

Issue No. 30

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1983 KING & COUNTRY 2011

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at the World in Miniature



**WHY ARE GERMANS
SO POPULAR?**

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES...

"GRAFFITI" is the name for images or lettering scratched, scrawled or written in any manner on property (usually someone else's).

It has existed in one form or another, since ancient times with examples going all the way back to classical Greece and the Roman Empire. Soldiers in particular have always enjoyed "leaving their mark" wherever they have fought and died... *Napoleon's army in Egypt were no exception.*

Even today visitors to that country's ancient temples and tombs can see where the French army wrote and carved their "autographs" all over the famous stones. *And they were not the only ones...*

Soldiers from later wars, especially the British and Australians, also left their "handiwork" for all to see on Egypt's relics. So, it's perhaps appropriate that among the second release of "Napoleon in Egypt" figures is one "Graffiti Artist" making his own personal mark on an old Egyptian monument!

While we're still in the Middle East this edition of "COLLECTOR" also introduces the upcoming Australian and Turkish "add-ons" for our "BEERSHEBA 1917" series. Talking of Australians... Helen (K&C's Managing Director) and yours truly will be in the "Land of Oz" to meet K&C collectors and dealers in Brisbane and Sydney from June 5 until June 14. This is our third visit down under and each time it gets bigger and better. We're looking forward to meeting up with lots of old friends and making a few new ones.

In the meantime... enjoy this latest "COLLECTOR" ... I hope there's a piece or two in here that will be joining your collections.

Happy Collecting!

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



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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



Photo left:
 US Army M7 Priest
 in action Germany 1945



Above:
 DD180 K&C's first Priest model
 complete with four man crew. Next to
 our latest M7 Priest (DD152).

Above:
 US Army Bronze Star

As three of K&C's upcoming WW2 biplanes prepare to take off, another one comes in to land.



K&C's Andy C. Neilson writes, "Last March I was in Irvine, California taking part in the Annual West Coast Toy Soldier Show. Every year our good friends at Sierra Toy Soldiers based up in Los Gatos, host an evening event where I give a little

talk about K&C and then "open the floor" to questions from collectors.

After this year's event Steve Dawson and his wife came up and presented me with a beautiful set of photo montages they had created using K&C figures and fighting

vehicles... I was blown away with their artistry and creativity and told them then and there that I wanted to feature them in an upcoming "COLLECTOR".

Now read on..."

'Picture This!'

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2010 my wife and I were driving up California's Highway 1 when we stopped along the way in the small picturesque coastal town of Cambria to have lunch.

After parking our car we were walking down Cambria's Main Street when we spotted a toy soldier store aptly called "The Soldier Gallery" owned and operated by long-time K&C dealer Chris Munro.

I had to walk in and was immediately blown away! There, displayed in front of me, were shelf upon shelf of the most amazing little figures, vehicles and aircraft I had ever seen. As I scanned the shelves I could see Rommel's famed "Afrika Korps"... opposing them were General Bernard Montgomery's equally famous "Eighth Army". Further down I spied

Napoleon's bearskin-topped "Old Guard" marching against Wellington's scum-of-the-earth "Redcoats"...

For me it was like suddenly stepping back in time... It's 1963 and I'm in my parents' backyard playing toy soldiers with the kid from across the street... In the sand pit in front of us we've brought together our collection of little green army guys and tanks and are refighting the desert battle of El Alamein... A few seconds later... I'm up the street, in a friend's garage... we've just finished building a First World War airfield and it's being strafed by our

hand-made, plastic SPAD's and SE-5's.

Another minute or two... I'm sitting at my Mom's kitchen table... I have a whole bunch of Marshal Ney's colorful Cuirassiers lined up to charge a well formed British square at Waterloo...

As you can probably tell from these sample memories I'm a product of the "Baby-boom" generation... I grew up in the nineteen fifties and sixties listening to stories my Dad told me about serving in the Army Air Corps in Italy and North Africa during World War 2. He would tell me about faraway places I had never, at that time, heard of... Casablanca... Tunis... Palermo... Salerno and... Anzio.

On television, at the movies and in comic books I would read about and see the great events of World War 2 and the other wars, battles and campaigns of the past. I just loved history and my play time with little toy soldiers, tanks and planes was like "playing with history".

And then, of course, around about the age of 14 I, like many other young boys, discovered the opposite sex!!!

THE LONG GOODBYE

Many of today's K&C collectors put away (or gave away) our little armies... retired our fighting tanks... scrapped our model aircraft (or as my Mom called them "dust collectors") and began chasing girls, going to college... getting a job... building a career... moving on.

The years go by... slowly at first and then faster as we all get older until one day... we stumble across a little toy soldier store in Cambria, California. Suddenly long-lost and seemingly forgotten memories and childhood pleasures came flooding back. I spent quite some time in Chris' store that day and before I left I purchased my very first King &



Country figures.

When we returned home after our trip I decided to find out more about my new "acquisitions" and the company that made them... So, I got on the internet.

I soon found the K&C website and exactly where their network of dealers were... not only in the U.S. but all over the world. Of most personal use to me were K&C's California dealers and soon I began to visit them and their stores regularly.

The more I saw and discovered the more I liked... To me these little miniatures were incredibly detailed and life-like. I particularly enjoyed the creativity and expert knowledge that seemed to go into each individual piece and even the

"Here's how I shot him down!"
These American pilots discuss the day's combat.

"character" that seems to inhabit the soldiers themselves.

I also learned about the special "Collector" shows that are held annually here in the states.

Fortunately for me I saw that one of the most famous and best-loved toy soldier shows was held annually right here in California... in nearby Irvine... "The West Coast" ... and it was coming up in March 2011. I determined my wife and I had to attend!

LINKING UP WITH K&C

As you know from Andy already, my wife and I went along to hear him speak at the "Sierra Toy Soldier Evening". We arrived early and got great seats right at the very front of the room. By the time Andy came forward to speak the small room was packed with over 50 collectors and was standing room only.

From Andy's comments and answers to questions about all aspects of the hobby, business and K&C you could tell that not only was he a "savvy" businessman but also a genuine toy soldier enthusiast

Winter in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge... December 1944. Otto Skorzeny leads some of his men on a reconnaissance mission towards the American front lines.



Utilizing the backdrop of a Robert Taylor painting of RAF Spitfires Steve has digitally super imposed a K&C Spitfire to lead the way over the French coast.



himself. For almost two hours he fielded a host of questions with plenty of humor and passion.

This is a man, I thought, who really loves what he is doing.

After the talk I approached Andy and presented him with a little folder of my photographs as a token of my appreciation and an example of how K&C had inspired some of my own work.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

I have been a professional photographer for over 35 years. During that time the world of photography has changed immeasurably. The use of computers and digital imagery have allowed professionals like myself to create scenes and vistas that would have been unimaginable even just a few years ago. This led me to believe that I could return to the joys of my childhood by utilizing my skills as a photographer combined with the latest technology available to me.

During my "reintroduction" to toy soldiers I had the opportunity to view countless websites (including K&C's own) and see

how figures, fighting vehicles and aircraft were portrayed in photography. I soon discovered that most toy soldier photography is done in a certain style and way. In the majority of cases a high angle 3/4 view is taken to show figures and vehicles in the most advantageous way for a potential buyer to see what a plane, tank or even just a soldier actually looks like.

I, however, wanted to try something a

little bit different...

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

I began with the concept of wanting to make my toy soldiers appear "real" or at least, "alive". One way to do this was to get down and look at the soldiers at almost their own eye level. After all, that is the level we ourselves look at the world and the people around us.



A young Steve and a buddy plan their battlefield strategy.

*A busy US airfield somewhere in
France, July 1944.*



*Photographer
Steve Dawson*

Anyone who has played with toy soldiers and built miniature buildings... walls... trees... fences and other ground work to surround them recognizes how much more realistic they look when viewed from a lower perspective. Our imagination often helps us to "fill-in" the rest of the visual background.

Using digital photography I was able to place my main K&C elements (figures, vehicles, aircraft) into any location I felt both suitable and

historically accurate.

This assembly of "photo montage" worked together to view a scene through the "mists of battle". The key to success of course is fitting the right subjects to the right digital background setting.

Since beginning this sometimes long and painstaking process I have learnt and developed many new and exciting techniques that make my "collecting bug" even more enjoyable. On these few pages you

can see just a few of the results. I've also recently picked up my first commission to photograph part of one particularly enthusiastic K&C collector's collection... I can't believe how much fun I am having bringing together three of my favourite things - photography... history... and toy soldiers.

*Steve Dawson, 57, lives and works in
Los Angeles, California.*



*Desert Warplane.
K&C's new Great Tank takes on
Rommel Afrika Korps and
appears to be winning!*



ACHTUNG SCHWEINHUND!



TWICE IN THE LAST CENTURY Germany has unleashed wars of unparalleled savagery and destruction on the world.

Its armies have earned a hard-won reputation as a fiercely efficient fighting machine while at the same time committing some of the most appalling war crimes against both enemy combatants and civilians alike.

Man-for-man they have been proclaimed as the most effective and resilient soldiers on the battlefield... even by their opponents!

Now, almost 70 years after the end of hostilities in Europe, countless books are still being written... movies and documentaries being made and thousands of little toy soldier Germans are continuing to march off to invade France... capture



North Africa... and still defend the beaches of Normandy. Just what is the attraction of collecting the "bad guys"... the villains of history? Exactly what makes them so appealing?

K&C's cofounder and creative director, Andy C. Neilson sits down with "COLLECTOR" to answer a few questions and criticisms of K&C's depiction in miniature of the momentous years between 1933 and 1945 and some of the figures that represent them...

COLLECTOR: So Andy, let's start at the beginning... why are you so fixated on the Third Reich and its inhabitants between 1933 and 1945?

ANDY: Well, I would say fascinated more than fixated to begin with... Fixated to me seems to say "obsessed" to the exclusion of everything



K&C's very first 88mm Flak gun in action.

else and that's simply not true.

At K&C our business is history... all of it... Of course we pick and choose which particular era we wish to delve into. The 12 years of Hitler's doomed "Thousand Year Reich" has always been a particular favourite of mine.

COLLECTOR: Why?

ANDY: I suppose growing up in Scotland back in the nineteen fifties was part of it. I was born in 1949 just four years after the end of the war. Many of my family... Mum and Dad, Aunts and Uncles had all fought in the war and would tell you stories about their experiences... good and bad.

At the same time British movies of that period seemed to be *chickflick* of war stories showing our lads taking on the Huns and

ANDY: I always liked the look of the German tanks and their other fighting vehicles... especially their motorcycle combinations and little *Kaschewagen*.

COLLECTOR: How did this interest develop into what K&C make?

ANDY: As most people know when K&C first began and for about a dozen years afterwards we produced what everyone else seemed to produce... *Zulu War... British Colonial Troops...* and, some *Ceremonial* types of figures. It was only in 1995 when we launched our "ARNHEM '44" range of British paratroopers that we quickly realized we had to have some German opposition.

COLLECTOR: Were these the first Germans you had produced?

ANDY: No, a couple of years before that we had experimented with a few sets of German soldiers based on some very old AIRFIX models. We had also

begun to release our first hand-carved wooden vehicles and aircraft made in China and the Philippines.

COLLECTOR: What did you discover?

ANDY: Nazis definitely sell!

COLLECTOR: Why?

ANDY: People may not like the Nazis but they do find them interesting. It's been my experience that collectors of K&C's German figures and fighting vehicles are definitely not "Closet Nazis". They like the look of the equipment... their military style and of course the amazing military performance not only in those victorious early days but also their many fighting retreats during the latter half of the war.

COLLECTOR: But K&C does not only design and produce WW2 Germans in fighting mode... You also have your "BERLIN '38" series... How did that come about?

giving them a *damned good* thrashing.

If they were not doing that then we laughed at them (*the Huns that is*). Everyone knew that the Germans in general and Nazis in particular had no sense of humor.

But there was however one other thing about the Germans they always looked so bloody smart! Even when they were menacing... Their uniforms for a start and, of course, the famous "cool-skuttle" helmet certainly made a big impression.

COLLECTOR: And what else?

ANDY: Well, their military performance... Once I began to read about what they actually achieved in the first half of the war... Their incredibly swift victories over Holland, Belgium and France... Then the Balkans and the early part of the Invasion of Russia... It was an amazing run of success surely you have to agree with that.

COLLECTOR: Any other things?

"Getting to know you"
Familiarizing with the enemy... a unique toy soldier set from K&C.



*"Getting to know you"
A much grimmer kind of
conversation between a guard
and prisoner.*



ANDY: One evening, over 20 years ago, I was watching Leni Riefenstahl's film *"Triumph of the Will"*, the epic documentary about the 1934 Nazi Party rally in Nuremberg.

The images she captured of thousands upon thousands of SA Stormtroopers... SS... and Hitlerjugend marching through that ancient city made me think of producing a "Nazis on Parade" series...

COLLECTOR: "Nazis on Parade"... *"Springtime for Hitler"*... you make it sound like a Mel Brooks comedy.

ANDY: Well yes I suppose so but I could see the attraction of all those different uniforms... and parade-style collections.

COLLECTOR: ... And perhaps the commercial possibilities?

ANDY: Certainly, of course. I also remember reading somewhere that if a publisher of a new book somehow included a swastika on the

front cover it sold many more copies!

In addition I knew that collectors of "parade" figures generally purchase in "multiples" compared to the "action-figure" enthusiast who rarely buys more than one figure of any individual pose!

COLLECTOR: What were your first Nazi parade figures?

ANDY: Some brown-shirted SA stormtroopers and a few "Allgemeine" (General Duties) black-clad SS figures.

COLLECTOR: Were they successful?

ANDY: Not bad, reasonable... You must remember K&C had only a few international trade dealers back in those days.

COLLECTOR: At which point did they really begin to sell?

ANDY: After we hired our own team of sculptors in China and replaced our "free-lance" sculptor in Hong Kong. The quality of the carving dramatically improved and we found a new factory that could produce in the matt-style paint finish we now wanted... our first Nazi figures were all in the glossy traditional paint style.

COLLECTOR: Nazi figures are always

contentious so did you expect any negative reaction to a parade series like "BERLIN '38"?

ANDY: Well once in a blue moon someone would come into our shop in Hong Kong and see a shelf load of little Stormtroopers goose-stepping across the display and go "ape-shit"! I remember one particular incident because I was in the shop when it happened... "How dare you display such offensive items," this American-accented lady shouted. "Remove them at once... these things should be banned!"

After she paused I attempted to explain our position... "We are in the history business - the good, the bad and the ugly," I explained, "Look around our shelves," I requested, "We have 45 shelf places and only one shows Nazis and Parade."

I went on to explain that WW2 was and is a major part of our business and we cannot only show the "Good Guys"... we have to show the opposing team. Not only that... we want to show what led up the war and in particular how uniformed and militarised Germany as a nation had become.

COLLECTOR: Did it work?

ANDY: I'm not sure... I tried to point out two shelves of American Civil War figures (Union and Confederate). "If an African American came into our shop," I ventured, "and saw our Confederates and began demanding that we take away these 'defenders of slavery'. What should I do? If I took away any and every toy soldier that might offend someone somewhere then pretty soon I would have an empty store!"

COLLECTOR: Getting back to the general appeal of Nazis... their fighting vehicles and aircraft. Why do collectors keep collecting them?

ANDY: Primarily it's that unique visual style of Germanic design that you can see in a Focke-Wulf 190 fighter plane... You see it in a group of Waffen SS troopers wearing their camouflage smocks and helmet covers... you most definitely see it in a Tiger Tank!

COLLECTOR: Why the Tiger?

ANDY: It is, without a doubt, the iconic tank of World War Two... it's big... it's mean... and it's so German looking!

COLLECTOR: So, it's been

successful for K&C?

ANDY: I believe K&C have designed at least 10 different Tigers... The single most popular being tank ace Michael Wittman's Tiger with 2,000 pieces sold.

COLLECTOR: Talking of German vehicles recently on the Treefrog Forum some collectors were asking for more to be painted in the early-war "feldgrau" (field gray) paint-scheme as opposed to the more numerous camouflage style.

ANDY: I like both but from a purely commercial point-of-view camouflage usually outsells field gray by a margin of three-to-one. However when appropriate or for a particular vehicle if it was in reality field gray we'll always try to do it that way.

COLLECTOR: How do you actually choose which German vehicles K&C will produce?

ANDY: Here at K&C HQ in Hong Kong we have a huge library of reference books which I'm always studying for ideas. At the same time it's often dictated by whatever battle or campaign we're working on for the soldiers. With photographic evidence of that particular action you can usually see the vehicles you want in the background. Having said that we also consider its "sellability"... Do we think it will be popular with the collectors?

One other important avenue for ideas is direct suggestions from K&C collectors themselves. Some of the best German vehicle sets have come from an idea or photo put forward from a collector...

COLLECTOR: For instance...

ANDY: The recent Kursk Tiger... The first aid motor-cycle combo... and the Funk-Kraftwagen Radio Truck. All of these came from collectors' ideas.

COLLECTOR: In general, how do sales of Nazi figures, vehicles and aircraft compare to other WW2 armies?

ANDY: Usually you can sell at least double the amounts of Nazis or German forces compared to all their other Allied opponents combined.

COLLECTOR: K&C produce all kinds of Germans for many different time periods... How would you define them?

ANDY: To begin with there is our "BERLIN '38" Parade series which also includes a veritable "Rogues' Gallery" of infamous Nazi personalities



like Hitler... Himmler... Goering... Goebbels... and Hess... to name but a few! Plus all kinds of marching figures. We've also just added a few German civilians.

Our "Fields of Battle" has German Wehrmacht of the early war period (1939-1941/42). K&C's later WSS covers a wide variety of Waffen SS... Luftwaffe Field Divisions... more Wehrmacht again and recently Volksturm "volunteers". All of these troops cover the period 1942-1945. Plus we have the Kriegsmarine and our Luftwaffe.

COLLECTOR: By producing so many different German figures and fighting vehicles it must be difficult to have a favorite... Do you have one?

ANDY: They are all my babies... how can I pick one? If I was forced to select then my two favourites would be the German troops fought in... North Africa and ... "The Battle of The Bulge".

COLLECTOR: Why those two?

ANDY: North Africa first... One of my uncles fought in the desert with Monty's Eighth Army and always had a good word to say about

Rommel's "Afrika Korps". He admired their fighting spirit and audacity. He also said they fought a relatively "clean war" with little or no atrocities on either side and very few civilians to get hurt in the cross fire.

Speaking personally I thought Erwin Rommel was a superb leader who did the maximum with the minimum of men, equipment and resupply. Plus, I've always loved the Afrika Korps uniform... the sun-faded green tunic... the khaki shorts and that nifty little desert ski cap... it might be blazing hot under that desert sun but the Afrika Korps guys always looked pretty cool!

COLLECTOR: ...And Battle of The Bulge?

ANDY: Well it's a complete contrast to North Africa. I love this one because no other toy soldier company had ever produced a series like this and it gave K&C an opportunity to "winterize" both vehicles and men in a whole new style. I also enjoyed researching this particular campaign and finding out a lot more about something I originally knew very little about.

COLLECTOR: Since K&C began producing German figures and fighting vehicles many of your competitors have followed suit. Does that worry you?

ANDY: No, it keeps us on our toes and stops any of us from getting too comfortable or too complacent.

COLLECTOR: What do you think of your competitors' efforts.

ANDY: I think some of it is excellent but a lot of it is derivative from figures and vehicles K&C has already produced in the past. I suppose it's a two-way street... sure they learned a lot from us but we've picked up quite a few things from them. So, at the end of the day... we've all moved forward and the collector has benefited from a wealth of choice, styles... and availability.

COLLECTOR: So, as far as Germans are concerned... what's next?

ANDY: Well if I told you... I'd have to kill you and as I don't want blood on my hands all I will say is we've got plenty more ideas and you won't have to wait too long to see some of them!

COLLECTOR: Does that include more aircraft and ships?

ANDY: That is for me to know and you to guess... watch this space!

HAWKER TYPHOON MK.1B

Introducing the Royal Air Force's finest hard-hitting, high-speed ground attack fighter/ bomber of the Second World War...



Even as the new *Hawker Hurricane* was beginning to roll off the assembly line in 1937, Britain's Royal Air Force was already looking for its replacement!

Not only was the RAF looking... so was Hawker's own chief designer, Sir Sydney Camm and his brilliant engineering team.

The brief from the British Air Ministry was for a fighter that could fly faster and hit harder than any of its predecessors.

That original specification sought a heavy armament of twelve Browning machine guns or six 20mm cannon! Power was to be supplied by the new Napier Sabre engine.

Due to the outbreak of war in September 1939 and the company's other urgent requirements a prototype did not fly until February 1940. Following a long

series of trials production did not begin until May 1941.

TAIL PROBLEMS

Development during this period had been traumatic as well as dramatic... several trial aircraft were lost due to tail section failures where

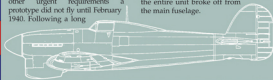
At first it was thought the tail section/fuselage joins should be made stronger to eliminate this dangerous weak point. Finally, it was found to be the failure of a small bracket on the elevators, that had led to these catastrophic crashes.



the entire unit broke off from the main fuselage.

An early production Hawker Typhoon 1A minus the small windows at the rear of the cockpit usually seen on prototype Typhoons.

This particular aircraft is armed with twelve Browning .303 machine guns... six in each wing.



An actual photo of K&C's Typhoon Z3-B being armed by RAF Ground Crew with anti-busting rockets.



MAKING GOOD • FLYING SAFELY

In September 1941, 56 Squadron at Duxford were the first to receive the new Typhoons. It fell to them to straighten out any operational flying problems before two more Typhoon squadrons were made operational in the early months of 1942.

By this time most Typhoons were carrying four cannon... a far more sensible arrangement and much more practical than the earlier "six" idea. In addition, bomb and rocket racks had also been fitted under each big, thick wing.

OPERATIONAL FLYING

Although originally conceived as a fast, high altitude fighter it soon became apparent that the aircraft performed far better at lower altitudes.

It was fast, tough and capable, as tests and trials proved. It could carry and deliver a wide range of underwing bombs and rockets and with its four cannon it packed a lethal punch!

By 1943 and the run-up to the invasion of Europe the RAF was desperately in need of a dedicated ground /attack aircraft... After looking at many different options the decision was taken that the Typhoon (or "Tiffie" as her pilots and ground crew called it) would make an excellent low-level ground attack fighter/ bomber.

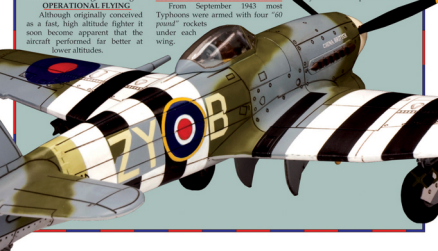
"A DAMNED EFFECTIVE WEAPON"

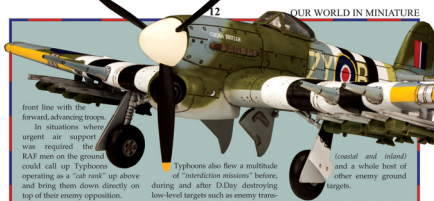
From September 1943 most Typhoons were armed with four "60 pound" rockets under each wing.

Although difficult to aim accurately, in the hands of a skilled pilot the power of just one Typhoon's eight rockets was the equivalent of a naval destroyer's broadside. Add to that the extra effect of the aircraft's four cannon and you have an extremely powerful aerial weapon to wield!

By D.Day, June 4, 1944 the RAF had 26 squadrons of Typhoons available for ground attack duties in Normandy and the invasion area.

A system of close liaison with ground forces was made possible by RAF radio operators on the





front line with the forward, advancing troops.

In situations where urgent air support was required the RAF men on the ground could call up Typhoons operating as a "cab rank" up above and bring them down directly on top of their enemy opposition.

Typhoons also flew a multitude of "interdiction missions" before, during and after D-Day destroying low-level targets such as enemy transport (both rail and road), shipping

(coastal and inland) and a whole host of other enemy ground targets.

A group of pilots from 198 Squadron gather around one of their Typhoons a few days after D-day - June 1944



Summer 1944 somewhere in Normandy. In between sorties, RAF pilots pass the time with a game of cricket. In the background a Typhoon sits being serviced by ground crew in front of a makeshift wooden hangar.



When production of the Typhoon finally came to an end, in November 1945, 3,317 machines had been built.

Although Hawker developed a much-improved version, the Typhoon II, it was decided that the aircraft had so many differences from the original Typhoon that it was effectively a brand-new aircraft and should be renamed "The Tempest".

Once the war in Europe ended the RAF was quick to remove the Typhoon from front-line service and many of the squadrons were disbanded.

Today, only one complete original Hawker Typhoon remains... in the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon near London.

There is one other Typhoon that can be seen... It is superb replica that hangs inside the Memorial de la Paix Museum just outside Caen in Normandy.

ABOUT THE K&C TYPHOON

KING & COUNTRY'S HAWKER TYPHOON bears the name "CHINA BRITISH" and was paid for by a group of wealthy expatriate British businessmen who, before the war, made their fortunes in Shanghai.

It wears the bold black and white Normandy "Invasion Stripes" and belongs to 247 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Just 500 of this very special aircraft have been built.

Powerplant

The broad and bulky nose profile of the Typhoon was needed to house the Napier Sabre MA engine. With four rows of six cylinders, arranged in an 'H' formation, maximum output was 2,180hp (1624kW). Alternative powerplants included Napier TB and DC engines which had slightly increased power.

Specification

Typhoon Mk II

Type: single-seat fighter-bomber

Powerplant: one 2,180-hp

(1626-kW) Napier Sabre MA horizontal in piston engine

Performance: maximum speed 465 mph (682 km/h) at 18,000 ft (5486 m); cruising speed 254 mph (349 km/h); service ceiling 34,000 ft (10363 m); range with maximum weapon load 510 miles (821 km)

Weights: empty 8,800 lb (3992 kg); maximum take-off 11,400 lb (5171 kg)

Dimensions (late production): span 41 ft 7 in (12.67 m); length 31 ft 11 in (9.73 m); height 15 ft 8 in (4.67 m); wing area 279 sq ft (25.92 m²)

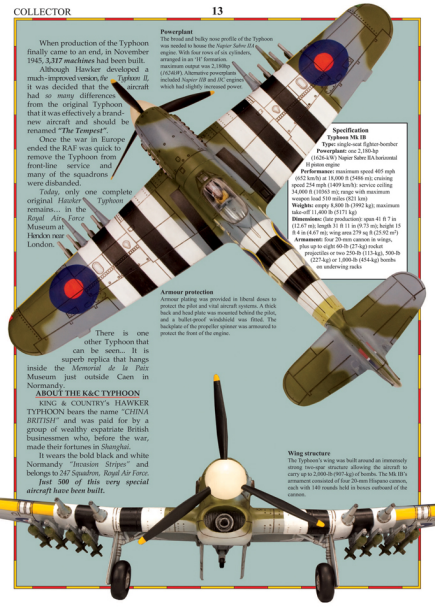
Armament: four 20-mm cannon in wings, plus up to eight 60-lb (27-kg) rocket projectiles or two 250-lb (113-kg), 500-lb (227-kg) or 1,000-lb (454-kg) bombs on underwing racks

Armour protection

Armour plating was provided in liberal doses to protect the pilot and vital aircraft systems. A thick back and head plate was mounted behind the pilot, and a bullet-proof windshield was fitted. The backplate of the propeller spinner was armoured to protect the front of the engine.

Wing structure

The Typhoon's wing was built around an immensely strong two-spac structure allowing the aircraft to carry up to 2,000-lb (907-kg) of bombs. The Mk II's armament consisted of four 20-mm Hispano cannon, each with 140 rounds held in boxes outboard of the cannon.



Introducing the second installment of this great new series...

NAPOLEON IN EGYPT PART II

THE TOUGHEST PART of campaigning in North Africa for Napoleon's soldiers was the blazing desert heat and the scarcity of suitable drinking water...

One French soldier rapidly discovered this for himself during a desert march from Alexandria to Cairo:

"We had no fresh water since leaving Alexandria ... only what we

carried... Finally we arrived at a small village that had four wells. The regiment formed four lines and one well was allocated to each battalion.

Soon, however, they were virtually dry and what little water was left was undrinkable!"

For the cavalry and artillery the situation became much worse... one dragon wrote, "Our

horses collapsed in the heat and died where they lay... we gathered our equipment, made a bundle, and either carried it on our backs... or heads! Most of our cannon we simply abandoned!"

The fine desert sand also played havoc with the men's pistols and muskets... "At dark the cold desert air brought a heavy night-time dew with it... In the heat of the day the sand got into every working part and fouled them."



"Leaving their mark on history!"
 K&C's newest recruits for Napoleon's army in
 Egypt take some time off to carve their names on
 some ancient ruins...



Apart from the hardships of the march the French also had to protect themselves against surprise attacks and ambushes by local Bedouin tribesmen. From the time when the French troops arrived these nomadic desert warriors were a constant "thorn in the flesh" of the

invading army.

"These Bedouin", one officer noted, "were skilful horsemen... They would swoop down on a marching column, seize a man from the ranks and disappear in a moment... They never fought us en masse. Their goal was only to steal... kill... and terrorise!"

The Bedouin would often torture and execute their unfortunate French captives in

full view of their comrades. French soldiers often vowed among themselves that it was better to die of thirst or heatstroke than fall alive into the hands of their merciless desert foes.



This contemporary French engraving was the inspiration for the figure opposite.



FOR CENTURIES ARTILLERY was the "unsung hero" of the battlefield. From earliest times until the present it has seldom received the honour and praise frequently given to the infantry and the cavalry (today's armour). It's a fact however that many successful battles would never have been won without the skilled and timely use of artillery...

To be fair, for many centuries, artillery was hampered by its lack of mobility. Even as late as the 20th Century, during the Great War, artillery pieces could not easily (or quickly) be moved around the war-torn battlefield landscape. By the Second World War all that was about to change...

With the appearance of the tank some military men began to consider mounting artillery guns on tractor-like chassis, after several successful trials and operations it was seen that these new "SPG's" or "Self-Propelled Guns" could be a great addition and support for fast-moving infantry and rapidly advancing armour.

One of the finest examples of this modern military concept was the 105mm Howitzer Motor Carriage M7... better known as "The Priest".

ENTER THE PRIEST!

It was actually the British who gave the M7 its more famous nick name... During the dark days after Pearl Harbour ninety M7's were shipped to North Africa to help combat Erwin Rommel's seemingly invincible "Afrika Korps". The Tommies took one quick look at the M7's "pulpit-like" machine gun position and promptly "christened" it... "The PRIEST".

This new self-propelled gun was mounted on the older M3 Leel Grant chassis and carried the already proven 105mm howitzer.

Although using plenty of the American "Priests" the British and Canadians eventually developed

HOLY SMOKE

their own particular version... the "Sexton", which mounted a British 25-pounder field gun.

This new "Priest" (DD152) is the second time King & Country has produced a model of this particular SPG (Self-Propelled-Gun).

and attracts fairly steep prices on the secondary market and eBay. One recently sold for almost US\$750!

Although our latest K&C "Priest" bears some superficial resemblance to the older one there are many improvements in both style and details as a closer look will reveal.

The new model, (DD152) does come with a full-body commander figure. In addition, two brand-new crew men (DD153) are also available to help create a realistic battle scene. Our K&C vehicle is in the typical US Army olive-drab colour scheme and markings of the 231st Armoured Field Artillery Battalion of the 6th Armoured

Division fighting in Germany in 1945.

APPEARING LATER

THIS YEAR...

A British "Priest" of the 11th Regt., Royal Horse Artillery at the battle of El Alamein in 1942.



Back in 2000, K&C issued DD30 a model that came with no less than four crew-figures!

That earlier "Priest" is today a much sought - after "collector's piece"

FOR THREE YEARS NOW King & Country has made an annual visit to Australia to meet up many of its collectors from all over that great country to talk about "all things toy soldiers and K&C itself."

In conjunction with our two main dealers down under we hold special "dinner evenings" organized by Brett Williams of *The Military Workshop* in Brisbane and Peter Nathan of *Elite Toy Soldiers* in Sydney. At these events we like to "preview" upcoming releases especially our latest *Australian Light Horsemen* and their *Turkish* opposition.

For the collectors this is an ideal opportunity to see future releases well in advance of them going on sale and provide both comments and future suggestions for Andy who designs all of K&C's figures.

"When Helen (K&C's Managing Director) and myself talk to

the collectors and the dealers face-to-face it's a fantastic way to

get valuable feedback on what we're doing and what the enthusiast would like to see in the coming year or two."

As many of you already know KING & COUNTRY is a company that welcomes input and ideas from their collectors...

"In Australia", Andy says, "We've picked up some excellent concepts for new figures from the guys we meet in Brett and Peter's shops during the day and also at our special dinner events in the evening in both cities."

"HERE'S A GOOD IDEA..."

Two of the newest additions to the "Beersheba" series came directly from Aussie collector at last year's gatherings. "Our fallen Lighthorseman and his collapsing horse was suggested by one of Peter



A1021



AL025



AL024

LIGHT HORSE REINFORCEMENTS

Nathan's customers in Sydney.

This particular gentleman", Andy relates, "was for many years a living history re-enactor who specialized in the Light Horse. He showed me a photo of a rider who had been thrown off his mount. It was very dramatic and I immediately thought it would make an equally exciting figure!"

One of Brett William's regular collectors, Howard Woods, suggested a famous Turkish General,

preferably *Kemal Attaturk*, who went on to be the future leader of Turkey.

"I know he wasn't at Beersheba," Howard readily admitted, "but he should've been!"

Andy had to agree and now we have a senior Turkish officer who definitely looks a lot like the future national leader.

Among the other K&C releases are a forceful "fighting duo" of a charging dismounted Aussie and a surrendering, wounded "Johnny Turk". Two other single pieces... a standing Light-horseman, rifle at the ready and... a Turkish casualty will also be available in the same release.

AL023



In addition to the all-new pieces we're also showing again the special "Australian Flagbearer" carrying the "blue duster".

Although K&C had already produced a rider with the original Aussie standard of that time many collectors and tourists had requested a "souvenir special" carrying the present Australian flag.

COMING UP

Another batch of new figures for this series will be released in the run up to Christmas 2011. Already fully carved there will be two important "personality" pieces... *Sir Harry Chauvel*, who commanded the Light Horse and... *Sir Edmund Allenby*, the British Commander-in-Chief of all British and Empire forces in the Middle East at that stage of the war.

"There are also some nice little surprise add-ons," Andy says, "but we'll leave these till nearer the time..." KING & COUNTRY will display these unpainted "masters" at the up-coming Australian events.

AL022





Napoleon's Line Infantry

FOLLOWING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION in 1789 the infantry of the "Ancien Regime" were radically reformed. Beginning in 1791 the old regimental titles were discarded and a new system was set up "numbering" each regiment as it was formed.

These new regiments filled their ranks with an ever-increasing volume of volunteers and conscripts. This led to a great variation in the quality and military



capability of each unit. At the same time it was recognized that this new army and its line infantry regiments had a serious lack of good officers and responsible, efficient NCO's.

To help solve this problem in the winter of 1793/94 an official programme of "amalgamation" was set up whereby the old-style regimental system was replaced by new "Demi Brigades" each of three battalions.

The best trained and most disciplined soldiers made up the 2nd Battalion

which formed a central base of fire and maneuver for the whole "Demi Brigade". The 1st and 3rd Battalions primarily made up of young conscripts and volunteers formed attacking flank columns, where sheer mass of numbers and brute impetus would compensate for their lack of military experience.

This French tactic or skill at arms of alternate covering fire with aggressive assaults would, essentially, remain unchanged throughout the Napoleonic era at both battalion and divisional level.

STRENGTH OF THE UNIT

Throughout this same period of almost constant war these new "Demi Brigades" rarely fought at their full strength. On paper the regulation size of the Demi Brigade was 96 officers and 3,300 men. Battlefield reality was quite different... in February 1795, the 109th, as an example, numbered 92 officers but only 1239 men!



REGIMENTS REINSTATED

In September 1803, Napoleon himself decided to bring back the term "Regiment" to replace the "Demi Brigade". Henceforth that particular term would only be applied to provisional units raised to meet specific military requirements or operations.

Four years later, in 1807, Napoleon's army boasted 89 Line Infantry Regiments numbered between 1 and 112... "the missing 23" regimental numbers remained vacant. This was probably to confuse France's many enemies that her army was considerably larger than it actually was!

Each of the 89 active Regiments had between 2 and 4 battalions. A formidable fighting force if all of these same formations were again at "full strength" which, of course, they rarely were...

UNIFORMS & WEAPONS

Traditionally Napoleon's infantry wore a blue jacket with white lapels and turnbacks alongside white



introduced comprising a crowned eagle sitting atop a semi-circular plate in which the regiment's number was cut out.

Although the uniform was changed the weaponry was not... the basic arm remained the 1777-pattern musket together with the short sword and a long triangular bayonet secured by a locking-ring to the musket.

Line infantry knapsacks, usually made of calfskin tanned with the hair left on, were carried on the back together with a multitude



trousers and black gaiters.

The year 1812 saw major uniform changes when the line infantry received new double-breasted, short-tailed blue jackets or "habit-veste" with red collar and epaulettes.

The old over-the-knee black gaiters were replaced by shorter knee length versions or more commonly a varied selection of loose fitting trousers in a wide variety of different colours and materials.

An 1812 pattern shako was also

of other useful items such as cooking pots... mess tins... extra footwear and a hundred other things besides!

While cartridge boxes continued to be worn on the right rear side of the soldier his bayonet scabbard was moved to the front for easier access in battle.

Non regulation items such as water bottles and canteens came in all shapes and sizes and were usually slung over the shoulder and sitting at the front or side of each infantryman. Canvas satchels were also slung at the side and most often contained bread, flour or even some meat... when available.

K&C's "NEW" LINE INFANTRY

KING & COUNTRY's latest French Line Infantry are representative of how these men would have appeared in many of the battles and campaigns fought after 1812 and up until the Emperor's final defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

The first release comprises no less than five different advancing infantrymen... Accompanying them is a young, teenage drummer boy and a marching flagbearer... In front of the men is a junior officer on foot and a proud major on horseback.

Although the men may be weary their determination and courage is undaunted. As they approach the enemy some of their number have taken their muskets off the shoulder and bring them to the front... the first volley will not be long in coming. As their officers cry out to keep the line "straight" and advance to the front... death or glory awaits them!

ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENTS

These first "1812" Line Infantry are just the "advance party"... The next fighting batch will be added to bolster the ranks and fill out the regiment... keep your eyes to the front... and look out for them!



SOMEWHERE
IN NORMANDY

JUNE 1944

EVERY PICTURE
TELLS A STORY...or in this particular
case a few little stories.

The scene is a quiet

French country road, not far
from Caen, in the first days
after the Allied invasion...A Panther tank, one of the
advance party of the 12th SS "Hitler-
jugend" Division, has temporarily
halted while some officers consult
their maps.As the officers talk the tank
crew anxiously scan the skies above
them for the dreaded "Jabos" (enemy
fighter/ bombers). Meanwhile
another member of the crew goes
behind a bush to answer a sudden
"call of nature."

Dioramas by the KING & COUNTRY WORKSHOP

This 22" x 22" display is one of two matching dioramas being prepared for the upcoming Chicago Show later this year.



ALMOST 10 YEARS AGO Singaporean Mike Tong was on a business trip to Hong Kong. Finding himself with a few hours to spare on one of the days he decided to explore Pacific Place, a huge shopping mall near his hotel. Mike takes up the story...

"I was wandering around the mall, in among all these high-end shops like 'LOUIS VUITTON'... 'RALPH LAUREN'... 'GUCCI' when suddenly I literally stumbled over a fantastic little store called 'KING & COUNTRY' selling toy soldiers."

Mike stopped in his tracks and saw shelf upon shelf of toy soldiers, tanks, trucks, and aircraft all lined up and ready for inspection.

"Looking in the K&C window that day," Mike recalls, "Little did I realize that I was not only discovering a great new hobby but ultimately sowing the seeds of my business future."

During the years that followed that initial visit to the KING & COUNTRY store in Hong Kong Mike continued to grow and expand his collection...

"At first I just bought my soldiers and fighting vehicles and put them on show in display cabinets in my home and office. After a while I was inspired by the special dioramas Gordon of K&C's Workshop built and decided to try and make some for myself and my collection."

Mike soon discovered, as many other collectors have, that diorama displays not only enhance a collection but almost bring it "alive" and make it a much more enjoyable and exciting



Singapore Success Story

experience for both the owner and other "viewers".

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

While Mike was building up his K&C collection in his spare time he was also managing a Marine Construction and Operations company. In late 2009, his company was acquired by a much larger multinational concern and Mike decided the time was right to "freelance" his skills and knowledge to a much wider audience. Simultaneously he made a bold, adventurous decision to develop his part-time

collecting passion into a full-time professional business!

In short, Mike believed, Singapore was ready for its very own dedicated toy soldier shop!

"I believed then as I do today," Mike enthuses, "that what attracted me to this great hobby might just appeal to other like-minded individuals."

INTRODUCING THE SOLDIER'S STORY

"Like K&C themselves," Mike adds, "I wanted a 'name' that people would remember easily. Hence a store called 'The Soldier's Story.'"

In the months since the store opened a steady and increasing flow of customers and new collectors have made the "pilgrimage" to The Soldier's Story and seen for themselves how Mike and his team have introduced Singapore to the world of K&C and toy soldier collecting.

The bright and spacious custom-built cabinets not only show the figures and fighting vehicles to their best advantage they also provide an inspiration for the novice collector on how to display their own collections... large or small.

A final word from Mike... *"The enthusiasm of our collectors is awe-inspiring... I have gained so much knowledge from them and have made a whole big bunch of new friends!"*



"The Soldier's Story"

139 North Bridge Road,
#01-43, Far East Digital @ Mall,
Singapore 079607
Tel: 65 9226 1301
E-mail:
michael@thesoldiersstory.com.sg