

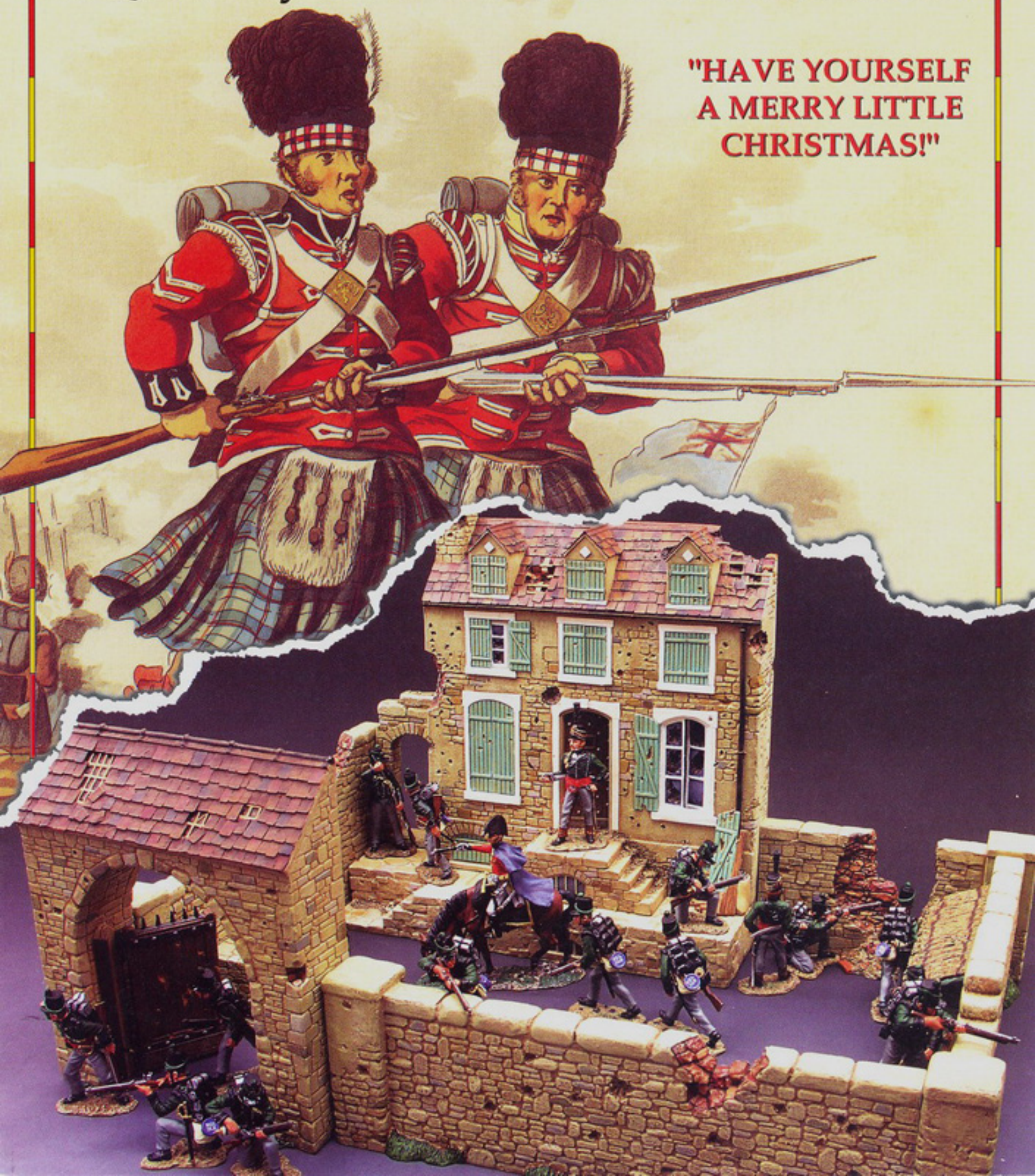
★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

"HAVE YOURSELF
A MERRY LITTLE
CHRISTMAS!"



A View From The Trenches...

BY THE TIME many of you read this month's "COLLECTOR" five of the most famous Regiments of the British Army will have marched into the pages of history...

This December, *The Black Watch... The Royal Scots... The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders... The King's Own Scottish Borderers* and... *The Highlanders* will be amalgamated into a giant new regiment - *The Royal Regiment of Scotland*. The British Government, in all their wisdom, have, with a stroke of the pen destroyed hundreds of years of military pride, tradition and history - all for the sake of reducing defence costs!

The original line sketch for the BBA10 veteran GI.



The Black Watch Pipes & Drums on parade.

This, at a time, when our already under-manned and under-funded Army, Navy and Air Force are already stretched with overseas commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan and half-a-dozen other places around the globe. Tony Blair and his political cronies in the British Government are very good at putting British servicemen's lives in danger... they're not very good at providing the money to give them the weapons, the equipment or the numbers required to do the job properly.

Enough of politicians... let's get back to toy soldiers. This issue we're featuring more Napoleonics - *The King's German Legion* and *The Black Watch* plus "The Iron Duke" himself. Then we revisit The Ardennes in the winter of 1944 with our latest "Battle of The Bulge" GI's. After that we venture onto the streets of old China with our newest and best Chinese figures yet! There's also a few other bits and bobs but I'll let you discover that for yourself. HAPPY COLLECTING!

Andy C. Neilson

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

IC021



A traditional Mongol tent - one of the upcoming 'Imperial Collection' releases.

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KING & COUNTRY

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"To Take The King's Shilling"



NA69

FINDING RECRUITS for the Duke of Wellington's Army was never an easy task: supply rarely kept pace with demand.

Enlistments in the British Isles, even at the height of the Napoleonic Wars, never exceeded more than 15,000 men in any

single year.

Given the difficulties of recruiting enough British born soldiers by conventional methods, the Government of the time relied on a variety of solutions.

One was the large-scale recruitment of foreigners especially...Germans.

THE BIRTH OF THE LEGION

In 1803 Britain was again at war with France. Because of the links between Hanover and Britain (George III was both King of Great Britain and Elector of Hanover) Napoleon dispatched an army to attack the small German state.

Thousands of Hanoverians fled to Britain and soon the beginnings of an army-in-exile were formed.

By 1805 the King's German Legion included cavalry (Dragoons)...Line Infantry (4 Battalions)...Artillery (5 Batteries)...A corps of Engineers and, of course, a Light Infantry Brigade.



NA74



NA70



NA77

K & C's LIGHT INFANTRY

King & Country's choice of Light Infantry as a suitable subject to portray in miniature is no accident. "The role of skirmishers in Napoleonic warfare was relatively new," Andy C. Neilson, K & C's creative director says. "All of our infantry releases so far," he continues, "have been wearing the traditional British redcoats or the French blue uniforms. It was time to do something different..."

The KGL Light Infantry is certainly that - dressing in rifle green tunics and gray trousers with green shakos was an early attempt to blend into the countryside instead of standing out boldly against it!

Their uniforms weapons and equipment were virtually identical to Britain's own Rifle Regiments - the 60th and the 95th.

Between 1803, when the King's German Legion was formed, until 1816 when it was



NA76



NA73



NA75



NA67

"THE IRON DUKE"

Our final Napoleonic release is none other than Bonaparte's sworn enemy - Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington and Victor of Waterloo.

Known by friend and foe alike as "The Iron Duke", Wellington was famous for his steely resolve, harsh discipline and almost contempt for his own troops. Speaking, on one occasion, of the British infantry, "I don't know if they will frighten the enemy but by God, they frighten me!"

K & C's Wellington sits proudly on his

disbanded more than 28,000 Hanoverians (and quite a few other nationalities) served in its ranks. K & C's collection shows eight individual Light Infantrymen in dramatic action poses.

NA68



NA72

favourite horse "Copenhagen" directing the battle.

BASTOGNE

IN DECEMBER 1944, the German Army launched a surprise attack through the Ardennes forest that aimed to capture the port of Antwerp and split apart the Western Allies.

Hitler's intention was to either delay the Anglo American advance on Berlin or force them to agree to a separate peace settlement that would "free-up" his armies to deal with the Russians.

The Fuhrer's choice of the Ardennes for his last major offensive was tactically shrewd... The inadequate state and unreadiness of the American Divisions in that sector was well known to the Germans.

The dangerous mixture of weary, undermanned veteran units alongside fresh but untested new comers was a disaster just waiting to happen. On December 16, 1944 in the early hours of the morning that 'disaster' struck!

RETREAT, RETREAT

Even as the first German shells and mortar bombs fell on American forward positions whole companies, battalions and even regiments began to fall back and fall apart.

Confusion reigned as valuable weapons and equipment were hastily abandoned in the flight away from the advancing Germans. To make matters much worse a 'special' battle group made up of English-speaking Germans dressed as American MP's and GI's and led by SS Major Otto

Skorzeny spread even more panic in the rear areas and captured several key points.

In the midst of this

debacle some American units not only managed to stay together

One of Skorzeny's Stugs disguised as a US Tank Destroyer.



BBA08
'US' Tank Destroyer



BESIEGED BASTOGNE

King & Country's latest "Battle of The Bulge" releases honours the fighting men of Bastogne - the 101st Airborne.

6 sets of GI's cover a wide range of different aspects of the bitter fighting for the beleaguered town. 2 of these new sets also feature men of Otto Skorzeny's 'ersatz' U.S. battle group...and their fates.

but fought back courageously against much larger enemy forces.

The most famous of these 'holdouts' took place in the little Belgian town of... Bastogne.



BBA01



BBA05
M21 Mortar Carrier

BBA05 is our 'M21 Mortar Carrier'. This 81mm tube is mounted on the back of the famous M3 Halftrack. Two GI's man the mortar while the vehicle driver looks on.



BBA06 'Returning Patrol' portrays a 3-man section returning from a prisoner grabbing recce. They've been successful too! A well camouflaged Volksgrenadier dejectedly marches with them.

BBA07 'The Ultimate Price' Tied to a wooden stake and blindfolded one of Skorzeny's men, captured in GI uniform, faces an MP firing squad. An army padre says a final prayer.

BBA08 'Wolf in Sheep's Clothing' - A German Stug III roughly disguised as an American Tank Destroyer. Three false GI's discuss their options.

BBA09 'Pack Howitzer Set' Three 101 'troopers, fighting the cold prepare to fight their next battle - their weapon... an air portable 75mm 'Pack' Howitzer.

BBA10 'Welcome to Bastogne' A veteran 101 'trooper carrying his trusty B.A.R. automatic rifle greets a 'Depot Repo' - a young, untested recruit straight from the Replacement Depot. Between them stands a battered Bastogne road sign.



OTTO SKORZENY

Otto 'Scarface' Skorzeny (1908-75) became one of Hitler's chief 'trouble-shooters'. He came to fame by leading the rescue mission to save Italy's deposed dictator Mussolini.

During the Ardennes Offensive, Skorzeny organized and led a battle group disguised as Americans to infiltrate and disrupt Allied lines. He even spread a rumour that a 'hit team' was after Eisenhower.

Acquitted of war crimes, Skorzeny, after the war, became a successful businessman in Spain.



New Year's Eve 1944. The place Alsace recently liberated by Free French forces.

Here a total of 10 divisions attacked the U.S. 6th Army Group. But this time the Allies were ready for them. Although the Americans did pull back it was only to shorten their battle line. Free French forces however refused the order to pull back and put up a bitter defence of Strasbourg.

Meanwhile, on New Year's

OPERATION 'NORDWIND'

THE ARDENNES Offensive was not the only attack the Germans planned for December 1944... Hoping to catch the Allied armies off-balance a second smaller one opened an hour before midnight on

Day itself the Luftwaffe launched its last major aerial offensive in the West. More than 900 German aircraft attacked Allied airfields all along the front. Although they destroyed over 300 British and American aircraft they lost an equal amount themselves.

More seriously they lost many experienced aircrew who they could not easily replace.

By early January 1945 'Nordwind'

had 'run out steam' and been called off. Together with the Ardennes offensive the Germans had lost almost 100,000 men, nearly 1,000 armoured vehicles and much valuable equipment.

These attacks had seriously derailed the Allied advance but could not affect the final outcome.

BBA09 PACK HOWITZER SET

BBA10



"HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS?"

Finally we have something a little unique... our GI Christmas Santa. XM05-01 shows a US Army jeep loaded up with all kinds of surprises. Oranges from Florida... Cola from California... Cans of peaches from Georgia plus boxes and boxes of C rations all destined for a bunch of orphaned kids and an old priest who's taking care of them.

Sitting next to the jeep driver is Santa himself... or is that just one of the GI's all dressed up? Even in the midst of war an American GI still thinks

about others less fortunate than himself.

"Have yourself a merry little Christmas."



XM05-01 SANTA IN JEEP

ON THE STREETS OF OLD CHINA

AROUND THE WORLD as well as right here in Hong Kong King & Country's different "Chinese" series have proved to be both popular and very "collectible".

The original series "Streets of Old Hong Kong" began in 1994 with just ten little sets. At that time the range was 'targeted' mainly at tourists visiting "The Pearl of the Orient". King & Country's co founder and creative director, Andy C. Neilson remembers, "For quite a while K&C had seen the need for a series that was non-military. Something that might also appeal to the female market. Simultaneously with the handover of Hong Kong to China more and more tourists were coming out to see the last of 'colonial' Hong Kong."

Why not, Andy thought, combine all of these ingredients into one delicious cake. But what kind of a cake?

"One evening while watching television someone was talking about the 99 year lease Britain had signed with China on Kowloon and the New Territories back in 1898."

"Suddenly the light bulb", Andy continues, "came on! That was it... Hong Kong at the close of the 19th Century."

Fortunately for Andy as a history buff there were lots of books (especially with plenty of vintage photos) of that era.

"Before long I had collected and looked at literally thousands of photographs and graphic illustrations of Hong Kong at the turn-of-the-century." "Streets of Old Hong Kong" started to take shape.

THE SERIES EXPANDS...

As the first Chinese figures began to sell Andy saw that his original 'target market' was expanding. "Back in '95 there were many expatriate foreigners living and working in Hong Kong for the British and Hong Kong Governments. As the handover approached many of these people were leaving the Crown Colony and returning

to Britain...Australia...New Zealand and other countries. Many of them wanted a small souvenir of Hong Kong - the "Streets" series fitted the bill perfectly. Not too expensive, not too big but hand-made and original...the ideal memento and gift."

Another unexpected group of buyers began to also emerge... local Hong Kong Chinese. As the city has grown and expanded most, if not all, of the 'old' Hong Kong has virtually disappeared - the traditional clothes...the buildings...even the street trades...almost all gone.

Many local Hong Kongers realized that progress had taken its toll of their unique cultural identity and wanted to collect a small remembrance of that.

"I was delighted by this new development," Andy says. "The tourists we had aimed for...the local expatriates and the

Hong Kongers was a huge bonus!"

EXPANSION INTO CHINA

Following the success of "Streets of Old Hong Kong" a decision was made to expand into other historical periods in China's colourful history.

Thus was born "The Silk Road" a range of figures depicting the fabled route between The Middle Kingdom and The West. That gave K&C the opportunity to produce not only figures but horses, camels and...even an elephant!

One part of "The Silk Road" - the Magistrate Mandarin on his elephant accompanied by a mounted Imperial Guards Cavalry escort gave Andy the idea to develop two other Chinese collections - "The Imperial Collection" and "The Chinese Army". Both of these newer series focused on the Ching Dynasty period from the mid 16th to the late 19th Centuries.

Fortunately all of these series have been commercially

successful and that has allowed the company to constantly upgrade and improve their figures to a far higher standard than earlier releases.

LATEST ADDITIONS

As "Streets of Old Hong Kong" is the original Chinese series let's begin with the latest "add-ons"...

The Hong Kong Police has played a vital part in the Territory's history since its earliest days. These 3 new figures and a special building fill an important gap in any "Streets" collection.



HK138



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HK142

HK142

HK141

HK141



HK143 'Street Toy Seller'. Once a familiar sight on Hong Kong's bustling avenues an itinerant Toy Hawker (Merchant)

HK146 The Flower Stall Set A wealthy lady pauses to buy some fresh flowers from a vendor. The flower stall is included.

THE IMPERIAL COLLECTIONS

IC011 The Opera Stage. A beautiful and colourful 3 dimensional setting for our Chinese Opera players.

IC012 Standing Guard with Spear. The first of our all-new upgraded Chinese military figures. Like the following figures he is a member of the Emperor's own Guard and is dressed in Imperial yellow.



HK137 Chinese Constable with rifle - standing at attention with his Martini Henry carbine. This policeman would guard key government installations in the Crown Colony of 1898.

HK138 Chinese Police Corporal taking notes in his notebook.

HK139 Chinese Constable on the 'beat' - Truncheon in hand this policeman keeps the streets safe with his foot patrol.

HK140 Police Station facade - Based on an actual building still standing in Hong Kong. This structure was typical of the mix of Chinese and British architecture of the era. Education has always been important to Chinese people and our 'new' version of

trying to sell his wares. One young boy strains to get closer another peers closely at the quality - the adult looks on.

HK144 Tailor Shop Set. A master tailor and his assistant measure up a traditional cheong saam (long dress) for a female customer. A standing dummy displays another example of his work.

HK145 Tangerine Buyer. In time for Chinese New Year a male



IC020

an old favourite shows this...

HK141 The 'New' Street School. An elderly schoolmaster and his young pupils in the learning process.

HK142 'Street Kids'. Two 'add-on' street children with a pesky rooster!

householder transports the traditional orange tree from the market.

IC013 Marching Guard with Spear
IC014 Marching Flagbearer carrying the Regimental Banner.

IC015 Standing Guard Reporting.

IC016 Mounted Officer

IC017 Kneeling Guardsman

IC018 Mounted Lancer

IC019 The Emperor Qianlong One of China's most revered rulers and a mighty emperor mount on his favourite horse.

IC020 The Archery Set. Three Imperial Archers dressed in forest green take part in target practise.

IC021 Traditional Tent. A circular structure originally designed by the Mongols and adopted by the Chinese for use in the field.

So if you're interested in the history of Hong Kong and China there's definitely plenty to feast your eyes on this festive season!



TWO NEW K&C 'CLUB' FIGURES READY FOR INSPECTION!

During the withdrawal at the *Battle of Essling* he calmly walked up and down the skirmishing line, hands behind his back, under heavy enemy fire.

His luck ran out on the 1st May 1813 when he was struck down by a ricocheting roundshot while reconnoitring the day before the *Battle of Lutzen*.

Our *Bessieres* figure is dressed in the uniform of a Colonel-General of the Imperial Guard Cavalry.

CF06 SS-Hauptsturmführer *Michael Wittman*, the most famous tank ace of WW2. K&C has produced two popular models of different Tiger Tanks *Wittman* commanded during his brief but brilliant military career - WS15 and WS43.

Now we have this unique 'portrait' figure of *Michael Wittman* himself in a characteristic pose. Dressed in his black 'Panzer' uniform and wearing his *Knight's Cross with Swords* award at his neck the young tank commander, map in hand, strides confidently forward.

His most famous tank battle was

Villers-Bocage in June 1944 where he, virtually single-handedly, destroyed the advance guard of a British armoured column.

Sadly he was killed on 8 August 1944 while leading a counter attack.

Marshal
Jean-Baptiste
BESSIERES



JOINING OUR COLLECTORS' CLUB

To find out how you can join our Club and get these superb figures simply log on to our website for more details:

www.kingandcountry.com

SS-Hauptsturmführer
Michael Wittman



THIS DECEMBER sees the launch of the two latest *King & Country Collectors Club* figurines - a Napoleonic French Marshal and Germany's leading tank ace of WW2. These two pieces are "exclusives" only available to members of the *Collectors Club* and will be produced for a limited time only.

CF05 is Marshal Jean-Baptiste BESSIERES one of Napoleon's most loyal commanders. Fearless in action he was an exceptionally good cavalry leader.

SOMEWHERE IN NORMANDY...

Our 18th Century Farmhouse and Courtyard (SP17 & 18) form the perfect backdrop for a 20th Century battle...

Waffen SS Panzergrenadiers and Luftwaffe Fallschirmjagers prepare for a counterattack.

