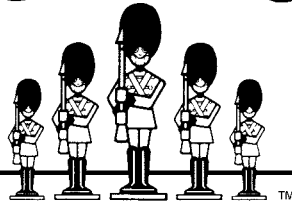


Spring
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 49 Number 1
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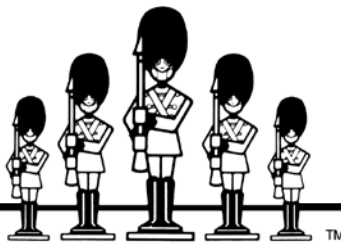
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EDITORIAL

Another bumper issue with contributions from a number of our regular contributors. Hopefully, all our readers will find something of interest.

Gisbert Freber has travelled to the other side of the world to complete his research on an interesting set he rediscovered in his own collection. I think he was planning a holiday to Japan anyway!

Will Beierwaltes presents a detailed review of all the hollowcast medical figures and sets produced by Britains. It turns out to be quite a long list. Will was also inspired by the article in the Fall 2024 issue on sporting figures to look at some of the items in his own collection.



Some Dimestore fans have apparently bemoaned the lack of attention to this facet of the hobby. Stan Alekna chips in with a short

piece describing how his “silent auctions” work, including listing some of the rare items that have been sold over the last year or so.

Robin Forsey has been continuing his research into early toys in the USA in the second half of the 19th century, this time focusing upon the myths and legends around “Lincoln’s Toy Shop”.

Plus, we have the usual Show reports, Reconnaissance and Hobby News sections. Regarding the latter please do send us items to demonstrate what’s going on in your neck of the woods.



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Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

By Will Beierwaltes

Introduction

Britains Ltd. of London may be the most famous toy soldier manufacturer in history, starting to produce their hollowcast military figures in 1893. Today 131 years later, production of toy soldiers continues by W Britain, now based in Ohio. While the initial production focused on British Regimental foot and cavalry in full Victorian uniforms, it was not until 1905 that Britains expanded their production into support services. This included set #137, a large set of Royal Army Medical Corps, and a year later the introduction of the horse-drawn ambulance (#145).

The inspiration for these probably came as they realized their German competition was producing all sorts of equipment and medical figures to supplement what every good army required. It may also have come from customers who wanted a more complete British Army in miniature as the technology and equipment of the contemporary British Army developed and expanded. Regardless, production of Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) sets continued in the metal catalog up until 1941 (when production of toys ceased in order to devote resources to the war effort). In the late 1930s a number of new sets and figures were introduced, representing a change from Victorian-era full dress review order to the khaki service full battle dress of the new British Army as they prepared for eventual war with the German Axis.

In the post-WW II catalog the number of RAMC sets was greatly diminished, though some representation of medical sets lasted until 1961. Interestingly, all the various sets employed much the same figures; doctor, nurse, stretcher team and casualty, with the only major changes to war-time khaki/OD and motorized ambulances. This article provides an annotated summary, through progressive set numbers, of all the Britains Ltd medical sets produced in metal between 1905 and 1961. Please note that most of the hard work in defining each set has been done through the dedicated efforts of collectors/authors Joe Wallis, James Opie and others cited in the bibliography. Without their research none of this article could have been completed.

A brief history of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC)

This historical summary was in part derived from a more complete Wikipedia history of the RAMC (*see reference #5*). The beginning of professional medical services as an official branch of the British armed services dates from just after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. For the next two hundred years, medical services were arranged on a regimental basis, with each battalion responsible for its own medical staff and facilities. Oversight was provided by an appointed Surgeon-general, a Physician-general and an Apothecary-general. In 1793 an Army Medical Board was formed to establish greater oversight and to implement current civilian healthcare practices. However, the military hierarchy seemed to have little time for developing and funding some ancillary services, and the history of military medicine in the British armed services up until before the first world war is a litany of failure and obstruction, costing thousands of British lives.



FIG 1. Simkin print (#111) of the physician officers and a nursing sister of the RAMC from which Britains poses were inspired.

The implementation of the army Medical Board resulted in establishing several (non-regimental) military hospitals. This experiment only lasted until 1807 due to a disconnect between the regimental model, mismanagement, and poor outcomes. In 1810, the Army Medical Board model was abolished and a new Army Medical Department was established, directed by a board chaired by Director-General James McGrigor. He had

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED

been the principal medical officer under the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular War, where he had introduced significant and more efficient organizational changes in the army's medical services to try and save soldiers' lives. Much like Napoleon's Baron Larrey, he developed dedicated ambulance wagons to get the wounded off the battlefield and prefabricated transportable temporary hospitals for triage of the wounded. McGrigor served in the capacity of Director-General for 36 years and is considered the "Father of British Army Medicine".

By 1854 with the onset of the Crimean War, the deficiencies and lack of priorities toward an understaffed and under-equipped Army Medical corps became glaringly obvious. Within weeks of arriving in the Crimea, more than half the British force had been incapacitated by disease (mainly typhus, dysentery and cholera). Within seven months some 10,000 British servicemen, out of a total of 28,000, had died from disease. A primary hospital set up for the wounded, several hundred miles from the front, was built over an active sewer. Army physicians seemed resistant to, and threatened by current medical practices. It was only the work of a well-trained independent nursing corps, headed by the stubborn and well-connected aristocrat Florence Nightengale, as well as her unfiltered reports back to the



FIG 2. Postcard of an RAMC private in review order dress.



FIG 3. Contemporary magazine print of a First World War RAMC clearing station in action.

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED

British press, that finally jolted the Army into revamping their medical priorities. In 1855 a Medical Staff Corps was established to provide orderlies and stretcher bearers and officers. This later became part of the Army Service Corps.

After severe criticism of the Crimean ineptitude, in 1857 a Royal Commission had been appointed for the improvement of sanitary conditions in Army barracks and hospitals. However, the regimental-based model of military medical support remained intact until 1873, and therefore the service was often inconsistent and understaffed. At this time a more rigorous and well-defined set of medical standards for army physicians, including their training and qualifications, was established. In 1884, the medical officers of the Army Medical Department were unified to form the Army Medical Staff, and given command of the Medical Staff Corps, consisting of non-physician medical ranks. However, the Army did not provide official military ranks for the physicians, nor military pensions for service, and they were woefully underpaid. This understandably led to an inability to recruit physicians, despite having their own medical school. It was not until the issuing of a royal warrant in 1898, that officers and soldiers providing medical services were incorporated into a new body known by its name, the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Its first Colonel-in-Chief was Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught.

The RAMC began to develop during the Boer War of 1899-1902. In this conflict the RAMC lost 743 officers and 6,130 of its Corps soldiers.

However, far more of them, and thousands more of the sick and wounded whom they treated, would have died if it had not been for the volunteer civilian doctors working in South Africa. Again, the British military physicians, support staff and hospitals proved totally inadequate compared to the parallel civilian medical volunteers, and again the resistance of the military hierarchy to fund and support the medical corps was the primary barrier. The most influential civilian was Alfred Fripp, who had established and organized a successful civilian hospital which only illustrated by comparison the chaos and inadequacies of the Army hospitals. Fripp's concern for limiting unnecessary suffering was bolstered by his established friendship with the new King, Edward VII. Fripp showed him his plans for reform and the King made sure that Fripp's plans for total reformation of the RAMC and its hospitals were not shelved by his government.

By 1917 and the Great War, the RAMC finally developed its potential in both size and experience out of necessity. The senior RAMC officers in charge finally (if grudgingly) adopted all Fripp's surprising innovations. They established a network of military hospitals around the United Kingdom as well as hospitals in countries where there were British troops. It had taken the British Army only 257 years (and thousands of British lives) to bring their medical service up to speed with contemporary civilian medical standards. These improvements and the lessons learned from the carnage of the First World War served the RAMC well in the Second World War.



FIG 4. Collector's diorama of a Britains RAMC clearing station in review order with #145 ambulance with breast harness and straight wire tack, marquee tent and various medical personnel (note, kneeling nurse is not by Britains).

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd. CONTINUED



FIG 5. Britains Stretcher Teams (left to right); Review order, half-booted and round base (1905). Review order, half-booted and square base (1910). Review order, full trousers, and square base (1935). Service order in khaki with flat caps (1939). Service order in khaki and steel helmets (1939). Battle dress in steel helmets (1940). ARP in black rubber suits (1939). St. Johns Ambulance Corps in dark blue flat paint (1936).



FIG 6. Examples of Britains casualties, left to right: Review order and Civilian stretcher, 3 different casualties in red review order. 2 casualties in khaki service dress. Service order casualty with steel helmet. Civilian casualty for St. Johns or ARP. Military stretcher for service/battle dress.

In October of 2024, the Secretary of State for Defence John Healey announced that it would amalgamate the RAMC with the Royal Army Dental Corps and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps to form one unified corps, the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS).

A categorical and annotated listing of Britains sets containing the Royal Army Medical Corps or other medical-themed figures and vehicles

131: This was a huge 275-piece presentation set. It included a vast selection of British infantry, cavalry and even the rare British Camel Corps, but its original issue in 1906 did not include any examples of the RAMC. The set was updated in 1909 and now included pieces from set #145, the horse-drawn ambulance, as well as figures from set #137, Doctors and Nurses of the RAMC. This exceedingly rare set (due to its high price and limited availability) lasted in the catalog with its RAMC components until 1932.

132: This set was a second, but not quite as large (167 piece), presentation set of the "Types of the British Army". It was introduced in 1906. However, its first permutation did not include any RAMC figures until the set was revamped in 1909 to include (among other things) the horse-drawn Ambulance from set #145. The revised set lasted until 1932.

137: The Army Medical Service was a large 24-piece set introduced in 1905. Joe Wallis notes that these figures were most likely based on Simkin print #111, RAMC, in the March 1897 issue of "The Army and Navy Gazette". The officers and nurse from this print are dead ringers for the Britains figures. The contents included: 3 medical officers in full dark-blue review dress, including two physicians in ball helmets and a senior medical officer in a cocked hat; six walking stretcher bearers (also in blue uniforms with ball helmets); 3 white canvas stretchers; four standing nurses; and eight wounded casualties in

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd. CONTINUED



FIG 7. The various Britains nurses, left to right: (1 & 2) The first Victorian nurse (wasp-waist, front and back) figures introduced in 1905 were replaced with the new updated taller nurse figure (3 & 4, front and back) for the modern army in 1939. Post war a new walking nurse in Khaki (7) was introduced in set #1897 in 1948. The second-grade simplified paint Crown Range nurse (5 & 6) was introduced in 1956. The nurse for the St. Johns Ambulance Corps (8) was a completely unique figure introduced in 1937.



FIG 8. Physician/officers of the RAMC. Review order Medical Officer in ball helmet, two variations of the Senior Medical Officer in plumed hat, two variations of the medical officer in battle dress and an empty-handed medical orderly.

prone positions. The medical officers always had a round base, the stretcher bearers were initially on oval bases until 1910. They changed from half-booted to full trousers in 1935. The first nurses were short and wore full length grey Victorian dresses with a white apron (often referred to as wasp-waisted) and no base. A taller nurse on a base was introduced to RAMC sets in 1936. The casualties in red tunics included bare-headed with bandaged heads or arms and another figure in a white foreign service helmet with his hands behind his head (this figure was replaced in 1935).

145: The Royal Army Medical Corps (with horse-drawn ambulance) was introduced in 1906. Four horses pulled the cloth covered wagon, using twisted wire tracings until 1916, which were then replaced by straight wire. Horses were equipped with collar harnesses until 1922, when they were replaced with the breast-harness tack. The wagon cover was tan cloth fabric, higher in the front, supported

by metal wire supports. On the sides of the cover and the wagon, white paper roundels with red crosses were glued on. The personnel in review order included two mounted drivers in dark blue uniforms from the Royal Army Service Corps with ball helmets, a double white stripe on their pants and no red cross armbands. The seated orderlies also had blue uniforms, ball helmets, but a single stripe on the pants and a red cross arm band on the left upper arm. The set lasted until 1941, and was revived post-war in 1954 with the same catalog number. The new ambulance was painted grey, had larger rear wheels, and the horses were fitted with "H-shaped" wire traces that plugged into holes in the horses' flanks. The cloth cover was now white and the rondels on the sides of the cloth wagon cover featured a red circle with a white cross rather than the pre-war red cross. Post war set #145 lasted until 1959. It never appeared in the later 9000-series sets.

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED



FIG 9. Original box for set #320, RAMC Doctors and Nurses.



FIG 10. First version of set #145, RAMC horse-drawn ambulance with collar harnesses and twisted wire tracings. In this set the figures are all in blue review order.



FIG 11. Set 145A (or #1450) RAMC horse-drawn ambulance in service dress. This is the second version of the khaki and flat-cap ambulance with straight wire tracings and breast harnesses.



FIG 12. Last version (1941) of set #1450, RAMC horse-drawn ambulance in service dress and steel helmets. (photo by permission; Wallis, Armies of the World, ref 2).

145A: The Royal Army Medical Corps, Active Service Order (with horse-drawn ambulance) was introduced in 1916. It differed from set #145 in that the active service order meant the corpsmen and teamsters wore khaki uniforms and flat caps rather than the review order blue dress and ball helmets. Otherwise, the set was the same. In 1933, this set received a new catalog number, #1450. It lasted in the catalog until 1941 but did not reappear post war.

Wagon colors: Joe Wallis, in his *Armies of the World* book (1) gives an excellent description of the changes made by Britains with their horse-drawn wagons. The wagons were painted grey until 1917 when Britains began their "fumed-metal" technique (giving it a "gun-metal" finish), and this lasted until 1931. The post 1931 painting was a dark green, and then a lighter khaki color until 1941. Post war, the wagon was painted grey.

320: Royal Army Medical Corps Doctors and Nursing staff was a scaled-down 8-piece medical set. It was introduced in 1929, and included a senior physician in plumed bicorn, a physician in ball helmet (both on round bases) and 6 of the smaller 1st version nurses. In 1937 four of the nurses were replaced by 2 rectangular based stretcher bearers, a stretcher and a casualty with a bandaged head and arm. In 1938 the old Victorian nurse figures were replaced with the new taller nurse figure. The set lasted until 1941 and did not reappear in the post-war catalog

1232: Royal Army Medical Corps Nurses was an un-cataloged boxed set which included 8 of the first Victorian wasp-waisted version of nurses. It was available only in 1933, and no example of the set with the improved nurse figure was ever made.

1300: Royal Army Medical Service with Wagons, Doctors, Nurses, Wounded and Hospital Marquee was initially released in 1934 as a large

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

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41-piece presentation set. It included the horse-drawn ambulance (set #145), the General Service wagon (set #146), the 24 full-dressed medical figures from set #137 (see above), 2 elm trees (#523), 2 fir trees (#524) and a unique large Marquee Medical Tent (#0203). There were 3 nurses, the wasp-waist first version until 1937, after which the improved taller figure was inserted. There were 8 casualties; 3 with heads bandaged, 3 with their left leg bandaged and 2 with foreign service helmets tipped back. After 1936, the 2 casualties with foreign service helmets were replaced with bare-headed casualties with their arm in a sling. This set lasted until 1941 and did not reappear in the post-war catalog.

1372. This was an American version of the horse-drawn military ambulance. This unusual and rare set was not in the catalog but appeared in the late 1930s for the American market. It is similar to set #1450 except the khaki-clad corpsmen had peak caps with grey visors and wore grey belts. This set is exceedingly rare, and without an original box, collectors should consider that this may be an easy creative conversion.



FIG 13. Example of the impressive boxed set #1300. Another layer of figures, including the fir trees, lies below the upper layer shown here.



FIG 14. Box label for set #1450 (photo by permission; Wallis, Armies of the World, ref 2).

1450. The Royal Army Medical Corps Ambulance Wagon; Active Service Order was renumbering of set #145A in 1933 (see above), It was given its new catalog distinction as the toy armies of Britains became more khaki-clad. In 1940, the figures in peaked caps were replaced by figures in steel helmets. This modernizing of the figures lasted only 1 year until 1941, and the steel-helmeted version of the ambulance wagon was never included in any other Britains medical set, making it unusually rare.

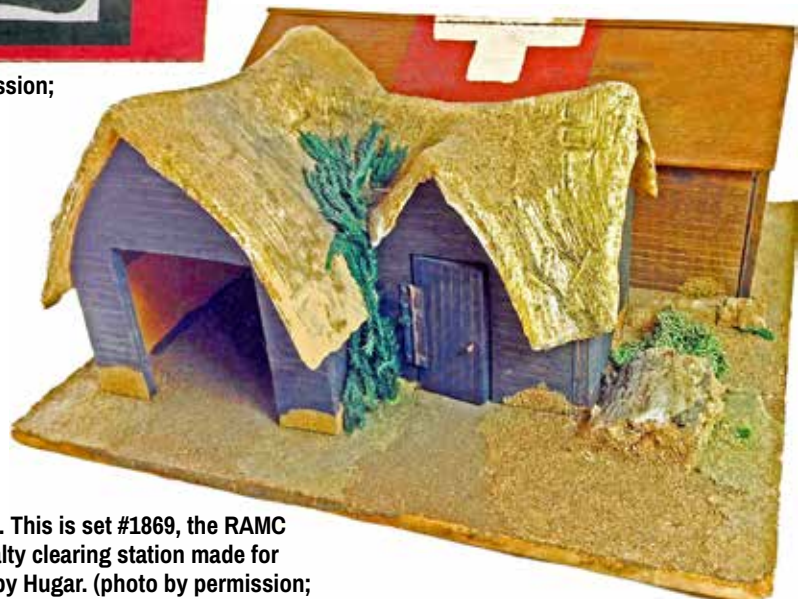


FIG 15. This is set #1869, the RAMC casualty clearing station made for Britains by Hugar. (photo by permission; Wallis, Armies of the World, ref 2).

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

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1457: This was a large display featuring the 3rd Hussars, 7th Fusiliers, Grenadier Guards and Royal Army Medical Corps. This was an un-cataloged 31-piece presentation set issued only in 1936. The RAMC figures were from set #320, the Royal Army Medical Corps Doctors and Nursing staff (1st version nurses and without stretcher or casualties). However, it did contain an oblong cloth tent (#0202) which was smaller than the Marquee Medical Tent in set #1300.



FIG 16. Set #1512, Army Ambulance, Motor-type. This is the first, square-radiator (box-front) ambulance issued in 1937.



FIG 18. Set #1513; St Johns Volunteer Corps Motor Ambulance. This is the first, square-radiator (box-front) ambulance issued in 1937.



FIG 17. Set #1512, Army Ambulance, Motor-type. This is the third version with the rounded front improved Commer ambulance issued post-war in 1948.

1512. This featured the new Army Ambulance, Motor-Type, with Driver, wounded man and stretcher. This first version of a square radiator ("box-front") olive/khaki ambulance was issued in 1937. It was then revised to a dark green color, then back to olive green. It had white rubber tires and a red roundel with a white cross on the sides of the vehicle. The driver was seated in khaki with a peaked cap. A casualty was included using the wounded head version dressed in khaki. This permutation lasted until 1941. The ambulance was reintroduced into the catalog as early as 1946 using the same square radiator vehicle but with black rubber tires. Then, in 1948, an updated rounded nose version of a Commer ambulance was introduced. On the side of the vehicle was a small red roundel with a white cross in it. This lasted until 1957 when it was changed to a larger white roundel with the (correct) red cross in it. Also, in 1957 the windshield was fitted with a center bar from the hood to the roof ("split-windshield"). The driver was also updated with a black beret rather than a flat cap and had movable arms that gripped the steering wheel. This final version lasted in the catalog until 1960.



FIG 19. Britains Set #1426, St. Johns Ambulance Brigade, ca 1936.

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED



FIG 20. Britains Lilliput #LV617, OO-scale Local Authority Ambulance. The nurse is placed next to it to show scale.

1514: The Corporation Type Motor Ambulance with Driver, wounded man and stretcher featured a vehicle which was a civilian variation of the pre-war #1512. It was issued in 1937. It used the first version square radiator vehicle with white rubber tires, but was painted in a cream-colored off-white, with a thin horizontal brown sign on the side with the word "AMBULANCE" on it in off-white. The bare-headed casualty wore a brown coat and grey pants, while the flat-cap driver was dressed in dark blue. This vehicle lasted in the catalog until 1941, but was never reintroduced in the post-war catalog.

1719. This was a Stretcher Party of the RAMC, in service dress with steel helmets. This half-set, introduced in 1939, was the first depiction of medical personnel of the modern (pre-WWII) army. It was a simple 4-piece set with two stretcher bearers in khaki service dress (no equipment other than cross belts, a canteen and haversack) but wearing the shrapnel-proof steel helmet of the modern British army. The stretcher was olive drab and the casualty was dressed in khaki, with a bandaged bare-head. This set lasted until 1941. It did not reappear in the post war catalog.

Note: While not described in factory records, this small set may have briefly appeared in khaki with flat caps rather than steel helmets, as those figures exist and chronologically this would be the most likely set to start with this head gear (see FIG 5).

1723. This set of Royal Army Medical Corps Unit, Containing Bearers, Stretchers, Wounded and Nurses was introduced in 1939 containing 9 pieces, using 2 pairs of stretcher bearers in service dress (as in #1719 above), olive-drab stretchers and only one casualty, dressed in khaki with a bandaged head. The set also included two of the new improved nurses in calf-length skirts. In 1940, the 4 stretcher bearers in service dress were replaced

with the newly introduced version in "Battle Dress" now donning packs on the back and on the chest, gaiters, and steel helmets. The set lasted until 1941, and was re-released in the post-war catalog in 1946. The set lost one of its nurses in 1960, before leaving the catalog in 1961.

1759: The Air Raid Precautions Stretcher Party Squad and Gas Detection Services set was the only one of the three ARP sets which contained medical personnel. The set included 4 stretcher bearers in black rubber suits with olive headgear and gloves, two tan stretchers with half-booted bare-headed casualties with a bandaged head who wore brown jackets and grey pants. In addition, a fifth man in similar rubber suit equipped with a gas detection stick was included. These figures appeared only in this set and lasted 1939-1941.

1824. This was a large Presentation Box of British Service Units. The 48-piece set featured many of the new modern army equipment pieces (vehicles, guns, and spotting equipment) plus operators, drivers, and gunners, all dressed in khaki service dress. Included in this lot was a square radiator (box-front) Army Motor Ambulance, a khaki stretcher and khaki casualty with his arm in a sling to fit in the ambulance, plus 4 stretcher bearers in service dress, 2 khaki stretchers and a single casualty in khaki with a bandaged head, plus two of the 2nd version nurses. This set lasted until 1941, and did not reappear in the post-war catalog.

1869. The RAMC Casualty Clearing Station with Thatched Barn and Open Cart Shed. was an unusual medical set produced for Britains by Hugar. It included 2 wooden buildings on a 12 by 12-inch base. The barn was similar to Hugar civilian barns, but the added cart shed had a wooden roof with a large red square enclosing a white cross. No figures were included with this set (see set #1910 below). A full color picture of this unusual item can be found in Wallis' "Armies of the World (2nd edition in color)" (2) on page 524. The set was available only in 1940-41 and did not reappear in the post war catalog.

1887. This set in the Historical Collectors Series, comprised 15 assorted single foot figures from the military line. It was not in the catalog but sold through the FAO Schwarz toy store in New York City. Within it were 2 stretcher bearers, a stretcher and casualty and a nurse. Since all the other figures were in review order dress, we can assume the medical figures were in their blue dress and ball helmets. This series was produced only in 1940-41.

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED

1896. This set of Royal Army Medical Corps, Stretcher party, in steel helmets and battle dress was introduced in 1940 and comprised 8-pieces in full battle dress uniforms and steel helmets to complement Britains "New Army" sets. The set included a Battle Dress officer in steel helmet carrying a baton in his right hand, 2 battle dress stretcher bearers, one casualty with a bandaged head and arm on an olive stretcher, 2 empty handed orderlies and a female ambulance driver (but no ambulance!) walking (not sitting) in an olive uniform and skirt with brown belt and gloves. No nurses were included in this set. It lasted until 1941, but did not reappear in the post-war catalog.

1897. The Motor Ambulance with Doctor, Wounded, Nurses and orderlies set was an 18-piece presentation of all the medical pieces introduced in 1940 to complement Britains New Army sets. The set included the square radiator ambulance from set #1512 with a seated khaki peak-capped driver, a battle dress medical officer in steel helmet with a plain empty right hand, 4 battle dress stretcher bearers, two olive stretchers, two casualties with steel helmets and a bandaged leg, two 2nd version nurses dressed in review order (grey dress, white apron and hat, red shawl), 2 empty handed women in khaki from the Auxiliary Territorial Service, a female ambulance driver walking in an olive uniform and skirt with brown belt and gloves. It lasted until 1941, but reappeared in the post-war catalog.

A revised set appeared in 1946. It began with the old square radiator ambulance with black rubber tires. This was replaced by the newer rounded front ambulance in 1948. The set now included the two orderlies (from #1896) walking with a plain arm, a revised walking female ambulance driver in a greatcoat and a baseball cap, and two walking nurses in khaki. Post war the two casualties were bare-headed. This large new army medical set lasted until 1959. See Joe Wallis' *Regiments of All Nations* book, page 138, for a photo of a complete boxed set.

1909. Royal Army Medical Corps; Doctors, Nurses, Orderlies, Wounded, Stretchers, Hospital Tent, Ambulance, Staff Car and Lorry. The medical personnel included: two medical officers in battledress carrying batons; a medical officer carrying a book in his right hand (available in only this set and set 1910); two nurses in review order; two empty-handed orderlies in battle dress; two of the auxiliary female transport drivers; 6 stretcher bearers in battle dress; 4 khaki stretchers; and 4 casualties in khaki (two with bandaged heads and an arm in a sling and two with bandaged legs, steel helmets and hands behind their

heads). The 29-piece presentation set also included: a large cloth medical tent; the square radiator version of the motor ambulance, with khaki driver in a flat cap; a staff car with two officers driving (set #1448); and a Beetle Lorry with Driver (set #1877). It was issued in 1940 and 1941 and did not reappear in the post-war catalog.

1910. This set titled Royal Army Medical Corps Field Hospital Staff with Wounded (battledress) was a smaller version. Wallis (2) suggests this set was designed to go with the RAMC Casualty Clearing Station (#1869, see above) which did not come with any figures. The set included: two medical officers in battledress carrying batons; the medical officer carrying a book in his right hand; two nurses in review order; 2 empty handed orderlies in battle dress; two of the auxiliary female transport drivers; 6 stretcher bearers in battle dress; 3 khaki stretchers; and 6 casualties in khaki (three with bandaged heads and an arm in a sling and three with bandaged legs and with steel helmets and hands behind their heads). The set did not include a motor ambulance. This set was only issued 1940-41.

2132. Royal Army Medical Corps Stretcher party was a small half-box, 5-piece set issued only post war from 1957-1959. It included two stretcher bearers in olive battle dress and steel helmets, an olive stretcher, a casualty with a bandaged head and the post-war nurse in review order.

9000-Series: This revised post-war cataloging of remaining Britains sets (1962-1966) did not include any RAMC sets.

St Johns Ambulance Brigade

1426: The St. Johns Ambulance Brigade (First Aid Section) with Stretcher Bearers and Nurses set was introduced in 1936. It represented the civilian volunteer medical corps, and it included all new and unique castings. It was an 8-piece set dressed in dark blue uniforms. The officer wore a peaked cap, a tie and brown waist and shoulder belts and brown gloves. The orderlies and stretcher bearers wore peaked caps, and had white cap bands, trouser stripes, and a shoulder belt along with the brown belting. Initially issued in the standard gloss paint, the figures were converted to a matt paint to highlight a black (rather than brown) belt; the only instance of Britains employing a matt painted figure. The St Johns nurses (a unique casting) wore a grey uniform with black armbands, a white apron and cap. The stretcher team carried a civilian casualty with bandaged head, brown coat and grey pants. The 8-piece set included 2 nurses, an officer, two

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED

stretcher bearers with a stretcher, the civilian casualty and 2 walking orderlies. This unusual set lasted only until 1941 and did not reappear post-war.

1513: The Volunteer Corps, Motor-type Ambulance with Driver. Wounded man and Stretcher set was introduced in 1937. It was the standard square radiator pre-war ambulance but painted in dark blue with the St. Johns cross on the side in white over the word Ambulance. It had a seated driver in all dark blue and a peaked cap, and a civilian casualty with his arm in a sling, brown coat and grey pants. A rarer version of the casualty was dressed in all dark blue. This version lasted until 1941.

Post-war the round-nosed Volunteer Motor Ambulance with wounded man and stretcher was introduced in 1948. This was the same vehicle as the post-war 1512 ambulance, except it was painted in dark blue and had the white Maltese cross of the St. Johns ambulance Brigade on the side. It had cast headlights until 1957, then replaced by decals. It also had red wheel hubs. The driver wore a dark blue uniform with a peak cap and a white cap band. The casualty had a bandaged head and wore a brown coat and grey pants. As with 1512, in 1957 it got the split windshield and had decal headlights. It lasted in the catalog another 2 years until 1959.

Second Grade Medical Figures

Since almost all the medical figures were fixed-arm castings, they were good candidates for the simplified painting of second grade issues. The only examples of these I have found are post-war issue foot figures which suggests they would have been issued in the P-series (individual second grade figures, 1932-59). The "Crown Range" (P-series) of single 2nd grade fixed-arm figures included #122-P Nurse, RAMC, which does not appear in the catalog until 1956. I have seen this figure all in white with shawls colored in red, blue or yellow.

Britains Lilliput (OO/HO-scale) medical sets:

In 1956, Britains introduced a line of OO-scale figures and vehicles (and even paper-mache buildings) in association with the W. Horton Ltd. Company, to enter the rapidly expanding market for model train enthusiasts in this new smaller scale (a standing OO figure measured only 20.5 mm). By 1957, the Lilliput line included 9 military vehicles in olive green and 11 civilian and farm vehicles, which came in a variety of colors. Within this range there was a basic (3" long) "Van" which was used as an ambulance as well as a Royal Mail van. No military or civilian medical figures were produced in this scale except for the ambulance

drivers which were not removable. The line only lasted in the catalog until 1960. There were two medical vehicles in the series.

LV617: Local Authority Ambulance. This Civilian version of the ambulance was painted in cream-color with the word "AMBULANCE" printed along its side (using a decal). It had black rubber tires with red wheel hubs. The driver wore a dark blue uniform with a peak cap.

LV618: Army Ambulance. For the military version the basic van vehicle was painted in olive green and had a large white circle on its side with a red cross in its middle. It had black rubber tires. The driver wore a khaki uniform with a peak cap.

Britains Paris Office Medical Sets

While as yet no example of a Britains Paris Office (1905-1923) catalog has been found, several examples of French medical sets have been reported. An example of a Britains Paris Office French medical set (Service de Santé) has appeared in a recent eBay listing in which all the figures are dressed in pre-WWI French full dress with blue tunics, red pants and kepis. The set shown included a 4-horse-drawn ambulance in collar harness, two mounted drivers, two seated medical orderlies with white arm bands, a single stretcher team in blue tunics on rectangular bases carrying a casualty also in the blue and red uniform with a bandaged head, a senior medical officer and two wasp-wasted nurses in dark blue dresses and white aprons and hats and light blue shawls.

While the Ambulance set is well known, and a number of genuine examples have been recorded, the accompanying figures shown on eBay have never been reported in any authoritative review. As with all Paris Office sets, caution should be used (without a catalog or an original box) as we cannot really know how any of these sets were configured, what they contained, or if certain sets or figures really existed.

Non-Cataloged "Own-label" Medical sets

Britains sometimes supplied British companies with figures and equipment from their catalog to be included in "Own Label Boxes" not included in the Britains catalog. The one medical example of this is the C.E. Turnbull/Charterhouse set of "St. Johns Ambulance," marketed from 1914 to as late as 1935. This set included 25 figures and an ambulance wagon from Britains sets #137 and #145. These uniforms were typical RAMC and not the St. Johns

Medical-themed Toy Soldiers of Britains Ltd.

CONTINUED

Ambulance uniforms seen later in Britains cataloged sets #1426 and #1513. Besides the figures, the set included 6 cloth tents (4 bell tents and 2 rectangular tents) with the paper red cross rondel glued on to the side and a metal white pennant with a red cross flying from the top. These tents were placed in a side pocket of the Britains-like ma-roon presentation box. A wonderful photograph of this set is included in James Opie's book *Britains Toy Soldiers* (4); on page 58, and a full color photo of the set displayed as the frontispiece in Opie's *Great Book of Britains* (5).

Conclusion

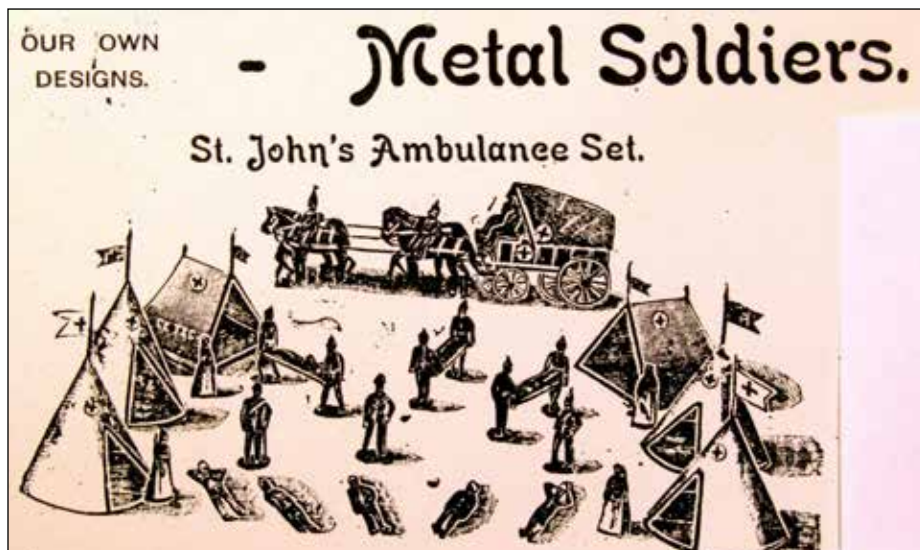
While medical-themed sets are only a small part of the extensive production of toy soldiers produced by Britains Ltd between 1893 and 1966, they produce an interesting history of the advancement of battlefield triage and military medicine. We see changes such as with ambulances moving from horse-drawn to motorized, and such advances in the catalog reflect the contemporary changes and improvements taking place within the British Army, as well as in the parallel world of civilian medicine. Unlike the rows of marching infantry or charging cavalry, the medical sets provide the collector with some unique, totally different and historically important sets to enjoy. For me, this is what makes collecting toy soldiers such a wonderful hobby.

Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank Joe Wallis for reviewing this manuscript and providing valuable edits and insight. Also, for providing permission to use several photographs from his books.

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Catalog/advertising illustration of the Turnbull Charterhouse St. Johns Ambulance set.

OLD TOY SOLDIER



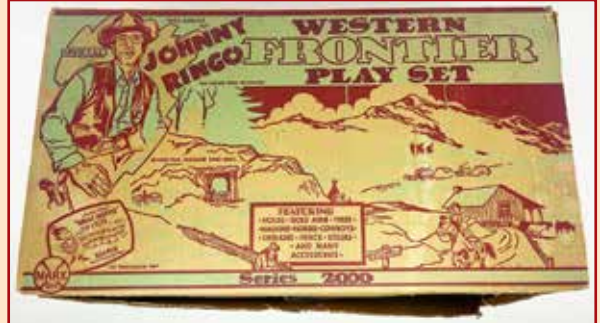
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FRIDAY MAY 16, 2025 ~ 10AM EST



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Estimate: \$4000 - 6000



Lot 2226 Marx Toys Rare Johnny Ringo Western Frontier Play
Estimate: \$ 1200 - 1800



Lot 2134 Rare Courtenay H9 Sir John Chandos
Estimate: \$2000 - 3000



Lot 2119 Selwyn Mounted John Lord Grey
Estimate: \$2000 - 3000



Lot 2135 Rare Courtenay H9 Race Horse Dorothy Paget
Estimate: \$ 2000 - 3000



Lot 2117 Fouille Marat Roi de Napales 1st Empire
Estimate: \$2500 - 3500



Lot 2074 Britains Rare Set #2016 Japanese Imperial Guards
Estimate: \$3000 - 5000



Lot 2118 Selwyn Mounted John de Vere
Estimate: \$1800 - 2500



Lot 2132 Courtenay Sir Thomas Holland
Estimate: \$1500 - 2000



Lot 2120 Selwyn Mounted Sir Adam de Blencoe
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Giant Model Soldiers

By Rob Wilson

A few years ago I wrote a couple of articles for the magazine asking the question - what were the smallest toy soldiers that had been produced by a major manufacturer? On a recent tour of New Zealand this theme came to mind when I was confronted with the opposite side of the spectrum. Te Papa is the country's National Museum. Based in the capital, Wellington, it is a major tourist attraction, focused on telling the story of the country in terms of geology, political, social and natural history.



Author's photo of the machine gunners diorama

Housed in a state of the art building, the various exhibitions illustrate how the islands that make up the country have been formed over millions of years, as well as the more recent impact of humans on the country, firstly through the migration of Polynesian people in the early part of the 2nd millennium, and more recently the "discovery" of New Zealand by western explorers and subsequent colonisation.

However, the key attraction as far as I was concerned was a special exhibition produced to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign in 2016. The exhibition, was created by Te Papa, working closely with Weta Workshop (which came to fame as part of the Peter Jackson team that developed the Lord of the Rings film trilogy).



Photo by Michael Hall, Te Papa, showing Weta Workshop's Sir Richard Taylor with the machine gunners trio

Giant Model Soldiers

CONTINUED



Visitors reflect beside the large scale model of Percival Fenwick, Photo by Michael Hall, Te Papa

Gallipoli: The Scale of Our War features the stories of eight New Zealanders, brought to life on a monumental scale. The giant figures of seven servicemen and a nurse, frozen in a moment in time, are on a scale of 2.4:1 ! These must surely be the largest model soldiers in the world!


The exhibition also includes cutting edge technology which has been used to create other visitor experiences relating to the Gallipoli campaign and the contribution of New Zealand to the Great War in general. This includes 3-D maps and projections, as well as many other smaller scale models, dioramas, and a range of interactive experiences.

Originally scheduled to close in 2019, the exhibition is still proving a huge draw for visitors, with over 5 million visitors since its opening in 2015 (almost the size of the total population of

New Zealand!). Originally intended to be in place for only four years, it has now been extended to 2032 (although it will be closed from Monday 21 July – Friday 12 Sept 2025 for essential maintenance).

The giant sculptures took a staggering 24,000 hours to create, and countless hours were spent researching their rich histories, each based on the real experiences of the figures portrayed. For anyone with an interest in military history visiting New Zealand it is a must see!

Elastolin
Kunststoff-Figuren und Zubehöre



Bestimmungsbuch und Preiskatalog

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ELASTOLIN

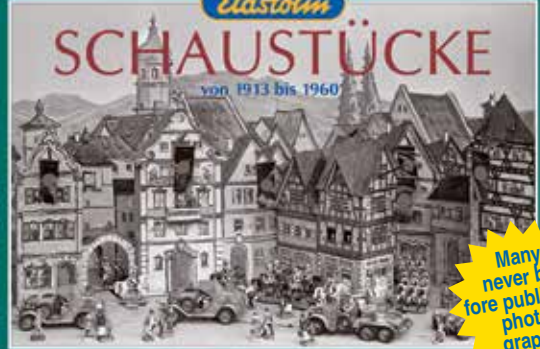
Plastic figures and accessories.

All items are listed in a price chart.

This book is a completely reviewed and extended edition of the standard publication from 1993 about the Elastolin figures and accessories (4 cm to 7 cm and other sizes) of the company Hauser. All hard-plastic themes are compiled together in one volume. All items are listed in a price chart and in pictures. Many almost unknown models are documented. Exact description of various versions. The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wild West to soldiers from the periods of the 18th and 20th century, as well as castles, camps, African Safari, domestic and wild animals, farms, zoos, circus, tales figures, advertising and special edition figures, mechanical toys and Bild-Lilli (the proto-type of all Barbie dolls). For the first time and only in this publication one can find 15 additional Elastolin dioramas and scenic arrangements from various historical series. Size 21,5x29,8 cm, 208 pages, more than 1,000 objects whereas 500 are in color photographs. Price 45,00 Euro. Shipping: EU, Non-EU and World the real costs.

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Elastolin
SCHAUSTÜCKE
von 1913 bis 1960




Many never before published photographs

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This book is the 2nd photo guide on Hauser/Elastolin showroom dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hauser/Elastolin in the period between 1913 and 1960. The documentation's themes are ranging from military scenes and political events via zoological highlights and Wild West topics to certain examples of the early post-war period. The editors were able to share their treasure of high quality old original black-and-white photographs with the readers community on quite a high-quality standard and added also some more recent photographic documentations. 112 pages, hardcover, 21 x 30 cm. Price 39,00 Euro plus postage: within Germany 5,00 Euro / EU, Non-EU and World the real shipping costs.

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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.

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Lincoln's Toy Shop: The Facts Behind The Fiction

By Robin Forsey



By 1860 children made up well over a third of the United States population and, for those families who could afford them, commercially made playthings were readily available. As for toy soldiers, “tin-flat,” paper, and wooden figures could all be had. However, when it comes to identifying the manufacturers of the latter type, it is a near impossible task. While considerable numbers of wooden toys were imported from Europe, many were also made in America, but by whom it is difficult to say. Although United States census records and city trade directories can be helpful, as a rule they only listed those companies which referred to themselves as toy makers. Not registered were the numerous individual artisans throughout the country who also made playthings, but on a very localized and often irregular basis by tradesmen such as carpenters and cabinet makers who conducted their business from small workshops. Because their toys often resembled folk-art, little is known about such products or the men who produced them. However, one person whose name has been passed down through the ages is that of Joseph Stuntz, who, together with his wife Appolonia, ran a small fancy goods shop at 375 New York Avenue in Washington, D. C.

Even years after their passing it was said: “Mention Stuntz at any club or dinner or social gathering in Washington and the floodgates of reminiscence are opened. Throughout the dark days of the civil war and reconstruction, in days of national plenty and panic, the little candy shop kept open all day and throughout the evenings to satisfy the wants of children and brighten the lives of fathers and mothers.”¹ In fact, it seems that during the Civil War and Reconstruction era, this little store may have been the only one of its type in the city. However, what undoubtedly added to the shop's fame was that during the Civil War it was often frequented by President Lincoln and his youngest son Tad. During such visits it was said that Mr. Stuntz “would bring forth a box full of the ‘President's own,’ as he would call a particular regiment of blue-clad soldiers, and with these for men and ramparts formed of candy boxes and dolls' houses, the Chief Executive and his son would lose their worries, real or fancied, in the fascination of the game of ‘playing war’.”²



Illus. 1. Margarita Spalding (maiden name) was born in Washington, D. C., on July 28, 1870, and like all other children of her generation she probably frequented the little candy store and personally knew Appolonia Stuntz and “Miss Kate.” If so these two ladies may have told her stories about the Lincoln visits. *Photograph of Mrs. Margarita Spalding Gerry from a 1913 publication.*



Illus. 2. Frank Earle Schoonover was born in Oxford, New Jersey, on August 19, 1877. Working out of Wilmington, Delaware, besides doing more than 5,000 paintings he also contributed illustrations to many magazines, including those depicting Abraham Lincoln in Margarita Spalding Gerry's novel in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*. *Origins of photograph unknown.*

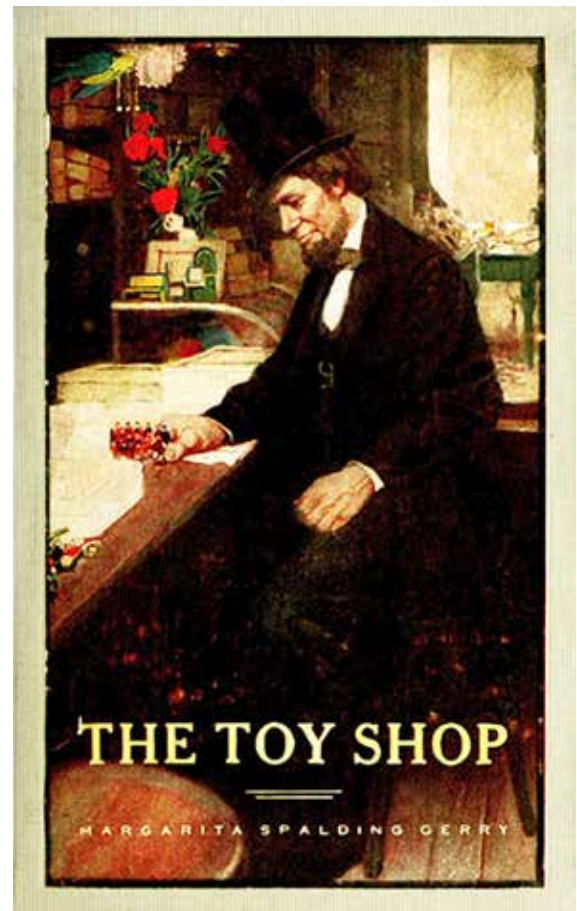
Lincoln's Toy Shop: The Facts Behind The Fiction

CONTINUED

Yet much of the information published regarding Joseph, and in particular the Lincoln visits, was based on aging memories and hearsay. In fact, little had been written about the subject until the author Margarita Spalding Gerry decided to put pen to paper (see Illus. 1). The work which she wrote was entitled *The Toy Shop*, and with graphics supplied by the renowned artist Frank Earle Schoonover (Illus. 2), it first appeared in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* in December 1907.³ During the following year Harper & Brothers deemed her story worthy enough to publish it in book form (see Illus. 3). In the novel Gerry referred to the surname of Joseph and Appolonia as Schotz whereas in reality it was Stuntz. Whether this was intentional or an error on her part is not known. Although classed as a novel it was said: "It is appropriate on the eve of the celebration of the centenary of



Illus. 4. Elizabeth Keckley circa 1861. Born into slavery in February 1818, she purchased her own and her son's freedom in November 1855. In 1860 she moved to Washington, D. C., and being a good seamstress she eventually established a dressmaking business that grew to include twenty employees. Her customer base consisted of many of Washington's high society, including Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln. Indeed, she not only made dresses for the First Lady, but also became her chief confidant. She recalled that on many occasion she was asked by Mrs. Lincoln to go to the toy shop to tell the President to bring Tad home for his supper. No doubt during such errands she witnessed some of the legendary toy soldier play. By courtesy of Howard University, Washington, D. C.



Illus. 3. Front cover of Margarita Spalding Gerry's book *The Toy Shop*. The story was originally published in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* in December 1907.

Lincoln's birth, that this short story of the war President... should be put into book form for wider reading."⁴ However, apart from that used for the front cover, most of Schoonover's illustrations which accompanied the magazine article were omitted from the book.

For those who are not familiar with the story, the essence of the piece is about a tall dark and sad looking stranger who on a raw December's day enters the Stuntz fancy goods store to buy toy soldiers for his son. "The little shop was a modest place" and amongst the "home-made candies and cakes" and "a rosy-checked apple or two" were toys, including "little imported German toys", and "marching valiantly over the shelves, storming wooden boxes flanked with cannon, were toy soldiers. There were, too, all the necessary trappings of combat - swords, guns, soldier suits, arrayed in which youthful generals could marshal their forces and sweep the enemy's army before them..." Gerry went on to describe the sad looking stranger's other outings to the shop and how it was not until later that Joseph and his wife discovered the man's identity. He was none other than the President of the United States!

As for Mr. and Mrs. Stuntz not recognizing the Chief Executive sooner rather than later may have been pure poetic license on Gerry's part. Nevertheless, this was

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not the only work written by her on Lincoln. It was said that she had made a special study of the "great president" and in *The Toy Shop* she portrayed some humble incidents through which he "worked out great projects and developed his own moral point of view" and how the "little warriors" had assisted him "visualize the position of the troops at the front."⁵ Although no name was given, but if her novel was to be believed it was in this tiny shop, and after seeing a toy soldier in the form of "a plain steadfast little captain standing to attention with a sword", where Mr. Lincoln decided to place General Ulysses S. Grant at the head of the Union Army. While this is most unlikely, stranger things have happened in the annals of military history.

Although many of the incidents described by Gerry must have been fictitious, or at least considerably embellished, something must have fired her imagination to write the work. Maybe she was told stories about the President's visits by the shop's aging proprietor, Appolonia, and her assistant, "Miss Kate," both of whom would have been present during the Lincoln forays. Of course, there were also other people who could recall the Chief Executive's outings. Individuals such as the former slave Elizabeth Keckley, who was Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker and chief confidant (see Illus. 4). She remembered that on many an evening she was sent by Mrs. Lincoln "over to the toy shop to tell the President to bring Tad home to his supper...I would find the three of them all wrapped up in the working of some new toy Mr. Stuntz had just gotten from abroad. Mr. Lincoln was as much interested in watching the boy as the boy was in watching the toy. He always sighed when he had to leave."⁶

Once Gerry's story had been published, the flood gates opened and the press were soon printing articles about the small store and the Lincoln incursions. This included visits such as that which supposedly took place during December 1862, just after the Battle of Fredericksburg (in which the Union Army had suffered heavy casualties). Apparently, Tad "amused himself by shooting down little tin soldiers by means of a toy cannon" and seeing "the grim suggestion in the childish play" the President turned to Mr. Stuntz and said: "Does it hurt you as much to have your soldiers shot down as it does me to have mine?"⁷

Yet another White House regular who sometimes accompanied the President was Thomas Pental who was a member of the Chief Executive's personal staff. "Tom Pen" as Tad called him, was a great favorite of the boy and spent that much time with him that he knew better than his father what toys pleased the lad most. Apparently within political circles the fame of the diminutive store was soon secured and it was said "that many a man who wished a favor from the president, bought toys from the Stuntz shop, for little Tad."⁸ As for other Lincoln family members who visited the premises, it is possible that prior to his untimely death on

February 20, 1862, that Tad's slightly older brother, "Little Willie," also crossed the threshold. If so, he may have been accompanied by the eldest of the Lincoln boys, Robert, who towards the end of the war was serving as assistant adjutant on General Grant's immediate staff.

After "Little Willie's" passing, evidence does suggest that the President and Tad did become inseparable and undoubtedly one of their popular haunts was the Stuntz shop. Being only about four blocks from the White House, they would slip out of the mansion's backdoor and could often be seen walking to the little emporium. No doubt, Mr. Lincoln did find its atmosphere relaxing and somewhere where he could temporarily forget his wartime worries and responsibilities. Here, the President and Tad would watch Mr. Stuntz carve his toys and hear stories about serving in Napoleon's Army, and of travel. Evidently Mr. Lincoln and Stuntz became good friends, and he probably was also one of the shop's best customers. This is indicated by the recollections of Major Albert E. Johnson who was a secretary to U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. After the President's assassination the Major recalled that those who were preparing the White House for its new occupants came across an unused upper room full of toys.⁹ No doubt Mr. Lincoln also bought playthings for other children of whom he was fond. Indeed, it was said that the President was "a lover of children" and "used to hold a monthly reception for the boys and girls in the White House..."¹⁰ As for Joseph Stuntz's toys, apparently "they were of the best manufacture and found a ready market amongst the best families of the National Capital." Although he carved other playthings, but being an old soldier, we can only assume that his miniature fighting men were his pride and joy. Besides these, it was said he was also noted for making "batteries of little wooden cannon..."¹¹ But what of his toy soldiers? What did they look like?

Decades ago, when the study of toy soldiers was in its infancy, for guidance researchers had often turned to the superb artwork undertaken by Frank Schoonover to illustrate Margarita Gerry's novel in *Harper's Monthly*. However, being that these pictures did not materialize until 1907, undoubtedly Schoonover based the figures upon those that were readily available during his day, by which time not only were fully rounded lead "solids" commonplace, but even hollow-cast figures had made their debut. However, one author who did not rely on Schoonover's illustrations was Ruth Painter Randall, an American biographer who specialized in the lives of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. In her book *Lincoln's Sons* she said that Joseph especially did "delight in making little wooden soldiers, officers, and men and their equipment of swords, guns, and cannon. Coming from France, he certainly must have carved and painted perfect miniature Zouaves with their red, blue, and gold uniforms."¹² However, whether he did turn out

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any Zouaves is debatable. In fact, in her book she made no attempt to depict Joseph's toy soldiers, and rightfully so. Indeed, it is only since more recent times that we have got a rough idea of what Joseph's little fighting men probably looked like and this is due to five wooden figures which came up for auction at Christie's on December 3, 2010 (see Illus. 5). Of course, not being maker marked it is impossible to say with any certainty that these were made by Stuntz, but being handed down by the Lincoln family over the generations, and due to the Lincoln association, it is most likely. So, what do we know about Joseph, the events which lead to him becoming one of America's early toy soldier makers, and the history of the famous shop where he made them?

He was born on August 10, 1792, in Blundenz in the Tyrol, an Alpine region in Central Europe. Following the defeat of Austria by France in 1805, the area was ceded to Bavaria, which in 1806 became a kingdom in the Confederation of the Rhine; a confederation of Germanic client states established at the behest of Napoleon. Like many others it seems that young Joseph was spellbound by Bonaparte and at the age of twelve he ventured to Paris, where it was said he became apprenticed to "Cadieux," a cabinetmaker to Napoleon at the Tuileries Palace. No doubt it was due to visions of glory that he joined the French Army, but due to his tender age he was given the position of a standard bearer. While serving in the Russian Campaign of 1812 he was wounded in the foot, an injury that was to plague him for the rest of his life.¹³ What he did immediately following the demise of Napoleon is not known. It is unlikely that he returned to the Tuileries Palace because, directly after the Emperor's downfall, its gardens became a large encampment for Russian and Prussian soldiers.¹⁴ In fact, dates seem to suggest that it was during the Restoration era of the French monarchy and during the reign of King Louis Philippe that he decided to migrate to the United States.

The earliest record found regarding his activities in America was in the 1842 Philadelphia Directory which listed him as a cabinetmaker at 76 South Front Street. On July 30, 1844, he filed a "Declaration of Intent" with the Philadelphia court system, but evidently a few years would pass before he was to be granted United States citizenship. The last time he was mentioned as



Illus. 5. Five hand carved wooden soldiers, which were probably turned out by Joseph Stuntz. Each measures approximately 1¼ inches high including base. Two are in naval dress with rifles slung on their shoulders. The other three are in army uniforms. One is in the form of a drummer, but the drumsticks are now missing, one is raising a trumpet to his lips, while the other is shouldering a rifle. All have tiny pistols in holsters at their side. The hand-painting is superb. Each figure has a moustache and a touch of pink on his cheeks. Tunics and trousers have neat white or blue piping and yellow buttons, caps are carefully encircled with yellow gold braid, rifles are in reddish-brown and the carved bases are in green. Given an auction estimate of \$3,000 to \$6,000, on December 3, 2010, they realized the sum of \$13,750. *By courtesy of Christie's.*



Illus. 6. Circa 1913 interior view of the Stuntz shop. *By courtesy of the Library of Congress.*

being in Philadelphia was in the 1846 Directory when working at 343 Callowhill Street.¹⁵ Information regarding his activities after this date becomes somewhat obscure. For instance, at least a couple of early twentieth century press articles tended to suggest that while in Philadelphia he got married, "but the young wife the boy found there died when his baby died, and alone he took to the road again. Mexico allured him and for some years New Orleans knew the skill of the fingers trained in the emperor's service."¹⁶ However, no record has been found regarding such a marriage in Philadelphia and neither has any information come to light about his activities in Mexico or New Orleans. In fact, if he did practice

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his woodworking skills in the Crescent City, his stay must have been short lived because by the early 1850s he had surfaced in Maryland.

It was said that Joseph could speak German, French, Spanish and English, and "wanted to work for no less an employer than the government...He came to Annapolis... and began a great order for furniture to be used for ship fitting out at the navy yard of the old state capital."¹⁷ However, what this work actually entailed is unclear because to the best of the writer's limited knowledge, the only government establishment which was at Annapolis during the period was the United States Naval Academy, established in October 1845. Undoubtedly during this era Joseph must also have ventured to Baltimore. Indeed, it was in Baltimore and at the Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church where he married Appolonia Koch on August 21, 1852. Appolonia had been born on August 15, 1810, in the Bad Durkheim region of the Kingdom of Bavaria and had arrived in the United States around 1840 and maybe with other family members. Undoubtedly, she was not the only member of the Koch family living in America. As for Joseph, the last record found of him being in Baltimore was on June 10, 1856, when he was granted United States nationality at the United States District Court.¹⁸

What then followed we can only surmise, but the general consensus of the press was that while working on his ship furnishings Joseph's old war wound in his foot reopened and unable to continue, he and his wife decided to relocate to Washington. The property which they moved into was 375 New York Avenue. Nevertheless, there is some conflicting evidence as regards when they took up residency. One particular source says that the property was "built by Ulysses Ward, who bought the land on Oct. 14, 1840, for \$157...In 1847, Ward leased the place to Joseph and Apolonia (sic) Stuntz...The couple converted it into a shop."¹⁹ If correct, this possibly indicates that where Joseph did work on his ship furnishings was not at Annapolis, but the Washington Navy Yard. However, where this information was gleaned is not known because it most certainly contradicts all other sources. In fact, all the early twentieth century newspapers seemed to have been in agreement that Joseph had "entered Washington in 1855, the same year the Japanese nation...entered into its place among the great nations of the world", but in Washington the opening of the "Toy shop" was regarded "as the greater event."²⁰ Yet even this date is open to question. Evidently it was not until around 1860 when the Washington trade directories began listing Joseph and his "dry goods" shop. Of course, not all businesses were immediately included in such publications and by this date the tiny emporium may have been well established. By 1862 the directories were referring to the place as a "fancystore."²¹

Built of brick and situated in a row of what once were small dwelling houses, whether Joseph and Appolonia converted

the ground floor themselves into a store has not been determined. The shop itself took the form of a long tunnel (see Illus. 6), and next to it was a small back room where Joseph, with his leg propped-up on a stool to relieve the old war wound in his foot, would carve his toys (see Illus. 7). However, making playthings may not have been an entirely new phenomenon for him. Being born and bred in the Tyrol "where forests abound, there the peasants" spent "much of their time in making toys."²² Maybe Joseph's family, amongst other carpentry endeavors, had carved toys for a living, and if so, it was in his blood.

Of course, besides playthings the tiny emporium also sold other commodities. While Joseph added to the store's notoriety with his toys, Appolonia also furthered the shop's fame with her culinary skills, and it was said that even the North and South united on the matter of her "taffy."²³ She was also a very patient lady and made a specialty of her penny counter for the young ones. On this counter, and besides tasty candies, were numerous small toys. Apparently, it would take hours for those who had wheeled pennies out of their parents to decide how to invest their money. Indeed, taking everything into consideration, it seems that Appolonia may have been the one with the business head on her shoulders. In fact, whether the



Illus. 7. Early twentieth century cartoon of Mr. Stuntz working on his toys. Evidently the cartoonist had not heard about Joseph resting his foot on a stool. This illustration, amongst others, appeared in *The Detroit Free Press* on December 22, 1907, p. 56.

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Illus. 8. Charcoal on paper sketch of the toy shop by Schoonover. Under the caption of “The Tall Man Hurried Out”, this picture accompanied Margarita Spalding Gerry’s story in *Harper’s Monthly Magazine*. Note that the signage above the premises reads “J. STUNTZ.” No doubt Schoonover automatically assumed that during Joseph’s day the shop would have borne his name, but evidence tends to suggest otherwise. By courtesy of the Norman Rockwell Museum.

signage above the premises ever read “J. STUNTZ” (Illus. 8) is open to question because evidence suggests that throughout the store’s existence it displayed “A. STUNTZ” (Illus. 9).

Because the shop was situated in the heart of the residential part of Washington, it seems to have been within walking distance for most. When Joseph and Appolonia had first arrived in the city it was by no means a vibrant place, but all this was to change following the outbreak of hostilities. The loyal states rushed troops to the area and over the next four years many thousands more would follow. The city’s population grew dramatically, and all this began to give Washington an air of Yankee bustle and trade.²⁴

Of course, all this would have had an impact on the tiny shop. Undoubtedly its clientele increased greatly and besides its regular customers, including members of the judiciary and other government departments, it would also have become frequented by visiting army and navy officers and politicians who were eager to buy presents for their little folk back home. Thus, it is possible that some of Joseph’s wooden fighting men found their way far beyond the borders of the District of Columbia. No doubt his woodworking capabilities were unable to keep up with demand because it became “necessary for the wise-managing wife to add to their stock with toys from Baltimore, imported from the old country.”²⁵



Illus. 9. A turn of the century photograph of the Stuntz shop. The property had a frontage of 14.4 feet and a depth of 83.3 feet. By courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Referring back to Gerry’s story, she said that due to Joseph’s deteriorating health he had to take to his bed, which he insisted on being brought downstairs and placed in the back room of the shop. One of the reasons given for this was that he did not want to be “banished from the children’s domain.” He still wished to see the children buying their toys. If Gerry’s novel was to be believed it was whilst bedridden in the back room where he greeted the President for the very last time. The war had drawn to a “victorious conclusion” and the Chief Executive thanked Joseph, saying “you can never know from what you saved me - you and the toy-shop.” The President then handed Joseph a parcel, which contained a toy soldier in the form of a Napoleonic color-bearer. The story implied that Mr. Lincoln had found this little figure in the “conquered city...” (Illus. 10). Of course, the novel ended on a sad note, with news arriving in the shop of the President’s assassination.

Nevertheless, undoubtedly many of the incidents above described were fictitious. Although there was probably an element of truth about Joseph having his bed placed in the back room of the store, but this was probably due to the deteriorating condition of his ancient war wound. He was no longer capable of climbing the stairs. Yet as for him being visited by Mr. Lincoln following the “victorious conclusion” of the war, this must have been pure fiction because by 1865 evidence suggests that Joseph had passed away.

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He was buried in Saint Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery and although the date on his grave reads "April 25, 1867,"²⁶ all other sources suggest that "he died in 1864, before the close of the war..."²⁷ In fact, the date of 1864 is even indicated by browsing through the Washington trade directories.²⁸

No doubt due to his declining health Joseph had not carved any playthings for quite a while, but the fame of the shop continued. Naturally after his death the entire business passed into the capable hands of his loyal wife, Appolonia (Illus. 11). Around 1868-1869 the property was renumbered 1207 New York Avenue, Northwest.²⁹ As in previous years, the little emporium continued to be frequented by noteworthy individuals. It was said that all of President Andrew Johnson's grandchildren and his twelve-year-old son "knew where to buy toys." Likewise, the families of President Grant, General Sherman, President Hayes and President Garfield all crossed the threshold.³⁰

Over the years Appolonia had become a personal friend to many of the city's high society and to oblige her customers she was even prepared to post items to distant parts. Yet despite the celebrity status of her clientele, the little shop never grew opulent or lent itself to the air of a big store, but evidently it always did a brisk business. Indeed, even by 1870 it seems that Appolonia had purchased the property off Ulysses Ward and besides the value of the real estate of two thousand eight hundred dollars, she had also amassed personal assets totaling three thousand dollars.³¹ Purported to have been the oldest storekeeper in Washington, on April 19, 1901, she passed away. The ensuing funeral procession proceeded from the little shop to St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery, where her remains were interred with those of Joseph's.³² Maybe this was when the discrepancy emerged as regards to the date of Joseph's death on the memorial.

In her last will and testament dated August 7, 1889, Appolonia had bequeathed a life interest in her entire



Illus. 10. Oil on canvas painting by Schoonover which accompanied Margarita Spalding Gerry's story in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*. It depicts the bed stricken Joseph greeting the President for the last time. Note that Stuntz is holding a toy soldier in the form of a Napoleonic color-bearer, an item which Mr. Lincoln had found in the "conquered city..." However, this incident appears to have been pure fiction on Gerry's part.



Illus. 11. Image of Appolonia Stuntz from *The Boston Sunday Globe*, Sunday, December 22, 1907, page 42.



Illus. 12. The person pictured in the doorway may be Miss Kate France, the "Toy Lady." Apparently she did not have the patience of Appolonia and would try to hurry the children up. Illustration from the *Greeley County Republican*, Tribune, Kansas, Friday, February 11, 1910, p. 1.

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estate to her assistant, Miss Kate France, upon whose death everything was then to be sold, and the proceeds go to St. Mary's Catholic Church. However, her brother, Anthony Koch, contested the will stating that at the time the document was executed his sister was "not of sound mind and capable of making a contract" and it was written "under undue influence of some person or persons unknown."³³ Nevertheless, apparently the case was dismissed because "Miss Kate" did become the shop's new proprietor (Illus. 12). She had grown up with the business and was probably the "little clerk" who Margarita Spalding Gerry referred to in her story as staring "with mouth open at the big man who played with toys." This is an incident which supposedly took place during one of the Lincoln visits when the President marshaled huge amounts of toy soldiers and cannon on the shop counter.

Various referred to as Catherine or Katherine France in official documents, she had been born on March 15,

1850, in Frankfort am Main. The daughter of John and Maria Frantz, the family had migrated from Germany to the United States in 1858 and apparently settled in Washington. Her father may have been the carpenter listed at 377 New York Avenue.³⁴ It is difficult to say what was the relationship between Mrs. Stuntz and Miss France. Undoubtedly "Miss Kate" was more than just an employee. Some press reports indicated that Appolonia was her guardian while others suggested that Appolonia had adopted her.

In 1909 and under Miss France's tenure it was said that a good deal of attention was paid to the shop "during and directly preceding the celebration of the Lincoln centenary..." In fact, outwardly the tiny emporium had changed little since the Civil War and even the signage above the door continued to read "A. STUNTZ." Yet the commodities on the shelves did slightly differ. While toys continued to be sold, the passing of Appolonia did spell the end of the culinary delicacies and in their stead were "spools of cotton, tape, darning thread and other notions." Nevertheless, the Washington notability continued to visit, including the lawyer and politician James Rudolph Garfield whose children "loved the place..." On one occasion he went in to buy toy soldiers, probably for one of his sons, but to his dismay: "Wonderful leaded soldiers were produced," as they were now made in Germany. Evidently, they were not to his liking because he cried: "Wooden soldiers - I want wooden soldiers that come in a box that I had when I was a boy."³⁵ However, not being born in Ohio until October 17, 1865, indicates that the wooden soldiers of which he reminisced could not have been made by Joseph Stuntz.

On August 25, 1913, at the age of sixty-three, Miss France died in the apartment above the store "of heart disease, after an illness of several weeks." Her funeral took place on August 27, and: "Hundreds of children with tear-wet eyes mourned...the passing of Miss Kate, the 'Toy Lady,' whose funeral drew them to St. Mary's Church." Her remains were interned in the church's cemetery. She had been associated with the little emporium for over half a century and may have been the last person living who personally witnessed the Lincoln visits and the President's toy soldier play. While the death of "Miss Kate" did spell the end of the

ADAM A. WESCHLER, AUCTIONEER.

Executor's sale of the entire stock of Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings, Dry Goods, Notions, Toys, Fixtures, Etc., contained in store No. 1207 New York ave. N. W., known as the "Lincoln Toy Shop."

By virtue of authority vested in the undersigned by the last will and testament of Appolonia Stuntz, deceased, the undersigned executor will sell by public auction as a whole, within the above premises, on **FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1913, AT HALF-PAST TEN O'CLOCK A.M.,** stock of Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings, Dry Goods, Notions, Ribbons, Toys, Fixtures, Show Cases, Wall Cases, etc.

Terms: Cash.

THOMAS E. McARDLE, Executor.
D. W. BAKER, Attorney,
 No. 410 5th st. n.w. se19-d&ds,eSu

Illus. 13. Notification for the auction of all the stock, fixtures and fittings of the "Lincoln Toy Shop" which appeared on page 16, of *The Evening Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Monday, September 22, 1913.

MERCHANDISE—Small stock, consisting of dry goods, notions, toys and games; also counters, shelving, show cases and gas lighting fixtures: must be sold at once. Lincoln Toy Shop, 1207 New York ave. 24*

Illus. 14. The auction which was held on September 26, 1913, for the contents of the erstwhile "Lincoln Toy Shop" could not have been entirely successful because on page 18 of the October 24, edition of *The Evening Star* this advertisement appeared.

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toy shop, the actual building was to survive for another couple of decades.³⁶

As stipulated in Appolonia Stuntz's last will and testament, upon the death of Miss France the entire estate was to be sold and the proceeds go to St. Mary's Catholic Church, but it was rumored that a nephew of Appolonia's who lived in New Orleans (probably George Koch) was to "contest the instruction." Nevertheless, on September 26, 1913, the shop's entire stock, fixtures and fittings came up for auction – (Illus. 13). Yet the sale could not have been entirely successful because on October 24, an advertisement appeared for merchandise that was still left on the premises (Illus. 14). On November 6, the real-estate itself came up for auction and eventually passed into the hands of Achille E. Burklin, the proprietor of the Lerch cleaning establishment, who paid twelve thousand one hundred dollars for the place.³⁷

By this date the property was in a sorry state and "the only reminders of the days of Lincoln" were dirty and dingy shelving and frayed strips of yellow wallpaper which hung from the ceiling and walls. The plan of the new owner was merely "to remove the traces of age with paint and paper and offer the place for rent."³⁸ The tenant who took up residency was Lee Lung who ran a Chinese laundry at nearby 1217 New York Avenue. The last time Mr. Lung was recorded as operating from the erstwhile toy shop was in 1919 (Illus. 15). After this the property was used by the Lerch French Dyeing & Cleaning Company, but for just how long is difficult to say because in August 1923, the owner of the firm, Achille E. Burklin, passed away.³⁹ Nevertheless, despite the building's new found role in the city's commerce, it still remained somewhat of a tourist attraction and many Washingtonians still continued to refer to the place as "Lincoln's Toy Shop." Yet even during its heyday the store was never officially called a "Toy Shop," let alone "Lincoln's Toy Shop."

Since around 1912 rumors had been afoot that the property was to be demolished, and the area



Illus. 15. Post 1913 image of 1207 New York Avenue when operating under the proprietorship of Lee Lung as a Chinese Laundry. By courtesy of the Library of Congress.

redeveloped. The end finally came in November 1933, when the structure was torn down. On December 6, certain members of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia held a meeting and during the proceedings a Mr. Proctor presented them with "an old brick from the front wall of the Lincoln Toy Shop..."⁴⁰ Just how many similar relics have survived, if any, is not known, but what could better to supplement any collection of Civil War era playthings than a souvenir from Lincoln's Toy Shop?

Notes

2. *The Washington Herald*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, November 9, 1913, p. 5.
3. Margarita Spalding Gerry, *The Toy-Shop*, in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, Vol. CXVI, No. DCXCI, December 1907, Harper and Brothers, New York City, pp. 3-15.
4. *The Evening Star Part 3*, Washington, District of Columbia, Saturday, December 19, 1908, p. 6.
5. *The Springfield Leader*, Springfield, Missouri, Tuesday, November 19, 1907, p. 3; *The Topeka Daily State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, Saturday, December 7, 1912, p. 15.
6. *The Washington Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Monday,

1. *The Wilson Echo*, Wilson, Kansas, Thursday, March 11, 1909, p. 4.

September 2, 1912, p. 6. Although the press referred to "Elizabeth Kechley (sic)" as "a maid", she was actually Mary Todd Lincoln's seamstress and chief confidant.

7. *Greeley County Republican*, Tribune, Kansas, Friday, February 11, 1910, p. 1.

8. *Ibid.*, also *Fall River Globe*, Fall River, Massachusetts, Saturday, March 23, 1918, p. 7.

9. *The Sunday Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 51.

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10. *The Springfield Union*, Springfield, Massachusetts, Monday Evening, February 12, 1934, p. 12.

11. *The Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, April 21, 1901, p. 7; *The Sunday Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, December 27, 1914, p. 48.

12. Ruth Painter Randall, *Lincoln's Sons*, Little, Brown & Company Ltd., Boston and Toronto, 1955, p. 180.

13. *The Sunday Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, November 26, 1933, p. 75; *Fall River Daily Globe*, Fall River, Massachusetts, Saturday, March 23, 1918, p. 7.

14. Emmanuel Jacquin, *Les Tuileries, Du Louvre à la Concorde*, Editions du Patrimoine, Centres des Monuments Nationaux, Paris, 2000, pp. 24-27.

15. See Joseph Stuntz in the *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Naturalization Records, 1789-1880*, and the *Pennsylvania and New Jersey, U.S., Church and Town Records, 1669-2013*. Of all the *A. M'Elroy's Philadelphia Directories* checked from 1820 to 1858, Joseph Stuntz only appeared in those for 1842 (p. 260) and 1846 (p. 349).

16. *The Detroit Free Press*, Detroit, Michigan, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 56; *The Sunday Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 51.

17. Ibid.

18. See Apollinia (sic) Koch in 1852 *Baltimore Roman Catholic Parish Marriages, Park Avenue & Saratoga Street, Maryland, United States*, and Joseph Stuntz in the *U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes 1794-1880*.

19. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2003/dec/19/20031219-07> *Toy store brightens Lincoln's dark days*. The bedrock for this online article, was a piece which originally appeared in the *Washington Times* on December 19, 2003. However, where the person who wrote the article obtained his information is unclear. Undoubtedly it contradicts many other sources.

20. All newspapers of the day which reported on the issue were in agreement that Joseph Stuntz had "entered Washington in 1855..." The quote cited here is from *The Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 25.

21. *Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory*, compiled by William H. Boyd, Washington, D.C., 1860, p. 258, and that of 1862, p. 166. Other Washington directories checked by the writer were for the years 1846, 1850, 1853, 1855, and 1858.

22. *Weekly Patriot and Union*, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Thursday, August 17, 1865, p. 3.

23. *The Detroit Free Press*, Detroit, Michigan, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 56.

24. Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington 1860-1865*, Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1941, pp. 83-84.

25. *The Detroit Free Press*, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 56.

26. See Joseph Stuntz in the *U.S. Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current*.

27. Several newspapers of the early twentieth century were in agreement that Joseph Stuntz had died in 1864. That quoted is from *The Inola Register*, Inola, Oklahoma, Thursday, January 21, 1909, p. 3.

28. See *Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directories*, 1864 (p. 258), 1866 (p. 368), 1867 (p. 535). 1868 (p. 421).

29. *Boyd's Directory of Washington and Georgetown*, 1869, p. 268.

30. *The Kansas City Star*, Kansas City, Missouri, Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 25.

31. See Apollonia (sic) Stuntz in the *1870 United States Federal Census*.

32. *The Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, April 21, 1901, p. 7. See also Apollonia Stuntz in the *U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600-Current*.

33. *The Times*, Washington, Tuesday, April 23, 1901, p. 8; Ibid., Saturday, May 25, 1901, p. 2; *The Evening Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Saturday, May 25, 1901, p. 6; *The Times*, Wednesday, June 19, 1901, p. 8.

34. See Catharine (sic) France, *U.S. Census 1900*, Washington, D.C. *The Washington Times*, Washington, District of Columbia, Tuesday, August 26, 1913, p. 7. See also various documents under the names of John Frantz, Maria Frantz, and Rhinhold France at Ancestry.com

35. *The Sunday Star*, Washington, Sunday, December 27, 1914, p. 48, Ibid., Sunday, December 22, 1907, p. 51.

36. *The Washington Times*, Tuesday, August 26, 1913, p. 7; *The Evening Star*, Washington, District of Columbia, Wednesday, August 27, 1913, p. 16; The Sun, Baltimore, Maryland, Thursday, August 28, 1913, p. 5.

37. The Washington Times, Tuesday, August 26, 1913, p. 7; *The Evening Star*, Washington, Monday, September 22, 1913, p. 16; Ibid., Friday, October 24, 1913, p. 18; Ibid., Saturday, November 1, 1913, p. 18; The *Washington Herald*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, November 9, 1913, p. 5; *The Washington Post*, Washington, District of Columbia, Sunday, December 7, 1913, p. 3.

38. *The Washington Herald*, November 9, 1913, p. 5.

39. Various issues from 1913 to 1923 of *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia*. For information on the Lerch French Dyeing & Cleaning Company and the death of Achille E. Burklin see the *Evening Star*, Washington, Monday, August 20, 1923, p. 7; Ibid., Thursday, August 13, 1925, p. 10.

40. Ibid., Thursday, December 7, 1933, p. A-12.

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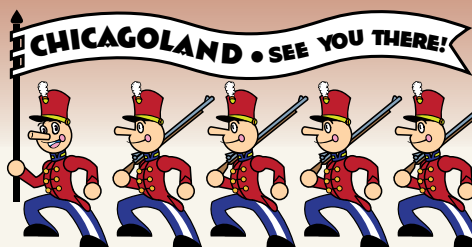
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PRODUCT REVIEW



Regal Toy Soldiers

BY ROB WILSON

While on a recent touring holiday in New Zealand, visiting the Auckland War Memorial Museum, I came across a new (to me) brand of Toy Soldiers. I was immediately attracted to a large cabinet filled with a huge range of 54mm figures. At first I thought I was looking at the well known New Zealand manufactured figures marketed under the Imperial brand name. I had hoped to arrange a visit to that company's premises, but unfortunately (for me at least) they had picked the same time to take a break and were away until the end of this year. I was therefore pleased to at least find some toy soldiers to admire. However, on closer inspection, I realised that these were by some other maker. Enquiries with the museum staff revealed that they were produced by Regal Enterprises, a separate company, also based in Greytown, New Zealand.

Regal have been producing toy soldiers since 1992. Although a key focus had been on New Zealand, they now offer an extensive range of figures, covering many countries and historical periods.

The sculpting of the figures is excellent, and anatomically correct. Nevertheless, these are toy soldiers, with robust weaponry rather than the rather more delicate arms carried by their Imperial cousins. The paint style is very similar to that of Imperial, but slightly less detailed.

I was particularly taken by their artillery sets, as well as many of the British Colonial campaigns. Those interested in the history of New Zealand, including the period before the discovery of the country by Western explorers, will find much to admire and amuse. The culture clash between the British colonists and



**Regal New Zealand
Camel Corps Officer,
Sinai, and Palestinian
campaign, 1917**

the Māoris is well represented, as well as the earlier clash between the Māoris and the preceding inhabitants such as the giant, flightless Moa birds (sadly now extinct!).

I purchased a Camel Corps figure which goes very nicely with my small collection of Lawrence of Arabia figures by Somerset.

Some of the vast range of figures produced by Regal (from top to bottom, left to right: Māori vs. Moa; Māori Haka; US Mexican War; Victorian Rocket and Artillery teams; Great War Austrian infantry and NZ Camel Corps in Sinai; and Māoris serving in the 8th Army, North Africa, 1941)



Regal sell their figures in a number of stores in NZ, including the Te Papa (the National Museum of New Zealand), the Kerikeri Mission Station, and the Stone Store, the oldest store in NZ dating from 1832.

They also ship their figures all over the world, and offer free shipping on orders over NZ \$500.00. Otherwise they charge a flat shipping rate of NZ \$60.00. Figures can be shipped through NZ International Courier Post with tracking & insurance. Currently the exchange rate is NZ\$1= \$0.59.

For U.S. collectors Breagan, based in Texas, carries some of their figures. See the link below.

Regal Enterprises Toy Soldier Designer/Producer | Breagans

The full range is on display at:

<https://regaltoysoldiers.com/>

If you have any other questions Regal can be contacted directly at: regaltoysoldiers@gmail.com

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The Last Samurai

By Gisbert Freber

While I was reorganizing my collection of flat figures, I recently came across a series of Asians. I took the opportunity to take a closer look at them. The usual questions immediately came to mind. When and where does the scene take place, what does it represent? Where and when were the figures produced and who could have made them?

But let's take things one at a time. The figures have a typical Japanese hairstyle and are dressed in the fashion of the 1900s. The scene takes place outdoors, apparently in a park. Is it any park scene or a specific park? I couldn't match the buildings to any model. I couldn't see anything typical about them either. The monument looks curious to me.



The Last Samurai

CONTINUED

His coat looks like that it probably represents a monk? But walking with a dog and carrying a weapon? After some research on the Internet, I came across the original of the monument. The bronze statue still stands in Tokyo's Ueno Park and represents the samurai Saigo Takamori. One of the people in a black coat and top hat appears to be pointing to the monument and I suspect that this series of figures represents the inauguration of the monument in 1898. The life and the entire historical story of Saigo Takamori, who is referred to as the last real samurai, attracted attention far beyond Japan's borders even at that time. In our time, for example, he also provided part of the basis for the film "The Last Samurai" with Tom Cruise.



Saigo Takamori was very influential and is often called the last true samurai. He had many talents, for example he founded a military academy, led 15,000 Japanese fighters in the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877 and also published poems under the name Saigo

Nanshu. He was a very exciting personality and his life story inspired many people around the world, including me.

The flat-figures, the carriage and the buildings, are very reminiscent of the products of the New York Toy manufacturer Peter Pia of that time. The engraving style, the proportions, the feel of the figures and also the painting point in this direction. I was able to acquire the figures a few years ago at the Chicago Show. If a reader can provide any further information or insights about these figures, I would be happy to hear from you.



The Last Samurai

CONTINUED

Ever keen to ensure the authenticity of his articles, Gisbert travelled to Japan to check out a few details! He sent in these last minute additions.

While on a trip to Japan I decided to try to find out more about Saigo. First, I tracked down his statue in Tokyo. Here is the real thing!



I followed this up with a trip to Kagoshima, where he lived. Here I found another monument celebrating Saigo Takamori. The size is 230 inch and illustrates his importance. He was 70 inches tall, which in 1860 was more than 8 inches taller than the average height of Japanese men. In Kagoshima there is also a very interesting museum about the Meiji Restoration, in which he played an important role. This museum also had information which enabled me possibly to identify the man in the frock coat and top hat as Okubo Toshimichi. The following two images provide further interesting information on both characters.



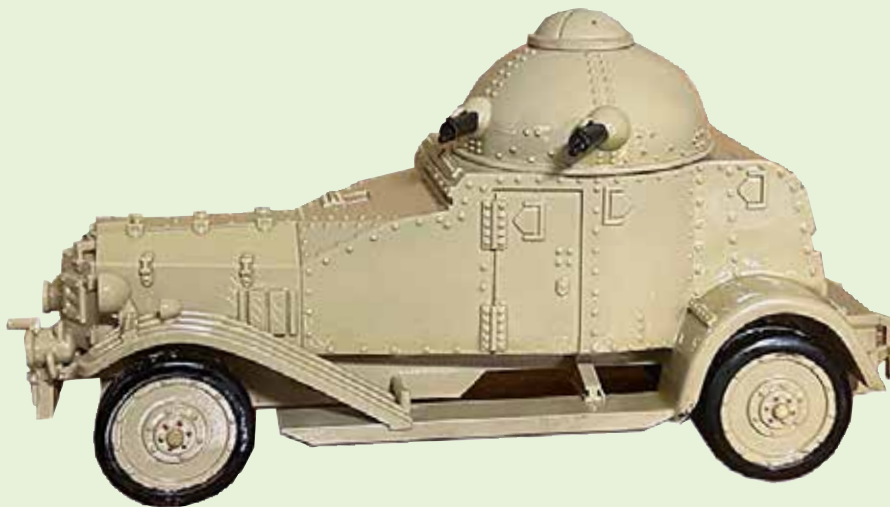
Replica Models AFV Range

BY ROB WILSON

The name Replica Models will be familiar to many of our readers. Started by Pat Campbell (sadly no longer with us), the reins were taken up by Andrew Stephenson in 2018. At first Andrew focussed on continuing the range of figures that Pat had developed, including the British in India, Medieval Knights and many more. More recently Andrew has expanded the range considerably, including b-size to complement Britains and the Kingcast series (sculpted by Peter Cowan).

In 2024 Andrew introduced an exciting new range of 1/32 vehicles. I have long admired the superb series of vehicles produced by Colin Burkill. His CJB range focussed on the British Army in the 1920s and 1930s. In the opinion of many, these were some of the best models of military vehicles ever produced. Sadly, Colin only got around to supplying his miniature army with very limited armoured support.

PRODUCT REVIEW



This gap has now been filled with Andrew's excellent models. These include various tanks and armoured cars, all to the same constant 1/32 scale adopted by Colin. The new range is made of 3D printed resin rather than metal, but given their size these vehicles still have a satisfying heft when handled.



Currently the range includes the following 8 AFVs:

- Vickers Light Tank, Mk 2 and Mk 6
- Vickers Medium Tank, Mk 1 and Mk 2
- Rolls Royce (2 different versions), Crossley and Lanchester Armoured Cars

These are shown in the accompanying images.

In the 1920s, Britain (along with France) probably led the world in the development of armoured fighting vehicles and the mechanisation of the army. These models, along with Colin's excellent range, now enable collectors to reproduce this in miniature to support their 54mm scale soldiers as they progressed from horse drawn to petrol power.

The accompanying images illustrate some of these exciting new models.



For further information and to place orders go to the following website:
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- 3) the revised ***Regiments of All Nations 1946-1966***, now contains 500 color photos and 415 pages.

All three books are user-friendly and provide an annotated catalog of Britains military and civilian lines. They describe color schemes, changes in sets' configuration, years they appeared, Company History, Identification Hints, Glossary, and Index/Finding Aid.

Prices, including postage, for these hardcover books:

Soldiers of Greater Britain is \$75 for U.S. orders, \$105 for Canada and \$130 overseas; ***Armies of the World*** costs \$89 for U.S. orders, \$135 to Canada and \$165 overseas; and ***Regiments of All Nations*** costs \$60 for U.S. orders, \$90 to Canada, and \$115 overseas.

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Miscellaneous Sports Figures

By Will Beierwaltes

Britains "Mini set" 1:42nd scale #1131: footballers in plastic ca. 1970 with illustrated box.



Two different poses of 65mm "Keymen" footballers.



CBG Mignot French national Team Footballers. This set was produced in 2019 to celebrate France winning the world cup.

Miscellaneous Sports Figures

CONTINUED

65 mm footballer in white
(far left) unknown.



The next 6 are 60 mm variations of Cartwright Footballers. (See Norman Joplin's Great Book of Hollowcast Figures, page 63). The original Cartwright footballers had a bent wire out of the top of their heads that connected to the kicking mechanism. This apparently was simplified to just an extended trigger on the back of the kicking leg to hit the ball.



Three variations of Footballers who kick when the wire in their head is pressed. Note the different bases. The two on the left could be Cartwright, but the bases are completely different.

The 3 60 mm Footballers on the right are from a German post-war soccer game which includes a cloth field, goals and goalies. Note the figure on the far right has his foot turned in the proper kicking position so as not to "toe" the ball.



Plastic 65 mm American Baseball Players. The figures are unmarked but are probably cheap Japanese toys, sometimes used as cake decorations.

A plastic basketball game (of unknown origin) in which the players shoot the ball from between their legs (à la Wilt Chamberlin) when a small button on their head is depressed.



RECONNAISSANCE

More Sports Figures

Following on from Will's piece, here are a few more sports figures spotted on eBay and other sites.



CBG Mignot Soccer team and Water skiing diorama sets sold in the April OTS auction



Elastolin Olympians - probably made to commemorate the 1936 Olympics?



RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)

eBay Find - German Mechanical Tin Soldier

The following images illustrate an unusual find on eBay. This 6" tin plate figure was offered for sale without reserve in March. It was finally knocked down to the winning bidder for \$300. Wearing an accurate representation of a WWII Wehrmacht uniform, the lever mechanism makes the figure move the rifle to port /inspect arms. Pressing again returns it to its original position. The toy showed little or no playwear. The only markings are the German minor patent DRGM (just below the soldier's belt). Does any reader know any more about it?



American Dimestore Silent Auctions

By Stan Alekna

Some of our readers have complained that there is not enough American Dimestore material in recent issues of the magazine. This is not due to any editorial policy but rather reflects the balance of articles submitted. For those who still delight in this aspect of the hobby, please “put pen to paper” and let us hear your thoughts.

Regular contributor Stan Alekna is always on the lookout for material on American Dimestores. The results of his labours are contained in this new article, which reflects his continuing search for interesting variants and anecdotal information that he believes might be of interest to fellow collectors. Over to Stan.....



Several years ago, I stopped mailing my Dimestore mail order/catalog because the increasing mailing and printing costs made it prohibitive. At the suggestion of several advanced Dimestore collectors I began issuing American Dimestore Silent Auctions every 1-2 months starting in 2015.

The average auction contains 15-20, top condition items and most include some rare figures and vehicles. A partial list of some items that have been sold via recent auctions follows:

- M88 gray parachutist
- M61a stewardess in khaki
- BA5 giant zeppelin
- B244A Red podfoot pilot
- Large, unlisted Gey Iron covered wagon, team and driver
- Arcade tank and cannon
- Both M58a stretchers marked #32
- TT19 Tommy Toy Tom Tom the Piper's Son
- B137 Ski trooper in brown
- M95 banjo player
- M121 Hot Papa in white
- Barclay unlisted zepher train
- BV175 Two-piece fuel tanker
- B255A Red podfoot wounded
- G2A Grey Iron flag bearer, flag in musket
- Barclay circus wagon
- Barclay horse drawn milk wagon
- BV64 Steam roller
- AMV1 Tank, flame touching hull

And hundreds more.!!



American Dimestore Silent Auctions

CONTINUED

The auction format is as follows:

All items are fully described in an email using O'Brien's numbers and rated as to % paint with two, close-up photos of each figure. Most items are 98% or better.

The starting (minimum) bid for each item is listed. Bidding is by email or phone, and you can bid as often as you like, but to be fair, I will not disclose where your bid(s) stand in relation to other bids. I pay for shipping and insurance for total winnings of \$100 or more. \$6.00 postage is added to the invoice for total winnings under \$100. Refunds are provided for any item returned within 10 days of the buyer's receipt of the item. I have never had an item returned from any auction. Payment is by personal check only.

Each auction has a stated closing date around 10-14 days after issuance. All bidders are advised via email of the winning amounts **for those items that they bid on**, within two days after the closing date of the auction. There are no fees or other auction charges and no obligations to bid on any auctions.

You can be added to the bidders' list simply by sending Stan your email address.

Here's a chance to acquire some of those rare Dimestore figures and upgrades that you have been looking for.

Stan Alekna
email: salekna1936@yahoo.com
phone: (717-228-2361)



The following are photos of just a few of the items that have recently been sold at auction.

American Dimestore Silent Auctions CONTINUED



OBITUARY - JOHN CUPMAN

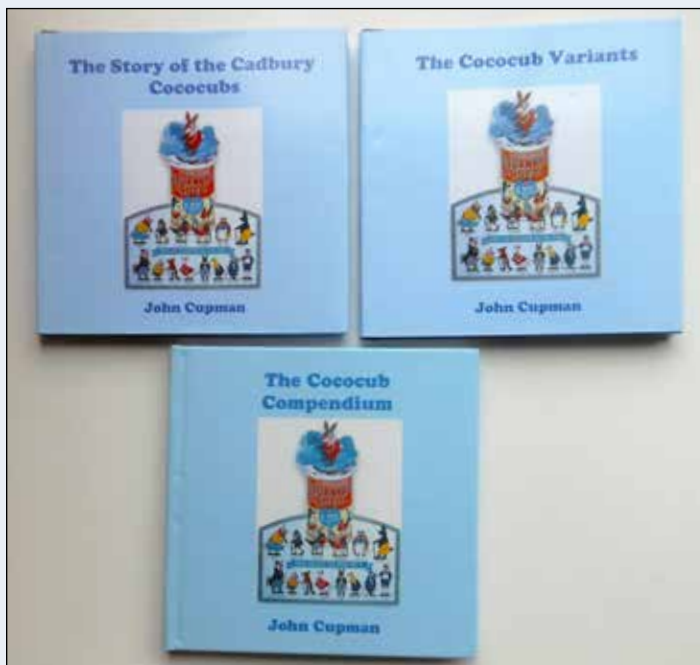
By Norman Joplin

John was an avid toy figure collector, researcher and author. He concentrated on collecting non military figures, with a particular emphasis on Cowboys and Indians, however it was Britains Cadbury Cococubs that were his special interest. John authored two independently published reference books on the "Cubs" and visited the Cadbury factory in Birmingham UK to get firsthand experience and data for his research.

He was also a regular contributor to Old Toy Soldier magazine, with recently published articles on Hopalong Cassidy and Keymen Footballers.



John with his wife Sue



John's love of the Chicago Toy Soldier show turned into one of his favourite toy soldier trips, attending and making many toy soldier friends in the U.S.

In a hobby full of nice people, John was top of the list.

John Cupman, 29th September 1955 - 21st March 2025 - RIP.

Old Soldiers Never Die

By Norman Cuthbert

I love to get outdoors and do yard work, including cutting our grass. My wife is always telling an old guy like me to get someone else to do the work. To me it's fresh air and great exercise!

A few weeks ago I was getting a lot done and started the lawns on our median. On the first of three passes I noticed what I thought was a big bug about two feet away on the road. On the third and last pass it looked like a piece of metal. Picking it up I realized it was a figurine.



The mangled remains of a tin soldier!

It was in terrible shape having been run over numerous times. Not knowing of anyone in my neighbourhood that collected, I was astounded that this figure was in front of our house!

My first thought was to throw it into the recycling bin or maybe my casting oven. I finished cutting the grass then took it up to my studio for further examination. It sat there for some time before a close examination with a magnifying glass.

The head was missing as well as the upper part of the rifle, left foot and base crushed and folded under the feet. See the two photos showing it's initial condition. I decided to try and restore this piece little by little knowing it might take some time. It was impossible to identify the manufacturer but appeared to be a WW1 infantry figure in battle dress.

An average of an hour twice a week was spent to carefully scrape off the dirt and ingrained tar and gravel pieces. The base had to be cut off to preserve the right foot. Once the scraping process was complete, I used a sharp exacto knife to increase to definition around pockets, collar and belts. A new base was added as well as a left foot. A new head was added next, as well as the top portion of the rifle.

The figure was set aside then prime painted with white acrylic paint. A week later the initial flesh tone was painted on face and hands. A few days later I added the eyes and mouth colors then the basic uniform khaki. The following week I painted the equipment, belts, buttons, boots and rifle and set aside to dry. The base was painted last.

I decided to make the figure a field hospital guard WW1 and now he stands on the shelf with all the pretty nurses!



The restored figure

Happy modelling everyone, Norman Cuthbert

About the author:

Norman has been collecting and making figures for over 59 years. He is a member of the Ontario Model Soldier Society (OMSS) and the South Carolina Military Miniature Society (SCMMS)

SHOW REPORT

West Coaster Show - March 9th 2025

The annual West Coaster show took place in a new venue this year - the DoubleTree by Hilton in Buena Park, CA (conveniently situated in a central location to Los Angeles, Pasadena, Irvine, Long Beach, and Ontario!).



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As usual, it showcased a diverse collection of both new and vintage, metal and plastic toy soldiers from around the world. Punters could find Britains, Playsets, Marx, King and Country, GI Joe, John Jenkins, Elastolin, Dinstore, Timpo, Conte, Barzso, as well as military books, prints, and more. Room Trading took place on Friday and Saturday.

Various reports suggest a successful event with many happy attendees. Matt Murphy, the show organizer, provided the accompanying images. Overall, there were almost 300 participants this year and 70 dealer tables. Matt is hoping to arrange the same location for 2026.

Please send any feedback to
matt@hobbybunker.com

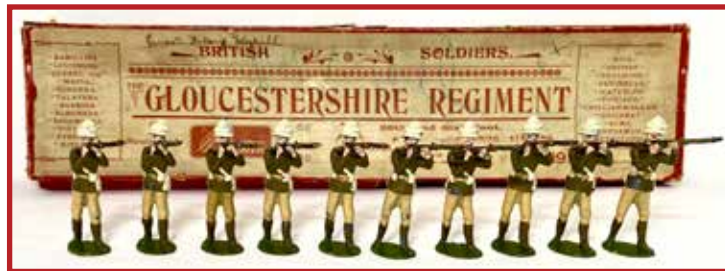


SHOW REPORT (Continued)





Britains RARE #96 York & Lancaster Regiment \$4300



Britains RARE #119 Gloucestershire Regiment \$2800



Britains #11 RARE 42nd Blackwatch Highlanders \$1200



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Lucotte 7th Light Horse Lancers \$500



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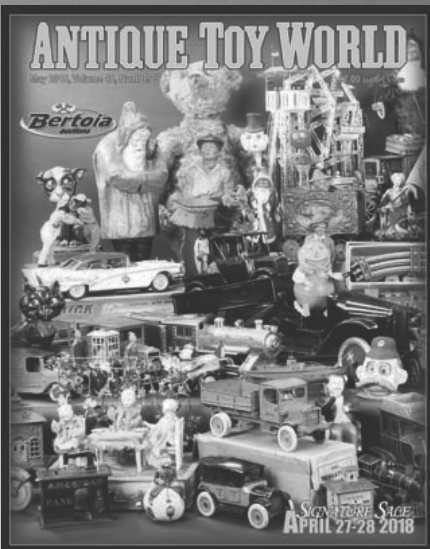
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