



GREENWOOD AND BALL'S 25 mm. 'Garrison' ANCIENTS

FIGURE REVIEW

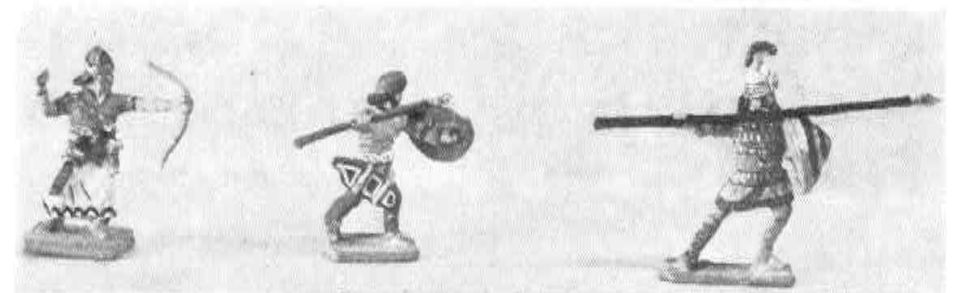
by Charles Grant

AMONG THE CHIEF REASONS for the tremendous increase in interest in the ancient period – among wargamers, that is – in recent years is the availability of the appropriate figures for fighting in this most rewarding era. Not least among the manufacturers whose figures have helped materially in this is the firm of **GREENWOOD** and **BALL**, whose

Mainly Gauls – with an Egyptian second from left. The alternative weapon system of casting is shown – one having axe, the other the blade removed to leave the spear or javelin.

Garrison range of 25 mm. figures has seen much service in many an ancient conflict.

In the period with which we are immediately concerned – say, that ranging from 1000 B.C. to 500 A.D., give or take a year or two – certain armies are more popular than others, whether it be from appearance or from wargame effectiveness points of view, and three of these in the



Garrison range – Roman, Greek and Persian – are blessed with a very considerable number of types. Naturally enough, Romans there are in abundance and, as with the others, comprise both horse and foot, with the Praetorian Guard well represented. The sturdy legionary with cloak (see photograph) is a fine, business-like chap, although, regret-

ures in the series and is a highly-detailed and well-designed little figure.

If we can digress a little on the Gauls, these include some splendid warriors, some being cast with double weaponry, that is, the weapon – a javelin or short spear – is equipped with an axe blade, so that a quick snip with a pair of scissors can give the war-



tably, the not uncommon error of having the spearhead of the pilum thicker than the wooden shaft (the reverse being the actual case, in fact) is perpetuated. This, however, can be rectified by a little judicious work with a file. Some of the auxiliaries are also good figures, full of action, particularly the javelinman with animal skin head-dress. The ubiquitous eastern archer also fig-

gamer just what he prefers, javelin on francisca. One feature I don't altogether care for – and this is a completely personal thing – is the kind of 'head down' attitude some of the figures have. I much prefer the head-back position of the Roman javelin man just mentioned. Still, the Gauls are a spectacular lot, and painted with a little care in the characteristic gaudy patterns, will pro-



Left, different types of Greek hoplites – Ionian, Spartan and Boeotian, in different fighting attitudes. Heading photos, Persian general or officer and a Gaulish cavalryman, Roman eastern archer, Persian light infantryman and Assyrian, half-armoured, with long spear and shield.

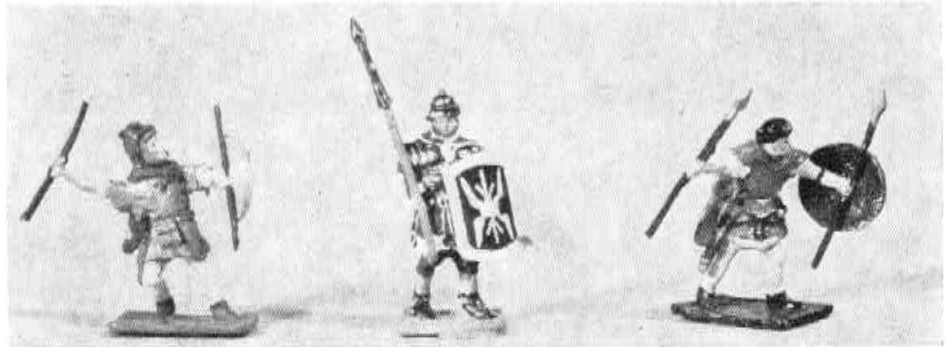
vide a striking effect in mass, each being capable of having different colours and shades. Notable among the Gauls are the standard-bearers – both foot and mounted – carrying the boar emblem, while the General – or Chief, I suppose – is a really well-conceived and detailed figure.

Greeks are plentiful in the range, some fine-looking hoplites being included – as the illustration shows, especially the Boeotian and Spartan types, the latter with the small Pilos helmet and carrying the long spear overarm. A phalanx of the latter, with the red 'lambda' on their bronze shields, looks a really formidable proposition, and on the wargame table is just that, as experience shows. Various kinds of archers are available, my own preference being for the unarmoured and bare-headed one, whom I feel to be more historically accurate than him with the crested Corinthian helmet, although this is also a pleasing figure pictorially, as is the cloaked officer with helmet and shield. Of the cavalry, the Boeotian is, I think, the best.

Getting to grips with the Greeks are naturally the Persians, who provide a wide and satisfying range of figures, including Egyptian and Assyrian auxiliaries.



Above, Persian cavalry – light trooper, cataphract and heavy cavalryman (left to right). Below, Romans – a legionary in the centre, flanked by two auxiliaries.



such an important part of the Persian army, there are, needless to say, several very useful mounted figures of this nationality to be had, both of the light and heavy varieties. The light cavalryman armed with spear and bow is a good, not to say useful, wargame figure, and the heavier metal is provided by an orthodox

though historical justification for him may be a little hard to find. Final note is on the light infantryman with spear and shield, plus bow in slung case – another essential type to have in one's Persian array, and like all his kin, he may be painted in a satisfyingly wide colour range. Not to be forgotten, of course, are the



Assyrian in full mail, armed to the teeth with spear and bow, together with two Phrygians, one with spear, the other with battleaxe.

In fact, from the latter, one can assemble the nucleus of a fine Assyrian army, as the available figures include good infantrymen, particularly the spearman with half armour, and the bow/spear infantryman in full mail. These, plus the slinger, the javelin man and the mounted, light Bowman, provide a great beginning for the interested party. With cavalry

heavy cavalryman and a cataphract with partially-armoured horse. The Immortals have not been forgotten, needless to say and, as I said, the Persian subject races have not been overlooked, Egyptians as well as Phrygians appearing in the list. The Phrygian wielding a two-bladed, two-handed axe is a striking chap (no pun intended) al-

camels – spectacular figures, and useful in action if only to inconvenience cavalry by their smell! All in all, then, for the would-be Hannibal, Scipio or Xerxes, Garrison figures are a great boon, and at 7p and 16p for foot and horse respectively, and 22p for camel and rider, they compare favourably with anything on the market at the moment.

Four good Greek types – archer, trumpeter, officer and an active-looking javelinman. All of these 25 mm. figures shown are available from Greenwood and Ball, c/o 2 Imperial Drive, South Harrow, Middlesex.

