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Collection of Toy Soldier Developing as a Hobby among Little Children by [Randy James](#)

Article published on July 24th 2012 | [Babies](#)

Plastic toy soldiers represent courage and strength to a small boy who dreams of joining the army one day and doing his duty towards his country. With their realistic uniforms and medals, soldiers represent the ultimate in masculinity for small boys, who in their innocence see adventure and thrill in everything the soldier does.

The miniature toy soldiers are the best substitute that they have and owning a complete set of these soldiers in uniform according to their ranks is something every boy dreams of. Plastic soldiers are not restricted to only one type but soldiers of different eras also available.

Knights, pirates, military men, cowboys etc are all part of the plastic toy soldier sets and each of them have their individual collections. They range from the simple basic soldiers to highly advanced and realistically made models. Even though toy soldiers can be made from a number of materials, those made of plastic are the most popular.

Toy soldiers trace their origins to the Egyptian era as evident from the soldiers found in the tombs. Germany followed suit with their tin soldiers but toy soldier making was revolutionized by William Britain in 1893 by using hollow castings to make them light. This ultimately led to the use of plastics for making miniature toy soldiers during the 1940s. Again during 1960s and 70s, plastic soldiers started to be made with different colored plastics, thereby eliminating the need of painting the soldiers externally.

Collecting plastic toy soldiers is actually a hobby which many people take very seriously. They often divide the toy soldiers into two time zones—the historical and the past historical eras. The largest collection till date was done by Malcolm Forbes which started collecting these soldiers in 1960s and had a collection of 90,000 soldiers at the time of his death in the 1990.

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Article Keywords:

Toy soldiers, Plastic toy soldiers