

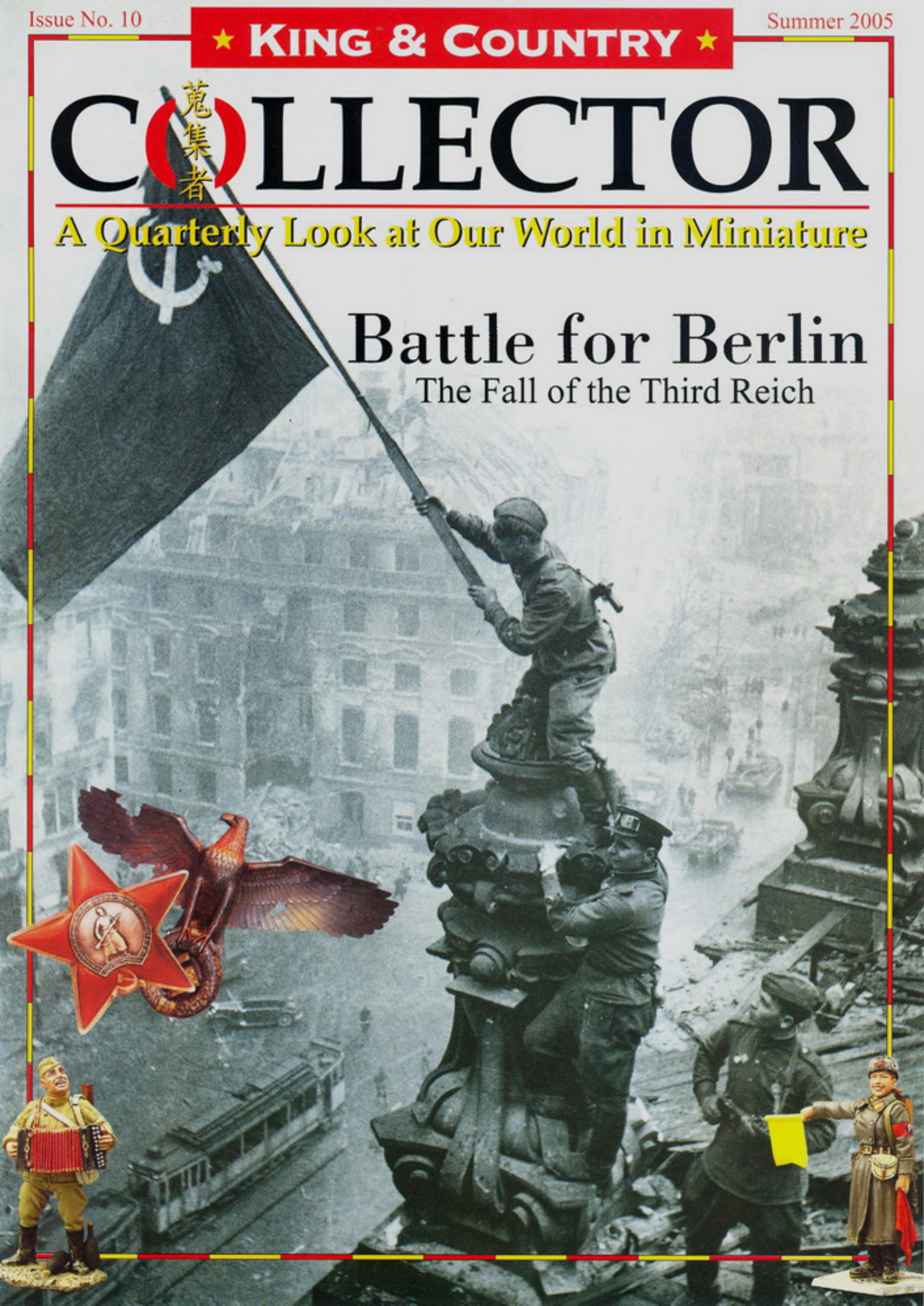
# COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

## Battle for Berlin

The Fall of the Third Reich





# A View From The Ruins...

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### KING & COUNTRY

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THE LIBERATION OF EUROPE and the final defeat of Nazi Germany was a long, drawn-out affair. From the first major British victory at El Alamein and the Russian counter attack at Stalingrad (both in November 1942), the Allies had slowly began to push the Germans onto the defensive.

But it was never easy... by January 1944, the Red Army had only just fought their way into Poland. It was to be June of that same year before the Western Allies invaded France through Normandy.

By early 1945, however all of the Allies were on German soil and the once-mighty German Army was beginning to crack under the enormous strain of fighting on two fronts against well-armed... well motivated and ... well led enemies.

King & Country's latest releases focus on that last final struggle that culminated in the demise of the Third Reich... *the Fall of Berlin*. We are bringing out no less than 17 sets of fighting vehicles... soldiers... and diorama buildings that tell a major part of the dramatic story of those last desperate days of Hitler's much vaunted "*Thousand Year Reich*".

The Russian victory in Berlin was extremely costly both for the attackers... and the defenders, but it did bring the most murderous war in European history to a final conclusive end.

Sixty years on we still need reminders about those epic struggles and how we overcame them.



The Soviet Order of the Red Banner

*Andy C. Neilson*

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

#### Front Cover:

**RED FLAG OVER BERLIN** The Soviet flag is fixed to a column on the Reichstag roof by two Red Army soldiers.

The next day it was removed, to fly proudly over the city from the Reichstag's shattered dome.



Under the shadow of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate German soldiers march into Russian captivity...



After weeks of preparation the Red Army broke across the Oder for its long-expected attack on the German capital, and within ten days had completely encircled it. But the city fell only after bitter fighting, street by street...

# Battle for Berlin

**O**N 12 APRIL 1945 Adolf Hitler heard the news of the death of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt. Dr. Goebbels his fanatical Nazi Minister of Propaganda was overjoyed, "My Führer, I congratulate you! Roosevelt is dead. It is written in the stars that this April will be the war's turning point for Germany."

The Führer was now so distant from reality that he was consulting astrologists and mystics on a regular basis.

## CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL

The inevitable downfall of the Third Reich was about to reach its final, violent conclusion as Stalin's Red Army closed in on Berlin.

This last Soviet offensive began on 16 April with a giant pincer movement. On the Baltic, the 2nd Belorussian Front under Marshal Rokossovsky crossed over the Oder at Stettin. On his left flank, the 1st Belorussian Front under Marshal Zhukov had already pushed over the Oder and was ready to strike at the heart of the Reich. Further south Marshal Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front moved north-east across both the Oder and Neisse rivers.

On these three fronts alone, the Germans faced a total of 2.5 million soldiers, 6,300 armoured vehicles, almost 10,500 artillery pieces and over 7,500 aircraft.

By 19 April, despite fierce resistance, the Russians had reached the outer suburbs of Berlin itself. On 25 April Zhukov's forces linked up with Konev's and Berlin was totally surrounded. Inside the Reich's capital, trapped, was a garrison of 200,000 men. To the west of the city was another beleaguered pocket with more than 200,000 soldiers in it.

The city already badly battered by repeated British and American bombing raids would now be subjected street-by-street... house-by-house to an even more brutal battle.

With its rivers, canals, subway system and sturdy stone constructed buildings, it was perfect for street fighting - especially



by determined defenders. An outerbelt of defences stretched almost 20 miles from the center of the city. An inner defence line was established 10 miles closer using the city's subway system to connect it. Finally, at the heart of Berlin was the "Citadel" where all the main Government offices and the Reich Chancellery with its Führerbunker were located.

## THE CITADEL

The Citadel itself was divided into 8 separate defence sectors. Among its defenders were men of the 11th Waffen SS Panzer Grenadier Division "Nordland". Curiously, this particular SS Division contained few ethnic Germans. It was made up of mainly Scandinavian and French volunteers. In addition, there was a mixed collection of "Volksturm" (Home Guard), "Volksgrenadiers", "Hitler Jugend" and regular Wehrmacht units.

## IN THE BUNKER

From his "Führerbunker", Hitler continued issuing orders to armies that now only existed on paper. It was from here that the last images of him appeared. They show a man much older than his years inspecting a small line of "Hitler Jugend" youngsters awarding them with Iron Crosses for their valiant defence of the Reich capital.

After this little ceremony which took place in the bomb-gutted courtyard of the Chancellery, Hitler returned to his bunker never to exit from it again... alive.

On 20 April, Adolf Hitler celebrated his 56th birthday. Among his few visitors was the pioneering airwoman and ardent Nazi, Hanna Reitsch. She had piloted her Fiesler Storch light aircraft through Soviet fighters and flak to land on the street in

## THE FÜHRER'S END

**O**n the night of April 28/29, after hearing that Himmler had opened peace negotiations with the Western Allies, Hitler finally realised that defeat was inevitable. In the early hours of April 29, in a civil ceremony performed by one of Goebbels' staff, he married his longstanding and devoted mistress Eva Braun.

After the midday conference in the Führerbunker on Monday, April 30, with the Russians now beginning to attack the Reichstag, Hitler took lunch, then went to summon Eva in her room. His chauffeur in the meantime had been ordered to obtain some cans of petrol. Hitler and his wife bade farewell to Goebbels, Bormann and others who had remained in the bunker. Hitler's beloved Alsatian bitch Blondi had been put down in the early hours of the morning. After the farewells, Hitler and Eva retired to the Führer's suite.

A few minutes later a shot rang out. It was 3.30pm. Hitler had apparently shot himself, and Eva - and some say Hitler too - had taken cyanide. Their bodies were taken outside into the rubble-strewn grounds of the Chancellery. Petrol was poured over them and they were set alight.

front of the Tiergarten near the bunker. She hoped to persuade Hitler to flee Berlin's ruins and continue the fight in the south of Germany. The Führer refused.

Just a day later the entire city became an even more hellish inferno with savage





# BERLIN 1945



house-to-house fighting and constant artillery and rocket barrages creeping ever closer.

## THE END IS NEAR

By 30 April the first Red Army soldiers had fought their way into the Reichstag building itself. After a series of vicious, no-holds barred firefights they struggled to the top of the structure and victoriously hoisted their Red Flag.

On that same day, after marrying his mistress *Eva Braun* and writing his last will and testament, Adolf Hitler, Reich Chancellor and Führer of the Greater German Reich that was to endure for a thousand years... shot himself.

Following his explicit instructions, men of his SS bodyguard carried his and his wife's lifeless bodies

out of the bunker placing them in a nearby shell crater. They doused the corpses in gasoline and set fire to them.

Two days later, at 1500 hrs. on 2 May, the Commandant of the Berlin garrison ordered his men to surrender.

Approximately 140,000 German fighting forces laid down their weapons and marched into Russian captivity... many of them never to return.

In the fighting between

16 April and early May, the Soviets captured almost 500,000 men. Under the ruins of Berlin lay the bodies of at least 220,000 German soldiers and civilians. Conservative estimates place Russian losses at well over 300,000 killed in this Battle for Berlin.

Following such horrendous losses, it should not be surprising that the Red Army took its tribute in rape and pillage of the unfortunate civilians left behind in the toothless, gaping shell that was once the proud capital of the Third Reich.

## "The Bitter End"

A handful of the city's defenders prepare for the final battle

## SP14 Berlin Ruin

Bomb-damaged city dwelling



## WS68 'PUMA'

8-wheeled assault vehicle

## WS67 King Tiger

The most powerful tank of WW2



## BATTLE FOR THE REICHSTAG

The Reichstag building in Berlin became the symbol of last-ditch resistance in the latter days of the Nazi regime. In 1933 the building had been set on fire, and the Nazis blamed it on the Communists. Now, ironically, Stalin's Red Army would once again turn it into a blazing inferno.

The assault began on 30 April, with an artillery bombardment and Katyusha rockets. The building was eventually stormed by infantrymen of the 380th, 574th and 756th Infantry Regiments. Nazi fanaticism, however, was to make it a long and bloody task. More than 5000 SS men, Hitler Youth and Volkssturm (Home Guard) members resisted desperately, fighting for every room, corridor, staircase and storey. It took the Russians two days to overcome the last vestige of resistance, and some 2500 of the Reichstag's defenders died, with 2600 taken prisoner.

## ABOUT THE SERIES

COLLECTORS OFTEN ASK, "Where does King & Country get its ideas from?" The answer usually is quite simple... History.



These last few years have coincided with the 60th Anniversaries of many stupendous WW2 events - D-Day... The Battle of the Bulge... Iwo Jima...and now, of course, Victory in Europe.

Last year, 2004, when we were marking the D. Day celebrations, we were already looking forward to 2005 and the defeat of Nazi Germany. We soon realized that the key event in all of this was the capture of Berlin itself by Stalin's Red Army. Another important factor in choosing to do this was the many, many requests from collectors worldwide to replicate the Red Army in miniature in

which would look great in any Berlin scenario. Our particular model carries the 7.5cm cannon in the open-topped turret.

### SUPPORTING INFANTRY

As usual our research turned up an amazing wealth of exciting photographs on which to base our figures.

Fortunately the Battle for Berlin was covered

### WS64 "The Russians Are Coming!"

Another "mixed bag" of Waffen SS and Volksgrenadiers in action.

### WS65 "The Last Stand"

Cut off and surrounded this set includes a wounded Panzergrenadier and a "dismounted" tank crew member determined to make every bullet count.

**WS66 "Anti Tank Gun"** Two Volksgrenadiers man a Panzerfaust adapted to be fired from an anti tank gun. Supporting them is a Waffen SS trooper shoulder-firing another Panzerfaust.

**WS67 "King Tiger"** The most powerful tank of WWII and long awaited by K&C collectors. Our model comes with three crew figures and in a very typical late-

SP16\*

SP15\*

SP16\*

the new ultra realistic and authentic K&C style! How could we refuse?

WS63

extensively by the combat photographers of both sides.

An early decision was made to show "scratch" units of assorted Wehrmacht, Volksturm/ Volksgrenadiers and Waffen SS troops - very typical of the last desperate days of the struggle for Berlin. Many units were split up... cut off and... decimated by casualties. One of the German forces greatest abilities was to form new fighting units from the

remains and remnants of different, larger formations.

Each of our 4 sets of German troops demonstrates this.

**WS63 "The Defenders"** Two Waffen SS 'troopers, a Volksturm officer and a Volksgrenadier rifleman.

WS65

WS66

war camouflage scheme.

### WS68 "Puma Armoured Car"

Mounting a 7.5cm gun, this 8 wheeled vehicle is just one of the many versions the Germans produced of this scouting vehicle. Two crew are standing in the open top.

Finally, there are our brand-new diorama pieces... **SP14 "Berlin Tenement"**. Designed from actual photographs, this battle-scarred shell is the ideal backdrop for any Berlin scene. The structure is fully painted, easy to assemble and ready for display.

**SP15 "Reich Chancellery Entrance Way"** and **SP16 "Reich Chancellery Annex"** work singly or together to provide facade-style backdrops to any Berlin battle scenario.

**\*Please note:** Because of the large dimensions of the buildings actual postage must be levied on these particular pieces.

And so to work... As usual we try to conjure up a scene or mental picture of what we wanted to depict - in this case the last desperate days of Hitler's Third Reich - *Gottterdammerung!* Coming up with the fighting vehicles was relatively easy. After all the two main Russian vehicles best known in the West are the T34 tank and the "KATYUSHA" multi rocket launcher. For the Germans we already knew that we had neglected the "King Tiger" for far too long and that was certainly present and active in the doomed defence of the city.

We also had an 8 wheeled armoured car called the "Puma" already sculpted



# RED ARMY

**B**Y 1945 THE SOVIET Red Army had come a long, long way from the demoralized and disorganized Russian Forces that had first faced the Germans in June 1941.

It had grown in numbers of men... quality of equipment... and most importantly... in military expertise. Its soldiers were tough and battle-hardened, its leaders were ruthless and single-minded.

All of them, officers and men, had an abiding hatred of the Nazis for the devastation they had inflicted on Mother Russia. Together with a thirst for revenge, the Red Army eagerly anticipated the reign of terror they were about to unleash on Germany as a whole and Berlin in particular.



## RED ARMY RELEASES

This new K&C collection focuses on the Red Army during those vital closing days of WW2. Among these, first releases are 4 sets of elite "shock" troops...

**RA08 "Attack"** shows a squad leader with his men moving forward.

**RA09 "Tank Riders"** has four kneeling and crouching soldiers armed with the ubiquitous Russian "BURP" gun. One of them clasps the famous Red Flag complete with hammer and sickle.

**RA10 "Anti - Tank Gun"** Three artillery men train their mobile anti tank gun on an approaching enemy assault vehicle.

**RA11 "Support Section"** is exactly that. Supporting the attack and providing covering fire is the "classic" Russian Maxim machine-gun. A kneeling Red Army sniper is closeby while two other "Ivans" look on.

**RA08**



**RA12 "Captured"** A kneeling Waffen SS Panzergrenadier and a "Volksturm" medic have unfortunately (for them) fallen into the hands of two NKVD (Soviet Secret Police) officers.

**RA13 "T34/85 Tank"** One of the most famous and best tanks of WW2. Our model comes with "field-applied" anti Panzerfaust screens and two crew figures.

**RA14 "KATYUSHA Rocket Launcher"** This infamous wheeled terror was aptly nicknamed "Stalin's Organs" because of the demonic howl of its multiple rocket launches. Our set also includes the "Berlin" street sign and the "Ivan" with his accordion.

**SP14\***







**RA11**  
Support Section



**RA13**  
T34/85 Tank



**RA15 "Traffic Controller"**

The Red Army was the first to utilize large numbers of females in front-line combat roles.

**RA10**



**Anti-Tank Gun Set**

### IT'S A FACT!

Sometimes overlooked in the West is that fully two thirds of the German Armed Forces fought against the Soviets on the Eastern Front.

Had more (and better) German divisions been available for combat against the British and Americans, then the war in the West would



**RA09 Tank Riders**

**RA12**  
"Captured"



certainly have taken a great deal longer. The Allied casualty lists would also have lengthened considerably. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the incredible tenacity and bravery of the ordinary Russian soldier during what the Soviets called "The Great Patriotic War".

**RA15 Traffic Control**



**RA14 "KATYUSHA" Rocket Launcher**



# SNEAK PEEK AT UPCOMING AMERICAN & BRITISH 'D. DAY' REINFORCEMENTS...

**J**UST IN CASE some of our WW2 collectors thought that with all of our attention seemingly focused on "The Fall of Berlin" we had forgotten them...

Here's actual proof of a few of our next 'D. Day' additions. These photos show some of our latest U.S. Paratroopers & Rangers in Normandy on the 6th of June.

Moving inland we link up with some British forces... in this case, Mr. Churchill's Commandoes

and... a great new Bren Gun Carrier. Look out for these (and more) this coming June and July.



DD61

DD61

"Beach  
Under Fire"

DD62

"Calling For  
Reinforcement"

DD62



DD57

DD57 "Commando Attack!"

DD58 "Taking Prisoners"



DD58



DD59 "Bren Gun Carrier"

DD59



CF01



CF02

CF03



CF04



## ALL-NEW 'CLUB' FIGURES NOW AVAILABLE.

As members of our K&C ONLINE COLLECTORS CLUB already know every year we bring out two or more Exclusive Club figures. This year, besides 1 Year subscription we are launching a 2-Year membership. 1 Year membership members can select **ONE** figure **FREE** while 2-Year membership members can choose **TWO** figures **ABSOLUTELY FREE**.

In 2005, we are releasing **CF03 A Crusader Crossbowman** - a typical French Crossbowman of the Third Crusade (1189-1192) and **CF04 Wehrmacht Soldier on Parade** - a "Schutze" or Private Soldier of the 26th Infantry Regiment as he would have appeared in his parade uniform c.1938.

Besides the **FREE** figure(s), members can also purchase the others at a "Special Club Price". Please remember these exclusive figures are only available while stocks last.

A small number of CF01 French Foreign Legion Paratrooper and CF02 French Imperial Guardsman are still available. Please visit our website [www.kingandcountry.com](http://www.kingandcountry.com) for more details.

DD56 "Jumping Paratroopers"