



The **BULLETIN**

Newsletter of British Model Soldier Society **Extra**

No. 2

2014



Certainly the most spectacular entry in the Special World War I Class (Class 12) was Paul Sergeant's large-scale model depicting a section of a German trench. Entitled "Support Trench", it included not only the most beautifully observed detail but also seven 120 mm figures relaxing in a quiet moment

A Great Success

Once again, thanks to the efforts of Julie and Paul (Newman), Arthur (Smith), Alex (Riches) and a small team of dedicated volunteers, last Saturday's Annual Show (26th April) was another triumph and a marvellous advertisement for the Society and the hobby. The Special Competition Class for World War I subjects, generously sponsored by **Tommy's War**, was particularly notable for the quality of the entries. In the end, there were two 'Golds' awarded - Edward Sage's 1/48th scale "Richtofen" was one and Dave Maddox's "I will be that ace" the other, while Edward also won the superb kit of 'L' Battery RHA

and the action at Néry, 1st September 1914, worth £120, presented by Darren of **Tommy's War**.

A full photo-report, together with a list of the prize-winners, will appear in *Bulletin No. 2*.



Edward Sage (left) receives his award from Darren, proprietor of Tommy's War

George Hanger R.I.P.

Just as we were finalising this issue, we received the desperately sad news that George Hanger has died. George, who had been the Northants Area Rep for many years before the post was taken on by Terry O'Neill, had serious health problems for some considerable time but, in spite of this, he continued to model and enter his work in the Society's competitions up and down the country, supported by his friends in the Northants Branch. Sadly, earlier in the year, his condition had deteriorated and he was taken into hospital where he died. A tribute to George will appear in *The Bulletin* at the earliest opportunity.



The arrangements for George's funeral have just been received and are as follows:

The funeral will take place at 12 noon on Thursday 8th May 2014 at St Barnabas Church, College Street, Wellingborough NN8 3HB. The service at Kettering Crematorium is for the close family only so, after leaving the church, friends are invited to make their way to the Columbia Hotel, Oxford Street, Wellingborough NN8 3HG for refreshments.

George's wife, Janet, has also requested that black ties should **NOT** be worn.



Picture from the past

Following the Doug Hagger obituary that Bob Marrion very kindly wrote for *Bulletin No. 1/2014*, he got in touch with Stephen Dance to share a photograph he had, taken at one of the BMSS Annual Shows, probably at Caxton Hall or at Chelsea Old Town Hall in the 1970s. It shows Bob (on the right) with fellow judge, Cesare Milani.

In his letter, Bob remarked that Cesare had been in the Italian Air Force in World War II and was one of their first paratroopers. He was an hotelier by trade and owned an hotel in London's Victoria. Bob remembers him as "a very nice man".

Older members may well recall that there was a Cesare Milani Campaign Cup at one point, but that is no longer awarded. In fact, there is an article by Phil Stearns in the November/December 1979 issue of "Campaigns" magazine that records what a remarkable individual and member of the BMSS Cesare Milani was.

He was the grandson of General Joseph Gallieni who, during the Great War, saved Paris by commandeering seven hundred taxis in which he ferried troops to strengthen the front line. Cesari's father was a fighter pilot in the same war and so it is of little surprise that he himself qualified as a military

pilot and was sent to North Africa. While there he was involved in the development of military parachuting and became not only a fighter pilot but also a parachute instructor. On his first reconnaissance flight for the Axis, he was shot down by Spitfires and, subsequently, was shot down again, this time sustaining some twenty-eight bullet wounds! After Italy's surrender, he evaded the Germans and joined the Italian partisans.

Before Cesare took up military modelling, he became a major figure in the world of scale model aircraft construction and is still remembered with awe in that hobby. He was attracted to our own hobby and the Society with the advent of Historex and produced a huge number of stunning models, complex conversions, vignettes and dioramas, outstanding and pioneering models at that time. At the age of 88, he died at his home by Lake Maggiore in 2004.

Showtime...

This is **Faversham Military Modelling Group's 30th Anniversary**, so they will be holding one of their occasional shows on **28th June 2014** and hoping that it will be a celebration of modelling, catching something of the flavour of the justly popular **Figure World** (to be held at *Oundle School on 19th July this year*). To this end, modellers are invited to put their best work on display for the delectation of the public and fellow modellers.

To mark the start of the Great War, **there will be just one competition** for models that directly relate to that conflict.

There will be club displays including the likes of Aldershot, Gravesham, Shepway, Welling and the Flat Figure Society as well as traders such as Historex Agents, Hawk Miniatures, CGS Military Figures, 2D Figurines and, it is hoped, Roger Saunders.

The Show is at the Gatefield Hall, in the Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NZ, doors open 10 am until 3.30 pm and

admission is free to everyone (as long as children are accompanied by an adult), to encourage as many as possible to come in and, hopefully, inspire some to, perhaps, invest in a kit or join a club! For more information, contact John Regan on 01795 532135

Plastic Modelling & Wargaming Show

IPMS Avon will be holding their 24th Annual Show on Sunday 10th August 2014 at the Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire BS35 3JB.

The show, run in conjunction with Lincombe Barn Wargames Society, combines modelling and wargaming and is the only one of its kind in the South West. This format has proved extremely popular in the past and it is open to all gaming and modelling clubs to participate and display whether they are IPMS affiliated or not. For more information email ipmsavon@gmail.com or phone IPMS Avon Chairman Andy White on 07748988102.

Branch Lines

In his annual report, Ealing Branch Organiser Bruce Harron mentioned that members of his Branch and the Model Railway Club (the oldest model railway club in the world) have been exchanging visits and sharing modelling tips and techniques to great advantage. Well, fellow BMSS members in the London area may be interested in two forthcoming lectures at the MRC's purpose-built headquarters, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9DA, just a few minutes' walk from King's Cross and St Pancras stations. They are as follows:

11th September – "Hunslets and Narrow Gauge Railways of WW1" by Kim Winter

13th November – "Engines of War" by Christian Woolmer

Both lectures commence at 7.30 pm and non-members are most welcome to attend. However, please bear in mind that all rooms within Keen House are only accessible by stairs.

Don't forget to let the Editor have any news items

Model soldiers, toy soldiers - *how DO you value them?*

Rob Thompson, a modeller for fifty years, who has enjoyed both toy and model soldiers, suggests the difference is not as important as the value.

Like many others, the collecting bug bit me in childhood on the the sitting room floor parade ground across which marched the marvellous toy soldiers of **William Britain**.

My mounted band of the Household Cavalry led 190 Troopers, Guardsmen, Highlanders and Royal Marines around two sides of the room in an impeccable formation which was happily set up time after time. Their route was lined by three sets of Irish Guards at the present.

I was an indulgent RSM so it mattered not that some slow marched while the Royal Marines doubled or that the odd broken head had been re-attached with the traditional aid of a matchstick

Childhood imagination imbued those stiff, mass-produced figures with a magnificent splendour - until the adult mind perceived the rudimentary commercial casting, with painting on a piecework basis, that greatly limited detail and accuracy.

Britains covered a huge range of units but the short years of childhood with limited pocket money put a serious collection well out of reach.

Sadly, in my absence, they were given away by a well-meaning mother who felt the local orphanage needed more toys and that she needed more floor space.

Auction prices

The popular market for any collectable item depends on how much someone else wants it. Today, those child's toys are very collectable, while model soldiers are not easy to sell at any price.

Toy soldiers are simply bought and exchanged. Model kits need hours of work by modellers who rarely buy others' pieces. Periods go out of fashion: what price today the once hugely popular pre-WWI era?

When, in 1997, Christies auctioned the Forbes Collection of toys and models, one set of toy Irish Guards sold for £690. My three boxed sets had cost me 7s/6d (£8 allowing for inflation) - a month's pocket money! Against the trend, **Stadden** models of Napoleon with his marshals fetched an amazing £1,800.

The pre-auction estimates were: **Britains** toys £210, **Stadden** models £150.

Heaven knows what my boxed set of the Household Cavalry Musical Ride would have fetched.

However nothing can eradicate the delight of that set's arrival one Christmas and the rapture when I discovered, half an hour after first uncovering the top layer of drum horse and trumpeters that, incredibly, a *second* layer of a dozen troopers with lances lay below.



*David Grieve resin bust
Officer, Black Watch, c.1905*

Improved quality

The quality of model soldiers has increased enormously over the last fifty years. Once they were little better than toys whose buttons and braid were merely flat outlines, stamped into their soft lead; fingers were simply rough grooves scored into club-like hands

Now, with huge advances in casting techniques, using high quality metals and delicate resins, the braid and buttons stand proud with every thread defined. The hands have nails, sinews and veins. Models now have an unlimited life span.

The standard of painting has also soared, with modern techniques like air-brushing and truly amazing artistic skills.

Toy producing companies like **Britains** made profits and provided full time jobs but today most of those who sculpt and produce our model kits still keep their day job. The dedication, skill and time so freely put in are not truly profitable.

The future

Toy soldiers, many of them chipped, sometimes limbless and often slung loose into shoe boxes, may still fetch real cash at auction for years to come

But what of the future for the nation's model soldier collections whose ageing owners fear they are a liability for future generations, not a legacy?

The dreaded "lead disease", (oxidisation) has already destroyed many earlier collections cast in that metal - not a material to pass on to future generations.

The *monetary* value of a model soldier collection is often well below the cost of the kits. Its value to the owner in terms of the initial cost, the research, and the hours he has put in, is immense.

But, the *real* value - of both models *and* toys - lies in the many, many hours of enjoyment they have given to us, the owners. The future can take care of itself: we've already had that *real* value.

The toys of William Britain and others have inspired, directly or indirectly, the models of Chas C Stadden, Sid Horton, David F. Grieve et al. All of these have, in their turn, inspired, challenged and absorbed an army of amateur modellers.

To all you creators of toys and models, from those of us who have collected and painted both - a massive THANK YOU!



*William Britains lead toy
Officer, 16th Lancers, 1910*



Peter North's "Viking" won the Busts Class

AT THE INVITATION of Tom Cunningham, Julie (Hon. Secretary) and I ventured up the M6 on Saturday 15th March to the MAMSS (Manchester Associated Military Modelling Society) meeting's Annual Competitions/BMSS meeting.

A day out with the BMSS Northern Branch

By Paul Newman

The Northern Branch hold their meetings in the Sale Moor Methodist Church Hall on the afternoon of every second Saturday in the month, where the usual discussions about the latest model, someone's toy soldier collection or piece of news take place. The hall is ideal for the meeting, being light and airy, with the facilities for making teas and coffees.

The meeting quickly gathered pace as members arrived and began placing models on the tables which had been set up in the centre of the room by Max Hundleby and others for the competitions.

The scope of the classes covered all of the "regular" BMSS members' interests, from 'Toy Soldiers' to

'Model Figures' to 'Flats' and to 'Busts'. Each of the classes was well represented, too.

The standard on display was of the usual club standard, as to be expected, with one or two notable exceptions. It is at local meetings such as this that our hobby thrives. It is where you can see what others are interested in; get hints and tips and "How I made it" stories, giving and showing enthusiasm for the hobby. It is these thoughts that we can take away from the meeting, to inspire us to make that next model, carry out further research into some historical era or search a catalogue for a particular figure.

As mentioned, there were some lovely models on display. Julie was

(Below) Dennis Murphy's cleverly constructed "Stable Life" permitted a clear view of all that was going on





Members begin to gather in the bright and airy hall as the MAMSS's Annual Competitions get under way



*(Above left & below) Brian Halliwell's lovely flats depicting figures from Star Wars and the Zulu War.
(Above right) Recipient of the MAMSS President's Medal - "Mountain artillery team" by Michael Woodcock*

invited to judge along with Donald Goodman, President of MAMSS, so the classes were judged very much on the "I like that" school of judging, which works well at the local level.

D. Murphy's "Stable Life" Toy Soldiers were painted in a matt finish, showing a troop of Hussars preparing their horses. I particularly liked the building work, finished to ceiling level, with the roof off so you could get a good view of the figures.

Brian Halliwell entered two lovely flats, one of some Zulus and British Infantry in 1879, and the other of Star Wars characters, both showing a real love and skill for the genre.

The winner of the Busts Class was by Peter North of a Viking, with a great horn wrapped around his body. The finish of the metal was excellent.

Awards for the classes were presented by Julie and, to close



proceedings, Don Goodman, awarded his President's Medal to Michael Woodcock for his "Mountain artillery team".

Julie and I had a great afternoon out and one I would recommend to those of you who live in and around Manchester.

Letters to the Editor

Down memory lane

Dear John,

I have had a good look at the latest *Bulletin* and enjoyed its excellent thought-provoking content.

I joined the BMSS in 1950-ish, introduced, as a rather tubby schoolboy, by Norman Jewson. Norman owned and ran a small shop outside our Grammar School - Christ's College, Finchley. There he dealt in stamps and, more importantly, toy soldiers, involving buying and selling mainly from the collections of other collectors (Lester Hewitt?). He was a veteran of the Middlesex Regiment who fought at Gallipoli and regaled us, in our lunch breaks, with tales of "*Johnny Turk*". I and another (even tubbier boy), David Franks, both went to the Red Lion, Maddox Street and the monthly meetings, in my case, starting an association and interest which I retain even now.

At that time, Allan Clayton was Secretary. I first met other old & bold members, many of whom are now gone.....but some remain. I left school in 1954, joining the Army in the November as a Regular, bound for basic training in the RAC at Catterick as a Trooper in the 17/21st Lancers, and then onwards to RMA Sandhurst after Basic Training was completed, in 1955. I was commissioned into the RASC (no private income for the Cavalry), which became the RCT and which I left, as a Major, in 1984.

While at school, I had also been a member of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF), rising to WO2, while also, at the same time, being a member of the Sea Scouts!

During my military career, I had spent much of my time in Germany, over two years in the Far East and a year in Sharjah. I had also served for four years with the Army Air Corps as an Army Light Aircraft Reconnaissance Pilot (Auster 9) in UK and BAOR. And, along the way, I had varied experience in all forms of Transport, Land, Sea

(DUKW) and Air, with Army RN/FAA and RAF as a Ground Liaison Officer.

Throughout my service, I kept up with the hobby whenever I could and, in 1977, whilst serving as a Training Major with an RCT TAVR Regiment, set up a small business, known as "*The Universal Soldier*". I had always used the hobby as a safety valve and as something to take my mind off the serious stuff. In fact, it was my wife, Marion (who died in 2011) who persuaded me to pick up the paint brush etc., while on my long period of Flying Training...stressful and liable to end at any time!

I met other collectors while at Taunton where we formed a small group which became involved with others at Plymouth (Harry Miller) and Bristol (Peter Sturgeon). At that time I was much involved in the Silver Jubilee celebrations and the TAVR display in Bristol City Centre when the Queen came to Bristol.

I also came to know Don Featherstone, whose death I have just seen announced in *The Bulletin*, at the grand old age of 95... amazing man! Bill Hearne also lived in Devon and I got to know him well. Earlier, when we came to Instow, courtesy of the posting to 18 Amph Squadron RCT at Fremington, we discovered Clovelly and Robert Miles Dean - also into toy and collector figures - who was the original *Historex* man in the UK, later taken on by Lynn Sangster, who we all know and love! On my last tour in Germany, I found myself in contact with German collectors which gave me much joy and stress...trying to help hungry German collectors build their collection...which I did almost too well. The rest is history. I went to Kulmbach on two occasions - great memories!

After I left the Army, I put the hobby in abeyance as I forged a new life for us, still based at Instow. However, I retain a large collection and stock of figures from the business... still technically live!

Now, (78 this year), I am on my own

and under orders, from my daughters, to clear the decks (and the garage) before I die. To this end, I hope to get on to the Internet and renew acquaintances *via* BMSS etc, Shows and the Ether.

I am a mine of "*useless*" information and trivia, hoping to write an article or two. And, of course, with a large library, prints, books etc.

A few members, such as, possibly, John Ruddle, may remember me and even some who purchased figures from me. I have had a long association with *Historex Agents*.

Did not mean to write so much but hope to see some of you again this year!

Yours aye,

David Jeremy

Donald Featherstone

Dear John,

I met Don when I was working at Winchester in 1967 and joined his Wessex Military Modelling Society as there was no BMSS Branch within range. We used to meet on Saturday afternoons in a draughty Temperance Hall on the outskirts of Southampton, but nothing could subdue his enthusiasm for military history and models. He was always seeking to make us as enthusiastic as he was on all aspects of his current interest. At that time it was the English Civil War and we were all exhorted to build up war-game armies for grand conflicts, aided by a young Neville Dickinson(?) who was, at that time, busy establishing *Miniature Figurines*.

Don told me that his ambition, when he left the Army (I believe that he was a sergeant tank commander in North Africa), was to find a job which left his afternoons free to indulge his passion for military history and war-gaming. As physiotherapist to Southampton Football Club, he certainly seemed to have achieved just that although, I

suspect, it was not as easy as he made it sound. My abiding impression of his commitment was the “billiard room” (I do not know if that was its designed purpose, but it certainly looked like one) at his large Victorian house: the centre of the room was equipped with a billiard table-size war-game table with appropriate terrain, and the adjacent walls were fully shelved to provide accommodation for his war-game armies laid out on them. Despite the fact that he never succeeded in converting me to gaming, for many years I hungered to set up just such an installation for 54mm activities. Obviously, my next move took me out of his orbit, although I read most of his early books, finding his *Introduction to Collecting Model Soldiers*(?) particularly useful. Over the years, he must have introduced many novices to the Hobby and shared his enthusiasm with all of them, whether young or old. We shall not often see his like again.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Hamilton

A dear friend

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you on behalf of Roy Ashby and myself, to pay a small tribute to our friend George Hanger who, sadly, passed away on Good Friday.

I first met George when I moved to Wellingborough in 1971 while Roy got to know him in 1972, the three of us remaining very close ever since.

George encouraged us with our modelling interests and, through him, we went on to make many friends both in Northamptonshire and throughout the country. Over the last forty-three years we have travelled far and wide for our “boys’ days out” and have had some wonderful times filled with laughter. George has, of course, so many friends besides Roy and me – we are all going to miss you, old friend. Thank you, George.

Kind regards,

Ray Dorrington (and Roy Ashby)

Auction up-date

Sad to report, so far, there has been no response at all from the membership for someone to take over as Auctioneer (see *Bulletin Extra No. 1/2014, pages 1 & 2*), even though the Treasurer has indicated how much the revenue I manage to raise from these events is needed.

And, in spite of frequent promises from members that they wish to put unwanted items into a **possible auction in October**, there has been absolutely no response at all to this appeal either. If one were at all cynical, one might almost think that BMSS LETHARGY IS NOW IN FULL BLOOM!

So I appeal to the wider field of

members, who may like to dispose of items, to put details of these on paper and send their lists to me, **John Ruddle**, at **22 Priory Gardens, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2PZ**. It is essential that I receive any such details **before August** so that, if we have a sufficiently good response, we can book a hall where we can hold the October auction and also advise members, with details of the sale, in *Bulletin No. 3*. And do remember that the money we raise will help put off having to increase subscriptions further for as long as possible. Please note that books will not be accepted for the auction unless they are of military uniforms or toy subjects.
John Ruddle, (Ex-Auctioneer)



Any suggestions?

At the March National Meeting in London, Stephen Dance displayed these rather fine figures of Napoleon and Josephine that had been in the sale of the late “Nod” Faulkner’s collection. It was suggested that they

might be by Mignot but there's no record of any such models in their range. However, what looks like an identical pair does appear in the 1971 Historex catalogue, but Stephen’s figures are definitely metal...Any ideas?

BMSS Diary 2014

May	16th	BMSS Military Pageant Trophy. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
June	20th	BMSS World War I Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
	21st	Summer 2014 Model Show put on by the Shepway Military Modelling Society. Hawkinge Community Centre, Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, Folkestone, CT18 7FP. 10.00 am to 04.00 pm. Admission: Adults £1, Under-16s 50p. Model and club displays, trade stands, Bring & Buy stall and refreshments. Modelling competitions include a 70th Anniversary D-Day Class. For more information, contact shepway_mods@hotmail.co.uk. Website: shepwaymilitarymodelling.wordpress.com
	28th	30th Anniversary Show of the Faversham Military Modelling Group and a Celebration of Military Modelling. The Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NY. 10.00 am to 03.30 pm. Admission free. Trade stands, raffle and exhibition. It is hoped that modellers will enter their models in a free display, open to all attending and, to mark the start of the Great War, there will be JUST ONE COMPETITION - for any 1914-18 subject. To book a table and/or for more information, please ring 01795 532135
July	18th	BMSS Militaria Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
August	15th	Artillery/Transport Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
September	6th	BMSS Inter-Branch Competitions. The Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, Birmingham B93 9LF.
	19th	Indian Army Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
	20th 21st	Euro Militaire 2014 (<i>the 29th year of one of the largest military modelling shows in the world</i>). Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2DZ. The show is open from 10.00am until 6.00pm on the Saturday and from 10.00am until 4.00pm on the Sunday. Tickets will be available on the door on both days.
October	17th	Auction? Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5.30 pm to 8 pm. PLEASE NOTE: This event is still to be decided - see "Auction up-date" on page 7 of this issue. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.

"Bulletin" Schedule - 2014

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin no. 2	6th May	End June
Bulletin no. 3	21st July	Early September
Bulletin no. 4	6th October	End of November

BMSS Bulletin Extra schedule - 2014 (produced electronically)

Extra no. 3	23rd June	End of July
Extra no. 4	8th September	Early October