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Back in 1972, the company of Greenwood and Ball sold a range of Wargames figures called Garrison Miniatures. They produced catalogues for the figures of course, but they also produced something else. They produced a house magazine that they called The Garrison Journal.

As far as I know they only produced the one. Forty years on I felt it really was time for another.



Paul Ashton handing the Garrison moulds over to Rob Young

The original was quite a glossy affair. This isn't. This is just someone indulging in his hobby while at the same time keeping alive some great old figures and the memory of the people who produced them. My intention is to produce a small number of copies to send out to a group of people who I feel appreciate these figures. So expect a bias towards 20mm Ancients and wargames figures rather than exhibition.

The objectives of the Journal?

Trying to think of a good answer to this one. Put together in one place information about the company, the products, the people. Partly, it will be a photographic record of some of the figures. Sadly, I have very little in the way of photos of the people concerned. However, I do have a number of catalogues, both of Greenwood and Ball and Rose Miniatures, so will include some items from these, including the shameless use of old 70s ads to fill in gaps in pages!

Mostly, though, it's an eclectic mix.

Hope you enjoy it.

Rob Young August 2012



This section needs to start with a lot of thank yous. I think it would be fair to say that the bulk of the information comes from the excellent but now sadly defunct Vintage20Mil website with additions from other sources, personal recollections and items/figures/info subsequently discovered. So thanks to everyone who has helped over the years.

It all started with Greenwood and Ball. John Greenwood made the figures, Katherine Ball painted them, and they were sold to collectors. They also made diaramas for various clients, including the United Services Museum in London. These figures were originally (preWW2!) 40mm, but in the 40s changed to 20mm. This situation lasted until 1959 when they started to produce ranges of cheaper figures. Vintage20Mil describes Don Featherstone as saying the range included ACW, WW1 and Naval figures, plus a one inch range of Napoleonic staff officers and 1066 Normans. However, there were other figures produced as I also have a number of Colonial figures in my own collection. These figures were characterised by have wire soldered to the boots of the cavalry so they could stand whilst dismounted.

We now come to a time of major changes. 1966-1971. Three things happened. Firstly, in 1966 John Braithwaite presented a range of figures at the first Na-

tional Wargames Convention in Southampton in 1966. At some stage these figures replaced the original 20mm ranges. Secondly, in 1970 I bought my first Garrison figures. This is useful because the figures I bought were the John Braithwaite figures - so the changeover occurred before then. Finally, John Greenwood died in 1971 and the Garrison ranges were taken over by Bill Pearce of





The Garrison in Harrow. Garrison ranges included Ancients and Napoleonics plus a few WW2 German infantry.

These 20mm figures were replaced by new 25mm figures that were not much taller than the 20mm ones, just bulkier. Have to admit, I would have appreciated some notice about this – they didn't change the codes and I got quite a shock when some Greek hoplites I ordered arrived!

Organisationally, Greenwood and Ball continued as the company producing Garrison figures, as well as many other designers' products in several scales. They even went into the publishing business, producing a couple of Seven Years War information guides. The Garrison shop closed, although a second shop, The Northern Garrison, continued. This lasted until about 1973 – certainly closed before the 'new' 25mm ranges were introduced. I used to visit the shop on a regular basis and wouldn't have ordered figures by post had it been still open! The company relocated to Thornaby then, later, Stockton-on-Tees.



According to his daughter, Cathy Miller, John Braithwaite died in of a heart attack in 1992. Bill Pearce died in 1981.

Steve Thompson of SKT took over the ranges and added a few more from various sources. He then sold the company on to Paisley Miniatures of whom I know very little – in a conversation with Duncan MacFarlane I was told 'He placed one ad in the magazine then left the country to work in the Middle East'. So everything went quiet until Paul Ashton bought Garrison and incorporated it into Amazon Miniatures. Paul set up the current website and database – the site is still hosted by Paul and his company. Finally, in 2005 Paul sold Garrison to me and that's where it's stayed......



2 Imperial Drive, North Harrow, Middlesex

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The editor of the first Journal was Charles Grant. Apart from editing the Journal, Grant was also the author of many books and articles on wargaming. A lot of these involved the use of Garrison figures. Being an Ancients fan, my obvious favourite was The Ancient Wargame. Published in 1974, The Ancient Wargame featured many Garrison figures, though the figures on the front cover were actually Hinchliffe.

Grant also wrote a number of other books and articles. He has his own Wikipaedia entry at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

Charles_Grant_%28game_designer%29. His book 'Battle' originally appeared online in Meccano magazine which is avail-

able on the web via: http:// wargaming.info/2011/charles-grant-battlepractical-wargaming There is a also a partial list of publications listed on the web by Nick Elsden at: http:// f1.grp.yahoofs.com/v1/ YDYZULxEM-





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Pictures below show some of Grant's wargames figures currently in my possession and include Hinchliffe as well as Garrison.





3 Editor CHARLES GRANT



That all this constitutes a very wide and possibly ambitious field is fully appre-ciated, but it is intended that this journal should contain contributions from as many as possible of the leading authorities in their various sections of the hobby so that the reader will find both practical assistance as well as the erudition of deep research herein. The very great variety of miniatures produced by Greenwood and Ball will be reflected in the diversity of the journal's contents and we are

and allied material or by the production of reading watter both intriguing and erudite, all without the infliction of tedium, their purpose in presenting this publication will have been more than adequately fulfilled. In the past few years, indeed, this hobby of which we speak has grown out of one who, without much stretch of the imagination, might be called an 'old hand thing to maintain this high level of enthusiasm, either by the supply of figures having increased by leaps and bounds. The collection and study of militaria, the have reached such proportions as to be a never-ending source of astonishment for at the game'. If 'The Greenwood & Ball Journal' and its publishers can do somemaking of miniatures, and above all the increase in the practice of wargaming. all recognition, the popularity of every facet thereof-and there are many-



RE6A

GA1



for them. The objectives are simple and are basically two-fold.

confident that every hobbyist will find more than a little to interest him.

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figures of this period and in this sphere the GARRISON range is widely known centuries ago. Persia, Greece, Rome and Carthage—all have their representatives in this lengthy series, each individual figure delightfully produced and as accurate in its weaponry and costume as research can make it. Allied with the 'ancient' range and now and the Paviovski Grenadiers of Imperial Russia. These, plus French 'dragons-à-pied', make a very representative and colourful selection of the fighting troops taking part in years of the popularity of 'ancient' wargaming has been the availability of really good and, justifiably, very popular. Throughout this country and indeed in many centres overseas, countless wargame tables feel the tread of these sturdy little warriors of many Quite certainly, one of the principal reasons for the tremendous upsurge in recent increasing by leaps and bounds are the Garrison figures of the Napoleonic era, still, despite the onslaught of the 'ancients', most probably the 'tops' in wargame popularity periodwise. Here we have the essential Old Guard grenadiers, British line infantry and Highlanders, and lesser known but equally attractive types such as Prussian Landwehr the great wars of the 1800-1815 period, the 'epopée' of the Napoleonic legend.







GARRISON WARGAME FIGURES for the diorama builder





PN12 PN3 PN8 DWN3 DWN6

My introduction to metal wargames figures came in 1970. Back then, in the UK you generally bought Minifigs or Garrison. My Garrison figures were bought in a shop in Knaresborough called The Northern Garrison. Greeks and Persians. They also did Napoleonics and small range of WW2 Germans, but they were of little interest to me.

They started to come out in 1966. Most people seemed to like them, but strangely I have heard one or two people say that, at the time, they were looked on as being not as good as Minifigs because they were cheaper! They were rather variable in size, some were semi flat rather than fully round, and some of the poses a bit static. Personally, I would consider the Garrison horse of the

time as being far superior to any others in production – as demonstrated by the number of later manufacturers whose horses were, well, very similar in design.

Currently, most of the Ancients have been hunted down and exist on new moulds, as have been some of the Napoleonics. All the WW2 figures are in existence.





Since acquiring Garrison I have been converting figures at a frantic pace to produce ones that I always thought Garrison should have produced but didn't. I've also found a lot of figures that (as far as I know) were never produced. As a result, the Garrison 20mm Ancients range is far bigger now than when owned by Greenwood and Ball.





Once G&B moved into 25mm figures the number of ranges expanded quite quickly. Ancient ranges such as Greeks, Persians and Assyrians first appeared.

These were quite chunky compared with the 20mm versions and tended to have thick bases and long spears. The Saxons and Normans that appeared in 1974-5, together with the 1976-7 Sword and Sorcery ranges. were, to me, more pleasing in many ways,



and in fact don't look out of place with the 20mm figures. Other ranges included smaller 7 Years War, slightly larger ECW and ACW, and redesigned Napoleon-



ics. Some later Greeks and Persians were produced with separate spears.

Later ranges, many of which I know from the SKT catalogues, included

Sumerian, Mycenean, Viking, Byzantine, Sassanid, Seleucid, along with several other minor ranges. Ranges showed influences from several different designers.

At some stage in the early 80's G&B started concentrating on 15mm figures,

these ranges being later bought by East Riding Miniatures, though I believe they are no longer available.





Russell Gammage is generally noted for his production of 54mm and above figures. However, over the years he was also responsible for creating a number of ranges of figures in the 30mm and below sizes. Some of these were produced very early on – mid 50s.

I'm not sure how early the Garrison connection is. 'Officially' the Rose Wargames ranges were taken over by Steve Thompson of SKT sometime in the 1980s, the 54mm ranges going elsewhere. However, a lot of earlier Garrison

figures seem to be using Rose shields, for example SS034, Corinthian infantry, that Greek shield is definitely like the Rose ones rather than Garrison! The SS Fantasy ranges came out in 1976-7.

The earliest figures were 20mm

Napoleonics, this range gradually expanding to include ACW, WW1 and Zulu Wars. Later, they would be described as 25mm, but that is best described as artistic licence. 30mm ranges included Napoleonics, especially Bavarian and Westphalian, but also gladiators and Roman slave market. Most of these figures were originally 'lost' but have now been hunted down and many are in production. Rose also produced an excellent Ancients 'Inch High' Range, the Prestige range, that included mainly Egyptians, but also some Greeks, Persians and a couple of Romans. All infantry, an attempt was made at producing a chariot but it was a sorry affair.

Three ranges have so far not been 'rescued'. Mentioned above, the gladiators are still lost. A couple of the Prestige figures formed part of a Fantasy range I haven't been able to track down – pictures appear in Lost Minis Wiki – and there is also a mysterious 'British Civil War' range. The later did exist – pictures appear in one of the Rose catalogues – but no-one seems to have seen them!

One interesting thing. Russel Gammage seems to have been a cigar man. All the masters I have are neatly stored in cigar boxes.







Over the years a lot of different ranges have been associated with the Garrison/Greenwood and Ball marque. Many of these names – Sanderson, Lassett, Minot for example – dealt with larger scales, 54mm and above. Others were incorporated within the wargames area. In many cases, I admit the origin of some of these have been lost to history.

One quirky range is the Admins range. These are rather quirky figures and actually show evidence of at least two dif-

ferent designers. Cartoony in character, they come under the heading of 'acquired taste'. Having said that, some of them are very nice figures, with some poses showing a lot of character. Ninja goblins in a basket?



In 30mm, SKT sold an excellent range of Barry Minot designed American War of Independence figures. Although I have the masters and some moulds, these



figures are not available. Strangely, this range seems to have been sold in two parts. Spencer Smith Miniatures sell about a third of the range whilst Garrison owns the rest.

Two ranges that may have been bought in or

may have been G&B originals are the SciFi ranges – spaceships in roughly 1/2400th scale and 6mm tanks. I'll admit to liking both ranges though other interests have stopped me from building much in the way of armies with them Perhaps in the future.





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One of the best parts of the old wargames books is reading the battle reports. The Ancient Wargame showed two in detail – Plataea and The Apocryphal Well. Certainly, these both seem to be popular topics with Old School Wargamers – I've read a number of 're-enactments' over the years.

It would seem a shame if I didn't include one of mine. Slinghots 188, 189 and 193 included a 3 part assessment of Cunaxa/Kounaxa in 401BC. This battle, described by Xenophon, was the start of the epic March of the 10,000, when some Greek mercenaries formed part of an army raised by the Persian Satrap Cyrus in an attempt to dethrone his brother Artaxerxes. The attempt failed, Cyrus died and most of the senior officers of the mercenaries were murdered by the Persians after the battle. They found themselves stranded in the middle of the Persian Empire and it was a long way home.....

The battle:

Cyrus and his army were caught on the march. A Persian army led by Artaxerxes appeared in their path and they hastily started to form up in line of battle. This scenario only includes the left wing and centre of the Royal army as the right wing was far to the right of the rebels and never saw action. The rebel forces include the rebel right and centre as what would have been the left wing was still marching towards the battle. This version is basically my DBA scenario from the Slingshot articles.

In my reconstruction, the Royal army centre consisted mainly of poor quality infantry and Colonist cavalry. The left flank were under the command of the Satrap Tissaphernes. It included troops brought from his Satrapy and others who arrived with the satrap Orantes. The Rebel forces included the Greek mercenaries on the right, Cyrus and his guard cavalry in the centre and other troops still trying to come up.

The battle started when scythed charged the Greeks but were defeated. Tissaphernes and his cavalry charged through the Greek peltasts and on to the baggage. The Greek hoplites went forward and the Asiatics facing them ran away. Cyrus with his bodyguard charged Artaxerxes but died in the attempt.

The reconstruction is on a restricted board 30" x 22" - actually the notice board that I use for photographing armies and figures on. It's green on one side,

cork on the other so provides a useful ready-made table for gaming . Rules used were DBA, variations for this reconstruction were that Persian infantry were considered inferior and had a minus 1 in combat.



Figures used were all Garrison 20mm, including my own conversions. Exceptions were the scratch built chariots and Carian standard bearer, he being a 25mm figure carrying a Celtic cockerel standard.

As would become apparent—previous playtesting used other rules and less generalised armies—a couple of changes would have been beneficial. These include extending Tissaphernes line by including some Armenians while cutting out part of the centre. Also, I should have placed the Greek peltasts two deep. This would mean that the Greeks didn't overlap the Persian cavalrythey didn't in real life—and Artaxerxes would have been further away from Cyrus.



As in the battle, I had Cyrus head straight for Artaxerxes. As a Knight, he did stand a chance against all those cavalry, but the original went against about 10,000 cavalry with 600 men so...... But you don't want to roll a 2!



The scythed chariots charged and promptly died. Tissaphernes followed up with his bodyguard and hit the Paphlagonian cavalry—in reality he should have hit the peltasts. That fight lasted a couple of round until the Paphlagonians rolled a 1—and Tissaphernes was free to continue with his real-life attack on the Greek and Rebel camp.





Which just left the Greek line to roll up Tissaphernes' infantry.