



No. 3

2025

Vive La France, 14th July

By The Editor

The 14th July is Bastille Day or Le Quatorze Juillet. It is France's national holiday day celebrating the storming of The Bastille during the French Revolution in 1790. This eventually led to the First Republic which ended when the First Empire was declared by Napoleon in 1804. Throughout the 1800's France switched between an autocracy and a Republic eventually becoming a Republic, the 3rd, after the Franco-Prussian War. That lasted until the Vichy government was formed in World War 2. France is now on its 5th Republic, the 4th being formed after World War 2 and dissolved in 1958. The 5th Republic gave more powers to the President, the first being Charles

de Gaulle and is the system France has now.

We, my wife and I, were in Paris before 14th July to attend the World Model Expo at Versailles over the weekend 5th/6th July. There was evidence in Paris of the preparations for the 14th July celebrations with barriers and stages going up, particularly on Champs Elysees. Apparently it is the largest military parade in Europe. We had a very pleasant 5 days in Paris, which is a beautiful city. The highlights, some not military, were the Rodin museum, the Musee D'Orsay and of course Notre Dame. Les Invalides contains the French Army museum and Napoleon's tomb. For me

this was a highlight of the trip (apart from the model show). Napoleon's tomb is extraordinary and very grand and is located under the dome. As impressive is the museum which covers arms and armour from ancient times right through to Charles de Gaulle. The amount of articles on display is breathtaking. Of course, the Napoleonic period is well covered, with wonderful French uniforms from the period. But the World War 2 display is also excellent with many interesting artefacts. Below are two photos, the one on the left a famous sculpture and that on the right Napoleon's tomb. I will cover the model show in detail in the next issue of The Bulletin.



National Collection Toy Soldiers - Do You own any?

As you may know, at the AGM in February it was agreed to dispose of the National Collection.

The Toy Soldier side of the collection is to be disposed of at auction (The first will be the 21st November at Pimlico).

If you own any of the Toy Soldiers and want them back beforehand, please contact the Hon. Treasurer either by phone or email.

If the Hon. Treasurer is not contacted by the end of October, it is assumed that they can be sold.

Contact details:

Tel: 01895 832757

Email: bmss.treasurer@gmail.com



A photo of the Best in Show in the Historical Class at World Model Expo in Versailles.

Nostalgia Catalogue

By The Editor

Following on from the previous issue of The Bulletin here are two more pages from the Nostalgia Catalogue.

NOSTALGIA MODELS The "NEW OLD" Toy Soldiers



Left to right. Hong Kong Submarine Engineers, 1897 (2). 15th Ludhiana Sikhs (3). Jamaica Militia Volunteers, 1885 (2). 6th Gurkha Rifles (1).



Left to right. 6th Gurkha Rifles (1). Coke's Rifles, 1857 (2). Gold Coast Haussas, 1897 (2). Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, c. 1896 (2). Royal Canadian Artillery, 1896 (1).



Left to right. Royal Canadian Artillery, 1896 (1). British North Borneo Military Police, 1897 (2). Singapore Rifle Volunteer Corps, 1899 (5).



Left to right. Barbados Volunteer Force, 1902-1909 (2). Mount Alexander Rifles, Australia, 1875 (2). Fiji Armed Constabulary, 1900 (2). Maori Contingent, New Zealand Mounted Rifles, 1897 (2).



Left to right. Sierr Leone Royal Artillery, 1897 (2). Gaunt's Red Caps, Samoa, 1899 (2). Trinidad Field Artillery, 1897 (2). Sarawak Rangers, c. 1902 (2).



Left to right. Karen Military Police, Burma, 1899 (2). Christchurch City Guards, New Zealand, c. 1899 (2). Zululand Nongquai, c. 1892 (2). Ulster Hillsborough Castle Guard c. 1897 (2).

Figureworld North, Easingwold, 14th June 2025

By The Editor

I had never been to Figureworld North at Easingwold. I was put off by the journey as it is a bit of a slog up the M1 or the A1(M). (I am sure our Northern members feel the same travelling down to the annual show at Reading). However I decided to go and make a weekend of it, so drove up on the Friday. Easingwold, as I discovered, is a very pleasant Yorkshire market town. I stayed in the George Hotel facing the market square and two minutes walk from the Galtres Centre, where the show is held. The show didn't disappoint me. There were some outstanding models on display, both in the competition and on the displays offered by the judges.

There was a good mixture of traders in the trade hall and they seemed to be doing good business. It was Richard Wharton of Oakwood Studios last show. I am sure like me many figure modellers will be sad that he is closing down his business as his figure bases were of excellent quality. However, I wish him a long and happy retirement.

I thoroughly enjoyed the show and it was good to sit and chat to friends from the north. It seemed a shame to me that there were no club stands at the show, which I believe there have been in the past. This gives more opportunity for fellow modellers to socialise.

On this page I include some photos of some of the models on display. (I have put all the photos I took on our BMSS website blog page.)



Magazines

Le Briquet

By Ralph Weaver

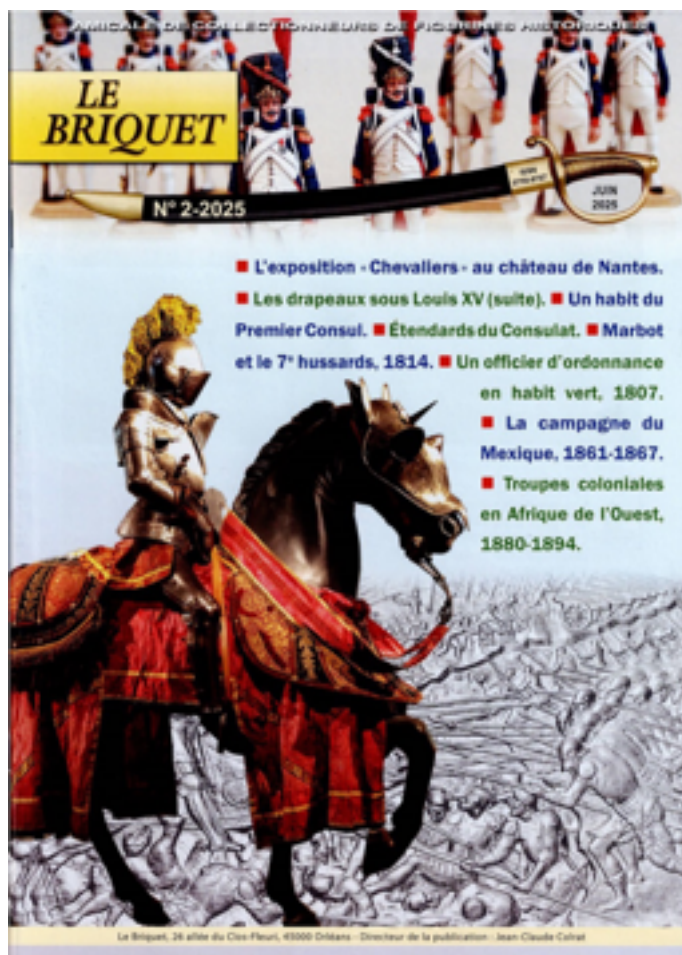
The latest issue is now to hand (issue no.2-2025, June 2025) and as usual is chock full of interesting articles and pictures, 60 pages on good quality paper, illustrated throughout in colour. It starts with a review of an exhibition of arms and armour, now recently closed, held in the castle of the Dukes of Brittany in Nantes. The display of renaissance armour of first-class quality comes from the collection of Frederick Stibbert from the museum in Florence. [as an aside from this reviewer, 'I had the great pleasure of visiting this museum a few years ago and was bowled over by the enormous assemblage of Turkish and Eastern weapons and armour, European Renaissance, mounted knights, Japanese samurai armour, all displayed on realistic manikins. Cases of swords, rapiers, firearms by the hundred! All collected by Stibbert in the middle and late 1800s, an enormously wealthy Englishman, descended from a former governor of Bengal. When he died in 1906 the collection was offered to the British government, who turned it down! The City of Florence is now responsible for its upkeep. If you go to Florence, forget the Uffizi and make straight for the Stibbert, you will not be disappointed.]

The Briquet specialises in in-depth reviews of single items and devotes three pages to a coat worn by Napoleon when First Consul. It is of red brocade covered in gold and silver embroidery, illustrated with photographs of the original item. They have been running a series of infantry flags of the 1740s, each regiment depicted by an officer standard bearer carrying the 'ordnance' flag (the king's colour was a white cross on a white background for all regiments) with a brief description of the regiment's history in the 1734 campaign, i.e. the commander, battalion strengths number of flags carried, which theatre of war they served. They have now reached regiment number 69, 'Berry'.

Baron de Marbot had a long and distinguished career in the French army and an article describes his actions as commander of the 7th Hussars in the final period of the Empire 1814-1815. Heavy cavalry is the subject next covered, with illustrations of standards carried in the period 1794 to 1803. On the lighter side a single page article is devoted to Napoleon's epaulettes as shown in 20 thumbnail extracts from various artists. The editor of the Briquet, Jean-Claude Colrat, has written and illustrated an article on the green uniform of Napoleon's staff officers. The figures of J.-P. Feigly are reviewed and photographed with reference to the Mexican campaign of 1861-67. It covers infantry, cavalry, contre-guerrillas and the Egyptian auxiliary battalion and a full-page painting by JOB of Colonel Du Pin, the commander of the anti guerrilla troops.

Much of France's African colonial empire was conquered by naval troops, the campaign in west Africa and the Sudan, 1880 to 1894 is covered with maps and depictions of costume and also uniforms including the Tirailleurs Senegalais. Members of the Briquet contribute photographs of their models, four pages of all types and scales. More figures are showcased in a photo report from the show organised by 'AFM Montrouge'. An advert for 'Historex' reports that the set of Louis XV and Marie Leczinska is being re-issued. The back page details the blue and silver uniform of Armand de Caulincourt in his role of Grand Equerry of the Empire.

Le Briquet costs 40 euros for an annual subscription with individual copies at €11. Contact the editor Jean-Claude Colrat at 26 allée de Clos-Fleuri, 45000 Orleans



BMSS INTER-BRANCH COMPETITION CLASSES 2025

For the Inter-Branch 2025, to be held on Saturday 6th September 2025 at the Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 9LF

Inter-Branch Competition Classes

All models entered must be by BMSS members

- Class 1:** Groups of figures, 5 to 20 toy soldiers.
- Class 2:** Flat Figures.
- Class 3:** Single foot figure up to and including 30mm.
- Class 4:** Single foot figure from 31 up to 54mm.
- Class 5:** Single Foot figure larger than 54mm.
- Class 6:** Single mounted figure between 31 and 54mm.
- Class 7:** Single mounted figure larger than 54mm "standard".
- Class 8:** Busts.
- Class 9:** Converted and scratchbuilt.
- Class 10:** Artillery pieces with or without crew
- Class 11:** Single AFV or softskin in 1/72 or 1/76 scales. Crew may be included.
- Class 12:** Larger than 1/72 or 1/76 scale single AFV or softskin. Crew may be included.
- Class 13:** Vignette. Two or three figures on a common theme, on a common base.
- Class 14:** Open or closed dioramas.
- Class 15:** Junior (aged 16 or below) figures and vehicles.
- Class 16:** Non-military entries (no erotica).

Individual Classes for BMSS members

- Class 1:** Peter Wilcox Trophy: Ancients and mediaeval single figures up to 1485 AD.
- Class 2:** Blytheswood Trophy: Flat figures, single groups or dioramas. Semi flat figures are not eligible for this class.
- Class 3:** Britains Trophy. For Britains figures.
- Class 4:** The Editor's Trophy: For humorous entries.
- Class 5:** The Fosten Guards Trophy: For figures of any Guards regiment of any nation.
- Class 6:** The micro-scale Clegg award: For figures up to 30mm.
- Class 7:** The Napoleonic Trophy: For single figures and vignettes (2 or 3 figures) of any nation involved in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars 1792-1815.
- Class 8:** The John Peck Trophy: For Bands and Corps of Drums.
- Class 9:** The Wendy Dilley Award: For single figures of female warriors and ancillaries.
- Class 10:** The Gottstein Trophy: The novices' class single figures of any type. Entrants must not previously have won a BMSS National Competition.

Footnote 1: *In the event of any doubt on the day, we will advise and allocate models to models most appropriate class.*

Footnote 2: *"Mounted" means accompanied by an appropriate animal. This includes fully mounted, mounting or dismounting, standing by a mount, or taking cover behind a dead mount.*

Footnote 3: *Any additional information you provide, regarding extra work done, is always helpful to the judges, especially in relation to scratchbuilt/converted models.*

Footnote 4: *If any questions are raised regarding the competitions or the judging of any classes, after, the Chief Judge's decision is final.*

Support model soldier shows! Support model soldier traders!

BMSS Diary 2025

July 26-27	Fen Model Show , 10am-5pm. The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB
August 15	Zoom Meeting- Open , 7pm-9pm. All members will be automatically sent a link via email to access the meeting.
September 6	BMSS Inter-Branch Competition , 10am-4pm, Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 9LF
September 19	Zoom Meeting- Indian Army , 7pm-9pm. All members will be automatically sent a link via email to access the meeting.
October 17	Zoom Meeting- Armies of Europe , 7pm-9pm. All members will be automatically sent a link via email to access the meeting.
October 18/19	Scale Model Challenge . 9.30am-5pm. NH Eindhoven Conference Centre, Netherlands
November 7	Zoom Meeting- Pre-Auction , 7pm-9pm. All members will be automatically sent a link via email to access the meeting.
November 8/9	Scale ModelWorld , 10am-6pm, The International Centre, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH

"Bulletin" Schedule 2025

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Buletin Extra No.2	7th April	Early May
Bulletin No.2	6th May	16th June
Bulletin Extra No.3	23rd June	End of July
Bulletin No.3	21st July	2nd September
Bulletin Extra No.4	15th September	Mid October
Bulletin No.4	6th October	17th November

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 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](http://www.jancraft.com)

Email address: mail@jancraft.com **Telephone:** 01384 396226.