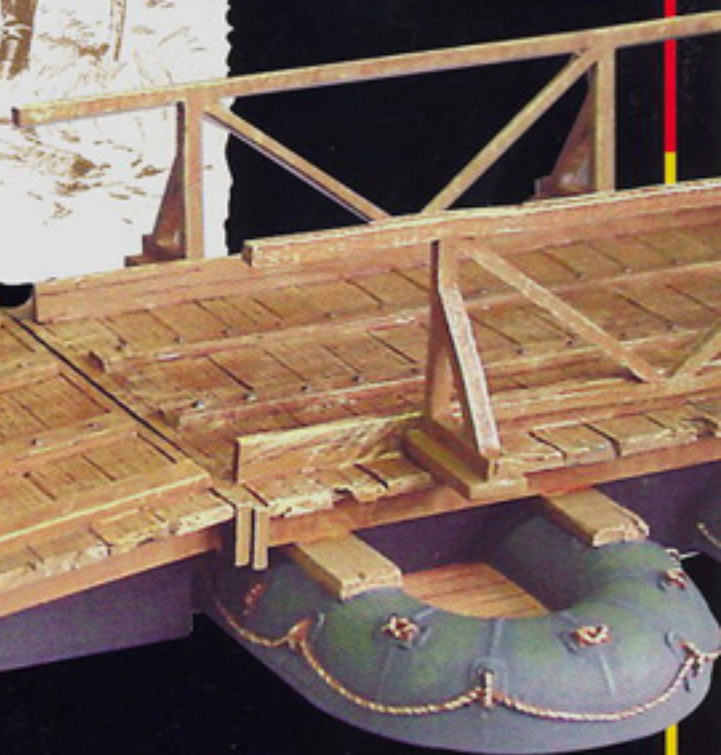


★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

A Quarterly Look at the World in Miniature

IN THIS ISSUE:
MOTORCYCLES, MAMELUKES,
MERRY OLD SANTA AND
A WHOLE LOT MORE...



A View From The Trenches...

AS I WRITE this issue of "COLLECTOR" I'm getting ready to go off to Chicago U.S.A. for the annual "Old Toy Soldier Newsletter" Show. For over 20 years this has been the biggest and best toy soldier event in the States.

The show itself attracts hundreds of dealers, manufacturers and collectors from not only America but all over the world.

Held in the HYATT REGENCY SCHAUMBURG (just outside the "Windy city" from September 24-28 it's a great opportunity to uncover long-lost treasures...discover new ones...and meet and make friends with lots of fellow toy soldier collectors. From early morning till late at night all the talk is toy soldiers.

At this year's show I'll be displaying some of our upcoming releases and seeing what our competition is up to. If you can make it come along and see us - it's always a pleasure to meet up with K&C enthusiasts and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

So enjoy this fourth edition of "COLLECTOR" and...as usual...HAPPY COLLECTING!

Andy C. Neilson
Co-founder & Creative Director
King & Country

*(Above left and below)
Two fine examples of the
work of Edouard Detaille
a great military artist and
inspiration for King & Country*



Contents



2

Pontoon

3&4

The Age of Napoleon

5

Ice Cold in Alex

6

Postcard from Normandy

7

A Merry Little Christmas

KING & COUNTRY

Head Quarters Room 2301, No. 3 Lockhart Road, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2861 3450 Fax: (852) 2861 3806 • Shop 362, Pacific Place, Queensway, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2525 8603

Email: hongkong@kingandcountry.com

Website: www.kingandcountry.com

OTSN'S 23rd CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW

Sunday September 28, 2003

10 am to 3:30 pm \$5 Admission on September

Draw a Deal



Hyatt Regency Woodfield
1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois
847-656-1224
Show Information: Don Pielin
1009 Kenworthy, Wheeling, IL 60090
847-541-2422
email: dimestores@aol.com



PONTON



Somewhere in Poland, France or Russia a mounted Cavalry Patrol cross a hastily erected pontoon bridge.

ON FRIDAY, 10 MAY 1940, Germany simultaneously invaded Holland and Belgium. As British and French troops moved northwards against the invader, another, even more deadly blow, was about to fall further to the south...on the line of the River Meuse.

Unseen by their French opponents the Germans had moved an entire Army through the dense Ardennes forest right up to the border...on Sunday, 12 May they struck.

WS45 Under the direction of their officer three other assault engineers get to work building their bridge.

WS46 An engineer dispatch rider gets directions from another of his colleagues on traffic control. This set also includes the sign post.

SP12 Our Pontoon Bridge...a four-section, 2 foot long polystone and metal construction, superbly hand-painted. Four inflatable rubber rafts support this temporary wooden bridge capable of carrying infantry, cavalry, light motorized vehicles and artillery.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

Because of their "BLITZKRIEG" campaigns in Poland, France and the Low Countries and, in the early days in Russia, the Germans became world leader in 'pontoon' technology. It was not until the invasion of Europe, in June 1944, that the allies began to equal and eventually improve on many of the original German bridging techniques.



WS44

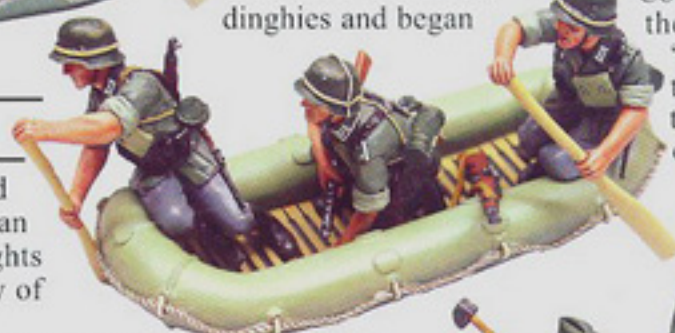
RIVER CROSSING

At exactly 1600 hours, with the earth still shaking from bomb explosions, German assault engineers and infantry got into their inflatable dinghies and began

RIVER BARRIER

At first the French were surprised but unperturbed by the sudden German presence...after all they had the heights overlooking the area...they had plenty of artillery and they had the river.

Unfortunately for them the Germans had a plan to deal with all of these military obstacles. Early on Monday, 13 May, the German Luftwaffe began bombing and strafing the French positions on the heights overlooking the Meuse. All day long their STUKA dive bombers screamed down dropping their deadly cargo on the unfortunate French defenders. At the same time other bombers and fighters attacked French artillery positions to the rear of the heights. There was virtually no anti aircraft defences and the few French aircraft that rose to battle were quickly dispensed with.



paddling cross the River.

On reaching the far shore the infantry quickly dealt with the dazed and shocked survivors of the shattered French pill boxes. Meanwhile the Assault Engineers got to work constructing temporary bridges for reinforcements to get across.

KING & COUNTRY's latest release features just such an operation - three new sets of German Assault Engineers go into action...with a Pontoon Bridge!

WS44 Three German soldiers paddle their way across a river obstacle carefully scanning the opposite shore for signs of enemy activity.



WS45



WS46

SP12

Even under enemy fire Assault Engineers could quickly assemble a multi span pontoon bridge in a few hours



The Age of Napoleon

LITTLE DID WE REALIZE just how popular Napoleonic toy soldiers were until we released our first batch of new, connoisseur-style "Napoleonics" just six short months ago.

The response from dealers, collectors and toy soldier magazines was immediate and very gratifying. "Simply excellent" was one comment. "The best sculpting and painting currently available" was another. "A stunning new range that will give K&C's competitors something to think about". With that kind of feedback and excellent sales figures we immediately went straight back to the drawing board and began designing a whole batch of new additions to the series.

MAKING CHOICES

"What exactly should we produce?" was our first question. At our regular planning meetings the answer was universal - "Napoleon!" So, we pondered what should he be doing? Several suggestions came back...looking at a map...peering through a telescope...talking with his officers...In the end we decided on a "Classic" pose - on horseback but turning in the saddle, gesturing with his left hand, as if requesting something.

One other original idea was to enhance this single mounted figure by the addition of a standing Mameluke servant of the Emperor's personal staff. And to make it even more unique have this servant feeding "Marengo" (Napoleon's favourite horse) with an apple from a basket at his feet. Suddenly this small group of figures becomes a colourful little vignette.

With the decision to produce the Emperor it was only natural that we add some more of his immediate retinue.

Wherever the Napoleon went...on campaign...into the field of battle...or even in peacetime, his closest bodyguards were the immaculate, green-clad Chasseurs a Cheval. Why not, we thought, design a classic Chasseur in campaign uniform on a stationary mount with his carbine resting across his saddle. It's a superb military pose and usually whenever Napoleon halted similarly posed Chasseurs would be posted on each side of the Emperor.

Next, we added another mounted piece - one of the Emperor's aide de camps (he had several). We also made him a member of the Chasseur a Cheval's.

NA25



However he is wearing a different style of uniform and sports a bicorne hat instead of the usual chasseur fur busby. As you can see from the drawing in this article the figure is suggested by the illustration by one of France's greatest 19th Century military artists - Edouard Detaille*.

"THE PRISONER"

Although most of this Napoleonic series are available as single pieces we like the idea of producing the occasional "Vignette" grouping of several figures "to tell a story".

NA29 "The Prisoner" is one such vignette. Here a captured British Officer, his military accoutrements at his feet is questioned by a Chasseur NCO (non-commissioned, officer). Guarding the captured officer is a Voltigeur of the 3rd Line Infantry with rifle and fixed bayonet. The detailing on this little group and their relationship to each other is quite charming.

ADDITIONAL FIGURES

To complete this latest release we have produced six other "add-ons" soldiers to complement and expand our first Napoleonics. For the French 3rd Line Infantry Regiment which we featured before, there is NA28 a marching Pioneer carrying the traditional axe, wearing buff leather apron and sporting the tall fur bearskin.

NA33 is a marching Grenadier Officer carrying the Regimental "Tricolore" with the imperial eagle on the top of the flag staff.

NA34 is a standing-at-attention Grenadier.

On the British side there are also three very useful "add-ons" NA30 is an advancing Pioneer, again with an axe and the traditional brown leather apron. He is flanked by NA31 a charging infantryman and NA32 a marching soldier - all three from our 71st Highlanders.

If, as we hope, these new figures get the same warm reception that our first release did then you can look forward to a lot more in the not too distant future.

For King & Country the Age of Napoleon has only just begun...





Infantry of the line, Belgian campaign (1815)



* THE MILITARY ARTIST EDOUARD DETAILLE

Detaille was born in Paris in 1848. His childhood was spent among those who had lived through the First Empire. Even before he could read he knew all about the great battles, campaigns, personalities and exotic uniforms of the Napoleonic Era.

From an early age the young Edouard showed a talent for drawing. At seventeen he became a pupil of the great French military painter Meissonier. Within a few years he had set up his own studio. When, in 1870, war broke out between France and Prussia, Detaille at once enlisted in the army. Throughout the short but tragic (for the French) war he continued to draw and paint.

Detaille's studio in Paris strongly reflected the military influence and interests of its owner. Its walls were covered with photos and actual examples of weapons,

uniforms and other relevant pieces of military equipment.

Everything Detaille painted was painstakingly researched and of all the military artists then working in Paris he was certainly the best informed. In addition to his painting Detaille was partly responsible for creating the magnificent collection of original Napoleonic uniforms and weapons now housed in the Musée Historique de L'Armée in Les Invalides in Paris.

One of his greatest work was the monumental "Types and Uniforms of the French Army 1789-1875" published in two volumes. His drawings and paintings in these books are not only meticulously detailed but full of spirit and life. Each

soldier he depicted was as individual as the uniform he wore.

Edouard Detaille won great fame and fortune throughout his long career both in France and outside it. With his death in 1912 France lost not only a great Frenchman but one of the world's greatest military artists.



Ice Cold In Alex

FOUGHT ACROSS THE WIDE expanses of North Africa the character of the Desert War (1940-1943) owed much to its geographical setting. Extremes of climate and terrain were matched by those of distance: Tripoli and Cairo - the respective HQ's of the Axis and British Forces - were over 1200 miles apart.

These wide open, thinly populated spaces proved the setting for fast moving armoured warfare and tactics. No one understood this better than Erwin Rommel, commander of the Afrika Korps. When he took over command of the German and Italian forces in 1941, he immediately launched an attack that forced the British



out of Libya back to just inside the Egyptian border.

A British counterattack in November 1941 drove the Afrika Korps back to their original start-line in Libya. Once again using superior tactics and equipment Rommel struck back ejecting the British back to the midway point of their advance. In May 1942 he inflicted a massive defeat on the Eighth Army at Gazala, captured Tobruk and threw the British back deep inside Egypt to within sixty miles of the great port city of Alexandria. There, both armies exhausted, the line stabilized while Rommel waited and hoped for fresh supplies and...reinforcements.

The prospects of his Afrika Korps enjoying an ice cold beer in Alexandria seemed temptingly near...



AFRIKA KORPS ADD-ONS

In September 2002, when we launched the first AK sets it was always our intention to reinforce these original fighting vehicles and soldiers at a later date. One year on the time has come...three sets of figures and two very unique armoured vehicles

AK21 MACHINE GUN TEAM

Four Panzer Grenadiers providing plenty of firepower...a lying prone MG42 gunner... kneeling gun commander and two riflemen - kneeling and standing firing.



AK22 MORTAR TEAM

Using a captured 81mm Mortar an AK24 SdKfz corporal directs his 2-man crew to lay down a carpet of deadly mortar fire.

AK23 DESERT PANZER IV

The Panzer IV was the work-horse tank of the German Army - Rommel could never get enough of them. This version was one of a handful supplied with an extra armoured shield to protect the turret. A fully elevating main gun,

three crew

members and a superb battle-worn finish completes the model.

AK24 SdKfz 222 ARMoured CAR

This four-wheeled, 20mm armed reconnaissance vehicle has a commander figure and Panzer Grenadiers as additional backup.

AK25 MOTORCYCLE PAIR

In the desert communications was vital. Here two AK bike riders check their map to see if they are going in the right direction.

"THE DESERT FOX"

Erwin Rommel saw front-line action as a junior officer in World War I, when he was awarded the *Pour le Merite*, Imperial Germany's highest decoration for bravery, for capturing more than 9000 Italian soldiers in just over two days. He stayed in the army, and in 1937 his lectures at the Infantry School in Dresden formed the basis of a classic military textbook, *Infanterie Greift An* ('Infantry Attacks').

At the outbreak of World War II, Rommel was a major general in command of the troops guarding Hitler's head-quarters. In 1940 he was given command of the 7th Panzer Division - and soon proved his flair in leading the break-through to the Channel ports during the invasion of France. He won the Knight's Cross for his personal bravery, and in February 1941 Hitler appointed him commander of the new Afrika Korps in Libya.

Despite some reverses, by the summer of 1942 he had, in a series of highly mobile armoured battles, driven the Allied forces almost 1000 km (600 miles) back to within 95km (60 miles) of Alexandria, and was promoted field marshal - at 50, the youngest in the German Army. He was said to be unbeatable. But after his shock defeat at El Alamein by Lt General Bernard Montgomery and the Eighth Army in October his star went into decline.

In January 1944 he was given command of



Army Group B in France, covering the Channel coast. He improved the defenses but disagreed with his superior, Field Marshal von Rundstedt, on where best to position the panzers. He was badly wounded when a British fighter strafed his staff car on July 17, 1944. Shortly afterwards his name was associated with the army plot to assassinate Hitler - although Rommel took no active part. He was given the choice of taking poison or facing trial by the People's Court - and almost certain execution.

For his family's sake, he chose poison and died on October 14. He received a state funeral, officially having 'died of his wounds'.



Postcard from Normandy.

ON JUNE 6, 1944, the greatest military operation in history successfully landed 155,000 men of the Allied Expeditionary Force—US, British and Canadian—on the shores of Northern France.

King & Country's newest release of D-Day '44 American GIs makes a big splash with these latest sets. **DD36** features a fire support group of 4 American Paratroopers including a sniper... grenadier and...a .30 cal. machine gunner. **DD37** shows 4 attacking troopers of the 82nd



DD38

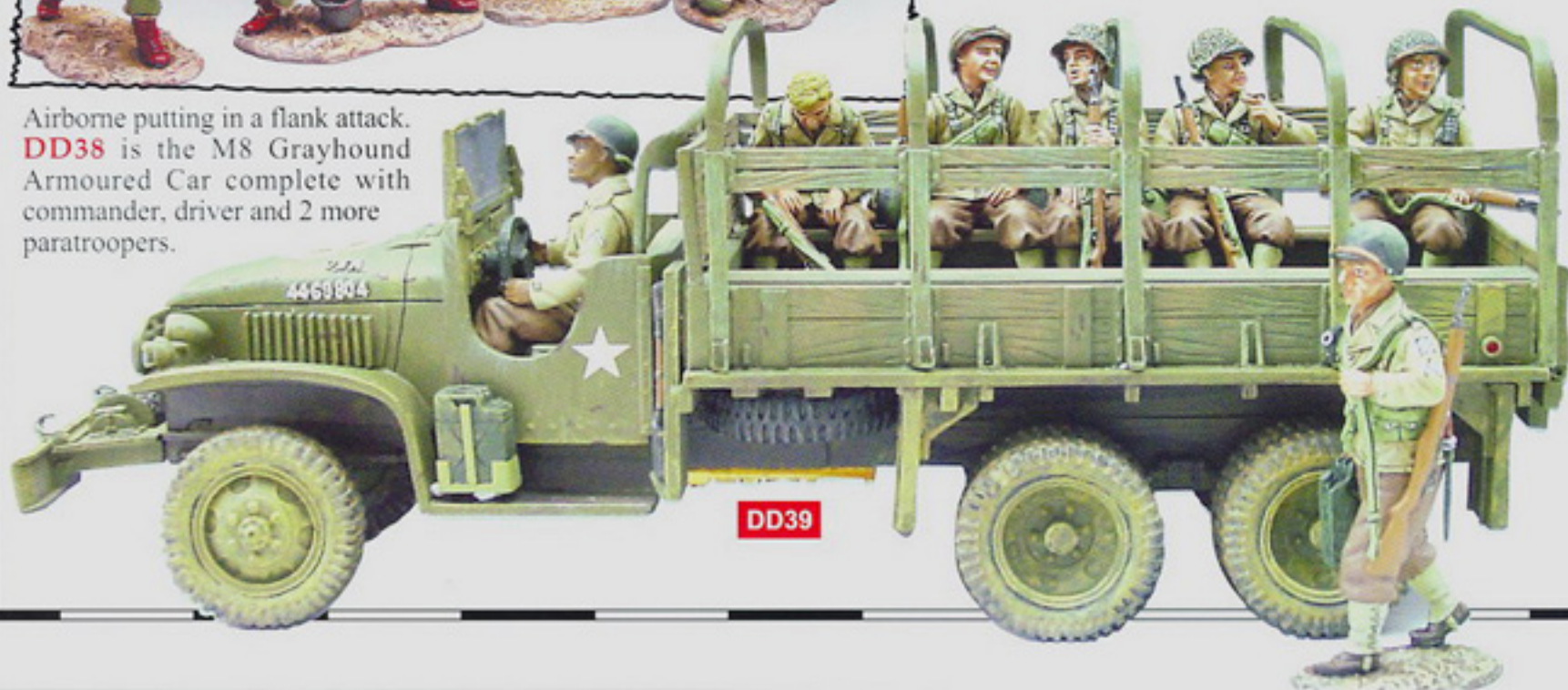
DD36



DD37



Airborne putting in a flank attack. **DD38** is the M8 Grayhound Armoured Car complete with commander, driver and 2 more paratroopers.



DD39



DD41

DD42

With all this traffic you're going to need some Military Police. **DD41** is a motorcycle-driving USMP. **DD42** is a standing MP with "tommy-gun" — a familiar sight on European roads during WW2.

DD40

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas...

LAST YEAR 2002, we started a brand-new tradition — the King & Country Santa. Every year, we decided we would design and produce a unique Santa Claus figure in a different little scene.

In 2002, it was Santa seated beneath a Christmas tree, a bumper bag full of toys and gifts

XM02-01



at his feet pondering his little book of all the girls and boys who have been good throughout the year.

We only produced a few hundred pieces but it was amazing how quickly they sold out — by mid December there was not one left on the shelf!

This year, we started work earlier and...we're producing more sets, so we hope no one will be disappointed.

"SANTA 2003"

Our little scene this year shows our hero with an even bigger bag of toys with a cute little girl and her little brother gazing up in wonderment at Santa. Both the children are in their pajamas and have obviously been awakened by Santa's sleigh bells or perhaps it was his reindeer.

Anyway they are looking a wee bit apprehensive that Santa has not brought them the gifts they've been looking forward to.

Santa, himself is gently kidding them on that maybe he did forget their requests. But we all know that he's not going to let them down.

AVAILABILITY

This new set will only be available this Christmas 2003. If you want to be sure to get yours reserve one set of Santa 2003 soon! On sale from late October.



XM03-01

ALL-NEW "DAI PAI DONG" HITS THE "STREETS!"

King & Country's latest release is a brand new version of one of our very first and most popular items in "Streets of Old

Hong Kong" — the "Dai Pai Dong".

"Dai Pai Dongs" or streetside food-stalls were once a familiar sight all over Hong Kong. Originating in mainland China they were the poor man's restaurants. They offered an amazing variety of traditional snacks and meals at a price ordinary working people could afford. The food itself was very fresh, nourishing and healthy as the dishes were often prepared there and then in front of the customer's eyes.

Most "Dai Pai Dongs" were operated by the owner/chef and their family and often



HK114

mother and father would cook and serve customers while the children prepared vegetables and washed and cleaned the plates and bowls.

Our new edition, **HK113** has its very own chef labouring over a steaming hot wok with plenty of tasty dishes prepared for his customers' hungry appetites. Under his work table is a hot stove to heat the food — opposite sit two eager customers enjoying their meal...one is even asking for more!

Also being released is **HK114**, three barrels of fish, meat and vegetables, which you can add onto your "Dai Pai Dong" set.

These great new sets will be available late October 2003.

CORPORATE GIFTS?

Do you find it difficult to source original corporate gifts and premiums? Are you fed up with the same old products time and time again?

If you are...we can help. We have ideas and solutions that are original...unique and still affordable.

We have a huge range of series for you to choose from or...we can custom design and manufacture a very special item just for you.

To stay ahead of the competition you must stand out from the crowd. To help do that you need corporate gifts and premium items that are different...high quality...yet reasonably priced.

Together we can do that. Here are just a few of our satisfied clients.

ALFRED DUNHILL

CATHAY PACIFIC

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

DEL PRADO OF SPAIN

CORGI U.K.

THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE

SWIRE PROPERTIES

THE PENINSULAR HOTEL GROUP



HK113