

★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

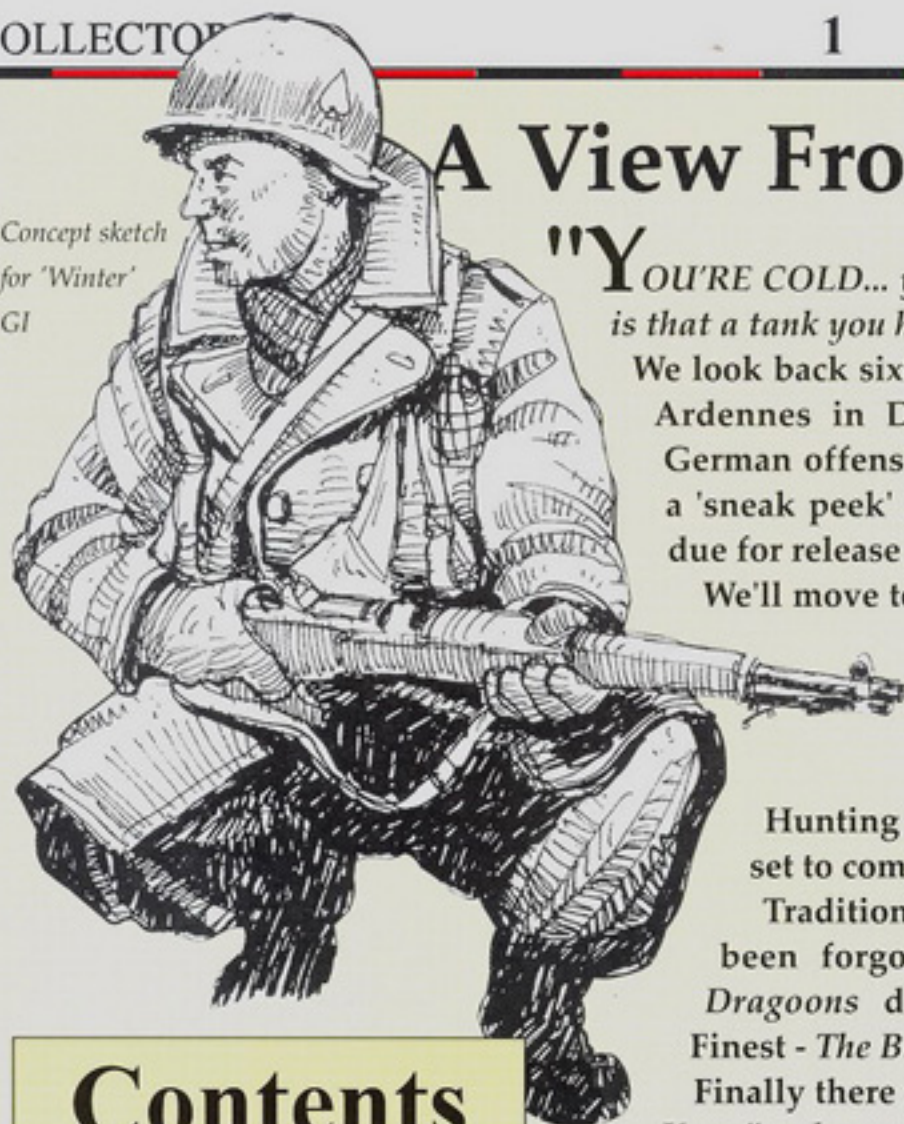
A Quarterly Journal of Our World in Miniature

"DON'T SHOOT...
IT'S ONLY SANTA!"

INTRODUCING A WHOLE BUNCH
OF GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR
K&C COLLECTORS EVERYWHERE.



Concept sketch
for 'Winter'
GI



A View From The Trenches...

"YOU'RE COLD... you're lonely... you're faraway from home... and is that a tank you hear in the distance?"

We look back sixty years - back to the frozen and snow covered Ardennes in December 1944. The scene of the last great German offensive of the Second World War. Readers will get a 'sneak peek' at our upcoming "Battle of the Bulge" series - due for release in early 2005.

We'll move to a much warmer climate with the latest sets in our very popular "ANCIENT EGYPT In The Time of The Pharaohs" series. Monuments... Royal

Hunting Parties... and a fabulous Chariot set to complete the release.

Traditional Napoleonic collectors have also not been forgotten. Dynamic and colourful French Dragoons dramatically battle with Scotland's Finest - The Black Watch.

Finally there is our latest "Streets of Old Hong Kong" releases and... our very own Santa Claus. This year he's visiting China for the first time!

As usual that's just a small part of our very big K&C picture. At this time all of us at King & Country would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year...HAPPY COLLECTING!

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

The Nile Delta
in Ancient Egypt



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KING & COUNTRY

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AE15



ANCIENT EGYPT



WAR CROWN

The pharaoh's new image was as a war leader. He adopted the Blue Crown, or war helmet and was seen as a living warrior god.

A FULL YEAR AGO we launched our epic series on Ancient Egypt to great acclaim. Now, 12 months later King & Country are introducing five more amazing set pieces to add to your collection...

First and foremost is a magnificent mounted set **"THE PRINCE OF EGYPT CHARIOT"** - **AE03** - A prince of the Royal Kingdom stands proudly on his superbly decorated war chariot. Pulling the piece are two richly ornamented Arabian stallions. The whole set is firmly anchored on a special 'landscaped' style base.



Here he returns to the palace followed by two loyal retainers carrying his 'kill'.

AE16 The Hunting Party shows the two Royal servants with a pole carried between them - hanging from it a young desert antelope.

ANIMALS OF THE NILE

In Ancient Egypt a great variety of animals were revered and worshipped. Cats of all shapes and sizes were particular favourites. We have produced one of the Royal 'mascots' - a powerful young leopard together with his handler. This young animal would probably have been raised as a cub in the Royal Palace itself. It was said that they were used for hunting although they could often prove

unpredictable. As a safety precaution, our set, **AE17 The Royal Mascot**, shows the handler equipped with a spear and a dagger!

TEMPLE GUARDIANS

Our final release among these new additions is a pair of **Sphinx-like statues**, **AE18**. These stone monuments often formed an avenue leading up to the entrance-way of the Temple and were thought to be 'guardians' of the building itself.



CHARIOTS

Introduced from the Middle East into Egypt in circa 1650 B.C. chariots revolutionized both transport and warfare.

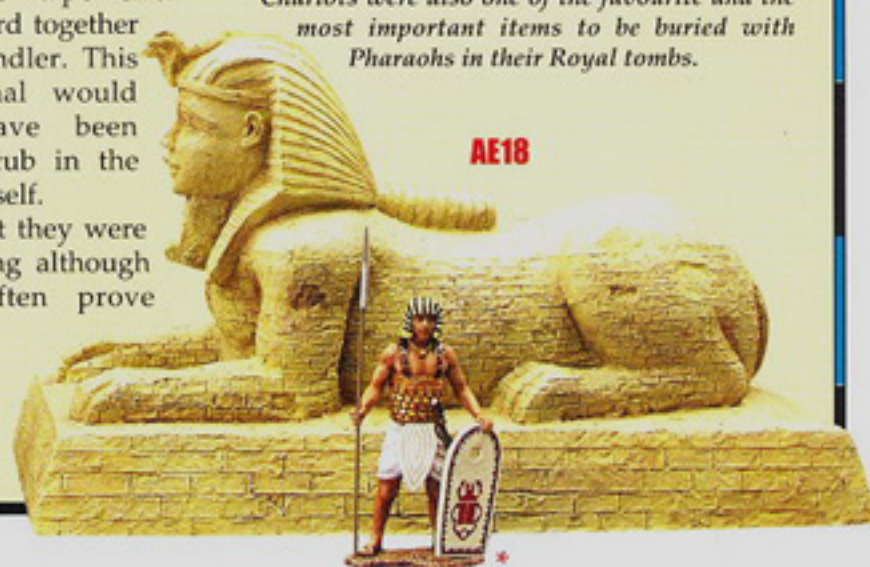
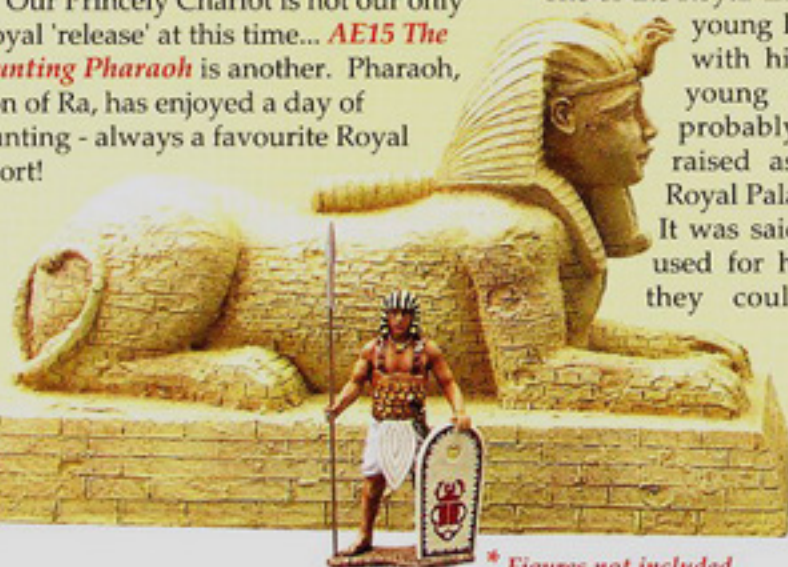
Ancient Egyptians soon mastered this new innovation and became great horsemen. Chariots were also one of the favourite and the most important items to be buried with Pharaohs in their Royal tombs.

AE18

THE ROYAL HUNT

Our Princely Chariot is not our only Royal 'release' at this time... **AE15 The Hunting Pharaoh** is another. Pharaoh, Son of Ra, has enjoyed a day of hunting - always a favourite Royal sport!

particular favourites. We have produced one of the Royal 'mascots' - a powerful young leopard together with his handler. This young animal would probably have been raised as a cub in the Royal Palace itself. It was said that they were used for hunting although they could often prove



* Figures not included

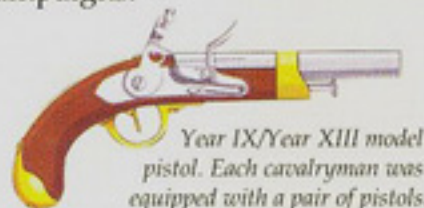
"CHARGE!"



BOOTS & SADDLES

An Imperial Decree created the Regiment of Dragoons of the Imperial Guard on the 15th of April, 1806. Never before had Dragoons been so privileged to guard the Emperor so closely.

One of the main reasons for this honour was the superb fighting qualities French Dragoons had shown in Napoleon's most recent campaigns.



Year IX/Year XIII model pistol. Each cavalryman was equipped with a pair of pistols.

These new Dragoons of the Guard were to be specially honoured. All of the men and officers came from the very best the line Regiments of Dragoons had to offer. Although wearing the normal green Dragoon coat, their facings were to be white and they were to wear a large red feather plume on the side of their helmets

(officers to wear white). Their helmet band was to be 'faux' leopard skin.

A FAMOUS NAME

Napoleon's wife, Josephine de Beauharnais, was to be the Regiment's 'Godmother' and it was her that gave them their other title "Dragons de L'Imperatrice" or "The Empress' Dragoons".

Over the following years, the Regiment saw much hard service in the Emperor's cause and suffered accordingly. However their loyalty and dedication were never in doubt even as they crossed Europe and into Russia on Napoleon's great but ill-fated military adventure of 1812. From an overall strength of sixty-four officers and 1,022 men, less than half that number would ever see France again.

During the next few years, they continued to play a leading role in the Emperor's cavalry plans. Finally they met their fate, like so many others of Napoleon's guard, on the

field of Waterloo.

For many years afterwards, it was a proud boast of many an aged veteran to declare. "I was a member of the Empress' Dragoons!"

Cavalryman in full parade dress for the wedding of Napoleon and Archduchess Marie-Louise of Austria.



THE SKIRL OF THE PIPES...THE BRIGHT FLASH OF COLD STEEL
AND THE BATTLE CRIES OF THE BRAVE HIGHLAND MEN...

Scotland The Brave!

THE BLACK WATCH

As Scotland's senior Highland Regiment, *The Black Watch* has a history and reputation few could claim equal.

The Regiment was first founded in 1739, as six independent companies, to 'police' the wild Scottish Highlands and the wild highlanders who lived there. Before long the British Crown realized that these brave and hardy soldiers could be just as useful on overseas campaigns.

In 1756, war broke out in North America between the British and the French. The Regiment was sent to New York and spent the next two years campaigning along the Hudson River. It was there at Ticonderoga in July 1758 that they won their first battle honour.

During the American War of Independence (1775-1783), they fought up and down the Eastern seaboard almost continuously. The Napoleonic Wars saw them capture Minorca and fight in Egypt and Spain throughout the long Peninsula War.

Their final Napoleonic action was the "Hundred Days Campaign" which led up to Waterloo. Here at Quatre Bras on June 16 the Regiment fought a heroic rearguard action against massed French Cavalry. Their performance being singled out by the "Iron Duke" himself for a special "mention in dispatches".

King & Country's nine latest Black Watch Napoleonic figures accurately depict the frenzied fighting during the action at Quatre Bras. Add on our first four Black Watch figures and you have all the makings of a great looking British 'square'.

THE RED HACKLE

The hackle is of red feathers worn originally behind the bonnet badge. It is

now worn on its own without a badge.

The legend of the Regiment's red hackle is debatable, but it supposedly started after the action at the battle of Geldermalsen in Holland 1795.

brigade that he asked for and was granted permission to wear a feather bonnet like his men and a special hackle was made for him, the top third red for the 42nd and the lower two thirds white.

Even today the 'red hackle' can be seen on modern Black Watch soldiers' Tam o' Shanters and feather bonnets.

BATTLE HONOURS

Among the countless 'Battle Honours' awarded to the Regiment, these are some of the most famous...Corunna. Salamanca. Waterloo. Alma. Sevastapol. Lucknow. Tel-el-Kebir. Paardeburg. The Marne. Ypres. The Somme. Arras. Hindenburg Line. Dunkirk. St. Valery. Falaise. Tobruk. El Alamein. The Rhine. Sicily. Cassino. Burma and Korea.

What is definitely true however, is that after the 42nd returned home from the 1794-1795 campaign in Flanders, an issue of red feathers was made on parade in 1795, at Royston in Hertfordshire. During the Napoleonic Wars, the Light Companies wore a red over dark green hackle, the Grenadier Company a red over white hackle, the Battalion or Centre Companies retaining the all red hackle.

The Regiment's right to wear a "red vulture feather" in their bonnets was assured by an Army Order of 20th August 1822 which stipulated "...to be used exclusively by the 42nd Regiment".

Interestingly, Sir Colin Campbell who commanded The Highland Brigade, of which the 42nd was a part, in the Crimea was so proud of his



Drum Major of the Pipes & Drums wearing the traditional feather bonnet with the 'red hackle' on the side.



With the Western Allies ready to invade Germany, Hitler was convinced that the only way to save the Reich was to stake everything on a last great offensive...
 "Strike hard and unexpectedly and the Allies might yet sue for peace!"

THE ARDENNES... HITLER'S LAST GAMBLE

TO THOUSANDS of American GI's spread thinly across the Ardennes forest that December of 1944, it was the front where nothing happened. Occasional patrols over the snow blanketed hills and valleys of eastern Belgium and Luxemburg came across little sign of enemy activity. For these bored, cold and often disgruntled GI's the action was obviously elsewhere.

That illusion was to be brutally shattered at precisely 5:30am on Saturday, December 16, 1944. Suddenly, with no warning, a massed German artillery assault began. To the well concealed German soldiers it was "an earth-shaking crescendo". To the stunned Americans it was a horrific early morning surprise!

OPERATION WACHT AM RHEIN

As the bombardment lifted along a 60 mile front, German armour and infantry punched through the thinly held American lines.

Hitler's ambitious plan was to split the Allies and drive swiftly towards Antwerp and the sea. The Fuhrer was confident that the Americans, British and Canadians would split apart with none of them capable of launching coordinated counter attacks.

Typical SS Panzergrenadier



The plan 'WACHT AM RHEIN' ('Watch on the Rhine') called for 25 Nazi Divisions - ten of them armoured - to make the breakthrough. A German total of 275,000 men, almost 2,000 artillery guns and nearly 1,000 tanks and armoured vehicles faced the US 1st Army of just 83,000 men, 400 guns and just over 400 tanks and armoured cars.

THE BULGE GROWS...

As the Germans advanced through the early morning fog, many of the young, inexperienced

GI's panicked and broke for the rear causing disorder and confusion.

Here and there though, in isolated villages and individual farm houses, in frozen foxholes and wintry wooded tracks, small pockets of Americans held firm. These few battered remnants began to slow down the German advance.

At the same time retreating GI's blew up vital fuel and



supply depots that the Germans had counted upon to restock their vehicles and troops from.

REAL OR NOT REAL?

An important part of the Nazi plan was the use of English-speaking Germans dressed as American GI's - particularly Military Police. These undercover troops altered signposts... gave wrong directions... and caused much confusion. It was even rumoured that a hand-picked group of German GI's were heading for Eisenhower's Versailles H.Q. to assassinate him!

This dangerous mix of panic, confusion and inexperience allowed many US units to be overrun or caught on the move.

BBA01



FINALLY, THE LINE HOLDS

Eventually the situation began to stabilize - the British and Americans in the North began to push south. Patton and his Third Army changed direction and pushed northwards. The Germans began to grind to a halt and go on the defensive.

Simultaneously, the US 101st Airborne reinforced a little town in Belgium and found themselves outnumbered, cut off and surrounded. The town was called... BASTOGNE.

THE MALMEDY MASSACRE

Shortly after 1:30 pm on December 17, vehicles belonging to an American artillery observation battalion reached the Baugnez crossroads, just outside Malmedy. As they turned towards Ligneuville they came under heavy fire. Leading tanks of Kampfgruppe Peiper suddenly appeared from the east.

The Americans were unprotected by tanks or heavy weapons, and quickly surrendered. As Peiper's panzers swept on, about 150 men were herded into a nearby field. At about 2 pm a single pistol shot rang out, followed by machine-gun fire as German soldiers, left behind to guard the prisoners, cut them down in cold blood. Soon 85 GIs lay dead.

The survivors, wounded and



ABOUT OUR FIGURES

King & Country's first "Battle of the Bulge" releases will focus mainly on the U.S. Forces... in this case the Infantry.

We're launching with four great sets - all kitted-out for a cold winter campaign. Our GI's are wearing a typical late-war assortment of army great coats, 1943 field jackets, gloves and scarves. They are even partially covered in snow and frost... you can almost feel the cold and see their icy breath!

BBA01 "Rifle Section" shows just that - Four GI's with a mix of weapons and uniform returning fire on the advancing Germans.

BBA02 "Support Group" provides the platoon with extra fire support. In this case, a .30 calibre machine gun, a 'bazooka' GI and two more riflemen.

BBA03 "NUTS!" Brigadier McAuliffe's immortal reply to the German demand for his surrender. Here, McAuliffe and his GI bodyguard confront two German officers.

BBA04 "Friend or Foe?" A really unique set... Three seemingly American MP's and their jeep directing traffic. They look and sound genuine enough - but why are they all wearing non-regulation blue scarves?

OPPOSITION FORCES

Later in 2005, we'll be releasing a whole bunch of German "Battle of the



BBA03

BBA02



"Bulge" forces. Look out for "winter" SS, Volksgrenadiers and other German soldiers and fighting vehicles.

shocked, stumbled into Malmedy that night. News of the Massacre was given wide publicity, and helped to stiffen American resolve. After the war, surviving members of the Kampfgruppe - including Peiper - were put on trial and sentenced to death, though the sentences were later commuted.

German troops moving through an abandoned U.S. convoy.



SANTA COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

This is the third year K&C has produced a special yule-tide Santa figure. For 2004, we're taking him all the way to China. Santa (XM04-01) is wearing a traditional 'Hakka' hat, carries his presents 'coolie-style' and is accompanied by a Chinese 'Chau-Chau' dog. Available for a limited time only.



"THANK YOU!"

A very big "Thankyou" to all those K&C dealers who took the time and made the effort to reply to our recent Dealer Survey. Your opinions and ideas are vital to the on going product development of King & Country and, we hope, both your and our future success.

K&C Collectors who want to source more suppliers would be well advised to contact any of these excellent dealers for any of our K&C products.

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NEW BUILDING BOOM IN STREETS OF OLD HONG KONG

Look out for these two latest Chinese buildings in our "Streets" series. **HK124 The Bird Shop** and **HK125 The Chinese Pharmacy**. Both structures have balconies suitable for putting figures on.

HK125



More New "Streets of Old Hong Kong" Sets are coming... **HK126 Chinese Doctor Set** features an experienced old Chinese doctor seeing his patient and finding out what's wrong with her. **HK127 Street Doctor Helper Set** is an additional set which shows the grandson of the doctor giving a hand to his grandpa by preparing the Chinese medicine.

HK128 Parrot is a little add-on set for the Bird Shop Facade. A little parrot is waiting patiently for its new owner.



HK128

HK126



HK127