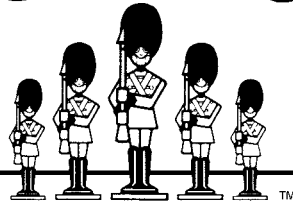


Fall
2024

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 48 Number 3
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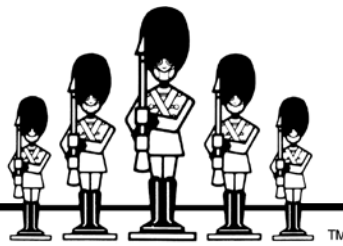
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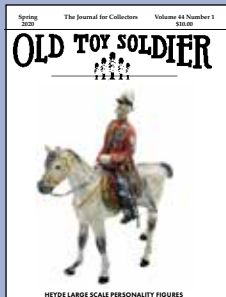
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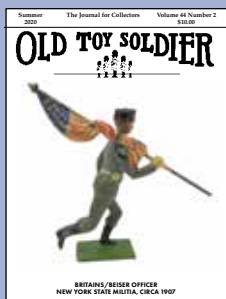
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Magnificent French Zouave Drum Major - one of the delightful Hachette & Cie paper soldiers highlighted in the article by Russ Bednarek.

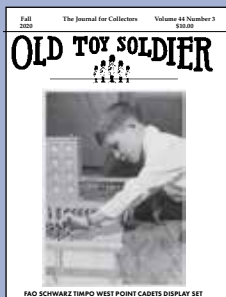
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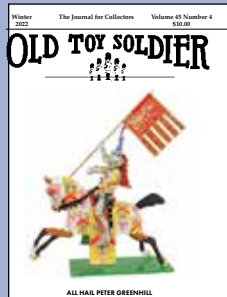
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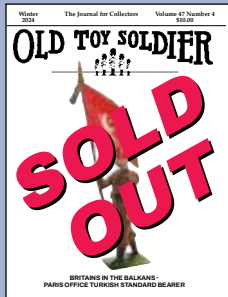
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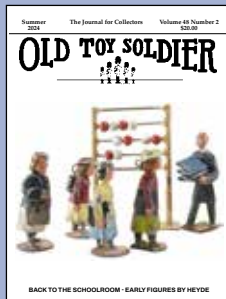


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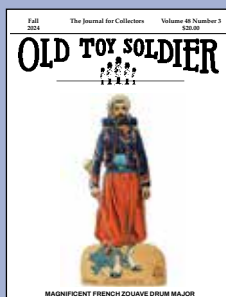
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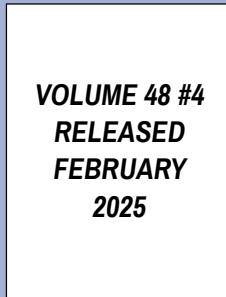
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EDITORIAL

As the nights draw in and another year comes to a close, I realised that with this issue I am now coming up to the end of my 5th year as Editor of this magazine.

It has been a great honour and pleasure to follow in the footsteps of Norman Joplin and previous editors who worked so hard to make the magazine such a good and informative read.

Of course, great thanks are due to all those who have contributed, especially those who have contributed articles, but also in other ways.

To those who have yet to "put pen to paper", let me encourage you to put these long winter evenings to good use and send us your thoughts.

We include in this issue the first of two Quizzes designed by Joe Wallis to test your knowledge of Britains. The answers to all the questions can be found on page 40-41. No peeking!

It has been a busy summer and autumn, with shows in Paris, London, Kulmbach and Chicago. These events confirm that the hobby continues to



thrive and to throw up new surprises.

The Kulmbach event is back on a new biennial cycle, and as good as ever. Book the dates in your diary for August 2026. The Paris event is twice a year, in March and October, and according to our reporter Harry Kemp, this latest show was one of the best ever.

Our latest issue contains some fascinating material, including a great piece by Russ Bednarek on paper soldiers (inspired by our cover picture on the Spring 2024 issue).

Gisbert Freber, offers his thoughts on a figure that has puzzled him for many years, which he now believes represents one of the Bavarian Kings from the late 19th, early 20th century.

As chance would have it, what appears to be a model of one of the same Regents appeared at the Chicagoland show alongside another personality yet to be identified.

Regular contributor, Norman Joplin has found some interesting titbits to share with our readers from the Richard O'Brien archive owned by OTS.

Yours truly chips in with a piece on sporting figures. This was inspired by an article on toy figures celebrating the Paris Olympics which took place earlier this year. What at first seemed a modest task in fact turns out to be a rather enormous collecting challenge. Are you willing to take it on?

Finally, John Franklin rounds things off with another of his articles on Britains, this time focussing on their depiction of the Middlesex regiments.



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RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE

By Russ Bednarek

INTRODUCTION

My initial article regarding the series of embossed die cut paper soldiers produced by the French firm Hachette & Cie appeared in *Old Toy Soldier*, Volume 39, Number 2, Summer 2015.

My collection at that time consisted of four out of the twelve sets of the embossed die cut figures and a complete set of the twelve albums published by Emile Guerin based on the Hachette & Cie figures. Recently I was able to acquire a very large collection of the Hachette & Cie figures that included some surprises and mysteries.

Before exploring my current acquisition, a brief history and examination of these unique paper soldiers is in order. For a more detailed study please refer to my article in *Old Toy Soldier* Summer, 2015. In chronological order the French firms of Perrin, Hachette & Cie and Emile Guerin published the series of twelve regiments. The Perrin and Guerin series were printed on paper sheets and bound as an album. The Hachette & Cie series were embossed and die cut, made to stand as individual pieces or in groups of three to five figures. Twelve sets were published, representing six cavalry and six infantry regiments of the French Army in 1890 uniforms. The Guerin album cavalry sets; Dragons, Chasseurs à Cheval, Cuirassiers, Hussards, Chasseurs d'Afrique and Spahis Algériens were of 18 figures. Infantry sets of the Guerin albums varied, the number of figures shown in parenthesis: Infanterie de Ligne (19), Chasseurs à Pied (21), Tirailleurs Algériens (20), Zouaves (20), Chasseurs Alpins (19), and Musique de la Garde (21).

Infantry figures measured five inches tall and cavalry six inches. Hachette & Cie regiments could be purchased in individual regimental boxes or in a larger box containing four regiments. Perrin, the initial publisher, printed the figures in an album format as did

Emile Guerin the final publisher of the series of regiments. The Perrin and Guerin albums had a heavy paper cover sheet portraying figures of the regiment. Attached to the cover page were an additional five panels of figures, when folded out accordion style, the Guerin series measured an impressive 8"x 51". Hachette & Cie created their own unique system of displaying their figures. Single boxed regiments were made up of individual figures. The owner could choose to cut their own wooden blocks to mount the figures on or purchase a box of metal stands specifically designed for the figures. Regiments sold in boxes of four utilized a more unique display system. The figures were produced in stands of three, four or five connected figures, with five stands per regiment. Starting with the back stand, two connecting cardboard strips slightly shorter than the height of the base of the stand were glued to the front of the stand; one on the right side the other on the left. These connecting strips were folded in half and then glued onto the back of the next preceding stand of figures. This process was continued until all stands were connected. With the connecting strips folded in half, this allowed the stands to fold on top of one another and fit into the box. When taken out of the box, the stands expanded accordion style, allowing them to stand.

My latest acquisition was a combination of complete sets, numerous intact stands of four to five figures depending on the regiment, a staggering number of individual figures and fortunately several boxes. Initially the sheer number of figures was overwhelming, but presented a welcomed challenge. The condition of a majority of the figures was very good. Rifles, scabbards, swords and flag finials are often missing. Given the fragile state of the figures, being one hundred and twenty years old, damage is to be expected. I realized that utilizing all the pieces would enable me to put together a complete set of all

twelve regiments made by Hachette & Cie. Little did I know at this point that my efforts would result in multiple examples of several regiments. When putting together different regiments from three different publishers, the number of inconsistencies became apparent. Production of these magnificent sets may be divided into three distinct periods of publication.

PERRIN PERIOD 1890-1897

According to Christian Blondieau's *Petits Soldats*, Perrin, a Parisian publishing firm since the 1700s, was the initial publisher. A picture and description appearing in *Petits Soldats* of a "fold out" panel depicting five musicians of the Musique de la Garde confirms the album format. A total of twelve albums were published representing six infantry and six cavalry regiments. In each album every figure has their own unique physical characteristics, (Photo 1). The detail of the 1890's uniform is so precise that we can identify individual regiments by the color of their cuffs, collar tabs or for the Zouave, Spahi Algérien and Tirailleur Algérien the color of the tombeau on their jacket. No two figures are the same, as the "designer" Coppens draws a unique face for every individual. Blondieau states that the albums were published "around 1900", but, as will be seen later there is physical evidence that Perrin did not publish albums past 1897. Existing examples of Perrin albums are exceedingly rare.

HACHETTE & CIE 1897-1905

Exactly how Hachette & Cie acquired the rights/property of the Perrin albums is unknown. Hachette & Cie were one of the premier French publishers known for producing a quality product. Not content to simply reprint the twelve Perrin albums, Hachette & Cie decided to take the Perrin figures to

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE *(Continued)*



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE *(Continued)*

the next level. Abandoning the album format, the existing figures were die cut and embossed resulting in brighter colors with a glossy finish, (Photo 2). The lithography process was called; Images-Chromos découpés, translated to; cutout embossed images. The result was stunning, making these paper soldiers in my opinion the finest paper soldiers ever made. The regiments were now available in boxes with several options. Boxes containing a single regiment were comprised of all individual pieces. Larger boxes containing four different regiments were available, as was a box with all twelve regiments. These regiments utilized the elaborate cardboard hinge system as previously described, connecting four to five stands of four to five figures per stand together. A small number, barely visible, appears on the base of the right-side figure of the stand. I believe the purpose of the number was to indicate to the worker the order of the stands to be glued to the cardboard connecting strips.

Hachette published a military themed booklet, *Almanach du Drapeau* from 1900-1909. The first known advertisements for their Images-chromos découpés series titled, "L'Armée Française en Réduction" appeared in 1900. At this point in time the figures were available in three series of four regiments per box, (two infantry plus two cavalry per box). A box of all twelve regiments in the series was also available. The advertisement does not show a box for an individual regiment, but we know this was an option as we have examples of single regiment boxes. A box of one hundred metal stands was available for displaying single figures. The advertisement suddenly disappears after 1905, as ownership of the twelve-regiment series once again changes hands.

EMILE GUERIN 1906-1914?

Publisher Emile Guerin becomes the final steward of Perrin's creation and decides to revert to the series' original twelve album format. A heavy cover panel was attached to five more panels that once again opened accordion style. The figures of each panel corresponded identically to a stand of figures published by Hachette & Cie. There is a slight, noticeable difference in color between the Hachette & Cie and Guerin figures, but this is due to the different printing technique used by each publisher, (Photo 3).

There is no evidence explaining why Hachette & Cie abandoned their "L' Armée Française en Reduction". My theory is that the Images-chromos découpés process was too expensive and therefore not very profitable. Based on today's rate of exchange, a box of four regiments would have been almost \$21 and a box of twelve regiments \$63, obviously affordable for adult collectors only. I believe Guerin thought the twelve-regiment series was still popular with collectors, especially if he were to reduce production costs by returning to the album format. To date I have been unable to determine the price of a Guerin album. Despite the nineteen albums in my collection none have a price printed on them. Guerin made the albums available from the bookseller Librairie Theodore Lefèvre et Cie. I have given the end date of 1914 for Guerin's involvement. I doubt there was sufficient interest in the albums for Guerin to continue publication once World War I had begun.

Within two weeks of finalizing my purchase of the collection, the parcel finally arrived from France. Unpacking the box and organizing its' contents was both exhilarating and overwhelming. I used twelve separate boxes to sort the figures by regiment. In each box were complete and partial stands, and what seemed to be an endless number of individual pieces. In addition to the figures there were

six Guerin albums and to my surprise and delight, six complete regiments that retained 100% of their attached cardboard hinges. Also included was a four-regiment box in great condition and mounted on individual wooden blocks were eighteen Chasseurs Alpins and twenty Infanterie de Ligne.

Initially I wasn't focused on the two groups mounted on wooden blocks, as I was in the midst of unpacking what ended up to be almost six hundred Hachette & Cie paper soldiers. Once everything was sorted out, I revisited the individual wood-based figures. Upon closer examination it appeared the paper these figures were printed on was quite thick. Could these be from a Perrin album or were they Guerin album pieces? I consulted the Chasseurs Alpins and Infanterie de Ligne Guerin albums in my collection. By comparing and contrasting the albums versus the block mounted figures it became apparent that there were two different physical characteristics between the groups of figures. The paper used for the wood-based figures is thicker than the paper used by Guerin. The second difference is the paper of the wood-based figures had a slightly "rough" texture compared to the smooth paper of the Guerin album panel. Based on the physical evidence I am confident that the wood-based figures are those of Perrin, truly a rare find and welcome addition to my collection.

Turning my attention to the Hachette & Cie figures, I knew I had to create an effective and efficient process for making complete regiments out of individual and partial stands of figures. The created regiments had to be composed of the same figures in the exact order as they originally appeared on their four or five figure stands. I started first with complete stands of figures, then partial stands, eventually using the correct individual figures to complete the stand. To ensure complete and total accuracy I decided to use the Guerin albums as my "blueprint" as each panel was identical to one stand of Hachette

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE *(Continued)*

& Cie figures. My progress quickly slowed when figure(s) were required to complete a stand. As each figure possessed their own unique subtle physical characteristics, it became extremely difficult, frustrating and time consuming to search for the correct figure(s). After much trial and error, I discovered the quickest and most accurate criteria to use were the shadows printed on the base of the figure. Once I used the "shadow technique" to determine the correct sequence of the figures, things moved right along.

Once the figures were in their proper sequence, the next issue to address was how to mount them. Given the complexity of the hinged cardboard strip system, replicating this was not an option. I decided on wood quarter round trim as the base, cut to the appropriate length. To adhere the figures to the flat side of the base I used Dap adhesive putty. A small ball applied to the middle and each end of the piece of quarter round trim allowed the figures to easily be pressed onto the base. (Photo 4).

Due to the amount of time and constant repetition of viewing and handling the Hachette & Cie figures and Guerin albums, I noticed several differences between the two groups of figures. The first difference is the placement of the name of the regiment. The Guerin albums were consistent with their placement of the name of the regiment. A stand of the appropriate soldiers appeared on the cover panel of the regiment's album. Printed across the bottom of the stand was "PARIS, EMILE GUERIN, EDITION", and below this was the name of the regiment. Hachette & Cie had to be a little more creative for placing the name of the regiment. There are two reasons for this. First was the sequence of the number of figures per stand attached to each other. Infantry regiments had a single figure as the first stand with the four and five figure stands trailing behind (Photo 5). Three regiments;



Photo 4



Photo 5

Infanterie de Ligne, Chasseurs Alpins and Chasseurs à Pied were led by a trumpeter with the regiment name across the bottom of the base. The Zouaves were led by a very impressive zouave drum major with "Zouaves" printed across the bottom of his stand. The Musique de la Garde were led by a chef de musique but with

no regimental name on his base, nor anywhere else. This is puzzling because the band figures were five inches tall, but the band leader stands a half inch taller providing adequate space on the base for the regiment's name to appear. The second reason is the length of the regiment's name. The "Tirailleurs Algériens" is just

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE *(Continued)*



Photo 6

too much to fit on a single figure stand. Hence the first stand for the Tirailleurs Algériens is a four-figure stand providing more than enough room. Cavalry regiment names were applied in a similar manner. Dragons, Chasseurs à Cheval and Hussards were led by a single officer figure. The Dragons and Chasseurs à Cheval have their names across the bottom of the base while the Hussards have no name. The Cuirassier, Spahis Algériens and Chasseurs d'Afrique all have their regimental name on a four-figure stand.

The next thing I noticed was that not all figures are created equal. As was already mentioned, the chef de musique towers a half inch above his peers. The Infanterie de Ligne regiment has an officer on foot curiously marching backwards with a baton, making sure his men maintain their correct spacing and pace. This uniquely posed figure is also five and a half inches tall. Of the six cavalry regiments, five are composed of the standard six-inch tall figures. For some unknown reason, all members of the Spahis Algériens including their European officers are only five and three quarters inches tall. There is even a third size for mounted figures. Infantry regiments have a stand of two mounted officers and this stand is either the second or third stand in line.

To make the mounted officers more visible they are six and a half inches tall, a half inch taller than their cavalry counterparts.

While these differences may seem trivial, the reason I find them interesting is because it demonstrates that Hachette & Cie took no shortcuts in producing their figures. It would have been easy to make each lead stand a four-figure piece with the regiment's name on the bottom of the stand. They chose instead to produce an extra figure, usually a trumpeter or officer to bear the name of the regiment. They could have made the mounted infantry officers the standard cavalry six-inch size, but chose to make them a half inch taller so they are more visible to the collector. Lastly it would have been easy to make the Spahis Algériens the same six-inch size as the other five cavalry regiments but for some reason did not.

It was my last discovery however that I found the most interesting. When building the additional regiments I discovered a total of six figures that Hachette & Cie printed that were absent in the Guerin albums. It is unfortunate that when Guerin became publisher of the series he chose to omit these six figures as four of the six were some of the most interesting of the entire series.

Two of the figures eliminated by Guerin were the single figure with the name of the regiment printed on them; Chasseurs à Cheval and Chasseurs Alpins. The Chasseurs Alpins area of operations is typically in mountainous regions. Expert skiers and trained mountain climbers, moving their supplies through the difficult terrain was a challenge. The solution was to incorporate mules into the regiment. The surefooted animal proved adept at carrying any type of load and was led by a handler. Hachette & Cie created a two-figure stand depicting a mule loaded with supplies led by a handler, (Photo 6). You can see in the photo a rectangular blotch on the base. This is where the cardboard connecting strip had been glued connecting the mule and handler to the stand in front of them.

As already mentioned, the backwards marching foot officer with baton of the Infanterie de Ligne marches alone in the Guerin album. The Hachette & Cie version shows that the officer is accompanied by the regimental mascot; a poodle named "Pompon" (also shown in Photo 6). Fortunately, "Pompon" and the foot officer are meant to be together. When both figures are combined on a single stand, the printed "Infanterie de Ligne" appears across the bottom of their combined bases (Photo 7).

The final eliminated figure from the Guerin albums is in my opinion the best figure of the entire Hachette & Cie portfolio; a Zouave drum major. Marching towards us, resplendent in his zouave uniform this bearded figure emits the elan that the zouaves were known for. The uniform detail is outstanding from the musician's braid on the cuffs and collar, the tassel attached to his baton to the Constantine medal pinned on the left side of his jacket, this is truly a great figure, (Photo 8).

As to why Guerin choose to eliminate these interesting figures, we can only guess. I believe it was done to lower production costs. If these figures were

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE *(Continued)*



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9

added to their respective albums an extra panel may have been needed. If Guerin chose to add the figures, he would have had to eliminate a comparable number of figures in the current album. This would have required some additional labor, an expense Guerin evidently did not want to incur.

Fortunately, I now have examples of the different boxes Hachette & Cie used for their figures. Boxes for single regiments measure three inches wide and seven and a half inches tall and an inch and a quarter in depth. The name of the regiment is printed on the upper

part of the hinged lid that opens left to right (Photo 9). A previous owner has embellished the lid by gluing one of the figures onto the box lid. On the edge of the lid is the number the regiment is in the series and below that is the name of the regiment (Photo 10). On the left edge of the lid is "Armée Française" and printed on the box below is the name of the regiment, (Photo 11).

The four-regiment box is more interesting. The box is nine inches wide, eight inches tall and one inch in depth. Using a traditional box lid that lifts off, a cuirass and helmet adorn the center of the lid. Behind this are various

weapons and flags. A scroll across the top reads, "Armée Française" and the bottom scroll has the Hachette & Cie logo above the words, "Troupes de France", (Photo 12). In the lower right corner is, "Po. GIR-97". (Photo 13). This is the artist's signature and the "97" indicates the year 1897. We now have solid evidence that Hachette & Cie began publishing the twelve-regiment series in 1897. Further exploring the box lid, on both top and bottom is "Fabrication Française-Déposé". On the right and left side of the box lid "Armée Française" occupies half the side followed by the regiments inside; Infanterie de



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

RE-VISITING THE SOLDIERS OF HACHETTE & CIE (Continued)



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 16

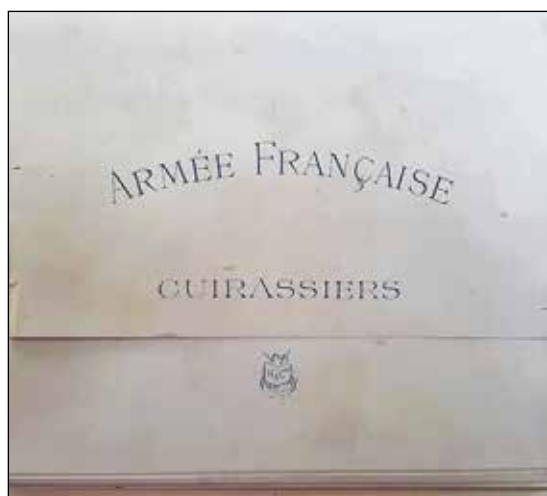


Photo 15



Photo 17

Ligne, Chasseurs à Pied, Cuirassiers and Chasseurs à Cheval, (Photo 14). Consulting the advertisement from *Almanach du Drapeau*, this box is No. 2 in the series. Zouaves, Tirailleurs Algériens, Spahis and Chasseurs d'Afrique were the first box of the series. Box No.3 was the last of the series and included: Garde Républicaine (band), Chasseurs Alpains, Dragons and Hussards. Inside the box, each regiment was placed in their own envelope. "Armée Française" is printed on the face of the envelope and below is the regiment, in this case Cuirassiers with the Hachette & Cie logo beneath (Photo 15). The trifold envelope measures eight and a half

inches wide and eighteen inches in length when unfolded. The figures (Photo 16) were placed in the middle third of the envelope. The bottom third of the envelope folded up and the top third folded down and the envelope then placed in the box (Photo 17).

Even though I was able to discover much new information regarding these paper soldiers there is still more to learn. Information regarding the Perrin albums would be most helpful and the facts regarding the sale of rights/property from each publisher to the next would answer many questions.

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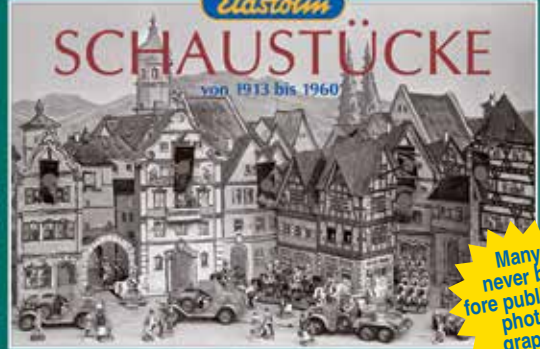
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Timpo Toys

Special Issue No.3

The new Timpo Toys special edition "From Roman Times to Mediaeval Ages" is a field manual to the worlds of Timpo vikings, knights and romans. It is both a compendium of former articles published in different issues of Figuren Magazin and recent results from figure research. The well illustrated code of practice is a valuable guideline not only for already advanced Timpo collectors but also for newcomers to the hobby, and for those who always wanted to know what rareness their pieces have.

Included is a reprint of the original Timpo Toys catalogue from 1975! These 20 reprint pages have an important overview on the Timpo program at the summit of their production at the middle of the seventies. The two authors and Timpo collectors Andreas Dittmann and Rainer Maul compiled a valuable vade mecum which should be part of each collector's library. Verlag Figuren Magazin, Berlin 2020, 72 pages incl. 20 pages of the Timpo Toys catalogue of 1975.

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Sporting Figures

A Herculean Olympic Collecting Challenge

By Rob Wilson

1. Introduction

The summer Olympic Games held this year in Paris inspired renewed interest in sporting figures. M Broquet published an interesting piece (*Le Jeu des Jeux, Antiquités Brocante HORS SÉRIE 2024, pp79-84*) in which he sets out some of the sporting figures that could be used to replay events in the games. In an idle moment I wondered how many of the sports now included in the Games could be represented by miniature figures that we all love to collect. A number of the images in his original article were supplied by Gisbert Freber, who has kindly offered them for reproduction here. I have found many more images online and in particular in Old Toy Soldiers archives.

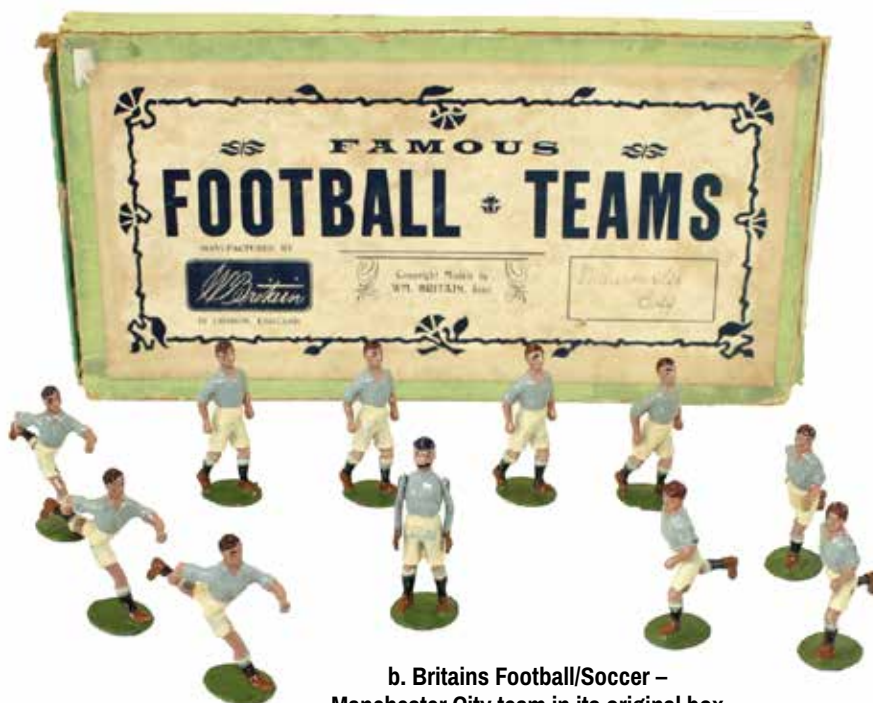
It soon became apparent from a quick online search that there is a huge market in Modern sports figures of all kinds, many tailored to represent famous individuals. Covering this area would alone

require many pages. I decided to narrow things down and maintain a focus that would be of interest to readers of this magazine. I therefore concentrate just upon Vintage toy figures NOT Modern sports collectables. This includes figures marketed as toys and made in lead (hollowcast and solid), aluminium and plastic. Even this has proven an enormous task. To do it real justice would require something analogous to Luigi Toiati's book on Science Fiction figures (*Italian Space Toy Figurines* by Luigi Toiati, Pen & Sword Press).

OLD TOY SOLDIERS
PARALYMPICS



a. Britains Cricketers, with England and Australian caps



b. Britains Football/Soccer – Manchester City team in its original box

So, this is just the tip of the iceberg, but perhaps it will encourage some brave soul to carry on the research and produce a new book analogous to Luigi's, or maybe others to begin collecting along this particular theme (and complete the table that I have prepared to summarise things at the end of this article).

My first thought was to do things by manufacturer, but equally one could begin by focussing on the type of sporting activity! In retrospect the latter might have been preferable, but let's begin at least with a few key makers and then come back to sporting themes at the end. In most cases the figures shown are standard 54mm scale. Exceptions are noted.

Sporting Figures

CONTINUED



c. Horse Racing (the Sport of Kings) – Britains 54m scale face horse (sold as part of the Speedex board game)

2. Britains

Britains toy soldiers have always been the main focus of my collecting. They are also one of the triumvirate of makers (which also include CBG Mignot and Heyde) that account for the vast majority of vintage toy figures sold in Old Toy Soldier and similar auctions. It seemed to make sense to start my research with them. However, it soon became clear that sporting activities were not a priority for Britains. Their earliest venture into sporting figures was to produce some rather staid Cricketers. These were based on the Stoker figure from their series of civilian figures designed to appeal to model railway enthusiasts. Britains simply repainted the figure in cricket “whites” – not their most exciting piece of sculpting. With the simple addition of blue or red caps these figures were able to represent England or Australia.

This rather unexciting sportsman was the company's only venture in this field apart from the rather more adventurous Football or Soccer series (introduced in 1904). These included a full set of 11 players in action poses. The players were also accompanied by a referee and linesman to ensure fair play, as well as goal posts and corner flags. Compared with some other makers, these figures were rather pedestrian in pose (especially the rather staid goalkeeper, see below for more details!).



d. Britains large scale Golfer, with bunkers – this rare figure is about 3” tall and swings his club to strike a small ball. His head also swivels round so that he can admire the shot he's just struck

e. Sailing miniature yachts from their novelty range – obviously Britains produced many Sailors, but these were mostly military types. An exception was in their Railway passengers series, which included a fine model of a civilian yachtsman, later recycled as a Royal Naval Officer



f. Other Equestrian Sports (Britains Show jumping) – originally part of the Herald Range, but continued to be sold under various branding changes



g. Martial Arts - Karate /Kung Fu Display Set - Britains - Deetail Range, Set 8000, 1975/76 only

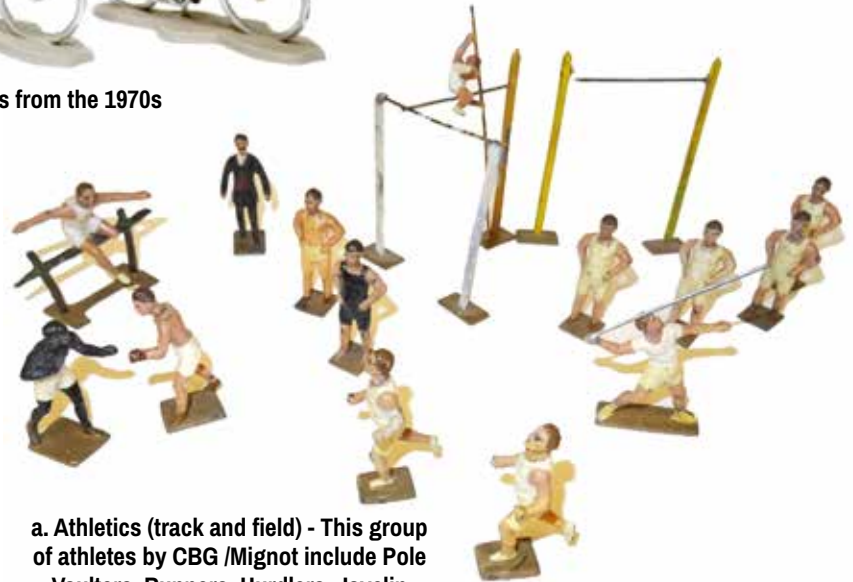
Sporting Figures CONTINUED



h. Tour de France - Britains Racing cyclists from the 1970s

3. CBG/ Mignot

CBG / Mignot dominated the toy soldier world in France just as Britains did in Great Britain. Even a cursory examination of books such as Cristian Blondieau's (Soldats De Plomb & Figurines Civiles: Collection C. B. G. Mignot, published by Kepi Rouge, Paris, 1993). Soon provides evidence that this French company paid a great deal more attention to sporting matters than did Britains. Perhaps this should be no surprise as the French were the instigators of the modern Olympics, which began in Athens in 1896.



a. Athletics (track and field) - This group of athletes by CBG /Mignot include Pole Vaulters, Runners, Hurdlers, Javelin throwers, Swimmers and Boxers as well as miscellaneous athletes waiting around for their events, and Officials



b. Winter sports: More from CBG/Mignot - Downhill Skiing and toboggans

Over their long history, CBG / Mignot have probably covered almost all sports, including field and track athletics, and many winter sports, as well as most popular team and individual sports such as football, tennis and many more. They have also covered some more obscure sports such as Chistera / Basque pelota, a game involving a wicker basket and very hard ball! Cycling, Motor racing and Water-skiing have also been the subject of models/toys produced by this renowned company.



c. Other sports by CBG/Mignot - Tennis, Motor racing, Water skiing, Bobsleigh, Downhill skiers, and Road cyclists



d. Boxers by CBG and other makers

Sporting Figures

CONTINUED

4. Heyde

The final member of the triumvirate was Heyde, who dominated toy soldier production in Germany as Britains and CBG / Mignot had done in Britain and France. Over the many years that the Dresden factory was in operation they produced many figures in the sporting category. This included many of the sports we have already covered, including: Golfers, Tennis players, Cricketers and Footballers.

One of their earliest sets was to commemorate the ancient games in Olympia. Gisbert Freber has provided some photos of figures from this rare set. These are all Heyde standard No 2 size. More complete pictures of this partial set can be found in Markus Grein's book. This includes some scenic accessories as well as a fire with a Sacrificial lamb, which fortunately no longer features in the Olympic ceremonies!

Heyde also produced many other figures that fall into the sporting category including Polo players in various scales and Rowers. The latter was also reproduced in the Knick-knack range, with Devils rather than athletes pulling the oars!



a. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Putting the shot?

b. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Wrestlers or Boxers?



c. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Archery



d. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Track athletes - the Marathon?



e. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Presenting the Laurel wreath to the champion?



f. Heyde Greek Ancient Olympics - Archery on horseback or maybe just getting to the butts?

Sporting Figures CONTINUED



g. Heyde Polo players – these are larger scale (c.60-5=65mm)



h. Heyde Rowers – this example is crewed by Devils as part of the Knock-knack range but it can also be found with conventional athletes to depict the rowing regatta at the Games



i. Heyde Baseball players – these are small scale c 30mm, the company also produced tennis, golf, football and cricket players

4. Other British Makers

Many other makers have focussed on sporting figures. Here is just a small selection of British competitors of Britains. These concentrated on classic sports such as:

- A very nice group of Tennis players by Hill;
- Cricketers by Pixiland Kew and Segal.
- Football (soccer) by Russell, Timpo, Segal and Keymen.

The ones by Russell were early competitors of Britains. They featured movable legs to enable the players to kick a small ball. Timpo and Segal both issued teams in a variety of colours after WW II. A Timpo team is shown below. Unlike the staid Britains figure, their goalkeeper is at full stretch diving to make a save. The Keymen footballers were an early example of sports personality figures, standing in relaxed poses rather than in action. They were featured in an article in OTS magazine, Summer 2023.

The accompanying photos show some examples of these figures.



a. Hill Tennis players



b. Football/Soccer (various makers) – here we have Timpo footballers, note the diving goalkeeper!

Sporting Figures

CONTINUED



c. Segal exceptionally rare The Cricket Team in its original box



e. Cherilea Baseball players (also made by Heyde and American makers but this is the best in my opinion)



d. Pixiland Kew Cricketers, a splendid set albeit rather smaller in scale than standard 54mm figures



f. Hill speed skaters

5. French Hollowcast

It would be remiss not to mention French hollowcast makers who also produced many sporting and related figures. However, I am running short of space here, so I refer readers to the excellent books by Jean Bernard Doublet and Jean-Michel Tisné, (*Les Figurines en Plomb Creux* (3 volumes), ISI print)), which provide an excellent summary (see especially Volume 1, pp96-97, Volume 2, p 71 and Volume 3, pp 101-103). This includes Gymnastics, Boxing, Winter Sports, Sailing, Football and Rugby). Readers can see photos of all these figures and many more there.

6. American makers

American makers also contributed to this field, with especial focus on US team sports not covered by most other countries such as Gridiron Football, and Baseball. These are detailed in the various volumes produced by O'Brien (see for example *Collecting Toy Soldiers: An Identification and Value Guide Paperback* by Richard O'Brien (Books Americana Inc, 1988)). Examples of a few of these figures are included in the photos that follow. These are made in lead. As noted below, Marx also produced many sporting figure in plastic.

Sporting Figures CONTINUED



a. American Gridiron Footballers in lead
(slightly smaller scale, c 45mm)



b. Auburn Rubber Gridiron Footballers



c. Rare Dimstore Ice Hockey player
(Dimstore size, c. 3")



d. Eccles Dimstore Basketball player
(Dimstore size, c. 3")

7. Plastic

The focus so far has been mainly on metal figures (solid and hollowcast), but there are also many good examples of sporting figures produced in plastic. This includes commemorative figures produced to advertise and promote the Olympics, as well as many toys designed just to be played with.

Plastic Toy sports figures by Britains have already been mentioned, but other manufacturers produced such figures including Marx and many more. To deal with all these would require another article. Here we focus on advertising premia.

These include the range of figures recently offered for sale on eBay. These were produced for the Helsinki Games in 1952, and are shown in the accompanying photo. These are 3.5cm plastic figures. They included 4 handball players, 2 soccer players, 4 swimmers, 3 hockey players, 2 boxers, 1 weight-lifter, 3 relay runners and 2 Olympic flag bearers. This shows the range of figures available from such sets. This particular range were produced for the German Olympic Society.

The next few photos show more plastic figures made as advertising premia for Dextro Energy in the 1960s, again designed to commemorate the Games. These figures

are also from Gisbert Freber's collection. They are 7cm size and depict a range of Olympic sports, focusing on athletics.

Many other companies produced such advertising premia, indeed this subject could form a collecting category all by itself. In France, Café Martin released a range of figures in 1958 similar to those featured here covering sports such as fencing, shooting, martial arts as well as field and track athletics. These are featured in M. Broquet's article referenced at the start of the present article.



a. Plastic figures produced for the 1952 Olympics

Sporting Figures

CONTINUED



b. Dextro Javelin



c. Dextro Runner



d. Dextro Wrestlers



e. Dextro Discus thrower

8. Connoisseur figures



a. Connoisseur figures - Cricketer
W.G. Grace by Frederick Ping

Finally, for those who prefer Connoisseur figures rather than toys, there are a few examples of sporting figures. One of my favourites from my own collection is the famous Cricketer W. G. Grace. Over 100 years ago he thrilled crowds by blasting cricket balls out of the ground with great ease. I acquired this figure as a gift from Pat Campbell many years ago. Pat knew I was a great cricket fan. In turn, I passed it on to Don Pielin who as soon as he clapped eyes on it, wanted to add to his own collection of sporting figures. Years later, when he came to sell his collection, he gave it back to me. This neatly summarises the camaraderie which characterises this great hobby of ours. You can see the many other sporting

figures that graced Don's collection online at the Live Auctioneers site (https://www.liveauctioneers.com/en-gb/catalog/176814_otsa-57-day-3-pielin-brothers-emporium/).

This figure was made by Frederick Ping, a contemporary of Richard Courtenay. Ping is most famous for his historical figures, especially knights. But he also produced "one-offs" for clients such as Peter Cushing on commission. These included theatrical characters (a particular requirement from Mr Cushing), but also politicians and other famous people such as the sportsman shown here. W. G. Grace was the Michael Jordan of his sport at the turn of the 19th century.

9. Back to the Olympics

It is clear from this brief review that it is possible to build up a fairly comprehensive collection of sports featured in the Modern Olympics. If you are looking for a collecting challenge why not try to find examples of all the sports to be included. You have 4 years till the next Games!

The table presented here summarises what I have discovered so far. Thus far I have failed to find Beach Volleyball, Handball, Skateboarders, Breakdancers, Synchronised swimmers or BMX trick riders. Maybe they will all be available by the time of the next Games in Los Angeles in 2028? This will introduce Baseball and American Football as well as Cricket, so these are included in the table. If you know of any figures I have missed please let us know so we can update the table.

Vintage Toy Sporting Figures that have taken part in the Olympics

Sport	Makers
Track and field athletics	CBG and many more
Gymnastics	French hollowcast
Swimming and Diving	French hollowcast
Martial arts (boxing, etc)	CBG and many more
Cycling	Various
Rowing	Heyde
Sailing	Britains, CBG
Equestrian sports	Britains and many more
Football (Soccer)	Britains and many more
Rugby	French hollowcast
Cricket	British hollowcast
Baseball	Cherilea and others
American Gridiron Football	Auburn Rubber

Notes: These are the sports that are definitely to be found out there. And that's not to mention Winter sports – but that's another story!

AUCTION PREVIEW



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF TOY SOLDIERS

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RECONNAISSANCE

Feix and Heyde

Gisbert Freber sent in this image of a set he picked up at the Kulmbach show. The box label (in English) states that the set titled "American Infantry Cavalry" was Made in Germany. The figures are similar to those discussed in Will Beierwaltes' article on Feix. The mounted figures are hollowcast. The marching foot soldiers (which include Pioneers and musicians as well as a flag bearer) are however solid castings. The set is possibly by Heyde for the export market.



Napoleon's soldiers

Gisbert also sent in further examples from his own collection of "Napoleon's soldiers" (as featured in the previous issue). While not in great shape, they clearly portray a different regiment.



RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*

Rare Britains sets

Another rare item spotted at the September Sandown Show was this set of footballers from the late 1930s. Britains supplied most of the top teams in original boxes with a generic label and printed with the Team name for general retailers. They also provided teams to special order sold direct to the customer. This example is for Leeds United who joined the Football league in 1919. Initially they played in a strip of black and white vertical stripes (like Newcastle United), soon changing to blue and white stripes. In the 1934-1935 season they switched to blue and gold halves. This lasted until the 1948 season when they adopted gold shirts with blue sleeves. In 1955 this changed to blue with gold collars. It was not until the 1960-61 season that they adopted their now famous all white strip apparently in homage to Real Madrid!

This set therefore dates to the late 1940s early 1950s (1948-54). Like most special orders, it was supplied in a trade box (corrugated card) with simple hand-written and stamped labels. A rare find!



In the last issue we reported the discovery of a very rare Britains b-sized set. James Opie states that he has not yet seen Set 85 in its original box. But here it is! The tie cards have been replaced, but apart from that the set is in great shape.

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



Harry Kemp picked up some interesting items in the recent Eurofigurines show in Paris.

Among a number of Britains Paris Office types was this b-size figure. More often found painted in British khaki, this one wears a greenish-grey uniform, with red facings. Harry thinks he may be intended as a Russian. However, he could equally be intended to represent one of the many other Eastern European or Balkan countries involved in the Great War.



At the same show Harry found this unusual Turk, on his knees, possibly surrendering?. His head is removable.

Does any reader recognise the maker?



Rear view of the same figure.



HELP! Can anyone identify this Sailor, a recent eBay purchase (60mm hollowcast).



And what about this one? Possibly by Grange Toys but hollowcast



And this one? Similar to T&B but a different casting

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*

Reconnaissance items spotted in Chicago



Rare Heyde stand up box - for export only, British Foot and Life Guards



McGloughlin paper soldiers with pop gun in original box



Ammon large scale lancers



Personality - Ludwig II of Bavaria by Dörfler - see the article by Gisbert Freber in this issue!



This second mounted figure (also by Dörfler) might be a General Staff officer, but as yet remains unidentified.

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BAVARIAN KINGS AND PRINCE REGENTS FROM 1864 - 1918 IN OLD LEAD SOLDIERS

By Gisbert Freber



Three Bavian Regents – lead/tin composition figures from 1886-1913

Introduction

For several years now, I have had three old lead soldiers on horseback in my collection, which have now given rise to this article. The figures are solid cast and very carefully decorated with many details. The horses are very elaborately produced hollow casts, in which even the usual holes that arise when casting a hollow figure have been closed with metal. When the riders are mounted, they have a total height of 115 mm, (eye height, measured from the ground).

Perhaps the first figure in the green uniform looks familiar to you? This was featured in the 1981 book "Bleisoldaten" (Lead Soldiers) by Dr. Hans-Henning Roer and is pictured on page 176. The description at the time was "Bavarian Army Leader" by Heyde. At that time, this figure, like the other two riders, was in the collection of Arthur Speyer. He was not only an excellent connoisseur of museum figures, but also inspired Roer's first book.

More than 30 years ago, this book sparked many collectors to consider

seriously the various manufacturers of fully round lead figures. Roer devoted himself to this scientific study from that point until his death. Personally, I was only marginally interested in the question of the manufacturer in those early years. I was primarily interested in the quality and design of the lead soldiers. This perspective changed over the years. Today, I am not only interested in who made the figures, but also (above all) in the historical perspective, i.e. which event or which people do they represent. Last but not least, I am also interested in the previous owners, in short, the provenance. So, a key question for me is: whose hands have the figures passed through? Do they have their own story?

Toys or Statues

Over the years I have also been able to buy figures directly from people who had played with them as children or who had received them from their father or grandfather. This meant that the figures were "real toys". But what about such splendid large scale figures like these? Were children even allowed to play with

them? The magnificent design of these three figures, their size (and the presumably very high price at the time they were purchased) speak against this. Nevertheless, I would not describe these types of figures as mere statuettes, not to be played with, but only to stand on the mantelpiece. It can be assumed that a potentate or even just a wealthy high-ranking officer also provided his sons with portrait figures of this size to play with. I have often heard from people who played with such old lead figures as children, that they only got hold of them under supervision and on special occasions.¹ This meant that they were well protected from damage.

Three Prince Regents

The three figures presented here are in wonderful original condition, apart from the horse reins of the rider, who is shown in the Roer book. In the book the figure has reins made of a chain. This same figure is now in my own collection. The reins have since been replaced with new ones, cast in tin. What is striking in the detailed illustration in the Roer book is that the

BAVARIAN KINGS AND PRINCE REGENTS FROM 1864 - 1918 IN OLD LEAD SOLDIERS *(Continued)*

rider is shown in mirror image. This is particularly noticeable due to the sabre, which in the photo in Roer's book is shown on the right side of the rider. The sabre is always on the left so that it can be drawn with the right hand. This error occurred in the layout of the book due to incorrect use of the slide from which the image was taken.



Detail of the figure shown in the book "Lead Soldiers" by H.H. Roer (page 176) - note that his sabretache appears to be on the (incorrect) right-hand side



The Fairy Tale King Ludwig II of Bavaria, 1864-1886, (with his typical beard), in the uniform of the 4th Chevauxleger Regiment König – This is the exact same figure as shown in the Roer book, but this time the image has not been transposed

Let us now consider this rider in his green uniform from a historical perspective. This, just like the other two riders, is a portrait figure. It depicts the Bavarian King Ludwig II in the uniform of his 4th Chevauxleger Regiment König, (Augsburg).ⁱⁱ Ludwig was born on August 25, 1845 and was later called the Fairy Tale King. He made a name for himself as a passionate builder of castles, especially the castles of Neuschwanstein, Herrenchiemsee and Linderhof. He was also a generous patron and supporter of Richard Wagner. His life was made into a great film in 1973 by Luchino Visconti with Helmut Berger as Ludwig II, Romy Schneider as Elisabeth of Austria and Trevor Howard as Richard Wagner.

The "German War of 1866", also known as the Brothers' War, took place during Ludwig's reign. The Bavarians lost this war, fighting on the side of Austria against Prussia. This led to the eventual unification of Germany under Prussian leadership. Later in Ludwig's reign (1870/1), Bavaria fought successfully on the side of Prussia against France in the Franco-Prussian war. As a result, in 1871, the German Empire was founded with the election of the German Emperor Wilhelm I, and the Second French Empire came to an end.

Ludwig II's reign (as Regent of Bavaria) lasted from March 10, 1864 until his death on June 13, 1886. On that day, he died under mysterious circumstances in Lake Starnberg,

together with the doctor who had prepared a psychiatric report on him. Based on this report, he was declared incapacitated shortly beforehand, on June 9, 1886. Because of this and his extravagance, he was declared unfit to hold office. In addition, his younger brother Otto was also declared unfit to govern due to mental illness.ⁱⁱⁱ This led to his uncle, Luitpold of Bavaria, being appointed Prince Regent on June 10, 1886 at the age of 65. He has also been portrayed in lead.

BAVARIAN KINGS AND PRINCE REGENTS FROM 1864 - 1918 IN OLD LEAD SOLDIERS *(Continued)*



Prince Regent Luitpold of Bavaria, 1886-1912, superbly modelled and easily recognizable as Luitpold by his slightly pointed beard - he wears a Bavarian general's uniform, without epaulettes, and a cap

Luitpold's 26-year reign ended with his death on December 12, 1912. While his reign brought about a great cultural blossoming for Munich, for Bavaria it meant the gradual relegation of Bavarian interests to those of the German Empire led by Prussia. Luitpold supported social projects, he loved the mountains, and his great hobby was hunting.^{iv}

Luitpold's son Ludwig (at the age of 68) took over the reins of government, as the new Prince Regent in 1912, immediately after his father's death. He was the last King of Bavaria, reigning as Ludwig III until November 7, 1918, for almost exactly 5 years. After the start of the First World War, the Bavarian army, which had previously sworn allegiance to the Bavarian king, was placed under the command of the German Emperor Wilhelm II. A few days after mobilization, Ludwig expressed that he expected the territorial expansion of Bavaria as a result of a victorious war... The eventual outcome of that terrible war and its consequences are of course now well known.^v

Who made these figures?

Finally, let's come to the important question of the manufacturer. The three figures are all solid cast with many fine details. The horses are very elaborately produced hollow castings in which even the usual holes, which arise when casting a hollow figure, have been closed up with metal. When the riders sit on their mounts they have a total height of 115 mm (to eye level, measured from the ground).

In his book "Bleisoldaten", Roer attributes the figure to Georg Heyde. However, this and the other two figures are rather untypical for Heyde production in terms of posture and design. In my opinion Heyde is out of the question. However, I have not yet found any similar or identical figures of this size in their original packaging.



King Ludwig III of Bavaria, 1912-18 in General's uniform - like Luitpold, he wears a cap but his jacket now has epaulettes - This combination actually contradicts the official uniform regulations - Whether Ludwig III wore a hat and epaulettes together, or whether the manufacturer accidentally modelled this, remains an unanswered question!

BAVARIAN KINGS AND PRINCE REGENTS FROM 1864 - 1918 IN OLD LEAD SOLDIERS *(Continued)*

This leaves the door wide open for speculation.

The horses all appear to be based on identical castings. This suggests a common maker for all three personalities. A notable feature is the small tufts of grass moulded on the hooves of the horses to help the figure stand.

Heyde was based in Dresden (Saxony). As the manufacturer of three different Bavarian Kings or Prince Regents, a Bavarian manufacturer would actually be more likely. Possible manufacturers based in Bavaria were, Johann Haffner, Nürnberg, Gebrüder Heinrich (Noris brand), based in Fürth, Christian Ammon (C.A.), based in Nuremberg and Johann Georg Heinrich (J.G.H), one of the Heinrich brothers who set up his own company in 1896.

J. Haffners Figures in similar size are completely different in style and therefore it is unlikely to be the maker. The company of Christian Ammon, represented by its owners Gebrüder Rothbarth, was taken over by Gebrüder Heinrich (with all its moulds) on February 15, 1910, and relocated to Fürth.^{vi} There, production continued under the previous company name. This probably means that Ammon's figures were always sold under the Ammon name. However, since we don't have any original packaging for these figures, this is a hypothetical question.

A key figure that may provide a clue is Ludwig III, who was only a king from 1912 onwards, and thus a potentate who only fits into this series from that point in time onwards. In my opinion, this must mean that the production of this figure is after 1912 - when the company C.Ammon was owned by the Heinrich brothers. If we look at the figure of Ludwig III in detail, it is noticeable that his reins are soldered on, (assuming of course that he is sitting on his original

horse!). There is also no hole cast to put the reins through as is the case for the two earlier figures. These two personalities do not have reins soldered on, suggesting that they may have been made by Ammon who did not solder on reins.



Image of the head of Ludwif III's mount,
the only one of the three horses
with soldered reins

Noris figures of this size always have the reins soldered on to the horses. However, so far, I have never come across horses with tufts of grass on their hooves, without a base, from

any manufacturer, including Noris. Johann Georg Heinrich, the younger of the Heinrich brothers, who started his own business in 1896 under the brand name JGH, could also be a possible manufacturer.^{vii} He produced many figures separately from his brothers, who continued to operate using the Noris brand name. Johann could of course have come up with the idea of the tufts of grass on the hooves... but he died in 1907 and Ludwig III did not become king until 1912.

As is often the case, it is not easy to determine the manufacturer for certain. I think the most likely answer is that Heinrich brothers are the manufacturer of the third figure, probably using moulds original produced by Ammon. This is primarily because of the horse's head with the typical mane and the typical horse's tail. Until someone discovers a rider with this typical horse, saddle blanket and rider in the original box with a different sticker than Gebrüder Heinrich, Noris brand or C. Ammon that remains my best guess.

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Martin Schabenstiel, without the important information he provided this article could not have been written.

End Notes:

- i Swiss collector, Alfred Sulzer was allowed to play with ancient tin figures owned by his family from the age of just 5! Although he describes this today as a crime, it triggered his love for museum quality figures (see: Mikrowelten Zinnfiguren, Germanisches Nationalmuseum 2024, page 17).
- ii For all three riders, Martin Schabenstiel provided valuable advice regarding the uniforms and the identification of these three equestrian personalities.
- iii Wikipedia König Ludwig II. (Bayern).
- iv Wikipedia Luitpold von Bayern.
- v Wikipedia - Ludwig III. (Bayern).
- vi www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com - Gebrüder Heinrich.
- vii www.zinnfiguren-bleisoldaten.com - Gebrüder Heinrich

BRITAINS QUIZ

By Joe Wallis

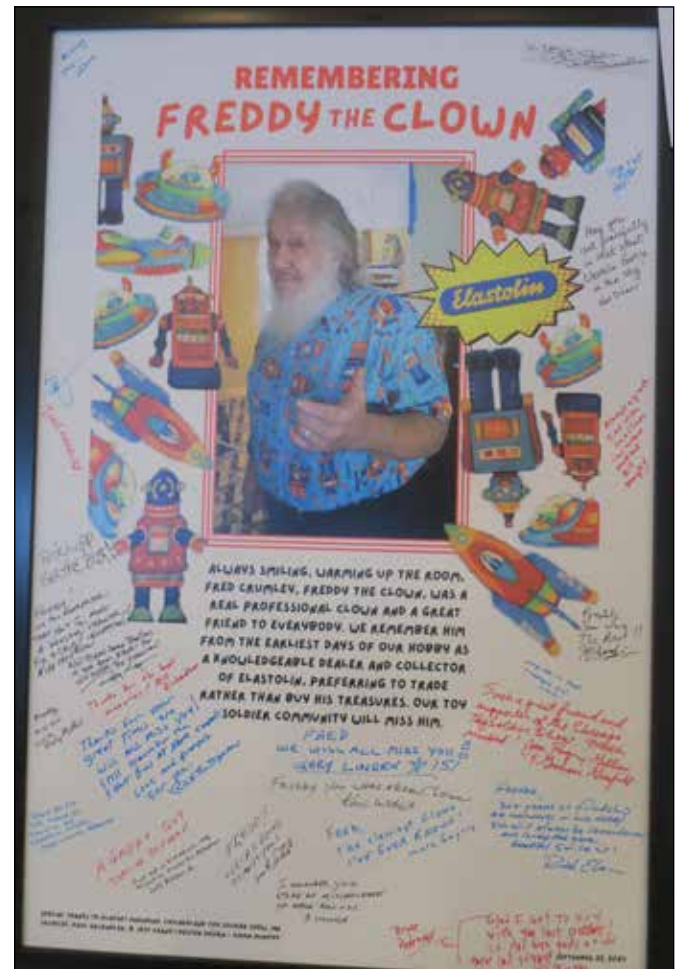


This article presents an array of questions (with answers provided on pages 40-41) that should be fun for collectors of Britains to ponder. For more photographs, and to research the answers to the questions posed, see my hard-cover, all-color editions of *Soldiers of Greater Britain* (1893-1924), *Armies of the World* (1925-1941) and *Regiments of All Nations* (1946-1966). Note that this article only deals with regularly catalogued sets, not Paris Office, noncatalogued or second-grade production.

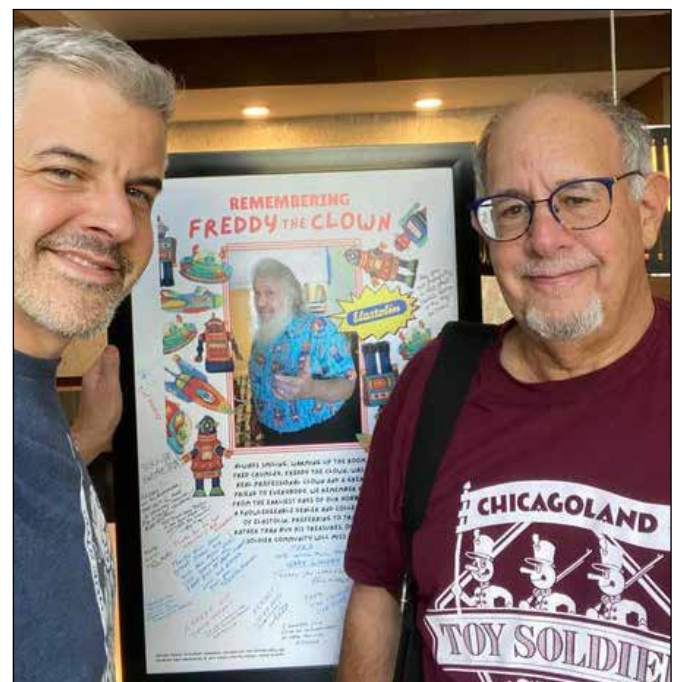
- 1 Which Britains sets represent cavalry regiments that Winston Churchill served in as a lieutenant during the 1890s?
- 2 Which British regiment provided the basis for the uniform shown in Set #197, the 1st Gurkha Rifles? This British infantry regiment and the Gurkhas fought alongside each other against mutinying Indian Sepoys in 1857.
- 3 Britains made an obvious error in its box labels for two allied sets during the 1930s. Were they A. the Italian Infantry of Sets #1435 and #1436, B. the Russian Infantry of Set #133 and the Cossacks of Set #136, C. the Prussian Hussars of Set #153 and the Prussian Infantry of Set #154, or D. the West Point Cadets of Sets #226 and #299?
- 4 What four cavalry sets were issued by Britains with green uniforms?
- 5 What were the postwar Britains sets that contained a soldier carrying a Bren gun at the trail?
- 6 Only one Britains set featured men holding "Tommy Guns" (Thompson submachine guns). Can you identify it? (It did not include Al Capone.)
- 7 What was the only set that included figures running at the trail after 1952? Was it A. the King's Royal Rifle Corps in Set #98, B. the Rifle Brigade of Set #2091, C. the Swedish Infantry of Set #2035, or D. the Royal Marines in Set #1284?
- 8 Now for a very challenging question: what were the only two Britains sets running at the trail wearing khaki uniforms?
- 9 Each type of British Cavalry (Dragoon Guards, Hussars, Lancers and Dragoons) had one regiment that varied from the rest by adopting a different uniform. Name those regiments, how they differed from the standard uniform, and their Britains set number?
- 10 There were many Britains sets that employed slung rifles. Single out which one of the following sets did not: Set #136 Russian Cossacks, the earliest version of Set #140 French Dragons (with separate plug-in carbines), #169 Italian Bersagliere, #186 Mexican Rurales, #1858 British Infantry in Battledress, #1918 Home Guard, #2010 Airborne Infantry (Red Devils), #2011 Royal Air Force Regiment, #2017 and #2037 Ski Troopers, #2031 Australian Infantry in Battledress, #2044 U.S. Air Corps, and #2155 United Nations Infantry.

FRIENDS CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF FREDDIE THE CLOWN

By Norman Joplin



One sad note at this year's Chicagoland Show was the passing of "Freddie the Clown". Freddy Crumley was a regular at the Chicago event for many years, along with his family, wife Gayetane and sons Trek and Ian. He died in his sleep, following a heart attack on the 29th of July. Friend Jeff Frank put together the card shown in our picture, which was signed by many folk who remembered him fondly. The other picture shows him with his wife in front of his motor home. Gayetane was as big a personality as Freddy. She always attended the show with him, along with Trek, who was a regular with his dad all the way up to and beyond his teenage years.



SHOW REPORT

CHICAGO SHOW REPORT 2024

By Rob Wilson

This was the 2nd year the newly titled Chicagoland show has been held at the Marriott in Schaumburg, Chicago. As usual it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, as well as making some new ones. This year there was a large contingent of French dealers, as well as many others from overseas. On arriving on the Wednesday prior to the Show, room trading was already underway and a few nice acquisitions were in the bag before the end of the day.

Many more dealers arrived on Thursday and Friday and things were buzzing. Ray Haradin opened up his bargain room on Thursday to great excitement, with many treasures to be found amongst the wounded lead soldiers displayed on two beds, and in every nook and cranny in the room. Great fun was had by all!



Ray Haradin looks pleased with events in the Bargain Room



Show organiser Matt Murphy promoting the Hobby Bunker

On Sunday there was a long line waiting to get in. Most of the dealers I spoke with had a good day, the icing on the cake after all the room trading.

This show is still the number 1 event, worldwide, with every kind of toy soldier and related items that you can think of. Plastics galore, Dimestore, Britains old and new, Heyde, King and Country and many other modern makers.

SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Bob Hornung - Show stalwart by his stand at the show



Bargain room scrum

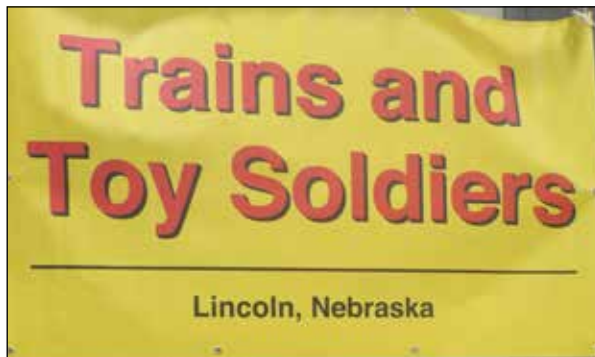


Long line on Sunday



The Garfield's - As ever, supporting the Show

SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Nebraska dealer Frank Way



Deetail "en masse"



Dimestore Galore



King & Country's table on Sunday



Nate's Garage - not to everyone's taste - but great fun!



The Heyde Hunters

SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Mint in Box Britains' Landau in original packaging never opened (1/12 of a dozen!)



A tank for GI Joe



Saimex from Italy



One of many fine Forts on offer



Marx and Barso Playsets



Large scale Heyde

SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Part of the large French contingent



Play mobile troops



A French made castle under siege by Britains Deetail figures



Charge of the Light Brigade diorama



Trophy - superb Nile paddle steamer

ANSWERS TO BRITAINS QUIZ

1



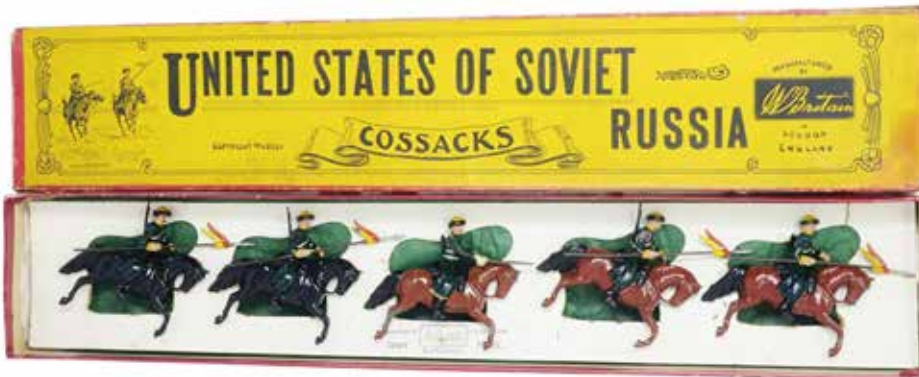
Set #8 depicted the 4th Hussars that young Winston served with in India. In 1898, Winston “pulled strings” to get himself attached to the 21st Lancers in the campaign to reconquer the Sudan. Kitchener forbade officers from supplying newspapers with eyewitness reports (in effect acting as war correspondents). Churchill circumvented this edict by writing private letters to the Morning Post’s owner (who published Churchill’s letters as the campaign proceeded). Prewar Set #94 offered the 21st Lancers in the khaki Active Service uniforms they wore during their mounted charge against the Dervishes at Omdurman. Churchill attributed his survival to the ten-shot Mauser pistol he took into battle (see *My Early Life*, A Roving Commission published by Churchill in 1930).

2



The King’s Royal Rifle Corps had dark green uniforms with red facings. The 1st Gurkha Rifles shown in Set #197 adopted that uniform with Kilmarnock (pillbox) caps. The Gurkhas from Nepal fought bravely alongside the 60th Rifles of the King’s Royal Rifle Corps during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. They were later often used on the Northwest Frontier against Afridi tribesmen. Ultimately ten regiments of Gurkhas were raised. The 1947 independence of India resulted in India keeping six of these Gurkha regiments, while Great Britain retained four of them. To this day they are a valued part of the British Army, although reorganized in 1994 into one regiment consisting of two battalions.

3



Britains added inaccurate wording in the 1930s to the Whisstock box labels for Sets #133 and #136. It read “United States of Soviet Russia” instead of the correct “Union of Soviet Socialist Republics”.

4

Britains issued the following mounted sets with green uniforms: #66 1st Bombay Lancers with white breeches (later retitled the 13th Duke of Connaught’s Own Indian Lancers and transformed to dark blue kurtas about 1950), #83 Middlesex Yeomanry, #136 Russian Cossacks, and #170 Greek Cavalry. Set #2028 Soviet Cavalry had green tunics but blue breeches. For a nice photograph of Set #83, Middlesex Yeomanry, see the front cover of my *Soldiers of Greater Britain* book.



5



Troops with a Bren Gun carried at the trail were included in postwar Sets #1858 British Infantry in Battledress, #2010 Airborne “Red Devils” Infantry, #2011 with its Royal Air Force Regiment component, and #2155 United Nations Infantry.

6



The only set with men holding “Tommy guns” (Thompson submachine guns) was Set #1898, British Infantry with Rifles and Tommy Guns.

7



The Royal Marines in Set #1284 were the only running at the trail figures obtainable from Britains after 1952 (the last year for Set #98 King’s Royal Rifle Corps.)

8



The two Britains sets running at the trail wearing khaki uniforms were the first version of Set #96 the York and Lancaster Regiment with smooth tropical service helmets (circa 1899), and the Greek Infantry of Set #171.

9



The “exceptions to the rule” for regiments of British Cavalry are: the 6th Dragoon Guards with dark blue rather than red tunics (Set #106), the 11th Hussars with cherry-colored breeches instead of blue (Sets #12 and #182), the 16th Lancers with scarlet tunics instead of dark blue ones (Set #33), and the 2nd Dragoons or Royal Scots Greys with bearskin caps (Set #32).

10



Set #2031 Australian Infantry in Battledress held their rifles at the slope, not marching with slung rifles.

SHOW REPORT

SANDOWN SHOW REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2024

By Rob Wilson

Sandown Park, on the west side of London, right next to Hampton Court Palace, remains one of the highlights of the toy collecting calendar. With 4 shows a year, there are plenty of opportunities to partake of the joys this event regularly provides. The September event was no exception. The doors open at 8.00am but a number of dealers set up temporary displays on the terraces of the stands designed to provide views of the horse racing for which Sandown Park is more generally known by the wider public. Many toy trains, cars, and of course soldiers, change hands well before the public are allowed into the hall. There is then a chaotic few minutes during which most dealers set up their tables, while the early entrants scurry around looking for bargains.

This was the first show I had attended for a while. I was pleased to see that things appeared to be back to



A packed table of civilian figures

normal after the disruption caused by the pandemic, with a huge queue of people lining up for general entry at 10.30. While there was a fair amount of lead on display on the terraces, nothing tempted me to part with my hard-earned cash. Once inside, a

quick reconnaissance confirmed that most of the regular dealers specialising in soldiers or other lead figures were present with many nice items on offer, both Civilian and Military.



Western fort under siege by Indians



Another stand with mostly civilian types

SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Rare military figures by Britains, uncatalogued c. 1940 discovered at Sandown



Abel b sized figure from a Drill Frame set, but with an unusual movable arm – never seen this one before



Rare Kings Royal Rifle Corps by Faudel Phillips



Britains' Noah's Ark with animals – Just need to find Noah and his wife!

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SHOW REPORT

KULMBACH SHOW REPORT 2024

By Rob Wilson



Collectors in the Tent



Beautifully painted Flats

This is the 4th time I have attended the Kulmbach event in Southern Germany. If my purchases are anything to go by, this was the best show ever! My first visit was back in 2007, when myself and a number of other Brits as well as Americans and many other nationalities arranged to rendezvous at the famous show. At that time it was still very much dominated by flat figures, both ancient and modern. I picked up a few hollowcast figures, including one rare, but damaged, Paris Office Zouave. Many of our German friends had brought along other solid/fully round figures, including many large scale examples by Heyde, Haffner and others, but these were not for sale.

Any disappointment about that was more than made up for by the magnificent display of beautifully painted and displayed flat figures, and the general atmosphere of bonhomie encouraged by the event's location in the beer tent used in previous weeks for its original purpose. As well as the main tent, full of dealers selling every kind of figure, the town also organises competitions for painters of both flats

and fully round figures. These take place in a public building next to the tent and are well worth close examination. In addition, the presence nearby of the imposing Plassenburg citadel, which dominates the town, offers the opportunity to view one of the largest collections of toy figures in the world. Again, these are predominantly flats, but beautifully displayed, many in huge dioramas. These portray various historical battles and other events, including the famous siege of Plassenburg itself. I think the latter still holds the Guinness world record for the largest display of its kind in the world! A much smaller, but nevertheless significant collection of fully rounded figures is also presented - well worth the entrance fee alone.

Accompanied by my wife again, my second visit was in 2015. This is a beautiful part of the world and it is easy to organise a holiday around the event to include many other interesting sights and activities for those not so interested in toy soldiers! The show, some 8 years later, had improved from my perspective. There were many more fully rounded figures

for sale, as well as the thousands of flats of course. I managed to pick up a number of nice examples of larger scale figures by Heyde and Noris.

Move on another 4 years to 2019, and another large scale rendezvous with American friends had been organised. Again the show did not disappoint. Lots to see, and an even more varied bag, with Britains as well as Haffners and Noris added to my collection.

So to 2024 - after a hiatus due to the pandemic of 2020, this was the 2nd post-Covid event on a new biennial schedule. I did not attend the event in 2022, but I am pleased to report that the 2024 show was back, better than ever! There was a real buzz around the town, helped by the fact that an Italian festival coincided with the show dates, ensuring lots of good Italian food and wine as well as a parade of real Ferraris and Lamborghinis!

The accompanying photos show just a few of the things that caught my eye.

SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Elastolin war elephant (40mm scale conversion)



Competition area - diorama with flats, one of many prize winning exhibits



Russo-Japanese Schlacht (Battle), possibly by Krause



Not just soldiers



Noris mounted officers



Available by the score!

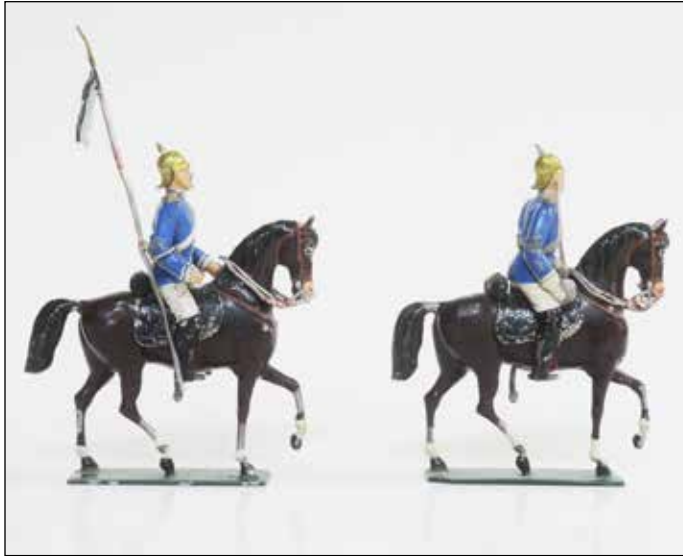
SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Besold or similar Knights



Heyde and other motorised transport



Large scale Heyde



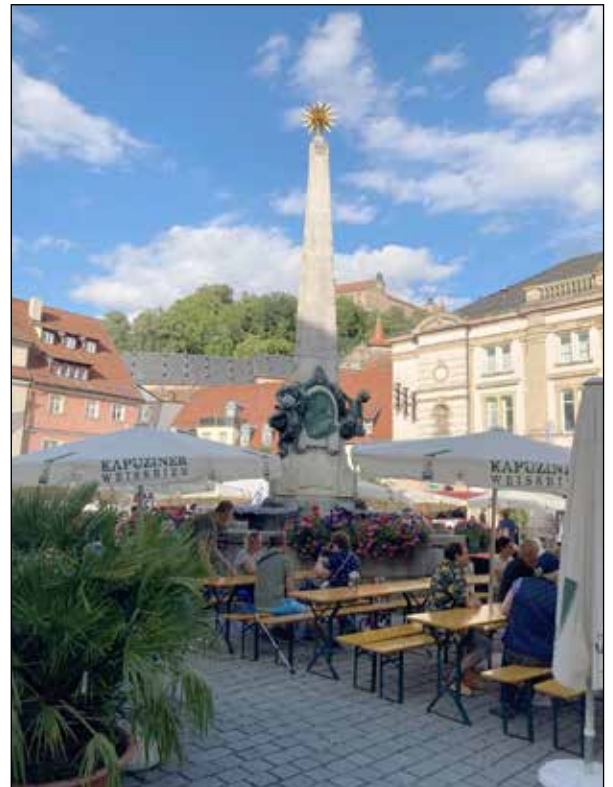
Gisbert Freber by his stand displaying Kinkeldy flats as featured in the Fall 2023 issue



Markus Grein enjoys a well deserved beer



Large size 1830s infantryman (25cm!) after Sohlke



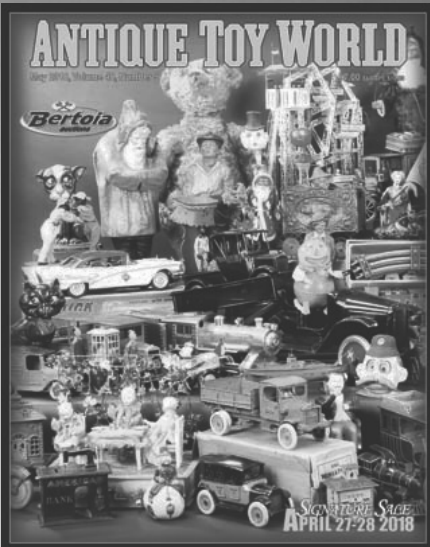
Time for a beer with Plassenburg castle in the background

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SHOW REPORT

EUROFIGURINES OCTOBER 13TH

By Harry Kemp



Dinner with fellow collectors and dealers in hotel night before show

Another cross-channel ferry trip from Dover to Calais, a drive to Paris and I arrive at the Camponile hotel in Nanterre which is 30 yards from the Euro figurines show venue. After a very convivial meal with fellow collectors and sellers, I set my alarm for 6 am for the show on Sunday morning.

This show always has a lot of regular traders, but every time there are ones I have not seen before. Today is no exception and to my mind there seem to be more plastic and lead soldiers than I've ever seen before.

The mood is very upbeat with lots of people through the door, possibly the busiest Paris show to date.

I don't pay much attention to the plastic figures, but an American collector visiting for the first time

has a field day and left very happy, with half an army.

Amongst the traders there was a proliferation of CBG Mignot and many other makers, but no Heyde today except on my stand. Some nice display sets are available.

This show never fails to deliver; my finds on the day, including an oval base set of Britains Spanish infantry (with bemedaled officer), a dated set of square base Cameron Highlanders, Mignot cyclists, GM zoo accessories and from someone's bargain box what I believed to be a Paris office b size Russian cavalry figure. I have never seen or heard of this figure before, however it is logical considering that Japanese b size Paris figures are well known.

A prearranged deal is concluded



Large scale wooden figures, possibly by Froha?



Table with Starlux galore!



Paper soldiers too!



Collectors round my own stall



Plastics on the stall behind me

SHOW REPORT (Continued)



Nice large scale tin plate figure - should have bought it for just 15 Euros!



CBG Mignot circus display – probably good value at 1300 Euros?

early in the day, and I am now the proud owner of a Paris office ambulance team, a superb example. It is well known that the Paris office did ambulances, service wagons and gun teams, but this is the first one I've seen. Unfortunately, these items have been faked extensively, so much care is needed, and they must be handled and examined carefully to be certain they are authentic. Viewing is certainly essential.

As part of this deal comes 4 Paris Office Chassuers a Cheval, a wonderful Paris officer of the Saint-Cyr cadets using the dated Scots Grey figure, as well as a b size Paris office Saint-Cyr cadet, plus a few other figures.

This show finishes by 12.45 or so, so if you plan to visit aim to arrive as early as possible, public admission is from 8.30am. If you come in March I will see you there; this is a permanent fixture for me.

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More circus



Circus wagon drawn by an elephant



CBG Mignot Display sets



Vertunni, old and new?



Nice display of GM and other French hollowcast



Britains plastic and lead



Quiralu Chasseurs Alpains and Napoleonic Gun team by another maker

SNIPPETS FROM THE RICHARD O'BRIEN EPHEMERA ARCHIVE

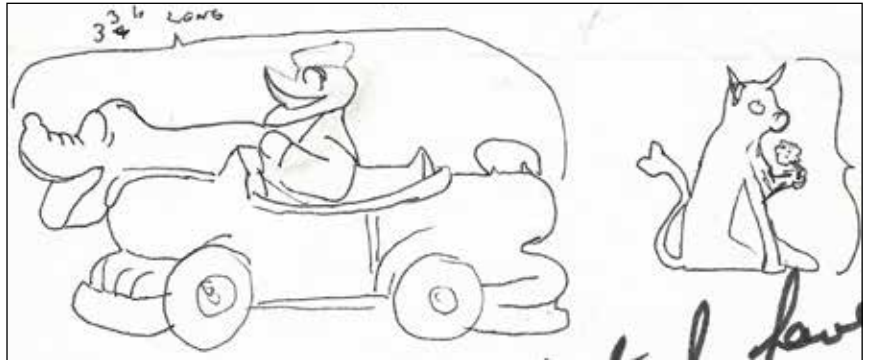
By Norman Joplin

Barclay Update

Having the pleasure of accessing the Richard O'Brien Ephemera Archive, owned by Old Toy Soldier, here are a few snippets from the files, which were not included in *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers*. The first item was discovered when the Barclay factory was emptied out.



From The Ephemera Archive of Richard O'Brien, Plaster prototype of Donald Duck riding Plutomobile



Drawings by Richard O'Brien of Prototype plaster Ferdinand and the Bull & Donald Duck in Plutomobile



Box Lid for Infantry (cavalry box lid shown in article in the previous issue)

McLoughlin Update

Here are two more items from The Ephemera Archive of Richard O'Brien, a box lid for lead soldiers as featured in the article by Will Beierwaltes in the previous issue and an image of the McLoughlin Factory.



McLoughlin Factory

SNIPPETS FROM THE RICHARD O'BRIEN EPHEMERA ARCHIVE *(Continued)*

More Paper Soldiers

Some more images of Paper soldiers from the archive.



Little Folks Army game with machine gun



McLoughlin Paper Soldiers with original box lid



Foreign Regiments and US paper soldiers from the archive



More images of paper soldiers from the archive – Rough Riders

FEIX Update

Ken Wittenrich of West Falls Toy Soldier Company NY sent in samples of Feix figures taken from the original molds in his possession. Ken also has over 200 Johillco molds, both pre and post war, many never issued. A future article in OTS will feature many of Johillco's unissued pieces.



New castings of Feix cowboys and Indians from Ken Wittenrich's molds



New castings of Feix cavalry from Ken Wittenrich's molds

AUCTION REVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



TRADE MARK AUCTIONS USA

AUCTION # 100

THE WALKER WAINWRIGHT COLLECTION PART I

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2024



Lot 1261 Britains unlisted set #2016 Japanese \$6500



Lot 1072 Britains set #98 Kings Royal Rifle Corps \$2600



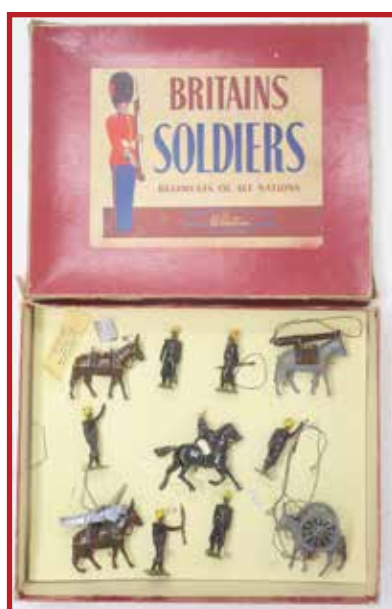
Lot 1068 Britains set #91 U.S. Infantry \$1700



Lot 1263 Britains set #2020 Portuguese \$3200



Lot 1303 Britains set #3/225 Bahamas Police \$1600



Lot 1259 Britains set #2013 Unlisted Indian Army \$1300



Lot 1006 Britains set #6 Boer Cavalry \$1700



Lot 1188 Britains set #1508 Texas Rangers \$1700



Lot 1226 Britains set #1721 Scots Greys Band \$2000



Lot 1035 Britains set #38 Dr. Jameson \$7000



Lot 1462 Britains CFE Army Service Corps \$6500



Lot 1258 Britains set #2012 Royal Australian \$2500



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#oldsoldier

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS

By John Franklin

When Britains started producing toy soldiers about 130 or more years ago, London was administratively, by and large, composed of four quarter sectors being all or parts of English counties, Middlesex to the NW, Surrey to the SW, Kent to the SE and Essex to the NE. In fact, Middlesex as a county had its County Hall in Parliament Square, (now The Supreme Court), just opposite the Houses of Parliament. All the Central Government Departments and Parliament were in Middlesex. In due course of the 4 counties Middlesex alone became effectively totally part of London as London was reorganised and expanded to its interim and present boundaries. So, although Britains had produced the 7th Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt) set 7 earlier than set 76, as a London regiment, this set 7 was just 'based' on the 'Square Mile', the Financial District. Thus, the Middlesex Regiment probably came to be seen as the senior and prominent Regiment of the London area, and so also by Britains.

The London County Council (LCC) was established in 1889 and incorporated the most populous sector of Middlesex, its southeast corner, so about 1/3 then became part of the LCC. Until 1965 when the Greater London Council (GLC) was established the other 2/3 of Middlesex was administered still from Parliament Square. After 1965 the GLC then administered all of Middlesex and as an English County it became history. But the County Regiment continued as a significant part of Britains toy soldier production, from its inception in 1897. Both Kent and Surrey were roughly half rural counties as well as urban, as was Essex. Kent and Surrey were home to 2 county regiments, each both representing the two halves, the urban and rural natures of their domain. Surrey had the East Surrey Regt and the Royal West Surrey Regt. Kent had the East Kent Regt and the Royal West Kent Regt. (See Ch 3, P3 2 and P3 3 for these four regiments colours

laid up in Canterbury and Guildford Cathedrals). Essex was the poor relation of the London constituent counties with a single regiment, even though it was similar to Kent and Surrey with both urban and rural portions. While Surrey and Kent had a county regiment produced by Britains in the 1890s Essex had to wait for the Famous Regiments sets of the late 1930s before residents there could obtain their own county toy soldiers.

So, Middlesex was effectively total urban with a single regiment and deemed seemingly to be, by and large, the senior London regiment, and Britains gave much prominence to it in a fair number of diverse sets over the decades as will be seen in this article. Britains first London factory at Lambton Rd was also in Middlesex. A comment in passing, Britains for some unknown reason initially produced the East Kent Regt set 16 and the Royal West Surrey Regt in set 29 two or three years ahead of the Middlesex Regt set 76.

Around 1900, Middlesex accounted for approximately 25% of the greater London population, about 2-3 million inhabitants. This was a rich source of potential buyers of toy soldiers in general and the for the Middlesex Regiment in particular. It is no surprise that Britains issued a variety of sets including this Regiment over

the years. Nearly all the Middlesex contingents comprised just those marching with an officer, (see Joe Wallis's books for the dozen or so sets in which the Middlesex Regiment were included). Other Regiments represented at the same time, like the Gordon Highlanders or the Scots Guards, were produced in a variety of stances and action positions. The Middlesex Regiment was not so favoured.

Britains first figures in set 76 in 1897 were part of the overall initial Britains continuing improvement philosophy, with this new set sporting moveable arms as illustrated in James Opie's Great Book of Britains (GBB) picture 65. These moveable armed figures were replacing the first marching infantry fixed arm figures in other sets like those for set 36 The Sussex Regiment as shown in picture 26 of James Opie's GBB. These first issue Middlesex figures did not have a long run since the next generation of the infantry marching figures were produced about 1905, still oval base but with a vastly improved stature and equipment as can be seen in P1 (this is a third version). Set 76 was alongside sets 75 and 74 with the improved body and equipment produced at this time. Again, not a long run of production since the next version came in 1908 as shown in P1 when square bases replaced oval. The



P1 Middlesex Regiment of 1908 (third version)

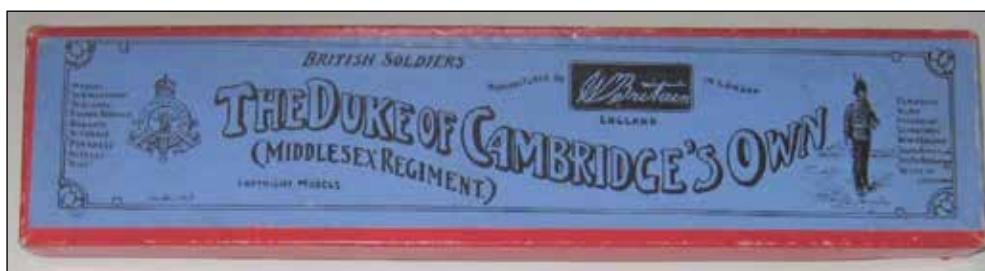
BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS (Continued)

improved figure with its half-boots also did not last long, very quickly being exchanged in the Middlesex Regiment set for the universal full trousered, standard marching figure, without equipment, for rank and file in about 1912, as seen in the following pictures. The half-booted, box packed marching figure would continue though for another 30 years or more as a basis for the Fusiliers and Royal Marines. The officer in set 76 however did not change in the 1912 upgrade and continue here and across the board half-booted till the 1930s.

In passing, it would seem Britains confirmed their focus on Middlesex as a prominent county for which to make toy soldiers since, 13 sets after the infantry regiment set 76, they produced the Middlesex Yeomanry set 89, P2, regaled in their fine dark green hussar type uniforms, the only time in the lead era a named yeomanry regiment was produced, and splendidly, in full dress. In fact, the Whisstock label confirms the Britains take on the standing of Middlesex with the box label including the words 1st County of London. At about the same time as the box packed figures of P1 got their square bases Fred Whisstock started producing his very attractive individual labels for lots of Britains sets. P3 shows such a label for the Middlesex Regiment set 76, (and also the Middlesex Yeomanry P2).



P2 Middlesex Yeomanry set 87 (Vectis)



P3 Fred Whisstock label for set 76 The Middlesex Regiment from about 1910

As covered, in about 1912 the box packed figure for guards and certain infantry were replaced by a full trousered figure without any box pack and other Slade-Wallace equipment. This figure would continue to be the ordinary ranks figure for the rest of the life of lead production of the Middlesex Regiment. The officer however would continue with his half-boots until the mid 1930s as reported earlier. P4 shows a late 1930s set of the Middlesex Regiment with the simple

unexciting bog standard body as in large numbers of Britains marching infantry sets.

From the late 1930s to the end of Britains production of lead soldiers the only change to the figures as shown in P4 was the swap from black moustaches to red lips as shown in the post war set in P5. Rifles on movable rifle arms though were slightly modified post war.



P4 Middlesex Regiment set 76 1937



P5 Middlesex Regiment set 76 1960

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS *(Continued)*

In the early 1930s, Britains with a bit of lateral thinking and continuing initiative to keep sales up with alternative set components and strategies but using the same figures and regiments time and time again came up with their Parade series boxes, single width boxes one year, doubled width the next year.

Some coverage below echoes some of the article in *Soldiers on Parade* OTS Vol 47 No 1 but is included here to obviate cross referrals.

P6 shows The Middlesex Regiment in its single width box set 439 in the Parade series. Contents here are 8 men and the officer, he still half-booted, in a way this reflects the platoon approach of the British Army in earlier times which had ranks of 4. These Parade sets of 9 or 13 figures allowed 2 or 3 ranks and the officer in front. A much tidier group than the set of 7 figures and an officer of lots of Britains other boxes. Such an approach in the Parade series though depended on your wish or otherwise to take your troops out of their clever Parade boxes. The label looks like Fred Whisstock's hand but is not signed by him. These Parade boxes came out very soon after his last signed label for set 400. Maybe they had been done just prior to his retirement.

The year after the first group of Parade series single width boxes were issued Britains expanded into double sized boxes twice the width of the 9 and 13 figure boxes. And whilst the Parade series of single width boxes are not all that common the double width boxes are even rarer. This poses a real question for researchers trying to define what the actual box contents were against the simple titles as in Britains catalogues. The double sized boxes again allowed Britains to produce more sets of the Middlesex Regiment still using existing figures but in diverse combinations.

There were 2 double sized boxes for the Middlesex Regiment, a) one x 2 of the 9 figured box, and b) one for x 2 the 13 figured box, sets 481 and 490 (see

P13 in the OTS referred article), the set titles in the catalogue were exactly the same for these 2 boxes 'Middlesex Regiment with buglers, drummers and mounted officers'. James Opie's GBB reports set 490 to be 16 ordinary ranks, 4 buglers, 4 drummers and 2 mounted officers, note the 's'.

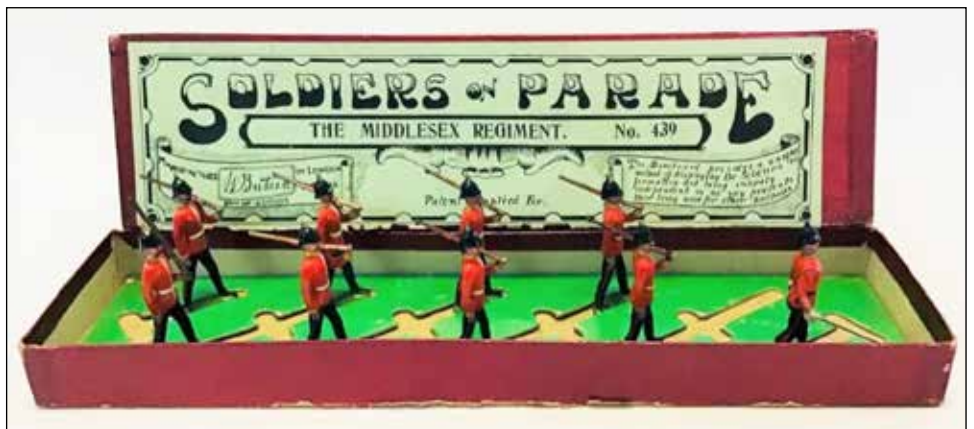
Set 481 has 18 figures and set 490 26 figures even though there are mounted officers included in both titles. There have been various reports trying to confirm the contents of these 2 boxes. I have not seen them in the flesh so to speak either original set and/or box, with or without contents, but some pictures have appeared on one or two occasions in the last 10 year or so purporting to show contents of set 490..

In 2004 Bonhams had lot 26 in an auction sale as shown in P7 described as Parade series set 490. However the mounted officer does not have the green base between the rear legs and

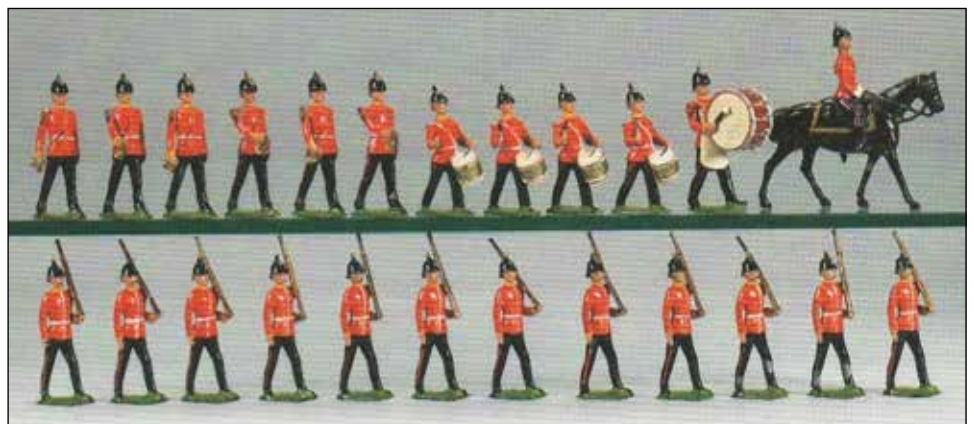
neither is it the spindly legged horse. Also drummers are full trousered whereas at the time of their short production run Parade series (and other) sets were still using half-booted drummers.

It is surmised that this group of the Middlesex Regiment comes from set 1461, see P12 below. P7 is short of one man, two buglers, the drum major, the colour bearer and a foot officer if set 1461. These latter 3 could easily get misplaced in another box since none would sport any yellow facings.

After the three Parade series boxes the next significant box with the Middlesex Regiment figures included is set 1267, P8, brought out in the mid 1930s and the twelve Middlesex Regiment figures from the set are shown in P9. The one figure of note is the officer carrying the colour of the regiment over his shoulder for the first time for the Middlesex Regiment, similar to that which was included in set 255



P6 Soldiers on Parade set 439 Middlesex Regiment



P7 Middlesex Regiment group in Bonhams 2004 June Auction lot 26

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS *(Continued)*



P8 Set 1267 with Middlesex Regiment contingent including standard bearer, 10 in the bottom line of the tray insert, two in the top line of the tray



P9 Middlesex Regiment from set 1267 first version

The Green Howards. Both Middlesex officers have no yellow facing colour.

P8 shows the first version of set 1267 with Middlesex Regiment constituents as in P9. When a later version of set 1267 was produced in the late 1930s, incorporating Infantry in Khaki, the Middlesex Regiment contingent had been reduced to just nine and the colour bearer had been deleted (see picture P7 8e in my book 'Britains and other Interesting Toy Soldiers', 2024).

Not in the catalogue but brought out in 1936 were two numbered sets with notable contingents of the Middlesex Regiment, sets 1458 and 1461. Two such sets were sold by Vectis in 2010 and are pictured in P10 and P12. They were reported as being bought by the seller as special orders in 1938 from Gamages. Set 1458 is the Band of the Middlesex Regiment and as can be seen in P10 has a conventional Britains box label. Set 1461's auction lot description reports an orange Gamages label 'Model Toy Soldiers'.

Both sets 1458 and 1461 are flagged as unlisted in the literature. Set 1458 is reasonably clear as to contents with its 18 piece band, both as seen in P10 but also as seen in some examples as have appeared elsewhere from time to time. My set of the Band of the Middlesex Regiment, P11, is somewhat playworn but is quite reasonable none the less and as a rarity is pretty acceptable.

Set 1461, P12, however has some enigmas attached. Certainly, the clear evidence in P12 shows what the set's contents were, it also shows the likelihood that P7 probably came from that set rather than as tagged in 2004 from set 490.

The enigma arises from James Opie's GBB wherein he reports the contents of set 1461 to be:

21st Lancers
5th Dragoon Guards
Royal Sussex Regiments
Scots Guards colour and
pioneers
Coldstream Guards
31 pieces

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS *(Continued)*



P10 Set 1458 Band of the Middlesex Regiment (Vectis)



P11 My playworn Set 1458 Band of the Middlesex Regiment

James goes on to say 'Possibly they were made exclusively for Gamages, although - only 1461 appeared in the Gamages 1938 Christmas catalogue see picture 545.' And therein lies another part of the enigma, picture 545 shows a Britains 2 layer set with 52 figures, no set number is ascribed and the contents do not seem to show either 21st Lancers or the Scots Guards Pioneers.

Joe Wallis in his first version *Armies of the World 1925 - 1941* also reports set 1461 with its 31 pieces having

the same 5 constituent regiments, as James reports above. Both probably used the same reference source.

The Middlesex Regiment contingent in set 1461 is a very attractive group and would enhance any ceremonial display on the library floor or the dining room table. Its 30 strong contingent would look fine led by a mounted officer, then the 14 piece drums and bugles, followed by the two officers marching, one with a colour and then 13 ordinary ranks. As I say P8 would look very similar when set out but

unfortunately missing the drum major and the 2 foot officers, two buglers and a man. Bearing in mind that the first 3 figures would not have any yellow facings, there is every chance they got misboxed when last put away.

So Britains paid due respect to this prominent London regiment, also recognising maybe that it was home territory for Britains.

Addendum 1

Britains kept faith with this named County Regiment, their home county regiment, even after the end of lead production, but intermittently. Some plastic issues in the Eyes Right range were marketed in parallel with the last lead Middlesex Regiment set, and very much later the regiment was reissued in the die-cast metal range.

While a shortened set 76 came out in the early 1960s as set 9136 in its cellophane fronted box it only lasted till 1963, and at that time effectively only plastic Eyes Right Middlesex Regiment individual figures initially and then some sets were available. These Eyes Right issues did not endure a long production run, with the very last being withdrawn in 1968.

There was then a twenty-year hiatus on any figures depicting the Middlesex Regiment until the New Metal range of four sets came out in 1989, numbered 8700 - 8703, with Drums and Bugles and a Colour Party in both medium and small composite groups. Again, they did not endure long, seemingly only two years.

For interest in passing P13 shows the figures from set 8700, two colour bearers and two escorts. Reasonable depiction but do not coordinate all that well with any of the issues of the Middlesex Regiment from the lead era as covered above.

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS *(Continued)*



P12 Set 1461 Army Display with 30 Middlesex Regiment contingent including the 14 strong Drums and Bugles (Vectis)

Before I got into looking into various aspects of Britains in general and, as covered in this section, the Middlesex Regiment in particular, my own sequence for the Regiment following the initial acquiring of set 76 in its fine ROAN box, and during the one or two decades later before the millenium, I was into the full swing of making bands and colour parties, primarily British regiments for around 1900. In those 1970 and 1980 decades I painted some Britains stripped down castings to be the Drums and Fifes of the Middlesex Regiment P14, which fit reasonably well with the band above and my original marching contingents.

Addendum 2

The Middlesex Regiment as a separate County regiment ceased to exist per se in 1966 with another British Army reorganisation. It together with regiments from Kent, Surrey and Sussex were amalgamated into the new Queens Regiment. Thus separate regimental colours were no longer the main regimental colours and were laid up in due course. A number of Middlesex Regiment colours were laid up in St Pauls Cathedral in central London, P15. St Pauls is Wren's



P13 Die Cast Middlesex Regiment Colour Party set 8700



P14 Drums and Fifes of the Middlesex Regiment

BRITAINS MIDDLESEX REGIMENTS *(Continued)*



P15 Middlesex Regimental Colours laid up in St Pauls Cathedral

outstanding masterpiece built after the great fire of London in the 1600s. In a way a fine recognition with the magnificent location of the ethos of the regiment with all its battle honours, though in army terms the Middlesex Regiment was a fairly standard infantry regiment but what an honour to be laid up and remembered in such a venerated setting.

P15 shows

a) Top set, colours of the 2nd Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) originally colours presented to the 77th of Foot (East Middlesex); presented in 1876 and transferred on change of title to the 2nd Bn The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) in 1903 and finally laid up in 1925.

b) The colours beneath were the second set of colours presented in 1925 to the 2nd Battalion and laid up in 1953 when the 2nd Battalion was amalgamated with 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). At the time of my photography for P15 the colours of the amalgamated regiment (1953 - 66) as laid up in 1975 had not been remounted following building work inside St Pauls. Although the Middlesex Regiment was incorporated into the new Queens Regiment the original Middlesex colours were carried until life expired in 1975.

In the absence of the 1st Battalion colours in St Pauls, we can refer to the cigarette card of the Regimental Colour as produced in the 1930s card set of Regimental Standards and Cap Badges by John Player (P16). The rear of the P16 card reads:



P16 Cigarette card of 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment standard

1st Bn. Middlesex Regiment.

The facings of the regiment are lemon yellow, and the Regimental Colour is of that shade. In each corner is the late Duke of Cambridge's cypher and coronet; the regiment is known as the 'Duke of Cambridge's Own'. Possibly the most famous Battle Honour won by the Middlesex is that of Albuhera, where they were almost wiped out. Colonel Inglis, commanding, cheered them on with the words "Die hard, my men, die hard." hence their nickname of the 'Die Hards.' The Regiment was originally four battalions strong.

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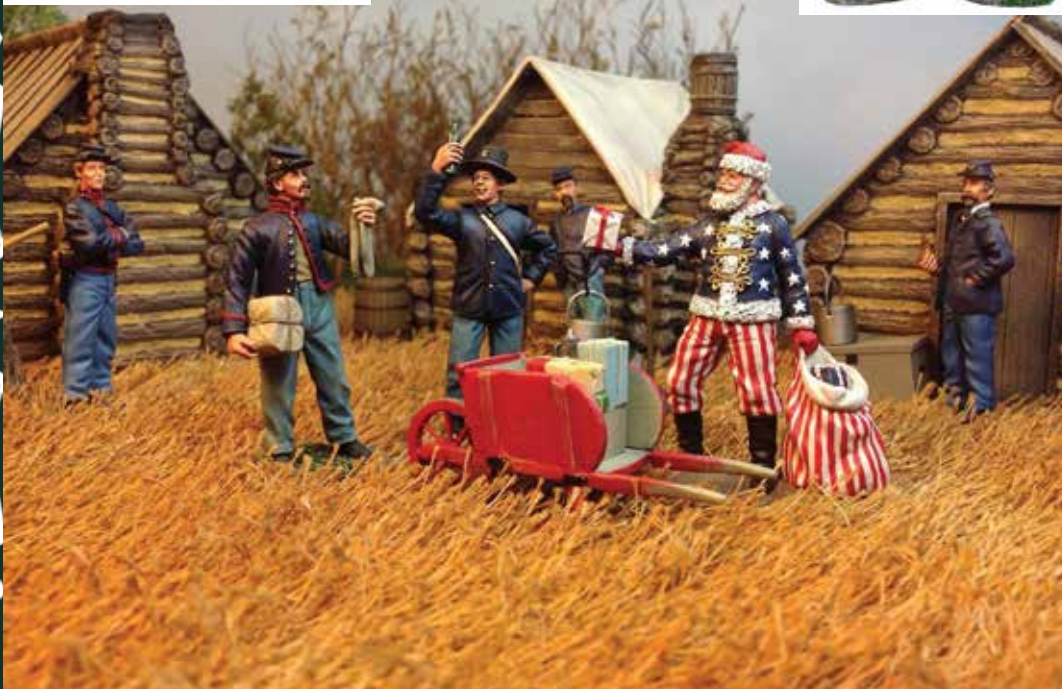
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