

# COLLECTOR

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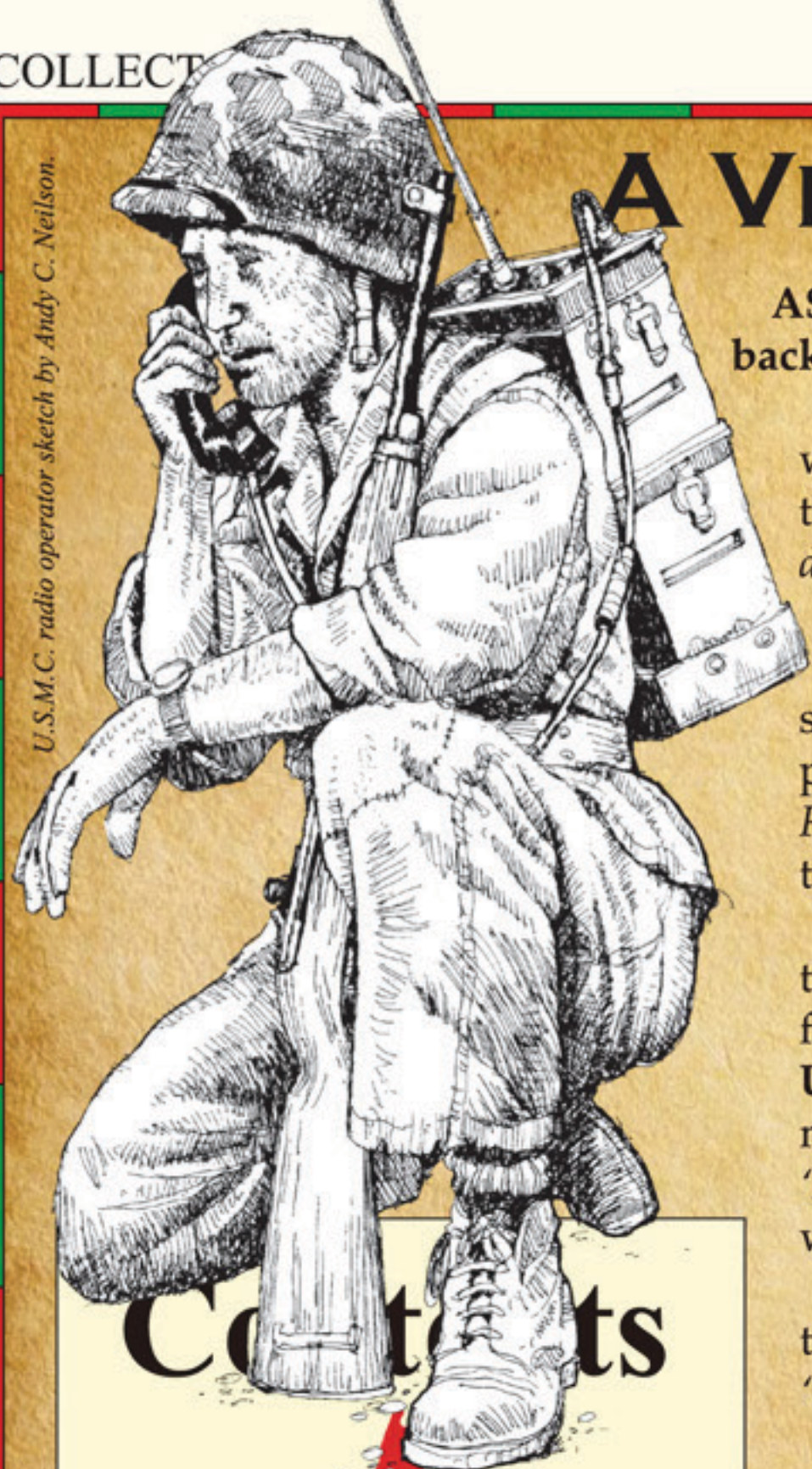
A Seasonal Look at Our World in Miniature



ALL OUR TOY SOLDIERS,  
SAILORS, AIRMEN AND MARINES WISH YOU  
A VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!







# A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES...

AS WE APPROACH the end of the year it's always a useful exercise to look back at the previous 12 months... as well as looking forward to the next.

2017 has been a year of change for KING & COUNTRY. Early in the year, we announced our hope to actually reduce some prices on certain figures... And that, I'm happy to say, we have achieved to a degree. *Not as much as I want but definitely a move in the right direction!*

At the same time, we wanted to explore other historical themes and eras that have either been under-represented or completely ignored by the toy soldier world in general... That has also been addressed with the release, this past summer, of our 'SIX-DAY WAR' range of Israeli Defense Force paratroopers and that mighty M4 'Isherman' tank plus the more recent M38 Jeep set.

As well as 'exploring' previously uncharted toy soldier territory we have also 'revisited' certain long-retired series from K&C's own historical heritage... Our latest 'TARAWA' U.S. Marines are clear evidence of that. Launched once more at the recent 'Chicago Show' these latest all-action 'Leathernecks' proved to be one of the 'big-hits' of the event with both collectors and K&C dealers alike!

Their dynamic and realistic battlefield poses allied to their very affordable retail cost have already made them a 'must-have' for many of the collecting audience...

*And, there's a lot more reinforcements on the horizon in 2018.*

Yet one more 'bullseye' in Chicago and since has been our 'SEARCHING FOR PVT. RYAN'. This is K&C's very own celebration of next year's 20th Anniversary of the release of Steven Spielberg's 'Saving Private Ryan'. The two already-released sets of 4 x figures have become 'best-sellers' from New York to New Delhi and all points in between! Popular movies can often translate into very popular toy soldiers... At least that's the King & Country experience.

*Now gazing forward and through K&C's very own crystal ball what does 2018 have in store...?*

Well, at least TWO additional new ranges of figures and a number of completely new fighting vehicles. One range involves... *surprise, surprise...* the Second World War while the other takes place 'Post WW2'. Both intend to cover specific aspects of major conflicts that still interest many collectors today.

Meanwhile, we are not forgetting any of our most popular series. Plans, schedules and release dates are already well in hand to continue to expand and develop many of these throughout 2018. *I hope some of your own personal favourites are among those currently being worked on.*

So, as I finish this little introduction may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very, *Merry Christmas* and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year... *Happy collecting!*

*Andy C. Neilson*

ANDY C. NEILSON  
CO-FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
KING & COUNTRY

*Canadian soldiers training in the hills of Hong Kong just a few days before the Japanese invasion.*



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**D**URING the Second World War, the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong was destined to be the first place the Canadian Army fought a land battle against the Axis powers...

From 8-25 December, 1941, almost 2,000 Canadian soldiers from Quebec City and Winnipeg fought a desperate battle against a much larger invading Japanese army that had total command of both sea and air. When the British Colony surrendered on Christmas Day, 290 Canadians had been killed and nearly 500 wounded.

Another 264 would go on to die in brutal Japanese captivity.

# Canadian Blood & Guts

*Royal Rifles of Canada.* These 2 units would bolster the existing Colonial garrison of two *Indian* and two *British* battalions. When the Canadians eventually arrived in Hong Kong on 16 November 1941 little did they realize that just over 3

*One important story will suffice...*

On 19 December, the second day of fighting after the Japanese landed on Hong Kong Island, soldiers of "A" Company, Winnipeg Grenadiers were holding defensive positions in the centre of the island.

**FoB154**

*CSM John Osborn leading 3 of his Grenadiers into battle.*



*CSM John Osborn V.C.*

## WHY HONG KONG...?

During the early part of the war Canada's main participation had been primarily its Navy and Air Force... The Army had not seen any action so far.

That all changed in mid 1941 when Britain requested military assistance in the Far East to help deter Japanese aggression.

The Canadian Government rapidly agreed to send two infantry battalions to Hong Kong; *The Winnipeg Grenadiers* and *The*



*The Winnipeg Grenadiers cap badge.*



weeks later they would be at war!

On Monday 8, December the Japanese struck... First, they bombed Kai Tak, the Colony's only airfield then other military installations. Within 5 days they had occupied Kowloon and the New Territories and were poised to assault Hong Kong Island itself...

## VALOUR & SACRIFICE

In a brief feature like this it is impossible to tell the full story of the *Battle of Hong Kong* and the numerous examples of bravery by the gallant defenders.

Japanese troops had surrounded the 'Winnipeggers' and were lobbing grenades into the Canadian position. On numerous occasions *Company Sergeant Major John Osborn*, a WW1 veteran, picked up the live grenades and threw them back at the enemy.

When one fell where Osborn could not reach it in time, he shouted a warning to his men and then threw himself on the grenade to smother the explosion. He was killed instantly but his sacrifice saved the lives of several of his comrades.

*CSM Osborn* was posthumously awarded the *Victoria Cross*, the British Empire's highest military award for gallantry in the field.

## K&C's CANADIANS

King & Country is proud to produce a squad of 6 fighting Canadian infantrymen in two small sets as they appeared in Hong Kong during those dark days of 1941.

Together, they represent a tribute in miniature to those brave Canadians who fought and died defending Hong Kong.

**FoB155**

*2-man Bren Gun section*





EVERY ARMY requires a steady flow of reinforcements and replacements to ensure that its fighting capability is always maintained at a level of peak efficiency.



ROM024

ROM026



# GUARDING THE EMPIRE

ROM027

**THE ARMY OF ANCIENT ROME** was no exception... Every few months drafts of freshly-trained recruits would journey from their enlistment camps to the furthest corners of the Empire to continue their training in the forts and garrisons that kept the peace, protected the Empire's borders and, on occasion, enforced its laws and demands.

## KEEPING THE PEACE... TRAINING FOR WAR

Here you can see some of KING & COUNTRY'S latest Roman soldiers doing just that... At a trumpet call from inside this 'Mile Fort', the garrison, recently reinforced with our latest recruits, rush to man the

ROM014



ramparts and adopt a suitable range of 'war-like' poses...

Apart from our all-new 'fighting Romans with swords' you can also

see a *Legionary* throwing a *pilum*.

Add to that no less than *SIX* new *Archers*, in varying action poses, and you have a fine force of fighting figures to add to your very own Roman Legion.



ROM016



ROM017





ROM019

ROM021

ROM026

ROM022

ROM025

ROM020



### ABOUT THE DISPLAY

THE ROMAN FORT you see here was just one of the major displays at the recent 'CHICAGO SHOW' at the end of September, 2017.

Apart from 'showing-off' all of our currently available K&C Roman

soldiers it also featured a few other 'civilian' surprises such as the original fishing boat (complete with fishermen) from the 'Life of Jesus' range and some down-trodden peasants from the 'Robin Hood' series... **PLUS** a few assorted goats and sheep to add a little local colour.

These little creative touches often help give a display or

ROM018



diorama that extra special quality of interest for both the casual viewer and the dedicated K&C collector.



ROM015

ROM023





# THE MAKING OF DUNKIRK





**IN MAY 1940, EVERY BRITISH soldier, sailor and airman fighting in France had his own special moment when he first knew something had gone terribly wrong...**

For *Prime Minister Winston Churchill*, it came at precisely 7:30am, May 15, 1940, just five days after replacing *Neville Chamberlain* as the King's First Minister.

As he lay asleep in his quarters at Admiralty House in London, his bedside telephone rang; it was the French Premier *Paul Reynaud*. "*We have been defeated!*" Reynaud blurted out in English.

A shocked silence followed, as Churchill attempted to gather his thoughts and himself.

"*We are beaten,*" Reynaud continued, "*we have lost the battle!*"

"*Surely, it can't have happened so soon?*" Churchill struggled to reply.

"*The front is broken near Sedan, the 'Boche' have broken through in great numbers with tanks and armoured cars.*"

Churchill did his best to calm the distraught Frenchman – reminding him of the dark days in 1918 when all had turned out well despite a massive German attack on the

French and British lines that had caught both Allies by surprise.

Reynaud was unconvinced and ended the call as he had begun. "*We are defeated; we have lost the battle!*"

### **DESTINATION: DUNKIRK**

Within days of that momentous phone call the military situation in France went from bad to very much worse.

As some French Armies reeled back in retreat, others including the *British Expeditionary Force* found themselves cut off and in great danger of being surrounded and annihilated by the rapidly advancing German *Panzers*.

Only one possible escape route remained open and that particular route led to the coast of the **English Channel** (*la Manche* in French) and the port city of **Dunkirk** (*Dunkerque*).

As both British and French forces formed a perimeter defense line in the countryside around Dunkirk hundreds of thousands of their





SGS-FoB008



Somewhere in Northern France, men from Britain's Royal Signals attempt to repair damaged telephone lines.

SGS-FoB009



soldiers with all their vehicles and equipment began to move slowly towards the town itself.

Back in Britain, plans began to take shape to evacuate at least a small portion of the Army amidst the chaos and confusion of the battle in France.

At the Admiralty in London, *Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay* was put in charge of the seaborne operation given the code name; "Operation Dynamo".

From his headquarters at *Dover*, on the *South coast of England*, it would be his job to find the ships and boats of all shapes and sizes, both naval and civilian, that could perform this seemingly impossible task.

Over the coming days and nights Ramsay and his Royal Navy officers and men would fulfill this 'impossible task' to a degree that no one, including

Winston Churchill himself, would ever have thought possible.

### AN OFT-TOLD TALE

The story of '*The Miracle of Dunkirk*' has been told many times in books, documentaries and feature films, most notably in the recent *Christopher Nolan* epic, "**DUNKIRK**"...

Only one toy soldier company, however, **KING & COUNTRY**, has helped to tell the story of '*The Fall of France*' and '*the Dunkirk Evacuation*' in miniature.

Here, in this feature you can see the very special diorama display created by *Gordon & Andy Neilson* that formed the centre-piece of the K&C Room at the recent '*Chicago Show*'.

Measuring 48" X 24", the display featured British '*Tommies*'

and French '*Poilus*' forming up and boarding a small fishing trawler berthed alongside a jetty somewhere in the French port city.

Ample use of K&C's own *French Town facades* make a perfect backdrop for the evacuation scene. Also shown are a few, soon-to-be-abandoned military vehicles as well as some unfortunate civilian refugees who found themselves caught up among the thousands of khaki-clad figures attempting to escape the advancing Germans.

All of these elements come together to capture a small dramatic moment in history that changed the course of the Second World War and the fates of all the nations concerned.

SGS-FoB010



A great 'Dunkirk' value-added gift set at a very affordable price!



## ABOUT THAT FISHING BOAT...

One question that came up time and time again in Chicago and afterwards was and is, "Where did you find that fishing boat in the diorama?"

**SGS-FoB013**



Andy responds, "The wooden, 1:30 scale craft was a gift from a model ship company in China that made some items for us in the past... WW2 landing craft and Chinese Junks to be precise".

It had been sitting in K&C's Hong Kong head office for a few years until Andy decided to use it in the display.

"In the recent 'DUNKIRK' movie there is a fishing boat that features prominently in the story. Why not," Andy explains, "convert our sample for use in a dockside scene".

To that end the boat had its lower hull cut off, making it a 'waterline

**SGS-FoB005**



model' with lots of extra details added... British Army backpacks, discarded weapons and all kinds of supplies, boxes, fuel cans and assorted other loose items were spread all over the vessel as well as on the nearby dockside jetty.

Finally, the boat itself was 'weathered' to give it an authentic wartime feel along with special codes and numbers which were added to both port and starboard sides of the hull. A few stray bullet holes were the last addition.

King & Country Workshop's Gordon C. Neilson, has the last word. "I love helping to tell a story in miniature... and 'DUNKIRK' has been one of the best to both build and tell!"

**SGS-FoB007**



Seen on both pages here are many of K&C's 'Dunkirk' value-added gift sets.





**SA001**  
Horst Wessel

LAH227



LAH226



LAH229



*Riefenstahl directing some of her camera crew.*



**SA004**  
Marching  
SA man

# Triumph of Her Will

'TRIUMPH OF THE WILL' is the infamous but creatively brilliant propaganda film of the 1934 Nazi Party Congress held in the Bavarian city of Nuremberg.

Directed, produced and co written by *Leni Riefenstahl*, the film covers the entire four-day spectacle of Nazi speeches, parades, marches and torch-light processions through the ancient town. All the top leadership were present and interspersed among the mass rallies and displays are excerpts from speeches by Hitler himself and other members of the Nazi hierarchy.

The sheer spectacle however is almost over whelming... More than 700,000 SA (Sturmabteilung) brown-shirts, HJ (Hitlerjugend) and black-clad SS (Schutzstaffel)

as well as other Nazi organizations were on parade and took part...

All of it was captured on film by *Leni Riefenstahl* and her dozens of cameramen from every conceivable angle and viewpoint.

## WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

Upon its release in 1935 it received almost universal acclaim for *Riefenstahl's* directorial inventiveness

and innovation. Among the techniques she pioneered and exploited were... moving camera platforms... aerial photography... the use of long focus lenses... and the blending of

powerful music with dramatic and striking new imagery.

The film went on to win many international awards outside Germany itself.

It also made a 'star' out of *Leni Riefenstahl*.

LAH228



SA002



SA003

SA004



## ABOUT THE FIGURES

At the top of the page opposite you can see *Riefenstahl* in her typical pose watching over two of her cameramen as they get down to work.

Among her camera crew at Nuremberg were several who were 'seconded' to her from the SA themselves, hence the brownshirt uniform.

Also in attendance is a **HJ** (Hitlerjugend)

'Clapper-Boy' volunteer.

Among the many thousands of SA men marching and parading in front of the Führer was one notable



infatuated with Hitler in the early 1930's and soon came to the Führer's attention as well as that of propaganda chief Josef Goebbels.

In 1933, she was chosen personally by Hitler to direct 'The Victory of Faith' (*Der Sieg des Glaubens*), a visual record of the 1933 Nuremberg Party Rally... After the success of that it was almost preordained that she would direct a follow-up the next year. This would become 'Triumph of the Will'.

After its huge impact she was selected once more by Hitler personally to direct and produce 'Olympia', the film of the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

LAH230

LAH232



absentee... *Horst Wessel*, this notorious Party stalwart had already been long dead for four years...! Assassinated in 1930 by two communists in Berlin, he was memorialized in words and music with the Nazi anthem, the 'Horst-Wessel Lied' (the Horst Wessel song) which, after 1933, became almost a second national anthem alongside 'Deutschland über alles' (Germany Over All).

If not physically present at Nuremberg he was certainly 'spiritually' on parade with his Nazi comrades as they marched and greeted their Führer.

## ALSO ON PARADE ...

In 'Triumph of the Will' another important Nazi organization is also on show... The *Reich Labour Service* (*Reichsarbeitsdienst*, RAD).

This was a mass disciplined unit established by the Nazis to help mitigate the effects of unemployment on the German economy, militarise the workforce and indoctrinate it with Nazi ideology.

The RAD conscripted young men

between the ages of 18-25 to serve for six months before their compulsory military service. All personnel lived in barracks and wore a paramilitary uniform complete with *Swastika* brassard and just above, the RAD symbol, an arm badge in the shape of an upturned shovel blade.

On display here are RAD men in their typical 'at-ease' parade pose. Others will also be available including marching figures, a standard bearer with the RAD banner and a reissue of *Konstantin Hierl*, the Reich Labour Leader (*Reichsarbeitsführer*)...

## THE RISE & FALL OF LENI RIEFENSTAHL

*Helene Bertha Amalie 'Leni' Riefenstahl* (1902-2003) was a German film director, producer, screenwriter, photographer and actress. She broke into films originally as an actress in 1925 before directing her first feature in 1932.

Like many Germans she became

She continued to work throughout WW2 and, according to her own account, even became aware of Nazi war crimes and German atrocities which, she said later, made her ashamed of her earlier glorification of the regime.

## POST 1945

After the war *Leni Riefenstahl* attempted to distance herself further from her very successful 'Nazi' past with distinctly mixed results... She was investigated by the German authorities on no less than four separate occasions and eventually turned to 'still' and 'underwater photography' publishing a number of books in the 1970's and 1980's.

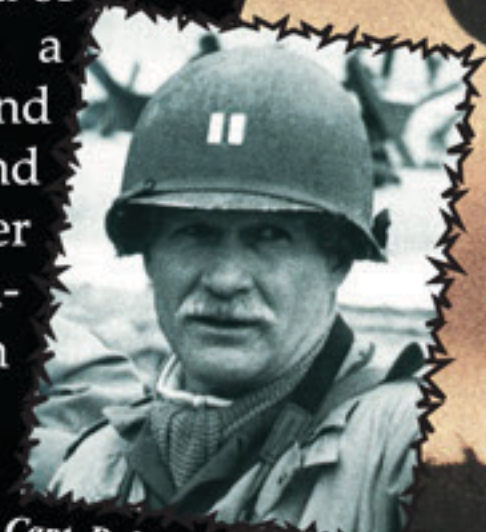
Never again however was she able to regain her prominent position in the German cinematic community. *She could never escape her 'National Socialist' past...*

She died in Germany, on 8 September 2003, just a few weeks after her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.



**"SAVING PRIVATE RYAN"** is one of the iconic War Films depicting an important part of the Normandy Invasion of June 6, 1944... and events in the days following it.

Directed by Steven Spielberg, it tells the story of a squad of U.S. Army Rangers on a dangerous mission behind enemy lines tasked to find the lone surviving brother whose three other brothers have all been killed in combat.



Capt. Dale Dye USMC ret'd.



Photo courtesy of DreamWorks and Paramount Pictures.

and became friends with Capt. Dale Dye USMC ret'd., the military advisor on "Saving Private Ryan" and many other major war films and television series.

Andy presented Capt. Dye with the very first 2 x sets of K&C D.DAY figures... U.S. Army Rangers and Airborne Paratroopers directly inspired by the movie... and Dale Dye's own work on it. Thus began a long friendship that continues to this day.



# Searching for Pvt. Ryan'

The 'lone survivor' is an American 101st. Airborne paratrooper missing somewhere deep in German-held Normandy.

When released in 1998 the film won great critical and public acclaim for its often brutal but authentic depiction of men at war. Deservedly,

it went on to win 5 Academy Awards and was a huge commercial success all over the world.

It also inspired KING & COUNTRY to begin its own D.DAY series of model soldiers and fighting vehicles... **NORMANDY 44.**

## THESE ALL-NEW FIGURES

Next year, 2018, marks the 20th Anniversary of the release of this



DD305

DD306



## THE KING & COUNTRY CONNECTION

Back in the year 2000, K&C's cofounder and creative director, Andy C. Neilson met

great movie... and a great KING & COUNTRY collection! To celebrate, we are 'revisiting' both the movie and the real heroes who inspired it with TWO sets of 4 figures each.





SET #1 **DD305** portrays a 'Ranger' captain together with his B.A.R. guy... a rifleman and a corporal 'translator' as they move cautiously through the Normandy 'bocage'.

SET #2 **DD306** Adds on a 'Ranger' sergeant... followed by a marksman / sniper, a platoon 'medic' and one more 'Ranger' rifleman.

Together the 8 figures make a fine-looking squad... Tough, battle-hardened and obviously, men on a mission.

### SEARCHING FOR WHO?

Also, in the production pipeline for later release is the lone 101st. Paratrooper the squad are looking for alongwith other figures and vehicles inspired by this great movie and the actual events of June 1944... *Look out for them!*

### 10 THINGS

#### You might not have known about

#### "SAVING PRIVATE RYAN"

1. **THE FILM** was actually 'shot' in chronological order, unlike most Hollywood movies. Director Spielberg chose that way so that the actors would feel like they were going through the same actual experience, *minus the real bullets of course*. At the same time, they would lose fellow soldiers (actors) along the way helping them to portray 'real' resentment towards Pvt. Ryan, who does not share the same journey with them.

2. **'PVT. RYAN'** played by Matt Damon, did not have to attend the same Dale Dye 'Boot Camp' as the other actors... That was another source of resentment between him and the rest of the cast!

3. **THE D.DAY** landing beach scenes were all filmed in Ireland using almost 1,000 soldiers / reservists of the Irish Army. The French government alas would not give permission to film on the actual Normandy beaches.

4. **ACTOR BILLY BOB THORNTON** was originally offered the role of 'Ranger' Sergeant Mike Horvath played by Tom Sizemore. Thornton rejected the role as

he has a fear of water and did not want to go onto any landing craft.

5. **ROBIN WILLIAMS**, the late comedian, suggested Matt Damon to Steven Spielberg for the role of Pvt. James F. Ryan. Robin Williams was also a big toy soldier collector.

6. **BRYAN CRANSTON**, the star of "Breaking Bad" plays a one-armed officer back at the Pentagon when the decision is made to try and rescue Pvt. Ryan.



Matt Damon as the 'missing' Pvt. Ryan.

7. **TOM HANKS** was actually 41 years old when he played Capt. John Miller. In reality, most WW2 U.S. Army captains would have been in the 26-30 age bracket.

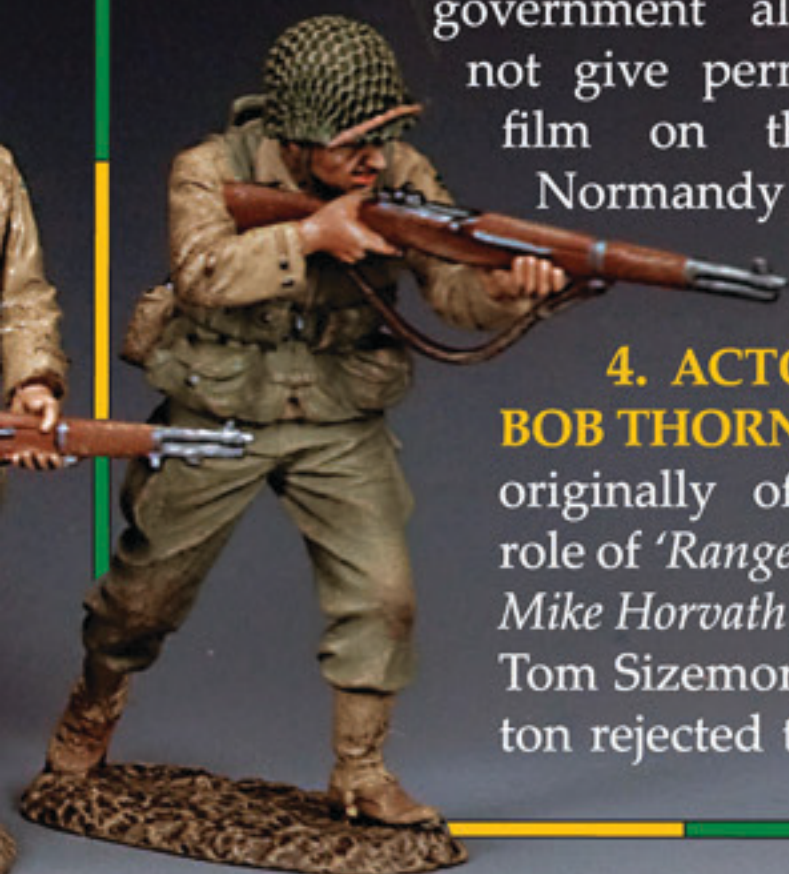
8. **RAMELLE**, where the final battle takes place is totally fictitious... All other locations and objectives mentioned in the movie are factual.

9. **APART** from the 'Normandy' beach location mentioned earlier the rest of the movie was filmed at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, a former airfield and factory of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, now part of British Aerospace.

10. **HATFIELD** was again the main filming location for "BAND of BROTHERS" a few years later and, once more, Capt. Dale Dye was the senior Military Advisor as well as playing the Commanding Officer of the 506th. Parachute Infantry Regiment, Col. Robert F. Sink.

ANDY C. NELSON

Andy's original sketch for the upcoming PFC James F. Ryan figure.





# 'BLOODY TARAWA'

**T**HE BATTLE OF TARAWA was a 3-day long battle in the *Pacific Theatre of World War II*. Beginning on the 20th of November, 1943 it took place on the tiny *Tarawa Atoll* in the *Gilbert Islands*, a chain of sixteen atolls and coral islands about halfway between *Papua New Guinea* and *Hawaii*.

TARAWA was destined to be the first American offensive in the critical *Central Pacific Region*. It was also the first time in the Pacific War that the United States faced serious and sustained opposition to one of its amphibious landings as the troops were going ashore.

Previous landings had met little or no resistance to the initial beach assaults.

On tiny Tarawa however more than 4,500 Japanese soldiers and Korean labourers were well dug-in and supplied... and fought almost to the last man.

## HERE COME THE MARINES!

Opposing them and preparing to lead the assault were the officers and men of the *2nd*.







USMC023

LVT-(A)1 'Alligator'

USMC013

USMC030

USMC016

USMC027

USMC011



*Marine Division, United States Marine Corps, some of America's best and toughest fighting forces. They were to face and overcome a fierce and determined enemy that gave 'no quarter' and expected none in return.*

*Within the space of just 76 hours the Marines of the 2nd Division were to lose just over 1,000 killed and over 2,100 wounded... Japanese casualties were much higher – Almost 4,500 killed and just 17 captured!*

*A terrible price to pay for a small but vital 'spit of coral sand' in the clear blue Pacific Ocean.*

*U.S. War Correspondent Robert Sherrod, who was on Tarawa with the Marines was to write later, "Last week some 2,000 or 3,000 United States Marines, most of them dead or wounded gave the nation another name to stand beside Concord Bridge... the Alamo... Little Bighorn... and Belleau Wood... The name was Tarawa!"*

### **SEMPER FI... DO OR DIE!**

*'SEMPER FIDELIS' (Always Faithful) is the proud motto of the United States Marine Corps and one that K&C's own co founder and former Royal Marine, Andy C. Neilson knows only too well...*

*"When I went through my Commando Course at Lympstone in Devon, the home of the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, we had two U.S. Marines from the American Embassy in London complete it with us at the same time... They were great guys, tough as nails, and*

*it was a real privilege to serve and train with them."*

*Since then K&C's creative director has made many good friends in the U.S.M.C. whenever they passed through Hong Kong. Andy continues to stay in touch and visit with several of them during his stateside visits to toy soldier shows and events all over the U.S.*

*"Perhaps that's one of the reasons why K&C has, over the years, produced so many U.S. Marine figures," Andy adds.*

*Ample proof of that can be seen in many of the photographs that illustrate this article. Alongside our very latest KING & COUNTRY Marines are representative figures from many past releases including K&C's original IWO JIMA series launched back in the late 1990's and its 'second edition' in 2005.*

*Also on view are a few of our 'China Marines' from our 'Sand Pebbles' series and even some Marines in parade dress representing the famous '8th and I Barracks' in Washington D.C.*

*Unfortunately, you cannot see some of the company's 'Vietnam Marines' also from the late 1990's early 2000's. These are extremely rare and hard to find today and frequently go for big bucks on the 'Secondary Market' and ebay!*

### **ABOUT OUR 'TARAWA' MARINES...**

*This past September in Chicago K&C launched our latest 'TARAWA' Marines representing those 'Leather-necks' who fought and died in the brutal, island-hopping campaign of the latter half of WWII.*

*These new Marines are, in the opinion of many collectors and dealers who saw them at the Chicago Show, the best and most dynamic ones yet! Initially 10 were released with regular 'add-ons' being produced almost every single month thereafter...*

*At the same time we have many more 'in the works' that will result in one of the most exciting ranges of all-action figures produced in the toy soldier world today!*

### **ARMoured AMPHIBIOUS SUPPORT**

*It's not only foot-slogging 'Mud Marines' appearing on the beach and on the battlefield... We've also got some serious tracked backup for them in the shape of the awesome looking LVT-A1 'Alligator'. This was the first infantry support LVT (Landing Vehicle Track) with the 'A' standing for 'Armoured'. Mounting the turret-armed 37mm gun from the M3 Light Tank this 'Amtrac' also carried 2 x .30 caliber machine guns behind the turret.*

*These vehicles were intended to provide close-in fire support for the beach-assaulting Marines.*







**AF036**

*U.S. Marine Corps Jeep*

*Airstrip Leathernecks*



**AF035**

**AF039**



*Maj. Gregory "Puppy" Boyington USMC*

**AF033**

**AF034**



*Lieut. Chris Magee USMC*



*Lieut. John Bolt USMC*



**USMC001**



*US Marine Corps, Officer*

**USMC003**



*Pistol Marksman*

**USMC002**

*A selection of 1920's vintage 'China Marines' that appeared with our US Navy gunboat 'USS San Pablo'... better known as... 'The Sand Pebbles'.*



*US Marine Corps, Shotgun*



*US Marine Corps, Sniper*

**USMC004**

**USMC005**



*US Marine Corps, Lewis Gunner*

**USMC006**



*US Marine Corps, Staff Sergeant*

**USMC007**



*US Marine Corps, On Guard*

**USMC009**

*US Marine Corps, .30 cal. Machine Gunner*



**USMC008**

*US Marine Corps, Gunny w/ Tommy Gun*



**USMC010**

*US Marine Corps, Marching Rifleman*



*Colour Guard Marines from the '8th & I' Barracks in Washington D.C. parading in summer dress uniform. Released by K&C in the mid 1990's.*



*USMC Drill Instructor*



*Marching Marine*



*Saluting Officer*



*'Chesty' the Marine Corps mascot with handler*







The most famous and iconic image of the United States Marine Corps was the photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal on the summit of Mount Suribachi that dominated the Pacific island of Iwo Jima as five marines and a Navy corpsman raised the 'Stars and Stripes'. Here, is King & Country's rendition of that historic event from our 2005 release of US Marines.

On these two pages you can see K&C's USMC Marines from three separate series of figures dating back to 1998, 2005 and, bringing them all up-to-date with our latest 2017. 'Leathernecks' in action.







**USMC011**



**USMC012**

*Marine Radioman*



**USMC013**

*Marine Officer w/ Tommy Gun*



**USMC014**

*Marine Firing his Garand*



**USMC015**

*Marine Grenadier*



*Marine Flame Thrower*



**USMC016**

*No Marine Left Behind*



**USMC018**

*Marine Reloading*



**USMC020**

*Crouching Marine Firing Rifle*



**USMC022**

*Kneeling Marine Tommy Gunner*



*Running Marine*

**USMC029**

*Kneeling B.A.R. Marine*

**USMC028**



**USMC026**

*Sitting Sniper*

It was common, however, for these 'Alligators' to open fire with all their armament while still in the water!

Also on show in the Tarawa diorama spread is KnC's very own plastic and resin M4 Sherman complete with wading stacks... As you can see it has been custom-painted and suffered some serious battle-damage.

Another featured vehicle is a very early 'Amtrac' made by BMC, the plastic toy soldier company. This model was directly based on K&C's own original polystone 'Amtrac' produced with our first IWO JIMA series in 1998... We sold the rights to BMC to reproduce that initial series in plastic. Again, however it was custom-painted by one of our own

King & Country 'master-painters' in Hong Kong.

The entire 'TARAWA' diorama was designed and built by K&C's Diorama Workshop and Andy's brother, Gordon C. Neilson.

Now, if the Second World War in the Pacific is what interests you...

*It's time you joined the Marines on Tarawa today, 'Semper Fi!'.*



**WS344**  
**Wittmann's**  
**Winter Tiger**

**WS345**  
**'When Wittmann met**  
**Peiper'**  
**(6 figure set)**



FOR MANY WW2 armour enthusiasts the name 'Michael Wittmann' is best known for his famous ambush of leading elements of the *British 7th Armoured Division*, during the *Battle of Villers-Bocage* in Normandy on 13 June, 1944.

# Wittmann's Winter Tiger

Gun Carriers along with two anti-tank guns... All in the space of just 15 minutes!

With this spectacular feat of arms the Nazi propaganda

machine ensured that Wittmann's fame spread far and wide and he became a leading military 'star' and hero of the Third Reich.



On that day, while in command of a *Tiger 1* tank, he and his crew destroyed up to fourteen *British* tanks plus fifteen *personnel carriers* and *Bren*







PLEASE NOTE: Top turret hatches open and close.

battlefield exploits and successes in Normandy.

### **FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST**

Less well-known perhaps are *Michael Wittmann's* achievements while fighting in Russia as a member of the *Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler* (LSSAH) Division.

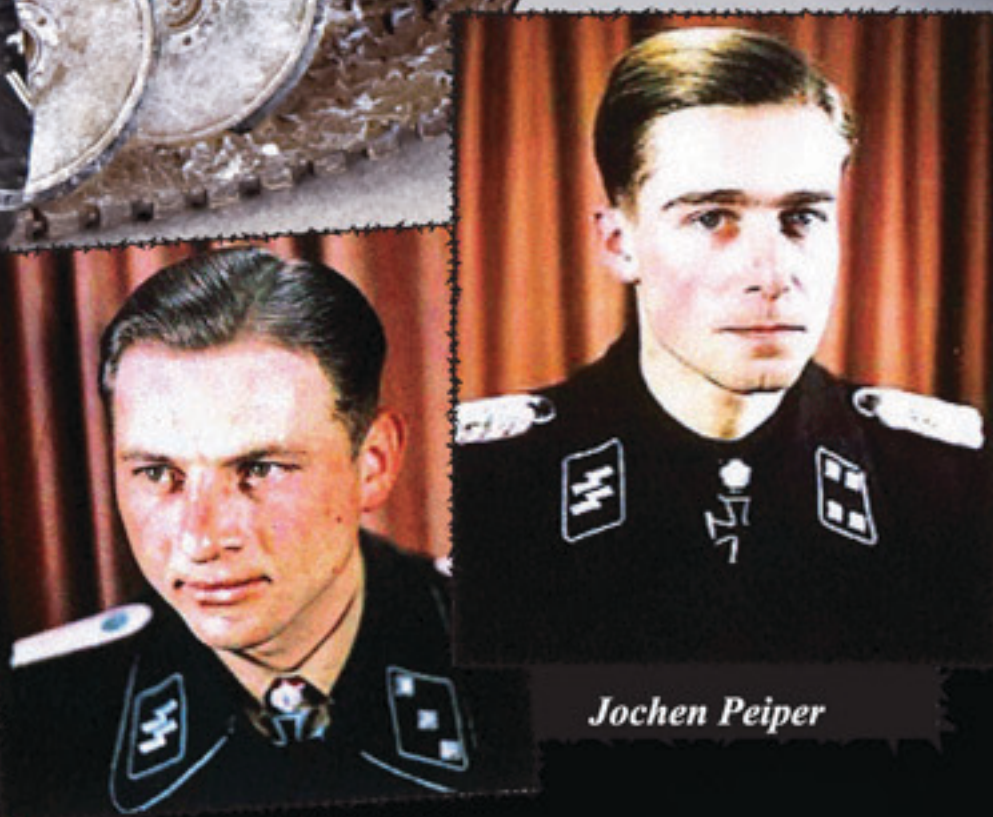
In the spring of 1941 Wittmann and his unit was transferred eastwards in preparation for 'OPERATION BARBAROSSA', the planned invasion of the Soviet Union, scheduled to begin in June 1941.

At that time, Wittmann commanded both a *Sturmgeschütz III* (Stug III Assault Gun) and a *Panzer III* Medium Tank.

By the summer of 1943 the young *Waffen SS* officer was transferred to one of the first *Tiger 1* units specially formed to take part in the massive German attack on the *KURSK* salient in early July 1943.

He was also promoted to platoon leader and led his four *Tigers* in support of *Leibstandarte's* reconnaissance battalion fighting on the division's left flank and destroying dozens of Soviet tanks, self-propelled guns and even artillery pieces.

He also managed to survive a collision with a burning T-34 tank!



Jochen Peiper

Michael Wittmann

After the war his reputation grew even greater and he became almost a 'cult figure' thanks to the many books and magazine articles written about this "panzer ace" and his





## AWARDS & HONOURS

For his bravery, leadership and battlefield success Wittmann was awarded, on 14 January 1944, with the *Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross*. The presentation itself was made by his divisional commander SS Oberfuhrer Theodor Wisch who originally nominated him for the *Knight's cross with Oak Leaves*.

Less than 3 weeks later the *Oak Leaves* were added to his award for the destruction of 117 enemy tanks while fighting on the Eastern Front.

Michael Wittmann had to journey all the way back from the front to meet Adolf Hitler personally at the 'Wolf's Lair' in Rastenburg, East Prussia at the beginning of February 1944 for the presentation.

Before Wittmann journeyed to meet the Fuhrer and in the depths of the Russian Winter one more set of 'congratulations' came about when Wittmann and his entire Tiger tank crew together with their vehicle were presented to SS Sturmbannfuhrer Jochen Peiper, himself one of the Waffen SS's most celebrated officers.

## SETTING THE SCENE

With the backdrop of Wittmann's own Tiger 1 'Command Tank' (note the 3 antenna) WS344 we see the figure of Jochen Peiper approaching the full crew of 'S04' led by Michael Wittmann himself.

With arm fully extended in the 'Hitler' salute the young tank commander greets his superior officer. In the photographs taken of the actual meeting Peiper is seen wearing the full all-black Panzer parade uniform as are the five other figures.

All six come together in a 'Special K&C Set' that is the perfect 'companion'

for this latest and certainly best King & Country Tiger 1 yet.



## ABOUT THIS ALL-NEW WITTMANN WINTER TIGER

KING & COUNTRY'S latest TIGER 1 (our 12th) is the very first 'Command Tiger' we have produced... The 3 x antenna on the vehicle make it easily recognizable as the 'lead' vehicle of a troop of Tigers.

Also 'new' on this tank are the 2 x top turret hatches which can 'open and close' as the collector chooses.

The main 88 Gun also elevates up and down. The standard German camouflage of the period is also adopted however being a 'winter' tank a faded 'white wash' has also been added.

## THE FATE OF MICHAEL WITTMANN

On 8 August 1944, British and Canadian forces launched 'Operation Totalize'. Under cover

of darkness, Anglo-Canadian tanks seized the high ground around the small Normandy town of Saint-Aignan-de-Cramesnil. Here they paused while waiting the next phase of the operation.

Nearby Kurt Meyer, commanding the 12th SS Hitlerjugend Division ordered armoured elements of his command to counter attack and recapture the small town.

SS-Hauptsturmfuhrer Michael Wittmann was given the task and led a group of 7 x Tiger tanks supported by other armour and infantry towards their objective.

As Wittmann's Tigers crossed some open terrain leading upwards towards the high ground they were ambushed by three different British and Canadian tank squadrons lying in wait alongside their route.

Attacked from different directions the Allied anti tank shells soon found their mark. Several direct hits were scored on Wittmann's tank alone including one which penetrated the Tiger's thick armour, igniting its ammunition and blowing the turret completely off the hull and onto a field next to it...

There were no survivors... Michael Wittmann and his crew were buried in an unmarked grave next to their stricken vehicle.

And that's where they would remain until 1983 when a German War Graves Commission Team located their remains and had them reinterred at the huge La Cambe German War Cemetery in Normandy.

This German tank 'ace' may be long-dead but his legend most definitely lives on!

Three of K&C's upcoming German tank crew figures prepare to 'mount-up'.



Michael Wittmann's grave stone in La Cambe German War Cemetery in Normandy.





# Join The Royal Hong Kong Regiment

**SADLY, THE REGIMENT** was disbanded back in 1995, just 2 years before Britain handed back Hong Kong to China.

Happily however, the Regiment still 'lives on' albeit in miniature with

**CHK-S02**



**CHK-S01**



the 2017 release of 'The Guidon Party' **CHK-S01**, plus TWO small groups of 'Escort Parties' **CHK-S02** & **S03** to accompany them.

**CHK-S03**



These 'Parade' figures are the first of an occasional series that will depict military and police units associated with *Colonial Hong Kong*... Look out for more information down the line.





# Our Fighting G.I.s

**ON THE VERY DAY THAT GERMANY invaded POLAND, 1 September 1939, the United States Army consisted of just 174,000 men scattered over 130 different locations around America and a few distant locations such as Hawaii... Guam... The Panama Canal Zone and The Philippine Islands.**

Although declaring itself neutral at this early stage of the *Second World War* plans were already in hand to dramatically increase the strength and numbers of the Army.

On 16 September 1940, just over a year after the Polish invasion and the Fall of France and the Low Countries, President Roosevelt signed the first peacetime 'Draft Law' to call up young men for the Armed Services. In addition, the Army mobilized key *National Guard* units to supplement its numbers.

By 16 October, 1940 almost 16.5 million American men had registered for the 'Draft' and the Army began to prepare camps,

training areas and all kinds of facilities for this huge expansion...

*If and when America entered the war.*

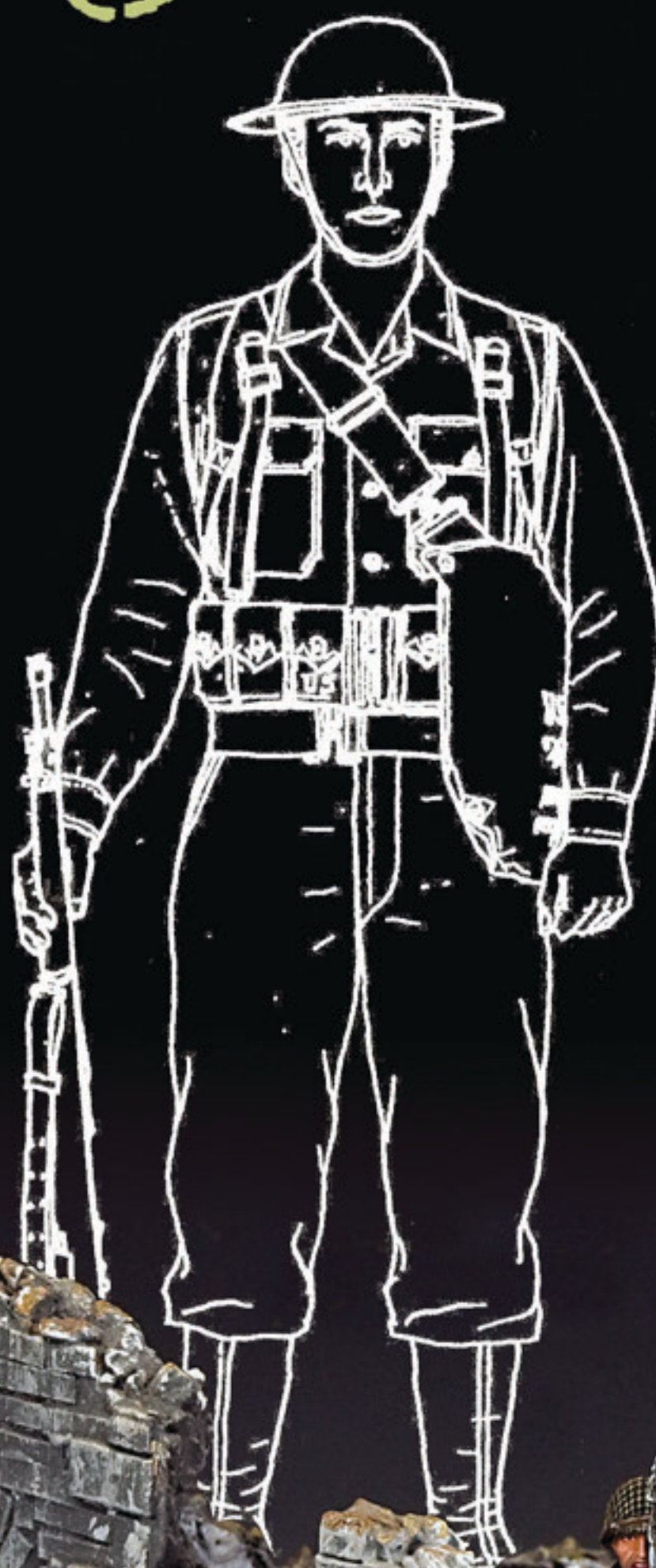
## 1941-1945

As soon as America did enter WW2 on 7 December, 1941 the full power of the U.S. Government, its people and its enormous manufacturing capability and economy changed into high gear to defeat the Axis powers.

The U.S. Army itself was one of the most important and essential parts of that road to eventual victory during those tumultuous years.

As the Army expanded and learned the often brutal lessons of war and combat in Europe and the Pacific it also changed its whole appearance...

The G.I. of 1941 was almost unrecognizable compared to his counterpart in 1945. Gone was the old WW1 'British-style' steel helmet... Replaced by the MK.1 American 'combat' helmet, a much more practical and protective 'steel pot'.





## GI's IN ACTION

A series of U.S. Army Combat Uniforms were also designed and developed that culminated in the 'M-1943 Field Jacket', a 4-pocketed, windproof jacket coming down to the upper thighs and issued in 'olive drab' to all ranks. This also had a detachable hood for cold weather climes.

Very importantly most GI's in the infantry were issued with the excellent 'M1 Garand', a .30 caliber semi-automatic rifle that became standard issue and replaced the older M1903 bolt-action Springfield.

Among the other weapons used by the U.S. Army infantry were, of course, the famous M1928 'Thompson' submachine gun, the M1918 B.A.R. (Browning Automatic Rifle), the M1919 .30 caliber medium machine gun and, of course, the famous 'Bazooka', the man-portable anti-tank rocket launcher.

Since the late 1990's KING & COUNTRY has been producing *American GI's* in a wide variety of poses both on the battlefield itself... and behind the front lines in the rear areas.

As most collectors know we've also produced a wealth of *trucks, tanks, halftracks and jeeps* to carry them both into and out of battle from the Pacific to the Atlantic and all points in between.

These latest additions feature GI's as they would have appeared in the *European Theatre of Operations* between 1944 and 1945.

All of the figures are in typical 'combat-poses' and reflect the actual battlefield conditions of late WW2 as the Allies liberated *France, Holland and Belgium* and began to make serious inroads into the *Third Reich* itself.

All are available as *individual pieces* with the sole exception of the 2-man .30 caliber machine gun team. If you need some additional 'Fighting GI's' to help fight your battles in miniature... *Here they are!*

## "OUR FIGHTING G.I.'S"

NOVEMBER 2017 RELEASE

DD313

DD307

DD308

DD311

## "OUR FIGHTING G.I.'S"

DECEMBER 2017 RELEASE

DD314

DD310

DD312

DD309





# 'Rats of Tobruk'

## THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK

began on 10 April 1941 and lasted 241 days until 27 November of that same year. It came about when Axis forces under the command of the newly-arrived German General *Erwin Rommel* ejected the bulk of the British and Empire troops then occupying Libya and forced them back across the border into neighboring Egypt.

As the Allied army retreated it left behind just one major unit, **The 9th Australian Division** (together with some smaller elements) defending the Libyan port city of *Tobruk*. The importance of the city lay in its strategic



Egyptian campaign to assault the besieged city.

Vital aircraft resources, especially bombers, both *Italian* and *German*, were also brought into the battle.

On the Allied side the defenders made full use of the original Italian defenses and, in fact, increased, improved and enlarged them by adding hundreds of more *bunkers*, *trenches*, *dugouts* and *gun positions* that proved a very hard nut to crack!



towards *Alexandria*, *Cairo* and the *Suez Canal*.

Rommel had to capture Tobruk...  
*The Australian were determined to hold on to it!*

## UNDER SIEGE

By defending Tobruk the Australians forced Rommel to divert valuable troops, artillery and armour from his

location and its modern port facilities.

For Rommel its large harbour could provide the *Axis* with a major supply port closer to Egypt and able to help them in their drive east

EA128



EA127





At the same time, the *'Aussies'* and the other *British and Empire* support elements fought a vigorous and aggressive defense... After every enemy assault they would emerge from their trenches and shelters to *'scavenge'* the battlefield for whatever useful weapons, equipment or anything else that could be reused again against their former owners.

One day, perhaps in frustration, *Erwin Rommel* himself had called the stubborn defenders of the port city... *'The Rats of Tobruk'*.

This was taken up by *Josef Goebbels*, the *Nazi Propaganda Chief*, who then broadcast it all over the world.



## K&C'S DESERT RATS

Seen here are **THREE** small groups of 'sand-bagged' Aussie defenders armed to the teeth with a mix of *.303 Lee Enfield rifles, a Bren Gun* and even a *Boys anti tank rifle*. Backing them up is another set of *3 x Australian infantry* in the 'prone' position and *a single kneeling infantryman*.

Also providing artillery support is K&C's very own 2 *pdr. anti tank gun* and the classic 25 *pdr. Field Gun*... both with crews.

Put them all together and see how good they look defending your very own little piece of Tobruk real estate!





# STURMGESCHUTZ III

## OPTIONS FOR CHANGE...

King & Country's upcoming STURMGESCHUTZ III Assault Gun (scheduled for release in January 2018) will be providing collectors with an adaptable range of display options...

This model, an *Ausf G* version, comes with 2x half-body crew

figures, one of whom is firing the top-mounted MG34 machine gun.

An extra MG34 with an armour shield mounting can also be fitted.


**WH083**

*Sturmgeschütz III  
Ausf. G*

Around the same time, K&C will release other free-standing (no bases) *Assault Gun Crewmen* offering additional display and diorama possibilities.

### STUG III IN FOREIGN USE

Apart from supplying the *Wehrmacht's* own military requirements some *StuG III's* were also supplied to other 'friendly' nations including *Finland*, *Romania* and even *Franco's Spain*.

**WH090**

*Dismounted  
Assault Gun Crew  
(3 figure set)*

