



# THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of the British Model Soldier Society

## Extra

No. 4

2022

## Historic Times

By Mark Gilbert, BMSS President

**I started writing this piece** whilst watching the events unfold following the announcement of the death of H.M. Queen Elizabeth. As someone born just after she came to the Throne, I, and I am sure many members, will not have lived through such events as these. For those who have, I imagine that they will have been quite young and will have their own particular memories of those previous events. For my own generation, and those much younger, these present happenings will have been a defining moment in our lives. The ceremonies that took place with the return of the Queen to London will have been watched by many, as will the Lying-in-State and Funeral. We will now look forward to the Coronation of the new King Charles in due course but, in the meantime, we offer our deepest sympathy to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family for their loss.

The various ceremonies will, I am sure, give much scope for figure modellers and collectors to recreate these events over the next year. Manufacturers of models will also produce commemorative pieces, which will make the life of the modeller easier. Some, such as the Austin K2 Ambulance in markings corresponding to the then Princess Elizabeth, have already arrived by two separate companies.

The Royal Family have been heavily connected to the Armed Forces, with many having served in conflicts, both in more recent times as well as those larger conflicts in the past. These associations with the late Queen were played out during the recent events, with particular units connected to her taking major roles in the ceremonies.



Chris Bartlett's representation of the Lying-in-State.

Photograph by Chris Bartlett

The Society will be also marking these events within its own publications, and I am sure that Branches will wish to arrange their own displays for future events. Where Branches and SIGs have these displays in the coming months, I would encourage them to provide photographic coverage for *The Bulletin*, in order that they can be brought to a wider audience.

Queen Elizabeth had been a constant in our lives for all these years, and while many changes in the world and within this country have occurred, she has always been steadfastly there. The institution of the Royal Family has adapted to these changes and developed, as has society. When the Queen ascended to the Throne, the world was a very different place to the present one. Attitudes within society have dramatically changed, many for the better, I am sure you will agree. Changes in technology would be almost magic to those back in the early 1950s, with reliance on our mobile phones a particular case in point. Makes you wonder how the future changes will play out. The

changes in our hobby have been dramatic as well. In the last 50 years in particular, these changes have altered the quality and availability of subjects to a dramatic degree and seem to continue to do so. Some kits that have appeared recently, are of subjects I converted a few years ago, as I did not really think there was a realistic chance of them appearing. Mind you, I still have a lengthy list of subjects to convert, but these have been made easier with conversion kits being now available. So less work, but more expense! The use of 3D printing has already had an impact on our hobby and this technology will continue to expand those models available, to such an extent that many of us will be printing models ourselves from purchased files or have the skills to design them ourselves! This would have been magic 30 years ago, let alone in the 1950s.

I am sure the next few years will see further changes to society, hopefully, for the better, as well in the wider world and, of course, in our own hobby. So, God save the King, and I wish you all a good future.



*Andy Statham (right) receiving the trophy from our President, Mark Gilbert. It seems particularly poignant that the presentation took place in front of a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen just days before her passing.*

## East Midlands takes the trophy

At long last, things seem to be returning to something like normal and, to emphasize that fact, this year's BMSS Inter-Branch competitions reverted to their traditional time – the first

Saturday of September – and usual venue – the Masonic Centre at Knowle in the West Midlands.

It has always been a most enjoyable day, when Society members have come together from all over the country, entered their work in a variety of

competition classes, and had a chance to catch up with old friends and get to meet new ones, in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. And so it proved to be this year, with eight areas managing to get to the event, as well as a number of individual members who were not affiliated to any particular branch. Happily, the tables were crammed with entries, giving the judges quite a challenge in sorting out the placings. In the end, it was Andy Statham of the East Midlands (*pictured above*) who received the trophy from our newly installed President, Mark Gilbert. Quite by chance, as you will see from the photograph, the presentation took place in front of a photographic portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, five days before she died.

A full report of the show, together with pictures and results, will appear in *Bulletin No. 4*, but Terry O'Neill and all his helpers deserve everyone's thanks for getting the show back on the road and providing a memorable day for so many members.

## The BMSS January Auction

The next BMSS auction will take place on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January at St. Saviour's Church Hall, Pimlico (St. Georges Square, London SW1V 3QW). For members who wish to provide lots to sell on the night, the same process will be used as for the last auction, as follows:

1. Decide which lots you want to sell.
2. Advise Paul and/or Julie Newman either by telephone (01895 832757) or by email ([bmss.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bmss.treasurer@gmail.com)).
3. They will send you the entry tickets to put with the lots.
4. A list of lots will be published both on the website and printed.
5. Bring the lots along to the auction on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Doors open at 4.30 p.m., viewing at 5 p.m., sale starts promptly at 5.30 p.m.

6. Any unsold lots are to be retained by yourself.

So, to make this happen, we would like to keep to the following plan:

1. Advice of details of all lots to be received by Julie before the end of October
2. Printed lists available at the next National meeting Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

You may enter as few or as many lots as you wish. There will be a limit of 200 lots on the night (due to the amount of time available). Remember, as this is a closed auction to BMSS members only, there is just a 10% commission to BMSS funds on lots sold, with no extra charges to the buyer and no VAT.

Please also note that the BMSS have acquired a card reader that will be available on the night, to save the use of cheques, if you wish.

## Appeal for information

The BMSS Archivist Stephen Dance writes that he has a very (very!) distant memory of a children's drama which must have been shown on BBC TV in the early 1960s. It featured a young lad with an impressive collection of model soldiers which had been carefully laid out on a baize cover.

Later on, the viewer saw the same lad trudging along a country lane carrying his collection in said baize (a heavy load if they were lead). The implication being he must have left home for some reason but didn't want to be parted from his soldiers (sensible lad).

Does this ring any bells with anyone? Does anyone recall what the programme was called? If so, please contact Stephen at 1 Flora Grove, St Albans, Herts AL1 5EW or e-mail [stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com](mailto:stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com).



## Three cheers for the BMSS Christmas card!



**This year's Christmas card** really does celebrate both the BMSS and the season. It depicts members of the Army, Navy and R.A.F, at the end of World War Two, in very convivial mood, and is based on a model entitled "Cheers", which won a Silver Medal in the Special Class with the theme of "Celebration", at last year's Annual Show and competitions. The little vignette was created by our Treasurer, Paul Newman and incorporated in this very seasonal scene of a snow covered Aldershot barracks by past President Paul Vickers – a real team effort!

As in previous years, a limited number of cards have been printed and so we would urge those members who would like to order some, to act quickly. Amazingly, the really good news is that, in spite of inflation that seems to have struck at every sector of the market, the price of these cards is exactly the same as last year, with a pack of twelve cards and envelopes priced at £5, *including postage*.

If you would like to obtain one or more packs of cards, write to: **BMSS Christmas Cards, 37 Yeading Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9RL**, with cheques or postal orders made payable to "The British Model Soldier Society". Or, to pay by card, you can contact our Hon Treasurer on 01895 832757 with your order. Ralph Weaver, who is handling the sales, can also take orders at: [ralphews@hotmail.com](mailto:ralphews@hotmail.com) for payment at a later date.

Last year's cards proved very popular, so we would advise members to send your orders as soon as possible to let the celebrations begin.



### Please do keep them coming

One of the great benefits that came out of our recent problems, was the way that so many members responded to our plea for articles for consideration for inclusion in *The Bulletin*. We also received a marvellous response to our request for models that members had produced and items in their collections which we featured in our pages under the heading "Celebrating the BMSS".

This really was a wonderful effort and the Editor is most grateful to all those who participated. It certainly was a 'life saver' as far as he was concerned, and also brought to light some hidden talents, and broadened the range and scope of the articles.

The *Bulletin* and *Bulletin Extra* are ravenous beasts that need a constant diet of varied articles to feed them, so please do continue to provide them and the Editor with 'meaty' articles and pictures!

### WANTED

Original rubber buildings and features in 30mm scale by Bellona, also any buildings, fortifications or other structures made to order by the late William Holmes of Deltorama Limited.

Please write with details and price required to Stephen Dance, 1 Flora Grove, St Albans, Herts AL1 5EW or you can e-mail [stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com](mailto:stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com)

# Magazine Review

*Ralph Weaver casts his eyes over two recent publications of interest to military modellers*

## Feldpost von 1870

Issue for 2022, Volume 36

**Y**ou have probably not come across this title before, it is the name of the journal of a group in Germany which specialises in the period of German history 1864 to 1870/71. The issue for 2022, volume 36, is edited by Jörg Richter of Neumünster. The magazine consists of 67 pages of good quality paper with illustrations in black and white and colour. It contains articles covering its period using text, artwork and models. The cover is a good example, taking a sketch by Professor Richard Knötel used to illustrate an account of a Prussian artillery battery in 1870. The sketch shows the Prussian Prince Adelbert using a telescope to follow the shooting of a Krupp field gun commanded by Sergeant Völker. Flat figures in 30mm have been created in the style of the original drawing and painted to represent the persons depicted. Interestingly, the Prince held the rank of admiral in the Prussian navy, and is shown in a blue



frock coat and trousers with gold rank rings on the coat cuffs. His mounted adjutant, in similar uniform, is the splendidly named Captain Ulrich Maximilian Le Tanneux von Saint Paul-Illaire. (This officer had served for three years in the Royal Navy and held a

teaching position. He was later also president of the German Rose Society!) The sergeant, who was complimented by the Prince for his good shooting, is shown in standard artillery uniform of blue with black facings. Inside there is a view of the reverse of the figures.

The first article is an account of the first 10 days of the advance of the Lines of Communication troops of the Prussian Army of the Meuse in August 1870 under their commander Colonel Karl von Blücher with contemporary maps. The next article is a description of two postcards issued for the 'Battle of Spicheren Panorama' painting exhibited in Breslau in 1888. It was destroyed in 1944.

11th January 1871 saw the battle of Auvers (near Le Mans) where the 'Volunteers of the West', the ex-Papal Zouaves, suffered heavy casualties. Illustrated with modern photographs of the battlefield and the memorial at Le Mans featuring the zouaves. The article is a translation of an original in the French magazine 'Le Briquet'. One of the members of the group spotted an exhibit in the Westercamp-Museum in Wissembourg (France), a tunic of an NCO of the 7th Brandenburg Infantry Regiment, No. 60. The regiment was part of the Prussian VIII Corps with white piping to the cuff flaps and blue shoulder straps with red regimental number. There follows a full page of drawings of a new range of 30mm flats of the troops of Württemberg, mounted officers, troops on foot, including several officers' servants. Some of the figures have a choice of different arm position and even one with alternative heads.

When the war broke out in July 1870, the Prussians were a little apprehensive of just how committed the Bavarians were to the cause. An



*This colour illustration depicts the Bavarians seizing the Eagle of the French 36<sup>th</sup> Line Regiment.*

## Le Briquet

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early incident was used to good effect by the 'propagandists' of the time: a patrol of Prussian hussars was fired on by the French, injuring several horses. One hussar was picked up by a Bavarian dragoon and carried to safety. A painting of this action with the Prussian clinging to the Bavarian trooper was widely used to promote 'German brotherly feeling'. Illustrated with a copy of the painting and a flat figure diorama.

A discussion on the capture by Bavarians at Worth of a French Eagle and standard, the emblem of the French 36th Line is illustrated in colour paintings and flat figure dioramas. The sheet itself became detached from the pole and it is this which was captured, eagle and cravat.

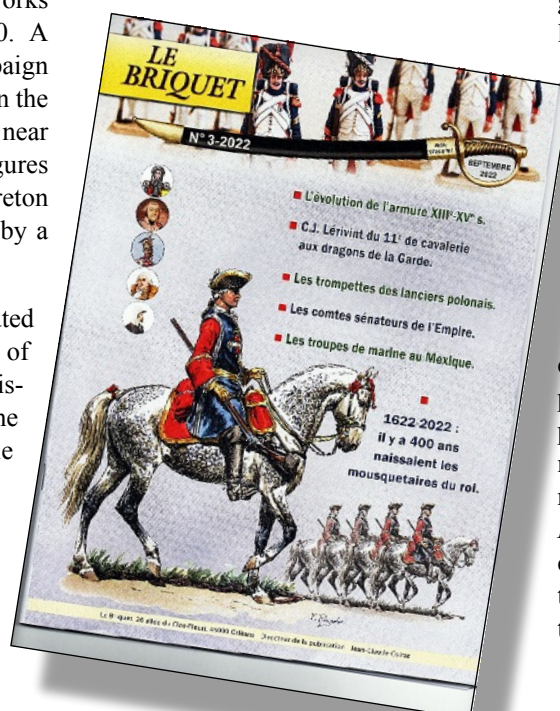
More catalogue pages of flat figures for Wurttemberg and Oldenburg infantry from the 1866 campaign follows. There is an article on medals and medal ribbon bars awarded in 1870/71, with photographs. An article on the only naval engagement of the 1870 war, outside the harbour of Havana, is illustrated with photographs of the memorial to the German casualties. The editor has contributed a long article on the life and work of Klaus Herbst, a collector of figures and publisher of works pertaining to the war of 1870. A little known aspect of the campaign in Paris is the use of gunboats on the river Seine, illustrated with near contemporary pictures. More figures (30mm flats of course) of Breton Mobile Guards of 1870 edited by a club member.

The final article is an illustrated account of flat figure dioramas of the war of 1870/71, some displayed in realistic settings, some with figures displayed on a table top.

A magazine with well researched, written and illustrated articles on the German wars of Unification issued to club members. Text is in German.

### The latest issue of this excellent magazine is now to hand.

As usual, 64 pages of articles, photographs, artwork and including advertising! The first article is devoted to the development of armour during the period XIII to XV centuries as seen from various funeral effigies with coloured artwork by the editor, Jean-Claude Colrat. The knights with their armour and coats-of-arms are all from English sources, from the Temple in the City of London to Aldeburgh in Yorkshire. The following article celebrates the 400th anniversary of the founding of the French Musketeers of the King, from their inception in 1622. It covers trumpets, drums and trumpets, the famous tabard and flags and guidons. The two companies had their own colours, as befitting their role as personal guards to the king both on foot and mounted, a flag for foot parades and a guidon carried when mounted. Although long gone, the modern Republican Guard has a special mounted unit of drums and trumpets dressed in musicians' livery and mounted on white horses. A fitting project for any modeller!



Continuing the musical theme, the trumpeters of the Polish Guard Lancers of 1810 have a five page feature, including two full colour page plates taken from the works of Lucien Rousselot. During the First Empire, French senators wore a distinctive dress and were awarded a special coat-of-arms incorporating a rod of Asklepios (ancient Greek god of medicine and healing) with a single snake entwined around the wand which is topped by a representation of a mirror (the 'mirror of prudence'). Several of these coats-of-arms are illustrated. The centre spread features two plates by Pierre Conrad, a Mounted Grenadier of the Guard and trumpeter of the 27th Dragoons, 1809. A biographical article of Charles Lérivint follows (part 1), covering his rise from a lieutenant in the 11th Regiment of Cavalry in 1792 to a captain in the 16th in 1800-1803.

The magazine is running a series on the 'Troupes de Marine', the colonial troops under the administration of the French navy and has reached part 5, the campaign in Mexico 1862-64 with colour illustrations of uniforms by Marc Morillon.

The final article is an illustrated review of a new figure of the Duke of Reichstadt (Napoleon's son, 'the Eaglet') by Atelier Maket/Metal Models portrayed in the uniform of the Austrian infantry regiment no. 60, Prince Wasa as he appeared in 1832, the year of his early and untimely death. He is modelled in the regimental white coat with pale green facings and the blue trousers with knot decoration of a Hungarian regiment. The figure is 54mm in metal supplied with a base, chair and separate bicorn hat. Four pages of the magazine are devoted to photographs of Briquet members' models and figures. There is also a review of other magazines where the *Bulletin* gets a mention. The back cover is in the form of an information sheet, uniforms and details of the 'Adjutants-Commandants' 1803 1815.

# A hero commemorated



*Harry in his later years.*

**H**aving suffered the loss of D-Day veteran Harry Billinge, who died at the beginning of April, aged 96, and with Remembrance Sunday fast approaching, it seemed especially appropriate to feature this bust of Harry Patch in this issue. Members will remember that Lance Corporal Harry Patch, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009, aged an incredible 111 years, 1 month, 1 week and 1 day, was the last surviving soldier to have fought in the trenches of the First World War. Born in Combe Down, Somerset on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1898, he was conscripted into the army, served in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in a Lewis Gun section, and, on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917, was seriously wounded by shrapnel from a shell that killed three of his closest friends, at the Battle of Passchendaele – the Third Battle of Ypres.

Bristol member and prolific painter Kevin Peart submitted these pictures of his recently completed depiction of Harry. The bust is from *Mitches Military Models*, is in 1/9<sup>th</sup> scale and was sculpted by Pavol Ovecká. As usual, Kevin has added additional detail to the model, particularly to the medals and awards, as can be seen when comparing the finished piece to the original sculpt.



*If you compare the finished bust (above) with the casting, out of the box (below), you can see the detail that Kevin has added to the model. (Right) Mounted on its plinth and embellished with a name plate.*



**Support model soldier shows! Support model soldier traders!**

## **BMSS Diary 2022/2023**

- October 21 **Armies of Europe.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- November 18 **Please Note: BMSS Auction postponed until January 2023 and replaced by: Open Meeting.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- 27 **Bugle Call.** Nailsea School, "The Link", Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 2HN. Presented by BMSS Bristol Branch and South West Figure Modellers. Displays, trade tables, demonstrations and refreshments.
- December 16 **Old Toy Soldier Competition.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- 2023
- January 20 **BMSS Auction. Note venue:** Church Hall, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 4.30 p.m. To 7.00 p.m. Viewing 5 p.m. Sale starts promptly at 5.30 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- February 20 **BMSS Annual General Meeting.** Church Hall, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. From 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- April 15 **BMSS Annual Show.**  
Reading Salvation Army Centre, Anstey Road, Reading RG1 7JR.  
(BMSS members 10 a.m.)

### **"Bulletin" Schedule 2021**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Copy Date</b>	<b>Publication</b>
Bulletin no. 4	10 <sup>th</sup> October	End of November

### **BMSS NATIONAL ZOOM MEETINGS**

Now that the regular BMSS National Meetings have resumed on the third Friday of the month, the BMSS National Zoom meetings have moved to the first Friday of the month. All you have to do is to email James Opie at [jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk) and your name will be added to those sent the zoom link.

### **BMSS Logo clothing**



**How to Order:** We have set up an arrangement with JANCRAFT for clothing with an embroidered BMSS logo badge, a similar design to the existing letterhead and pin badge shown on the left.

Individual members can contact JANCRAFT for clothing orders – preferably by email so that our contact, Julian, can reply with a cost and payment details. You can also contact him by phone. Members should give the item code\* and delivery address with your email contact where possible and a mobile/telephone number.

\*All the details of the types of clothing, sizes and colours are shown on JANCRAFT's on-line catalogue. Find it at [www.jancraft.com](http://www.jancraft.com) This also includes the code number for each item in the catalogue. Then you need to specify the colour of your choice and the size.

**JANCRAFT address is:** [3 High Park Avenue, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3NJ](https://www.jancraft.com)

**Email address:** [mail@jancraft.com](mailto:mail@jancraft.com) **Telephone:** 01384 396226.



# Bugle Call

**Sunday 27th November 2022**  
**10.00am - 4.30pm**

Presented by the Bristol Area Branch of the British Model Soldier Society &  
South West Figure Modellers

Adults £5, Children under 12 £2, Senior £4, Family £9



## **Nailsea School, "The Link"**

Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 2HN

**FREE PARKING!**

Probably the largest exhibition of military models in the South West. Numerous displays of models including fantasy / garage kits, aircraft, ships and miniature figures.

Hot and cold drinks and snacks available and a large selection of trade stands and modelling and painting demonstrations and **COMPETITIONS**.

Exhibitor contact details; Kevin Peart – [slenderboy0247@gmail.com](mailto:slenderboy0247@gmail.com)

Trader contact details: Bob Orr – [boborr@talktalk.net](mailto:boborr@talktalk.net)

Advertising contact details: Paul Lawday – [paul.gc.lawday@gmail.com](mailto:paul.gc.lawday@gmail.com)

Web Page - <http://www.bmssbristol.org.uk/> (click on link at top for Bugle Call)