

# COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature



JOURNEY INTO EGYPT

# A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES...

AS I WAS PUTTING together this particular edition of "COLLECTOR" it really made me think about the amazing variety of figures...vehicles... aircraft and accessories KING & COUNTRY produces – not just occasionally but *every single month throughout the year!*

I genuinely believe that not one of our many competitors covers such a broad spectrum of historical subjects... and in such depth as K&C.

That's not to say that these same competitors do not also make great products... they do and I'm delighted to say I collect some of them! But, even in these difficult times, I'm glad to say we are still introducing exciting new product lines... and this special "Egyptian Issue" proves it.

Our visit to the "Land of the Nile" begins with K&C's colourful "Napoleon in Egypt" series which brings together the colour and splendour of Napoleonic times with one of the world's most ancient civilizations.

Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Egypt in 1798 is a campaign seldom covered by toy soldier and military miniature makers. So you can be assured that where K&C goes today others will follow tomorrow...

Egypt again played a major historical role as a battleground in World War Two. In this "COLLECTOR" you can see both

AXIS and ALLIED soldiers and fighting vehicles as they would have appeared during 1940 and '41 in Egypt's Western Desert.

But it's not all "swords, sandals and sun cream" here... K&C journeys back to Europe going from the dizzy heights of pre war Germany to the depths and despair of the final months of Hitler's crumbling Third Reich.

From war-torn Europe we travel eastwards once more to the rugged mountains and treacherous passes of India's North West Frontier. Camouflage smocks and machine guns make way for scarlet tunics, the sound of bugle and drum and volley fire from Martini Henry rifles with our latest "SONS OF THE EMPIRE" figures.

Finally, we go even further back to K&C's earliest days and some of our very first *gloss releases*. They show better than anything just how far we've come *and* how much farther we are going to go. Why don't you come along with us on this "voyage of discovery"?

*Andy C. Neilson*  
ANDY C. NEILSON  
CO-FOUNDER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
KING & COUNTRY

Two of Andy's original sketches for the new "Napoleon in Egypt" series.

IF021

One of K&C's new Bersaglieri infantry figures... somewhere in Egypt.



2-5  
NAPOLEON IN EGYPT

6  
THE ROLLS-ROYCE  
ARMoured CAR

7-10  
GERMANY 1945

11-12  
GERMANY 1938

13  
ITALY AT WAR

14  
AUSSIE RULES!

15-17  
SONS OF THE EMPIRE

18-19  
A BLAST FROM OUR PAST

WARBIRD SUPPLEMENT

KING & COUNTRY

Headquarters Room 2301, No. 3 Lockhart  
Road, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2861 3450  
Fax: (852) 2861 3806 Shop 362, Pacific  
Place, Queensway, Hong Kong Tel: (852)  
2525 8603

Email: sales@kingandcountry.com  
Website: www.kingandcountry.com

Rommel's Afrika Korps utilized  
all kinds of fighting vehicles from  
many different sources...  
both Allied and Axis – here this  
particular M13/40 is in German  
markings.

AK075

Carro Armato  
M13/40

(Afrika Korps version)



NAPOLEON BONAPARTE'S Egyptian Campaign of 1798-1801, although ultimately a failure, was a bold attempt to advance French influence and trade interests in the Middle and Near East. At the same time, it was Napoleon's intention to cut Britain's overland access to India and foment discontent and rebellion there.

# NAPOLEON IN EGYPT

**T**HIS PARTICULAR campaign marked the beginning of a long-lasting European fascination with Egypt, its history and ancient civilization which continues to this day.

The four-year military adventure into "The Land of the Pharaohs" would have a huge impact on many important aspects of Western culture including art and design ... literature ... science ... and even ... tourism! All of that however had to play a secondary role to Napoleon's primary goal of defeating the British and disrupting their trade, empire and growing political and military domination.

To achieve these important tasks he first had to assemble an army of almost 40,000 men... then gather a huge fleet of ships and sailors necessary to carry them onto Egypt. The Mediterranean port of Toulon was selected as the principle port of embarkation and soon began to resemble one massive armed camp. Napoleon also ensured that a large body of artists, scientists and other technical experts (gathered from all over France) came to Toulon, ready to join his invasion force. Their mission was to record and study all aspects of

**NE001**  
Napoleon  
on Camel



**NE002**  
Arab Guide



Egyptian life, the country's amazing history and, of course, its ancient civilization. This was to be no ordinary invasion. This was, in effect, the dawn of today's "Egyptology".

## THE K&C CONNECTION

Since reintroducing Napoleonic themes and figures into the KING & COUNTRY catalogue several years ago we have seen an amazing growth in popularity and interest among collectors all over the world.

Simultaneously it has given K&C's own design team, led by the company's co founder and creative director, Andy C. Neilson, an opportunity to explore the many different aspects of the colourful and dramatic era that was the Napoleonic Wars.

Andy picks up the story, "When K&C first began to produce these kinds of figures we started with historical

campaigns that we ourselves were most familiar with... The "Peninsular War" and the Emperor's "Last Hundred Days" which led up to Waterloo."

Although these have been extremely successful Andy and the team wanted to venture further afield. "We did consider the Russian Campaign of 1812 together with the "Retreat from Moscow," Andy says, "before deciding that it was just too big a subject to take on." "I reckon," he emphatically states, "that the Grande Armée alone would have kept us busy from now until doomsday!"

Although the "Retreat from Moscow" had some appeal K&C also believed that one "winter" series (The Battle of the Bulge) was enough to be getting on with. "Besides," Andy adds, "I felt like a change of weather as well as different scenery!"

## CHANCE DISCOVERY

The answer of "where to go" and "what to go with" Napoleonically speaking came about quite by accident...

**NE008**



*Far Left:*  
A young infantry officer carrying the regional flag.

*Right:*  
One of Napoleon's soldiers studies an ancient stone with some equally ancient hieroglyphics.

**NE003**



"A few years ago," Andy says, "I was in New York taking part in Louis Badolato's Toy Soldier Symposium\* and had a free day at the end of the event to myself. I decided to explore a

### \*THE NEW YORK TOY SOLDIER SYMPOSIUM

A SYMPOSIUM is usually described as a meeting of like-minded individuals to discuss all aspects of mutual interest... In a nutshell that is just about what the New York Toy Soldier Symposium, held most years in March, is all about...

Several years ago three dedicated U.S. toy soldier enthusiasts decided to do just that. New York lawyer Louis Badolato together with Manhattan restaurateur Lawrence Lo and businessman Hans Hedrich jointly organized a series of social events and gatherings to "talk toy soldiers".

For two, then three days, collectors came from around the 'States and then all over the world to enjoy a series of dinners, to view collections, meet and talk with manufacturers and, finally, visit a real-live toy soldier show in New Jersey on the last day!

Through Louis, Larry and Han's generosity this weekend in March event has attracted many of the top toy soldier names like Figarti... John Jenkins... Ken Osen... William Britains and ... a little company called KING & COUNTRY (and yours truly).

The Symposium is a great way to meet and interact with fellow collectors and leading manufacturers—often on a one-to-one basis. I've been fortunate to attend most of them and can heartily recommend them to one and all.

little bit of the city and was walking up the famous Fifth Avenue when I came across the Dahesh Museum of Art. This little museum specialises in 19th and early 20th century Orientalist Art with special reference to Middle Eastern art and architecture. Most of the work is by western artists who journeyed to the Middle East at that time to capture the unique character, flavour and history of the region."

While exploring the Museum Andy discovered their giftshop and found several illustrated books on Napoleon's ill-fated Egyptian expedition.

"The images and illustrations in the books fascinated me," Andy says. "They were almost cinematic in their breadth, scope and colour... And this was a hundred years before the invention of cinema!"

Then and there he decided that a "Napoleon in Egypt"

series held great potential for a King & Country range.

### A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

As many "COLLECTOR" readers know coming up with fresh, innovative ideas for figures and series is really quite easy... most of us do it all the time.

What is difficult is finding a suitable "niche" in an already "bursting-at-the-seams" release schedule... that is the hard part!

This particular idea however continued to stay at the forefront of Andy's mind... "When a good idea has that kind of staying power," Andy remarks, "I like



Napoleon and some of his men are given a guided tour of an ancient ruin watched over by a solitary gauthier and a few of his flock...

Diorama by K&C's Workshop.





to think we might be onto something."

To emphasise that fact and, perhaps, to convince himself that "Napoleon in Egypt" really would be worth adding to the K&C



catalogue Andy shared the concept with a few close "confidants" in the hobby. During the company's annual "pilgrimage" to Chicago's Old Toy Soldier Show back in 2009 K&C's creative director discretely discussed the "Egyptian Idea" with a few trusted K&C dealers and collectors. "Their response," Andy says, "was immediate and very enthusiastic."

"Perhaps the most enthusiastic," Andy goes on, "was our National Distributor for France, Frederic Genard." Fred, Andy states, firmly believed that this potential new series would not only be extremely popular in France but could also have wide appeal in the rest of the toy soldier world. Up to this point, said Fred, the Egyptian Campaign had been sadly, much neglected.

"I felt the same way," Andy continues, "but it's always good to hear other respected opinions back you up. Besides, I also love a challenge and enjoy exploring "Virgin Territory" in our little world of toy soldiers."

# **THE FIRST RELEASES**

KING & COUNTRY's initial launch is



Detail from the Genard painting.

relatively modest and contains just one mounted piece... six foot figures and ... a superb architectural backdrop item.

First and foremost, of course, must be the man himself, Napoleon Bonaparte, mounted on a magnificently decorated camel and shielding his eyes from the blazing desert sun as he gazes at the wonders of this ancient civilization.

This figure is based on a famous painting by Jean-Leon Gerome (1824-1904), one of



the finest of the "Orientalist History" painters. It depicts Napoleon's advance into Egypt. Part of the painting is featured on our front cover.

Among the dismantled figures accompanying the future emperor are a young officer clutching a sabre in one hand and his regimental banner in the other. Elsewhere two private soldiers, muskets ready, enjoy a refreshing drink and study some ancient stone carvings. A local arab guide is also on hand offering his services to the invading foreigners.

In addition to these single figures is a unique little two-piece "vignette". A seated military artist, (perhaps one of Napoleon's experts) portfolio by his side, is sketching what he sees standing before him. In the shade of an umbrella, a Dragoon Officer studies the artwork.



Finally, in this first release is an excellent (and useful) display piece to set the scene and provide a perfect "backdrop".



**NE012**  
Temple Ruins

Two time-weathered pillars support part of the ruins of an ancient temple. This three-piece display item is very versatile... and perfect for this "Napoleon in Egypt" scene. It can also easily (and realistically) be utilized in a wide variety of other historical eras... From K&C's "Life of Jesus" series... to the Middle East in the time of the Crusades and even the epic struggles between Rommel's Afrika Korps and Montgomery's Eighth Army during the Second World War. We leave the choice to you...

So, there you have it... the story behind our new "Napoleon in Egypt" series... and this is just the beginning, look out for more of this unique range in the coming months.

# THE ROLLS-ROYCE ARMOURED CAR

**T**HE Rolls-Royce Armoured Car was a British fighting vehicle originally developed in 1914 and successfully used throughout the First World War... It even saw action again in the early years of the Second World War.

## FIGHTING STORY

Although the Rolls-Royce Armoured Car proved of limited value amidst the mud, blood and barbed wire of the Western Front during WWI it came into its own in the scorching desert sands of Arabia. T.E. Lawrence (*Lawrence of Arabia*) made great use of

them in his "*Arab Revolt*" against the Turks in the Middle East during 1917 and 1918.

Closer to home they took part in the *Irish Civil War* (1922-1923) helping to put down dissident elements of the *Irish Republican Army*. These armoured vehicles continued in Irish military service until 1944.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

At the outbreak of the war on September 3, 1939, just 76 Rolls-Royce Armoured Cars remained in service with the British forces. Most could be found in the Middle East operating in Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and Syria on both "*policing*" and "*reconnaissance*" duties.

By early 1942 they were being removed from active duty as more modern vehicles replaced them. There were however some *Rolls-Royce Armoured Cars* that continued to provide useful service. These



particular ones had been built in India and were used throughout the sub continent and in Burma.

## THE K&C VERSION

Our new "*Roller*" is in typical three-colour camouflage of the early "*Desert War*" period and comes with a *Vickers Machine Gun* turret and a vehicle commander scanning the horizon for any sign of the enemy.

In the inside panels of the rear compartment can be

seen some extra armament in the form of two .303 Lee Enfield Rifles.

This vehicle belongs to the famous "*7th Armoured Division*" (*The Desert Rats*) and carries a readily identifiable RAF roundel on the bonnet for easy aircraft recognition.



**EA044**  
**Desert Rolls-Royce**



**WS180(SL)**  
JAGDTIGER (Henschel production)

**WS183****WS185**

# GERMANY 1945



*A father and son awaiting the Red Army's advance into Berlin sometime in April 1945.*

**B**Y THE BEGINNING of 1945, after almost six years of war, the once mighty, all-conquering German Army was a shadow of its former self... Almost two million soldiers had been killed with another one and a half million captured or missing... Millions more had been wounded... Replacements were needed *but where would they come from?*

At this late stage of the war Hitler and his generals would use anything and anyone to try and halt the unrelenting advance of the Allied armies. Earlier, in the autumn of 1944, the "VOLKSSTURM" had been set up. Millions of men and boys, either too old or too young to serve in the regular army had been "called-up" to serve at the front.

Given the most rudimentary military training and often armed with obsolete or captured enemy weapons many of these "fresh" troops even lacked proper uniforms and equipment.

One modern weapon they were issued with in abundance was the "Panzerfaust", the simple, easy-to-use, shoulder-fired anti tank rocket.

It was hoped by the High Command that these crude but effective weapons could stop the legions of allied tanks, *quite literally*, in their tracks.

WS182



### "ENEMY AT THE GATES"

Among K&C's latest and upcoming German releases are a collection of typical late-war "Volkssturm" conscripts. Young "Hitlerjugend" volunteers stand side by side with elderly grandfathers many of them clutching their "Panzerfausts".

Spread thinly about their ranks are a few regular Wehrmacht and Waffen SS soldiers to "stiffen" the resistance and perhaps, provide a little useful battlefield knowledge and experience. There's even a couple of veteran brown-uniformed SA men called up for the fight!

### HEAVYWEIGHT SUPPORT

Providing some additional fire support (and a little confidence) is one of the rare, new "Jagdtigers". This 72-ton monster armed with a huge 128mm gun can devastate any armoured opposition that comes its way. It does however, suffer from a plethora of problems... For a start, it's too heavy for many of Germany's roads and bridges...

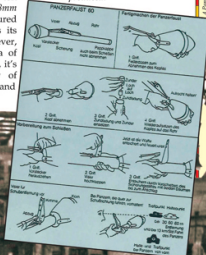
Jagdtiger with detachable gun mounting.



It also uses up precious fuel at an alarming rate and, to make matters worse it *breaks down far too often!* But for these few remaining "Volkssturm"... its all they've got!

Our K&C "Strictly Limited" model comes in a battle-worn, two-colour camouflage scheme complete with *three* partial-crew figures. Its detachable main gun section allows for safer handling and transportation. In addition each special "SL" box contains a numbered information brochure.

**Please note:** Just 750 of this particular fighting vehicle are being produced.





*Amidst the wreckage of an abandoned Luftwaffe airfield a small detachment of Volksturm men and boys move out to take up a defensive position.... Elsewhere other defenders receive some additional instruction on their weapons.*





*Hitlerjugend boys and BDM girls salute the Führer.*



# GERMANY 1938

**B**ERLIN IN THE SUMMER OF 1938 Adolf Hitler and the Nazis have been in power for five and a half tumultuous years and much in Germany has changed... There is food on the table and full employment... There is pride in the rapidly growing strength and might of the Third Reich... Germany is once more at the centre of the world stage – as most Germans think it should be... Everywhere the Fuhrer goes he is welcomed by a huge forest of raised right arms. He promises a new Germany that will last a thousand years!

*What could possibly go wrong?*

Not so far away from the sunlit Berlin streets with their hanging red, white and black banners is a darker, much more dangerous Third Reich. Already many thousands of other ordinary decent Germans languish in brutal concentration camps... their only crime... to oppose Hitler and his henchmen. Elsewhere in Germany hundreds of thousands of fellow Germans are also being deprived of their homes, their livelihoods, their civil rights and their basic human requirements... Their only crime... to be Jewish!

### SIEG HEIL!

This darker, more vicious side of the new Nazi regime goes largely ignored by the world



at large and the millions thronging the crowded streets and pavements hailing their beloved Fuhrer.

Many of this crowd are dressed in the new uniforms of the multitude of organizations taken over by the "Party".

For young boys there is the "Hitlerjugend", the Nazis' own paramilitary youth group... for teenage girls there is the "Bund Deutscher Madel" (the League of German Maidens)... the BDM.

The German Red Cross has also been co-opted by the regime as even their members raise their right arms in salute. Older First War veterans, wearing their medals proudly on their chest, are caught up in the

crowded fervour.

And, of course, there are the ubiquitous SA men (the Sturmabteilung)... still dangerous but

LAN133  
The Bill Posters



LAN134  
Billboard

much less powerful than their old political rivals... the sinister black-clad Schutzstaffel... the dreaded SS.

### SOON WILL COME THE DAY OF RECKONING

Few among those cheering crowds "siege-heiling" their Fuhrer could know or even guess that within seven years their "Thousand-Year Reich" would lie in shattered ruins... and Hitler and his murderous gang would be gone from the face of the earth.



LAN127

LAN128



A young Hitlerjugend trumpeter.

A BDM girl at a sports day.

**IF014**  
**Carro Armato M13/40**  
**(Italian version)**



Italy's entry into the Second World War should have given "Il Duce" some serious pause for thought and a large dose of reality in his dream of establishing a "new Roman Empire".

In June 1940, the short, disastrous campaign against France, already reeling from the German assault in the West, was a humiliating fiasco... in just 15 days the battle in the Alps separating the two nations cost the Italians dearly. Over 4,000 of their soldiers were killed and wounded compared to less than 200 on the French side!

A few months later, the Italian attack on Greece was repelled with heavy casualties. Their forces fell back in headlong retreat back into Albania with the Greeks in hot pursuit.

*K&C's new Bersaglieri infantry go on the offensive accompanied by our latest Italian armoured fighting vehicle...*

# ITALY AT WAR

*Despite Mussolini's boastful claims Italy did not possess the capability to wage effective and successful modern military campaigns... As they soon found out!*

An even greater reversal however was about to erupt in North Africa...

## MUSSOLINI'S MISADVENTURE

After launching a massive invasion from Libya into British-held Egypt the Italian forces then halted, dug-in and allowed themselves to be out-manoeuvred and out-fought by the vastly out-numbered British.

Eight entire Italian divisions (more than 130,000 men) were captured during the daring British counter offensive of early 1941.

Only the timely arrival of General Erwin Rommel and his newly-formed *Deutsche Afrika Korps* in February and March 1941 saved a horrible disaster from becoming a terrible rout!





Our K&C M13/40 tank will be available in three different versions as part of the "Series 250" range.

On these two pages we are featuring the original Italian Forces one alongside a captured Australian alternative complete with painted Kangaroo prominently displayed on the sides and rear of the tank. Also available to go with the captured M13/40

is an amateur Aussie "sign painter" paint brush in one hand... Lee Enfield in the other.

An Afrika Korps M13/40 will also be available. Planned production quantity for each of the three models is just 250 vehicles.



## "WAS THE ITALIAN ARMY REALLY SO BAD?"

The straight answer, of course, contrary to Allied myth, is that Italy's forces were a "mixed bag" of good, bad and indifferent units... depending on certain important military factors and individual unit circumstances...

Italy, at least during the early stages of the war, did not suffer from any lack of manpower. Nor was there a paucity of personal

parade or at Fascist Party Rallies but it was seriously short of regular and realistic training... its officer corps with some major exceptions, was lazy, incompetent and self-centered, little caring for the welfare and well-being of the ordinary rank and file... The army's equipment and weapons were often out-dated and obsolete... more useful for fighting the First World War than the Second...

## THE EXCEPTIONS

Amazingly however some Italian units, when properly trained armed and professionally led could and did perform "military miracles" in even the most hazardous battlefield situations.

Among the best were the elite "Bersaglieri", a special corps of light infantry rifleman originally formed during Garibaldi's reunification of Italy in the mid 19th Century.

These are the subject of KING

# 'AUSSIE RULES!'

bravery and courage. What was lacking was the absence of good up-to-date military training... decent leadership... modern weapons and equipment.

Virtually all of these faults could, be laid fairly and squarely at the collective feet of Mussolini and his Fascists. In the years leading up to the war Italy had an army that looked good on

& COUNTRY's latest release of Italian Forces in WW2.

Seven of our troops wear the tropical sun helmet complete with black cockerel feathers on the right side. An attached officer is from the "Trieste" Motorised Division.



Home decoration... Aussie style.

As a few of his mates look on this Australian soldier sends a clear message to the Italian Dictator.

# SONS of the EMPIRE

**F**OR OUR SECOND release in this unique and colourful series K&C are going back into our own history and launching a new regiment of soldiers we first produced over 20 years ago... *The Ludhiana Sikhs!*

These latest "Ludhianas" are light years ahead of the earlier ones in terms of vastly improved sculpting, painting and, of course, variety of poses. Back then K&C produced just four figures — a mounted British officer, his Indian counterpart, a marching bugler and a rifleman.

## 15<sup>th</sup> LUDHIANA SIKHS

This new release, coming onto the market over several months will comprise no less than nine



foot figures and one mounted British officer. Even more "Ludhianus" are already in the works... including a few more

bandsmen and a marching rifleman. One other big surprise is that these figures will be available for the first time in both "matt" and "traditional gloss" paint finish.

KING & COUNTRY believes that the time is right to do this and the subject matter is very suitable for the "gloss option".

K&C's Andy C. Neilson explains, "Even though as a company we're best known for converting the toy soldier world from the older "glossy" finish into the more realistic "matt" we've always appreciated and loved the traditional toy soldier style."

"These kind of soldiers of the late 19th. Century with their colourful uniforms seem to lend themselves to an extra coat of gloss lacquer!" Andy says. "So, we did a little test at our painting studio... liked the results and decided to offer collectors the alternative "traditional gloss" option as well as our usual matt."

It will be interesting to see what the reactions of many K&C collectors will be. Many of those same collectors have only ever seen our regular K & C matt-style figures.

"Personally," Andy continues, "I like both painting styles and think they are equally appropriate for this kind of colourful Nineteenth Century soldier... But, at the end of the day, it will be the collector who decides."



## A LUDHIANA SCRAPBOOK

IT'S ALWAYS FUN to look back and see what ideas and influences have helped shape a new series of figures.

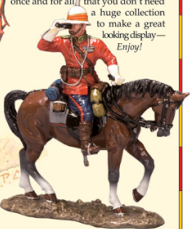
At King & Country we keep a whole library of books, magazines and adverts that provide us with a wealth of inspiration and reference. The central illustration on this page is a superb painting by noted military artist Paul Chater (1878-1949). It comes from an excellent little book called "An Assemblage of



the more traditional gloss finish.

Finally, a pair of images of the latest K&C "Ludhianas" in the "traditional gloss paint finish" proving once and for all that you don't need

a huge collection to make a great looking display—Enjoy!



Indian Army Soldiers & Uniforms"... A long title for a little book, but an excellent reference source. Sadly it is no longer in print.

Also on this page are several reproductions of K&C's earlier attempt at the Ludhiana Sikhs (note the different spelling)... All in

"Last Stand of the Ludhianas?"  
A small group of Sikh riflemen and their British officer prepare to make every bullet count.



## A BLAST FROM THE PAST

*"Who says nostalgia ain't what it used to be!"*

There really was a time, long, long ago when virtually everything K&C produced

was nice and "glossy". Here is probably our earliest full colour brochure from back in 1984. It shows some very basic Seaforth Highlanders.



GENART LTD., 4/F Al Aqmar House, 30 Hollywood Road, Hong Kong.



Another old KING & COUNTRY piece here from the early 1900's. The uniform jacket is the original and the original floor tile models are still in the K&C collection.

LA1  
Indian Army

Australian  
New South Wales Lancers

# KING & COUNTRY

ORIGINAL TOY SOLDIERS

# Republic P-47 'THUNDERBOLT'



THE P-47 "THUNDERBOLT" had many nicknames... "The Jug"... "T-Bolt"... "Juggernaut" and even a few German ones that were not so polite!



AF012  
P47 Thunderbolt



WARBIRD SUPPLEMENT

**D**uring World War Two the P-47 was the biggest and heaviest single-engine fighter plane to see action. Surprisingly, it was also one of the fastest.

Developed by the REPUBLIC AVIATION CORP., it served all over the globe and flew with many air forces besides the U.S. Army Air Force. By the end of the war 15,682 "Thunderbolts" has been produced in six major variants.

Although initially designed as a pure long-range fighter escort the P-47 also developed into a superb fighter/bomber that took a heavy toll of enemy ground targets especially railway locomotives and rolling stock.

#### ORIGINS & DEVELOPMENT

The P-47 was a lineal descendant of two earlier American pursuit fighters... the Seversky P-35 and Republic's own P-43. Both aircraft bore a strong resemblance to the later P-47 and some of the principal designers and engineers worked on all three projects.

Work on the P-47 really began in June 1940 when the U.S. Army Air Corps sent out

invitations to several leading manufacturers to compete on a brand-new pursuit fighter.



Gordon C. Neilson's mini diorama of a captured German airfield somewhere in Normandy just after the D-Day landings. The diorama measures just 22 inches by 22.

With the war in Europe already menacing America many recognized that it was only a matter of time before the U.S. would be

embroiled in the conflict. It was essential therefore that the U.S. had powerful new aircraft to go up against the might of Hitler's seemingly invincible *Luftwaffe*!

Republic's contender in this future fighter competition was to be the P-47. Originally armed with just four .50 calibre machine guns this was quickly upgraded to





eight guns (*four in each wing*). It was also decided to power the aircraft with the mighty Pratt & Whitney R-2800 engine... at that time the most powerful aircraft engine in the world. In front of the engine was a huge four-bladed propeller with a twelve foot two inch diameter. All of this additional weight and extra firepower demanded a larger airframe and the designers obliged... making the P-47 bigger than any other fighter of its time.

The P-47 also had the ability to carry an impressive amount of ordnance underneath its wings including rockets and heavy bombs plus additional long-range fuel tanks.

By May 1941 the first production prototypes were ready for testing and in front of a large gathering of "Top Brass" from Washington performed superbly and was given the "green light" to go into full production.

### INTO ACTION

The new P-47's (by now christened the Thunderbolt) were shipped, along with their pilots, to Britain arriving in January 1943. By March 1943, just two months later,

they flew their first operations over Northern France joining combat with their Luftwaffe opponents' FW190's and Me109's. These early P-47's were all "razorback" models as is this new KING & COUNTRY version. The more numerous "bubbletop" canopy versions



were to arrive some time later. Almost 80% of the total number of P-47's built were the "bubbletop".

### OUR THUNDERBOLT

KING & COUNTRY's Republic P-47 Thunderbolt is based on one of the most original and colourful "Jugs" around... Flying from RAF Buxted, in June 1944, this unit specialized in searching for downed aviators in the English Channel and North Sea following raids on Germany and other Nazi-occupied countries.

Many of the pilots who flew these rescue missions were seasoned combat veterans themselves who knew only too well the importance and value of the vital task they performed.

As with all Allied aircraft that flew over Normandy during and after the landings this "T-Bolt" has had his wings and fuselage painted over with the famous black and white "Invasion Stripes".

This particular aircraft belongs to the 6<sup>th</sup> Emergency Rescue Squadron of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and comes complete with a seated pilot in the cockpit and its landing gear down.

*Just 500 have been produced!*

### POSTWAR FLYING THUNDERBOLTS

After WW2 the "Thunderbolt" remained flying with U.S. Air National Guard Squadrons until the early 1990's. Even then the P-47 continued to provide useful service with many air forces - particularly in Central and South America including Colombia... Bolivia... Chile... Peru... Mexico...

Further afield they also flew on in Yugoslavia, Portugal, Turkey, Italy, Iran and Nationalist China.



### KING & COUNTRY HEADQUARTERS

Suite 2301, 23rd Floor, No.3 Lockhart Road,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2861 3450 Fax: (852) 2861 3806  
E-mail: sales@kingandcountry.com

### KING & COUNTRY SHOP

362, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway,  
Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2525 8603  
Website: www.kingandcountry.com