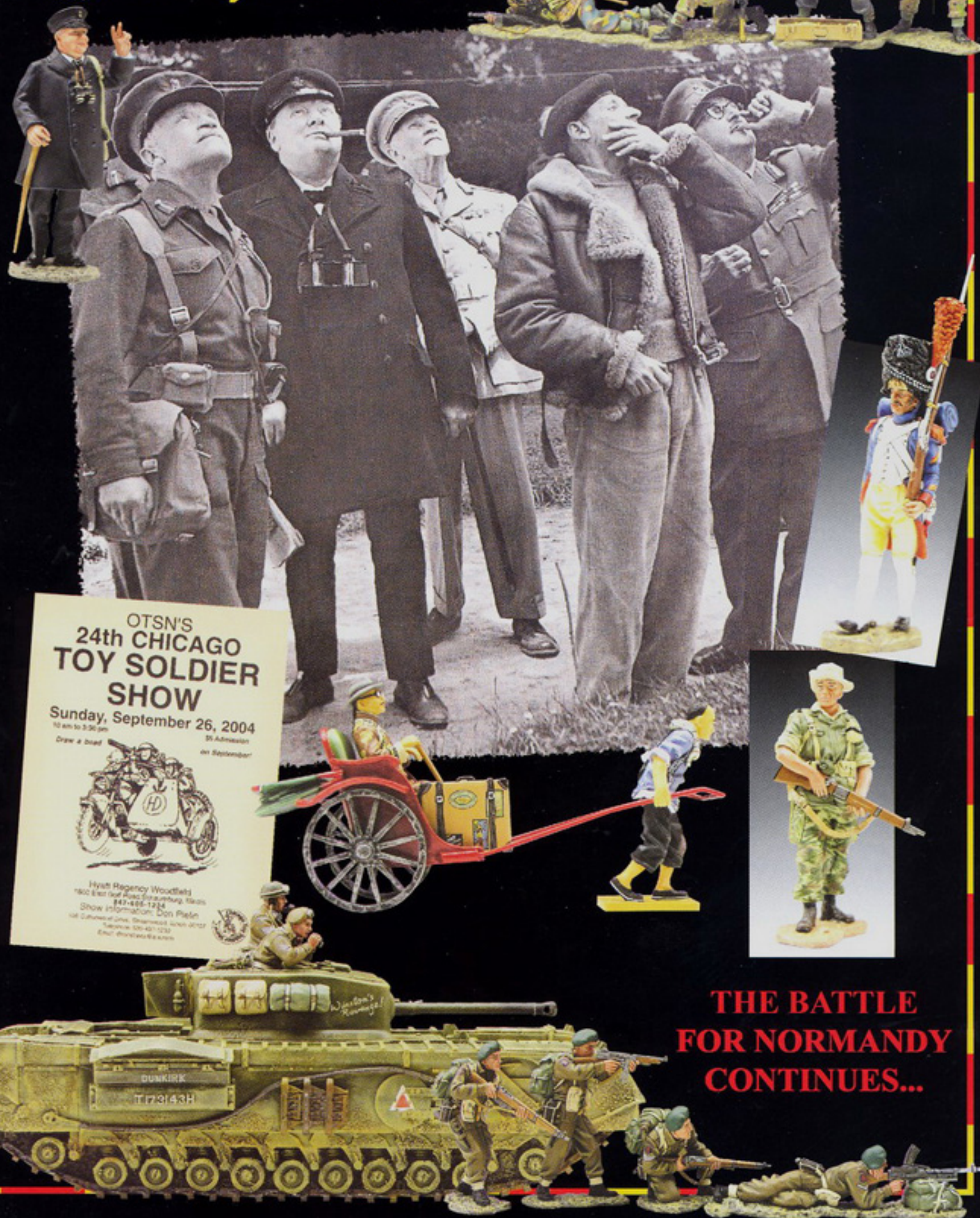


COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature



OTSN'S
24th CHICAGO
TOY SOLDIER
SHOW

Sunday, September 26, 2004

10 am to 3:30 pm

Draw a bid

\$5 Admission

on September



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1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois
630-406-1234
Show information: Don Pielin
Call: Collectors of Toys, Schaumburg, Illinois 60197
Telephone: 630-401-1232
Email: donpielin@icloud.com

THE BATTLE
FOR NORMANDY
CONTINUES...

A View From The Beaches...

NO APOLOGIES for returning again to the beaches and fields of wartime Normandy in this new edition of "COLLECTOR".

As I watched on television many of the recent 60th Anniversary commemorations I was vividly reminded of just how important D-Day actually was!

Had the Allied landings failed America might have turned all of its huge military energies to the Pacific Campaign. Britain alone could not have defeated Hitler on continental Europe. That would have left the job to the Soviet Union which might have managed it...eventually. Then however Stalin's "Iron Curtain" would have lapped the English Channel and enslaved virtually all of Western Europe as well as Eastern.

D-Day had to succeed and did so magnificently under the inspired leadership of Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery.

King & Country's own modest efforts realistically portray in miniature part of those D-Day battles and the ongoing clash of arms in the days and weeks that followed.

"Counter Attack" features elite Waffen SS troops and armour painfully making their way to the front despite constant harassment from allied air attack and naval gunfire.

On the opposite side we have probably the finest forces Britain could muster...Army Commandos wearing their famous green berets and carrying a varied assortment of weapons in a variety of great action poses. Backing them up is a superb model of a Churchill infantry tank and...an excellent character study of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself as he appeared in Normandy on D-Day Plus 6.

Elsewhere in this issue there's important details about our new ONLINE COLLECTORS CLUB...it's well worth looking into.

Add in some great new "Streets of Old Hong Kong" pieces and information on the world's biggest (and best) toy soldier show and that's this quarter's "COLLECTOR".

So, sit back, relax and prepare to enter our world in miniature...
HAPPY COLLECTING!

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

Men from No.6 Commando of Lord Lovat's Special Service Brigade
landing under fire on Sword Beach on June 6, 1944



A concept sketch
of a British Army
Commando Radio
Operator



DD52C
Radio Operator

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"It takes a special breed of man
to become a very special kind of soldier..."



MR. CHURCHILL'S COMMANDOS

'Britain will fight on!' Churchill declared in June 1940, as the last dejected survivors returned from Dunkirk. 'We shall return.' And so they did, Britain's Special Forces - newly formed commando and paratroop units - to launch daring raids up and down Hitler's long European coastline...

IN THE SUMMER of 1940 Britain stood alone...Although its army had escaped from France virtually all of its heavy equipment - tanks, guns and transport had been left behind.

From the northern most tip of Norway to the southern peaks of the Pyrenees almost all of Western Europe lay under the iron heel of the Nazi jackboot.

To the rest of the world it seemed as if the island nation had but a few weeks to survive. One man however breathed defiance and rallied a demoralized country - Winston Spencer Churchill. With the help, courage and skill of the Royal Air Force's fighter pilots and a few hundred Spitfires and Hurricanes Britain fought off the Nazi aerial armadas. At the same time Churchill himself proposed the formation of 'special forces' that would carry the fight directly to the enemy. Churchill, from his experiences in the Boer War, remembered the success of small, well-armed (and well-motivated) Boer horsemen who could move fast, hit hard and get away before the British could effectively respond. They were called "Commandos".

Why not, he surmised, recruit similar small-scale units from the best volunteers the British Army could provide to hit the Germans hard where and when they least expected it.

This unit's principal task was to "develop a reign of terror up and down the enemy coast...leaving a trail of German corpses behind."

So was born "The Commandos."

COMMANDO TRAINING

Commando mountain-climbing at Achmacarry.



DD52

DD51
CHURCHILL Infantry Support Tank
Backing up our Commandos.



All volunteers had to undergo extensive and rigorous physical and mental training at a special 'school for scoundrels' set up at Achmacarry on the rugged West Highland coast of Scotland.

FIT TO FIGHT

Great emphasis was placed on self-reliance, physical fitness and maximum skill-at-arms for each individual. In addition all ranks had to be trained and proficient in cliff and mountain climbing...unarmed combat...seamanship and boatwork...map reading and use of field radio...demolitions and sabotage...fieldcraft and first aid plus much, much more.

Training to acquire such skills went on continuously. Those failing to make the grade were "RTU'ed" - Returned to their original parent units. Needless to say casualties and serious injuries were many before those who persevered were rewarded with their coveted 'green berets'.



St Nazaire 1942

The Greatest Commando Raid

In the four years prior to D-Day Army and Royal Marine Commandos took part in many raids, large and small, throughout mainland Europe and North Africa. Perhaps the most famous was the raid on St. Nazaire, the French port whose massive dry-dock was an obvious base of operations for the German battleship *Tirpitz*.

The decision was made to destroy the port facilities by means of a Commando raid. The plan was use an old warship (*HMS Campbelltown*) disguised as a German destroyer and packed with explosives to ram the lock gates of the dry-dock. On board the ship and a small flotilla of British motor torpedo gunboats would be almost 300 Commandos.

Once ashore these men would secure the dock perimeter and begin demolishing secondary lock gates, pumping machinery and nearby submarine pens.

In the early hours of March 28, 1942 the '*Campbelltown*', her torpedo boats with their Commandos made their way up the Loire estuary towards St. Nazaire. Unfortunately the German defenses were on the alert and challenged the small fleet. A series of signals passed back and forth allowing the British ships to move nearer their objective. Finally the Germans discovered the 'bluff' and opened fire. Immediately all hell broke loose - the ships

increased to full speed and a hail of fire erupted from both sides.

At 0134 AM the '*Campbelltown*' rammed into the main lock gates and shuddered to a halt while the Commandos on board began to swarm ashore. Casualties from the following gunboats were heavy indeed. Many of the craft were sunk or set alight before they even reached shore. Finally just five motor torpedo boats made it to the dockside to land those aboard who had survived.

The raid on the port of St. Nazaire in March 1942 remains one of the most audacious and successful commando actions of WW2.

In all, less than 100 Commandos landed. Nevertheless they attacked German gun positions, installed their demolitions and formed a defensive perimeter to hold off German counter-attacks.

Before long the Commandos were fighting off almost 2,000 Germans with virtually no hope of reinforcements or escape. As dawn began to break small groups of Commandos and sailors tried to slip away and evade capture - only 5 managed to do so.

Fighting started to die down as ammunition ran out and wounded and exhausted men began to surrender.

As the surviving Commandos and sailors were being rounded up, searched and led away a huge explosion erupted at the main lock gates. *HMS Campbelltown*, its cargo of high explosives packed and hidden in the bow with a delayed action fuse blew up. Hundreds of Germans inspecting the vessel or watching it from the nearby dockside were killed and wounded.

The explosion totally destroyed the huge dry-dock gates and rendered them and the dock itself useless for the rest of the war.

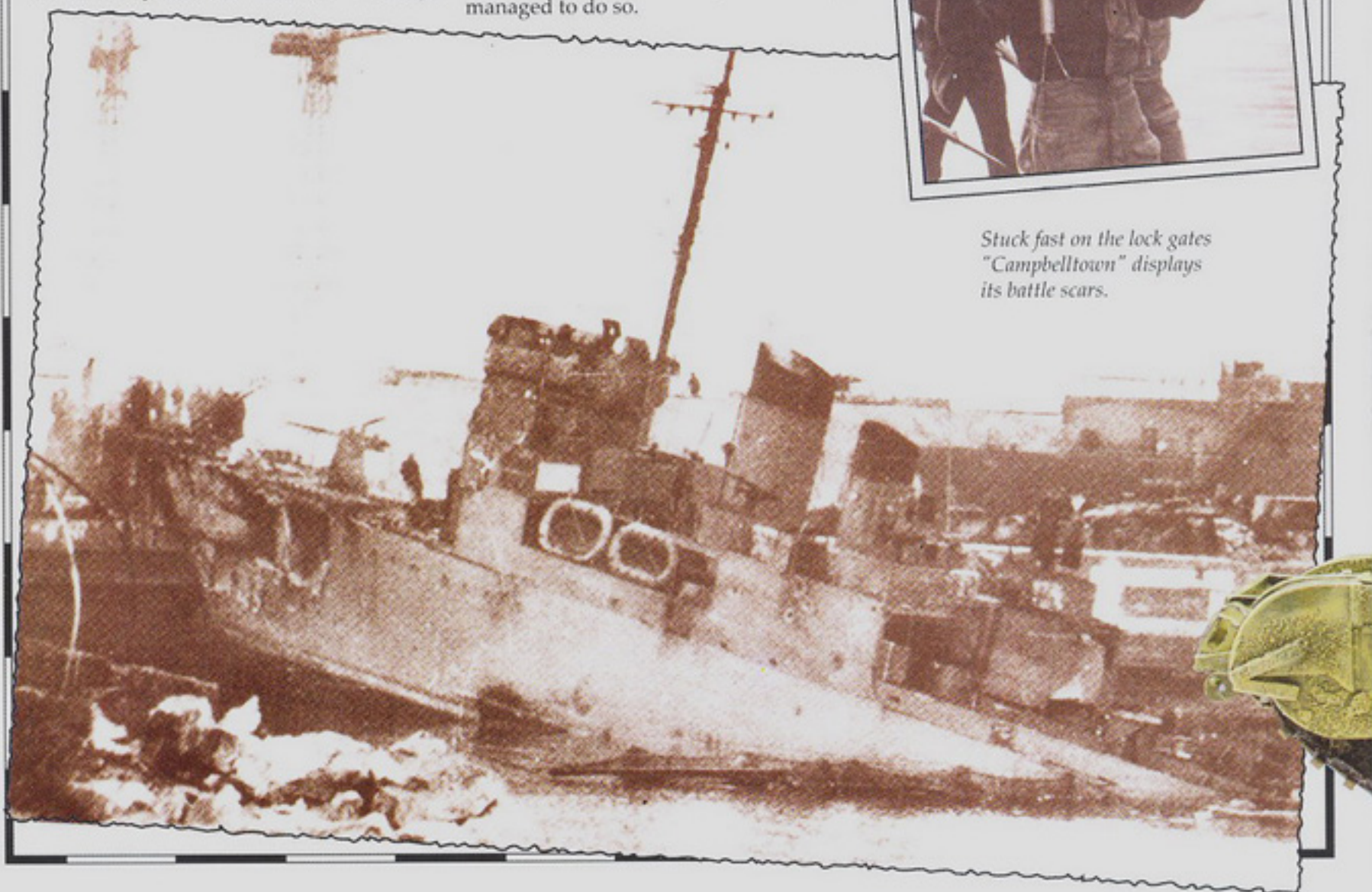
One hundred and sixty nine Commandos and sailors were killed with another 200 wounded and captured. The losses had been great but the objective had been achieved with a bold, daring plan and a few hundred exceptional soldiers...proud to bear the name '*Commando*'.



Below: Two captured Commandos are marched through the streets of St. Nazaire.



Stuck fast on the lock gates '*Campbelltown*' displays its battle scars.



D-DAY 6TH OF JUNE

On Sword Beach at 0800 hours a tall, aristocratic Scotsman prepared to lead his men forward accompanied by his own personal bagpiper...

Just over two years after the raid on St. Nazaire the Commandos were again put to the test - leading the way for the greatest seaborne invasion in history - Operation OVERLORD. Eight main Commando units would be deployed on the three British and Canadian beaches... "Juno", "Gold" and "Sword".

As a special tribute

a "Tommy-gun".

Able supporting them is our DD54 "SWORD BEACHMASTER". This set accurately captures Royal Navy Commander Colin Maude and his dog "Winston" directing beach traffic. Viewers of "The Longest



BRIG. LORD LOVAT

When Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, led his commandos across the Channel, he was tracing his family history in reverse: the first Fraser departed Normandy in 1066 and landed in England with William the Conqueror.

Since that time, Clan Fraser and its chieftain have been a force to reckon with: the 11th Lord Lovat fought with the Scots at Culloden in 1746, was captured and tried by the English and became the last aristocrat to be beheaded in Britain.

His modern descendant pushed for the creation of a British commando unit before the war; he succeeded and led the training, turning his green berets into guerrilla fighters with a harsh regimen in the Scottish highlands. The oddball cast of teachers included saboteurs from occupied Europe, elderly dons from the science labs of Oxford, Arctic explorers, second-story men on leave from British jails and former Shanghai policemen. But a 1945 *Cosmopolitan* article on Lovat's school that claimed, "One instructor actually bicycled 500 miles to the training center living on nothing but lawn-mowings," was, perhaps, exaggerated.

The training paid off in a series of successful raids in Norway early in the war. At Dieppe in 1942, Lovat's men provided one of the failed raid's few highpoints when they put a six-gun German battery out of action. Lovat's D-Day exploits became legend. Six days after D-Day, Lovat was badly wounded by a German shell, was given a transfusion on the battlefield, then spent months recuperating in Scotland; his war was over. Lord Lovat died in 1995.

has "Winston's Revenge!" chalked up on the side of its turret.

Finally we have a very special solo figure of the man who can lay claim to being the "Father of the Commandos" - Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill DD55. Our figure represents the great man as he appeared in Normandy on D-Day + 6 when he went to see the situation for himself.

Churchill dressed in naval guise, carries his ubiquitous cane and gives the famous "V" sign - a pair of binoculars around his neck and cigar in hand!

All of these Great British sets make for an even greater D-Day collection - add them to yours soon.

DD54
"Sword
Beachmaster"

to all the Commando forces King & Country has come up with three very unique sets of figures and a great British tank model.

We chose to portray men from the 1st Special Service Brigade under the command of Brigadier Lord Lovat who landed on Sword Beach on June 6, 1944.

DD52 "COMMAND SET" shows Lovat, probably the most famous Commando leader and his command section. By his side is Bill Millin, his personal bagpiper, a radio operator and the Brigadier's own sergeant bodyguard. They are on their way to link up with British glider troops who had earlier captured the vital Caen Canal Bridge.

DD53 "GUN GROUP" has a lying prone Bren gunner backed up by three other Commandos with Lee Enfield rifles and

Day" will remember this real-life personality from the movie. A

navy signaller, radio and loudspeaker equipment plus a bicycle-carrying commando complete this superb set.

Concept sketch
for Lord Lovat

Then there is our armoured element.

DD51 "The CHURCHILL Infantry Support Tank". This superbly detailed model comes in the markings of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade's 3rd Bn. Scots Guards.

This unit had a distinguished record of success in the Normandy campaign and also boasted a future Archbishop of Canterbury among its tank officers!

Our "Churchill" is aptly named "DUNKIRK" and also



Winston S. Churchill



DD51 CHURCHILL Infantry Support Tank

DD53 "Gun Group"

BY NIGHTFALL on D-Day the Allies had achieved many, if not all, of their primary objectives. All five of their landing beaches were secured and reinforcements were pouring in.

The Germans meanwhile had overcome their initial surprise and indecision and were beginning to push forces forward to probe their enemies' strengths and weaknesses. They were also gathering other formations that could deliver a powerful counter blow to both breakup the Allied line and push them back to the beaches and, they hoped, into the sea.

ALLIED AIR & SEA SUPPORT

Unfortunately for the Germans, the Allies had complete superiority in the air. Rocket and cannon-armed RAF Typhoons and US Thunderbolts prowled the skies over Normandy on the lookout for any German vehicle or tank that showed itself. Off the

WS60
Tank Ambush

COUNTER ATTACK!

As the Allies prepared to break out of their D-Day beachheads the Germans were mustering their forces to push them back into the sea...

beachheads hundreds of British and American warships provided added firepower to break up any German military formations foolish enough to gather together.

CAMOUFLAGE & NIGHT MOVES

The only way German units could move towards the front line was if they were very heavily camouflaged or if they moved by night. This meant that German counter attacks were painfully slow in coming and lacked both the mobility and strength to be decisive.

Before long the German High Command realized that the only real alternative to their failed counter

machine guns.

The Allied advance, despite overwhelming air superiority and naval gun fire support, slowed to a snail's pace. In a war of attrition like this the Germans could not win but it certainly did not look they were losing!

"ACHTUNG PANZERS!"

K&C's latest Waffen SS releases accurately reflect the reality of that military situation...

WS58 "NEW FIGHTING PATROL"

Four battle-hardened Panzer Grenadiers carefully make their way forward to the front — their late-war appearance of mixed field gray and camouflage uniforms is

attack was a vigorous and well orchestrated defense of the Normandy countryside itself.

As mentioned in "COLLECTOR" #5 (February 2004 Issue) the Normandy "bocage" was the centuries-old network of sunken roads, steep tangled hedgerows and small individual fields that blanketed most of the area.

It was ideal for aggressive defense and particularly difficult for advancing Allied troops and armour to overcome. Every crossroads, road junction or architectural feature was zeroed in by the German artillery and mortars — protected by their riflemen, snipers and



typical of the period. The firepower they carry is impressive - two MP40 Schmeisser Machine Pistols... the superb MG42 Machine Gun and the Gewehr 43 automatic rifle. In addition, one of the sections also carries the deadly

Panzerfaust anti-tank rocket.

The next figures are WS60 "TANK AMBUSH Set" and they are in action already! A dynamic four-man Panzerschrek Team are preparing to knock-out an Allied tank with the one-man, shoulder-fired German version of the American bazooka. The Panzerschrek was harder hitting, had a longer range and more robust than its U.S. counterpart.

Next we have WS62 "TANK RIDERS"...this is an additional set to WS31, our first Tank Riders set. This new four-man section is hitching a ride - possibly their own vehicle was a casualty



WS59
JAGDPANTHER Tank Destroyer

*Painted in a late-war finish
...somewhere in Normandy June '44*



WS58
Fighting Patrol



WS62

SHERMAN NIGHTMARE

'The Sherman's top speed varied with the kind of engine fitted, and could be as low as 20mph or as high as 30. It weighed 30 tons. Some Shermans were fitted in British factories with 17-pounder anti-tank guns, replacing the 75mm... which could not penetrate the heavy German tanks at all, while the German 88mm, or long 75mm, could not fail to knock out a Sherman at almost any range - certainly 2,000 yards. The 17-pounder was capable of knocking out a Tiger or Panther at a moderate range, and was comparable to the German guns, but the Sherman was still at a disadvantage because of its much inferior armour.

Anti-tank shot does not depend on an explosion to penetrate a tank's armour. An ordinary HE shell would not affect a Sherman, unless it was very large... The armour-piercing projectile's effectiveness depends largely on velocity.

The damage inside a tank is caused by the projectile tearing through, and by flying fragments of armour spraying around inside... A petrol-engined Sherman would almost always catch fire because of the vapour inside. The tremendous impact of the projectile on armour would generate immense heat, producing something very like an explosion.'

*Tpr. Austin Baker,
4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards,
British 8th Armd. Bde.*

of a low-flying Typhoon or Thunderbolt.

Providing the "heavy muscle" in this latest release is WS59 "JAGDPANTHER Tank Destroyer". This tracked assault gun mounts the mighty 88mm gun on a Panther chassis. Painted in a realistic battle-worn finish two watchful "tankers" appear out of the top hatches prepared for anything. By the looks of the missing "side skirts" and the non-fatal "hits" on its thick armour this Jagpanther has already seen some action.



*Opposite:
A heavily camouflaged Stug III with crew members warily scanning the sky for Allied fighter-bombers.*

P47D THUNDERBOLT
of the 350th Fighter Squadron...
big, fast and deadly!



HAWKER TYPHOON
of 181 Squadron RAF
armed with anti-tank rockets.





HK123 Sitting "Tai Tai" shows a wealthy married lady holding a beautiful hand-painted parasol. There's lots of exquisite detail both on her dress and her umbrella.

Three worthy and colourful additions to the ever-changing, ever-colourful

"Streets of Old Hong Kong".



★ Bench not included

TAKE A RIDE ON OUR BRAND NEW RICKSHAW

Making a welcome return to 'Streets of Old Hong Kong' is our latest version of a Running Rickshaw.

HK121 is our fourth different model since the series began back in 1994. Now, to go with a Rickshaw and Coolie you must have some passengers.

We've got two...

HK122 Sitting Businessman is dressed in a traditional Cheong Saam (long gown) and is carrying a well worn suitcase covered in exotic Hotel stickers from all over S.E. Asia.

ANNOUNCING

SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL

FOR OUR OVERSEAS COLLECTORS!

AT LONG LAST there is a club aimed specifically at those thousands of dedicated K&C collectors all over the world — *outside of Hong Kong*.

This new club... our **KING & COUNTRY ONLINE COLLECTORS CLUB** has been designed to meet the needs and wishes of K&C collectors who want to keep in touch with all our latest developments and newest products.

For a very modest annual fee of just US \$35 here's what Club Members will receive...

1. An exclusive Limited Edition K&C figure **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** Members can select from any one of two designs available.

2. A year's worth of "COLLECTOR", K&C's own, full-colour quarterly gazette - **FREE OF CHARGE**.

3. **FREE** Copies of all of K&C's latest full-colour brochures...as they are released.



4. The latest figure release schedules by email.

5. **EXTRA** Limited Edition Club figures at a 'Special' Club price.

ABOUT OUR CLUB FIGURES

Every year we will design and produce one or more CLUB FIGURES exclusively for Club Members.

To inaugurate the CLUB we have released TWO very different and original military miniatures with a distinctly French flavour.

CF01 is a French Legion Paratrooper of the colonial struggle in Indo China circa 1954. His uniform is a typical "melange" of that era - a mixture of French, British and American.

His military style though is 100% French Foreign Legion!

Our second offering **CF02** is a complete contrast — a colourful Grenadier of Napoleon's famed 'Old Guard'. Justly famous for their military bearing this fine figure is topped off by his giant bearskin - *c'est magnifique!*

HOW TO JOIN?

Simply visit our website www.kingandcountry.com for more details.

KING & COUNTRY ONLINE COLLECTORS CLUB!

WWW.KINGANDCOUNTRY.COM

THE CHICAGO SHOW

If you're into toy soldiers this 'toysoldier extravaganza' is a must! For 4 whole days and nights collectors and dealers from all over the world come together to eat,



sleep and drink toy soldiers...24 hours a day from the 23rd - 26th Sept. 2004.

For more info contact show organiser Don Pielin on 630-497-1239 or email him at Dimestores@aol.com.