

Minutes

OMSS OTTAWA – Tuesday 24 June 2025

OIC – Morley V

Minute Man – Doug C

Photographer – Bob T and Julian B

List of Attendees:

Francois Brisebois, Doug Cope, Morley Verdier, Michael Canivet, Bob Thompson, Kelly Hayes, Dennis DeRusha, Juan Lopez, Sylvain Allaire, Eduardo Montreal, Paul Theriault, Tom Wright, Julian Bomford, Alan Macdonald



INTRODUCTIONS

New Attendee introductions? - none

How are our other 'regulars' doing? - Dave Waddell was at On Parade but not at this meeting

OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES

OMSS Executive Update –

- Executive Update – **Steve Alexander**, our Ottawa Rep, was not at meeting
- **Bob T** distributed OMSS 2025 membership cards to paid up members.
- **OMSS History book** is now available – **Bob T** displayed his copy of the fabled book
He was impressed by the detail in the book. Copies are available if you act quickly.

OMSS Zoom Meetings – **Julian B** volunteers to be a guest host. **Bob T** tells story regarding the very accurate AI generated ZOOM Meeting minutes. Some question the security of the system.
Bob T will disable AI before next Zoom meeting.

OMSS Ottawa Special Projects

– Reports on potential projects: -

1. **Juan L's Open House** – **Juan L** distributed a flyer re his Open House.
Saturday 20 September at 1300 is set as tentative time & date. All members are invited.
2. **Local OMSS auction** – **Stanley K** is in charge
 - Auction “rules” developed by **Stanley K** were distributed and discussed in agonizing detail. One agreed decision was that the entire sale price would be passed on to seller, with no charges for the auction process.
3. **Trunk Sale** – **Juan L** selects a tentative date as Saturday 26 July.
4. **Mini Show at a Legion Hall** – **Dave Waddell** is working on this show but no news to date.

OMSS Technical Capacities – **Julian B** volunteered to set up system to allow use of photos at Ottawa meetings, etc.

WHAT'S NEW? – ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS

HOBBY NEWS, COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

- **Michael C from former Toy Soldier Market** – **Michael C** – displayed what he has left to sell and has an updated list.



- **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube** — **Scott Paget** – no news – he was not at this meeting.

- **Replica Miniatures** – Some sets are ready for delivery. All are advised to order Christmas sets soonest, The sets will be taken to Chicago show and then shipped to Ottawa.

Collections for Sale –

- **Tradition Collection** in Toronto – all Napoleonic figures – still in negotiations

- **Haisel Collection** Kingston – soldiers and vehicles – still in negotiations. The vehicle collection seems to be the stumbling block. It contains Corgi and Solido vehicles but also some high end Franklin Mint vehicles. **[See A Below]**

- **Used Britain's Collection** – Settled – **Kelly H** bought part of this collection

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- OMSS Toronto - no summer meetings in July and August
- BMSS Zoom Meetings – monthly – 3rd Friday of every month – **Bob T** to send a link
- OMSS Zoom Meeting – Tuesday July 15 - Show & Tell Topic is “Naval Troops”
- OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meetings – informal meetings 29 July & 26 August 2025
 - No specific Show & Tell Topics or minutes
- Gatineau Air Show - Sept 12 to 14
- Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show – 28 September – **Steven A** is to be a dealer
Scott P and possibly **Dennis D** to attend
- Walkley Road Armoury – Scale Model Contest & Flea Market – Sunday 28 September
 - scale plastic models - Ottawa OMSS participation – **Julian B** volunteers to run a club table
- CAPCON 2025 is scheduled for Saturday, 18 October 2025 at Canadian War Museum in Ottawa
 - a plastic models show
- Ottawa Nostalgia Show – Nepean Sportsplex – **Sunday 19 October**
- Ottawa Military Heritage Show – Nepean Sportsplex – **Saturday 25 October**

EVENT REPORTS:

- On Parade 7 June 2025 - **Eduardo M** reports a good show with good prices. **Dennis D** sold and **Juan L** won the **Best in Show** award. As usual **Bob T** was wandering away from his table but did bunk with **Alan M**. **Tom W** was a judge there was a discussion of difficulties related to categories to be judged. The news is that W. Britain company was not at the show and is reported to be for sale. No news listed on Google to date [**see B Below**]
- Montreal Train Show – 7 June – **Morley V** attended and there were some soldiers for sale
- Scott Dummitt Open House – 8 June – **Dennis D** attended. Rumour that Scott may retire.
- International Toy Soldier Club June Video ZOOM Meeting – none at this meeting were on this call
- OMSS June Zoom Meeting — *Tuesday June 17* –
 - 11 participants (4 Ottawa, 4 Toronto, 1 Montreal, 2 England)
 - Show & Tell was “D Day” – **Ian** from England showed box under the bed (Box #6?)
 - **Bob T** gave Photo Reports on 29 May OMSS Ottawa Meeting & Toronto On Parade 2025
- BMSS Zoom Meeting – Friday 20 June – **Bob T** participated and one other from Canada
 - one chap from UK told his Nightmare Toy soldier Auction story – morale
 - be careful with Vectis [**See C Below**]

Show & Tell Presentations

– Show & Tell topic was '**Mercenaries and Auxiliaries**'

Julian B – his new 1/6 scale truck with mounted canon – using **Dragon** figures in 21st century uniforms
[see **D Below**]

- Figures included an Arab in uniform plus a GI Joe with new hands



Sylvian A – had 5 figures from his collection including: foreign legionnaire, an Algerian, a 1900 French army figure and a 1914 Zouave

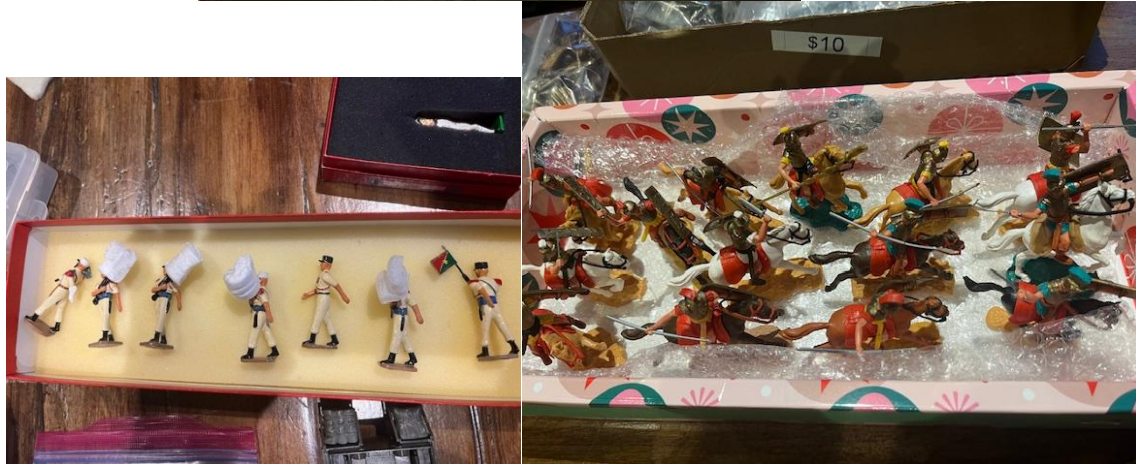


Paul T – had ships from the Battle of the River Platte in 1/2400 scale [See E Below]



Francois B – 2 sets of French Foreign Legion

- Several sets of plastic figures in bags
- TIMPO Romans on horseback – [see F Below]
- Several canons for sale



Alan M – he only bought stuff tonight and ended with ammo for his new 88

Doug C – brought a communist who looks Asian plus he is still flogging those RCMP figures



Juan L – had 4 of his new 1/6 figures – each of which will eventually have a motorcycle that he will use 3D printer to make - including:

[modern Dragon figures are the basis again **see D Below**]

- German MP on a BMW
- British MP on a Triumph
- Hungarian military police on a Sokol Bicycle

Bob T – a French Foreign Legion colour party

- a **Swords and Roses** book with Britain's Swoppets figures [See H Below]
- a coach set from Corgi
- Governor General Horse Guards by Britain's
- Britain's plastic space figures
- 2 wooden Spirit of the Empire boxes
- NW Mounted Police miniatures
- Britain's QEII Coronation coach set
- An **Elastolin** Castle the parts of which are not on a base [See J Below]







Kelly H – some GI JOE for sale



MEETING ADJOURNMENT LAST POST

Upcoming OMSS Meeting Dates:

- Next OMSS Toronto Meeting – September
- Next OMSS Zoom Meeting – Tuesday July 15 - Show & Tell Topic is “Naval Troops”
- OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting – “Informal Meetings” Tuesday 29 July and 26 August

FUTURE OTTAWA OMSS MEETING DATES FOR 2025

Bob T was able to reserve the following Tuesdays for the remainder of our meetings in 2025:

29 July, 26 August, 30 September,
28 October, 25 November, 30 December

ADDITIONS

A] Franklin Mint Models

from Wikipedia

The Franklin Mint Armour Collection, known for its 1:48 scale die-cast military models, has been discontinued. The Franklin Mint itself is still in operation, but it no longer produces the Armour Collection. The Armour Collection, which focused on detailed, 1:48 scale die-cast military aircraft, ships, and vehicles, is no longer in production.

<https://www.diecastaircraftforum.com/military-model-aircraft/219457-what-happened-franklin-mint-armour-1-48-aircraft-models.html>

The short version of the story is that yes, they are out of business.

A few of their non-WW2 moulds have so far been used by Air Force 1 and maybe others in a series of forgettable releases. There were rumours of an Australian company making some WW2 releases based on the moulds but as far as I know this never happened.

<https://www.diecastaircraftforum.com/military-model-aircraft/337591-franklin-mint-models.html>

Franklin Mint Models?

Let's get the bad out of the way. No landing gear options, no weapon/under wing options and no pilot. They heavy, very heavy. Franklin Mint line was originally owned by a Italian mob called Armour. Armour models often utilised decals and not pad printing. And the make things worse some old Armour stock was sold as FM with decals. So something to watch for.

Also,...some of the schemes, like all manufacturers are inaccurate.

Some of the models are very good though. The Hellcat is excellent for example. The B24 is thought to be better than Corgi,...particularly the gaps and shape.

B] W. Britain Model Figures <https://www.wbritain.com/>

No news of sale of the company was found on Google and the current coordinates are:

W. Britain Model Figures, 20 E. Water Street, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

US: 740-702-1803 UK: +08000 869123 wbinfo@wbritain.com

C] VECTIS Auctions Ltd <https://www.vectis.co.uk/>

Head Office – Thornaby (+44) 01642 750 616 Email: admin@vectis.co.uk

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D] Dragon Models Limited

from Wikipedia



Dragon Models Limited (Dragon or DML for short) is a Hong-Kong-based manufacturer of plastic model kits, diecast models and military action figures. Founded in 1987, the company's products are distributed globally and can be found in most major hobby distribution channels and retailers. The company is headquartered in the Tsuen Wan district of Hong Kong, and operates a sales and distribution office in Shanghai China. They are known for their attention to historical accuracy and detail, and have worked with many renowned military experts for their product designs. Since its founding, it has released more than 1,000 items.

Dragon was established in 1987, as a sister company to model retailer and distributor Universal Models Limited (UML), to design and manufacture their own plastic model kit products. In their early years, Dragon primarily focused on model kits featuring military vehicles topics, with their first ever item being the Typhoon-class submarine. The item became a hit due to the subject being heavily featured in the film *The Hunt for Red October*.

In the 1990s Dragon diversified into multiple different product lines including ready-made collectibles and action figures. These new products include a series of die-cast collectibles including 1/72 scale military vehicles Dragon Armor, 1/400 scale airliners Dragon Wings, and 1/72 scale military aircraft Dragon Wings: Warbirds. **In 1999, Dragon introduced its 1/6 scale New Generation Life Action figure series**, which featured life-like head sculpts and ultra-detailed uniforms, weapons, and gear. The series was met with acclaim and helped revive the action figure industry with collectors who view it as the successor of the more traditional and toy-like G.I. Joe products. This series features both historical and modern military soldier topics, as well as movie-licensed and pop-culture subjects. This series currently encompasses more than 600 releases.

In 1999, Dragon introduced its New Generation Life Action Figure series. The series features fully posable military and licensed 12-inch figures with cloth uniforms, weapons and equipment. The series currently stands at some 400-plus individual releases, with subjects varying from World War II, Modern Special Operations and Law Enforcement, to licensed character figures from movies, sports, electronic games and comics. The equipment ranged up to paratroopers with aircraft wings, functioning parachutes and many vehicles. During the early 2000s, Dragon Models produced hundreds of action figures, most of them being World War II German figures. However, after 2010, the number of figures that it produced began to sharply decline. **Dragon Models stopped producing 1/6 scale action figures in November 2012.**

E] Battle of the River Plate - from Wikipedia

The Battle of the River Plate was fought in the South Atlantic on 13 December 1939 as the first British naval battle of the Second World War.



The Kriegsmarine heavy cruiser Admiral Graf Spee, commanded by Captain Hans Langsdorff, engaged a Royal Navy squadron, commanded by Commodore Henry Harwood, comprising the light cruisers HMS Ajax, HMNZS Achilles (on loan to the New Zealand Division) and the heavy cruiser HMS Exeter.

Graf Spee had sailed into the South Atlantic in August 1939, before the war began, and had begun commerce raiding after receiving the appropriate authorisation on 26 September 1939. Harwood's squadron was one of several search groups sent in pursuit by the British Admiralty and sighted Graf Spee off the estuary of the River Plate (a.k.a. the Río de la Plata) near the coasts of Argentina and Uruguay.

In the ensuing battle, Exeter was severely damaged and forced to retire, making for the Falklands; Ajax and Achilles suffered moderate damage. Damage to Graf Spee, although not extensive, was critical because her fuel system was crippled. Ajax and Achilles shadowed the German ship until she entered the port of Montevideo, the capital of neutral Uruguay, to effect urgent repairs. Langsdorff was told that his stay could not be extended beyond 72 hours. Apparently believing that the British had gathered a superior force to await his departure, he ordered for the ship to be scuttled. Langsdorff then committed suicide three days later.

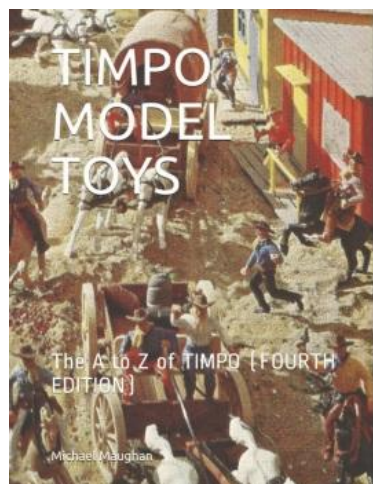
F] Timpo Toys Ltd.

From Wikipedia

Timpo Toys Ltd. was a British toy company created in 1938 by Salomon "Sally" Gawrylovitz (born in Frankfurt 1907, died September 28, 2000, in Zug, Switzerland), also known as Ally A Jewish refugee from Germany, Gawrylovitz started as **Toy Importers Company** known as **TIMPO in 1938**. The company manufactured various toys out of wood, bakelite and composition until the end of World War II. Following the war, Timpo made hollow cast metal toy soldiers; with soldiers manufactured in plastic from 1954. The firm ceased operations in 1978.

<https://www.amazon.ca/TIMPO-MODEL-TOYS-Z/dp/B08KTTL7NH>

This is an expanded version of my third TIMPO A to Z book and it contains some new images and chapters. It covers the plastic 'swop and swivel' figures and accessories produced by TIMPO MODEL TOYS between the years 1960 to 1979. Each of the 25 different figure series are described in detail together with all their associated accessories such as forts, castles and train sets. The basic figures do not change so lots of the illustrations of them are the same as before but I have included more on boxed sets. In particular I have increased the content of the Wild West buildings, vehicles and train sections.



G] Antonio López de Santa Anna

from Wikipedia



Antonio de Padua María Severino López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón (21 February 1794 – 21 June 1876), often known as **Santa Anna**, was a Mexican general, politician, and caudillo who served as the 8th president of Mexico on multiple occasions between 1833 and 1855. He also served as vice president of Mexico from 1837 to 1839. He was a controversial and pivotal figure in Mexican politics during the 19th century, to the point that he has been called an "uncrowned monarch", and historians often refer to the three decades after Mexican independence as the "Age of Santa Anna".

Santa Anna was in charge of the garrison at Veracruz at the time Mexico won independence in 1821. He would go on to play a notable role in the fall of the First Mexican Empire, the fall of the First Mexican Republic, the promulgation of the Constitution of 1835, the establishment of the Centralist Republic of Mexico, the Texas Revolution, the Pastry War, the promulgation of the Constitution of 1843, and the Mexican–American War. He became well known in the United States due to **his role in the Texas Revolution and in the Mexican–American War**.

Throughout his political career, Santa Anna was known for switching sides in the recurring conflict between the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party. He managed to play a prominent role in both discarding the liberal Constitution of 1824 in 1835 and in restoring it in 1847. He came to power as a liberal twice in 1832 and in 1847 respectively, both times sharing power with the liberal statesman Valentín Gómez Farías, and both times Santa Anna overthrew Gómez Farías after switching sides to the conservatives. Santa Anna was also known for his ostentatious and dictatorial style of rule, making use of the military to dissolve Congress multiple times and referring to himself by the honorific title of His Most Serene Highness.

His intermittent periods of rule, which lasted from 1832 to 1853, witnessed the loss of Texas, a series of military failures during the Mexican–American War, and the ensuing Mexican Cession. His leadership in the war and his willingness to fight to the bitter end prolonged that conflict: "more than any other single person it was Santa Anna who denied Polk's dream of a short war." Even after the war was over, Santa Anna continued to cede national territory to the Americans through the Gadsden Purchase in 1853.

After he was overthrown and exiled in 1855 through the liberal Plan of Ayutla, Santa Anna began to fade into the background in Mexican politics even as the nation entered the decisive period of the Reform War, the Second French Intervention in Mexico, and the establishment of the Second Mexican Empire. An elderly Santa Anna was allowed to return to the nation by President Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada in 1874, and he died in relative obscurity in 1876.

Historians debate the exact number of his presidencies, as he would often share power and make use of puppet rulers; biographer Will Fowler gives the figure of six terms] while the Texas State Historical Association claims five. Historian of Latin America, Alexander Dawson, counts eleven times that Santa Anna assumed the presidency, often for short periods. The University of Texas Libraries cites the same figure of eleven times, but adds Santa Anna was only president for six years due to short terms.

Santa Anna's legacy has subsequently come to be viewed as profoundly negative, with historians and many Mexicans ranking him as "the principal inhabitant even today of Mexico's black pantheon of those who failed the nation". He is considered one of the most unpopular and controversial Mexican presidents of the 19th century.

Early Life and Military Career:

Santa Anna was born in 1794 in Xalapa, Mexico.

He joined the Spanish army as a teenager but later switched sides to fight for Mexican independence.

He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a skilled military leader.

Political Career and Presidency:

Santa Anna was elected president of Mexico in 1833.

He became a dictator, consolidating power and ruling autocratically.

He served as president on multiple occasions, sometimes being overthrown and then returning to power.

His rule was marked by political instability and conflict.

Key Events in Santa Anna's Life:

Texas Revolution (1835-1836):

Santa Anna led the Mexican army against Texan rebels, notably fighting at the Alamo.

Mexican-American War (1846-1848):

Santa Anna led the Mexican army in this conflict, which resulted in Mexico losing a significant portion of its territory to the United States.

The Gadsden Purchase (1853-1854):

Santa Anna's government sold a strip of land to the United States, further contributing to the loss of Mexican territory.

H] Swoppets

from Wikipedia

The Swoppets range of 1:32 plastic figures with interchangeable parts appeared in 1958, originally as a range of "cowboy" figures, which were later joined by a group of "indians" (i.e. Native Americans), and then Fifteenth Century Knights in armour, and British Infantry. Most of the figures were produced by **Britain Ltd.**, and designed by Roy Selwyn-Smith, a highly-respected sculptor very experienced in designing for plastic who had been designing for Herald Miniatures until Britain took over the company.

According to James Opie's book on toy soldiers (2016), "... the Swoppets were without doubt the best looking movable part figures ever produced".

Britain and Herald

The very first 1958 Swoppets production was by **Herald: with Britain Ltd.** taking over the company, subsequent Swoppets production was "Britain"-branded, with the "Britain Herald" name being retained for the rest of the Herald plastic range that Britain continued to sell. Even though Swoppets had been designed by Roy Selwyn Smith and put into production at Herald before Britain had finalised their takeover in 1959, Britain seem to have been very keen to emphasise that this had always been a Britain product.

When is a Swoppet a Swoppet?

The subject of what is and what is not a Swoppet is surprisingly complicated.

For our purposes, we're treating the "full" Swoppets as being the Swoppet Cowboys, Swoppet Indians, and Swoppet Knights, and also the later British Infantry Swoppets. These all share the same two-part body with two fixed arms on an upper torso and two fixed legs on a lower torso, attached by the same large swivelling ball-and-socket waist joint, with a swivelling head.

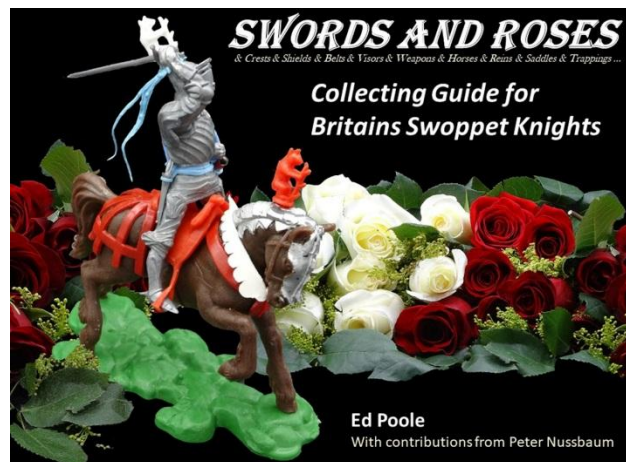
However, the brand name seems to have been so effective that Britain ended up applying it semi-generically to things that weren't actually proper Swoppets, and had a different fundamental design that wasn't Swoppet-compatible. The catalogues in our archives (1960s) also list and index the posable plastic American Civil War figures as being Swoppets, but the accompanying pictures don't appear to show the brand name anywhere on the products' packaging, and the accompanying text slightly downplays the relationship, saying that the Civil War figures include "some" of the Swoppet features, in that they have moving heads and arms, and allow hats and rifles to be exchanged. This isn't quite the same as the Swoppets concept of figures that try to have pretty much everything swappable.

The difficulty in extending the Swoppets concept to other "combat" groups was that in modern armies, there wasn't so much to swop. While Cowboys could have different hats and different coloured neckerchiefs, and different clothing that could be changed by swapping around torso and leg combinations, it was more difficult to produce new hybrid characters by swapping parts on soldiers who were all wearing the same standardised uniforms, all in the same colour.

Some collectors apparently also refer to the contemporary "Eyes Right" range of plastic British regimental figures as Swoppets, but this grouping seems to be based on date range and styling rather than on any attempt at swoppability. It's also possible that Britain may have later retrospectively referred to other ranges as Swoppets, but for these pages we're steadfastly ignoring this possibility and sticking to the 1960s catalogues.

Swords and Roses

<https://www.swordsandrosesbook.com/>



Swords and Roses is a collecting guide that focuses on the Britain Swoppet Knights, a range of plastic toy soldiers that ranks among the best ever. They were marketed with a theme of "The Wars of the Roses" - thus the title of the book. Britain Ltd produced the Swoppet Knights from 1959-1972, and they have become highly collectible over the past 50 years. The Guide is an all-new reference for this innovative and remarkable line of toys that represented a high point from the golden age of plastic figures. It covers every major aspect for the collector: basic factory configurations, rarities, values, counterfeit components, boxed sets, where to search, what to watch for when buying, restoration, and repair. It features robust color photography with hundreds of pictures, and up-to-date information on every known component, from common to the rarest, including previously undocumented variants. A checklist is included for those striving to collect all the components.

The Guide also includes chapters on how the line was developed by Roy Selwyn-Smith and Herald/Britain's, "swopping" to create new poses, conversions, historical accuracy, display, and making dioramas featuring Swoppet Knights.

J] Elastolin

from Wikipedia

Elastolin was a trademark used by the German company O&M Hausser (O&M Haußer) for the toy soldiers and other types of figures it manufactured from composite material and later from plastic. The Hausser firm was founded in 1904 by Christian Hausser and his sons Otto and Max. The factory was situated in Ludwigsburg near Stuttgart. Production of all figures (and all other toys) was interrupted when the German economy was put on a "total war" footing in 1943. Limited production of composition figures resumed several years after the end of World War II in 1945. Hausser continued to use the brand name Elastolin when it began production of figures in a hard polystyrene plastic in 1955 while production of figures in the older sawdust-based composition material continued into the 1969. Hausser production of plastic figures continued through 1982. **The company filed for bankruptcy in June 1983 and ceased production by the end of the year.**