



The **BULLETIN**

Newsletter of British Model Soldier Society **Extra**

No. 3

2015

Waterloo Day 1896

The Editor writes: "Sharp-eyed and quick-witted" would accurately describe at least one of my fellow National Committee members, for which I am truly thankful – not that all the other members aren't equally gifted, I hasten to add! Ralph Weaver, whose responsibilities also encompass elements of the Support Services and the BMSS Information Service, is always on the look-out for material for our publications. With the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and all the celebrations still so fresh in our memories, he spotted this striking photograph in the 24th July issue of the 1896 volume of "The Navy and Army Illustrated".

The accompanying caption, redolent of the Victorian era, is headed "**In Memory of Waterloo – the Presentation of the Kaiser's Wreath to the Royals at the Curragh**" and provides the following information.

"This photograph was taken on Waterloo Day at the Curragh, on the occasion of the presentation of the Wreath sent to the 1st Royal Dragoons by his Majesty the German Emperor, as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, in memory of the distinction won by



the Royals on the 18th June, 1815. The officer selected to present the Kaiser's Wreath was Baron Eckhardtstein, of the Brandenburger Cuirassiers, the senior Attache to the German Embassy in London, who was accompanied by his newly married wife, formerly Miss Maple. The Wreath, which was received with all honour by Colonel McLaren and the Royals at a full dress parade and attached to the regimental standard, was of three feet diameter, and comprised of laurel leaves interspersed with leaves of gold, and bound with a crimson sash impressed with the Imperial Monogram. Baron Eckhardtstein, in his white and gold uniform, is the central figure of our group, taken after the luncheon given by the "Royals" to celebrate the event."

BMSS Archives

Wearing his Archivist hat, Stephen Dance has been in touch to say that he would love to hear from anyone with information as to the origin of the Society's (somewhat masonic looking) badge. Contact him on 01727 837786 or stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com.

Stephen also asks whether any of you have one of the spoons given out in our early days to winning competition entries. He would very much like to add one to the Society's Archives.

And on going through the archival run of Bulletin Extra, Stephen has noticed that Extra 6/1986 is missing. If you have an original which you'd be prepared to donate to BMSS Archives, please contact Stephen. He will happily make a copy for you.

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show

Most vintage figure collectors will know of this event, which is a good opportunity to search for those missing pieces and to buy some rare sets. The show is operated by Adrian Little of Mercator Trading (07887 802932) and is being held on Saturday 22 August 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London

WC1N 1HT - the venue used for the recent BMSS Show. The nearest tube station is Russell Square. Early-bird entry from 6.30 am (£15) and general admission from 10.30 am (£5). The show covers pre-1980 soldiers and civilian figures, in lead, plastic, composition, aluminium etc., so there is something for everyone.

Department of Correction & Amplification

In the report of the AGM in Bulletin 2/2015, reference was made (p17) to our Constitution stating that the Society should hold a show every year. Although it has been our practice for a considerable time to offer an annual show, it is not in fact a stipulation of our current Constitution (2009, amended 2004).

LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT

Like any family, we as the British Model Soldier Society have to live within our means. For some time now, we have run a successful Annual Show and an account of the most recent one, written in Andy Dunstan's lively and engaging style, appears in Bulletin 2/2015. We have held the Show in recent years in the Holiday Inn, in London's Coram Street. This is a fine, modern hotel, with associations for many of us who are into collecting in its various forms - it is the venue for the Joplin Show (vintage figures) and for other collector events such as high-end (and expensive!) photograph fairs. The hotel has served us well and has helped to give the BMSS Show profile.



modern, single storey building to the immediate right as you approach the main entrance to the church. Travel connections are pretty good, with Pimlico tube station and Victoria nearby, and there are also some cafes and pubs in the immediate vicinity. It should serve our purpose well, though some compromises may be necessary as the Committee look for further ways of trimming the costs

entailed, and fitting the event to a different venue. This is not the first time we have used a church hall for a show; some of you will remember that the special event held on a Saturday in 1985 to celebrate our 50th was, for example, held in Napier Hall.

Further information on the Show will be made available as soon as we have it.

But the simple truth is we can no longer afford it. The number of people paying at the door, and the amount of money from trade bookings is not covering the outlay in terms of booking fee, and other costs. We cannot continue to make a loss on the Show and the National Committee have decided, after careful consideration, that our 80th has to be our last show at the Holiday Inn. There really was no other option. We have gone for a more modest, ie cheaper, venue for the 2016 Show, and have booked the **Church Hall at St Saviour's Pimlico, London SW1** for **Saturday, 23 April 2016**, St George's Day. Please note the date and venue now.

I would end with a plea to all who can attend such shows to make an active effort to do so. I appreciate that, for some, it means a long journey and expense. But only by attending can you ensure the survival of events like this. Indeed, I would repeat what I have said before: do make an effort to attend any model soldier show, whether in London or elsewhere. Shows need your support, and the traders who make a commercial decision to stall out at shows need you to be there, and preferably part with some money. If you don't go when you are able, don't complain when such shows shut down!

Those of you who attended the AGM, or the most recent auction, will know the venue. It is a reasonably

Stephen Dance

The Bristol BMSS and South West Figure Modellers' Show otherwise known as "Bugle Call" - 27th June 2015

A brief first report by Andrew Dunstan



It is always a pleasure to receive the invitation to attend *Bugle Call*, but I was in for a surprise this time. Same venue - great, Saturday - even better, and June instead of November - brilliant! No more having to drive home in the

dark and contending with the metropolitan morons racing back to London from their West country estates, and bumping into each other as they always do on the M4, especially on a Sunday evening. The downside was that we would have to leave early to get to the Show before it opened at 9.30. The organisers' decision to rent the tennis courts for the traders and clubs parking was truly inspired and greatly appreciated after a long

journey, not having to 'faff about' looking for a parking space. The welcome on entering the Pavillion was, as usual, warm and laced with a healthy smattering of mickey taking.

After setting up our table, there was a chance to have look round and see some familiar faces. The first thing that struck me was that there wasn't the usual number of traders; no **Avid Reader** - that will save me a packet!

Book Reviews

The trader issue was explained later when I was informed that our show clashed with *Tankfest* at Bovington. But, not to worry, there were lots of others to spend your money with. Known for being primarily a figure show, there were a plethora of people selling the most outstanding array of goodies. I'll leave it to Bob Orr in his report in *The Bulletin* to mention who was there but, suffice to say, I'm glad that the credit card stayed at home!

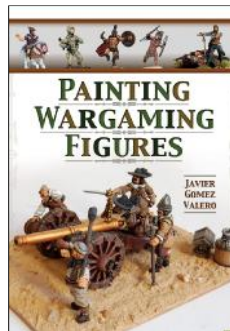
A stroll around the club stands reinforced the belief that there are some very talented people in the modelling hobby and virtually every aspect was covered from fantasy to ships, with some very interesting things in-between. As I have said before, probably too often, the fun bit about attending shows is being able to share techniques with like-minded souls and, with *Bugle Call* being held in the West Country, you will meet people that you are unlikely to encounter anywhere else under the same roof.

For the last few years, the show organisers had decided not to hold a competition which I could certainly empathise with as it is often a forsaken millstone. This year it was decided to have a small number of classes and very good it was, too. Kev 'The Bust' Peart had asked me early on if I would help with some judging, as he probably realised that, in the old days, I would be found hiding in the toilets when they were looking for judges. The number of entries was few but there were some lovely models to judge.

As with all the best events, it was over far too soon and it was time to pack up the table and head for home. I'm led to believe that, unfortunately, the change of date affected the number of members of the public coming through the doors but, talking to the traders, there seemed to be no complaints there. So my only advice to those fine and venerable gentlemen from the Bristol Branch and South West Figure Modellers is to keep up the excellent work, as we all appreciate the time and effort that you put in to making *Bugle Call* one of the 'must go' shows of the year. Thank you all.

It is hoped that a full review of the show will appear in Bulletin no. 3

Painting Wargaming Figures



Author: Javier Gomez Valero
- 'El Mercenario'

Publisher: Pen & Sword Military
ISBN: 9781848848221

When I started war-gaming in the 1970s, books like this didn't exist. They didn't need to; the figures were poorly defined and painting standards were equally unambitious. How times change! As the range and quality of figures has increased exponentially over the years so has the demand for higher painting standards, especially in the big demonstration games and the war-gaming press, which regularly feature painting articles. Although I no longer play war-games, I find that the increasing cost of large-scale figures and my decreasing income has led me to downsize future purchases, especially if I want to create large vignettes and dioramas; "*Multum in parvo*", as they say.

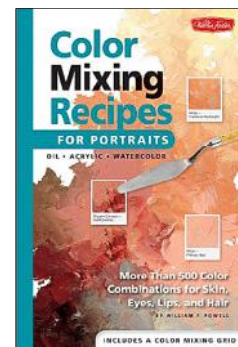
Javier Gomez has been a professional war-game figure painter since his teens and, some 20 years on, has decided to pass on his knowledge and experience. Unlike other authors in this sphere, the author doesn't stick to one figure or paint range, although knowledge of certain paint ranges and their codes would be useful. Ignoring the preface and introduction, the book is divided into 4 parts. The first, on basics and how to set up, is clearly aimed at the beginner/junior, although the section on modelling tools could have been a little more informative. Part 2 describes how to paint and shade various different colours. Part 3 covers 'themes' such as skin tones, faces, horses and basing; unless you are going to use your figures for war-gaming, the section on varnishing

may be redundant. The last part covers painting in different scales, as the rest of the book covers entirely 28mm figures; a fact that should be borne in mind when viewing the up-scaled photographs of the models. Most of the techniques previously shown can be applied with modification to 40mm, 20mm and below.

Sized somewhere between A5 and A4, this 200 plus-page paperback book is profusely illustrated with colour photographs, tips and painting charts. The RRP is £16.99, which may seem expensive, but, then, everything connected with war-gaming (except the figures) tends to be. (*Ed: As we go to press, this title is listed on the publisher's website as being reduced to £13.59*)

Highly recommended for "braille-scale" modellers and for those struggling to use traditional painting techniques. **Eric Sanger**

Color Mixing Recipes for Portraits



Author: William H Powell
Publisher: Walter Foster Publishing Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-1-156010-990-7

One of the advantages of attending a club or branch meeting is the chance to pick up other members' unwanted models and, in this case, a book from Tony at the Letchworth club. Bought on E-bay for £2.33 plus postage, it was too much to resist.

As the title implies, this (American) book is written for artists and covers oil/acrylic and watercolours. If you

are an old Luddite like me who still uses oil paints, then this is ideal as the table of colours required is quite extensive, especially if you are going to attempt all the varieties required. The book claims to have recipes for more than 500 colour combinations (no, I didn't count them!).

So, what do you get? An introductory treatise on colour theory and mixing (sadly, a dying art in these days of paint sets); mixes for every (human) skin type - no fantasy catered for here. There are also mixes for eye and hair colours, mouth, nose and ear tones. Also, perhaps more importantly, a 2-part feature (black-and-white and colour) on the facial planes, showing where shadows and highlights fall on the head and neck. There is a colour-mixing grid in the end papers but, as this is for full-size portraits, it may be too big to be useful for miniature painting.

I don't claim that this book is the be-all and end-all to face painting - after all, no actual painting techniques are shown; however, the variety of skin tones shown may encourage painters to experiment with colour to avoid the 'clone' look often seen in group displays; also the articles on eyes, ears etc., could be helpful to bust and other painters of large-scale figurines. At the RRP of £6.99, I think that this is a book worth investing in.

Eric Sanger

LE BRIQUET

The journal of collectors of historic figures
Issue number 2 of 2015

For those members who have not seen this journal, it is a 56 page magazine, printed in colour throughout, concentrating predominantly, but not exclusively, on French military history. The contents of the latest issue are: a monograph of marchal de France Maurice Étienne Gérard; the uniform of the kettle drummer of the British 1st Regiment of Horse, 1746-1768; an article on French regimental standards 1791 to 1815; part 3 of a series of the Emperor Napoleon's pages; the Horse artillery of the Imperial Guard of the Second Empire; the French mounted military units.

As can be seen from the list of contents, the journal is heavy on the historical side of the hobby. It does however include pages on figure modelling, how to improve an aiguillette from the Historex range; a report on a show at Montrouge, a review on a special 75mm figure of a lieutenant of the 12th Chasseurs à Cheval and a Questions and Answers page.

The article on Marshall Gérard is followed by an appendix on his uniform worn in 1832, during his service under king Louis Philippe and details of his awards both French (Legion of Honour and Cross of July) and Bavarian (Order of Maximilien-



Joseph), Danish (Danebrog), Swedish (Order of the Sword and Order of Seraphin, Gérard was at one time an ADC to Bernadotte, later king of Sweden) and Belgium (Order of Leopold).

French standards from model 1791 to model 1815 are all illustrated in full colour and the account of the Second Empire Guard Artillery has illustrations by Eugene Lelievre, Leroux and Maurice Toussaint and photographs of horse furniture, superb!

Annual membership of the society is 40 euros, although single copies of 'Le Briquet' can be bought for 11 euros.

Ralph Weaver

Vintage figure auctions

The antiques press are reporting that, following the announced closure of Bonhams toy department (see Alex Rich's auction report on the facing page), James Opie (pictured right) and Leigh Gotch are moving to Kent auctioneers C&T as consultants. This firm of specialist auctioneers is a relative newcomer on the auction scene but is already establishing market presence.



will take place on 21st October. Entries are invited for this sale until the end of August. This will be a separate catalogue for toy soldiers rather than a combined toy catalogue."

C & T sales take place at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, details on the C & T website. They will also be online at the live auction site www.the-saleroom.com approximately ten days before the auction, with comprehensive photography for each lot. Live online bidding facilities are available by visiting the site in advance and following the instructions to register.

Catalogues and ongoing toy soldier subscriptions are available on +44 (0) 01634 292 042 or at www.candtauctions.co.uk



Bonhams - the death throes

By Alex Riches
Photographs reproduced by kind
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This was to be Bonhams' last auction. I have mixed feelings about it but, sadly, they had become no friend of vendor or buyer with their eye-watering 25% premium, while cataloguing must have become almost impossible, the way that lots had to be put together to get the minimum estimate. Added to this, holding the auctions way out in the sticks at their auction rooms at Shipton-on-Cherwell, near Kidlington in Oxfordshire was not much of a help to anyone.

Given all those problems, James (Opie) had managed to put together a reasonably interesting sale which one almost felt must have been down to his powers of persuasion with prospective vendors.

I had arrived late and I was still looking at lots and did not realise the toy soldier part of the sale had started, so missed the first few lots. I came in to see a set of **first version Bombay Lancers** make a top

The Bombay Lancers (above) reached their top estimate while the two Mignot sets (below) in original boxes were part of the Bill Cranston lot



estimate of £300 and, even with the premium, that's not bad. Then a **first version set 144 Royal Field Artillery** also made its top estimate of £900. However, there must have been some doubt about the **Paris Office Indian Cavalry** as they were way under estimate at £380 and, unless there was no reserve, they probably went unsold.

There was nothing wrong with the **R.H.A. Gun Team at the Halt** at £1,000 or the **Drum and Fife Band of the Coldstream Guards**, just under estimate at £380, though you have to keep reminding yourself that there is £30 to pay on every £100 spent. Taking out those rare items, the prices for **Britains** were low, some going well under estimate, with pre-war sets doing no better than post-war ones, meaning that there were a few bargains being snapped up!



Lot 1011, the RHA Gun Team at the Halt

Bunging a few good items in with 100 less than ordinary figures did not work, except when I wanted to buy six **Heyde** farm workers buried in

with 200 **Britains** and other makers' farm animals plus a few other bits and pieces of low value. I would willingly have bid higher if these figures had been on their own and not with half-a-hundredweight of unwanted lead. Still, those **Hyde** figures are so rare I should have gone one more bid and off-loaded the rest to bring the price down. Oh well, too late now.

You want to know the bargains? Well, let's start with **Britains** and **set 2017, Ski-troops**. There were four of these, the best making £250, then



One of the four 1957 Britains Ski-troops (set 2017), in their original ROAN boxes, that were in the sale

£200, the next £190 and the last, with some damage, £180. Even with the premium, these were an absolute give-away.

A boxed R.H.A. Gun Team at the gallop, with minimal damage, realised £150, and **sets of 1st Dragoons, 21st Lancers and 12th Lancers** went for £140 for the three. Then there were Belgian and French troops, six sets including **set 1383 Belgian Infantry in steel helmets**, one other set, and **four boxed sets of Belgians on guard, French Infantry firing, Zouaves and Turcos**. None were perfect but just imagine - 53 figures for £150, half the lower estimate. Four boxed sets comprising **set 68, Bombay Grenadiers, set 197, Gurkha Rifles, set 47, Skinners Horse, and 1893 Service Corps** - no less than 28 figures for just £190.

But, having bought a lot I had not viewed, this was not a good sale for me!

Max Hundleby, one of our three most recently honoured Fellows of the Society, was intrigued when he saw the review of the laser-cut figures, in Bulletin No. 2. This brought back memories of those days long before new technology hit the hobby and modellers had to rely on their own resourcefulness

Plywood cut-outs



I was interested to see, in the latest *Bulletin*, that a firm was making plywood cut-outs using a laser. When I first joined the BMSS, I was very impressed with the

high standard of work even then. I was lacking in both ability and money. I had been an advocate of the fretsaw, so it was natural for me to do something with it. The tool itself was hand held and 1920s vintage!

Now it is a well-known fact that I have a liking for the Prussians and so I determined to do a series from early times to 1945. I was fortunate to have the Funken books (which are extensive if not, necessarily, entirely accurate), and some albums of German cigarette cards. These latter go from the time of EBERHART the horrible to Fredrick the Great.

The figures selected depended on my liking for the uniform, and the first was **DOROTHEA OF BRANDENBURG'S REGIMENT**. All were unashamedly copied from the illustrations. It was not possible to trace any, as all were of different sizes. This taxed my artistic skills considerably. The drawings were then glued onto plywood and cut out with the fretsaw when dry. Painting was from a children's watercolour paintbox. The big advantage of watercolour is that it pulls the bristles of the paintbrush to a fine point. Thus,



Norman Joplin's

OLD TOY SOLDIER & FIGURE SHOW (UK)

**SATURDAY 22nd
August 2015**

Holiday Inn London - Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT.

Only 2 minutes' walk north of Russell Square Underground Station and 1 minute east of the Royal National Hotel

**Entry to the PUBLIC - 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM - £5
Early Bird entry from 6:30 AM - £15**

This is a dateline show for old toy soldiers and civilian figures, pre 1980 vintage, lead, plastic, composition, aluminium etc.

Sponsored by Old Toy Soldier Magazine and Mercator Trading Ltd

For further information or to book a table, please contact

Adrian Little, Mercator Trading 0044 (0)7887 802932



A general view of the foot figures Max produced using traditional materials

even I was able to do fine detail work.

For the bases, I cut a long square section wooden rod and cut a groove down the length with a router. The pieces for each figure were then cut off as required. The baseboard had 15 cut-outs to match the bases after positioning each one in order. This was then mounted on a hardwood base. The back was plywood with the flags made as per the figures. Two screws allowed the whole thing to be dismantled for transport.

The cavalry figure was intended to be the first but ended up as the only one of a proposed series. I wish I could still paint the detail I managed to achieve. It must be about 45 years ago!

References:

- 1: RUHMES BLOTTER DEUTSCHER GESCHICHTE – ECKSTEIN-HALDAUS GMBH
- 2: BILDER DEUTSCHER GESCHICHTE OHW HADANK-BERLIN 1936
- Both the above are collections of German cigarette cards of German history 400AD –*
- 3: FUNKEN – COSTUMES AND ARMS OF SOLDIERS OF ALL TIMES – Vo. 1: 100AD – 1700AD PART 1 – THE LACE WARS 1700-1800, Pages 132-148
- 4: SOLDATEN IM BUNTEN ROCK 1783-1807. PLATES – ULRICH
- 5: UNIFORMS OF THE 7 YEARS WAR – A PAINTER’S GUIDE. VOL. 1 WILLIAM S. BILES



A Guard Hussar Officer 1890



(Above) A 1681 Musketeer, a 1730 Giant Grenadier and a Grenadier of 1741. (Right) A Grenadier of 1810, a Musketeer of 1700 and a 1940 Colonel in Parade Dress



BMSS Diary 2015

- August** 21st Open Evening. 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** **5th** **BMSS Inter-Branch Competitions. The Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, Birmingham B93 9LF.**
- 18th 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
- 19th Euro Militaire 2015 (*the 30th year of one of the largest and, arguably, most famous*
20th *military modelling shows in the world*). Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2DZ. The 2015 show is open from 10.00am until 1800 on the Saturday (early birds could get in from 09.30am) and from 10.00am until 1600 on the Sunday. Please note that there have been revisions to the classes in the competitions, as new ones have led to an update in the numbering of them all for 2015. There are now 32 classes in total.
- October** 16th Open Evening. 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. *Note: There is no October Auction this year as hoped-for lots, provisionally offered, never materialised.*
- 18th *Showcase 2015 - Art and History in Miniature.* The Letchworth Scale Model Club Annual Show. The Broadway Hotel, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 3NZ. Club displays, painting demonstrations, wargames, trade stands and competitions. From 10 am until 4 pm. Admission: Adults £3, Under 15s and seniors £1.
- November** 20th World War II. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
- December** 18th **Please note change to programme from membership card:** Old Toy Soldier Competition. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.

2016

- April** **23rd** **BMSS Annual Show 2016.** Church Hall, St Saviour's, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW.

"Bulletin" Schedule - 2015

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin no. 3	20th July	Early September
Bulletin no. 4	5th October	End of November

BMSS Bulletin Extra schedule - 2015 (produced electronically)

Extra no. 4	7th September	Early October
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And finally...

If any BMSS member is visiting Euro Militaire at Folkestone over the weekend of 19th and 20th September this year and would be willing to bring some figures to display on the BMSS stand, please let the Editor know as soon as possible. One of our stalwarts, Northants Area Rep Terry O'Neill, is unable to get there this year and will be sorely missed.