant they were available at prices within everybody's reach. Moreover, their toy soldiers were more often portrayed in action poses, emphasising Tommy Atkins' individuality, perhaps closer to common people? Maybe this made both them and their children able to feel themselves as little heroes, not cannon fodder? For example, compare this Johillco figure with your set of 11th Hussars.



(1) Johillco's "Tommy Atkins" embellished by his owner  
(courtesy of eBay)



(2) Britains 11th Hussars (photo by Francesco Toiati)

W.B.: *Well, I see what you mean but we did have an Empire to model.....*

L.T.: If you say so...

Anyway, this is just a taste of what you will find in my book. And you'll find your range well represented but with much else besides! The book covers around 600 different brands in over 600 pages. It has about 400 photos, plus both a bibliography per each chapter, and a final overarching one.

I illustrated each chapter with a drawing too. Moreover, some far more illustrious collectors and writers than me added their 'cameos', or short scripts, on their passion for toy figurines... and all this at a very reasonable price. All in all a great addition to your bookshelf I would say!

W.B.: *Interesting. But, explain to me, after all we are just talking about toy figurines. Why write a book about such a common thing?*

L.T.: Well, you see, maybe you've been missing from Earth for a while, Sir.

There have been some... turbulent events since your death. For example, after the Second World War...

W.B.: *Second World War? Oh my God, wasn't one enough?*

L.T.: That's right, it was horrendous. But after it was over interest in toy soldiers continued to grow. In the 1950s and 1960s many more well-groomed figurines were born - often unique pieces - called 'model soldiers'; furthermore, a new, very cheap substance called 'plastic' arrived to replace the use of lead. And so on.

With them, more collectors of toy soldiers appeared, as well as players of war games.

W.B.: *Yes, but my toy soldiers, and those of my competitors were really just toys.*

L.T.: Of course, but, you see, at a certain point for market reasons the hollow cast figurine was stopped.

W.B.: *My goodness! But this is... outrageous!*

L.T.: We all miss it, believe me. Anyway, don't worry, Britains is still a leading brand.

W.B.: *Ah, that's comforting.*

L.T.: It is. As a matter of fact, anyway, people started collecting antique, well, old if you prefer, toy soldiers. The humble hollow cast figurines grew in value. For example, today a boxed set of, say, Scots Guards, may be sold for some 40-50 pounds.

W.B.: *Are you joking? We sold them for about 2-3 shillings for a complete set...*

L.T.: Yes, it is amazing. And you can't imagine how much some of the other sets, that in your day were sold by Gamages for a few pence, can now fetch in auctions. This Royal Horse Artillery, which was much bigger and considerably more expensive than the set of Scots Guards, nowadays might sell for £200-£300 depending upon its

# WILLIAM BRITAIN, JR. INTERVIEWS LUIGI TOIATI *(Continued)*

condition and period of production. The same is true of other sets like the Royal marine Artillery or my favourites the Italian Infantry (please excuse my national bias!).



(5) Britains Royal Horse Artillery, 1st version  
(courtesy Special Auction Services)



(6) Britains Royal Marine Artillery (courtesy C & T Auctions)



(7) Britains, Italian Infantry dated 24-2-1910

W.B.: I see that you are well informed...

L.T.: I try to do my best, thank you.

W.B.: I must say that I am intrigued, and I will read your book gladly. Thank you.

L.T.: I am the one who should be thanking you. It has been a great honour to be interviewed by you.

Could I dare to ask you a favour?

W.B.: Please do.

L.T.: Do you think you could ask the Lord, if it is in His will to call me up there, if He could kindly find me a little place to write in peace, away from virgins and martyrs? I do not love them too much.

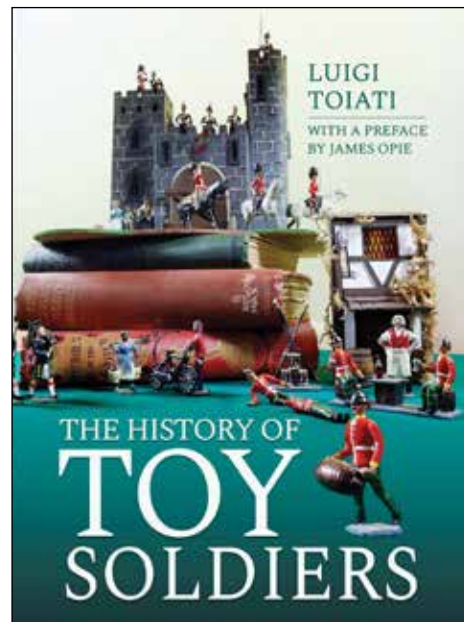
W.B.: Neither do I, I would say. I just have a little cottage in my woods that would suit you. So, we can talk about toy soldiers together from time to time. All in all, we have eternity ahead of us!

L.T.: All things considered...



**Luigi Toiati**, semiotician, toy soldiers' collector and maker (Garibaldi & Co. Toy Soldiers), and writer, lives in Rome with his beloved (and very very patient) wife Monica. They both love Rome and its sunsets, and their flowered roof garden where they enjoy writing and reading most of year.

Luigi has just published the book *'The History of Toy Soldiers'* for Pen & Sword. His second book is currently under way.



8. The History of Toy Soldiers by Luigi Toiati, Pen & Sword Publs



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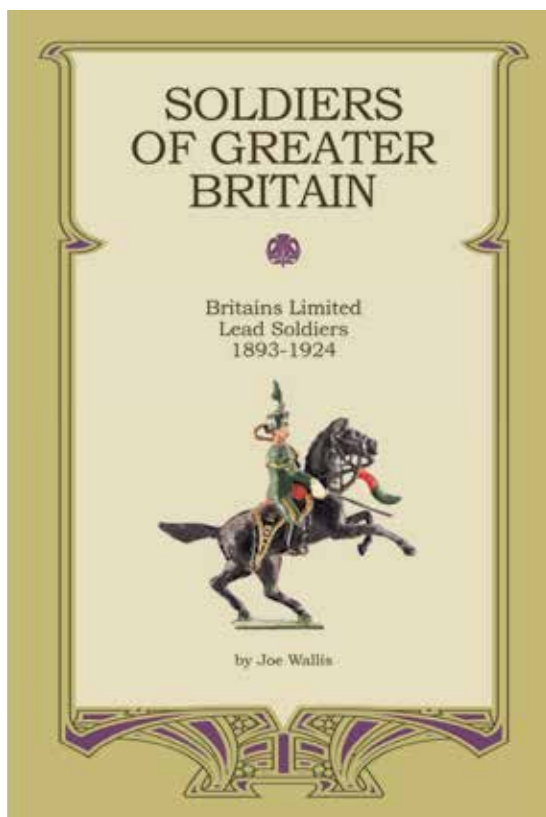


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## SOLDIERS OF GREATER BRITAIN - JOE WALLIS

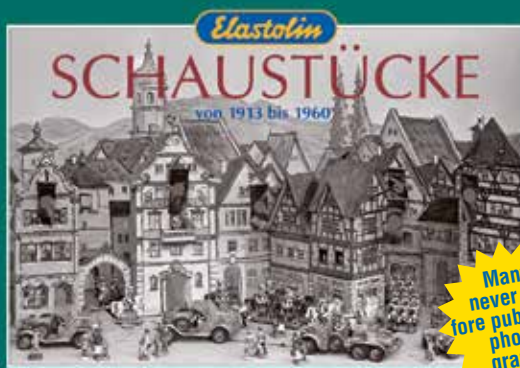


*Soldiers of Greater Britain* by Joe Wallis deals with the years between 1893 and 1924 when the distinctive style and quality that made Britains toy soldiers the most popular in the world was developed. This well researched 453-page book answers questions about "ancient" Britains figures, mechanical toys, the accuracy of their models, the sources of their designs, the smaller scale B Series, the Paris Office, and Whisstock's wonderful box labels. See [www.leadsoldierbooks.com](http://www.leadsoldierbooks.com).

- Features 782 close-up color photographs placed throughout the text by the corresponding set descriptions;
- Provides color schemes, changes in sets, cross references to other sets with the same figures, and the years during which each item appeared prior to 1925; and
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## ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

This book is already the 2nd photo guide on Hauser/Elastolin showroom dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hauser/Elastolin in the period between 1913 and 1960. The documentation's themes are ranging from military scenes and political events via zoological highlights and Wild West topics to certain examples of the early post-war period. The editors were able to share their treasure of high quality old original black-and-white photographs with the readers community on quite a high-quality standard and added also some more recent photographic documentations. 112 pages, hardcover, 21 x 30 cm. Price 39.00 Euro plus postage: within Germany 3.00 Euro; 5.00 Euro within the EU; Non-EU and World the real shipping costs.

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Editors: Helmut Lang and Andreas Pietruschka

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# Ducal Traditional Military Figures

*By Brian Holly*



Early product box for a six piece set of Black Watch pipes and drums



Early production set of Welsh Guards Color Party at attention affixed to a display card

Commonwealth regimental figures, bands, pipes and drums, color parties, mounted figures, drum horses, gun crews, and regimental mascots. They did offer civilian figures, usually in poses to accompany large pageants such as Trooping the Color, as well as firemen, golfers, and clowns. They also provided spare parts and unpainted castings. Sets came usually in multiples of six figures, up to a maximum of 24, and were boxed accordingly. They entertained custom orders of any size and produced several limited-edition sets to commemorate overseas tours of musical ensembles such as the Royal Marines.

Regimental bands and pipes and drums were the Dukes' stock in trade. Almost every extant early to middle 20th Century British regiment was represented by a band. They produced pipes and drums for all Scottish regiments, including the Cameronians, five different Gurkha regiments, many affiliated Canadian regiments, and Irish, French, and American units. They included bands for the Royal Marines, Royal Air Force, Royal Tank Regiment, Parachute Regiment, and more. The West Indies and Bahamas police also made the list of offerings. Their Trooping the Color range encompassed all foot and mounted Guards Regiments, Royal Horse Artillery, and personality figures from the Queen through Royal Colonels to Equerries, Grooms, and various officers.

The basic band consisted of a drum major, bass and side drummer, cymbalist, and eight individual brass and reed instruments, twelve figures in all. The standard pipe band had a drum major, four pipers, bass drummer, two tenor drums and four snares. Sets could be enlarged by add-ons of six figures. They later sold twenty figure pipe bands with 12 pipers. Pipe and drum majors were identified in all bands by the reverse chevron on their right jacket sleeve.

Ducal Traditional Military Figures (aka Fort-Ducal) was founded in 1975 by Jack Duke, a retired Royal Engineers NCO, and his wife Thelma. Like many others, they turned a casual hobby into a business, operating out of their home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, near Portsmouth in England. In business for 35 years, the Dukes quietly closed their company in 2010 for health reasons. By late 2015 both Jack and Thelma had passed away, but Ducal figures and sets still circulate widely at shows and via the Internet. One assessment placed Ducal at one point in time as the second largest producer of ceremonial figures, presumably after Britains.

The decades following World War II saw growth in the number of small to medium sized companies making and selling military miniatures, as a raft of new entrants expanded the scale

and scope of toy soldiers available to a growing market across the world. These included Tradition of London, Trophy, Steadfast, Imperial, and Ducal among larger producers with Dorset, Good Soldiers, and Fusilier among the smaller ones. (King and Country represents a different genre of toy soldier maker that features 60 mm Chinese made figures using a matte finish at higher price points.) The early ranges offered by these makers tended towards ceremonial themes or specific historical eras defined by wars such as Zulu, Napoleonic, or British colonial conflicts. The vast majority were painted in gloss, with varying degrees of accuracy regarding uniforms and colors.

Ducal specialized in production of 54 mm figures painted in gloss with primary emphasis on British and

# 



Jack and Thelma Duke on the cover of the *Toy Soldier Review* featuring their Trooping the Color display

The Dukes established a systematic numbering schema for their products. Regimental figures, marching units, bands, pipes and drums, and color parties were identified by a unique number, e.g., 56 for the Lancashire Fusiliers. Mounted figure numbering began with an M, regimental mascots with an RM, drum horses with a DH, and so on. Different units for a single regiment typically began with the same first one or two digits. The Scots Guards, for example, were numbered as follows: regimental band – 106, color party – 108, corps of drums – 109, pipes and drums – 110. Oddly, both the Coldstream and Grenadier Guards sets were prefixed by the number 8. There were add-on sets of six additional figures for regimental pipe bands consisting of four pipers and two side drummers. They were identified by an A following the primary identifier, e.g. The Black Watch -180A.

Few if any records exist of Ducal production volume. It is also difficult to estimate the number of different sets manufactured. One printed box insert I have boasts of an inventory of 20,000 figures ready for shipment anywhere in the world. Two issues of the now discontinued *Regiments* magazine from 1998 and 2003 in my possession contained full page advertisements listing over 175

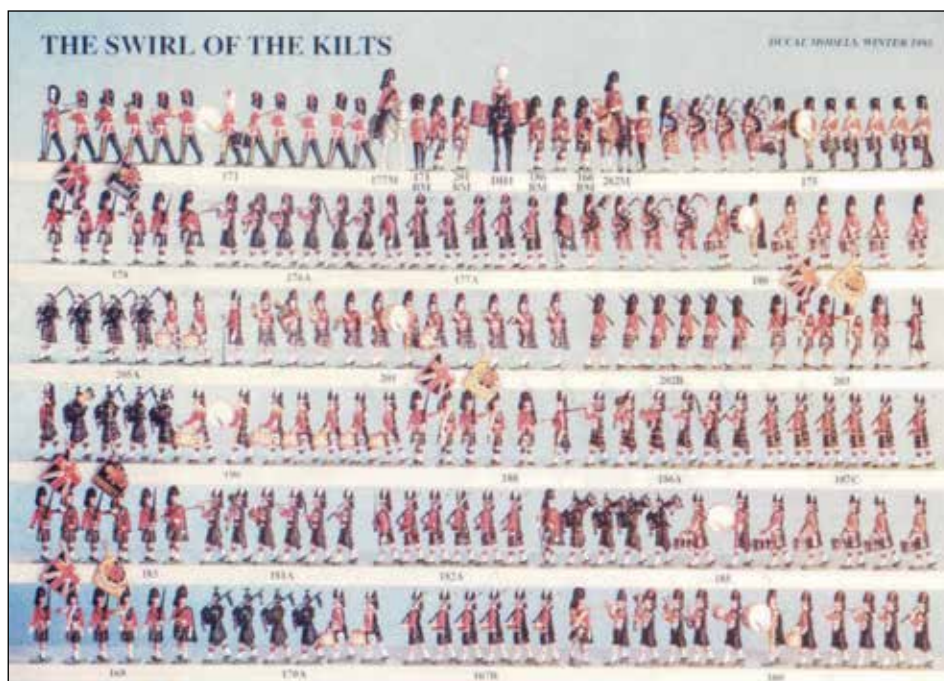
different regimental sets and figures. At its peak Ducal employed some 20 contract painters. The initial primary market was the United Kingdom, but by the 1990s North American collectors also became major consumers of their output. The Summer 1992 issue of *Toy Soldier Review* featured the Dukes on the cover overlooking a Trooping the Color diorama of massed Ducal figures in front of a replica of Horse Guards. Advertisements by U.S. based vendors listing Ducal availability in that issue numbered about 20. Ducal also maintained

its own website and advertised in both collector and military history magazines. Jack and Thelma Duke were regular attendees at major U.S. and British shows as well. Today, by contrast, Ducal figures can be found mostly on the Internet, at shows, and only occasionally in auctions. On any given day eBay lists between 100 and 150 Ducal offerings.

Having been founded more than 45 years ago the Ducal brand may or may not now qualify as a maker of “old” toy soldiers. With time, Ducal figures may find their way more regularly into

	Band 12 piece	Band 6 piece Add-on	Officer & 5 Men	Sergeant & 5 Men	6 Men	Colour Party - 6 piece	Fife & Drums - 12 piece	Fife & Drums - 6 piece Add-on	Pipes & Drums - 12 piece	Pipes & Drums - 6 piece Add-on	Colour Case Carrier	Mounted Officer	Drum Major in State Dress	Director of music	Parade Marker - Sergeant	Regimental Mascot
<b>GRENADIER GUARDS</b>																
Tunics - Marching	81	81A	82A	82B	82C	83	84	84A			84CC	82M	81SDM	81DOM		
Tunics - Attention			462A	462B	426C	463										
Tunics - Present			362A	362B	362C	363										
Greatcoats - Marching	126	126A	127A	127B	127C	128	129	129A			129CC					
<b>WELSH GUARDS</b>																
Tunics - Marching	96	96A	97A	97B	97C	98	99	99A			99CC	97M	96SDM	96DOM		
Tunics - Attention			467A	467B	467C	468										
Tunics - Present			367A	367B	367C	368										
Greatcoats - Marching	146	146A	147A	147B	147C	148	149	149A			149CC					
<b>SCOTS GUARDS</b>																
Tunics - Marching	106	106A	107A	107B	107C	108	109	109A	110	110A	109CC	107M	106SDM	106DOM		
Tunics - Attention			452A	452B	452C	453										
Tunics - Present			352A	352B	352C	353										
Greatcoats - Marching	156	156A	157A	157B	157C	158	159	159A			159CC					
<b>IRISH GUARDS</b>																
Tunics - Marching	76	76A	77A	77B	77C	78	79	79A	80	80A	79CC	77M	76SDM	76DOM		
Tunics - Attention			472A	472B	472C	473										
Tunics - Present			372A	372B	372C	373										
Greatcoats - Marching	116	116A	117A	117B	117C	118	119	119A			119CC					
<b>COLDSTREAM GUARDS</b>																
Tunics - Marching	86	86A	87A	87B	87C	88	89	89A			89CC	87M	86SDM	86DOM		
Tunics - Attention			457A	457B	457C	458										
Tunics - Present			357A	357B	357C	358										
Greatcoats - Marching	136	136A	137A	137B	137C	138	139	139A			139CC					

Set names and numbering scheme for the Guards Division foot regiments sets



Ducal Models webpage of Highland Regiments from 1991



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76. Irish Guards  
81. Grenadier Guards  
86. Coldstream Guards  
96. Welsh Guards  
106. Scots Guards  
111. King's Royal Rifle Corps  
116. Grenadier Guards in Greatcoats  
126. Grenadier Guards in Greatcoats  
131. Royal Marines  
151. The Royal Canadian Regiment **NEW**  
166. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
171. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards  
176. The Black Watch  
181. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders  
186. The Gordon Highlanders  
191. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars  
196. 16th (The Queen's) Lancers  
201. The Seaforth Highlanders  
221. The Highland Light Infantry **NEW**  
222. The Royal 22e Regiment (Vandoo) **NEW**  
231. The Princess Patricia's Canadian L.I. **NEW**  
241. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police **NEW**  
246. The West Irish Regiment  
251. The Royal Navy  
261. The Royal Scots  
271. The Royal Engineers **NEW**  
276. The Royal Irish Rangers  
281. The Royal Scots Fusiliers  
321. The 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles  
331. The Royal Corps of Signals **NEW**  
376. The Royal Air Force  
406. The US Marine Corps Field Band  
416. The Bahamas Police  
421. The USMC President's Own  
424. The USMC Commandant's Own  
426. The US Military Academy (West Point)  
429. The US Military Academy Band  
431. The Camerons (Scottish Rifles)  
436. The Parachute Regiment  
441. The US Navy (Blue Uniform)  
446. The US Navy (White Uniform)  
496. The USMC 3rd Marine Air Wing  
501. The Governor General's Foot Gds of Canada **NEW**  
511. The Devon and Dorset Regiment **NEW**  
546. The Royal Tank Regiment **NEW**  
551. The Royal Insubrising Fusiliers **NEW**  
561. The Honourable Artillery Company **NEW**  
581. The Army Air Corps **NEW**  
586. The Royal Canadian Army Ordnance Corps **NEW**

#### 

RM 1. Irish Guards  
RM 2. The Sherwood Foresters  
RM 3. The Royal Welch Fusiliers  
RM 4. US Marine Corps (Blue pants)  
RM 5. US Marine Corps (White pants)  
RM 6. The Royal Irish Rangers  
RM 7. The Royal Warwickshire Regt.  
RM 8. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
RM 9. The Royal 22e Regiment (Vandoo)  
RM 10. The Parachute Regiment  
RM 11. The Royal Navy  
RM 12. The Canadian Scottish Regiment  
RM 13. The Welch Regiment  
RM 14. The Royal Air Force  
RM 15. The Royal Regiment of Wales **NEW**  
RM 16. The Irish Regiment of Canada **NEW**

#### 

80. Irish Guards  
110. Scots Guards  
125. The Royal Marines **NEW**  
155. The Royal Canadian Regiment **NEW**  
165. The 48th Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
170. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
175. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards  
180. The Black Watch  
185. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders  
190. The Gordon Highlanders  
195. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars  
205. The Seaforth Highlanders  
215. The London Scottish (1914)  
225. The Highland Light Infantry **NEW**  
240. The Canadian Scottish Regiment  
245. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police **NEW**  
250. The London Irish Rifles  
265. The Royal Scots  
280. The Royal Irish Rangers  
285. The Royal Scots Fusiliers  
290. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers  
295. The 6th O.E.O. Gurkha Rifles  
310. The 10th (J.M.O.) Gurkha Rifles  
320. The Gurkha Transport Regiment  
380. The Royal Air Force **NEW**  
400. The 7th (D.O.E.O.) Gurkha Rifles  
430. The Corps of Cadets, USMC West Point  
435. The Camerons (Scottish Rifles)  
440. The Parachute Regiment  
480. The Black Watch of Canada **NEW**  
485. The US Army 91st Training Regiment  
490. The US Air Force  
520. The Ulster Defence Regiment **NEW**  
525. The French Navy **NEW**  
550. The Royal Tank Regiment **NEW**  
555. The Royal Insubrising Fusiliers **NEW**  
570. The Calgary Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
575. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
580. The Toronto Scottish of Canada **NEW**

#### 

DH1. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards  
DH2. The Queen's Own Hussars  
DH3. The Royal Life Guards of Sweden  
DH4. The 12th (D.C.O.) Lancers  
DH5. The 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars  
DH6. The 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards  
DH7. The Belgian Royal Escort  
DH8. The 12th (D.C.O.) Lancers, Pakistan  
DH9. The 16th (The Queen's) Lancers  
DH10. The 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers)  
DH11. The Cape Light Horse  
DH12. The 10th (Prince of Wales' Own) Hussars  
DH13. The Royal Artillery Mounted Band  
DH14. The Italian Carabinieri  
DH15. The 6th Kurausler Regt, Imperial Germany  
DH16. The 13th Hussars  
DH17. The 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Bays)  
DH18. The 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers  
DH19. The 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys)  
DH20. The 8th (King's) Royal Irish Hussars  
DH21. The French Garde Republicaine  
DH22. The Danish Royal Hussars (At the Walk)  
DH23. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars (At the Walk)  
DH24. The 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars **NEW**  
DH25. The 6th (Insubrising) Dragoons **NEW**  
DH26. The 1st (Royal) Dragoons **NEW**  
DH27. The 9th (Queen's) Lancers **NEW**  
DH28. The 14th (King's) Hussars **NEW**  
DH29. The 12th (Prince of Wales' Royal) Lancers **NEW**  
DH30. The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers **NEW**

#### 

51. The South Wales Borderers  
55. The Lancashire Fusiliers  
78. Irish Guards (marching)  
83. Grenadier Guards (marching)  
88. Coldstream Gds (marching)  
98. Welsh Guards (marching)  
108. Scots Guards (marching)  
118. Irish Gds in Greatcoats (marching)  
128. Grenadier Guards in Greatcoats (marching)  
133. The Royal Marines (marching)  
138. Coldstream Gds in Greatcoats (marching)  
148. Welsh Guards in Greatcoats (marching)  
153. The Royal Canadian Regiment **NEW**  
158. Scots Guards in Greatcoats (marching)  
163. 48th Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
168. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
178. The Black Watch  
183. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders  
188. The Gordon Highlanders  
203. The Seaforth Highlanders  
213. The London Scottish (1914)  
223. The Highland Light Infantry **NEW**  
228. The Royal 22e Regiment of Canada (Vandoo)  
233. The Princess Patricia's Canadian L.I. Infantry  
238. The Canadian Scottish Regiment  
243. The Royal Navy  
263. The Royal Scots  
278. The Royal Irish Rangers  
283. The Royal Scots Fusiliers  
323. The 2nd Gurkha Rifles Tranchon Party  
438. The Parachute Regiment  
478. The Black Watch of Canada **NEW**  
513. The Devon and Dorset Regiment **NEW**  
518. The Ulster Defence Regiment  
553. The Royal Insubrising Fusiliers **NEW**  
563. The Honourable Artillery Company **NEW**  
568. The Calgary Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
573. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada **NEW**  
578. The Toronto Scottish of Canada **NEW**

Other sets for the Royal Navy, the Guards & the Royal Marines At Present Arms

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Advertisement of selected Ducal offerings from 2003 Regiments magazine



Regimental Mascots: Canadian Scottish; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

auctions of older toy soldiers as aging collectors dispose of their holdings, but there is scant evidence of that at present. The typical Ducal figure is reminiscent of pre 1967 Britains glossy figures, albeit without the lead content. Indeed, Jack Duke had an agreement with Britains to purchase castings of horses in lots of 500 for many years. The horses were fused with his own castings to yield the many different mounted figures on offer. With few exceptions the earliest figures differ little from those produced in later years. The final Ducal made figures would now be at least 10 years in age with the oldest approaching 50 years.

Not surprisingly, rarity, not age, seems to determine current prices for Ducal figures. They do not command anywhere near the prices of vintage Britains, a function of their relative youth. Recently, displaying uncharacteristic restraint, I dropped out of an eBay auction for a mounted personality figure at \$52 US. More commonly available mounted figures typically sell in the range of \$25 to \$50 US. A price list from 1998 advertised mounted figures at £14.95, bands from £71.90 to £80.40, and drum horses at £24.90. Rarer pieces and sets may command somewhat higher prices if recent eBay auctions are used as the benchmark, but current inflation adjusted prices are not much different from those posted in 1998.

Ducal boxes are standardized in size, shape, and color, depending upon the type and number of figures contained within. The earliest boxes were white, with a simple label on the cover and usually displayed figures affixed to a card. A twelve piece band would come in two boxes of six figures each and be identified as Box #1 and Box #2. Mascots and mounted figures, which appear to have been introduced later, are encased in smaller boxes with interior foam cutouts. By the late 1980s, the box color was blue with a new label design. Often, the side of each box cover had a label affixed identifying the regiment and set type (e.g.,

## Ducal Traditional Military Figures *(Continued)*

“Scots Guards, Pipes and Drums Marching”). As they introduced larger sets over time, the Dukes packaged each set in a two layered box with foam inserts. Larger pipes and drums ensembles numbered 20 while regimental bands reached 24 figures. Large custom made sets would be in appropriately sized boxes.

The Ducal ranges of military and civilian figures presently do not command either the prices or enjoy similar prestige to that of older, better known makers. Yet, Ducal products are well represented in the toy soldier aftermarket, whether on the Internet, at shows, on consignment sites, or through private sales. If

the auction market is accepted as the defining indicator of a toy soldier manufacturer's importance, Ducal has not yet achieved the status of a Britains, Heyde, Manoil, Mignot, or others. The passage of time will tell whether Ducal and its contemporaries gain old toy soldier status for collectors.



Twenty-four piece band of the 13th Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry



Drum majors of the 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 10th Gurkha Rifles and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers



Basic Set, Pipes and Drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders



Farrier and Trooper the Life Guards and Royal Colonels of the Coldstream and Welsh Guards



Mounted figures: London Scottish, Royal Scots, RCMP, and Black Watch



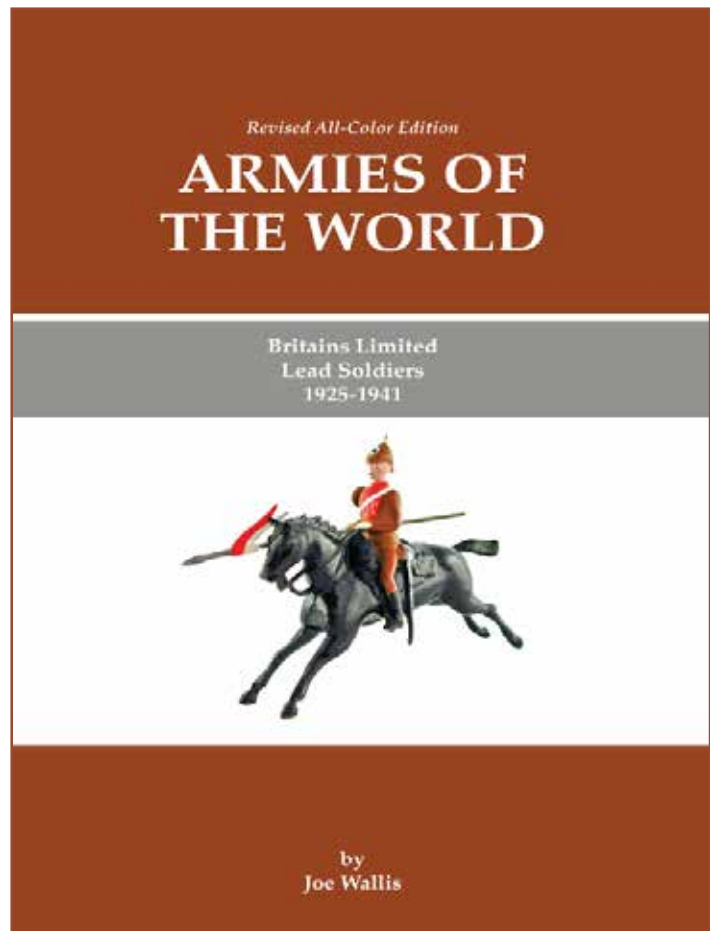
2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles Truncheon Party



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# CARMAN'S ARGOSY SERIES

By Norman Joplin

OTS has published several articles on the products of William Young Carman, (see for example Volume 41 #2 and #4).

Carman started producing his range of 54mm scale figures pre-WW2 and continued into the early 1950s.

Argosy was a short-lived company established shortly after WW2. It carried on the tradition of other historical and military figures made by Carman. His Carbago company was the idea of a triumvirate which included Lovell Barnes and Otto Gottstein. This produced a series of 35mm flat figures. Carbago was followed by Argosy. This series featured fully rounded 54mm scale figures from Carman moulds. The venture was aimed at the British Tourist market. They were not widely distributed and available only in the gift shops near to the Queens residence Windsor Castle.

The name Argosy seems to be a conglomeration of letters taken from the owner's names. The same three men were responsible for starting both Carbago and Argosy.

No catalogue or listing of Carman products, apart from a short, typed list is known. This was illustrated in the articles in Volume 41. The subject matter of Carman's creations covered many historical periods, personalities, literary characters, and military uniforms.

Argosy ran into financial difficulties in the early 1950s. It was eventually taken over by Briton Riviere, better known for his trade name Matchlock. Riviere took over Carbago and it was then that the name changed to Argosy. The figures described here were designed by Carman. Argosy was the trade name developed by Riviere.

According to Garratt the history then becomes very complicated. It is not clear whether or not Carbago ever used the Argosy name. Riviere's figures were originally made in plaster and were later named Faber. His military figures were distributed under the trade name Matchlock. This caused a dispute between Riviere and Willetts' plaster figures. Riviere then linked up with The Sentry Box, for whom Simon Hunt and Riviere designed some 18 to 33cm figures. What is clear is that Riviere established the name Argosy and bought the rights to produce the figures under that trade name.

Garratt also states the Riviere produced new models under the Argosy name, so although we recognize the figures in the Argosy boxes as Carman, there may be other examples out there as yet unidentified.

The recent discovery of several complete Argosy boxed sets gives a clue to some of the original descriptions of Carman's figures. A number of Carman's Ladies can now be positively identified from the figures contained in these Argosy boxes.

The boxes are unique, with a flip top and drop down side. The latter provides details of the historical personages in each box.



The examples unearthed so far include:

- Henry V and his wife Katherine
- Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, one of his 6 wives
- Elizabeth and Essex
- Louis XV and a courtesan (Madame Pompadour)
- William of Orange and his wife Mary
- Bonnie Prince Charlie and a piper
- George III and his wife Charlotte
- Nelson and Lady Hamilton
- Characters from Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*
- Characters from Dickens' *Great Expectations*



## CARMAN'S ARGOSY SERIES (Continued)





# CARMAN'S ARGOSY SERIES (Continued)

## Carman's ladies

Carman issued various female figures, in various paint styles. A number of these can now be formally identified from the figures in the Argosy boxes.

- Katherine daughter of the King of France, wife of Henry V;
- Anne Boleyn, Catherine of Aragon, Catherine Parr, Anne of Cleves, Jane Seymour, Catherine Howard – all wives of King Henry VIII. Six different paint versions of a standard casting were used for each wife;
- Queen Elizabeth I;
- Mary, wife of William of Orange;
- Madame Pompadour;
- Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of George III;
- Becky Sharpe, character from the *Vanity Fair* novel by Thackeray;
- Lorna Doone from the novel of the same name by Richard Doddridge Blackmore;
- Estella, character from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.



From left to right: Flora McDonald or Lorna Doone; Unidentified; Estella; an alternative version of Madame Pompadour; one of the 6 wives of Henry VIII; Lady Hamilton; and Katherine



Wives of Henry VIII or Queen Elizabeth 1



Madame Pompadour



Becky Sharpe

## Reference:

Garrett John G.:

*World Encyclopaedia of Model Soldiers*

Frederick Muller Limited London 1981





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# BOOK REVIEW

## Die Zinnlaube

*Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

2020 was certainly a year of change and challenges for all of us. Our hobby was deeply impacted by the cancellation of the 2020 CTSS Show held annually in Chicago. We were all disappointed in the cancellation and missing the opportunities to see old friends, toy soldiers and to hunt for that rare figure. Under the guidance of Roger Garfield and his team I'm sure the 2021 CTSS Show will be a smashing success.

The German based magazine *Die Zinnlaube* has undergone a change since my last review, (OTS Vol. 44 No. 1). The magazine is no longer the newsletter of the FAS, a group of German collectors, but is now an independent publication. Inaugural editor and associate editor Gisbert Freber after 10 successful years has decided to entrust the future of *Die Zinnlaube* to Martin Schabenstiel and Dr. Erhard Schraudolph.

When I learned of the leadership change of *Die Zinnlaube* I was concerned about the quality of the next issue. Would the articles be as informative, well written and extensively researched as those in the past? Would the number of pages be reduced? What about the quality of the photographs supporting the written articles? Would the next issue appear in 2020 or be delayed until 2021?

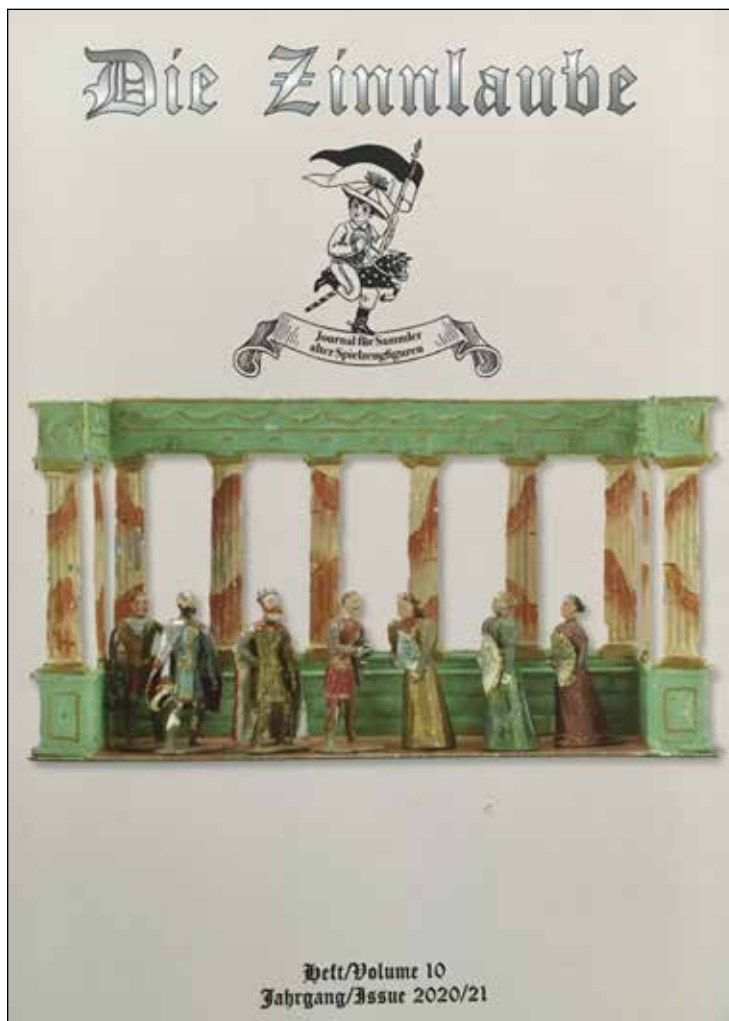
I received my issue of the new *Die Zinnlaube* in Fall of 2020. I am delighted to report that the new issue passed with flying colors. Eagerly opening the parcel, I was happy to discover that the publication retained its original 8"x12" size. The new 110 page *Die Zinnlaube* comprises eight articles exploring both military and civilian figures. With 2020 being the 150th

anniversary of the Franco-Prussian War, three articles dealt with figures representing the opposing armies. One of these articles examines an extremely rare piece of which only 12 examples are known to have been produced. Fortunately a single casting has survived and its' history is shared with readers. The numerous accompanying color photographs within each of the articles are outstanding and enhance the reading experience. The quality of writing is excellent with sources being footnoted allowing the reader to pursue further research on their own should they choose to do so. When applicable, period advertisements / artwork add further insight into the subject matter. Martin Schabenstiel and Dr. Erhard

Schraudolph are to be congratulated on their initial issue of *Die Zinnlaube*. Gisbert Freber set the bar very high with the first 10 issues of *Die Zinnlaube* and Mr. Schabenstiel and Dr. Schraudolph have cleared that bar. *Die Zinnlaube* continues its reputation of well written and thoroughly researched articles making it a publication that you must have in your reference library. Thank you to Ignacio Czeguhn, the contact person for *Die Zinnlaube* for providing a copy for this review.

### Contact Information

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r	m	o	r	a	l	o	h	c	s	s	q	s	b	f	q	k	x	y	r	z	s	q	r	z

hole-in-one  
USA  
colonel  
pentagon  
VCOG  
purple-heart  
gettysburg  
floc  
LOM  
silver-star  
army  
vietnam  
texan  
scholar  
battalion  
vet  
bronze-star  
commander  
sam  
hero



# BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES PART 3

By John Franklin

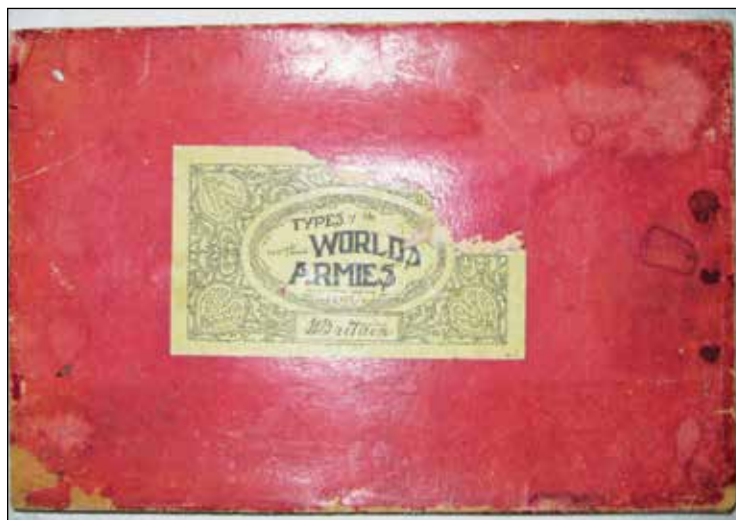
## 7. Set 1407 Modern Army Large Presentation Box

The next two-layered box after set 1350 was a box of similar size, with a list title of Modern Army Presentation Box. The Modern Army title was good PR to market khaki troops. Britains were trying to show they were up to speed, aware of events in Europe and telling collectors they were moving

with the times, as well as making modern troops available to them. My box (P 10a) is quite a battered example, with wooden carcass. It has no insert cards and the lid is missing all its edges.

I have always had a slant in my collecting towards full dress soldiers from about 1900 onwards. I have therefore only acquired a few khaki

troops to go in the box. It is nowhere near complete and not of the highest priority. If suitable contents appear from time to time, and are not too expensive and in reasonable condition, then I might add further to this box. Two figures in this box were not available in any other set (flat capped buglers, see P 10d). This figure was also marketed in second grade finish (P 10e).



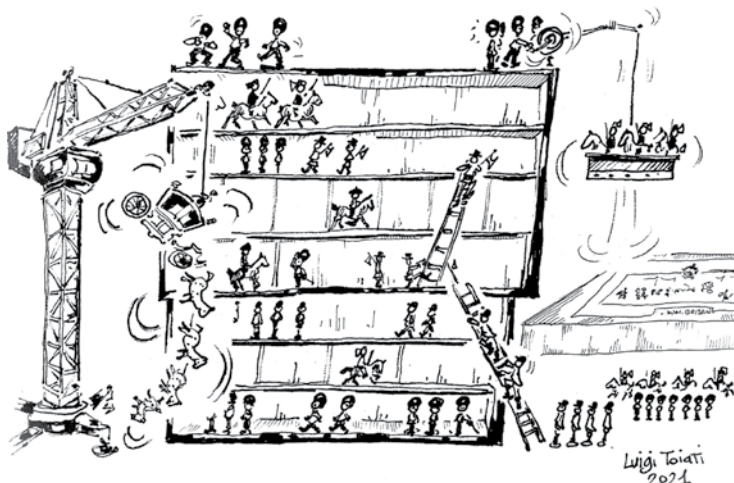
P 10a) Box lid for set 1407



P 10b) Details of the label for set 1407 (No set title or detailed contents, Set number stencilled below 'Armies')



P 10c) Empty box and tray for set 1407, no insert cards, all edges to the lid were missing.



P 10d) The 2 service dress buglers were only available in set 1407



P 10e) Second grade, service dress bugler

## BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES PART 3 (Continued)

### 8. Set 1477 Coronation Display

This next two-layered box set 1477 is a splendid and great production and marketing effort to complement the exciting times of a new King in 1936 and his enthronement at the 1937 Coronation<sup>1</sup>. The box, 26 in by 16.5 in, is similar to the contemporary set 73 presentation boxes<sup>2</sup>. This box came from a dealer with all its constituent contents complete. It didn't look like it had been played with many times and all the figures are in very good condition and also of the excellent paint style and lustre of the 1937–39 era (P 11 a). The label is a one off for this Coronation Display but still of the printers' artwork style. Some boxes had an end label Coronation Display. Note there are no officers for the Life Guards nor the Horse Guards.



P 11a) Set 1477 with original contents as acquired from a dealer.  
Note no officers for Life Guards or Horse Guards<sup>3</sup>



P 11b) Box lid for set 1477 with illustrated label



P 11d) Alternative label for box set 1477



P 11c) End label on set 1477 box lid



P 11e) Set number (1477)  
at bottom RH corner.  
No end label for this box.

One of my other empty boxes was also for set 1477. This box is of interest since the label on the lid is virtually the same as that shown in P 11b) except that it is in the black printers' format, (P 11d). It is also of interest since on this label the set number 1477 appears, quite small at the bottom RH corner (P 11e). There is no end label to this empty 1477 box.

1 Editor's note - This set is an example of the second version of the coach, where the single figure of Edward VIII was replaced by George VI and Queen Elizabeth following Edward's abdication. See my earlier article on "The King who never was" for a more detailed discussion of the Edward VIII version of the coach (Volume 33 # 3 pages 6-11).

2 Editor's note - The layout is not quite identical to set #73, the coach taking up more space than the gun teams presented in set #73.

3 Editor's note: Originally the foot figures would have been tied on cards.



## BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES PART 3 *(Continued)*



P 12a) Box lid and end label for set 9424

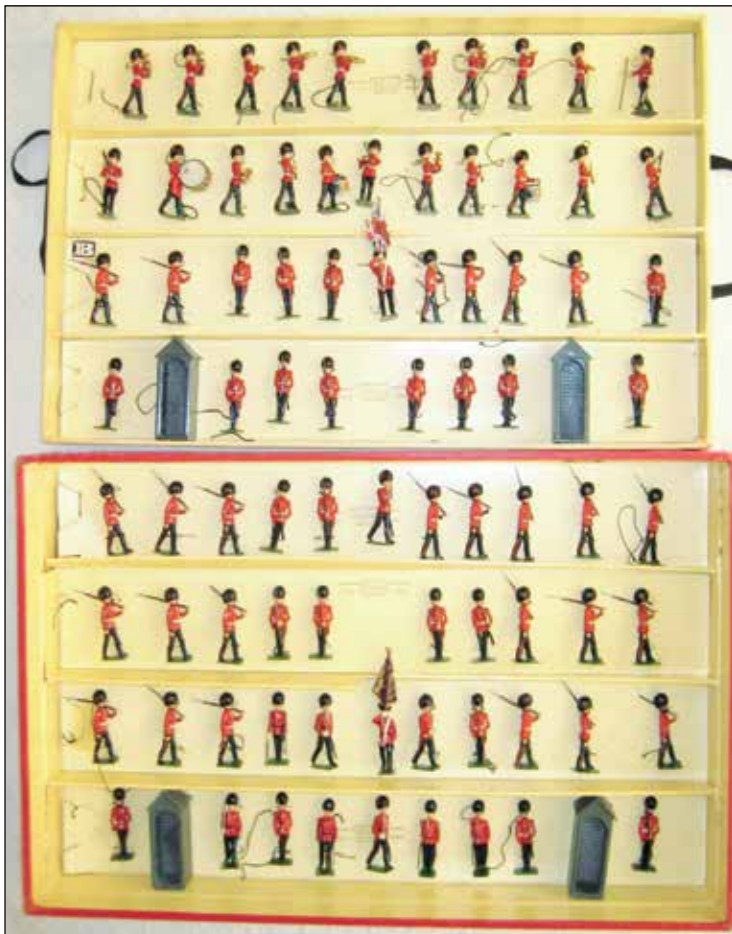


P 12b) Close-up of the label for set 9424 showing disposition of set contents



### 9. Set 1555 /9424 Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

This set title speaks for itself (see P 12a). The end label for an empty set 1555 box I have is shown in P 12d. As reported in Part 1 of this series of articles, I eventually acquired a Changing of the Guard set 40 or so years after my first unsuccessful attempt. This time though it would be a 1960s production issue, set renumbered 9424, (P 12a). I bought this at auction, with the set contents as shown in P 12c. Now the end label has been changed to Changing of the Guards Scots & Coldstream (P12a). The box lid top label (P 12b) is quite informative in showing a typical layout for the soldiers contained in the box. This is a useful guide for those less well acquainted with what transpires every day at Buckingham Palace.<sup>4</sup>



P 12c) Set contents for set 9424



P 12d) End label for an empty box set 1555

<sup>4</sup> Editor's note: This set was first issued in 1938. The very first version, with figures wearing moustaches, is much rarer.

## BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES PART 3 (Continued)

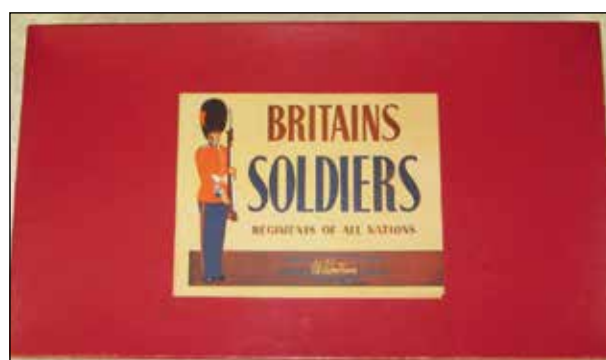
### 10. Set 2085 Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry

This fine, post-war, two-layered box depicted the Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry (set 2085, P 13a). It came out about 1954 and was a splendid representation of what enthusiasts for military pageantry of all ages had started to enjoy at military displays after the war, such as The Royal Tournament at Earls Court London. The set was able to echo the Household Cavalry's rotating display in that arena. They participated at such events to achieve good PR for the Army which this set also contributed to.

This set was bought from a shop, so the contents are indeed original. Box size is 18.5 in by 10.5 in, cardboard carcass and lid and "one off" insert cards. The end label presents the set title Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry (P 13c). The box lid echoes P 3d for set 73 in the first part of this series of articles with a large label for Britains Soldiers, Regiments of All Nations. In the late 1950s paper end labels began to be replaced by a machine stamped white lettering process. This set exhibits such an end labelling. There is a lot more description here. This machine added end labelling was carried onto a number of the awful cellophane front windowed boxes, prior to the introduction of the 9400 system of box numbers. These then reverted back to paper labels, see 9407 and 9424 above.



P 13a) Set 2085 Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry



P 13b) Box lid for set 2085



P 13c) Box end label for set 2085

### End Note – Yet another large box!

The one other large soldier box I have is not by Britains although it provides a suitable storage home for some boxless Britains, see (P 14).

I would say it was originally a Heyde box, from the style of the covering paper to its wooden carcass, (see P 14b). This box came with no upper tray, no internal divisions to the lower level and no lid. It was fairly easy to make these and they now form a useful and interesting way to display some other Britains figures (P 14a).



P 14b) Typical Heyde box covering paper of triangulated pattern, almost guilloche



P 14a) Heyde box storing unboxed Britains sets and figures



# AUCTION REVIEW

**AUCTION #60**



## INVESTMENT RARITIES

The Colonel (Ret.) Sam W. Floca, Jr. Collection of  
Britains Toy Soldiers with a Collection of Heyde Store Stock

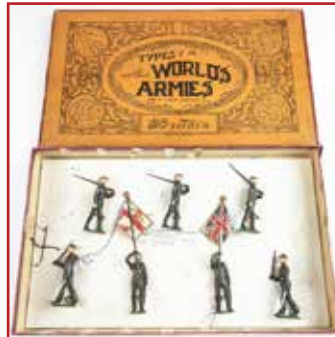
Saturday, January 16, 2021



Lot 289 Britains #1897 R.A.M.C. Unit in Battle Dress With Ambulance \$700



Lot 554 Hocker #94 Types Of The Zulu Wars Huge Set 129 \$1300



Lot 205 Britains #460 Scots Guards Colours Steel Helmet \$7000



Lot 520 Mignot Les Gaulois #1100 \$1100



Lot 486 Heyde Size 2 Triumph Of Germanicus Great Set 41 \$3500



Lot 470 Heyde Size 00 1138 Arabs On Horse \$4100



Lot 473 Heyde Size 2 1133 American Rodeo Cowboys \$4200



Lot 33 Britains #1339 Royal Horse Artillery Steel Helmet \$4800



Lot 548 Neil Rhodes Hungarian Field Artillery \$450



Lot 229 Britains #1438 Italian Army \$2300



Lot 68 Extremely Rare Britains #91 U.S. Infantry \$3000



Lot 430 Bill O'Brien Special Paint Patriotic Bull Dog \$800



Lot 226 Britains #1426 St. Johns Ambulance \$1600

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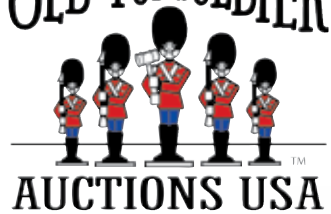
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Lot 1157 Exquisite NORIS Garde du Corps Display \$8000



Lot 2366 Britains RARE #76 Middlesex Regiment 57th Foot, with Officer and Pioneer \$4800



Lot 1144 Wonderful and rare NORIS Mounted Lancer Band 80mm figures \$3200



Lot 2403 Issmayer EXCEEDINGLY RARE Staff Car \$1200



Lot 1038 Fouille #142A Artillery Pied 1st Empire France 1960 \$950



Lot 1010 Courtenay #8 Duplex Thomas Lord Roos Attacking Earl of Vendome. \$800



Lot 1062 Britains Set #2013 Indian Mountain Artillery \$2800



Lot 1071 Britains Set #1859 Air Raid Wardens Post \$1300



Lot 1115 Britains Super Deetail #6314 Paratroopers Post War 1978. \$850



# AUCTION REVIEW (Continued)

AUCTION #59



Lot 1072 Britains Disney Goofy \$1800



Lot 1182 Rodden MS 3 Sir Walter Woodland with Banner of the Black Prince \$800



Lot 1078 Rare Britains Set #1439 Round-A-Bout Circa 1937 \$2400



Lot 1180 Rodden MS 2 Guillaume de Martel with Oriflamme \$950



Lot 1146 Extremely Rare NORIS Crown Heads of Europe \$4700



Lot 1024 Vertunni King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Queen "Mother" Elizabeth \$950



Lot 1102 Rare Exella 3 Little Pigs & the Big Bad Wolf Pre War \$2200



Lot 1147 Heyde Tin Cavalry Barracks \$3500



Lot 1039 Riffet Officer de Grenadiers a Cheval 1st Empire \$2200

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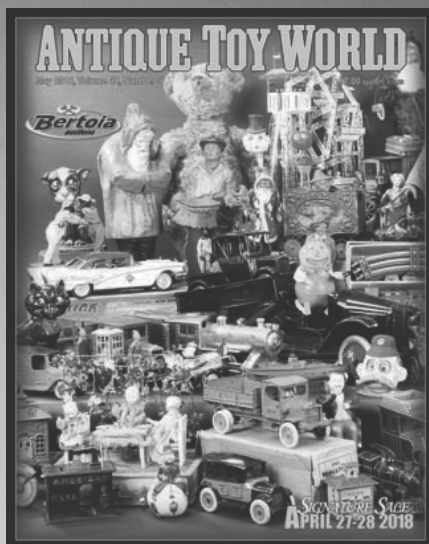
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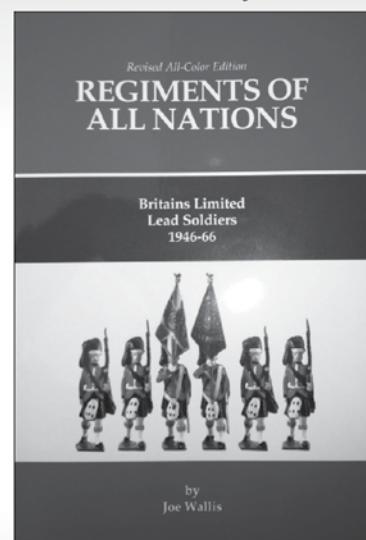
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# LETTERS & READER'S MESSAGES

*A few readers have been in touch recently in response to the Lockdown and other prompts.*

*Here are a few:*

*To the Editor: In reflecting on the pandemic and hopes for a vaccine, we are challenged to get back on our feet. A time of normalcy will return, and we must adjust our mindset to embrace it.*

*Our toy soldier hobby has been scarred. Shows were cancelled, the publication of magazines has been interrupted, the production of new figures has been impacted.*

*Along the way we have lost some wonderful contributors to the hobby, such as Carl Hoegermeyer and Don Pielin. It's been a tough year.*

*I got back into the hobby in 1984 when Carl welcomed me to the MFCA show in Chester, New Jersey, and Don introduced me to the World Olympics of toy soldier gatherings, OTSN in Chicago.*

*Over the last 30-some years, the toy soldier world has given me an enjoyable, engaging focus. I've met creative manufacturers, talented artists, knowledgeable historians, and enthusiastic collectors, and travelled the world both in reality and virtually, through our wide-ranging hobby.*

*I have much to be grateful for, and know that I'm not alone in that feeling! May the memories of people, friendships, and events encourage us as we move forward to a brighter day.*

*James H. Hillestad, The Toy Soldier Museum.*

As some readers will know James has set up a Toy Soldier Museum in Cresco, PA. This is currently closed due to the Lockdown but will hopefully open up later this year. Again we'll keep you posted.

**Obituary Michael J MacAfee:** In helping me put together the follow up piece on West Point that you will find elsewhere in this issue, Bill Nutting asks us to remember Michael J. McAfee. Mike was an important influence on Bill's collecting and reading. In the early days of collecting early American figures, Mike had some of the best pieces; he had a great eye. He had some beautiful Eureka sets. He had the only Heerbrandt (the early NYC printer) paper sheets Bill had seen outside the Museum of the City of New York. He knew the one-sided flats were early American. He had a large Comet collection that he sold to Bill's father over a summer visit to upstate NY.

Mike was a very important collector and researcher of early American-made toy soldiers, and he showcased his collection in a toy soldier exhibit at the West Point Museum in 1982. Beyond the toy soldiers he was a very serious historian. He was well known as an expert on American Zouave uniforms and regiments.

Michael graduated high school in Athens, OH and went on to earn his BA as well as his MA from Ohio University in 1964 and 1966 respectively. He attained his Ph.D.-ABD, from the University of Cincinnati in 1970. He then began his career at U.S.M.A. Michael was also a Senior Advisory Editor of Military Images magazine, writing a continuing series entitled "Uniforms & History". He was also a long-time member of The Company of Military Historians.

Michael J. McAfee retired as Curator of History at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he was employed for over 48 years. He passed into rest on Saturday, August 3, 2019 aged 76.

**Thoughts on Britains Large Display sets:** Norman Joplin was prompted by John Franklin's article in the last issue to pore through his copy of the Britain's Factory Records. These relate to John's description of set #1350. Norman notes that "*The Britain's factory Records show a different combination of 1350 to that of John's article, see the version printed in the records below*".

The following are the individual "B" numbers used by Britains to identify particular castings:

- 9 x 28 Scots Guards Slope
- 8 x 29 Gordons Slope
- 5 x 37 Lifeguard Troopers
- 11 x 41 Scots Greys Troopers
- 4 x 61 Gordons Standing firing
- 3 x 62 Gordons Kneeling firing
- 3 x 63 Gordons Lying firing
- 10 x 119 Royal Scots
- 5 x 273 11th Hussars with Carbines
- 2 x 327 Gordon Piper
- 1 x 645 Lifeguard Officer
- 1 x 647 11th Hussars officer
- 1 x 666 Scots Guards Officer plain arm
- 1 x 668 Royal Scots Grey Officer

This makes a grand total of 64 pieces, which agrees with the 1940 Catalogue.

On the comments column the factory records state "*issued March 1934 with a price of 19/6 pence*".

Norman continues "*Unsure if John's swapping firing highland regiments was a bit of fun for him or not, but records show only one regiment was ever used.*" This remark refers to the inclusion of Cameron rather than Gordon Highlanders firing in John's set.

On checking my own example of an early set (with figures still wearing moustaches) I found that this also contained Gordons firing. I therefore



# LETTERS & READER'S MESSAGES *Continued*

decided to check with Joe Wallis. I noted that in his book, *Armies of the World*, Joe states that Camerons firing were used initially.

Joe was kind enough to respond. Based on my discussions with him it is clear that, when using the Factory Records listing of sets and their composition you have to keep in mind that they continually revised and updated the Factory List whenever changes were made. This continued after WW II. A good example is Set 73, which has the 1960s contents shown in the Factory List, not the pre-war contents as illustrated in Britain's catalogues.

Consulting the 1935-1939 Catalogues the following description of Set #1350 can be found:

*"A collection of Scottish and other Regiments, with mounted and foot Officers, comprising the Gordon Highlanders with Pipers, Scots Greys, Scots Guards, Cameron Highlanders, The Royal Scots, The Life Guards and 11th Hussars"* containing 64 pieces, at a price of 19 shillings 6 pence.

Joe mentions that he has seen several auction catalogs over the years with 10 Cameron Highlanders

firing as part of Set #1350. James Opie also describes Set #1350 this way on page 281 of his *Great Book of Britains*.

Joe notes that Britain's 1940 Catalogue (page 51) omits Cameron Highlanders and refers just to Gordon Highlanders. The 1940 Catalogue and the 1941 Export Price List continue to refer to a total of 64 pieces (but by then costing 24 shillings 6 pence). Joe's view is that the change to all Gordons was done to simplify life for the painters.

I have a second set with all the figures without moustaches, containing just Gordons, which confirms this description. My earlier set where the firing figures are also Gordons could be a marriage or simply a 1939 version, produced just before they stopped painting moustaches on the soldiers!

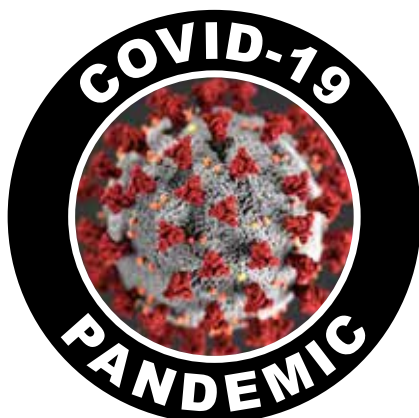
The esoteric topic of moustaches on Britains figures is something we will return to in an article later this year!

*Further reflections on Covid-19:* Finally, various other readers have sent in images rather than words which characterise how some of them have approached the pandemic:



Peter Clark sent in this take on the pandemic. Figures courtesy of Neil Rhodes.

The following sets are from Verne Johnson.



Jym Moore of JYM Miniature Models has given permission to use the photographs.

After retirement in 2012 Jym began casting and painting his line of miniature models featuring soldiers, bands and civilian figures for a British style pub. Over the years since starting the business he has added additional pieces to the pub. PPE (masks) were added by Verne Johnson as a timely touch!



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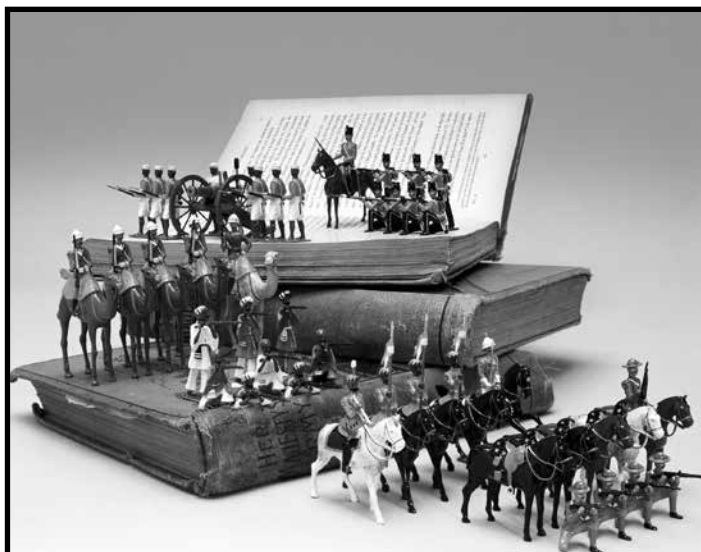


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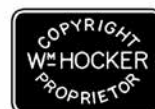
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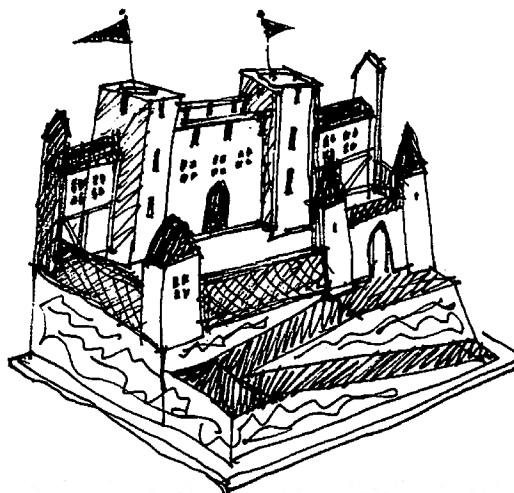
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**February 27th and 28th, 2021 - Saturday and Sunday**  
Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA - Toy Soldier Victory.  
www.oldtoysoldierauctions.com

**March and April 2021** Old Toy Soldier Auctions -  
Dates To Be Determined

**DIMANCE 21 mars 2021 à Nanterre (92) de 8h 30 à 13 heures** - Espace Chevreul - 97/109 av de la Liberté  
- Entrée libre - 60 exposants - 160 mètres de tables consacrés à la figurine - (à 10 minutes de Paris, près de la Défense) - Parking gratuit, accès RER, hôtels à proximité. Port du masque obligatoire. Réservations, renseignements, tél: 01 48 03 33 43 ou 06 14 61 16 18  
email: geode5@hotmail.com

**April 17, 2021 - Saturday** 10 AM-3 PM. MASSIVE TOY SOLDIER ESTATE SALE. Liquidating the collection of the late Dr. Richard J. Sommers, Ph.D. United States Army Heritage And Education Center (Usahec), 950 Soldiers Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013. toysoldierevent@gmail.com

**May 8, 2021 - Saturday** 9am-4pm. Virginia War Museum Show Address 9285 Warwick Blvd, Newport News VA 23607. https://toysoldiersonthemove.wordpress.com/. More info. Chris Garcia Ed Coordinator 757-247-8523. Norm Rodriguez Volunteer 901-218-7046

**September 26th, 2021 - Sunday** 10 am - 3:30 pm. 40th Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, Illinois. Roger Garfield: Phone 847-567-5355 Email: Roger@ChicagoToySoldierShow.com Facebook: Chicago Toy Soldier Show www.CHICAGOTOYSOLDIERSHOW.com



**DUE TO COVID-19 IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED YOU CHECK WITH SHOW PROMOTERS BEFORE TRAVELING TO ANY OF THE LISTED SHOWS**

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