

★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

NORMANDY 1944

**PLUS SUN, SAND AND DESERT RATS
& CHARGE WITH THE GREYS**



Original sketch
by Andy for our
"Alexander"
figure.



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WAR & PEACE

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A View From The Trenches...

COLLECTOR MAKES A RETURN VISIT to Egypt and the Western Desert in this issue with the background story of our latest British 8th. Army sets... *all seven of them.*

There's more World War Two releases in this issue but this time the action moves to France and Normandy in June, July and August 1944. On one side we have our latest German forces including the newest "Strictly Limited" piece - a command and control halftrack used by Legendary German commander Kurt "Panzer" Meyer.

Opposing Meyer and his men are a whole bunch of US Army sets that include a much needed and much requested ambulance jeep and a brand-new version of an M5 Stuart Light Tank. There are also several soldier sets that fill in important gaps in any K&C collector's WW2 collection. And for Napoleonic enthusiasts there's a special double helping of Cavalry... British... the famous *Scots Greys*... and French, the equally famous, *Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard - Les Chasseurs à Cheval.*

There's a lot more in the King & Country pipeline... but I'll have to leave that for the next "Collector".

Until then best wishes to one and all and, as usual...Happy Collecting!

EA011

Field Marshal
Harold Alexander
— one of our latest
'personality' figures.

Andy C. Neilson

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



Another sketch view of "Alex"

*Chasseurs à Cheval
on parade with
their Regimental Guidon*



'STRICTLY LIMITED!'

Kurt 'PANZER' Meyer's Command Halftrack

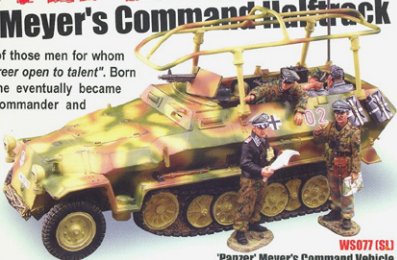
Kurt "Panzer" Meyer was one of those men for whom the Waffen SS provided "a career open to talent". Born in 1910 to humble parents he eventually became Germany's youngest divisional commander and one of its most famous soldiers.

He joined the SS before Hitler became Reich Chancellor in 1933 and rose rapidly through the ranks. The outbreak of war in 1939 saw him fight in Poland and later in the Fall of France in June 1940.

In 1941 he won the fabled "Knight's Cross" in the Greek campaign before taking part in the invasion of Russia.



"Panzer" Meyer seen here during Operation Barbarossa served with distinction at Kursk, leading to his promotion and eventual command of the Hitlerjugend Division.



WS077 (SL)

'Panzer' Meyer's Command Vehicle

During the Battle of Kharkov in 1943 he won the "oak leaves" to his Knight's Cross and was promoted and transferred to lead a Panzer Grenadier Regiment in the newly formed 12th SS "Hitlerjugend" Division being created in the West.

The tough and aggressive fighting spirit of this new, young division proved a worthy and dangerous opponent in the Normandy bocage. "Panzer" Meyer was promoted divisional commander of the 12th SS after the death of its first leader, Fritz Witt.

Meyer was to lead the division for just over a month through much fierce fighting and grinding reduction of its numbers and strength. He was captured on 6 September 1944 near Amiens in France. After the war he was tried for 'War Crimes' and sentenced to life

imprisonment but was released in 1954. He died in 1961.

King & Country's latest "Strictly Limited" release is WS077(SL) "Panzer" Meyer's own command vehicle - an SdKfz251 Halftrack with SIX individual figures. Meyer stands outside the vehicle conferring with one of his tank commanders. Leaning over another of his officers points out a notable feature in the surrounding landscape. Meanwhile two radio operators sit side by side relaying and receiving the latest information. A seated driver is ready to move the "251" to a new location at a moment's notice.

Camouflaged in typical 'Western Front' three-colour scheme, this 'SL' piece comes in a specially-designed box and is limited to just 1250 sets.

Escort For An Emperor

THE CHASSEURS À CHEVAL were one of Napoleon's most favoured units of the Imperial Guard.

Their duty as his personal mounted bodyguard ensured an extra special relationship with the Emperor.

These Chasseurs are also one of our favourites too - we've produced several in campaign dress earlier in our Napoleonic series. Now, however, we present them in their splendid parade uniforms...five magnificent new mounted figures beginning with NA091 our *Chasseur à Cheval officer* with drawn sword by his side.

Following him is NA092 the



first of two mounted Chasseurs with their sabres resting on their shoulder.

NA093 is our "Flagbearer" holding the Regimental Guidon. NA094 shows a superb *Chasseur Trumpeter* on his white charger.

NA091
Chasseur
à Cheval
Officer



cont'd on p.7

C6 Panzer Lehr troops on the 'lookout' — obviously posed photograph... somewhere in Normandy.



NORMANDY 1944

**THE GENERAL
OPINION from
Allied soldiers in
1944 — and from
veterans ever
since — about their German enemies
in Normandy varies considerably...**

Given the massive demands of the war in the East, the divisions manning the 'Atlantic Wall' had a low priority. All were less in numbers - substantially reduced from divisional establishments of just a few years before. An infantry division which, in 1940, contained 17,000 men now numbered less than 12,000! All units suffered a shortage of motor vehicles with many still utilizing the horse as their principal mode of transport.

Some divisions were not even fully 'German' but made up of 'Easterners' from occupied Europe and the Soviet Union.

were totally unable to maneuver and thus largely ineffective.

At the other end of the scale... among the reinforcements rushed to counter-attack the Allied beachheads were a number of battle-hardened and re-equipped

Other formations, although more 'Germanic' were still totally lacking adequate vehicles. Once the Allies broke through they

divisions which had been resting and refitting in France after their many battles on the Russian Front. King & Country's latest release puts the focus on them...

LETHAL & DANGEROUS

Among the best of the German units opposing the Allies were the notorious Waffen SS formations: the 1st 'Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler', 2nd 'Das Reich', 9th 'Hohenstaufen', 10th 'Frundsberg', 12th 'Hitlerjugend' and the 17th 'Gotz Von Berlichingen'.

Also present in Normandy were the Wehrmacht's 2nd, 21st and Panzer-Lehr armoured divisions as well as four Luftwaffe

**WS072
Normandy
Panther
Aust. 6**



Parachute divisions.

K & C's newest fighting vehicles represent two of these units...Our brand-new Panther (WS072) Ausf. G model is in the markings of the 12th SS "Hitlerjugend" Panzer Division. This is the fifth version of this famous German tank which we have produced. Our first, a hand-carved model, was produced in China almost 13 years ago. 2nd, 3rd and 4th versions were all polystone, also manufactured in China and were issued several years back in 2000/2001. This particular model comes with four crew figures, a specially-designed box and its own camouflage!

Our second tracked vehicle (WS073) is a German Self Propelled Assault Gun mounted on a French Hotchkiss chassis.

WS074 Motorcycle Combo



During WW2 the Germans, wherever possible, utilized captured enemy equipment. In this case, they used the main body section of captured French Hotchkiss tanks from the Fall of France in 1940 and created a new armoured superstructure mounting a 10.5cm gun.

K & C's unique model, with three full crew figures is painted to represent one of Panzer-Lehr's self propelled guns of the Normandy campaign.

COMMAND & CONTROL

Two other sets make up this particular German release - (WS074) "Motorcycle Combo" and (WS075) "Commander's Conference".

First the motorcycle combination... during the war the Germans especially made much use of motorcycles - as reconnaissance vehicles...for transportation and as liaison vehicles between units.

WS073 Panzer Lehr Self Propelled Gun



Our (WS074) belongs to the 12th SS again. Here our vehicle has come to a halt while the driver 'scouts' out the road ahead, always wary of enemy troops or even French partisans of the "Resistance". Its passenger sits ready with his "Schmeisser" machine pistol at hand.

(WS075) portrays a group of high-ranking Waffen SS officers gathering to discuss the latest battle situation. Among the four are the 12th SS "Hitlerjugend" commander

WS075 Commander's Conference



Fritz Witt...1st SS Corps Commander, Obergruppenführer "Sepp" Dietrich and two SS Regimental leaders.

*Fritz Witt was killed by naval gunfire on June 16, 1944. Kurt "Panzer" Meyer, took over command of the 12th SS after Witt's death.

BOYS INTO MEN

The 12th SS "Hitlerjugend" Panzer Division was raised in June 1943 from 17 and 18 year-old former Hitler Youth members and led by officers and NCOs from the premier Waffen SS division, 1st SS "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler".

This was an interesting mix; young, untested recruits with high morale and experienced, battle-hardened veterans. The combination was to make for a fine fighting formation.

Among the first German troops to counter attack the Allied invaders were elements of the 12th

"Hit" just west of Caen in Normandy on June 8, 1944 just two days after the invasion.

The young SS troopers displayed a ferocity and fanaticism that surprised even their leaders. This led, inevitably, to battlefield atrocities and in one particular case to the cold-blooded murder of some 27 Canadian P.O.W.s.



Thereafter there were few "Hitlerjugend" prisoners taken by either the British or Canadian forces during the four week long struggle for Caen.

As a division the 12th SS in France was almost "wiped-out" by the end of August

1944. It was however reformed, reequipped and resupplied with more youngsters for the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's last doomed offensive in the West, in December 1944.





DESERT WARRIORS



THE EIGHTH ARMY was created at a perilous time for Britain during the Second World War. France was defeated... most of mainland Europe was under the Nazi jackboot... and Britain stood virtually alone.

Only in faraway Egypt did British land forces actually face an Axis enemy...

The Italian attack on Egypt was launched in September 1940. An army of 250,000 men marched out of Libya and across the

Egyptian Frontier. To meet them was the British Western Desert Force numbering just 34,000 troops. Under the leadership of Generals Wavell and O'Connor this small British and Empire force rapidly threw back the Italians and, at the same

time, invaded Libya itself!

Within 6 months the British had taken almost 200,000 prisoners and captured the major Libyan port of Tobruk. It seemed as if the campaign was almost over. Unfortunately for the British an attack on Greece by the Axis allies forced them to divert most of their best troops there, in what was ultimately to be, a vain attempt to hold off the Germans and Italians.

ENTER THE FOX...

It was at this point that Hitler dispatched one of his best generals and two full armoured divisions to prevent a complete collapse of his Axis partner in North Africa. In addition to these Germans the Italians also sent an

EA009
**"Advance
Under Fire"**



Taking cover behind a
"knocked-out" German Panzer



additional armoured and six infantry divisions. All of these new troops would come under the command of *Erwin Rommel* and be called...*The Afrika Korps*.

The scene was now set for the campaign that was to become one of the most famous of WW2.

HOLDING ON...

As told in the previous issue of "COLLECTOR" Rommel quickly



EA010
"Kiwi Dingo"

organized his "Afrika Korps" and counter-attacked the British almost immediately.

By April 1941 the main British Forces had fallen back into Egypt leaving only the *Tobruk* garrison surrounded and cut off behind Axis lines.

Now, it was the turn of the British to attack Rommel and this they did with two summer offensives - Operations "Brevity" and "Battleaxe". Both failed and it was not long in London before Prime Minister Churchill was looking for a replacement for General Wavell.

NEW COMMANDERS

... NEW NAME

In June 1941, General Sir Claude Auchinleck replaced Wavell as C-in-C. Middle East. Simultaneously the original British Force called "The Western Desert Force" was renamed "The Eighth Army" with General Sir Alan Cunningham as its new commander.

These two new men were constantly pressured by Churchill to mount a fresh offensive against Rommel.

This they did in November 1941 with a third attempt to defeat the enemy - Operation "Crusader".

EA012
"Best of Enemies"



The 2 1/2 month long campaign began well... the Afrika Korps was forced back and Tobruk was relieved. Success, however, was

short-lived.

In January 1942 Rommel struck back once more and the British had to give up their hard-successes including Benghazi, Gazala and even Tobruk. They retreated once more, to the Egyptian Frontier...

A PLACE CALLED ALAMEIN

After what seemed forever the Afrika Korps was finally halted at a small Egyptian rail depot called "El Alamein", just 50 miles west of the great port city of Alexandria.

Yet again both sides paused for resupply and reinforcements. Minefields were laid... gun positions strengthened... and the 8th Army was sent another two new leaders...



"ALEX" AND "MONTY"

In August 1942 Auchinleck was replaced by General Sir Harold Alexander as C-in-C. Middle East. His new Eighth Army commander was Lieutenant General Bernard Law Montgomery. Both men knew

the enormity of the task that lay ahead. An ill-equipped... indifferently led and demoralized army urgently required strong, powerful and energetic leadership. Leadership that could inspire men to believe in not only the possibility of victory but its inevitability.

In "Alex" and "Monty" the men of the Eighth Army finally had that unique winning combination.

But it would not be easy. As soon as he took over "Monty" went on a whirlwind tour of his troops. He let it be known that defeatism and incompetence would no longer be tolerated. "No more retreats" was the order of the day... officers not up to scratch were demoted, transferred and even sacked! Divisions and other units were strengthened and reorganized and, for the first time, "put in the picture". They were told what was required of them and how they were expected to achieve it.

A fresh new wind of optimism and confidence blew through the ranks of the entire Eighth Army.

Now, at long last, things were going to change... and for the better.

Soon would come the battle that would herald "not the EA014 "Machine Gun Set"



beginning of the end...but at least the end of the beginning!"

The Battle of El Alamein.

NOT ALL BRITISH...

The Eighth Army was a unique mixture of many different nationalities not only from Britain and its Empire but also from other nations.

Soldiering under its banner were men

EA013

"Mine Clearing"



from all over the British Isles as well as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, France, Poland and even Greece.

Among its most famous fighting units were the 51st Highland Division... the 9th Australian Division... the 4th Indian and a demi brigade of the French Foreign Legion.



A typical
8th Army 'Tommy'

KHAKI DRILL

The basic uniform in the desert consisted of a Khaki drill shirt... Khaki drill shorts or long trousers... long woolen socks with hose tops and leather ankle boots, worn with either cloth puttees or canvas web gaiters.

Hats were either steel helmets, forage caps (or slouch hats for Australians and New Zealanders) or officers service caps.

For the cold desert night Khaki battledress blouses and trousers were worn and sometimes even greatcoats.

Variations on the above uniforms were many, varied and occasionally quite eccentric. In the field comfort and availability were the 'order of the day' and there was a lot less parade ground appearance...a sergeant-major's nightmare!

8TH ARMY REINFORCEMENTS

These seven new sets are the perfect 'add-on' to the previous eight released several years ago... Here's a detailed breakdown.

EA009 "Advance Under Fire"

An officer, pistol in hand, leads his men in an assault on an enemy position. Two riflemen with bayonets fixed supported by an advancing Bren gunner complete this 4-man set.

EA010 "Kiwi Dingo"

A Daimler armoured reconnaissance car of the 2nd New Zealand Armoured Regiment observes the action. Two crew included.

EA011 "Alex"

Field Marshall Harold Alexander popularly known as "Alex" and C-in-C. Middle East accompanied by one of his Military Police bodyguards.

EA012 "Best of Enemies"

The Desert War was, for the most part, fought 'cleanly' by both sides. Here a British 'Tom' shares his water with a captured (and thirsty) Afrika Korps Panzer Grenadier.

EA013 "Mine Clearing"

One of the most dangerous but necessary jobs in any army. Here a Royal Engineer officer oversees two his "sappers" uncovering enemy mines. Set includes two German "Minn" signs.

EA014 "Machine Gun Set"

Three Sikh infantrymen of the famous 4th Indian Division man a Vickers heavy machine gun.

EA015 "Fire Support"

Three more British infantrymen add their rifle fire to the attack.

In addition to these great new sets look out for K & C's earlier 8th Army sets EA 01 - EA 08.

Original illustrations
by Pierre Turner

cont'd from p.1

NA095 completes the release... the other mounted **Chasseur** turning to look to the right.



NA093

Flagbearer



NA094

Chasseur
Trumpeter



NA095 Chasseur Looking Right



THE CHARGE

THE ONLY CAVALRY regiment with a purely Scottish identity (and a most distinctive head-dress) the 2nd or Royal North British Dragoons originated in Scotland in 1678.

Although popularly known as the "Scots Greys" that name was not taken as the Regiment's official title until 1866.

The regiment won undying fame as part of the "Union" Brigade at Waterloo in 1815. It was during its famous charge that Sergeant Charles Ewart captured the "Eagle" standard of the French 45th Line Regiment - one of the most celebrated events of the battle.

UNIFORM DETAILS

Along with other British Dragoon regiments, the Greys adopted the scarlet tunic and grey campaign overalls. The distinction of wearing grenadier fur caps



began in 1778. By the early 19th century the fur cap had evolved into the style shown on our figures. A peak, brass front plate with a tall white plume on the left side and on the rear of the cap the white horse of Hanover upon a red cloth background.

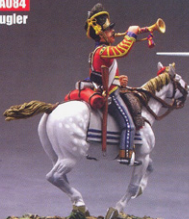
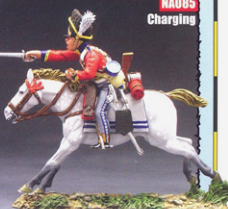
Heavy cavalry equipment was carried including a broad white leather shoulder belt supporting both a cartridge pouch and a carbine on a spring clip.

At the waist belt was suspended both the straight pattern 1796 sabre and a plain black leather sabre-tache.

THE 'UNION' BRIGADE

The heavy cavalry unit known as the "Union" Brigade was formed from three regiments... one each from England, Scotland and Ireland. Each regiment had three 'sabre' or fighting squadrons giving the Brigade equal strength to the Household Brigade.

Apart from the "Greys" the other two regiments were the English 1st Royal Dragoons and the Irish 6th Inniskilling Dragoons.

NA083**Standard Bearer****NA084****Bugler****NA085****Charging****NA086****Slashing****NA087****The Sgt. Ewart Set****NA088****Hard Landings****NA089****Rearing Horse****NA090****Cutting Down****ABOUT OUR FIGURES...**

Immortalized in the dramatic painting by Lady Butler "Scotland The Brave", the charge of The Scots Greys at Waterloo is justly famous.

Like some other toy soldier makers we at K&C were also 'inspired' to recreate in miniature this famous military action. We've produced eight different releases -

seven of them individually mounted figures plus one very special 3-man vignette. All of them dynamic, colourful and very, very collectable!

NA083 "Standard Bearer". Charging forward this trooper carries one of the Regimental Guidons.

NA084 "Bugler". Wearing his distinctive reversed chevrons on both sleeves this Scots Grey bugler sounds the "Charge!"

NA085 "Charging". Another trooper at the full gallop.

NA086 "Slashing!". A Scot Grey trooper, minus his distinctive bearskin, prepares to deliver a mighty blow.

NA087 "The Sgt. Ewart Set". One of Waterloo's most famous incidents - Troop Sgt. Ewart captures the flag of the French 45th Infantry of the Line regiment. As one French infantryman lies wounded his companion makes a vain attempt to "recapture" the standard.

NA088 "Hard Landings". A Scots Grey trooper prepares for a "rough landing" as his horse is shot from under him.

NA089 "Rearing Horse". A trooper struggles to bring under control his rearing horse.

NA090 "Cutting Down". Another trooper leans forward, sword downwards to engage a French infantryman.

CASUALTIES

Of the Brigade's combined strength of 1332 officers and troopers 616 (46%) were killed and wounded during the battle.

WAR & PEACE

KING & COUNTRY'S LATEST D.DAY releases shift the focus away from violent confrontations to events 'after the battle' and before the next big one...

From talking to veterans and from my own military experience periods of action are, relatively speaking, pretty rare. It's often the times in between that many soldiers remember long afterwards... taking it easy behind the lines... meeting a famous personality... picking up some choice souvenirs... preparing for the next move... seeing a wounded buddy evacuated.

For a while now K&C has wanted to show this 'other side of war' and portray it realistically in miniature. These new pieces do just that...

DD067



DD067 "M5 Stuart Hedgecutter"

This is K&C's second version of the US Army's venerable light tank, the M5 "Stuart". Developed prior to America's entry into WW2, this lightly armoured vehicle was used in the reconnaissance role. Carrying only a 37mm main gun and a pair of .30 calibre light machine guns there was little it could do against any of its German adversaries. Its speed was its advantage.

Our new model comes with three crew figures, and has been specially adapted with "bocage hedgecutters" to cut through the notoriously difficult Normandy hedgerows.



DD068 "US Ambulance Jeep Set"

The ubiquitous jeep fulfilled a multitude of roles in Allied military service. Perhaps none were as vital or as life-saving as the ones used by Forward Medical Evacuation Teams to ferry wounded GI's to the nearest Aid Post or Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (the famous MASH units).

Here a seriously wounded GI is rushed back laid out on a stretcher - one of three carried. One medic holds on to the wounded passenger and administers a 'drip' while the other medic drives the vehicle.

DD069 "Brigadier General Norman 'Dutch' Cota"

DD068

US Ambulance Jeep Set



Immortalized by actor Robert Mitchum in "The Longest Day" the real 'Dutch' Cota was Deputy Commander of the 29th Infantry Division on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He rallied his troops to break through the German defenses with the words, "Only two kinds of soldiers are going to stay on this beach... those that are already dead... and those that are going to be dead! Now get up off your butts and get movin'!"

Amidst enemy mortar and machine gun fire Cota could be seen moving from position to position, chewing on his cigar, urging his men forward.

DD069

DD070 "Lt. Colonel Benjamin Vandervoort"

Another real life hero featured in "The Longest Day" was Lt. Col. Ben Vandervoort, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the famous 82nd Airborne Division. Played by John Wayne in the movie our K&C version is based on the "real" man not the Hollywood version.

Colonel Vandervoort broke his ankle on landing in Normandy on D-Day. Refusing to go to hospital it was only on D+2 that he consented to having a steel brace and plaster cast put on his broken lower extremity. He continued to lead his men throughout the battle to take Ste. Mere Eglise, the first town captured by American troops.

Along with our figure comes the town sign.

DD071 "Horse Paratrooper"

When elements of the 505 captured Ste. Mere Eglise they also captured some German Army horses (75% of the German transport in WW2 was horse-drawn). Here one of our K&C paratroopers has not only taken possession of an 'enemy' horse but he's also carrying a 'Schmeisser' MP40 machine pistol.

DD072 "Para With Walking Horse"

Another 505 trooper, this one wounded, can also be seen leading one of the captured German horses.

DD070 "Lt. Colonel Benjamin Vandervoort"



SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

DD073 "The Souvenir Hunters"

After a battle many soldiers like to take home a "souvenir" of their adventures... Here one paratrooper has collected several... a nazi flag... an officer's cap and a couple of



DD071 "Horse Paratrooper"

All of these eight great new sets fill in some important gaps in any WW2 collection... look out for them!

AUTHENTIC REPRODUCTIONS

At King & Country we use a variety of sources to help design and develop our figures. One of the most (if not the most) important of these sources are actual

German "potato-masher" grenades.

Two of his friends seem happy to have "liberated" a couple of bottles of good French wine in addition to a German officer's pistol.

DD074 "Reach For The Sky!"

Based on an actual wartime photo this young paratrooper is taking no chances with a captured German Assault Gun crewman. This GI looks set to add to his "trophy" collection with a few enemy combat medals (including an Iron Cross) and even a machine pistol or maybe a Luger!

DD072 "Para With Walking Horse"



photographs of the people and events we portray in miniature.

Take a look at some of these real photos and how we've adapted and utilized the information into our figures...



DD073 THE SOUVENIR HUNTERS



The real "Vandervoort".

DD074 Reach For The Sky

