



THE OXFORD DIECAST COLLECTORS CLUB

GLOBE

PRODUCED FOR THE OXFORD DIE-CAST COLLECTORS CLUB

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**SPECIAL
BUMPER
ISSUE**

Issue 67

UK & EIRE Guineas (£2.10) USA \$5.00



*Advance Britannia
God Save
The King*



*BED020 Winston Churchill
Edition 4,000*

New Release

At 9pm the radio news said that "tomorrow will be VE Day" and the Prime Minister will speak to the nation at three o'clock. We all waited impatiently for the broadcast and the Prime Minister's declaration that peace had come to Europe, the big assembly listening in complete silence, breaking into spontaneous applause as Mr Churchill ended his address. The National Anthem over the radio was both stirring and thrilling, forming an emotional climax to a 10 minutes long to be remembered. Immediately afterwards, the bells clanged out a victors song. A street party had been arranged and the Magistrates had allowed licensing hours to be extended until Midnight for two days. In the evening, there was dancing in the street and for many the illuminated lights shining brightly seemed so strange after six years of blackout. It was towards two o'clock in the morning when the last of the revellers made their way home.

The war was over.

New Releases Page
2



New Releases 3



King George VI 4



Buy One Take One 8

BUY ONE TAKE ONE



Heritage Classics / DVD 9



Recent Releases 10

**MEMORY
LANE**



Planes & Taff 11



Special Correspondent & Morgans 12



FREE THIS MONTH



We know how much you love our FREE items so this month with every order for over £10 we'll send you a 1:72 scale (1.5 inches) Morgan Plus Eight. They come in six different colours and when you spend over £10 we'll send you one absolutely FREE (colour chosen at random). If that isn't enough to excite you then take a look inside - we've got some 1:43 scale models which are lovely value and we've got them as singles or as three pieces sets. How about that then!

You will have received Token 1 and 2 with your last orders from Globe 65 and 66. If you send these with you order this month you will receive a FREE commemorative medal in a presentation pack. See the order form enclosed for details. For anyone who doesn't have the tokens, but wants one, if we have any left they can be purchased in Globe 68 next month.

EVEN BETTER MORE HERITAGE CLASSICS PAGE 5

DISCOVER



CC030
Edition 1,500 New Release



In 1890 Amalgamated Press, decided to launch a line of comics that would sell for half the price of ASHH (see Ally Sloper Taffs Memory Lane). This 'halfpenny revolution' encouraged other publishers to join the fray, and soon we saw Sloper -influenced characters, such as 'Weary Willie and Tired Tim' (Illustrated Chips), 'Nobbler and Jerry' (Funny Cuts) and 'The Three Lodgers' (Larks!) – many of whom would themselves become the stars of stage and screen. Illustrated Chips launched at ½d and ran for many years, eventually (during the 50's we think) the title changed



CHIPS Jan 1953



ILLUSTRATED CHIPS Jan 1923

to Chips. Weary Willie and Tired Tim featured on the front cover in every issue and it is interesting to compare the changes over a 30 years period with the two issues we have from 1923 and 1953. Both Casey Court and PA Perkins & Percy feature in both, but in the earlier comic you can detect already the competitive marketplace with an ad promising FREE NEW YEAR gifts for all readers of Chips, Comic Cuts, Funny Wonder and Jolly Jester in the coming weeks. By the 1950's it is obvious that the comic is struggling to let go of the past retaining the old strips, but introducing more modern characters such as Jimmy Joy the TV Boy and Menace From Mars featuring Paul Power and his Speed Shell. Sometime during the fifties the comic stopped, an article in the British Library says 1952, but having a 1953 comic would make this wrong. The name Chips appeared again in the late sixties and early seventies with the launch of Whizzer & Chips - two comics in one with Sid the Snake on the front cover. We feature Chips on our Model A.



CODE MORG+8

These are lovely little cars this time 1:43rd scale (3.5- 4 inches long). Like the FREE model shown on the front it is a Morgan Plus Eight. H.F.S., as his loyal workers and personal friends knew him, began his career as the 18 year-old pupil of William Dean, Chief Engineer of the GWR Railway Works at Swindon, where he worked as a draughtsman in the drawing office of seven years. The Morgan name made its very first public appearance at the Olympia Motor Show in 1910. Two three-wheelers, both single seaters fitted respectively with 8 hp Twin and 4 hp Single cylinder J.A.P. engines. These models come in six different colours.



CODE: VEPLATE

Here's our VE Plate, which has been so well received. We still have some left so if you want one then we'll supply until stocks are exhausted. We'll also give you some details next month on the Royal Plate offer we ran- for Oxford Club members you can have the one with the wrong date if you want - so watch this space!



BED018
Edition 6,000

New Release

Japan has surrendered to the Allies. There is joy and celebration around the world and 15th August has been declared Victory in Japan day. The end of war will be marked by two-day holidays in the UK, the USA and Australia. After days of rumour and speculation, US President Harry S Truman broke the good news at a press conference at the White House at 19.00 hours yesterday. He said the Japanese Government had agreed to comply in full with the Potsdam declaration which demands the unconditional surrender of Japan.





New Release



CS032 Kiwi Polish
Edition 1,500

This is the most famous shoe polish sold in the world today. The - Kiwi and the name make this brand easily recognisable. The company manufacturing the polish was set up as far back as 1906 by the Scotsman William Ramsey, who named the product after his New Zealand born wife Kiwi. The boot polish was first produced in Australia in 1906, five years later it had reached the U.K. At the end of the twentieth century shoes and boots became affordable to the masses and with the start of the Second World War in 1914 the demand for large numbers of polished army boots increased the sales of the product. Soldiers returning from the War continued to use the same product and Kiwi soon became the number one boot polish and remains so today. We show a tin of polish on the side of our VW - OX BLOOD THOROUGHLY WATERPROOF.

A word from Michael

Don't miss out on your free medal, it is a nice item to keep. It's also the first of several we will issue at various times over the next twelve months.

The variant VE vans will be detailed next month after we know exactly where we are with stocks remaining. You will notice that we are placing stock lists with despatched orders. It is difficult to keep this updated, but we will do the best we can. We've also updated the Collector Sheets A5 size (pack of 30 pages) and these can be ordered off the stock listings and order forms. Keep the letters coming in and we will try and publish some in Taffs Memory Lane Section.

Until next time

Take care

Michael



GR015 Women's Royal
Army Corps
Edition 1,000



New Release

TAFF WRITES. We really messed this up. Before I knew it the production department had produced a Guards & Regiment vehicle on the wrong van. it was a genuine error and the production supervisor was broken hearted as she had read the production specification incorrectly. I can't stand waste and knew that it would put her into a difficult position if I rejected them. So we accepted them, but we offer them here at a reduced price for this Globe only. If you buy it singly you can have it for £3.95. If you buy as part of the multi-purchasing then just take £1.00 off the price. To keep the range correct we will release the same livery on the Bullnose coded BED015/1 later this year.

My apologies



New Release

DR014 Glen Moray Edition 1,500

Glen Moray Distillery nestles on the banks of the River Lossie in the city of Elgin, the capital of Speyside, a region synonymous with malt whisky. Glen Moray Single Malt Whisky has been distilled there since 1897 by a small dedicated team of craftsmen. In over a century of distilling at Glen Moray much has changed, however the ingredients, processes and skills of those responsible for producing it remains the same.

You are welcome to make a visit there and we show the 16 year old Malt on our Bullnose as part of the drinks range.



CODE MINIPOL

EVENING ALL

We couldn't resist buying up a quantity of these little beauties, don't they bring back so many memories from the past. There is something reassuring about the look and the colour of this Mini police car as opposed to the bright markings we see today. I always remember seeing them parked outside the sweet shop which also had a local police station nearby. The station looked more like a house, I remember getting a clip off a bobby for crossing the road without looking. Even now I daren't cross the road for fear that he might be watching. This is 1:43rd Scale and cost £4.95 but you can buy in the 6 for 4 and 4 for 3 purchasing - I hope we have enough!



BED019 King George VI
Edition 4,000



New Release

We want the King.

The Blitz on London brought the British people into the frontline of the conflict. Touring the shattered East End, the King and Queen were initially greeted with boos and jeers. It was only with the bombing of Buckingham Palace and the Royal Family's refusal to leave the capital, that the mood of much of the general public became positive. George VI's hard-working and conscientious manner eventually brought him hero status in his battered country. But victory, finally achieved in 1945, left him physically exhausted.

Broadcast King George VI - 8 May 1945

Today we give thanks to Almighty God for a great deliverance. Speaking from our Empire's oldest capital city, war-battered but never for one moment daunted or dismayed - speaking from London, I ask you to join with me in that act of thanksgiving. Germany, the enemy who drove all Europe into war, has been finally overcome. In the Far East we have yet to

deal with the Japanese, a determined and cruel foe. To this we shall turn with the utmost resolve and with all our resources. But at this hour, when the dreadful shadow of war has passed from our hearths and homes in these islands, we may at last make one pause for thanksgiving and then turn our thoughts to the tasks all over the world which peace in Europe brings with it. Let us remember those who will not come back, their constancy and courage in battle, their sacrifice and endurance in the face of a merciless enemy; let us remember the men in all the Services and the women in all the Services who have laid down their lives. - The full speech is on our website.

The Eglinton Classic Club was formed in 1995 and originally consisted of a group of 12 people that met together at a pub called the Happy Landing in Eglinton. As this was the only Car Club in the Londonderry area it quickly grew and attracted new members. Over the past 9 years the club have selected a committee that have met regularly to organise various types of events. Issued by the club we have 180 available for Oxford members. One of our own members David Coulson was the inspiration behind the West Midlands Football Club vehicle and I know when it was issued by Pasteur a few weeks ago some of our members were picking them up on e-bay. We have 200 available for the club. The West Midlands Police Club was founded in 1974, following the re-organisation of police forces countrywide. The core of the club was founded from the Birmingham City Police team whose competitive history began in the Wednesday League in 1928. Immediately following the Second World War the team moved to the Mercian League and remained there until 1953 whereupon they joined the Birmingham AFA Works League and enjoyed considerable



BED016 West Midlands
Football Club Edition 500

New Release

success. They won both the Black and White and Aston Villa Cups before claiming three successive League Championships between 1961 and 1964.



149T Eglinton Classic Car Club
Edition 600

New Release

PasturePromotions

Remember our bears - well we've got them back after the last lot sold out. They are appearing again in Reader offers, but if you're looking for a present or you just like bears then these could be the ones for you. As always we'd like to give you something extra so for £14.95 you can have the set of three bears plus Benjamin for the same cost, but instead of 6 inch bears you can have three larger 8 inch bears.

THE WORLD OF
**BENJAMIN
SMITH**

BS004



Set of bears for just £14.95

That's quite an offer don't you think! If you want three of the same type or any other combination plus the small Poppy bear then just let us know and you can have them at the £14.95 price. Alternatively if you want to buy them as singles you can, the various bears can be found on the order form.

BS006



Royal Navy Bear

BS007



Royal Air Force Bear

BS005



Army Bear

BS008



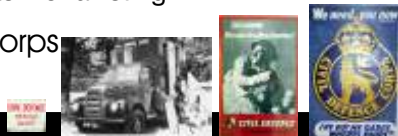
Benjamin Poppy Bear



Up until 1965 there was a standing requirement placed on upon local authorities to provide local Civil Defence. These included Green Goddess fire engines, ambulances and other vehicles. Many of these were sombre, and intended for use in 'war scenarios' and most were built to Home Office specifications, although some were supplemented with former front-line vehicles. The body was finally disbanded in 1968. We remember their work through the release of this Bedford van carrying their logo.

There are more Military themed vehicles if you wish to see more check the website or ask for a listing.

MIL020 Civil Defence Corps
Edition 2,000



CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS



GR014 GORDON
HIGHLANDERS
Edition 1,500



THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

Raised by the 4th Duke of Gordon in 1794, The Gordon Highlanders, numbered the 100th, traditionally recruited from the North East of Scotland. The raising of the Regiment was famously assisted by the Duchess Jean who is said to have offered a kiss to prospective recruits with a guinea between her lips. In 1798 the Gordons were numbered the 92nd. The Sphinx emblem was awarded for services against the French armies in Egypt in 1801 and the Tiger emblem in 1807 in recognition of the 75th's service in India. Further honours were earned in the Peninsular War and in 1815, the 92nd fought at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, taking part in the famous 'Scotland for Ever' charge with the Scots Greys. Service further afield then brought honours in India and Afghanistan and, following amalgamation with the 75th in 1881, the Gordons earned further fame for their victory at the Dargai Heights, where two of the Regiment's 19 Victoria Crosses were won. Later six VC's were won during the Boer War. Under the 1980s programme of Defence cuts, The Gordon Highlanders were amalgamated on 17 September 1994 with the Queen's Own Highlanders to form The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2004

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



LEST WE FORGET



BED008 LEST WE FORGET
Edition 7,500



BED011 AT THE GOING DOWN
Edition 7,500



BED010 FLANDERS FIELDS
Edition 7,500



BED009 REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY 2004
Edition 7,500



On behalf of all those who gave contributions for last years Poppy Appeal we give our thanks. Through the use of Oxford vans since 1999 over £80,000 has been contributed to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Complete set just £14.95

ORDER CODE REMEM

60th Anniversary of D Day landings

ORDER CODE DDAY

Complete set just £14.95

THE D DAY SET CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 4 VEHICLES



MIL017 GUARDS ARMOURD DIVISION
EDITION 10,000

GUARDS ARMOURD DIVISION - CHEVROLET

As part of the 21st Armoured group, it landed in Normandy fighting its way through to Caen. It was the first formation to enter Brussels on its liberation in 1944.



MIL019 HMS WARSPITE
EDITION 10,000

HMS WARSPITE - BULLNOSE MORRIS

Affectionately known as 'The Old Lady'. With a crew of 925 she was deployed at Normandy. Armed with 15 inch guns she bombarded the German coastal defences.



MIL018 576 SQUADRON
EDITION 10,000

576 SQUADRON BULLNOSE - MORRIS

The 576 squadron played a key part in the preparation for the D Day landings. The squadron concentrated on bombing railways, communication and military installations.



MIL016 OPERATION OVERLORD
EDITION 10,000

OPERATION OVERLORD - THORNYCROFT

Sixty years ago thousands of British troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. Many soldiers, seamen and airmen gave their lives in the cause of freedom and their sacrifice will never be forgotten.



**“Never Gonna
Fall In
Love Again”**

VW017 Lonnie Donegan
Edition 2,000

Lonnie was one of the most successful recording artists of the pre-Beatles era, he had three UK number one hits and numerous top 10 entries in the 1950s and 60s. The skiffle king's hits included - Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour, My Old Man's A Dustman, Cumberland Gap and Puttin' on the Style. The Glasgow-born singer was midway through a UK tour after recovering from a heart operation in 2002 when he died at the age of 71.



VW018 Bill Haley Edition 2,000

**BILL HALEY
AND HIS COMETS**

**One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock, rock,
Five, six, seven o'clock, eight o'clock, rock,
Nine, ten, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, rock,
We're gonna rock around the clock tonight.**

The anthem of Rock, the song that really gave birth to teenage culture back in 1954. "Rock Around The Clock" featuring that hard driving beat, immortal guitar solo and wonderful crescendo of an ending - Bill Haley and his Comets were the Kings of Rock. The original Comets were - Danny Cedrone, Billy Williamson, Johnny Grande, Joey D'Ambrosio (tenor sax), Marshall Lytle (bass) and Billy Gussack (drums). Joey, Dick and Marshall left the Comets and were replaced by Al Rex (bass), Frank Beecher (lead) and Rudy Pompilli (tenor sax). This was the classic Comets line-up and in the coming years audiences throughout the world would marvel at the antics of Rudy and Al. Rudy belting out his sax solos, arching his back until he was virtually lying flat on the floor. And Al throwing his bass up into the air, then jumping onto its' side while still playing. *A must have VW in this classic range.*



13157
FORD CORSAIR & CARAVAN £11.95



13156
CARAVAN & VOLVO V70 £11.95



13155
CARAVAN & VOLVO S80 £14.95



1219
VOLVO V70 £3.95



10501
VOLVO 8700 BUS £28.95



1233
VOLVO V50 SILVER £6.95



1234
VOLVO XC90 TITANIUM GREY £6.95



1235
VOLVO XC90 GOLD £6.95



1239
VOLVO V50 GOLD £6.95



1240
VOLVO V50 RED £6.95



1238
VOLVO V50 TITANIUM GREY £6.95



90459
VOLVO XC90 OCEAN RACE £7.95



1236
VOLVO XC90 RED £6.95



1232
VOLVO XC90 SILVER £6.95

MOTORART[®]
COLLECTION

1:43 Scale

MORE RELEASES SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT 2005

These models are highly detailed diecast models and not for children. They are some of the finest construction models that you will find and are 1:50 scale. Also available we have a 1:87 scale EC210 and A40D - more due soon.

A25D ARTICULATED HAULER
10449
1:50 SCALE

100058
1:50 SCALE
KALMAR

L35B
10265
1:50 SCALE

ROTTNE
100057
1:50 SCALE

Detailed model with fully moveable log crane and ball-race mounted bogies.

EC45
10263
1:50 SCALE



EC240B EXCAVATOR
13034
1:50 SCALE

Fully functional boom and bucket open hood with detailed visible engine.

G740B MOTORGRADER
13152
1:50 SCALE

Detailed model with functional blade in all angles. Articulated chassis and steering wheels.

180 HIGH LIFT
10143
1:50 SCALE

High quality diecast metal log loader with authentic functions.

10446
150E
1:50 SCALE

BL71 BACKHOE LOADER
13033
1:50 SCALE

Triple-function front bucket and a backhoe arm, sliding left to right. Stabilising legs, steering wheels.

A40D ARTICULATED HAULER
1:50 SCALE
H40D HAULER
10267
1:50 SCALE

Open engine hood, detailed engine articulated steering and moving bogie.

10447
180E
1:50 SCALE

1:50 SCALE
10266
EC210 EXCAVATOR

10448
220E
1:50 SCALE

FM9 DISTRIBUTION
10378
1:50 SCALE

Diecast metal model with tiltable cabin and detailed engine. Super structure with openable rear doors.

FM9 CONSTRUCTION
10377
1:50 SCALE

Fully diecast metal model with tiltable cabin, detail engine and a vertically adjustable tipper body.

A25C ARTICULATED HAULER
A25C
1:50 SCALE



P005 AMBULANCE EDITION 1,500



BED007 GWR SIGNAL EDITION 2,000

Two GWR models - no you are not seeing double. These are shown for PH who missed out on the Signal variant - don't worry we still have some left.



F016 HULL CITY AFC EDITION 1,100

Which came first the colours or Hulls nickname - The Tigers? During their inaugural League season, Hull City wore black and amber striped shirts and black shorts, a trend they continued up until the Second World War with the exception of one season. Since then the shirts have fluctuated between plain and striped. I'm told that they won the Division 3 championship back in 1932/33 in the striped strip, but since then success has been in plain amber shirts. This is part of a range of Football club liveries that have been issued over several years.

BUY ONE TAKE ONE

**TWO PACKS FOR
£9.95 plus £1.50
p&p**

As requested we show some of the packs we have offered recently, but this time if you buy one you can take one. We do need £1.50 to cover the extra postage. If you like you can include the packs of Morgans and Landrovers shown on the back page. Total cost for the two packs is therefore £11.45.

RALLY MINIS



1:43 Scale

CODE:RALLY MINI

(TWO PACK TYPES AVAILABLE)

CLASSIC CARS



1:43 Scale

CP007

MORGAN/LOTUS EUROPA/CAPRI

MODERN CARS

1:43 Scale



CP001

BMW PACK 1

1:43 Scale



CP002

VOLKSWAGEN

1:43 Scale



CP004

LAND ROVER

1:43 Scale



CP003

MERCEDES

1:43 Scale



FOCUS/PORSCHE/MITSUBISHI CP005

SPORTS

1:43 Scale



CP006

BMW PACK 2

LETTERS

Wanted CIG008 Capstan

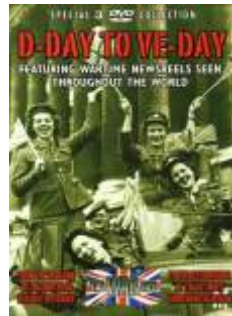
Contact Mr D Purhouse Tel 01142 2350399

For Sale 150 Models T's. Will split collection and offers are acceptable

Contact Henry Twigg tel 01675 464646

-----We will publish what letters we can, but cannot guarantee that any received will appear here. As we print the Globe well in advance, this can take several months.

Winner -Globe 65 - TAFF IS THE BEST
G.Levitt 159492 - Military Green Tullamore should be with you.



From the invasion of the northern beaches of France to the celebrations of the ultimate surrender of Berlin. This is a collection of three DVD's from the archives of the Imperial War Museum, starting with the greatest invasion by sea and air and finishing with the Royal family and Churchill on the balcony at Buckingham Palace. 160 minutes for £24.99

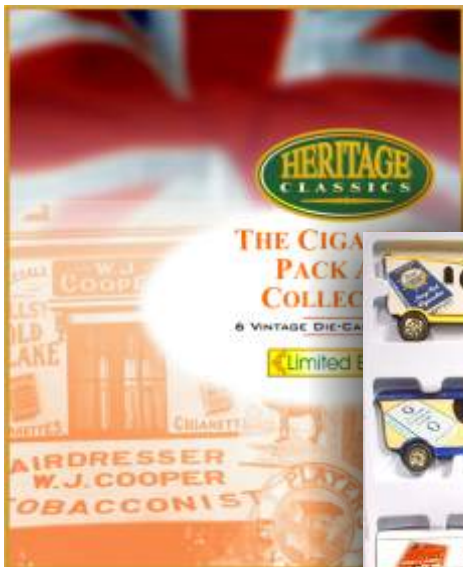


**H006/1
EDITION 300**



This is the third set that we have released in the last few months and is selling at £24.95 per set, many of you will be familiar with the models. They have lower edition sizes to the earlier sets and are in restricted supply. We have retained 100 sets of each which are available to members. As offered last month, as they are repeat liveries we have decided to offer them as - buy one get the second at half price - that's two sets for £37.40 . There are variant sets that will also appear and as always we will keep you updated. They are nice gift items - so don't miss out. This set features Robin, The Magnet, Buster, School Friend, Eagle and Hotspur. Some of you have asked about the low edition sizes for

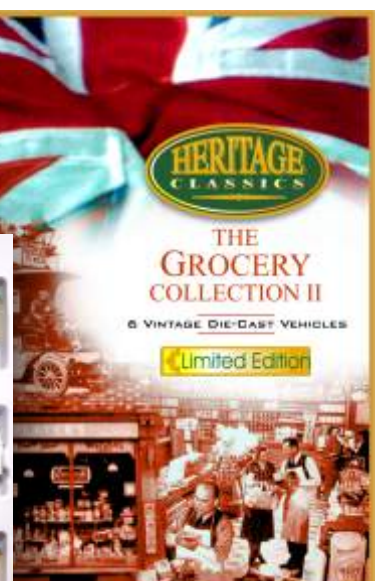
this range. It's partly because of the models chosen by a third party and our desire to keep the model within the original edition size. For example School Friend appeared as CC029 with an edition of 2,000. Only 1700 will now be released as single models and 300 within the set therefore totalling 2,000. We have had a few problems as we had not originally planned for School Friend to be part of the set - CC016 Girl was the chosen model, but by the time the packs were produced we had less than 150 of the edition for that model left so it was substituted. This is true of the other sets as well.



H004/1 contains Blue Boy, Bachelors, Star, Four Square, Red Label and Churchmans. The Grocery Collection II H005/1 has Coffee Milk, Roses, Brocks, Campbells, Robin and Zebra.



**H004/1
EDITION 300**



**H005/1
EDITION 300**

MEMORY LANE

SOME OF TAFFS FAVOURITES, THOUGHTS and RAMBLINGS

TAFF

Editor: I can't believe that we have letters complementing Taff on his observations. We even had one letter asking if he could expand this section. Never - not in a million million million years.



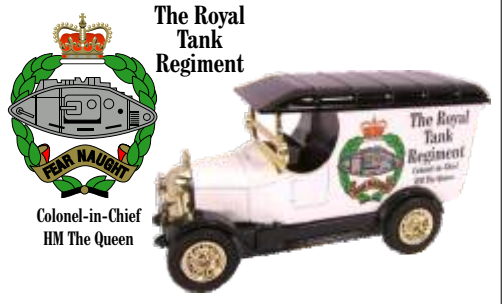
Taff walked through the crowds of people standing around the Spitfire, they all cheered him as this was to be his last mission - he was the best pilot the world had ever seen. His friends called him "Target Taff" as he was the best marksman around. A young pretty blonde girl burst through the throng and cried "We love you Taff you are the best". Taff sighed I know.....I know.

VW019 Reach for the Sky Edition 2,000



I'm thinking of taking up train spotting. I can't think of anything more fascinating than dedicating a week to this, with a little notepad recording all the train numbers. Maybe instead of spending my honeymoon abroad we could go to Swansea Station instead **AND** it would save money. That's settled I'm sure my fiancée will be absolutely thrilled - it will be the icing on the cake.

BED014 Railway Lorry Country Services Edition 2,000



Our oil heating tank needs repairing in the warehouse, it hasn't worked for the last few years and it sometimes quite cold. My office is lovely and warm as I have the heater on all the time.

GR016 Royal Tank Edition 1,500



Magpie to me was the kids TV programme in the seventies not the football team. I remember cutting the sides off my jeans and fitting in some fluorescent orange patches to make a wicked pair of flares - all done with the help of Jenny Handley - she was fantastic. Even today people turn their heads when I wear them.

F018 Notts County Edition 1,100



Three Nuns, Triple Crown, Grand Slam. Yes we did it and I had to get in a mention somewhere. I was particularly pleased to score the winning try and be selected as Man of The Match. Completed the Globe at half time as well !! Everyone of us played that day.

CIG066 Three Nuns Edition 2,000



My mother often told me about VE day and at the time I just didn't understand. As you get older you wish you'd listened more as you begin to imagine the uncertainty of life at that time. Not to be forgotten.

BED017 VE Day 60th Anniversary Edition 10,000

By the time this Globe reaches you I will be happily married. Thanks for all the letters and e-mails of congratulations. After a short break we will return to work and my apologies if Globe 68 is a few days late. It means that for once in my life I will have got my priorities right.

Thanks

TAFF



1:72 Scale

JOHNNIE JOHNSON SPITFIRE

It had been so difficult for Target Taff to fly Combat Missions and star in movies as well, but he had managed. Suddenly the sun caught his medal, the Olympics had been so tiring this year, but he'd bagged another first to add to his collection. He loved his yacht, it had been a gift from a club member.....

Editor: Taff WAKE Up....Wake up.....

Ally Sloper

Ally Sloper was the first star comic strip hero. He was Alexander (Ally) Sloper, F.O.M. (Friend of Man). He was created by Charles Ross and continued by his wife Marie Duval, and also by later artists. He was so successful that he eventually had his own comic paper, Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday, which came out in 1884. In Victorian slang, an "alley sloper" was someone who sneaked out of the back door and went "sloping" down the alley when the landlord came for the rent. That was just the beginning of Ally Sloper's disreputable qualities. He was also drunken, lecherous, inattentive to his family, scheming and not very bright - just the sort of guy who gives a bad name to wherever he hangs out, and indeed Ally Sloper was often cited by early critics who considered comics fit reading matter only for loafers and semi-literates.

Editor: Sounds like Dusty, but could be Taff !!!!





**JOHNNIE JOHNSON
SPITFIRE MK 1X**



**MESSERSCHMITT
BF109G-6**



A6M5 ZERO FIGHTER



P51-D MUSTANG

A lot of interest in Johnnie Johnsons Spitfire last month. So much so, that this month we include the other two models in the series - the A6M5 ZERO FIGHTER AND THE P51-D MUSTANG. Like the Spitfire and Messerschmitt they are 1:72 scale (approx 5 1/2 inches) and are £14.99 each.

P51-D MUSTANG

Many people consider the P-51 Mustang the best fighter of World War II. Its combination of speed, range, maneuverability, and firepower gave it great versatility. Its use in all major theatres of the war included long-range high-altitude escort, strafing, and photo reconnaissance.

Originally developed by North America for the British, the Mustang was later ordered in large quantities by the U.S. Army Air Forces. This P-51 is displayed in the markings of the 351st Fighter Squadron, 353rd Fighter Group, Eighth Air Force.

A6M5 ZERO FIGHTER

The Mitsubishi Zero was the primary Japanese Naval fighter in World War II. It was used in the attack on Pearl Harbour and in Kamikaze attacks near the end of the war. Allied pilots were astounded by its maneuverability, and it was very successful in combat until the Allies devised tactics to utilize their advantage in firepower and diving speed.

The A6M was given the Allied code name "Zeke", but was generally called Zero Allied pilots referred to all Japanese fighters as Zeros, but the term is correctly applied only to the Mitsubishi A6M. The marking on this Zero are of the 261st Naval Air Corps, which operated in Saipan.

THE HISTORY OF TAFF AND OXFORD DIECAST

The computer department was a different world to that of the factory floor. The whole pace of life was slower, yet some people thought they were under pressure, but they weren't. This is something I found difficult to come to terms with and something I experienced many times over the years. The office staff/office managerial staff were always paid more and their terms and conditions always seemed better. A computer programmer (nothing against them) was paid considerably more than a toolmaker, yet to me a toolmaker was just as skilled, if not more skilled. Why should a sales clerk be paid more than a production operator! This is one of the reasons that manufacturing has declined so much over the last twenty years. Anyway back to the computer department.

The late seventies was the time of big mainframe computers, it was like owning the latest sports car. Your computer had to be the best, the latest, the fastest and the prettiest. Mettoys computer as I recall was an ICL 2900 and it occupied a room that was about 64sq ft. I was really looking forward to spending two months here and wondered quite what I would learn. Much to my disgust I was told that I would spend the first hour of each day cleaning the air conditioned (dust free?) room. After a week I was thoroughly fed up and became bored and yearned for a return to the factory. I spoke to the training officer who made it clear in no uncertain terms that I was there for the duration. I decided that the best way through this time was to buy a book on computers and learn as much as I could under my own steam. As part of my training programme I was required to study in college for 1 day a week for the first two years - Business Studies - Business Law, General Law, Accounts, Statistics, Economics and Marketing and fortunately whilst at college I got to play around at odd times with the computer.

The time dragged by and the highlight, I thought, would now be spending a week on the night shift, alas I was wrong. The first night it became clear that there was routine. There was a rota on who would sneak into a storage caravan each night and go to sleep. I was told to keep my eyes open and don't touch anything so that they could both go to sleep that evening. At last it was over and it was off to the Purchasing Department, but before I could go my report had to be filled out by the Section Manager. Call me big headed, but I already knew more about computers through my own studies than he would ever know.

The Purchasing Department was a breath of fresh air. It was run in a very bureaucratic way, but it worked and worked well, even todays modern systems are only on a par. There were four buyers each with an assistant and a responsibility for buying a whole range of items. The sheer volumes were enormous to me. A million boxes here, 100,000 tonnes of zinc alloy there, two million batman figures, 500 pairs of safety shoes the lists went on and on. My big moment was here, I was given a purchase requisition to buy 500 screws and I was allowed to make the purchase on my own - without any help - what could possibly go wrong?

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Why Iwo Jima? Why was so much military effort expended by both sides on this insignificant speck in the Pacific Ocean? One of three little islands in the Volcano Group, 750 miles from Tokyo, it had little remaining strategic value to Japan, though a considerable force was still deeply embedded there, in its natural volcanic caves and tunnels. If the Americans could capture it, however, then it could be used as a base for fighters escorting the long-range bombers already attacking the Japanese mainland from their bases in the Marianas Islands, too far away for the fighters. So on 16 February, this tiny island was hit by the largest sustained bombardment on a single target in military history, nine battleships firing unceasingly for three days. 19 February saw a massive invasion of the small beaches, and intense defence by the Japanese. 26 days of desperate hand to hand battle between the US Marines and the fanatical defenders, under continuous bombardment by the fleet offshore would result in tiny advances, maybe only yards at a time. The massive effort eventually reduced the Japanese garrison to three small pockets by 10 March, and six days later the last organised resistance ended. This victory has been won at enormous cost. The US Marine Corps alone has suffered 4,189 dead, 441 missing and 15,308 wounded, and there have also been many casualties among the naval forces. The toll of Japanese has been even greater, estimated at 21,000 dead and 700 taken prisoner.



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