Ensign Miniatures Limited

MAKERS OF HIGH QUALITY MILITARY AND NAVAL FIGURES
IN TIN RICH ALLOY.
BRITISH ARMY OFFICERS MESS DRESS—c.1900 54mm.

A Range of 25 different Figures, 19 of these being available either wearing Head Dress or Bareheaded with separate cap, giving a total selection of 44 models.

When one considers that in the British Army, Mess Dress was almost certainly worn more frequently than Full Dress, its representation in the model soldier world has been sadly lacking, being very infrequently seen in collections and exhibitions.

It is hoped that this range of figures will rectify that situation.

The original concept was to produce a half dozen models of different types and dates, the rest being left to the collectors ingenuity.

As more and more research was carried out, it was realised that there was a good deal more to Mess Dress than a well cut jacket and trousers.

A decision was made to go further.

The late Victorian period was chosen. At this date the uniforms had not become too standardised, gold lace was still much in evidence and there was the illustrated Dress Regulations of 1900, readily available.

At this point every Regimental Museum in the country was approached, with a view to gaining confirmatory evidence of details.

We would like to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to those Officers Commanding Home Headquarters and Curators of Regimental Museums for the most useful information and help received, which in one instance, even included the loan of an actual Mess Jacket!

A final decision was made to design and produce enough different figures to enable the collector to paint one or more of every type of Mess Dress in the army, or with minimal conversion work to create representative figures of any or all the regiments, corps and departments on the establishment at this time.

We believe that never before has a particular type of British Army Dress been presented in model form in such depth.
Illustrated below is the much photographed scene titled "News from South Africa", depicting officers in a Garrison Mess garden just prior to the evening meal and discussing the latest news from the Seat of War.

This vignette won the Nicholson Trophy Award for commercial figures at the B.M.S.S. annual competitions in 1974 and the original is now on display in the Model Soldier Exhibition at Woburn Abbey.

24 figures from the 44 available in the range were used and no alterations of any kind were made to the original castings except in the case of 2 figures – MD6 and MD7A, where very minor modifications were carried out to make these C1914 models suitable for C1900.

It will be noted that a considerable number of the figures are designed to be used with Garden Furniture being either seated, leaning or with leg raised. A full list appears on the facing page with the recommended appropriate item of furniture. It should be mentioned however, that many collectors have successfully substituted their own objects such as stone-walling or logs.

Apart from the obvious natural and imaginative stances, collectors have quickly appreciated that each of these figures is designed to complement the others.

Every figure stands well in its own right, any pair or trio can be selected to form a small conversational piece and from there, any combination is possible, up to the maximum number of 22, without any conversion work whatsoever.

Photo by Courtesy of "Military Modelling"
MESS DRESS C1900

| MD1 or 1A | Lieut. | 1st Life Guards | Free Standing |
| MD2 or 2A | Lieut. | R.H.A. | Free Standing |
| MD3 or 3A | Lieut. | Scots Guards | Free Standing |
| MD4 or 4A | Major | A.S.C. | Free Standing |
| MD5 or 5A | Major | R.A.M.C. | Free Standing |
| MD9 or 9A | Major | R.F.G. | Seated — Bench |
| MD10 or 10A | Captain | R.E. | Leaning — Bench or Chair |
| MD11 or 11A | Captain | Gren. Guards | Seated — Table |
| MD12 or 12A | Surgeon | Major General | Seated — Chair |
| MD13 or 13A | Captain | A.P.D. | R/foot up — Bench or Chair |
| MD14 or 14A | Lieut. | H.L.I. | Seated — Table |
| MD18 or 18A | Lieut. | 9 Q.R. Lancers | Leaning — Bench |
| MD19 or 19A | Lieut. | Rifle Brigade | Leaning — Bench or Chair |
| MD20 or 20A | Captain | Royal Scots Greys | Leaning — any item |
| MD21 or 21A | Captain | K.R.C. | Leaning — Table |
| MD22 or 22A | Captain | Somerset L.I. | Leaning — Bench or Chair |
| MD23 or 23A | Major | Duke of Wellington | Free Standing |
| MD24 or 24A | Lieut. | Oxfordshire L.I. | Right foot up — Table |
| MD25 or 25A | Captain | 3 (K.O.) Hussars | Free Standing |
| MD15 | Captain | A & S Highlanders | Available as Group only. 15 |
| MD16A | Midshipman | R.N. | is shaking hands with 16A. |
| MD17 | Lieut. | R.N. | 17. hand on shoulder of 16A. |

C1914

| MD6 | Lieut. | 2nd Life Guards | Free Standing |
| MD7A | Major | Infantry | Free Standing |

“MODERN” (Tropical)

| MD8A | Captain | R.A.P.C. | Free Standing |

NB. MD8A is wearing Kamarband instead of Waistcoat and can be used, without conversion, to depict one of a large number of different Regt’s or Corps.

Additional Items

To assist the collector in the creation of realistic scenes, a small pack is available containing:

1. open book
2. closed book
3. tankards

Although the ‘A’ figures, i.e. those not wearing caps are supplied with separate appropriate head-dress, additional caps can be obtained in the form of a pack of five.
Highland Officers
Kilted Mess Dress

From left to right: MD29, Lieut. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; MD26, Captain, Gordon Highlanders; MD27, Lieut. Black Watch; MD28, Captain, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; MD30, Lieut. Seaforth Highlanders.

Photos by courtesy of Military Modelling.
ADDITIONS TO THE MESS DRESS SERIES
HIGHLAND OFFICERS IN KILTED MESS DRESS, c1900

The great popularity of the original Mess Dress Series, plus numerous requests for the 'Kilt' to be represented, resulted in these additional figures being produced. Our thanks are due to Bill Shirreffs of Aberdeen who, on our behalf, visited all the Regimental Museums concerned carrying out a detailed research programme.

The small vignette of 5 figures, Garden Table and Bench illustrated on facing page, won the Nicholson Trophy Award for commercial figures at the B.M.S.S. annual competitions in 1977 and has now joined "News from South Africa" on display in the Model Soldier Exhibition, Woburn Abbey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MD26</th>
<th>MD27</th>
<th>MD28</th>
<th>MD29</th>
<th>MD30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capt</td>
<td>Lieut</td>
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<td>Lieut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon Highlanders</td>
<td>Black Watch</td>
<td>Q.O.C. Highlanders</td>
<td>A &amp; S. Highlanders</td>
<td>Seaforth Highlanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seated Table</td>
<td>Free Standing</td>
<td>Seated Bench</td>
<td>Free Standing</td>
<td>Leaning Bench or Chair</td>
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The illustrations show our Highlanders posed as if about to be photographed. However, even with just five figures, an infinite number of different arrangements is possible, also, these can be intermixed with the earlier Mess Dress figures.
The Vignette Series

Created especially to cater for the growing interest in the small scene and conversation piece. Each vignette consists of a pair of figures associated with a “Theme” object. Currently there are 14 of these sets, 13 Napoleonic (10 French, 3 British) and the remaining one is of the American Revolution period.

A group of these vignettes was awarded 2nd place in the Nicholson Trophy for commercial figures at the B.M.S.S. annual competitions for 1973 and all 14 can be seen painted at Woburn Abbey.

The French figures are based on the series of uniform plates by L. Rousselet. The more uncommon orders of dress being chosen, stable, working, walking out etc. . . .

Many lend themselves to simple conversion to other regiments (in some instances, different colouring only is required) 14 such single figure conversions can be seen at the Model Soldier Exhibition.

Single figures can be supplied on demand to direct mail order customers, prices as for single Mess Dress figures, we are not, however, able to supply separate objects or accessories from this series.
The Vignette Series

The first four, all incorporating the stile (section of fence and 2 steps) as the theme object.

Chevaux-Legers. Chasseurs a cheval. Officers in riding coats. c1812

Train d'artillerie. Grenadiers a cheval. Soldier and Grenadier cloaked. c1813

Hussars in mobile dress. 1st and 3rd Reg'ts

Privates. Light and Battalion companies. 35th foot.
The Vignette Series

The first four, all incorporating the stile (section of fence and 2 steps) as the theme object.

Chevaux-Legers. Chasseur a cheval. Officers in riding cloaks. c.1812

Train d'artillerie. Grenadier a cheval. Soldier and Grenadier cloaked. c.1813

Hussars in stable dress. 1st and 3rd Reg'ts.

Private. Light and Battalion companies. 35th foot.
The Vignette Series

The second four, using the tree stump as the theme object.

1st Carabiniers and 5th Hussar Regt's. Stable Dress. Can be combined with VFN5.

VFN5

Sapere, Grenadiers a pied de la garde, Canonneur, Artilleurs a pied de la Garde, ferme de ville. c. 1810.

VFN6

Private, Black Watch und Gordon Highlanders BN, Coys. 1815.

VFN7

2nd Carabiniers, Trooper, 106th Regt, Fusilier, Stable/Working Dress. Can be combined with VFN5 and VFN5.

VFN8
The Vignette Series

VFN9, 10 and 11 using the finger signpost as the theme object.

Lt.Inf. Carabinier and Equipment Train Waggoner 1804.

VFN9


VFN10

Grondier and Fusilier Line Inf. in Greatcoats. 1814.

VFN11

Painted by and Photograph courtesy Alan Watson.
The Vignette Series

VBN12, VFN13 and VBARI4 using a different theme object in each case, respectively the well, combined barrel and crate and the felled tree.

Sergeant, Walking out Dress & Trooper,
Stable Dress, 1st. Dragoon
(The Royals) 1815.

VBN12

Marist de la Garde, Matelot, Bourdieu Line Inf.
Voltaire's Quarters Dress 1815.

VFN13

British Soldiers in Canadian Winter Dress,
American Revolution 1776.

VBARI4
The 'A' Range

A series of British Army figures at various times. Designed to allow scope for pairing and grouping.

Rifle Brigade, Rifleman, Review Order: c.1850.


The above figures clearly indicate the difference in dress between these two Rifle Regt's at this date i.e. the long tailed coatee of the Rifle Bde. and the short jacket of the K.R.R.C.

Lieut. 56th, Foot, British Infantry, Indian Mutiny, 1858.

British Infantry Officer, Trench ERI, Indian Mutiny, 1858.
The 'A' Range

Depicted in the photographs are A5, A6 and 3 minor conversions of A6 enabling the Coldstream, Scots and Irish Guardsmen to be included in the scene.

In each case conversion consists of filling off the grenade badge from the cap of A6 and painting in the 'Stars' of the other Regiments. Additionally in the case of the Scots Guards the chin strap has been filed off. Other Regimental differences are in colour only - the colour guide supplied with A6 gives details of all 4 Regiments.

If desired facial changes can be achieved quite easily. Skin tones and hair colour will go some way toward this, but as can be seen from the photographs, a more definite alteration is brought about by adding a moustache. Collectors adept at metal figure conversion could even alter the nose line or give a more pronounced hollow to the cheeks etc.

The 'Present Arms' position of A6 lends itself to representation in the mass. If you want a Company, Platoon or Section, please send s.a.e. for special price quotation stating number of figures required.

Photo's by courtesy of Military Modelling
The 'A' Range

A7/8 'That one's a Spud' an integral part of figures comprising a Gunner, Royal Artillery and Private, Royal Flying Corps. World War I.

A9 English Yeomanry, West Kent (Singly), Officer, 1800.

A10 English Yeomanry, Surrey Private, 1830.

Photos by courtesy of "Military Modelling"
The 'A' Range

The great popularity of A9 and A10 demanded that we produce more Yeomanry. The latest 4 illustrated below combined with the first 2 will make one of the most striking groups of 54mm figures available – a real plethora of colour.

East Lethian
Private 1805  
A.11

South Bucks (Eton Troop)
Officer, 1809  
A.12

Leicestershire
Officer, 1808  
A.13

Warwick Light Horse
Private, 1801  
A.14

Photos by Courtesy of “Military Modelling”
The `N` Range

Eventually, this will become a history of British naval dress in miniature model form. Already, it is the largest range of 34 mm British naval figures available in the world and we have every intention of making it larger, there are many many gaps to fill yet.

Most of the figures to date are based on the sets of cigarette cards "History of Naval Uniforms" issued by Carreras Ltd., and "History of Naval Dress" issued by John Player & Son. The artists concerned drew extensively on original material from the Maritime Museum. Consequently, the cards are considered to be very accurate portrayals of the dress of the period.

Some of the later figures are based on illustrations from the Blandford colour series book "Naval, Marine and Air Force Uniforms of World War II" or actual photographs supplemented by the "Naval Ratings Handbook".

We would like to take this opportunity of placing on record our thanks and appreciation for the help and encouragement given by our good friends Kenneth Fenwick, Stuart Betts and Keith Webber and also to thank those many customers who have written to us expressing their delight that at long last our Senior Service is receiving its rightful share of the modelling scene.
The 'N' Range

British Naval Seaman, c.1660. (Base not included).
A seaman of the Restoration period when the term 'Royal Navy' first came into use.

N.1

British Naval Seaman, c.1845.
(base not included).
A seaman of the 'steam trials' period.

N.2

A British Naval Officer, c.1651. (Base and Roll not included).
Typical Officer of the Commonwealth period.

N.3

British Naval Seaman, c.1744. (Base not included).
A sailor on shore leave during the period of Lord Anson's administration.

N.4

Photos by courtesy of 'Military Modelling'
The `N` Range

N.5 BRITISH NAVAL SEAMAN, c.1588

BRITISH NAVAL GUNNER, c.1805

"Glory to the man who will do his duty." - Seen stripped for action at the time of Trafalgar.

N.3 BRITISH NAVAL MIDSHIPMAN, c.1776

A bi-centenary figure but also the uniform worn in the wars with France, Spain and Holland.

N.8 BRITISH SEAMAN, 1480

A sailor of the reign of Edward IV, wearing the dress common to that period.

Photo by courtesy of "Military Modelling"
The `N` Range

N9 SEAMAN c.1861

N10 SEAMAN c.1500

N11 GUNNER c.1750

N12 BOATSWAIN c.1828

N13 SEAMAN c.1854

Photos by courtesy of Military Modelling
The 'N' Range

SEAMAN (Staff Slinger) c.1727
N.14

MASTER MARINER c.1740
N.15

LORD ANSON'S BARGE CREW c.1743

FLAG OFFICER c.1833
N.17

COXWAIN WW2
N.18

LEADING SEAMAN c.1970
No.1 DRESS No.6 DRESS
N.19
The `JG` Range

So far all the figures listed have been from the hand of Ensign’s figure designer Bob Rowe. These are the first figures from our new designer John Goddin, son-in-law and protégé of the above mentioned, John is ex-R.N. with an engineering Background and lots of good imaginative ideas so we are expecting great things from him.
ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED BY OUR CUSTOMERS

YES. The painted figures appearing in "Military Modelling" reviews and our catalogue supplements are painted by the designer, in oils, Humbrol, Plaka and Japlac, using a 00 brush.

NO. We cannot supply the bases used for the above but a good supply of bases can be obtained from a 6' x 2" length of mahogany, cut into 2" pieces.

YES, the groundwork (highly recommended as it will enhance the figure) is largely natural material grit, sand, moss, lichen etc and in the case of 'N' range figures frequently lines scribed into the base to represent deck planking.

NO. Bob Rowe is unable to paint figures on a commission basis being currently too busy producing new Ensign figures.

YES, we are prepared to supply painted Ensign figures. These would be passed to an artist for completion of the work; approx 6 weeks delivery. Price depends on complexity; write for quotation - s.a.e. please.

NO, we are unable to supply "Rowe" figures, these were produced and marketed 1969-70 and are no longer available.

YES, we did some years ago stock "The Valiance Collection" (the figures were designed by Bob Rowe and son) Cavalier miniatures of New York now own all the master designs and moulds and this U.S. firm are in process of re-releasing the original 12 figures (first marketed 1972) and releasing for the first time the remaining 17 figures. Enquiries direct to Cavalier Miniatures please.

YES, our policy is to release new "Ensign" products twice yearly, Spring (Apr/May) and Autumn (Oct/Nov) subject of course to circumstances beyond our control.
The 'N' Range

N. 20
ADMIRAL c. 1704

N. 21
L/SEAMAN c. 1941

N. 22
LIEUT. NAVAL RDE.
CRIMEA 1854

N. 24
L/SEAMAN c. 1945
NAVAL BEACH PARTY

N. 25
SIGNALMAN c. 1943

Photos by courtesy of "Military Modelling"
THE "JG" RANGE

JG 4
1st ARIZONA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY 1865

JG 6
U.S. INDIAN SCOUTS CPL. 1890

JG 5
CROW INDIAN WARRIOR MID 19th CENTURY

Photos by courtesy of "Military Modelling"
The 'N' Range

N. 27
POST CAPTAIN c. 1740

N. 25
CAPTAIN c. 1840
SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER
LANDING

N. 26
1ST CLASS PETTY
OFFICER c. 1856

N. 29
SEAMAN c. 1780

N. 28
SEAMAN c. 1798

N. 30
DRUM MAJOR
H.M.S. GANGES c. 1936
MESS DRESS SERIES

MD. 32
SGT., THE LONDON SCOTTISH, 1893

MD. 33
MAJOR, THE LOVAT SCOUTS, c. 1900

THE 'A' RANGE

THE '2G' RANGE

A. 16
SCOTTISH YEOMANRY
AYRSHIRE SGT. c. 1802

JG 7
AMERICAN INDIAN
GHOST DANCER c. 1890
The 100mm Series

Another member of the family joining the Einsum design team, son Sgt. Bob Rowe, Royal Hussars, who will specialise in larger figures. The first (illustrated below) is No. 1 in a proposed group of Civil War types. A Standard Bearer and a Pikeman are in the pipeline, completion depends somewhat on the exigency of the service but we hope to produce at least one of these for release spring '79. Bob is not new to figure sculpting, having designed twelve of the excellent "Valiance Collection" figures for an American company some years ago and several 100mm. figures since then. It must also be said that he is an artist par excellence.

RWR

LIEUTENANT, BLUECOAT REGIMENT 1642-1644
The 'UD' Series

The first of a new series of British Army figures, these four Hussar officers wearing the very attractive patrol jacket, each accurately sculptured to represent the regiment portrayed, c. 1900.

UD 1 CAPT. 4th (QUEEN'S OWN) HUSSARS
UD 2 LIEUT. 11th (PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN) HUSSARS
UD 3 CAPT. 13th HUSSARS
UD 4 LIEUT. 15th (KING'S) HUSSARS

The 100mm Series

The second offering in this series by Sgt. Bob Rowe, a colour bearer. Here painted as Lamplugh's Regt., but admirably suited for the portrayal of numerous other regiments.

Photo by courtesy of "Military Modeline"
The ‘N’ Range

N. 31
SAXON BUSCARLE
10th. CENTURY

N. 32
MIDSHIPMAN
c. 1808

N. 33
SEAMAN, NAVAL BRIGADE,
ZULU WAR, 1879

N. 34
PETTY OFFICER
c. 1877

N. 35
JUNIOR RATING
W.R.N.S. c. 1977

Photo by courtesy of "Military Modelling"