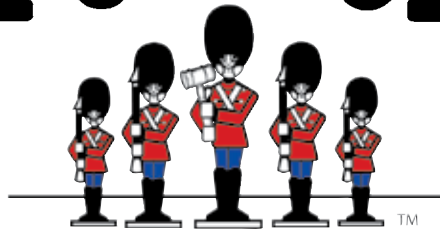


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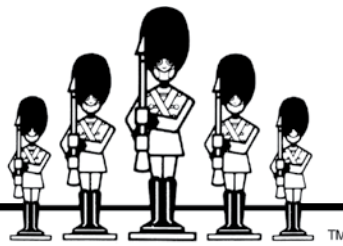


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Old Toy Soldier is published quarterly.

Publisher

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Editor

Rob Wilson r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk

Manager

Kim Camillo kimcamillo25@gmail.com

Advertising

Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Kim Camillo kimcamillo25@gmail.com

Circulation

Nancy Haradin raytoys@aol.com

Kim Camillo kimcamillo25@gmail.com

Technical Production

Mary Fischer

Copyeditor

Roberta Haradin

Staff Photographers

David Haradin

Noel Schlageter

Show Reports

Ray Haradin, Rob Wilson, Noel Schlageter

Cartoonist

Luigi Toiati

General Inspection-Book Reviewer

Russ Bednarek

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Specialist Contributors

Rob Wilson and Joe Wallis, Britains Military

Stan Alekna, Dimestore Figures

Norman Joplin, whatever takes his fancy

Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and
Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements and all
general inquires, should be forwarded to:

Old Toy Soldier

P. O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324

Telephone (412) 343-8733

Fax (412) 344-5273

E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

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ON THE COVER

Ray Haradin

EDITORIAL



It is with a very sad heart that I write what could be my last Editorial.

On June 24th I received news that Ray Haradin, owner and publisher of *Old Toy Soldier* magazine and of *Old Toy Soldier Auctions*, had passed away. Ray was a larger than life figure whose energy and enthusiasm enlivened our hobby. He will be greatly missed.

Ray was the driving force behind the various “*Old Toy Soldier*” businesses, as well as his related activities in many other areas of Antique American Toys, especially Banks. In his absence, the future for *Old Toy Soldier Auctions* and the *Old Toy Soldier* magazine looks uncertain, unless someone steps up to fill the breach, a very hard act to follow!

I am pleased to report that *Old Toy Soldier Auctions* will “soldier on” under the auspices of Morphy Auctions as reported on page 26.

At present, the future of the Magazine remains uncertain. The costs of maintaining a hard copy, physically mailed out to subscribers, is no longer sustainable. We will therefore explore alternative options for continuing the magazine.

It was started, back in 1976, as a simple Newsletter by Roger Garfield, Don Pielin, Steve and JoEllen

Sommers and Joe Wallis (see the accompanying image from 1983). Ray took over the magazine in 2000, appointing Norman Joplin as editor. Together, they introduced various changes, including most recently providing past copies of the magazine online for free. I took over the editorial reins in Winter 2020. It has been a pleasure working with Ray and the rest of the team over the past almost 5 years. Hopefully, we will be able to continue and celebrate our 50th Anniversary next year.

We start off this issue with an article by Norman recalling some of the many highlights of Ray’s life as a key figure in the hobby we all love. Other contributions in this issue are from regular contributors such as Bill Anderson, Will Beierwaltes, John Franklin and Gisbert Freber, as well as new author on the block, Nassim Medjaoui. It is an issue that I am sure Ray would have been very pleased to read. In addition, we have the usual Reconnaissance, Readers Messages and related pages, where various contributors keep us up to date with what is going on in the hobby.

Thanks to all these authors, as well as all previous contributors to the Magazine over the past almost 50 years. Hopefully, this will not be the end of the story, but to ensure that we need your input!

Rob Wilson, July 31st 2025



RAY HARADIN

11.4.64 – 6.24.25

Ray was born on November 4, 1964. He had the good fortune to belong to a family that took old toys very seriously. His father, Dr. Anthony Haradin, was a long-term collector and expert on old American toys and banks. His sons were encouraged to appreciate and handle the toys. For Ray that included an early fascination with Toy Soldiers.

Although it might have been expected that Ray would follow his father into the medical profession, he chose to follow a different path, becoming a toy dealer, specializing in banks and other early American toys and, of course, Toy Soldiers.

Around 1988 he decided to transition from a collector to dealer, although his love of the toys was what drove him, rather than the investment potential. At first, the Toy Soldiers were a bit of a sideline, but the burgeoning interest in lead figures in the 1980s and 1990s, especially those produced by Britains, encouraged Ray to expand this side of his business.

Around 2000 he took over the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter from the original owners, as well as establishing Old Toy Soldier Auctions, the only auction company specializing in the full range of toy soldier collecting.

Ray was a regular attendee at the Chicago Toy Soldier show, as well as many others. The stock he assembled was always a wonder to behold, with many rare items on display. However, Ray also enjoyed seeing others have fun with the toy soldiers. His "Bargain Room" at the Chicago Show was always the source of great excitement and amusement.

The accompanying images show Ray in his element – wheeling and dealing toy soldiers!

Ray is survived by his wife Nancy, his mother Roberta and brother David (Leslie and nephew Taj). A private memorial service for the family will be held at the end of August.

As the founder of Old Toy Soldier Auctions and publisher of the Magazine, the antique toy soldier hobby has lost one of its most vigorous and respected stars. He will be sorely missed - RIP.







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With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

By Bill Anderson

1. Historical Context

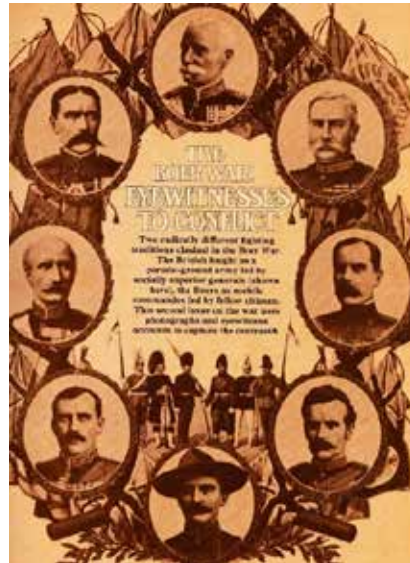
First Anglo-Boer war, 1880-1881

This was a struggle between the Boer republics and the British who were attempting to annex their territory and bring them into a British ruled confederation. After initial setbacks the British government despatched reinforcements. Their deployment provoked hostility across South Africa. Eventually a negotiated peace resulted, which conceded independence to the Transvaal. This peace was short lived and led to the second Boer war.

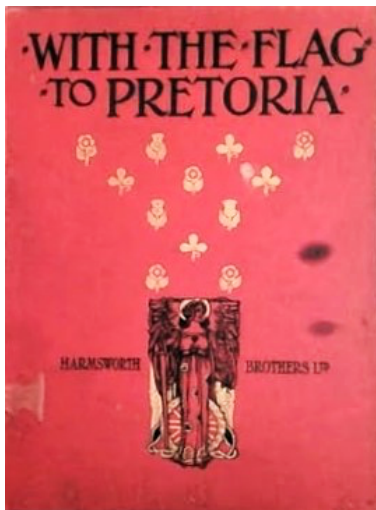
The British uniform at the time of the first war was red tunics and dark blue trousers which made them easy targets for Boer marksmen. The lesson was learned and khaki was introduced in time for the second conflict.



Mounted Infantry, 1901



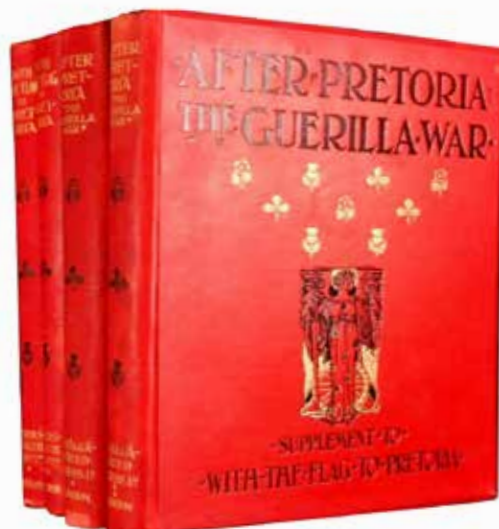
Driver, Field Artillery, 1899



Covers of contemporary books

Second Anglo-Boer war, 1899-1902

The origins of the second Boer war lay, as with the first, in the British desire to again unite the British South African territories and the Boer republics of the Orange Free State and Transvaal. Between 1899 and 1902 the British fought a bitter colonial war in South Africa. Although outnumbered, the Boers were a skilled and determined enemy. After initial setback and a long period of guerilla warfare, the British eventually prevailed, but not without adopting controversial tactics.



Events in both wars were closely followed back home in Great Britain, with many magazines and books being published during and after the conflict, full of dramatic illustrations. The first two volumes of the set – *With the Flag to Pretoria* were published by Harmsworth Brothers, London in 1901. The second two volumes- *After Pretoria, The Guerilla War* were published by the Amalgamated Press, London in 1902.

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED



Royal Horse Artillery in action, an illustration from the series



Officer South Africa, c.1899



Private Cameron Highlanders, c.1899



AFTER PRETORIA: THE GUERILLA WAR.

THE SUPPLEMENT TO
"With the Flag to Pretoria."

By H. W. WILSON.

The Boer Republics, Orange Free State and the Transvaal

These were self-governing republics formed by Dutch speaking inhabitants who trekked north from the Cape Colony. The founders, named Boers or Voortrekkers, settled mainly in the middle north and northeast parts of present day South Africa.

The Orange Free State was first to declare statehood in 1854, followed by the Transvaal Republic, which existed from 1852 until 1902 when it was annexed into the British Empire. Both republics ceased to exist after 1902 at the end of the war.

There were not enough funds available for the republics to form a regular army. Although the Transvaal had a uniformed artillery unit – *Transvaalse staatartillerie* (state artillery regiment) they also relied on uniformed police and volunteer civilian commando units for defence.

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

The state artillery performed well in the beginning of the conflict but, due to lack of ammunition and changing strategy, the guns were dumped and they were reorganised as a mounted infantry unit (some just became infantry). These were the uniformed infantry and cavalry regiments – Sets #6 and #26 that Britains chose to represent as the opposition (see below).



A Boer commando and his weapons, including ex-British Lee-Enfield, Martini-Henry and a Mauser model 1895, rifles



Orange free state coat of arms, 1854-1902



Transvaal coat of arms, 1869-1902

The Boer commando were volunteer military units. In both republics commando service was mandatory in times of need, they formed the backbone of the Boer forces. Each commando was attached to a town, after which it was named. They were highly mobile, adept at field-craft and used to life on the veldt. Generally, they wore no uniform, only everyday working clothes, often of shabby appearance. Although the Boers had only around 90,000 soldiers, they were led by outstanding Generals such as Botha, Smuts and De Wet. After peace was declared in 1902 the commandos were disbanded.



Members of a Boer commando, 1899

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

The Empire strikes back.

After several reverses, the British mobilised their superior resources and sent more men to South Africa. These included troops from across the British Empire. Eventually over 400,000 soldiers were involved. Following the end of the sieges in the initial phases of the war, the tide gradually turned in Britain's favour. By the end of May 1900 the British had overrun the Orange Free state and by October the Transvaal. In September 1900 Lord Kitchener took over as Commander in Chief.

The Guerilla War

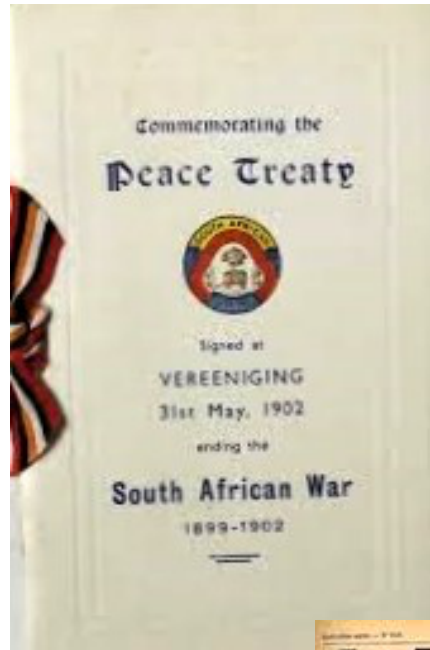
Many Boers fought on and eighteen months of guerilla warfare were to follow. To control the countryside, and restrict movement of those Boer commandos still active, the British built stone and corrugated blockhouses. These were maintained by garrisons with the objective of preventing the guerillas from obtaining supplies. The British burnt farms and destroyed crops and confined Boer families in a network of concentration camps where food and water were in short supply. Later on Kitchener reversed this policy, while regular troops and mounted infantry tracked down the remaining Boers.

Peace Treaty

Eventually these policies forced the Boers to seek peace terms. On 31st May 1902 the treaty of Vereeniging was signed and the Boers accepted British sovereignty. The Boer republics were fully integrated into the union of South Africa in 1910.

Red coats reclad

It was during the first war that the British army first began to adopt khaki drill uniforms on a massive scale. The scarlet woollen tunics worn up until then proved impractical due to the heat and harsh conditions of South Africa. And with the advent of the bolt action rifle, with its increased accuracy, they made the soldiers easy targets. Britains Boer war figures reflect this change from red to khaki, with some sets available with uniforms in both colours.



The war had attracted world-wide attention at the time, the signing of the peace treaty making the front page of this French newspaper in 1902



With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

Britains sets featuring the Boer war conflict

East Kent Regiment (the Buffs)

The East Kent Regiment's origins date back to 1572, making it one of the British Army's oldest regiments. The 2nd, 3rd and 2nd Volunteer Battalions saw action during the Boer war, returning to Britain in 1902. The regiment was one of the first portrayed by Britains, set 16 being issued in 1893.



Cap Badge, the East Kent Regiment, c 1916



Early version of Britains Set #16, in Boer War service dress (originally issued in red coats, a bugler and drummer were added in 1895, replacing 2 troopers)

Dr. Jameson and the South African Mounted Infantry, 1899

This set was first issued in 1896 with a "Dr. Jameson and the African Mounted Infantry" box label. It comprised a mounted officer with a pistol in hand, representing Dr. Jameson, accompanied by 4 troopers. The label on this set was deleted before 1899, when it was continued as simply *The South African Mounted Infantry*.



Set #38, Dr Jameson and the African Mounted Infantry, 1896

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

The Jameson raid of 1896 into the Transvaal was headline news at the time. It was an attempt to create an uprising amongst the outlanders (uitlanders/foreigners in Afrikaans) who were an English speaking minority attracted to the goldfields in the Boer republics. The Boers saw them as a threat to their way of life. Led by Doctor Jameson and his British South African troops, the failure of the raid was a humiliation, which led to a further deterioration of the relationship between the British and Boer governments. The accompanying illustration shows Dr. Jameson being led off to captivity.



The ignominious end to the Jameson raid 1896

The South African Mounted Infantry Corps was formally raised by Major Thorneycroft, prior to the Battle of Colenso, 15th December 1899. It became famous in the course of the war. They were used mainly on patrol work. They were recruited locally, as they knew the terrain and environment. Mounted infantry were men trained and armed as infantry but with the mobility offered by a horse. All infantry battalions that arrived from Britain had to provide a mounted infantry company.



Set #38, South African Mounted Infantry, second version.



Cap Badge, the 21st Lancers, c.1917

21st Lancers

This cavalry regiment was raised in 1858 by the East India company and soon after transferred to the British Army. Perhaps the regiment's most famous engagement was at the Battle of Omdurman in the Sudan during the Mahdist war of 1898.

The first Britains version of set 94 was issued in 1898, with a second version in 1901 and a further revision in 1916 (when the headgear was changed to steel helmets). In 1925 a remodelled horse was introduced. The set continued in this form until 1941.

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War CONTINUED

Britains produced this set at the same time as they made sets representing units that actually fought in the War. Although the 21st Lancers were not involved directly, this set can be seen as an example dressed in the cavalry uniforms of the times, including sun helmets. The Regiment was stationed in Dublin in 1899 and served in Ireland for several years. In 1912 it was posted back to India.

Britains Set #94, 21st Lancers, were initially mounted on rocking horses (1898-1900). A one-eared galloping horse appeared in 1901. The headgear later changed to steel helmets in 1916. The final version was mounted on a two-eared horse in 1919, and this version continued until 1941.

York and Lancaster Regiment

First formed in 1881, in 1891 the 2nd Battalion began a six year stint in South Africa. Fighting throughout the Boer war, its engagements included the relief of Ladysmith. The 1st Battalion embarked for South Africa in late 1899. Following the end of the war in 1902 it was also sent to India.

In later versions of the set, a square based figure replaced the earlier oval-based figure in 1907 and the troops were once more portrayed in traditional red jackets.



Britains Set #94, 21st Lancers, 1898, 1st version



Set #94, The 21st Lancers, 2nd version, in original "flowers" box (light tan tunics, single eared rocking horses, c.1900)



Set #96, the York and Lancaster regiment, Boer war service dress

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

City of London Imperial Volunteers



Boer war tribute medal, 1899-1900,
City of London Volunteers

After the outbreak of the second Boer war in October 1899, a proposal was put forward that the City of London should sponsor a volunteer troop of soldiers to take part in the conflict. A mixed force of infantry, cavalry and artillery was sent. The regiment took part in several engagements, returning in 1900 to a raptuous reception at Guildhall, London.



Set #104, City Imperial Volunteers, first version, 1900-1925



Set #104, City Imperial Volunteers (the last version had only eight
pieces in light tan tunics)



Cover for sheet music "The Imperial Yeomanry Polka"
which proved popular with the folks back home



The return of the City Imperial Volunteers- Guildhall London 1900 (from a painting by John Frederick Bacon)

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

Imperial Yeomanry

The Imperial Yeomanry was a force of mounted infantry. It comprised volunteers from the UK, some drawn from existing Yeomanry Regiments. It was established in 1900, as a result of the war's need for additional mounted infantry. They played a significant role in the war, contributing significantly to the British forces, suffering significant casualties.

Britains Set #105, Imperial Yeomanry, was a fixed arm cavalry set introduced in 1900. The same basic casting was used throughout. In the late 1930s a greener uniform appeared. The set continued to be made up to 1941.



An early photograph of a group of troopers on arrival in South Africa 1900



Set #105, Imperial Yeomanry, 1900-1925

Inniskilling Dragoons

This cavalry regiment was raised in Ireland in 1689. It continued in British army service until 1922. It fought in the Boer war, taking part in the relief of Kimberly (1900) and the anti-guerilla operations at the end of the conflict.



Cap Badge, the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, c.1900



Set #108, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, Active service order, c 1900

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED



Cap Badge, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers,
1898-1921

Royal Dublin Fusiliers

The 2nd Battalion was deployed to South Africa in 1899 and took part in the Siege of Ladysmith and the battle of Colenso and Tugela heights. A detachment was escorting an armoured train carrying Winston Churchill when it was ambushed and Churchill and the detachment were captured. The regiment was disbanded in 1922.

Britains Set #109, Dublin Fusiliers in Active service order was introduced in 1901. The figures at the time had oval bases and smooth helmets. In 1910 a second version was introduced which had rectangular bases. By then a puggaree had been added to their helmets. Initially the figures were portrayed wearing Slade-Wallace equipment (1888 pattern). This proved unpopular with the troops and was later replaced by the 1908 pattern webbing. In 1916 a new larger figure wearing the improved webbing equipment was issued by Britains. Throughout, the tunics were painted with a much darker shade of khaki than the trousers. The larger figure was continued until 1941.



Set #109, Dublin Fusiliers, Active service order, (2nd version, rectangular bases)



The Devonshire Regiment

The unit was raised in 1685. Both Battalions of the regiment were sent to South Africa in 1899, where the regiment's engagements included Colenso and Spion Kop.

Britains Set #110, Devonshire Regiment, Active service dress, used the same body casting as the Dublin Fusiliers. First introduced in 1901, by 1904 a puggaree was added to the helmet. The bases then became rectangular in 1910. The set was continued up to 1941.



Set #110, Devonshire Regiment, Active service order, version with puggarees on helmets



Set #110, Devonshire Regiment, early box

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

Queens Own Cameron Highlanders



Cap Badge, Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, c.1914

This Scottish infantry regiment was formed in 1793. It was composed mainly of volunteers from the Cameron Highland clan. It sailed for South Africa in 1900 and served in the Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal. At the end of hostilities, they returned home in 1902.



Set # 114, Cameron Highlanders, Active service order, 3rd version c. 1925

The Gloucestershire Regiment



Cap Badge, the Gloucestershire Regiment, 1900

The regiment was raised in October 1899. The 1st Battalion fought in the Cape Colony and Natal, including the defence of Ladysmith. The regiment fought in later campaigns before undertaking garrison duties in India and Malta after the war.



Set #119, Gloucestershire Regiment, Active service order, last version, c 1930

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

Royal Army Service Corps - Army Supply Column

Not sold directly by Britains, this set was not given a designated catalogue number or included in Britains standard listings. The item was sold exclusively by wholesaler C.F. Eckhardt and Co.



Mounted officer from the Supply Column set



This figure was made by Britains as an escort for the wagons in the Army Supply Column set (it involved a head change from other listed sets marketed by them)



Boer war Army Service Supply Column, c.1901 (23 pieces)



The full set with loaded wagons, oval based escort at the trail and mounted officer

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED

Royal Artillery

Britains did not issue any standard size figure sets representing the Royal Artillery during the Boer War. Two sets were introduced that are worthy of mention.

Set #126b, Royal Horse Artillery was a variation of the smaller scale set, but now in Active Service Dress. This set of smaller 'b size' figures was issued in 1902. A more modern version replaced the toy like gun with open spring in 1932. The set continued in this form until 1939.

The other set introduced around this time was the 4.7" Naval gun. Although the 4.7" gun played only a relatively small part in the war, its use captured the public's imagination. It figured prominently in the Britains range for over 70 years, as illustrated in the accompanying article by Norman Joplin in this issue.

Norman's article covers later versions and the different packaging used to distribute the gun. The example illustrated here, with open spring, would have been produced between 1902 and 1916. Initially it had no Set number. After 1934 the set number 1264 was included on the packaging. It has a Patent No. 1215-1915 on the box, indicating the open spring. This differs from the original registered design number 388707 and the Patent No 20775 as mentioned in Norman's article.

The 4.7" gun has also been represented by many other makers as well as those keen to fill gaps that they feel Britains should have filled, such as the version by Bill O'Brien illustrated here.

A follow-up article regarding the use of artillery in the Boer war by both sides is planned for a future issue.



Britains Set #126b in original box, c.1910, with mounted officer and outriders



4.7" Naval gun in original box, 2nd version



A 32 piece Bill O'Brien special paint version of a Boer war gun team, with escort (using figures dated 1901-2, with certificate of authenticity included)

With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED



Set #6, Boer Cavalry, 1899 (the set used the same castings as set #38 South African Mounted Infantry)



Set #26, Boer Infantry, 1899



Set #26, Boer Infantry at the trail rather than at the slope

This figure is often found with the bayonet clipped off (unlike this example); the Boers did not use bayonets and generally did not engage in close quarter fighting

The Boers

The first version of Set #26 used the same casting as Set #91, American infantry, with a simple change in paint finish. Later versions used other castings but are all rare. The set was not available after 1910.

In 1906 a new version with square based figures using the "on guard" figure with fixed bayonet and an officer with drawn sword and pistol were briefly offered.



With the Flag to Pretoria: Britains in the Boer War

CONTINUED



Some other variants, including an officer with a moveable sword arm, marching at "the trail" figure, etc. The third version figure here is dated 15.6.1906 and has his rifle at "advance arms" at the side of the body.



The third and final version, c.1906-1910

The photographs accompanying this article are from Joe Wallis's *Soldiers of Greater Britain* book and the Old Toy Soldier Auctions archives. Joe's pictures are used with his permission.



A well-worn example of the 1906 fixed arm version, showing the date stamp; This casting was also used in Beiser sets with a similar paint finish



Obituary - Debbie Trochlell

January 13, 1953 - February 3, 2025



Debbie was born on January 13, 1953 in Brookfield, Wisconsin on a small farm. She grew up there with her siblings and had fond memories of farm-life. Cows, chickens, pigs, goats and horses were all present on the property, which was surrounded by a growing suburb of Milwaukee. Her father enjoyed collecting, especially lead Dimestore toy soldiers and model railroad cars. He would eventually pass this "collecting knack" on to Debbie.

In 1975, she married her husband Ed, and in time, would have three children. As a life-long collector, Debbie inspired the same passion in her son Aaron. Together they enjoyed collecting old toys, particularly antique toy soldiers. Debbie especially loved finding Britains lead circus and zoo figurines, Schoenhut circus pieces and Heyde lead figures. For many years, she looked forward to attending the Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Visiting the Old Toy Soldier bargain room was always a highlight! Over the years, many great memories were created from the toy soldiers and treasures that were discovered. She passed away on February 3, 2025. Throughout her life, Debbie gave so much love to her family, children and animals in need. She will be greatly missed.

Obituary - Jeremy Brewer

September 11, 1941 - July 3, 2024

It was with great sadness that I heard last year that Jeremy had passed on 3rd of July 2024 after a brave and stoic battle with a long-term illness.

Jeremy was a well-known English collector, frequenting shows and auctions across the UK for the last 40 or so years. Extremely knowledgeable, he had a great eye for quality figures. He delighted in the rare and iconic sets including: Boer war figures; first version Britains; and Heyde character figures, such as the Alice in Wonderland series - in fact anything old and rare.

Jeremy Richard Brewer was born on 11th September 1941 in Tonbridge Wells and lived there his whole life. He worked for many years in the accounts department of his family's timber business in London, which allowed him to scour the various antique shops that one could find in London in the 1970s and 1980s for rare and unusual figures. He was also to be found at the top London auction houses, bidding on the best lots with much success.

I first met Jeremy in the 2000s at auction houses and the London toy soldier fair. Quiet and unassuming, very private and a true gentleman, he almost always bought a figure or two from me, at times I thought just out of politeness, but it would always be from the best I had. *(Continued)*



HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

Sometime around 2010 Jeremy went to visit Andy Morant's stall in Portobello market and was shocked to see how busy it was. He immediately lent a hand, staying for the rest of the day. This was the beginning of a new chapter for him and on a Saturday he would invariably be helping out at Andy's stall, interacting with hundreds of tourists every day, often telling them things about their countries they didn't know. He really loved those days, getting up at 5am to walk to Tonbridge Wells station to spend a day with Andy in London and he did so for over 14 years. It was around this time I discovered he was also the world's foremost expert in

stamps from Tibet and the surrounding countries. His first ever purchase of collectibles was in fact a stamp collection financed by a loan from his father. He was often flown out around the world by top auction houses to authenticate the rarest and most valuable stamps, but typically for him, he never spoke about this.

He is survived by his much-loved sister, niece and nephew. He is missed by them, Andy, myself and the collecting community in general.

Harry Kemp

BOOK REVIEW

In August 2024 we published a preview of Nassim Medjaoui's book. This is now available in English



The author is planning to attend the **Chicagoland** Show in September and signed copies will be available. The book will be available with a soft cover, and priced at 65 euros, 70 dollars. Buyers should contact the author at: Medjaoui Nassim <medjaouinassim@yahoo.fr>

Old Toy Soldier Auctions, beloved for decades by collectors of miniature figures, will march forward as part of Morphy's Toys & General Collectibles auctions

Old Toy Soldier Auctions' consignors will now be served by Morphy's team of specialists, starting with a Nov. 12-14 toy sale, per the wishes of OTSA's founder, the late Ray Haradin

DENVER, Pa. – With the recent passing of Ray Haradin, the visionary founder of Old Toy Soldier Auctions (OTSA), the antique toy hobby lost one of its most vigorous and respected advocates. However, because of Haradin's foresight and genuine benevolence toward his fellow collectors, the globally-recognized OTSA brand is not going to be dissolved. In honoring Ray's specific wishes, his auction business will "soldier on" under the watchful care of Morphy Auctions and its founder/president, Dan Morphy.

Going forward, Morphy's will accommodate OTSA's loyal consignors and preserve the revered brand with a new, permanent section for toy soldiers and figures in its popular Toys & General Collectibles sales. The first selection of consignments from OTSA clients will be included in a November 12-14 auction at Morphy's flagship gallery in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with all remote forms of bidding also available, including live via the Internet.

The new alliance between OTSA and Morphy's has the blessing of Ray's wife of 33 years, Nancy Haradin, who explained, "Ray left a letter with instructions to reach out to Dan. That way, he knew the business would carry on and that it would be done to his standards."

Morphy Auctions' founder and president, Dan Morphy, commented: "It's an honor and a privilege for Morphy's to be entrusted with carrying on Ray's legacy and his generous, highly-principled way of doing business. He was the backbone of the toy soldier market, and



Circa-1990 photo of Old Toy Soldier Auctions founder Ray Haradin, then a fast-rising antique mechanical bank and toy soldier dealer, exhibiting at the Atlantique City show in Atlantic City, N.J. Photo courtesy of the Haradin family

his auction company meant a great deal to him. For me, there's also a personal connection that I take very seriously. Ray and I both grew up in Pittsburgh. Our families have known each other for probably 45 years. Ray was years ahead of me as a collector, and if it hadn't been for his influence, I might not be in the business I'm in today."

While OTSA will continue to be independently owned, its consignors' goods will receive exactly the same first-class marketing and promotional benefits as any other toys auctioned under Morphy's banner. Each piece will be evaluated, photographed and cataloged through a joint effort between OTSA's long-established experts and Morphy's own specialists, including Kent Kline.

OTSA is currently in the process of contacting the 42 consignors who had committed toy soldiers and figures to their next sale prior to Ray Haradin's passing. Those consignors will be given the option of having their pieces placed in Morphy's November auction. Also, at the September 28, 2025 Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, Morphy's team members will be accepting toy consignments of all types for inclusion in the November event. The Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show will be held at the Schaumburg Marriott in Schaumburg (suburban Chicago), Illinois.

To discuss consigning toy soldiers and figures, or antique/vintage toys of any type, to Morphy's Nov. 12-14 auction, please call Dan Morphy at 877-968-8880 or email info@morphyauctions.com. Visit Morphy's online at www.morphyauctions.com.

Britains 4.7 Inch Naval Gun

By Norman Joplin

This article is a slightly revised version of Norman's earlier article published in Volume 42, Number 2. It is reproduced here for the convenience of readers and in order to complement Bill Anderson's more general piece on the Boer War.

Britains 4.7 Inch Naval Gun (Mounted for Field Operations) was first introduced in 1902. It was a pretty accurate model of one of those taken from Royal Navy cruisers to provide heavy artillery support during the early days of the Boer War. They were dismantled from their housings on the ships and remounted on heavy wooden gun carriages with large steel plate wheels. They fired a 45 pound shell, this providing much more substantial support than offered by the then standard 12 pounders with which the Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery were equipped.



Third version, with added shield, c 1934

According to Joe Wallis (*Soldiers of Great Britain*, pp 92-93), the gun was initially retailed at a price of two shillings. The 1902 Gamages Department Store issued a catalogue including pictures of the same piece offered at their customary discounted price of one shilling and six pence.

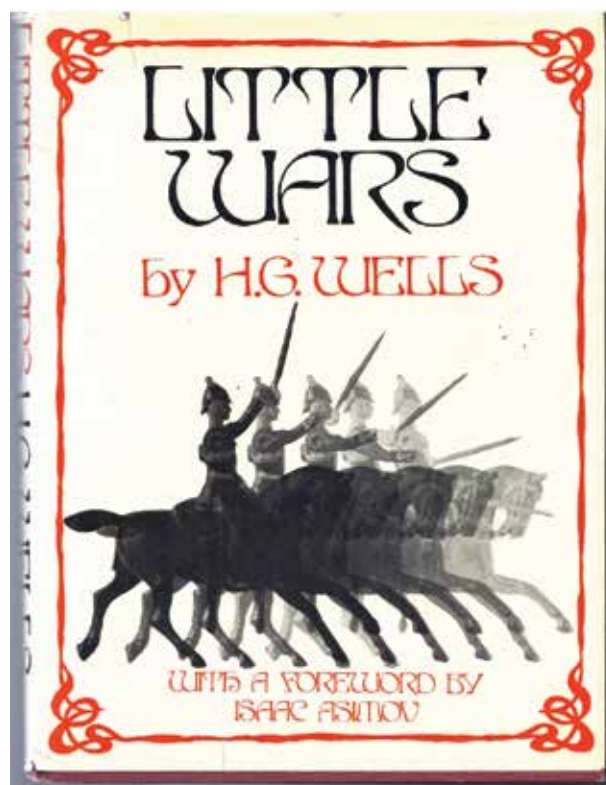


Final version, renumbered as 9730



Second version, with exposed spring

Wallis goes on to reference the Registered Design Number 388707, which was found on the underside of the gun barrel and which was issued by the Board of Trade in March 1902. The initial version of the gun incorporated a powerful steel spring, mounted into the trail of the gun, which powered the brass firing lever. This enabled it to propel wooden shells some considerable distance and which probably accounted for many casualties amongst Britains and other hollowcast figures! An elevating screw enabled the gun to be aimed with precision. It also included a telescopic sight as on the real thing.



Cover of Little Wars

Britains 4.7 Inch Naval Gun

CONTINUED

Early box labels mention Patent 20775, issued to William Britains in 1894 to cover their mountain artillery gun which used essentially the same method for powering the gun. Early versions were painted pale grey. Later the colour was changed to darker and more khaki shades before Britains adopted their fumed metal finish towards the end of the First World War. This resulted in a gun metal colour which looks very appropriate.



The real thing at a Royal Tournament or similar event

The gun was very popular with customers, including those like H.G. Wells who popularised its use in his famous book on wargaming with toy soldiers (*Little Wars*, 1913), in which he explicitly referred to the Britains piece:

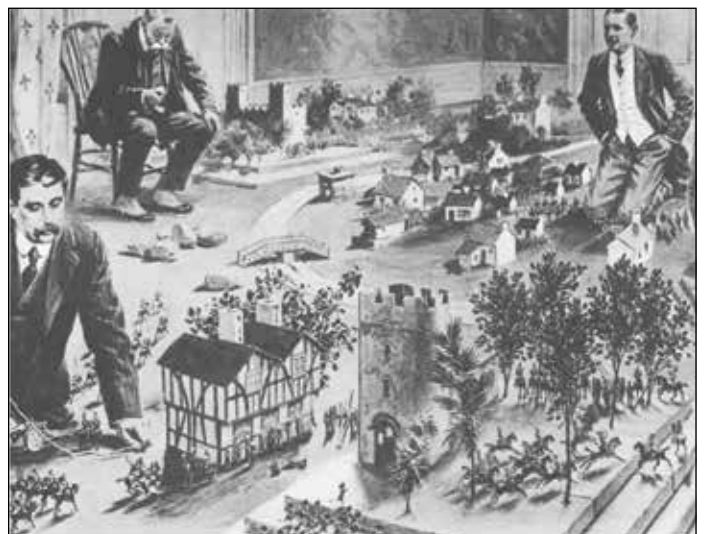
*"The beginning of the game of Little War, as we know it, became possible with the invention of the spring breech-loader gun. This priceless gift to boyhood appeared some where towards the end of the last century, a gun capable of hitting a toy soldier nine times out of ten at a distance of nine yards. It has completely superseded all the spiral-spring and other makes of gun hitherto used in play-room warfare. These spring breech-loaders are made in various sizes and patterns, but the one used in our game is that known in England as the four-point-seven gun. It fires a wooden cylinder about an inch long, and has a screw adjustment for elevation and depression. It is an altogether elegant weapon."*¹



H G Wells, demonstrating war games



Another example of the real thing in action



Wargaming circa 1900

¹ Little Wars can be accessed at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3691/3691-h/3691-h.htm>

Britains 4.7 Inch Naval Gun CONTINUED



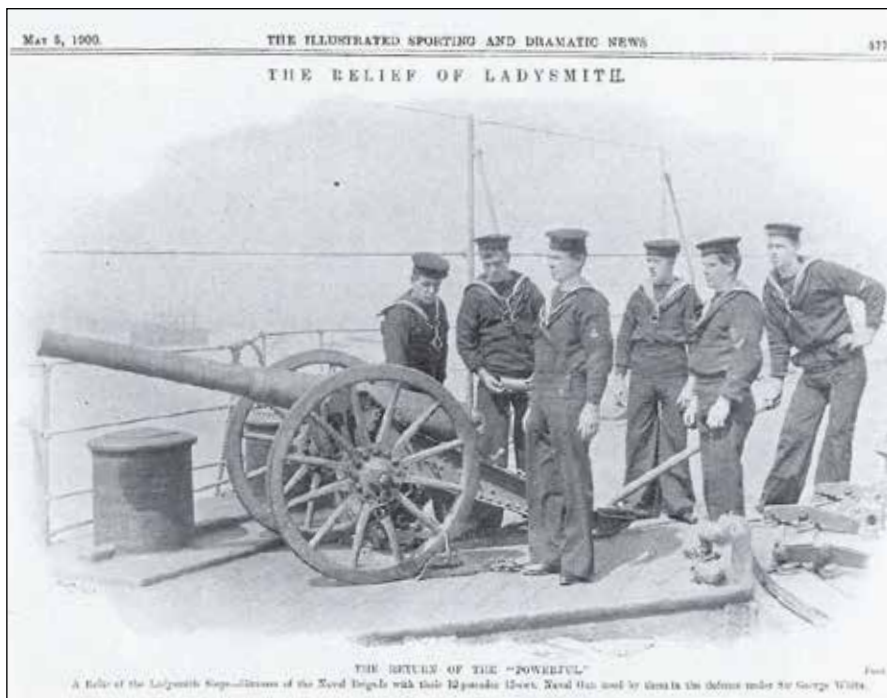
Britains Blue Jacket

The 4.7" gun was redesigned by Britains on a number of occasions and remained in their catalogue until 1979. The first redesign was a relatively modest one although it involved a new Patent Number 1215-1915. Rather than including the spring inside the trail as it was moulded the new version has an open spring. According to the patent this should enable the spring to be replaced if it became damaged. How often this ever actually occurred in practice remains obscure!

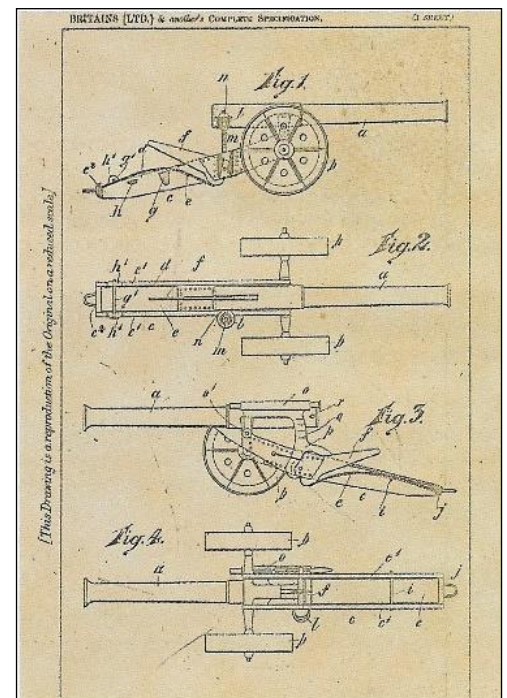
A further redesign occurred in 1931 when the gun was given a shield to protect the gunners from hostile fire and a new coiled spring mechanism, which could also fire an Amorce cap. According to Wallis it was not until 1934 that the 1264 catalogue number was assigned. This number was retained until it was renumbered as 9730 in 1962. The gun was also included in the two largest Britains display sets (#131 and 132).



Early post war issue with metal ammunition



4.7" in action from *The Graphic*



W. Britain Pattern for the 4.7 Naval Gun, 1915



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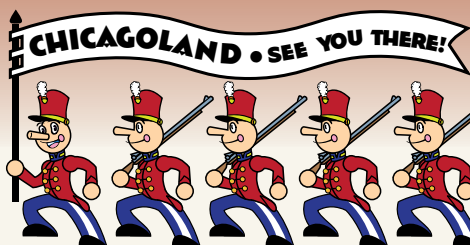
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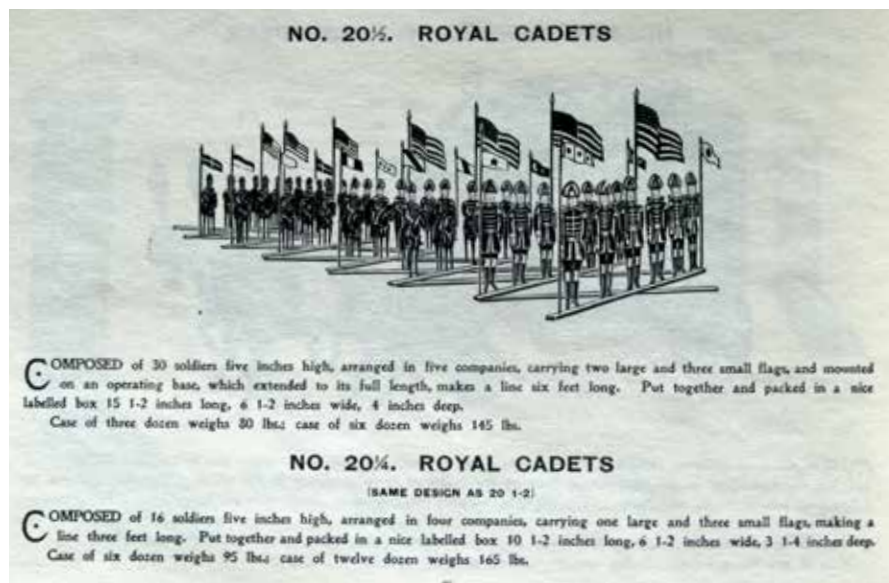


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Early American Toy Soldiers of the Whitney Reed Chair Company

By Will Beierwaltes

The Whitney Reed Chair Company was founded in 1893, and primarily manufactured furniture, though it diversified to also produce wooden toys (as apparently was not uncommon for such companies in that era). Its toy production is most commonly associated with a variety of robust wooden rocking horses, but its early catalogs reveal much more, including some wonderful toy soldiers made with paper lithography on wood. Its connection with toy production goes back to another neighboring company, the W.S. Reed Toy Company. Both companies were founded in Leominster, Massachusetts in the late 19th century.



1897-98 Catalog illustration of the "Royal Cadets" scissor sets.



1901-02 Catalog illustration of the "U.S. Regulars" scissor set.

W.S. Reed was founded in 1875, and primarily manufactured wooden toys such as ships, circus items and even a few board games. However, despite success and expansion as a toy producer, they suffered two devastating fires in their factories. The worst and final blow came in 1896 when a fire destroyed 3 of their 4 buildings and most of the company's inventory. Frustrated and looking for alternatives, William Reed bought stock in the neighboring Whitney Chair Company, who then also purchased the toy company's remaining assets. The WS Reed Toy Company and the Whitney Chair Company merged in 1899 to form the Whitney Reed Chair Company. They continued to make fine furniture, but also now focused more on toys. The Antique Toy Collectors of America were able to obtain and reprint two early catalogs from the family of William Herbert Green, who was the owner of the Whitney Reed company from 1925 until 1959, suggesting this was most likely the end date for the company.

The newly combined companies 1897-98 toy catalog (3) featured not only children's furniture, but also various paper lithography on wood games, vehicles, ships in various sizes and most notable at the very end of the book, two sets of 5-inch paper soldiers on wood listed as "Royal Cadets". A little confusing to have "Royal" soldiers marching under an American flag, but then the uniforms were fanciful and not really historically accurate either. In the tradition of the German Erzgebirge toy soldiers, these consisted of either 30 or 16 soldiers fastened onto a "scissor" base

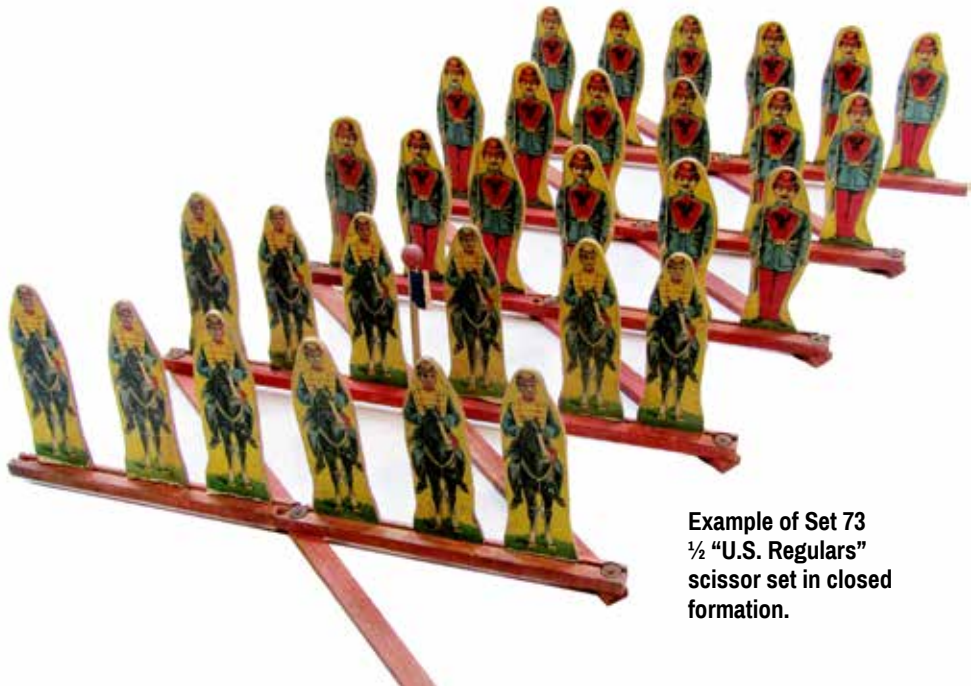
Early American Toy Soldiers of the Whitney Reed Chair Company

CONTINUED

that could expand the parade from a close formation (15 x 4 inches or 10 by 3 inches) out to 4-6 feet in depth. Dowel flag poles were placed into the scissor base between groups of figures flying paper American flags and fanciful regimental flags. The figures were not removable from their articulated base. The catalog also listed a "Fort Grant" which was a wood and paper lithographed fort with 4 guardsmen along a wall flanked by 2 towers. These were hinged to the back of the wall, and a shooting cannon was included to knock back the soldiers which could then be flipped back up, as in a shooting gallery. Ed Ryan provides a beautiful color photograph of this set, which is from the Bill Nutting collection on page 300 of his book "Paper Soldiers." (1)

In the expanded 1901-1902 catalog "A" (Toys), we find a number of horse-drawn vehicles, doll houses and furniture, games and blackboards. Along with these, we find an improved "scissor" set (No. 73 ½) of paper lithography on wood depicting "U.S. Regulars", mounted with two ranks of 6 cavalry followed by 3 ranks of 6 infantry, all 5 inches high. The newly designed figures still bear no likeness to any real uniforms, but have a wonderful character of that turn-of-the-century aura to them. Again, this set expanded from a closed formation of 15 ½ inches by 4 inches, out to 6 feet in length as the scissors were expanded. Each "company" (of 6) had a flag mounted on a wooden dowel in the center, with an American flag on a taller pole in the first rank.

In a somewhat more historically accurate set, they produced a set of "Rough Riders" which was a smaller 16-piece scissor set with the first three ranks mounted, and the back 4 figures rough riders on foot. Ryan provides a black and white photograph of this set with its



Example of Set 73 ½ "U.S. Regulars" scissor set in closed formation.



Example of Set 73 ½ "U.S. Regulars" scissor set partially open formation.



Whitney Reed Paper Lithography "U.S. Regulars" cavalry and Infantry (5 inches tall)

Early American Toy Soldiers of the Whitney Reed Chair Company

CONTINUED

original box which was decorated with 3 of the mounted Rough Riders and a bust of Teddy Roosevelt. The company obviously wanted to cash in on the popularity of Roosevelt and the Rough Riders in the Spanish American war (1898). The authenticity of the uniforms of these paper litho on wood figures continued to improve as Ryan provides a color photograph of three such figures; an American colonial troop, a German imperial and a British Guardsman (page 302). As paper soldiers were only a small part of their catalog, all these figures are particularly rare and it is currently unknown as to how long the paper toy soldiers remained in the catalog, but they certainly disappeared with the First World War.



1901-02 Catalog illustration of Set 73, "Camp Dewey" including U.S. Regulars on individual bases and a tent, flag and rapid-fire cannon.

Besides the "scissor" parade set, they offered another set of the same mounted and foot U.S. Regulars (No. 73 1/4), individually mounted on wooden bases, plus an American flag. In addition, another set of individual figures on wooden bases was found in set 73, "Camp Dewey." This was a knock-down target set which included both 12 mounted and 12 foot figures of the U.S. Regulars on individual wooden bases, plus a paper tent, an American flag on a pole and a "rapid fire gun" (a cannon that shot metal balls using a magazine above the barrel), otherwise all in wood. The gun was also offered separately (No 33 1/4).

While not as well-known as their contemporary big American paper companies like McLoughlin and Parker brothers, these high-quality sets of paper lithographed toy soldiers on wood present a rare look into the emerging manufacture of an affordable and characteristic American-made toy soldier around the turn of the century.

More Whitney Reed Chair Company?

A recent listing on eBay presents a boxed set of Whitney-Reed "Uncle Sam's Regulars" (Fig 7). The set has 10 stand-alone paper infantry, on card, with red wooden bases, all wearing the same fanciful uniforms as seen on the last ranks of the scissor toy. The set also includes a tattered but very colorful original box lid. The box art depicts a sharp-shooter in a civil-war era uniform, unlike the contents. Notably, the back of the lid has a penciled note which says "Christmas 1904," which coincides perfectly with the 1903-04 catalog listings.



1904 set of Uncle Sam's Regulars, including box art and 10 stand-alone infantry on red wooden bases.

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Edward Ryan. Paper Soldiers; an illustrated history of printed paper armies of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Golden Age Editions, New Cavendish Books. London. 1995.

[ps://www.mysteriousplanchette.com/Manu_Portal/whitneychairco.htm](http://www.mysteriousplanchette.com/Manu_Portal/whitneychairco.htm)

A brief on-line history of the Reed Toy Company and Whitney Reed Chair Company.

1897-1898 Catalog of the Whitney Reed Chair Company. Reprinted by The Antique Toy Collectors of America, 1979.

1901-1902 Toy Catalog of the Whitney Reed Chair Company. Reprinted for the Spring 2015 Convention of the Antique Toy Collectors of America

READERS' MESSAGES



Norman Joplin has been in touch regarding the footballers shown on the top of page 44 of Will Beierwaltes' sports piece in the previous issue. These were attributed by Will to Cartwright. However, Norman points out that, in an earlier article (Vol 42, No 1) it was established that the figures as illustrated in the article, with the wire kicking mechanism linked directly to the legs, were probably made by Russell rather than Cartwright. The latter's figures did, as Will mentioned in his article, have the trigger mechanism on the top of their heads.

The boxed set shown in the image supplied by Norman, is of a Russell made set, although the box label focusses on the fact that they have been made by Disabled Soldiers and Sailors rather than the maker's name.

The links between Cartwright and Russell remain obscure, but Norman is still beaver away to clarify the situation. Hopefully, we can publish the results of his efforts in due course.



Following on from Will's article on Britains Medical sets, Joe Wallis kindly supplied the image of the extremely rare medical officer holding a document. Only available in short-lived sets #1909, and 1910, very few of this figure were ever made by Britains. Unfortunately, it is easily forged by adding an appropriate repainted arm to the officer body that was sold with an empty-handed arm in various other sets. So, check carefully for any sign that the arm has been replaced or that the paint does not quite match before getting too excited!

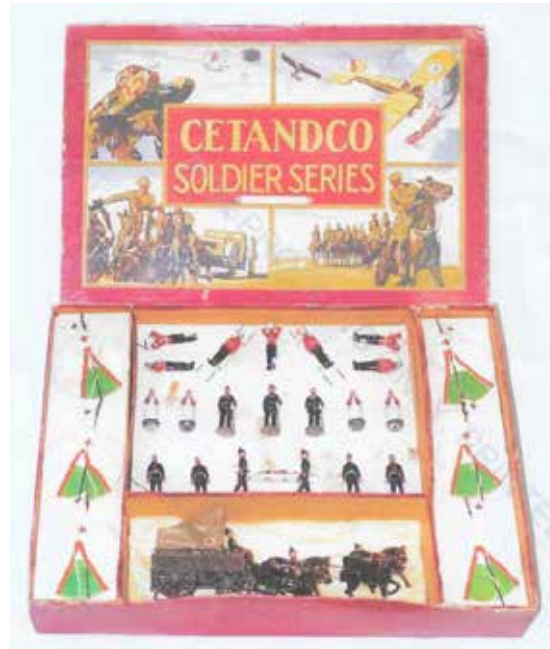
READERS' MESSAGES *(Continued)*



Britains Royal Army Medical Corps "St. John's" series.
Another trademark used by C.E. Turnbull & Co Ltd.

Norman Joplin also chipped in with two images of the CET St Johns set mentioned in Wills article but not pictured there. The first features a Britains style label, but without the Britains name printed on it.

The second has a generic CETANDCO label, which was used on a number of different display sets marketed by this company. These sometime contained figures and other items by other makers including BMC and SR.



Britains Royal Army Medical Corps in C.E. Turnbull & Co box with "Cetandco" trademark.



Peter Richards likes to keep an eagle eye out for unusual figures offered on eBay in various European countries. He spotted the following two cavalry figures. These are probably from the Britains Paris Office, presenting an unusual combination of bodies, arms and paint finishes not normally available from the London factory. A number of similar figures have turned up in France and other countries from time to time, suggesting that these were part of the Paris Office's large range of sets which was much less standardised than the main factory's offerings.



AHI and Swedish African Engineers (SAE): a Story of “Involuntary Sharing”

By Lou Sandbote



AHI box of 30mm horses and cattle with mysterious cardboard bases

Toy company Azrak-Hamway International, Inc (AHI), doing business as REMCO Toys, took its name from Marvin Azrak and Ezra Hamway, partners in the New York firm which marketed this recently discovered box of 30mm “Miniature Animals.”

The AHI company was featured as a chapter in my book *The Toy Soldier Artistry of Holger Eriksson – Authenticast, SAE and Malleable Mouldings: Military History in Miniature*. But this set of animals was not discovered until after that book was published. As noted in the caption, most of the animals have neat card bases, but these were probably added by the buyer ex post rather than when they were originally manufactured.

AHI made toy soldiers and other figures in 30mm, 40mm and 54mm scales, but they get little respect from collectors. Many confuse their products with almost identical SAE figures. AHI did come up with some figures NOT copied from those of other companies, but its favorite business model seemed to be the copying of figures made by other toy soldier manufacturers. It farmed out the production of “its” figures to independent Japanese factories. AHI also made figures and other categories of toys not known to have been copied from anybody’s items.

A few manufacturers attacked AHI for what they claimed was infringement.* Sometimes AHI won a lawsuit. (AHI prevailed in both the trial court and in the appeals court in both suits whose citations are set out in simplified version below.) The gist of the suits seemed often to be something to the effect: “We made this thing first; AHI copied or mimicked our product without our approval; We want it to stop doing that and to pay us some money for our damages and annoyance”.

As a small company, SAE didn’t have the wherewithal to fight with AHI in the courts. It is almost 8,000 miles between Cape Town, where SAE had its factory, and New York City where AHI was located and where any suit would have to be tried. Even after it was obvious AHI was copying SAE’s figures, SAE didn’t follow any of the steps Britains, Ltd took in the courts to protect whatever copyright it may have had. Neither did lead figures’ designer and sculptor Holger Eriksson do so. “HE” as he is known to collectors, was a totally independent contractor in Sweden who sculpted and sold original masters to Curt Wennberg’s South Africa SAE factory. HE didn’t formally restrict anyone from reproducing his models. In fact, Eriksson kept back for his own later sales many of the figures he sold to Wennberg as masters. Eriksson listed for sale his 30mm Charles XII and various portrait figures in his first, January 1963 catalog, prior to selling those figures to a predecessor of Tradition of London.

AHI also copied SAE’s green and white boxes with scenic backgrounds. It even copied the position of its lettering to mimic the SAE logo and lettering positions. AHI’s green boxes contained either six marching or fighting 30mm figures on foot or else three men on horses, thereby mimicking the number of figures SAE placed in each box. Like SAE, it printed a list of its wares and bound it to the box with cellophane wrapping. It also used SAE’s folded slots to secure the figures in the box. The only thing not copied exactly was AHI’s logo printed between and the words “Tru-size Metal” and “Miniature Figures.” AHI flourished selling through dimestores using cellophane bags attached to hanger tags. It sold its green box sets in dimestores for 49 cents, beating SAE’s \$1.00 price in hobby stores. The cello bags’ tags claimed the figures were “DIECAST.” The definition of “die cast” implies *force* as opposed to merely pouring molten lead into a mold.

AHI and Swedish African Engineers (SAE): a Story of “Involuntary Sharing” CONTINUED

Among the companies whose products were borrowed by AHI's copying were British Cherilea's 54mm knights in battle, scaled down to 30mm; metal copies of American Louis Marx Company's solid plastic Robin Hood as well as its Captain Kidd figures; copies of the manufacturer Harvey's 54mm Cowboys fighting and shooting, plastic figures; as well as copies of Britains Herald series Cowboys and Indians and their Modern British Infantry (marketed by AHI as Set 8910MA “U.S. Marines”). With respect to the Harvey figures, the British company had itself shifted to plastic, re-releasing a number of its hollow-cast figures in plastic under the “Lone Star” brand name. AHI reversed this trend, reverting back to hollowcast while Britains and Harvey were doing the opposite!

Complaining lawsuits by these companies haven't been found by this writer. Again: any gain probably wouldn't be worth the lawyers' fees.

The Japanese 30mm production yielded a “rounded look” for figures already headed in that direction by SAE's inability to faithfully reproduce Eriksson's highly detailed masters. Painting in Japan was more carefully done, though some figures suffered in translation. For instance, for unknown reason, SAE's Cape Town painters evidently believed the U.S. Marine Corp's flag was black with a white design instead of it having a red field for a background. That same error appears in the AHI Japanese version. British Guards are painted by both SAE and AHI in red coats and black trousers. However, some of AHI's Guards wear all-black uniforms with white belts and bearskin caps, a sort of Royal Marine Guards variation.

Nevertheless, AHI represents an interesting niche for collectors, where a small cameo collection can be assembled at modest cost.




SAE vs. AHI – Spot the Difference?

*MATTEL, INC et al vs. AZRAK-HAMWAY International dba Remco Toys et al, 724 Fed. 2nd 357 1983 [5 1/2 “action figure]

*NICKERBOCKER TOY COMPANY VS. AZRAK-HAMWAY International, 668 Fed 2nd 699 1982 [“Wrist Racers”]

Special thanks to Norman Joplin for his research, which sorts the origins of some of the AHI-copied figures; See his book The Great Book of Hollow-Cast Figures, which identifies manufacturers whose products morphed into other companies' toy figures via purchase or outright copying.

Elastolin
Kunststoff-Figuren und Zubehöre



Bestimmungsbuch und Preiskatalog

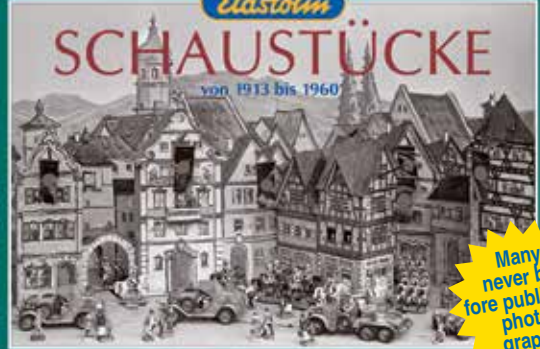
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ELASTOLIN
Plastic figures and accessories.
All items are listed in a price chart.

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

ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

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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Tel.: +49 30 392 94 90, Fax: +49 30 398 48 166
Email: redaktion@figuren-magazin.de
Web: www.figuren-magazin.de



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Timpo Toys
Special Issue No.3

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

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

A fascinating Pathé Film

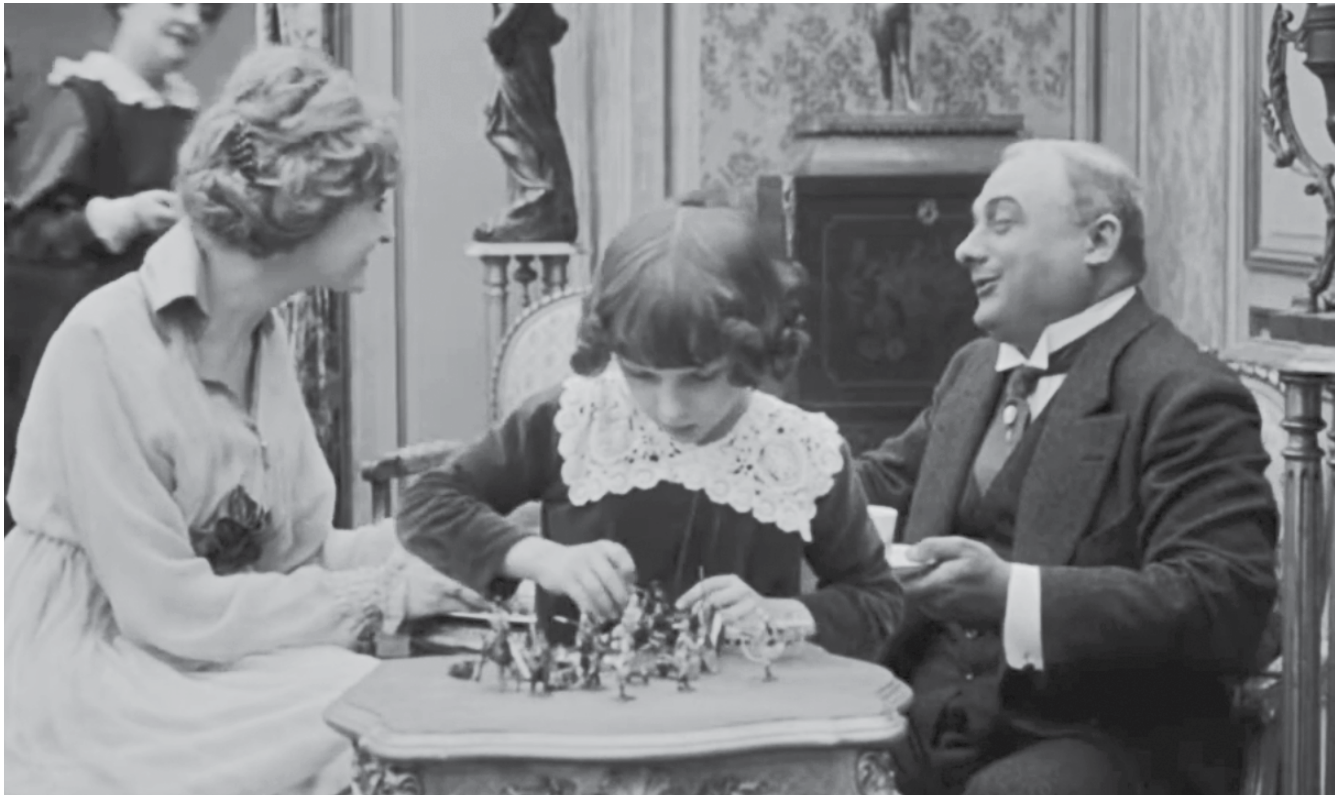
By Nassim Medjaoui

During the course of the research for my book, I discovered this short film which contains some very interesting images of toy soldiers, including some rare Paris Office types. To support the war effort, Pierre Bressol, a French actor and filmmaker who was well-known during the silent film era (but is now completely forgotten), made a short film in 1916 called Les Petits Soldats de Plomb. The film was restored by Pathé and brought back into the spotlight for the World War 1 centenary. It is available online at: <https://youtu.be/4oha3bilLs0?feature=shared>

In the movie, Jean-Baptiste, a French soldier, writes to his wife Louise that he expects to be home on leave shortly. Uncle Pierre visits Louise and brings their son Bébé a box of toy soldiers. At night, Bébé dreams that the toys come to life and defeat the enemy (the Germans of course!). The Dream sequence includes many more figures by Britains and XR, all of which dash across the miniature battlefield with lots of explosions and smoke. The scene ends of course in victory for the allied troops. The film also ends happily, with Jean-Baptiste reunited with his family (temporarily at least!).

This silent film is fascinating from the viewpoint of a toy soldier collector. It is interesting to see that the child, likely from the French aristocracy (with the fictitious name Ajac, including a noble particle) or at least from the Parisian upper bourgeoisie, received a gift box containing Paris Office and X.R. figures. These are mixed together, along with what looks like a smaller scale S.R. artillery train. It is reasonable to assume that Britains Paris Office, like other manufacturers, included figures from other brands in their boxes or sold their figures to other manufacturers. Another possibility is that wholesalers and department stores purchased the soldiers from different manufacturers and composed the boxes themselves. There is evidence from line drawings in various French department store catalogues that suggest Britains figures were sold in this fashion.

The following images captured from the film illustrate the key elements in the story, focussing of course on the toy soldiers!



Uncle Pierre delivers the toys which the child has unwrapped and set out on the table.

“Les petits soldats de plomb”

A fascinating Pathé Film

CONTINUED

Homing in on the figures, it is possible to identify:

- Britains Paris Office Officer standing with binoculars, service dress;
- An odd Britains Soudanese infantry at the trail;
- Britains Chasseurs à Pied? at the slope;
- XR Charging figures; and
- a small scale SR b-sized gun team.



Unfortunately, the image of the box lid is not good enough to discern the label.



More images of the box contents showing what appear to be Britains Poilus in service dress and kepis.



Bébé holds up a Britains Paris Office flag bearer

“Les petits soldats de plomb”

A fascinating Pathé Film

CONTINUED



This image shows XR charging figures (British and French), slightly larger in scale than the Britains.



A scene from the dream sequence, in which the lead soldiers come to life and fight a victorious battle against the Germans – here XR British infantry are charging into a war-torn village.

Germans surrender to the charging XR French Poilus.



“Les petits soldats de plomb”

A fascinating Pathé Film

CONTINUED



Britains, Paris Office French Infantry, with SR artillery support, march through the village.



Britains Chasseurs à Pieds and a Chasseur à Cheval with officer standing holding binoculars.

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Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions (*Expédition du Soudan by Krause*) - an intriguing find

By Gisbert Freber

Introduction

Thanks to the kind mediation of a collector friend, a few years ago, I was able to purchase a very large box of lead figures manufactured by Krause in Gotha. The original lid inscription reads: "Expédition du Soudan". This means that it is an export box for the French market. This surprised me because when I thought of Sudan I was thinking more about British rather than French colonial history. I would think that it was not really a particularly exciting topic for the French market!? Especially considering the final outcome, when the British prevailed against the French (see the brief historical summary box!)

I also found the size of the box remarkable at 20 x 26 inches or 50 x 68 cm. But when I took the lid off, the real surprise came. At first glance I could see the large number of figures in the box, and then there was a second layer underneath! These contained a huge selection of individual figures, groups, a fort, huts, plants, fully rounded ships and other accessories. These are 30-35mm scale, semi-ronde figures.

In total there are around 480 individual pieces. In the 1924 Krause Figures Catalog, of which I have a copy, the largest box with figures of this size has a maximum of only 100 figures.

List of contents in detail:

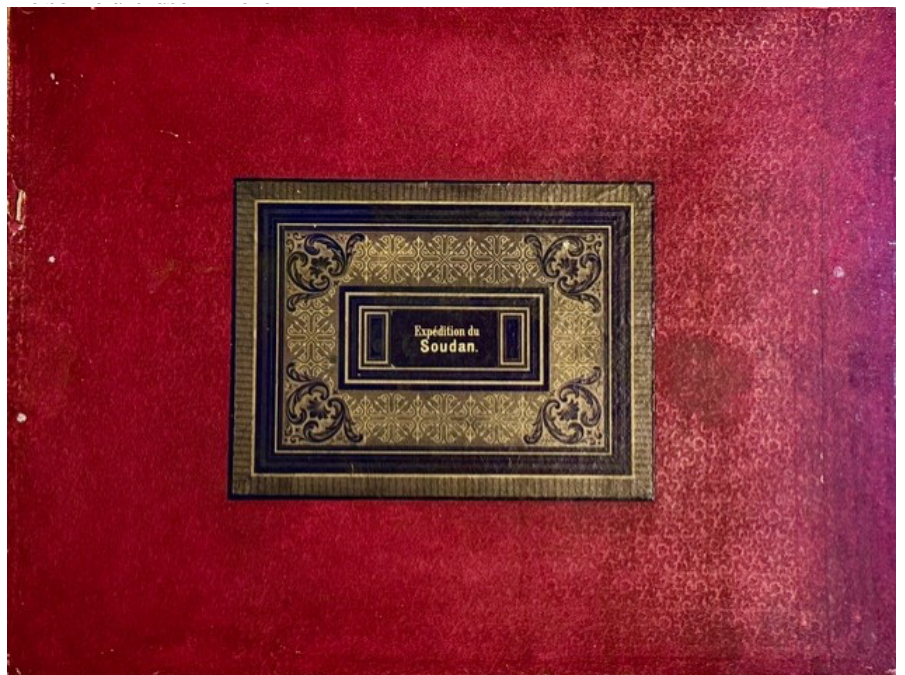
- 140 figures of English infantry in colonial uniform, with pith helmet, advancing/attacking.
- 60 sailors (English or possibly French?)
- 17 light-skinned soldiers in colorful uniform with baggy pants. (probably French?), fighting
- 3 fully rounded gunboats under the English flag
- 167 black-skinned people with loincloths, fighting with spears, bows and arrows and rifles
- 38 camels or horses with riders
- 7 unriden horses and camels
- 18 plants and scenic accessories, including parts of the fort
- 2 fully rounded accessories, house and hut

The foot figures are about 30-35 mm in size, a size that plays an important role in the semi-solid figures from Krause.

Trying to figure out what it is all about?

From the British perspective: the set could represent the First or Second Sudan Campaign/Expedition. But there was also a confrontation between France and Britain - see the text box. Is it about an expedition in 1882 or 1899?

We have the English ships and we have a Fort. But it seems that there are also figures in French uniforms in the box?



The box lid and label in French

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(Expédition du Soudan by Krause) - an intriguing find

CONTINUED



The top layer - opposing armies and a fort

(See the List in detail). There are two small groups where British soldiers (in red coats) help naked white people - this is particularly remarkable. Perhaps it is about the liberation of prisoners? These very specific scenes suggest a particular historical background, although unfortunately I cannot understand it at the moment.

The figures in the set do not seem to square up with any particular incident in the historical summary shown in the text box. I cannot identify any important figure such as Gordon, Kitchener, etc. Moreover, I cannot clearly identify the artillery group. I am not aware of any blue cannons used among French or British troops. The red jackets seem to indicate a predominantly British presence. If the Battle of Omdurman in 1898 is depicted, the black-skinned troops could be the Dervish army. But by then the British were clad in khaki rather than red. It is a mystery!



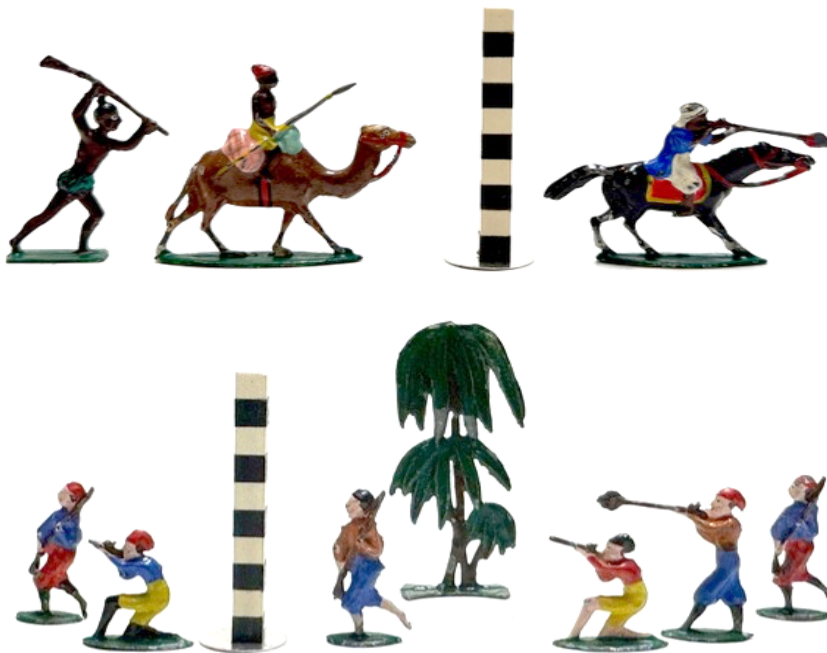
The second layer - British ships and many more figures

Does any reader have any clearer idea what this set is about? It surely must be of significance for Krause to do such a big box? Even though it looks that this is for the French market, because of the box label, maybe it is mainly about the British rather than the French?

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(*Expédition du Soudan by Krause*) - an intriguing find

CONTINUED



Selected figures showing size (1/2 centimeters)



Battle engaged



The British fleet, naval landing party and Dervishes



The three British warships - details

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(Expédition du Soudan by Krause) - an intriguing find

CONTINUED

Historical background - Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions in the late 19th Century

1. The Suez Canal was built by the Suez Canal Company, founded by French diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps. De Lesseps secured permission from the Ottoman viceroy of Egypt, Sa'id Pasha, to build the canal. Construction began in 1859 and completed in 1869. Originally it was jointly owned by a French and Egyptian consortium.
2. The Canal was officially opened on November 17, 1869. It provided a direct route between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, significantly reducing travel time and distance for ships between Europe and Asia. This was especially important for the British, whose Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine almost literally ruled the waves. Britain found the Canal especially useful in linking its disparate empire (on which the sun never set).
3. The Egyptian part of the consortium soon ran into serious financial difficulties, and in 1875 Britain stepped into the breach, buying up their shares.
4. In 1882, the British occupied Egypt to secure the Canal and quell a nationalist uprising led by Ahmed 'Urabi against the Khedive Tewfik Pasha. The British successfully defeated the Egyptian army at Tel El Kebir led by 'Urahbi in September 1882, establishing firm British influence over Egypt. This led to subsequent intervention in the Sudan, where British, Egyptian, and Indian troops fought against Sudanese rebels, culminating in the Mahdist War.
5. In Sudan, the rebellion led by the Mahdist leader Muhammad Ahmad had gained momentum. Colonel Hicks (ex Indian Army) led an early expedition of Egyptian troops in 1883 attempting to suppress this revolt. This ended tragically for Hicks and his troops. On Monday 5 November 1883 the day ended with the complete annihilation of his Egyptian force. Approximately 100 survivors took refuge under wagons and in thorn bushes. These were prodded out and later dragged naked with ropes around their necks into El Obeid as part of a triumphal procession led by the Mahdi atop a magnificent white camel. None of Hicks' European staff survived.
6. General Gordon was subsequently sent to Khartoum to sort matters out but with inadequate support. Following his defeat and death in Khartoum in 1885, General Kitchener, was sent to reconquer Sudan in 1896 and avenge Gordon. He eventually defeated the Mahdist forces at the Battle of Omdurman in 1898.
7. While he was killed in the Battle of Khartoum in 1885, there's no record of Gordon being stripped naked as a form of punishment or desecration. The general was killed in battle and his body was treated with respect, according to all reliable historical accounts.
8. The Fashoda Incident was a near-war crisis that evolved in 1898 when a French expedition reached Fashoda (in present-day Sudan) at the same time as the British force under Kitchener. This led to a standoff that was ultimately resolved diplomatically and peacefully.
9. In 1899, Britain and Egypt reached an agreement to administer Sudan jointly, with a governor-general appointed by Egypt, with British consent, effectively making Sudan a Crown colony. The Mahdist Revolt was finally extinguished at the Battle of Umm Diwaykarat in November 1899.
10. The Anglo-French Sudanese expeditions, culminating in the Fashoda Incident of 1898, involved a French expedition led by Jean-Baptiste Marchand. He was aiming to link French colonial territories across Africa. He set out in 1896 from Loango. As reports of Marchand's advance reached London, British authorities, fearing French encroachment on the Nile valley, the British expeditionary force led by Kitchener was ordered to move south towards Fashoda.
11. Marchand reached Fashoda on July 10, 1898, and occupied an abandoned Egyptian fort. Kitchener, having defeated the Mahdists at the Battle of Omdurman, arrived at Fashoda on September 18. Neither side was willing to give up their claims to the fort. However, fearing a military conflict, they agreed that Egyptian, British, and French flags should all be flown over the fort while awaiting further instructions from their respective governments.
12. The French, fearing the possibility of war with Britain, and anxious to gain British support against Germany, chose to ignore the outrage in domestic opinion in France ordering Marchand and his troops to withdraw. The French and British governments eventually agreed (March 21, 1899) that the watershed of the Nile and the Congo rivers should mark the frontier between their respective spheres of influence. This solution led to the Anglo-French Entente of 1904.

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(*Expédition du Soudan by Krause*) - an intriguing find

CONTINUED



Dervishes and Arabs mounted on camels



Battle engaged (definitely intended as British, despite the incorrect Union Jack Flag)



Naval Landing party and Fort

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(*Expédition du Soudan by Krause*) - an intriguing find
CONTINUED



More skirmishes
- detail



Rescuing casualties

Anglo-French Sudanese Expeditions

(*Expédition du Soudan by Krause*) - an intriguing find

CONTINUED



While thinking about the idea that the Krause Figures could be usable to play different Battles of the Sudan Campaign I had the well-known Toy Soldier Collector Peter Clark from Washington as guest in my house. We talked about that possibility. After a while, we agreed to try a game. It was great fun to do.

We played using the rules of "*Jungdeutschlands Schlachtenspiel*" - an early German Game from around 1910, made by Hausser, Elastolin, Germany. It follows different rules from other games with a combination of "*Halma*" (close to Chinese Checkers) for the Foot Figures and allowing the Mounted Figures make a play like the Knight in chess, but here he is allowed a double jump.

We used old Battle Maps referring the Battle of Omdurman from 1898 (Sudan Campaign) and the figures matched very well. The 33mm size of the semi solid figures (1.3 inch) fits perfectly for this game, which took 2 hours! This experience confirms my belief that the box was made to play different Themes and Battles of the Sudan Campaign!

The last three pictures show Peter and myself having fun!



Auction Review - Important auction in the South of France

The lifetime collection of Monsieur Lavigne, a well-known French collector and connoisseur of toy soldiers, came under the hammer at the offices of Carrère et Laborie on the 5th of June in the southern city of Pau. Bidders from across the world competed for some fine and rare items, as well as the more common products of all the main French makers that one might expect to find.

Monsieur Lavigne had assembled a very eclectic collection, almost entirely focussed on French figures, many in original boxes. CBG Mignot was of course represented, but primarily in the form of large display sets rather than single regiment sets. Other solid cast competitors of CBG Mignot were also on offer, but the main focus was on French hollowcast, including most of the major companies (such as XR, CS, CL, etc).

The highlight though was a magnificent castle and figures by Sonnenburg, which was eventually knocked down for 7000 euros, excluding commission (10 times the auctioneer's modest estimate of 600-800 euros!).

Other notable items were two magnificent display sets depicting the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 and a similar set focussed on the conflict between Romans and Gauls. These went under the hammer for 1500, 3100 and 1700 euros respectively.



CBG Mignot 4-row Display Sets _ Russo-Japanese War, 1905

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



The War at Sea, 1905



Gaulois vs Romans

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



Sonnenberg Castle and related figures

RECONNAISSANCE

Tim Hyndman

The next two pages show some fine Britains conversions by Brit Tim Hyndman. We featured his work in the magazine a few months ago. Tim has continued to produce great figures as illustrated here. The groups of French Cavalry figures from the turn of the 19th/20th century are all based on Britain's figures, brilliantly converted and painted. They continue the tradition of Freddie Green, and others, of taking toy soldiers and elevating them to another level, while still

retaining the charm and feel that Britains aspired to when they first introduced their range of Hollowcast in 1893. These groups were entered into the most recent BMSS Annual competition and, not surprisingly, were awarded a Gold medal. All the figures are Britains, many superbly converted and repainted in Britains Special Paint style with gloss enamel paints. Keep up the good work Tim!



Britains French Cuirassiers in 1912, conversions painted in gloss enamel paints

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



French Chasseurs a Cheval 1912, the Colonel with the Regimental standard.

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



French Dragoons on field manoeuvres in 1912



Early Britains French Army, early oval based marching infantry and officer, Paris Office standard bearer and four Grande tenue neatly repainted by Tim

RECONNAISSANCE

Charlie Sinel presents a new display - *Work details at the Kyber Pass*

Just over a year ago (Winter 2024, Vol 47, No. 4), we reported on Charlie Sinel's personal museum, featuring rare Heyde and other sets. Charlie has sent us an update of his latest display. This time it features primarily "new" toy soldiers from various makers. Charlie has enlisted the help of a "Museum exclusive artist" to assist with the backdrop and scenic work.

Charlie loves playing with his toys and has had loads of fun setting up the display. It features a British fort on the borders of India and Afghanistan, with various groups of soldiers carrying out their routine duties in a brief spell when all is quiet! Charlie has incorporated as many poses of mess, work, reveille and other camp details as possible, to show what a soldier's daily life, under the Union Jack, usually consisted of. Like the old chestnut, 300 days of sheer boredom and five days of sheer terror!

"Just finished with painted backdrop for work details at the Khyber Pass. Thought you might enjoy seeing the finished product. I'm also sending along pics of my Gunga Din display as it's in the same genre as the Khyber Pass diorama. My impetus for the Indian Western Frontier themed displays probably emanated

from the hundreds, and I mean hundreds, of times me and my kid brother Sam saw the all-time great movie Gunga Din on TV as young boys in the 50's. We loved it.

Now when I watch it on DVR with my grandsons, I give a slight explanation to them about why the British were even there. I wanted a display that wasn't all battlefields and parades but an accurate depiction of the drudgery of the daily military life in the enlisted ranks. I believe this diorama is true to the Corps (excuse my pun)."

On closer inspection of the groupings, one cannot help to notice that all the Native working parties are commanded by a Colonial British Officer or Non-Com. Also, true to form, the Native Troops take their meals separately from the British Troops. Fort Muree (as named in the movie) was scratch-built by Hicks Atwells. Hicks was a very well-known collector and dealer in the 80's and 90's. Back when I first started collecting in the early 80's Hicks ran the Dedham, MA Toy Soldier Show which is still in existence as the North East Toy Soldier Society Show, now held in Burlington, MA.



Overview of the whole Kyber Pass display

RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)

All the Manufactures have long since gone to that great lead cauldron in the sky but here are some of them.

Trophy - Reveille display

Soldier Center Miniatures - Bakery and Mess displays

Little Legion - Unloading Mules and Brew Up

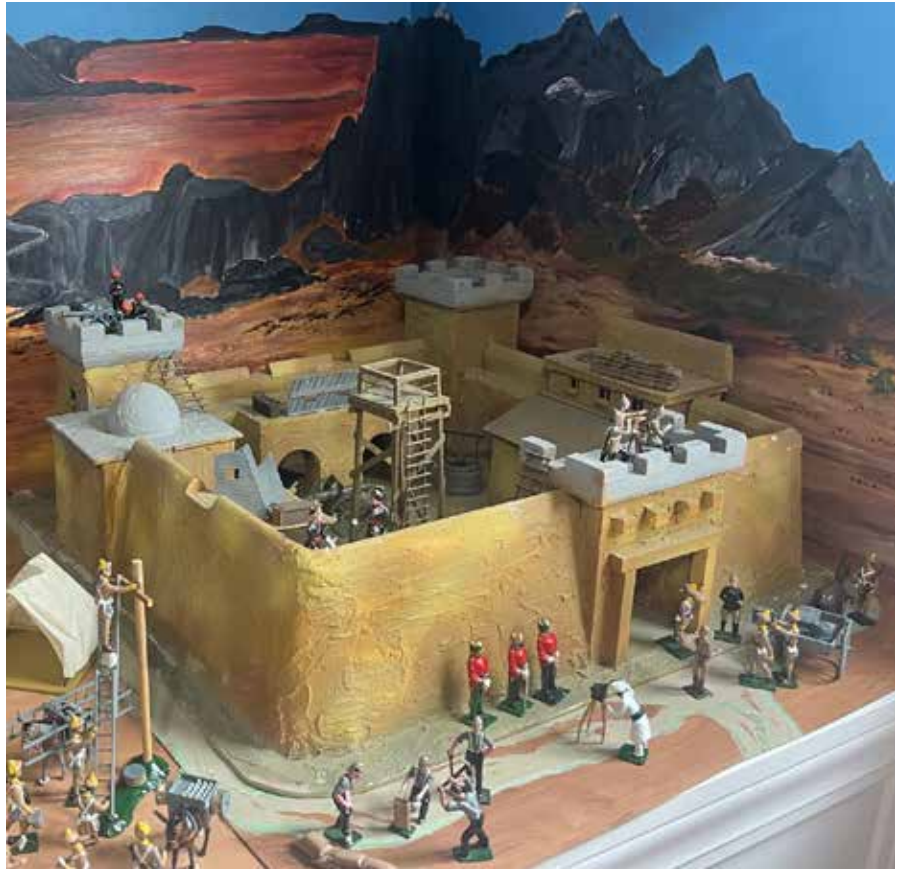
Steadfast - Work Detail carrying log (extreme back left)

Rose miniatures- Heliograph set (on the parapet)

Most of the others were purchased unboxed and have no maker's mark on the bases.

Hope this will amuse and entertain other readers. Be sure to include my email with a note to any collectors who want a tour of the Museum to feel free to get in touch."

Thanks for sharing Charlie!



The fort manned by British and Indian troops



State of the art communication - setting up a telegraph pole



Bringing in supplies, while above the heliograph team still busy at work until the telegraph system becomes operational!

RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



Time for a barbecue!



Assorted other duties

RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)



Acknowledgements

Charlie asked us to mention that his “house artist” is the world renowned watercolorist, Katherine Cowett. Katherine, after much cajoling, was kind enough to lend her Picasso like eye and hand to create the marvelous background.

Charlie's brother Sam is also a collector (retired) and has helped out in setting up the Museum.

Charlie once again extends an invitation to anyone interested to come see for themselves. Contact him in advance at csinel@hotmail.com

19th Century “selfie” - Rassaldars by Mike Ferguson (left to right, Mewar State Forces, Joshua State Forces, and Indure State Forces).



The Gunga Din display – using Heyde figures

Britains Territorials for Coronations

By John Franklin

A King George V Coronation 1911

This article has two parts: This first part is an intriguing enigma, the second a straight report.

There have been some intriguing, clearly Britains, full dress troops, appearing at auction in recent decades, probably a dozen lots or more since the millenium, with no definitive reported history in the Britains story, production runs or catalogues (see P1 - P6). There are no referenced reports in the literature of a background to these troops and no lots at auction to date have come with a box or set number. They do not appear to have been in any Britains leaflet or lists, etc.

James Opie in his *Great Book of Britains* surmises that these figures were brought out for the coronation of King George V in 1911. James also describes the two uniforms, being full dress, red with dark blue facings and blue with red facings. Further, he reports within each uniformed group there were officers on a prancing horse and on a trotting horse and men either marching or at attention, surmising also that they could be acquired singly or as a counter pack.

But, no Britains listing number found and no original box seen, and there have been no reports of any retained outlet selling such figures. What is surmised is that there were souvenirs on sale during the time of the coronation, not across the board, but outlets that already sold Britains toy soldiers. Two such significant outlets come to mind, big department stores with large toy sections already into Britains, and probably also well into the souvenir market. The two that readily suggest themselves, clearly in London, are Harrods and Selfridges. Gamages also come to mind. It was part of their approach to marketing Britains toy soldiers in boxes with Gamages labels.. I can see Gamages wanting to do this with such souvenir productions from Britains for a coronation, but again no such boxes with these reported figures appear to have surfaced anywhere in the last 50 years.

The figures in the red and blue uniforms were flat capped and in four stances, all new castings. Officers were the new figures introduced in the previous 10 years, mounted on a prancing or a trotting horse, and ordinary ranks were either marching or at attention. The foot soldiers were either the new all purpose marching full trousered figures, just recently introduced or the half-booted at attention figure with first version at attention rifle arm.

So there you have it, any clues anyone?

Following are pictures of the figures in all four stances and in both red and blue uniforms. Acknowledgements to Vectis and C & T auction houses.



P1 Red Mounted Officers, trotting and prancing horses

Britains Territorials for Coronations

CONTINUED



P2 Red Ordinary Ranks, marching and at attention



P3 Red Composite Group, all four figure types



P4 Blue Mounted Officers, trotting and prancing horses



P5 Blue Ordinary Ranks, marching and at present arms



P6 Blue composite groups

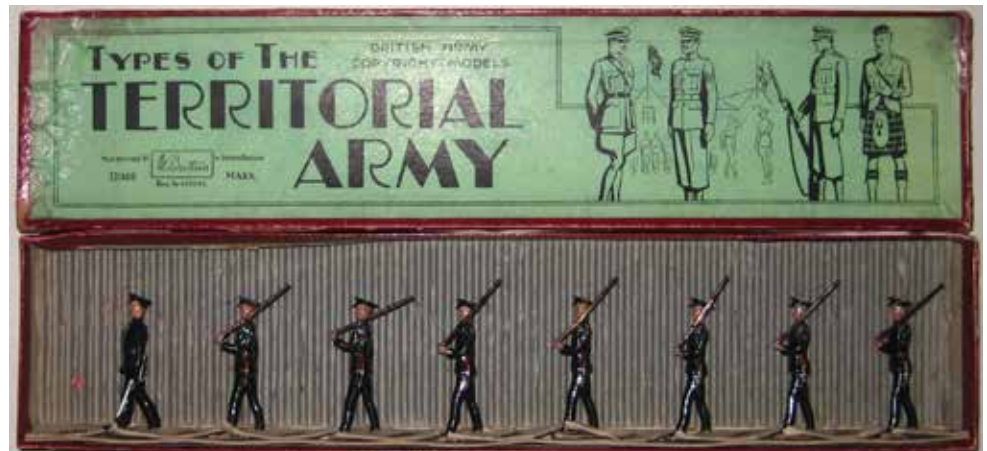
Britains Territorials for Coronations

CONTINUED

B King George VI Coronation 1937

A number of updated uniforms for various parts of Great Britain's armed forces were produced for the new King's coronation in 1937. Britains saw an opportunity to produce and market some sets to coincide with the coronation. Some of these new issues in 1937 were sets reflecting the volunteer part time soldiers in blue and green uniforms and four sets were produced, covering marching with rifles at the slope and at the present. In 1938 sets were issued for troops marching without rifles, walking out as Britains labelled them. All these new Territorial sets came with tan bases. In the catalogue the set titles state that the four 1937 Territorial sets are in New Green Uniforms or New Blue Uniforms.

P7 shows the boxed set 1538, Territorial Army in Green Uniforms with the unique box lid illustration. These rifle regiment troops are in a very dark green hue.



P7 Territorial Rifle Regiment "marching" slope arms green uniforms set 1538



P8 End label for boxed set 1538

P8 shows the end label as used for the 1937 sets. The label flags either Blue Uniform or Green Uniform and recording either Marching, Slope Arms, or, Present Arms.

There were slight variations at times for the sets with rifles, some had white rifle slings, as shown for rifle regiments in P10.



P9 Territorial set 1538 Rifle Regiment green uniforms



P10 Set 1538 variations with and without white rifle slings

Britains Territorials for Coronations

CONTINUED

P11 Set 1541 Territorial Rifle Regiment "green uniforms" present arms



P12 Set 1537 Territorial Line Regiment "marching" slope arms blue uniform



P13 Repro end label for boxed set 1537

A number of these sets were collected piecemeal and the slight variations in face or base colours, etc. can be seen. For interest, set 1618 (P19) was bought at BMSS in Caxton Hall one evening in the 1970s. I was well into making and painting diverse regimental sets, bands, colour parties etc., etc., at that time from duff/stripped down Britains figures. A dealer had on his table a box full of sets 1618 figures, simple basic painted castings which I thought could be stripped down. I was in the market for such basic figures for the groups I was going to make and paint. The box on the dealers table said £1 each so I thought I'll have 8 of those for stripping down, random selection, officer and 7 men. I never got round to stripping them and about 20 years later realised they were from set 1618.



P15 Set 1540 Territorial Line Regiment blue uniforms at the present



P14 Territorial set 1537 Line Regiment "blue uniforms"

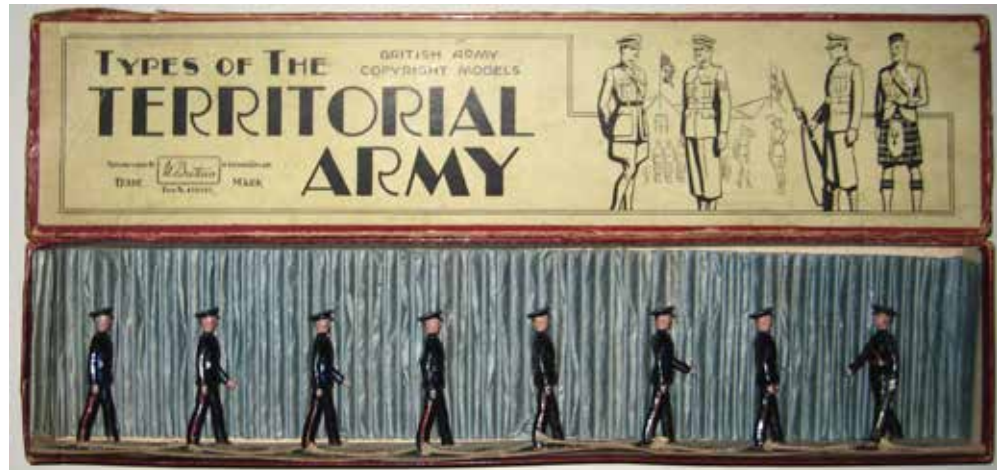
Britains Territorials for Coronations

CONTINUED

But as you can see there are slight variations, bases and faces. It took a further 25 years to obtain its companion set 1617 (P16). These variations can even be seen in one of the boxed sets, some figures as reported collected piecemeal and then an empty box comes along (like P13 above).

The Coronation for George VI was in May 1937. Following the four Territorial sets in that year as covered above, two further Territorial sets, seemingly, were issued in the following year, again one each for Line Regiments and Rifle Regiments. This time they paraded without arms and were described as in Walking-Out Dress, (P16). However, the end label (P17) does not name the figures as exclusively Territorials, it states Regulars & Territorials so could represent either, but they are in a Territorials box.

The end label for these two 1938 sets was slightly different to those for the four 1937 sets above. It described the contents as Regulars and Territorials Line Regiments. So, Regulars & (or) Territorials but still in a Territorial box, (P17).



P16 Set 1617 Territorial Line Regiment in Walking-Out Dress blue uniform



P17 End label for boxed set 1617, Walking-Out Dress (Blue)



P18 Territorial set 1617 Regulars or Territorials in Walking-out Dress (Blue)

The catalogue entry for set 1617 says Line Regiments of the Regular Army and Territorial Forces, in Blue Walking-out Dress with Officer, similarly so for set 1618.

It is interesting to note that the officers for the rifles regiments, for the matching set 1538 and walking out set 1618, have silver whistle lanyards but set 1541, the rifle regiment at the present, do not sport one.



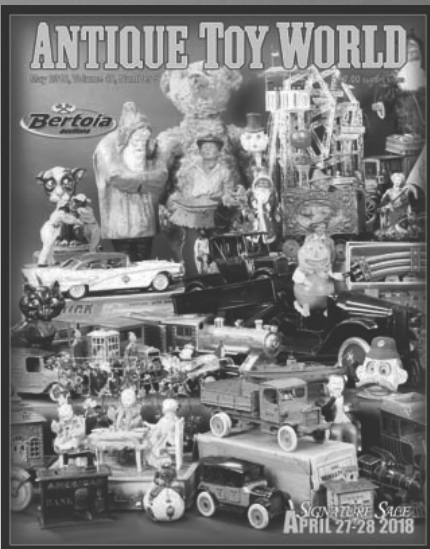
P19 Territorial set 1618 Regulars or Territorials in Walking-out Dress (Green)

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