



THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of the British Model Soldier Society

Extra

No. 4

2021

“A Grand Day Out”

As dawn broke on Saturday, 4th September, there was no sign of those much loved Plasticine warriors, Wallace and Gromit, on their day’s excursion to the moon in search of cheese! In their place was a phalanx of BMSS members and other enthusiasts, hungry to attend one of the very first military modelling shows in many months – our very own Annual Show *plus* the Inter-Branch competitions, being held, for the very first time, at the Salvation Army Centre in Reading.

And what a day it proved to be! First, the new venue turned out to be a bright and airy building with a number of rooms and spacious corridors given over to the show, the largest of which, the main hall, was an ideal location for a number of club stands and traders, and also for all the



The competition tables begin to fill up in the main hall.

competition tables. Very soon the tables began to fill with a marvellous range of models of the highest quality. But, perhaps, the most enjoyable aspect of all was the opportunity for so many of the attendees to renew long-standing friendships and to make personal contact with other enthusiasts, something we have all desperately missed. We were all made to feel most welcome by the Salvation Army, while their caretaker was on hand all day to smooth out any

problems and point visitors in the right direction – a great effort!

The traders really did us proud, with tables grouped in a number of the rooms and corridors, and members anxious to invest all that money they had saved in the latest figures, books and much sought-after toy soldiers.

Two of the stars of the Show were our Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer, Julie and Paul Newman, who were so largely responsible for both the planning and execution of all that took place. And not only that as, once again, they had recruited the Royal Newman Catering Corps to meet our dietary needs. Throughout the day, this ever smiling and welcoming band of family “volunteers” continued to produce cakes, bacon rolls, tea and coffee etc., for the army of modellers and other visitors. But it doesn’t end there, as the next generation of caterers were on hand, aged 6 ½ years and just 5 weeks, to absorb the atmosphere and get in the swing of things!

A full report on the Show and Inter-Branch will, of course, appear in the next copy of the *Bulletin*, and the very good news is that next year’s Show has already been booked for that most auspicious of days, the 23rd April – St George’s Day! **John Regan**



Photos by John Regan

A detail from one of Paul Newman’s entries in the competitions at this year’s Annual Show, the very impressive “Quatre Bras”, a large-scale diorama depicting a section of a British infantry square repelling French cavalry.

A cautious re-start: the August Pimlico meeting



James Opie's Dragoons and Dragoon Guards display provided a touch of spectacle to the August National meeting.

August 2021 will be remembered in BMSS history as the return of the meetings at Pimlico, for the first time since March 2020 when they had to be suspended owing to the Covid pandemic. It was a cautious return to in-person meetings. All those attending wore face-coverings, except when performing the ancient ritual of tea-drinking and for posing for the photograph. The number attending was well down on pre-pandemic levels but, for the first returning meeting, this was to be expected. Many of our previous regular attenders were missed, perhaps indicating an understandable caution about travelling and meeting in-person, especially for those who are vulnerable to Covid and for whom being careful is vital. The meeting



A close-up of some of the Dragoons.



A figure of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

(Right) James, suitably Covid conscious, and his display.





Centurion tanks, by Alan Fyson.

was also in August, the peak holiday month, and this may also have affected attendance.

There was no specific theme for August, this was an open meeting and there was a variety of items on the table. The largest display was by James Opie, who brought along his collection of toy soldiers representing Dragoons and Dragoon Guards, by various manufacturers and from different dates. James had previewed these in the Zoom meeting at the beginning of the month and it was great to see the real thing. These were an interesting and attractive group on a theme.

Alan Fyson brought two Centurion tanks and some interesting books on the Guards. The tanks were acquired as **Britains** castings which Alan had painted up and given markings for the Korean War. Eric Sanger brought along some boxes of 28mm plastic figures of Franco-Prussian War infantry and Austrian cavalry, with related Osprey books, and Paul Newman

Continued overleaf



The valiant group re-starting the Pimlico meetings - briefly without their face coverings.

Your BMSS 2021 Christmas cards are ready and waiting



This year's colourful Christmas card provides a nostalgic scene of days gone by. The design was a combined effort by James Opie, who provided the pristine model of the horse-drawn omnibus with bowler-hatted driver, passengers and conductor perched on the rear platform, and Paul Vickers, who incorporated it in a background of

Regent Street in London's West End, and then created the card - clever stuff!

Once again, a limited number of cards have been printed and so members who would like to buy some should act quickly. The amazing thing is that we have been able to actually reduce the cost from last year, as the price for a pack of 12 cards and envelopes will be just £5, *including postage*.

Cheques should be made payable to, *The British Model Soldier Society* and sent to: BMSS Support Services, at 37 Yeading Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9RL. Ralph Weaver, who is handling the sales, can also take orders at: ralphcws@hotmail.com for payment at a later date.

Don't miss the bus! Last year's card sold out completely and so we would advise members to submit your orders as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment.

Pimlico meeting continued
 also brought some recent publications of interest. For myself, I had three recent flats dioramas done during lockdown: "Sunday afternoon in Kensington Gardens"; "Closing the gates of Hougoumont"; and "Gunfight in Tombstone near the OK Corral".

James has generously agreed to take on the duties of 'opener-upper' for the meetings, which had previously been done by the late and much missed Phil Dew, as well as managing the Zoom meetings which are continuing alongside the in-person meeting.

The Zoom meetings have proven popular with members who, because of distance, cannot get to Pimlico but have enjoyed the experience of chatting with other members virtually. The Pimlico in-person meetings will continue on the usual date of the third Friday of each month at 5.30 (4.30 for the winter months) and all are welcome, James will be publishing the themes. I am sure that, as we all return closer to normality after the problems of the last 18 months, the meeting will soon be buzzing again, with more to see and friends to meet.
Paul Vickers

NOVEMBER AUCTION CANCELLED

Due to insufficient lots having been submitted for the sale, it has been decided that the November Auction will not now take place. Instead, we will hold a "Bring & Buy" sale in the same venue, £5 per table. Phone 01895 832757 to book a table.

And some pictures from September's Indian Army Night



James Opie writes: "I had the idea of showing off the various different versions of the marching sepoy at the trail offered by Britains over an entire century, from 1896 to 1996. I brought a mixture of these to the September Indian Army Night with a few extras, such as an early copy by one of the other early manufacturers (before Britains took them to court), and a nice conversion by Freddy Green, as well as a platoon of my own painting of re-castings."



Photos by James Opie and Ralph Weaver

Where are they now?

asks Chris Bartlett

Over the last ten years, a lot of model soldier and toy soldier manufacturers have disappeared. I have discovered some in New Zealand and Australia but I wonder where the rest are? A great deal of money has been invested into sculpting original figures, production moulds etc., and I wonder if any members know where they have gone to?

Does anyone know where the following are now?

All the Queen's Men; Almond Sculptures; Barton Miniatures; Benassi; Bombardier Models; Border Miniatures; Calder Craft (Hinchcliffe); Chota Sahib; Clydecast; Dragon Models; Elite; Ensign; Empire Figurines; Grieve Miniatures; Helmet; Hannaford Miniatures; Hearne Miniatures; Hornet; Hussar Military Miniatures; Jubilee Miniatures; Lasset; Little General; Men O' War; Men at Arms; Metal Models; Mil-Art; Monarch; Mitre Cap; New Hope Design; Pegaso; Pendragon; Phoenix; Piper; Positive Figurines; Poste Militaire; Scale Link; Series 77; Skytrex; Sovereign; Squadron; Charles Stadden Figures; Tiny Troopers; White Tower Figures.

I am sure I have left off a lot!!!!

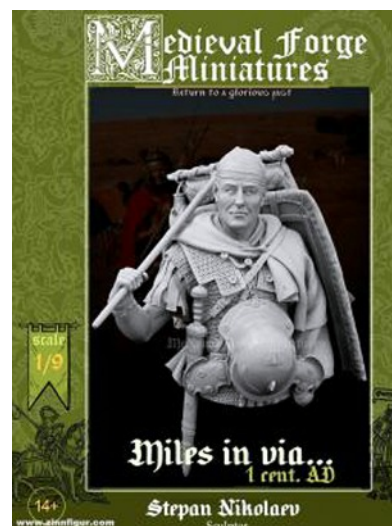
I attend shows with some of my collection and am often asked where modellers/collectors can purchase figures. I only know of Rose Miniatures, Tradition, Replica, Cheshire Volunteer, Tommy's War & Loggerheads and Fusilier Miniatures that are currently producing figures. Would it not be of use to produce a list every year of companies making figures - what do members think? If members do think it a good idea to produce a list of makers regularly, I will gladly undertake to compile a list, as long as I have details i.e. Name of Company, Address, telephone numbers, email address.

My email address is: candabart@gmail.com

Chris also posed another question...

Can any member of the Society tell me something about Al Charles, please?

I have several of his certificates from the BMSS and a small figure that someone made of him. I also seem to think he had a range of figures? But that is all I know. My guess would be that he has passed on. Any information would be gratefully received.



Kit Inspection

Medieval Forge Miniatures (via El Greco)

A-0019: Miles in via (Soldier on the march)

Scale: 1/9th

Address of Manufacturer: Forge.M@mail.ru & VK.com/MEDFORGE

Designer: Stepan Nikolaev

This is a companion piece to a previous kit from this manufacturer. That model (also a very large bust) featured the earliest form of *lorica segmentata* armour, known as the 'Kalkriese' type. This figure, instead, shows the 'miles' wearing a suite of ring-mail armour. The helmets are also different, with the earlier one being a 'Coolus' helmet, whereas here we have an 'Imperial Gallic' headgear, probably a Type-D (in Robinson's classification). As with the previous offering, there is a plethora of parts – at least 20 – some of which are very small. Except for the largest components (body, right arm, head, helmet & shield) all the various bits and pieces come in 'snap-lock' plastic bags,

The helmet can either be added to the head, or it can be attached in



Photo by Ralph Weaver

Tombola success

Dave Buckfield (left), once again, took on the responsibility for running the Tombola stall at this year's Annual Show. Following on from its success, Dave wishes to take the first opportunity to offer "A BIG THANK YOU" to all those members and friends who brought along such a brilliant array of items to contribute to the stall, making it such an attractive feature of the day.



the carrying position on the upper chest. If the latter is chosen, then the head can be painted separately and added to the body when the paint is dry. The fit between the head and helmet, however, is not very good. There is a considerable gap between the two components, especially towards the front on the brow. However, most of this will not be visible when the cheek-guards are in position. The latter must be painted before affixing to the head. If located in position before painting, there will be parts of the face that cannot be reached with the brush.

The various items on the carrying staff (and the staff itself) will have to be painted before adding them to the model, although 'dry-fitting' is recommended before painting and assembly. These include such things as a leather satchel, water-bottle, a couple of cooking pots, a pair of food and bread bags and the spear (*pilum*), together with the pickaxe (*dolabra*). The cooking pots also have separate handles (very delicate). Two other pieces are the



sword (*gladius hispaniensis*) in its scabbard and the right arm, with the hand grasping the carrying pole. All these various components are very cleanly cast. There are the usual casting lugs to have to remove. The only really tricky one is on the neck-guard of the helmet, where the resin material is very thin. The other lugs are in places that will not be seen once the model is assembled.

The shield (*scutum*) is another large piece. I found that the two lugs attaching it to the body were not positioned properly. I simply removed the bottom lug (which would not be seen anyway).

As can be gathered from the above list, this model is a major project, possibly even more so than the companion piece. Historically, it is 'spot-on'. Ring-mail armour was worn from at least the 4th century BCE. The Roman soldier (*miles peditata* or *miles caligata* as they were known) carried his own kit plus a proportion of the kit for his squad (the *contubernium*). Here that would be one of the cooking pots as well as the pickaxe. This practice was brought in during the early 1st century BCE by the Consul Gaius Marius. Consequently, the soldiers were known as 'Marius' Mules. The whole burden amounted to around 60 lbs in weight which, though it sounds a lot, it should be remembered that this is only what a modern infantry soldier carries. It meant that Marius' soldiers were not totally dependant on a baggage train and could march about 15 miles a day, with enough food for three days. This rapid pace of march (which the troops were trained to do a couple of times every month) often surprised enemies.

In summary, this is an excellent offering. It is historically accurate and the castings, in a light grey resin, are sharp and full of detail. There are hours of endless fun to be had here. I think that this model is one of the best I have seen in this large a scale.

Mike Thomas

TO A GOOD HOME...

...a collection of *BMSS Bulletins* from 1964 to the present day. There are also 50 issues from previous years. If interested, contact Mike Davidson tel. 01224780606 or e-mail fmdfindon@aol.com

Support model soldier shows! Support model soldier traders!

BMSS Diary 2021/2022

- November 19 **BMSS Auction cancelled.** In its place will be a “Bring & Buy” sale in the Church Hall, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., £5 per table. Contact 01895 832757.
- December 17 **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.
- 2022**
- January 21 **Artillery and Transport.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- February 19 **BMSS Annual General Meeting.** Church Hall, St Saviour's, Lupus St, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. From 1 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- March 18 **Conversions Night.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- April 23 **BMSS Annual Show 2022.** Reading Salvation Army Centre, Anstey Road, Reading RG1 7JR. (BMSS members 10 am).
- May 20 **BMSS Military Pageant Trophy.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus St, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- June 17 **Open Meeting.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus St, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- July 15 **Militaria Night.** Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London, SW1V 3QW. 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Contact 01895 832757.
- August 19 **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.
- September 16 **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.
- 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 **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.
- 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.

"Bulletin" Schedule 2021

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin no. 4	11 th 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.

The great advantage of the zoom meetings is that they are available to any member anywhere in the world, without the bother of getting there. All you have to do is to email James Opie at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk and your name will be added to those sent the zoom link.



Bugle Call

Sunday 21st November 2021

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

Trader contact details: Bob Orr – boborr@talktalk.net

Advertising contact details: Paul Lawday – paul.gc.lawday@gmail.com

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