

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

IWO JIMA

1945 - 2005



"UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE."

A View From The Trenches...

2005 looks like being another memorable year... This coming May, it will be the 60th Anniversary of "Victory in Europe" - the death of Hitler, the Fall of Berlin and the end of the "Thousand Year Reich" after just twelve horrendous years.

It is sometimes forgotten that an equally vicious and horrendous conflict was being fought on the other side of the World at the same time - the War against Imperial Japan.

February 19, 2005 is also the 60th Anniversary of one of the most important battles of the Pacific campaign... the first landings and eventual capture of Iwo Jima.

In terms of lives lost and men wounded, the fight for Iwo Jima was the most costly in US Marine Corps history. Over 6,000 Marines died and more than 17,000 were wounded in the 36-day battle.

One image from the battle however has come to symbolize the Marine Corps fighting spirit in the eyes of America as well as the rest of the world... Joe Rosenthal's historic photo of the six men raising the "Stars 'n' Stripes" over the island. Although some have claimed the photo was "staged" the reality was that like all great images, it captured a unique moment in time totally spontaneously.

As a US Admiral remarked upon seeing it, "That one photo has ensured the survival of the United States Marines for the next 500 years!"

As a former Royal Marine myself, I salute my American "Brothers in Arms" on this the Anniversary of one of their finest hours.

"Semper Fidelis!"

Top left:
Original rough sketch
of Marine carrying his
buddy plus... finished model

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

A Marine takes careful aim
with his Thompson submachine gun



"OLD GLORY" Joe Rosenthal's picture of the raising of the US flag on Mt. Suribachi was used on stamps commemorating the Iwo Jima victory

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With the capture of Iwo Jima, America would be one step closer to Japan's home islands and remove a major menace to US bombers attacking Japanese cities...

IWO JIMA



IWJ20



JUST AFTER 9am on February 19, 1945, the first U.S. Marines stormed onto Iwo Jima's beaches. Little did they realize the hell they were about to run into.

3 days before naval gunfire had continuously blasted this tiny spit of volcanic sand and rock. For another 75 days (prior to the landings) waves of B24, B25 and B29 bombers had let loose the mightiest bombardment of the entire Pacific campaign.

Surely, many Marines thought,

nothing could survive such an intensive onslaught. As their landing craft and amtracs headed for the shore, the men of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (over 30,000 combined) expected to rapidly overcome the few remaining Japanese survivors.

THE NASTIEST OF SURPRISES

Awaiting the Americans was a ferocious and fanatical force of 21,000 Japanese troops who had carved out of solid volcanic rock more than 11 miles of caves, tunnels, carefully camouflaged pill boxes and

bombproof bunkers.

For 20 full minutes after the Marines landed, all was quiet. Then, without warning... all hell broke loose!

From their superbly fortified, concealed positions and strong points, Iwo's defenders brought down a deadly counter barrage of mortar and artillery fire on the American troops.

Simultaneously machine gun and other small arms fire cut swathes through the ranks of Marines still moving off the beach.

Suddenly Iwo Jima was no longer a simple "walk-over".

US Marines on the beach at Iwo Jima, February 19, with Mount Suribachi rising in the background. It took the Marines 36 days and over 23,000 casualties to take the island - only 216 of the Japanese garrison of 21,000 were captured.



TO SURIBACHI'S PEAK

Despite this fierce Japanese resistance and the terrible casualties, the Marines pressed forward... and upwards. Up Mt. Suribachi, the highest feature on the small island.

By February 23, four days after landing, the Island had been cut in two and the first patrols reported that all was quiet on the mountain.

"THERE GOES THE FLAG!"

One such patrol, led by 1st Lieut. Harold Schrier reached the summit of Suribachi and using a discarded water pipe attached an American flag to it and raised "Old Glory" above them.

All over the island Marines and Sailors cheered, whistled and celebrated. However on one of the watching ships, a senior officer declared that the flag was not big enough! Another, larger "Stars 'n' Stripes" was immediately dispatched and sent up Mt. Suribachi... and so a legend was about to be born.

Three hours after the original flag raising this second, larger flag was hoisted over the island by five Marines and a lone Navy Corpsman (Medic). Fortunately for history and immortality, an Associated Press photographer, Joe Rosenthal (*who was attached to the Marines*) happened to be on the spot. "Someone shouted, hey Joe, they're raising the flag," he later recalled. "I spun 'round and took the picture there and then." The image of the five Marines and the Navy

Corpsman raising that flag would become, arguably, the most memorable and famous photograph of War World Two.

Of the six men who hoisted "Old Glory" that day: Sgt. Mike Strank; Pharmacist's Mate John Bradley; Cpl. Harlan Block; PFC Ira Hayes; PFC Franklin Sousley and PFC Rene Gagnan... only 3 survived the battle.



IWI23

"AMTRAC ASSAULT"

Our latest amphibious assault craft - an LVT-4 version of the famous Amtrac boasts two .50 calibre machine guns as well as a pair of .30's. A rear facing ramp allows easy troop access. A realistic, battle-worn camouflage paint scheme, Iwo Jima markings plus a wounded Marine cox'n and a single rifleman complete the set.

IWI20 "RETURN FIRE" shows four "leathernecks" crouching and lying firing... all of them trying to avoid the deadly enemy artillery fire and snipers.

AMPHIBIOUS EXPERT

Holland M. 'Howling Mad' Smith (1882-1967), nicknamed for his temper as well as his initials, was the best known US Marine Corps general of World War II. He was in charge of training marines in the USA from 1939 to 1943, then went to the Pacific and led the ground forces in the invasions of the Gilberts, Marshalls, Marianas and Iwo Jima.

Smith's relationship with the Army and War Department was not a happy one. The department disapproved of marine generals commanding army units. But Smith was the most successful American amphibious operations commander.



60 YEARS ON...

Back in 1999, King & Country launched its first series of "IWO JIMA" figures and fighting vehicles. This Anniversary year we are returning to the inferno that was Iwo Jima to release no less than SIX all new, all redesigned and resculpted sets to add to your collection.

IWI19 "RAISING THE FLAG" - Probably the most famous image of World War Two. The hoisting of the flag on Mt. Suribachi was both symbolic and inspirational.



An American battleship blasts Iwo Jima as a line of Amtracs head for the beach.



IWJ21 "RUNNING FOR COVER"

On Iwo, any kind of natural cover was rare in the extreme. In this set, two Marine riflemen give covering

IWJ20



fire while two others run from one shell hole to another.

IWJ22 "COURAGE UNDER FIRE" Twenty-seven Marines and Navy Corpsmen (Medics) won the Congressional Medal of Honor on Iwo Jima -

Sixty years after the battle, King & Country once again are proud to salute the heroes of Iwo Jima.

In the famous words of US Navy Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz,

IWJ22

"Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Today those words, carved in granite, adorn



thirteen posthumously.

In this set, one Marine fires his "Tommy-Gun", another readies his flame thrower while a third carries his wounded buddy to safety.

IWJ24 TYPE 95 "CHI-HA" JAPANESE TANK

K&C's very first piece of Japanese armour - the ubiquitous Type 95 "Chi-Ha". Our model comes with tank commander and driver.



the gigantic Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington D.C. "Semper Fidelis!"

A FEW, GOOD FILM FACTS

★ In the movie "SANDS OF IWO JIMA" starring John Wayne, the three surviving Iwo Jima Flag raisers played themselves and reenacted the historic moment for the film cameras.

★ Tony Curtis played the ill-fated Navaho Indian PFC Ira Hayes in "THE OUTSIDER" in 1956.

★ "SANDS OF IWO JIMA" is still shown today to young Marine recruits as an inspirational film at Parris Island and San Diego Recruit Training Depots.

A SAMURAI'S SACRIFICE

Have not eaten or drunk for five days,' ran the last signal from Tadamichi Kuribayashi (1891-1945) on Iwo Jima on March 21, 1945. 'But fighting spirit is running high. We are going to fight bravely to the last moment.' From a samurai ('warrior') family, and arguably the war's ablest Japanese general, Kuribayashi masterminded the defences that made Iwo Jima so hard to take. He was promoted a full general on March 17, but no one knows if he received the message sent to inform him.

*In the bitter struggle for the American Colonies
some strange alliances were forged...*



BR42



BR45

Redcoat & Redmen

When resistance to the force of British arms began in the American 'Thirteen Colonies' in the spring of 1775, only a handful of American activists really believed that total independence was their true goal. Indeed, most 'Americans' in 1775 were proud to be British and only took action against their mother country because they felt their rights as Britons were being infringed by unfair, remote-control taxation.

It was only 12 years since Britain had emerged from the *Seven Years War* - a true world war in which France and her allies had been confounded in land and sea battles from Canada to Bengal. As British subjects, the American colonists had played their part in that victory (*on land against the French and their surrogate Indian 'troops' in Canada, and at sea as privateers preying on French trade*) and were proud of it.

What they objected to was the heavy postwar taxation levied by the British Government to pay for the war which the colonists had helped to win; and the garrisoning of regular troops on American soil (*also to be paid for by the colonists*) to enforce British authority.

THE FIRST SHOTS

By the autumn of 1774 the American colonists were so far from obtaining satisfaction for their objections to the new taxation that they summoned a 'First Continental Congress' at Philadelphia. Main item on the agenda were the recent 'Coercive Acts' passed by the British to levy compensation on Boston,



BR47

Massachusetts, for dumping tea into Boston Harbour in protest. Congress advised the Massachusetts delegates to form its own government and raise their own citizen militia to resist all attempts at further coercion.

The enthusiastic response to the forming of the Massachusetts militia was an obvious direct challenge to the 4,000 British troops in Boston under General Gage, the Military Governor. Gage did what he could to lessen the threat by seizing all arsenals and ammunition depots likely to fall into the hands of the colonists. One of these attempts sent 800 British troops from Boston to Concord in April 1775.

On 19 April the 'shots heard round the world' were fired against 70 American militiamen at Lexington. The British marched on to Concord after a heartening skirmish which had cost them one man hit in the leg, eight militiamen dead and ten wounded. But the day ended with a miserable and costly British fighting retreat back to

Boston, sniped at all the way by militiamen who inflicted heavy losses: 73 killed, 174 wounded and 26 missing. By the end of the month, Gage's men in Boston were hemmed in by some 15,000 militiamen from all over New England.

WOODLAND WARRIORS

For many Native Americans, the war that erupted between the whitemen in 1776 was a welcome respite. Their own battles with the European settlers had seen a constant erosion of their tribal lands, hunting grounds and traditional way of life.

Some tribes however allied themselves with the *Forces of the Crown* in the forlorn hope of improving their situation. Their skills as scouts, skirmishers and raiding parties provided the British with an extremely useful irregular force who spread fear and terror up and down the colonial frontier throughout the Revolution.

Father, when our great father of France was in this country, I held him fast by the hand. Now that he is gone, I take you, my English father, by the hand, in the name of all the nations, and promise to keep this covenant as long as I shall live.

Pontiac to Sir William Johnson
at Oswego, 1766

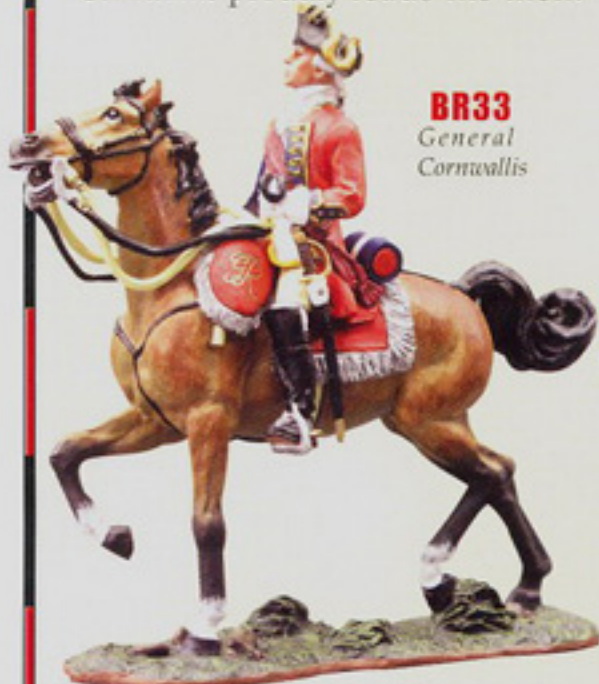
REVOLUTIONARY!

To supplement our existing '1776' series, K&C are introducing six new 'Woodland Indians' in dramatic, dynamic action poses. These new figures, sold individually, provide additional variety and excitement to an already colourful battlefield.

"SOLDIERS OF THE KING"

Regular British troops have also been added to *King George's Forces*... No less than nine new officers and men are formed up and advancing on the rebellious colonials!

A magnificent mounted figure representing *General Cornwallis* proudly leads his men.



BR33

General Cornwallis

Behind him is a marching officer, sword drawn, issuing orders... Two other officers carrying the *Regimental* and *King's Colour* are in support.

A young drummer playing his fife and a bellowing sergeant are followed by three different soldiers - marching with musket "ready"... marching with musket "levelled" and "kneeling firing". Add these last three in multiples and you have an impressive display of British military might.

These latest recruits to His Majesty's Army will definitely give the Rebels something to think about!

A typical British Grenadier of the Revolutionary War era



Illustration: Richard Scollins

BR43

BR46

BR44

NATIVE AMERICANS

War chiefs were chosen because of their proven success in battle. Among their people, they were regarded as men of great natural ability and almost supernatural experience. They could be recognized by their particular trappings - often an European officer's metal gorget around the neck.

Woodland warriors fought a very different kind of war in the dark forests of North America. Unlike their European enemies or allies, they fought unencumbered - virtually naked save for a breech cloth, leggings and



Courtesy: Robert Griffing

moccasins. Even their hair, or most of it was removed, with the exception of a scalp lock.

Another visually striking aspect of their appearance was the Indian custom of "body-painting". Often the entire body would be decorated in this manner - Historians have suggested that the term "redman" was a reference to their painted bodies rather than the Indian's natural skin tone.

BR37

BR35

BR36

BR39

BR38

BR34

BR40

BR41



HOW DO YOU PACKAGE WORLD WAR TWO?

When K&C was first established over 20 years ago, our toy soldiers were packed in traditional, sturdy Royal Blue colour boxes with a "stick-on" label.

Several years and a few experiments later, we changed over to "Rifle" green boxes which, with a few minor alterations, are still in use today.

We did though, from time to time,

World War Two military miniatures deserved their very own box design.

For Andy C. Neilson, K&C's Co-founder and Creative Director, this was a "labour of love".

"Before joining the Royal Marines in 1972, I trained as a Graphic Designer at Art School in Glasgow. I've always loved good and original

packaging with a strong theme," Andy says.

"Themes like World War Two don't come any stronger!"

When Andy looked at his earlier Fighting Vehicle box designs, he

quickly realized that utilizing photographs of real combat situations provided an authentic drama and excitement that could not be equalled.

After many weeks of research, he eventually narrowed his final selection down to a small group of black and white photographs. These pictures featured some of the most important events of World War Two - "D. Day"... "The Battle of The Bulge"...

"The Fall of Berlin"... "The Capture of Iwo Jima".

"By combining several different photos of different campaigns with different nationalities, we were able to portray the vast global panorama that was World War Two itself," Andy reflects.

The sole exception to this theme is the "Two



DOUBLE CHEER FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR!

This time of year is always a popular time to give gifts of "Streets of Old Hong Kong" that's because it coincides with "Chinese New Year".

At K&C, we always try bring out something special to coincide with the festival and this year is no exception.

HK129 and HK130 illustrate a typical scene in Old Hong Kong and mainland China during the festive season. HK129 shows a skilled calligrapher preparing traditional "good luck" sayings and texts. Seated at his table, an inquisitive young boy watches him as he deftly wields his brush. Behind them is a wall covered with examples of the artist's skills ready for sale.

HK130 presents a husband and wife selecting one such example. The husband displays the scroll for his wife and child's approval.

CHEERS! CHINESE-STYLE

Drinking wine is not just a European tradition - they've been doing it for thousands of years in China! Here HK133 shows two patrons of a wine shop (HK131) seated at a table enjoying a delicious "hot pot" meal and a cup or two of rice wine.

Looking after them is HK132 - the wine captain and a waiter bringing them two more bottles to sample.

HK131 The Wine Shop façade, the perfect backdrop for this scene will shortly be available. Look out for it!



A selection of K&C's new WW2-themed packaging

produce several original designs for specific ranges such as "The World of Dickens"... "Streets of Old Hong Kong" and the "Antietam" American Civil War series.

By and large though the ubiquitous rifle green box of K&C was the most recognizable and widely used. During this same period, K&C's World War Two Fighting Vehicles were becoming more and more popular. It soon became obvious that K&C had to produce special packaging with a WW2 visual theme to highlight these particular products.

As the company's "tag line" is "Authentic Hand-Made History", it made obvious sense to use actual combat photos and graphic images of that era as an integral part of the overall design.

Towards the end of last year, a decision was made that all of our many

Some of the different sized carrier bags for K&C's own retail shop in Hong Kong



Jima" box. This has been specifically designed to carry the 6 figure "Flagraising Set". All of the combat images on this particular box were taken during the 36-day battle to capture the infamous island fortress.

Then, there are K&C's own carrier bags - used exclusively in their retail store in Hong Kong's most prestigious shopping mall - Pacific Place. This also utilized vintage photography to tell a small part of the K&C story. One side shows a Normandy '44 beach scene, the other a typical street in old Hong Kong.

"At long last," Andy says cheerfully, "our packaging design is coming up to the high standard of our products!"