

★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature



**FROM BASTOGNE TO BONAPARTE
...AND ON TO BEIJING**



A View From The Trenches...

IT'S A LONG WAY to Tipperary as the famous song says and it's just as long from the frozen Ardennes to the Forbidden City in Beijing by way of a Napoleonic battlefield... but that's where we're going in this issue of "COLLECTOR".

First though we're returning once more to Normandy - its beaches and 'bocage' in the days and weeks following the Invasion. Two great looking (and useful) fighting vehicle models plus a small section of British infantry to back them up.

From the drab and dusty muted colours of 20th Century warfare we move back to the glory and splendour of the Napoleonic era with our latest French releases featuring the Emperor's own beloved "Old Guard". Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery.

Over a century later we find ourselves deep in the

snow-covered landscape of Luxembourg and Belgium in the winter of 1944.

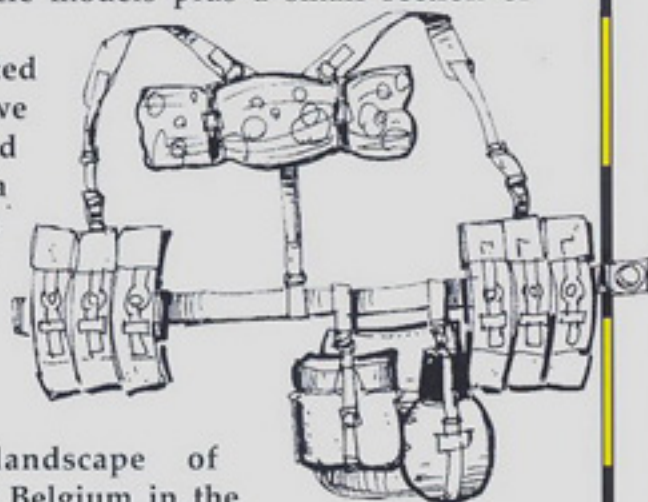
White camouflaged ghosts advance swiftly and silently through the forest about to descend on their unsuspecting enemies with a hammer-like blow.

Finally we journey to the Forbidden City in Peking (now Beijing) to see a small selection of what promises to be a major revised and upgraded version of our old Imperial Collection series. There's even a little side visit to Hong Kong included.

So, as you can see you'll be going around the world with us in this issue - enjoy the trip and, as usual, HAPPY COLLECTING!

Andy C. Neilson

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



Layout sketch of German fighting order and belt equipment



The final result of the sketch opposite

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KING & COUNTRY

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Just one of the sumptuous throne rooms in Beijing (Peking's) Forbidden City.



'OVERLORD'

British, Canadian and American reinforcements for D-Day

AS MANY OF OUR COLLECTORS already know King & Country produces more WWII action figures and fighting vehicles than all of our competitors combined!

It's also true that NORMANDY'44, our series focusing on the landings and the dramatic battles afterwards, is probably our most popular campaign.

This "COLLECTOR's" three new D-Day releases have been long sought after by K&C's many WWII enthusiasts and fill in important gaps in lots of collections.

DD64 "TOMMY" PATROL



Four British 'Tommies' (Poor Bloody Infantry) cautiously make their way through the Normandy 'bocage'. Led by their sergeant (armed with a sten gun) the other 3 are already seasoned veterans. The ever-reliable Bren gun provides



section fire support while the sturdy Lee Enfields add back up. The patrol is from the 2nd Btn. The East Yorkshire Regiment of the British 3rd Infantry Division.

This particular division fought all the way from Normandy through France into Belgium and Holland before crossing the Rhine into Germany in March 1945.

DD60 "STAGHOUND" ARMoured CAR

This big American beast was originally designed for the



US forces. However once completed they discovered it was almost as big (and as heavy) as the latest Sherman tanks! Politely declining it the "Staghound" was then offered to the British and the Canadians. Always short of armoured recce vehicles both countries' forces eagerly accepted this monster and it saw plenty of service particularly in the European Theatre of Operations.

Our particular model is in the markings of Canada's 12th Manitoba Dragoons and comes with two crew figures in the turret.

The DUKW was an amphibious version of the GMC 2 1/2 ton cargo truck. Developed for the US Army during WWII it was to ferry cargo from ships at sea directly on to the shore.

Postwar the DUKW continued to give sterling service to the armed forces and was also used extensively by civilian operators around the world.

Our K&C model, aptly named "Donald", comes complete with a mixed removable cargo load of Jerricans and 50 gallon oil drums - all lashed down. In addition the vehicle driver and a supervising US Beachmaster provide the human dimension to the set.



DD63 DUKW AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT VEHICLE

DUKW 353 Specifications:

Length	31 feet
Width	8 feet 2.4 inches
Height	8 feet 9.5 inches
Weight	19,570 pounds
Engine	91.5-hp GMC 6 cylinder
Maximum Speed:	
Land	45 mph
Water	6.3 mph

"VIVE LA FRANCE!"

NA57

Guard Officer
w/ Sword Marching

NA60

Guard w/ Musket Marching



NA58 Guard Officer w/ Flag

NA61

Guard
Drummer
Marching

SINCE THE DAWN of history, kings, emperors and rulers have raised elite corps of soldiers to provide bodyguards of unswerving loyalty to them and only them.

Napoleon Bonaparte's *Guard* regiments were the ultimate symbol of his leadership. Unable to adopt the title of King because of the very revolution which he had taken over, France's "First Consul" and future Emperor nonetheless created what, at the time, was the finest Guard corps in the world.

The Guard's first commander, Joachim Murat proclaimed Napoleon's vision: "The First Consul intends that the Guard shall be a perfect model for the rest of the Army".

Admission to this elite was to be restricted to soldiers who had already performed heroic deeds ... been wounded on campaign and have provided proof of their bravery, discipline, patriotism and good conduct over a number of years.

Physically these men had to be no less than 25 years of age and stand 5ft 9ins to 6ft tall and, obviously, in robust good health.

Finally they had to be literate and have participated in at least 3 campaigns during the Wars of Liberation.

Successful applicants would enjoy higher pay, better barracks and rations as

well as splendid uniforms and a host of other privileges. As an additional bonus all ranks in "The Guard" counted as higher than their equivalent in normal 'Line' regiments. Line regiments were, in fact, ordered to salute and present arms whenever a unit of 'The Guard' passed by!

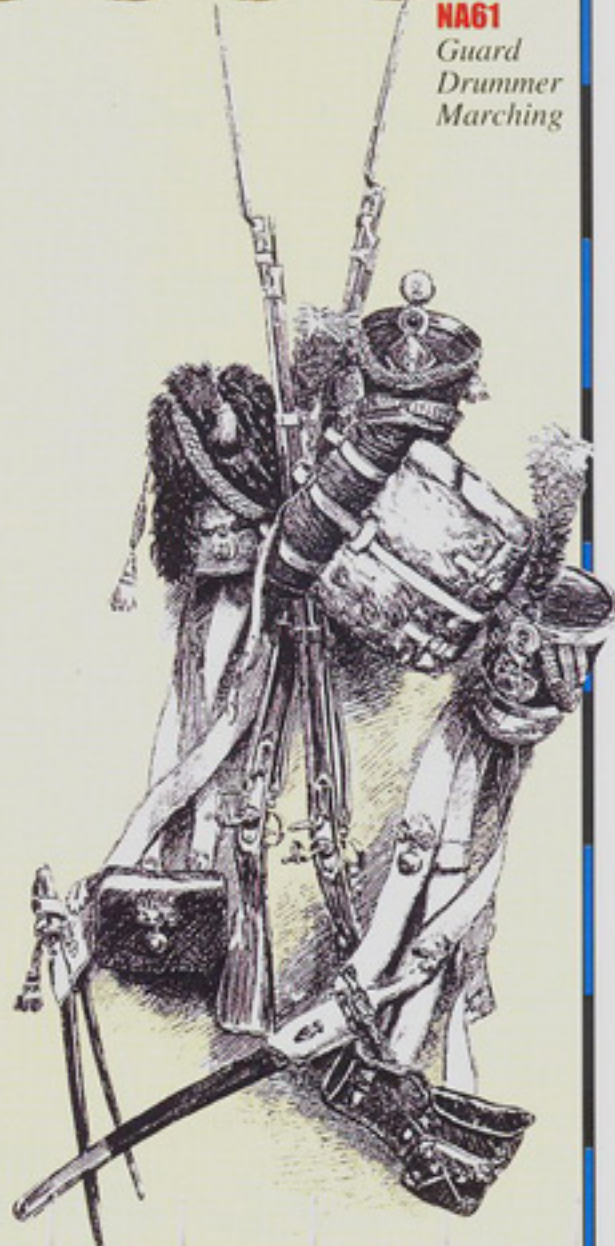
THE 'IMPERIAL GUARD'

With Napoleon's self-coronation as Emperor in 1804 the Guard's title was established as 'La Garde Imperiale' and their military standing even more enhanced as a result.

Napoleon himself demonstrated a close, intense interest in all aspects of his 'Guards' welfare and conditions of service. From special awards for conspicuous gallantry to the most mundane matters of rations he would attend to personally.

He pardoned, even occasionally condoned an easy familiarity with his old 'Grumblers' - 'Les Grognaards' in French.

This extreme devotion was returned with interest by his Guards - unbounded loyalty ... high morale ... fierce discipline and courage unto death.



NA62

Guard
Officer
Saluting

NA56 General Dorsenne (Mounted)

NA63 Guard w/ Musket Presenting Arms

NA66
Artillery
Officer
(Mounted)



NA64
Guard Artillery Set



NA65
Artillery
Officer
w/ Telescope



KING & COUNTRY'S GUARD

Our latest Napoleonic release focuses on three different units of 'La Garde Imperiale' - the first is probably the most famous and most easily recognised - 'Les Grenadiers a Pied' - the Foot regiments of the Guard. With their superb military bearing and tall bearskin bonnets these particular grenadiers were easily recognized on any battlefield from Marengo to Moscow.

We've designed 7 individual Foot Guards in campaign dress as well as a striking mounted figure of General Dorsenne - one of the Guard's most famous Commanders.

HORSE ARTILLERY IN ACTION

As a former gunner himself Napoleon knew only too well the value of artillery in a battle. In 1806 he formed a regiment of Horse Artillery of the Guard composed of 3 squadrons each with two batteries of 6 guns.

Our latest release shows a 12 Pound 'Gribeval' cannon with 3 gunners. An additional Horse Artillery Officer with telescope is also available. Meanwhile a mounted Horse Artillery Officer shouts encouragement. These latest Napoleonic additions add even more colour and drama to this important series.

NA59
Guard
w/ Musket
Advancing



"VIVE L'IMPERATRICE!"

An added bonus to this month's releases are the 4 new Empress' Dragoon figures. These all-action mounted pieces have been completely redesigned and resculpted to replace four of the original Dragoons retired earlier this year.



NA79
New Dragoon
Charging w/ Sword

NA81
New Dragoon
Fighting w/ Sword

NA78
New Dragoon
Guidon Bearer



NA80 New Dragoon w/ Pistol

The CORPS of GRENADIERS

The regiment of the Grenadier Guards was created on 2nd December 1799 and disbanded on 11th September 1815.

On 15th April 1806, the second regiment was created and joined to the first in 1809. On 13th September 1810, the grenadiers from the Royal Dutch Guards became the second regiment of the Grenadier Guards. On the 18th May 1811, this regiment became the third when the second was re-formed. This third, called the "Dutch" was disbanded on 15th February 1815.

Like the first, the second was disbanded on 11th September 1815. A short-lived third regiment of foot grenadiers was created on 8th April 1815 only to be disbanded on the 24th September.

The battalion of Velites (Grenadiers), attached to the grenadier regiment and having the responsibility of training its future cadres, was set up on 29th July 1804; its fate was that of the regiment.

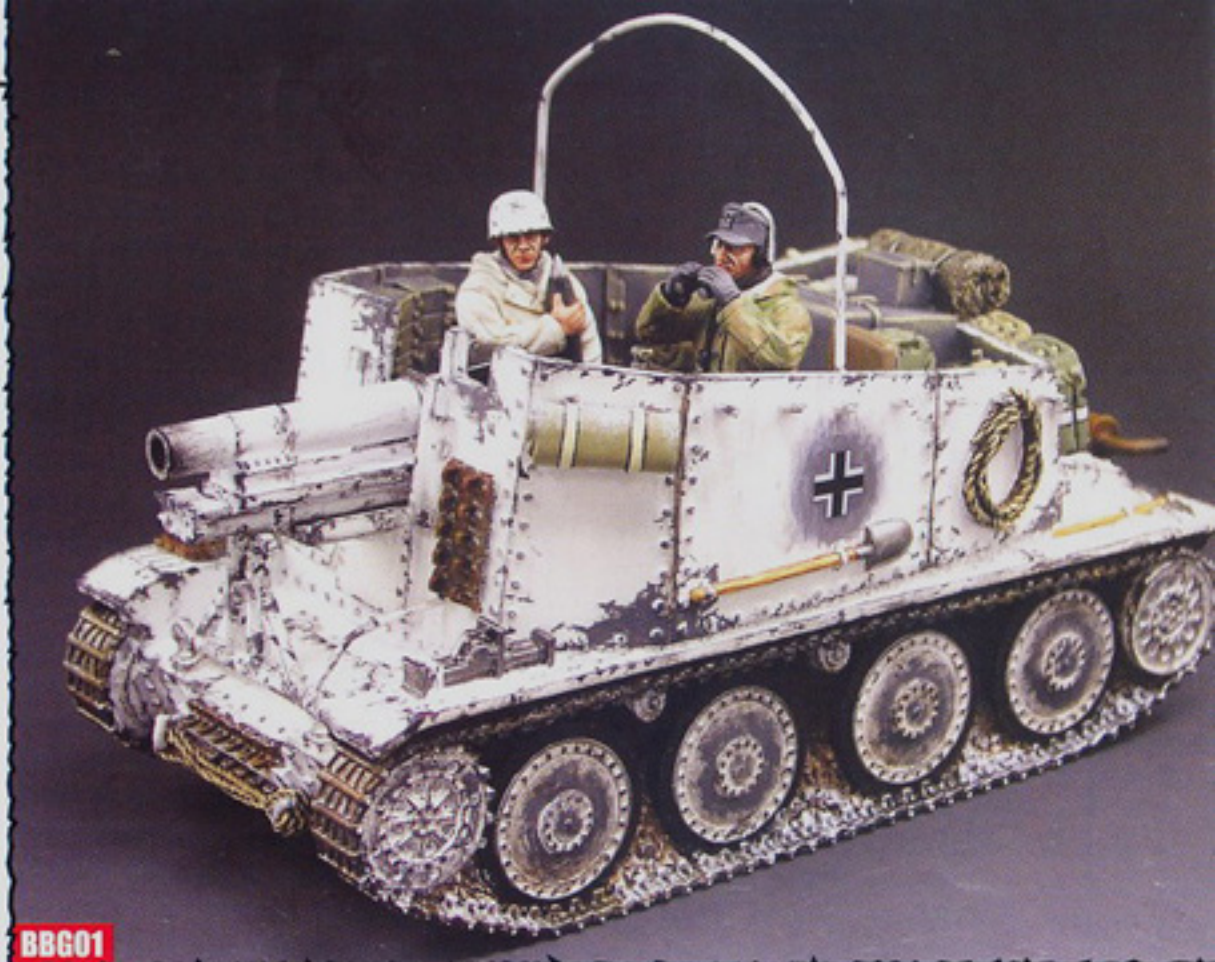
A company of veterans was set up on 12th July 1801 and continued to exist after the fall of the Empire.



BY CHRISTMAS DAY 1944, the Germans had punched a massive bulge in the Allied lines, creating a salient that forever after would be known simply as 'The Bulge'.

With *St. Vith* taken and *Bastogne* besieged it seemed as if Hitler's final 'throw of the dice' had indeed, paid off! However the small Belgian town of *Celles* was to be the high watermark of the German western advance.

Now with the enemy lines extended the Allies began the long, slow difficult job of squeezing the 'Bulge' from top and bottom - *Patton* from the South ... *Montgomery* from the North.



Wacht am Rhein

K&C 'WINTER' GERMANS

Our latest seven releases, due to be available this September show the battle from the German side. Back in December 2004 and January 2005 when we launched our original American 'Battle of the Bulge' sets it was always our intention to bring out additional 'winter' sets of Germans to provide the opposition. Now here they are ... two brand-new tracked models plus four sets of figures and a superb 'personality' piece.

BBG01 is the '**GRILLE**' - a self propelled artillery piece mounted on the chassis of the ever-reliable Czech 38T Tank much favoured by the Germans. Our model has a 10.5cm howitzer and is painted in an authentic winter white-washed camouflage finish. Two well-wrapped up crew figures add extra realism to the set.

BBG02 'WINTER PATROL' shows a mixed group of *Volksgrenadiers* and *Waffen SS* in 'snow' camouflage smocks and tunics carefully moving forward well supplied with ammunition and extra grenades.



BBG03 'WINTER TANK RIDERS'

For some fortunate troopers a ride to the front was provided by passing armoured vehicles. Four *Waffen SS* men perch themselves on one of our King Tigers.

BBG04 'GI PRISONERS'

Most, but not all, American prisoners who fell into German hands were treated humanely. This set shows 3 such GI's with their *Volksgrenadier* captor. For them their war is over.



BBG05 THE 'HETZER' TANK

Another German Self-Propelled Gun mounted on the 38T chassis. Camouflaged in the distinctive 'ambush' pattern style our little 'Hetzer' comes with a radio operator, a standing vehicle commander plus a very nifty road sign.

BBG06 'CROSSING THE ROAD'

This set is based on two very famous photos taken by German war photographers during the battle. A lying prone *SS* man gestures to 2 of his comrades to run across a road ... a fourth trooper guards their rear. Out of interest one of the *SS* troopers is smoking a 'liberated' American cigarette and carrying a captured *M1* Carbine!

BBG07 'SEPP' DIETRICH The commander of 6th *Panzer Army* and one-time C.O. of both the *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler* regiment and division. Here Dietrich wears a warm sheepskin jacket over his normal field gray service uniform. The figure's stance is typical 'Sepp' Dietrich.

'WACHT AM RHEIN'

'WATCH ON THE RHINE' was the operational code name for this major attack in the west. Three Armies... the 6th *Panzer Army* under 'Sepp' Dietrich... the 5th *Panzer Army* of *Hugo Van Manteuffel* and the 7th *Army* led by *General Erich Brandenberger* provided the vast bulk of the attacking force - 275,000 men ... 1900 heavy artillery pieces and almost a thousand armoured vehicles were the 'mailed fist' that would punch through

and pulverize the Allied Line. The scene was set for one of the epic battles of World War Two.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

Later this year (November) additional sets of American 'Battle of the Bulge' themed figures and fighting vehicles will be available. Look out for more GI's in action as well as a 'wolf in sheep's clothing' surprise.

THROUGH THE GAP

The situation was most threatening for the Allies in the Losheim Gap. There *Dietrich*, hoping to exploit a route along the Ambleve valley towards the Meuse, concentrated his tank assault. His spearhead was *Kampfgruppe* (Task Force)

SEPP DIETRICH - 'CUNNING, ENERGETIC AND BRUTAL'

Hitler described Josef 'Sepp' Dietrich (1892-1966) as 'simultaneously cunning, energetic and brutal' - characteristics that made him an ideal lieutenant for the Führer.

Dietrich, a Munich policeman, joined the Nazi party in 1928. In 1933 he created a special SS bodyguard - the *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler* - to protect the Führer and other Nazi leaders, and he took an active part in the 'Night of the Long Knives' in 1934. By the outbreak of war his group had been transformed into an elite military unit, becoming a full division in 1941. Dietrich led it in France in 1940, on the Eastern Front in 1941-3 and in Normandy in 1944.

He was put in charge of Sixth Panzer Army for the Battle of the Ardennes and commanded it - despite his failure to break through to the Meuse - until the end of the war, fighting in Hungary and Austria. He was one of only 27 men to be awarded Diamonds to his Knight's Cross. After the war he was tried for war crimes - mainly connected with the massacre at Malmedy, although he took no active part in it - and received a life sentence.

He was paroled in 1955.



Peiper - 110 tanks and 4000 men from the elite 1st SS Panzer Division 'Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler'.

SS Colonel Jochen Peiper, a ruthless 29-year-old veteran of the Eastern Front, was a proven tank commander, but he ran into problems from the start. Because of the need for secrecy, he had been unable to conduct a preliminary reconnaissance. He had to advance, in the depths of winter, along roads that he described as fit 'not for tanks but for bicycles' and with precarious supply lines. Surprise was his only asset.

Peiper approached the battle area early on December 16, expecting the

infantry to have cleared the way. But an unrepaid railway bridge, created a huge traffic jam, and dogged American resistance threw him hopelessly behind schedule. That night, when his panzers should have been racing for the Meuse, they were stuck in Lanzerath, a few kilometres from his start line.

There was better news for Peiper the next day: the 14th Cavalry Group had fallen back. But once more he was held up - first by a temporary shortage of fuel, then when he was forced to make a detour for fear of becoming bogged down along the direct cross-country route towards the Meuse. Finally, Peiper skirted Malmedy - where at about 2 pm occurred one of the worst atrocities of the north-west Europe campaign - and achieved his breakthrough. Nothing now seemed to stand between him and the Meuse.

He was stopped not by massively superior forces, but by small groups of American combat engineers. As Peiper approached *Stavelot* - a small village containing a vital bridge across the Ambleve - late on the 17th, a force of only 13 men from Company C, 291st Combat Engineer Battalion, disabled his leading Panther with a lucky bazooka shot, effectively blocking the road. By now it was pitch dark and Peiper, unsure of the scale of the American defence, delayed his assault on *Stavelot* until the following morning.

In the event, he captured the village with ease, but the delay had allowed men of another engineer company to attach demolition charges to

three bridges across the Ambleve and Salm rivers at *Trois Ponts*, a few kilometres farther west. As *Kampfgruppe Peiper* approached *Trois Ponts* a few hours later, the bridges were blown, forcing Peiper to move north onto minor roads to search for alternative crossing points. His King Tiger tanks were once again running short of fuel and, despite the discovery of an intact bridge at *Cheneux* just beyond the village of *La Gleize*, the

advance was halted when a sudden break in the weather allowed Allied fighter-bombers to attack. They destroyed only one Tiger, but this blocked the bridge long enough for US engineers to destroy the only other bridge Peiper could use.

For six days Peiper fought for survival as the Americans concentrated their forces against him. Cut off, surrounded and short of supplies, the remains of Peiper's task force formed a defensive ring around *La Gleize*. By Christmas Eve, Peiper had no choice but to order his men to escape as best they could; fewer than 800 out of the original 4000 succeeded.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE FORBIDDEN CITY...



IC008

*Dowager
Empress Set*

FOR SOME TIME NOW we've been working on a 'revamp' of our IMPERIAL COLLECTION. Now, I'm happy to report the first "fruits of our labour" are about to be released.

As some collectors might remember we have focused on the Ching Dynasty period (1644 - 1911) a particularly turbulent era in China's history.

These first releases include none other than China's last Dowager Empress Tzu Hse (1835 - 1908) who ruled at the time of the infamous Boxer Rebellion against the hated foreign powers.



IC007

The Musician Set

Imperial courtiers, servants, mandarins and musicians are among the incredibly colourful characters available in this September's upcoming release.

ELSEWHERE...

"Streets of Old Hong Kong" collectors also have 2 new sets ... HK135 *The Stonemason Set* and HK136 *A pair of ornamental gate guardian lions*. These could often be seen outside public buildings and palaces.



HK135

Stonemason Set



HK136

Gate Guardian Lions



IC005

Peking Opera Set

IC006

*Opera
Soldier*

...AND A NIGHT AT THE OPERA