

COLLECTOR

ANNUAL

蒐集者



SPITFIRES, HURRICANES & MESSERSCHMITTS • NEW NAPOLEONICS • JOHN FORD'S CAVALRY •
 ARNHEM '44 • ANCIENT ROMAN STREETS • BLACKHAWK DOWN • UNDER THE WHITE ENSIGN • LIBERATION 1944 •
 AFRIKAN TIGERS • THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN • PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE •

44 PAGES... OUR BIGGEST ISSUE YET!

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

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ROYAL SALUTE

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Hi Guys and a very big welcome to this first special 'COLLECTOR' issue of 2025 that I am calling an 'ANNUAL'. Now, this is not the garden variety but a throwback to a time in Britain during the 1950s, '60s and '70s when many little boys and a few little girls were given, as part of their Christmas presents, an amazing range of colourful, hard-backed books usually based on their favourite weekly comics.

These 'ANNUALS' always appeared in the shops weeks before Christmas in order that young boys, like my brother Gordon and myself, could tell our parents and relatives which particular ones we wanted from Santa on December 25.

Fortunately Gordon and yours truly shared the same likes and tastes in comics such as the 'EAGLE'... the 'VICTOR'... and the 'TIGER' to name but a few. All of these publications were filled with the kind of stories the Neilson brothers enjoyed most – Wars, especially WW2, 'Cowboys & Indians', preferably involving the U.S. Cavalry fighting 'Injuns' and, of course, Medieval Knights plus anything about Aviation and Naval subjects, particularly warplanes and warships.

These ANNUALS lasted well after Christmas was long over and provided many hours of entertainment and information throughout the entire year all the way up to the next Yuletide and hopefully the newest ANNUALS.

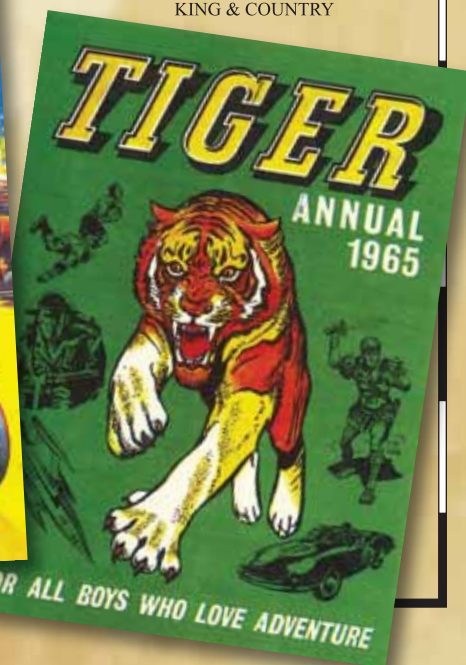
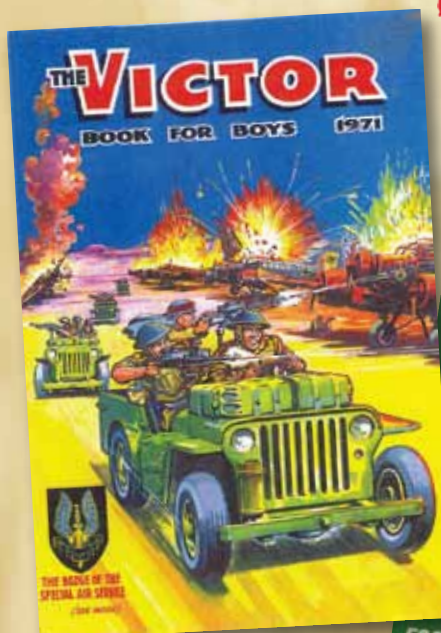
Even then they were not discarded but collected and treasured for many more years to come. Today, here in my studio in Hong Kong, I still have a few of my favourite ANNUALS from as far back as the late 1950s.

And so this brings me rather neatly to this little 'ANNUAL' you hold in your own hands. It's my hope that you will enjoy seeing and reading some of what K&C has been producing during the last 15 months as well as looking forward to what will be appearing in the coming months.

Meanwhile, all of us at King & Country are wishing you a belated 'KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!' and a happy, healthy and prosperous Lunar New Year in 2025!

Andy C. Neilson

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



On March 15, 44 B.C. *Gaius Julius Caesar* was stabbed to death in Rome by a group of assassins who were also Roman senators and fellow politicians that had helped shape and influence Roman policy and government.

At the same time, *Caesar* was immensely popular with the ordinary people of Rome. He had been a successful military leader who expanded the republic to include large parts of what are now *Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland* and *Belgium*. Caesar was also a popular

author who had written extensively about his campaigns, theories and political views.

Within Rome's senate, a large and influential group of appointed (not elected) political leaders, resented Caesar's popularity and arrogance.

After he attained the status of '*Dictator for Life*' earlier in 44 B.C., these senior officials decided to strike the ultimate blow against his power by assassinating him at a meeting of the Senate on March 15, the '*Ides of March*'.

On that fateful day, the assassins

stabbed Caesar no less than 23 times, killing Rome's most famous ruler.

DEATH IN ROME

King & Country's dramatic recreation of Caesar's Assassination shows the moment when three of the leading conspirators first attack the unarmed and unprotected leader...

Marcus Junius Brutus, Gaius Cassius Longinus and *Decimus Junius Albinus* viciously plunge their daggers into the unsuspecting Caesar.

Thus died the most famous Roman of all time!

THE ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR



Most of the streets in Ancient Rome were lined with shops and workshops, which opened early every morning and closed at dusk, with a short lunch break at mid-day.

In these shop money was used for buying and selling goods and for paying taxes. Outside every public building, including the baths, the theatre and the circus, there were merchants selling different wines and cooked foods.

In addition, these merchants displayed their goods in front of stalls, and underneath painted signboards intended to attract customers and casual passersby.

Some merchants also did business wandering the streets, selling all kinds of small items.

Every nine days or so, markets called the 'Nundines' were held where people came in from the local countryside to sell their produce.

STREETS OF ANCIENT ROME

Here could be found Smiths, Potters, Sculptors, Glass Blowers, Carpenters, Stone masons and Bone Carvers. Many of these trades and craft skills were passed on from father to son and even whole families for many generations.

SLAVES & SLAVERY

Another feature of life on the Roman streets were the presence of many slaves.

In terms of class, slaves were at the lowest rung of the social ladder. The settled order of Roman life was dependent on its large slave workforce.

Many of these unhappy individuals came from territories that Rome had conquered and had been taken

into captivity to work for their new masters. At this time, slaves had no rights and could be bought and sold.

During the imperial period, slaves were treated slightly better and their conditions improved as the Romans themselves came to see the value and usefulness they brought to their work. Some could even look forward to gaining their freedom from a kind and grateful master or mistress.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

'STREETS OF ANCIENT ROME' was directly inspired by another very successful K&C series, 'Streets Of Old Hong Kong' the long-running depiction of day-to-day life on the busy, bustling streets of Colonial Hong Kong in the years

between the 19th and 20th centuries.

The other great source of inspiration was the HBO/BBC television drama 'ROME' released in 2005-2007. This series was set in the tumultuous 1st century BC during Rome's transition from a Republic to an Empire.

Among the many advantages offered by closely watching and studying all aspects of 'ROME' was the amazing attention to detail of the costumes and the many recreations of everyday life on the streets of this great ancient city seldom seen in other dramatic depictions in both films and television.



'The Monument Makers Set'
One of several new upcoming sets for this colourful and historic range of figures.



'THE CITY OF ROME'

Ancient Rome - capital of the Empire with a population of over 1 million, was a city huge contrasts. As well as splendid public buildings and palaces there were many other kinds of accommodation that included small rooms over shops and overcrowded apartment blocks crammed together in dark, narrow streets.

SETTING THE SCENE

In addition to all of the figures shown here are a fine selection of hand-made Ancient Roman buildings produced by Last Post Miniatures based in Sydney, Australia.

The only exception is the single structure on the far right which was designed and made by King & Country.



LW091

ERICH HARTMANN's
Messerschmitt Bf. 109 'GUSTAV'



Ace of Aces



LW092

Major Erich Hartmann
(in winter flying gear)



ERICH HARTMANN (1922-1993) was a German fighter pilot during World War II and the most successful air ace in the history of aerial warfare.

He flew **1,404 combat missions** and took part in aerial combat on **825** separate occasions.

Erich Hartmann was credited with shooting down a total of **352** Allied aircraft made up of **345 Soviets** and just 7 American aircraft while flying with the **Luftwaffe**.

During his WW II service he was forced to crash-land his fighter plane **16** times because of either mechanical failure or damage inflicted on his own aircraft by exploding enemy aircraft he had shot down. Erich Hartmann was never shot down by direct enemy action.

His flying career began as a pre war glider pilot before he joined the Luftwaffe in 1940 and completed his fighter pilot training in 1942.

Almost immediately he was sent to the Eastern Front and posted to the veteran **Jagdgeschwader 52** and placed under the supervision of some of the Luftwaffe's most experienced and battle-hardened fighter pilots.

Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds on 25 August 1944 for **301** aerial victories. At the time of its presentation to Hartmann, this was Nazi Germany's supreme military decoration. aerial victories. At the time of its presentation to Hartmann, this was Nazi Germany's supreme military decoration.

BITTER VICTORY

Erich Hartmann shot down his final **352nd aerial victory** on 8 May 1945, just a few hours before Germany's surrender. Along with the remainder of his squadron, **JG53** he surrendered to a U.S. Army unit before being then turned over to the Red Army.

While in captivity Hartmann was pressured by the Soviets to join the East German Air Force. When he refused he was put on trial for alleged '**war crimes**', convicted and sentenced to **20 years** imprisonment which was later increased to 25 years.

After spending 10 years in Russian prison camps and gulags Erich Hartmann was finally released and allowed to return to West Germany in 1955. Amazingly, after the fall of Soviet Union, in 1997 the Russian Federation posthumously

THE WINTER 'GUSTAV'

While flying with the wartime Luftwaffe Hartmann flew several different marks of Messerschmitt Bf. 109 aircraft. By far his favourite was the 109 'GUSTAV' on which he achieved many of his victories.

This latest 1:30 scale King & Country 'Gustav' is one of several that he flew during the late winter months of 1944 and into early 1945 commanding JG53 on the Eastern Front.

Each aircraft comes in its own specially designed, full-colour presentation box. In addition, a standing figure of Erich Hartmann dressed in winter flying gear is also available separately.

Under their guidance, Hartmann steadily developed his own tactics.

On 29 October 1943, Erich Hartmann was awarded the **Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross** for destroying almost **150 enemy aircraft**. Just over four months later, on 2 March 1943, he received the '**Oak Leaves**' to his Knight's Cross for adding another **54 Soviet planes** to bring his tally of '**kills**' to **202**.

Exactly four more months after that he received the '**Swords**' to his **Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves** by taking his total to a staggering **268** enemy aircraft.

Ultimately, Erich Hartmann earned the coveted **Knight's Cross of the**

cleared him of all the bogus charges.

Just a year after his release from Russia, the former Luftwaffe ace was invited to join the reconstituted **West German Air Force** in the **Bundeswehr** becoming the first commander of the new **Jagdgeschwader 71 'Richtofen'**.

For the next 14 years Erich Hartmann held various administrative and flying posts before retiring in 1970 due to his opposition to West Germany purchasing the controversial and dangerous American **F104 'Starfighter'** which became known as "**The Flying Widower**".

Erich Hartmann passed away in 1983 at the age of 71.



Col. Erich Hartmann in the uniform of the post WWII Bundeswehr the West German Air Force

'Vive Bonaparte!'

8

OUR WORLD IN MINIATURE

Following the *French Revolution* of 1789, the system of 'named' regiments of the old Royalist Army was abandoned and replaced by the introduction of a series of large military formations to be called '*Demi Brigades*'.

These units usually consisted of two or three battalions, to be known as *demi brigades* in an attempt to avoid the feudal connotations of the term '*Regiment*'.

By 1793 this all-new, Revolutionary Army consisted of 196 infantry *demi brigades* with the great bulk of them being described as... *Line Infantry*.

The term '*Line Infantry*' described the type of infantry soldiers that made up the vast majority of European land armies from the early 19th century onwards.

For both battle and parade drill, it usually comprised two to four long ranks of foot soldiers drawn up, side by side in rigid alignment thereby maximizing the speed of movement

across the field of battle as well as the deadly effectiveness of massed volley-firing on the enemy.

THE RETURN OF 'THE REGIMENT'

Within a few short years of these new changes Napoleon himself decided that the military designation '*Regiment*' was no longer '*feudal*' and that it was practical to reintroduce it into the Army especially with his own regiments of *Line Infantry*.

NA515

NA516

NA518

NA520

NA524

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NA519

Cold steel against cold steel!

K&C's latest French infantrymen use their muskets and bayonets against our own charging Scots Greys with sabres flashing and cries of 'Scotland Forever!'



As mentioned earlier, *Line Infantry* soon became the most popular type of foot soldiers among the European countries with elite specialists such as *Voltigeurs* and *Grenadiers*, being absorbed into these large formations.

In order to make all of these new soldiers successfully perform their tactics perfectly on the battlefield and on the parade square many, many hours of hard, physical practice was accompanied by often brutal drill training sometimes backed up by stern corporal punishment!

WEAPONS, UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

For most of the Napoleonic Era the standard weapon for the *Line Infantry* was the French-made 'Charleville' musket.



This .69 calibre weapon served from 1717 all the way up to the mid 1840s.

This well-made weapon could and would often have a separate bayonet attached. In addition *Line Infantrymen* also carried a short sword for close quarter battle situations.

Over this 2 page spread and the previous one collectors can view no less than 20 brand-new *French Line Infantrymen* of the 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Regiment of The Line dressed

in the typical blue uniform of the period 1805 until 1811. These first 20 figures will be released in two batches over several months with the initial release being 12 foot soldiers in February 2025 with 8 more including a *Mounted Officer* available two months later in April.

In addition, 3 more kneeling figures in action will follow after that. With almost two dozen *Line Infantry* to choose from collectors can select enough for a small skirmish or, if funds allow, plenty of choice to conduct a full scale battle!



KING & COUNTRY'S Battle of Britain OPERATIONS ROOM



At the beginning of WW2, Britain's Royal Air Force Fighter Command had a simple but daunting task... to prevent enemy bombers and fighters getting through undetected!

To that end the *British Isles* was divided into 4 *Geographical Areas*, each of which would be defended by a separate Fighter Command group, controlled from *Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding's* central headquarters at *Bentley Priory* on the outskirts of London.

By July 1940, *No. 13 Group* covered northern England and Scotland, *12 Group* was responsible for central England and Wales, while *11* and *12 Groups* were covering Southern England and the southwest, including London.

Dowding's system utilized both radar posts and visual observation reports to send back to the central control room the numbers and locations of enemy aircraft forming up and



flying towards different parts of the *United Kingdom*.

All of this information was then passed on to the individual *Operations (Ops) Room* at the same location where the raid was plotted on a large map table.

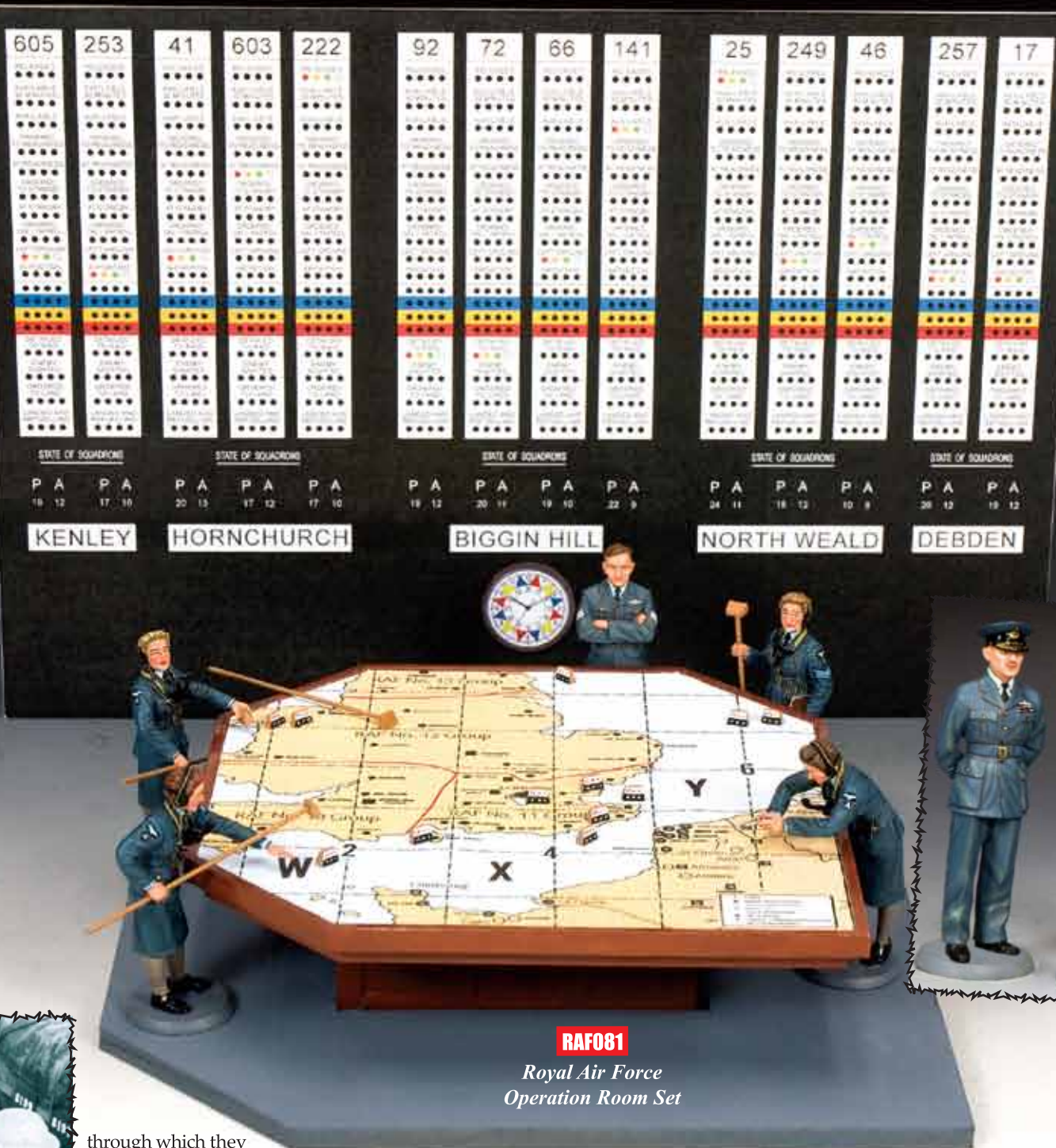
At the same time, this information was also passed to the relevant groups



through which they received the latest information about sightings by radar as well as from members of the *Observer Corps* and even from RAF pilots themselves.

Using what looked like a long-handled croupier's rake, the plotters would push arrows and markers across the large map tables each marked with an 'F' for friendly aircraft or an 'H' for hostile ones, or even an 'X' for unknown.

Once a raid was confirmed and its direction estimated the controller of each sector or group affected would



RAF081

Royal Air Force
Operation Room Set

'scramble' his fighters and guide them towards the enemy attackers.

The perfect interception point was usually from above especially when the German fighter escort was low on fuel and already heading home and before the bombers hit their targets.



If the RAF aircraft were sent up too early they themselves might be short of fuel or back on the ground when the enemy raid arrived at their destination.

The entire complex operation was a finely-tuned exercise that demanded accurate information, knowledgeable estimation and a speedy response to rapidly-changing circumstances.

Backing up the different map tables were large *Illuminated Back Boards* for each group sector that showed the various airfields located in each sector along with the

individual fighter squadrons operating from them.

At a glance controllers could see which squadrons were already 'in the air', which had 'already landed' and were being 'refueled and rearmed' while others were at 'readiness' and 'available' to take to the air and take on the enemy at a moment's notice.

Not only that but the illuminated panels would provide an actual time for takeoff at 10, 15, 30 or 60 minute intervals.

'Readiness' demanded that pilots be able to run to their aircraft to take off within five minutes.

'Standby' required pilots to actually sit in their aircraft with their helmets on, and cockpit hoods slid back, listening on the radio for a start-up. From that position the fighter should be able to be airborne in less than two minutes!

KING & COUNTRY'S OPS ROOM

RAF080

As you can see K&C's 'Operations Room Set' includes a typical map table showing a large section of southern and central Britain and the areas covered by 10, 11 and 12 Groups. A section of northern France and part of the Low Countries can also be seen.

Around the table are four individual WAAF's and an RAF sergeant playing their various tasks and duties.

In the background is a typical *Illuminated Squadron Situation Board* with five of the most famous 'Battle of Britain' fighter airfields... all part of *No. 11 Group*.

Also available as an add-on set is a 2-figure combination that includes *Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding* (1882-1970) the chief of RAF Fighter Command and the architect of the British victory during the Battle of Britain.

Saluting him is a young WAAF Officer, perhaps the woman in charge of those four young WAAF's working at the plotting table.





From left to right :
Can you name all seven
of the actors who starred as
'The Magnificent Seven'?

Answers at the bottom of this page.

Having said that the whole cast worked well together and on screen created an unforgettable film backed up by the memorable theme music created by **Elmer Bernstein**.

RECREATING THE SEVEN IN 1:30 SCALE

One of the pleasures in designing any figures is doing the research and in this case, finding a magazine called

KING & COUNTRY'S MAGNIFICENT 7

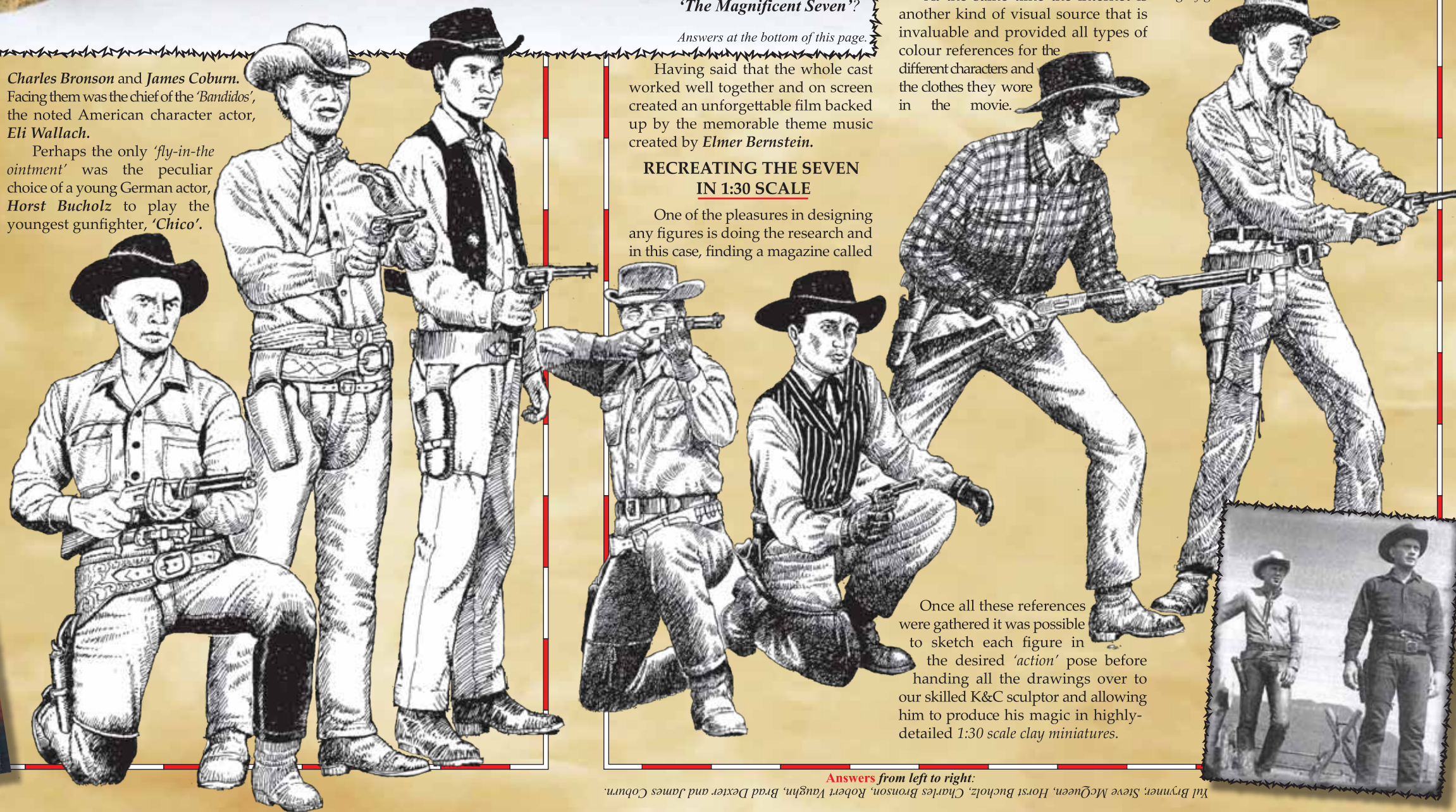
They fought like Seven Hundred!

'Guns Of The Old West' that had a special feature on 'The Magnificent Seven' and included lots of great photos behind the scenes as well as detailed information on the different guns and rifles they carried and even the gun belts they wore! What a treasure trove that proved to be.

At the same time the internet is another kind of visual source that is invaluable and provided all types of colour references for the different characters and the clothes they wore in the movie.

What you see now is the complete 7 x figure set of 'The Magnificent Seven' and a tribute in miniature to one of the greatest Hollywood 'Westerns' of all time.

Andy's original sketches for the seven gunfighters.



Once all these references were gathered it was possible to sketch each figure in the desired 'action' pose before handing all the drawings over to our skilled K&C sculptor and allowing him to produce his magic in highly-detailed 1:30 scale clay miniatures.



'THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN' (1960) is, quite simply, one of the greatest 'Westerns' ever made and tells the tale of seven American gunfighters hired by a small Mexican village to fight off a plundering gang of 'Bandidos' led by a cruel and merciless bandit chief, *Calvera*.

Chosen to direct the film was established 'Western' film director, **John Sturges** who had previously made 'Gunfight At The Ok Corral' and would later direct the WW2 classic 'The Great Escape'.

For 'The Magnificent Seven' Sturges would assemble an exciting cast of actors to play the seven gunfighters and the bandit chief.

Leading the 'hired-guns' was **Yul Brynner**, already a star alongside several up and coming ones including a young **Steve McQueen** plus

Charles Bronson and **James Coburn**. Facing them was the chief of the 'Bandidos', the noted American character actor, **Eli Wallach**. Perhaps the only 'fly-in-the ointment' was the peculiar choice of a young German actor, **Horst Bucholz** to play the youngest gunfighter, 'Chico'.



Answers from left to right:
Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn, Charles Bronson, Horst Bucholz, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter and James Coburn.

During the Vietnam War all kinds of helicopters were utilized to move large numbers of troops over rugged terrain in a very short space of time. They also provided air artillery, supply and other vital support functions with their most life-saving capability being...

"Dust Off"

The ready availability of medevac, commonly called "Dust Off" helicopters and the close proximity to the battlefield of well-equipped

and fully staffed 'MASH'-style hospitals saved countless lives.

These air ambulances were reconfigured UH-1 'HUEYS' that

could carry up to nine wounded soldiers and could be in the air in under three minutes of after receiving an emergency call and have their

patients in a hospital within 15 minutes of lift-off from a 'hot' LZ (Landing Zone).

Despite large red crosses on their aircraft, these "Dust Offs" often faced intense enemy groundfire when extracting their casualties.

Armed, escorting gunships could sometimes provide suppressing fire, but many times medevac pilots and flight crew ignored standard procedures to fly into highly dangerous situations without cover protection.

On occasion they could not land to pick up the wounded but had to hover and hoist the casualties on board

using litters up to the aircraft itself.

"Dust Offs" flew day and night in all types of weather and over all kinds of difficult terrain performing seemingly impossible rescues.

The peak year for the number of wounded evacuated by these amazing helicopters was 1969 with over **206,000** U.S., ARVN, other Allied troops and civilians carried to safety.

K&Cs "Dust Off"

During 2024 K&C produced two of its very own UH-1 'Hueys' for the collector market. One, a troop-carrying USMC machine, (which is

now sold-out) and a second, this U.S. Army "Dust Off" which you see here. For our dedicated 'Vietnam' we have a small number still available.

If you are one of those 'Vietnam' collectors around the world this particular, very special, symbol of the conflict will make a great addition and play a vital part in your collection. **Pick up one while you still can!**



GREAT BRITAIN, as an island nation, has always until recent times placed a great deal of faith in a strong *Royal Navy* as its first line of defence against invasion and the threats from foreign enemies.

Hearts of Oak

For many centuries its men and ships have sailed the seven seas proudly flying the *White Ensign* in peace and war.

Back in 1982 it was the *Royal Navy* that once again answered the nation's call and led the military response to a surprise Argentinean invasion of a small group of wind-swept islands deep in the South Atlantic called... *The Falklands*.

LET BATTLE COMMENCE

On 2 April 1982, Argentine forces landed and occupied the *Falkland Islands* rapidly followed the next day, by an invasion of *South Georgia*, another British territory deep in the South Atlantic.

Two days later, on the 5 April, a large *Royal Navy Task Force* sailed from Britain, 8,000 miles away with orders to retake the islands, liberate the *Falkland Islanders*, the vast majority of whom were of British stock and evict the foreign aggressors.



The conflict was to last just **74 days** and ended with the enemy's complete surrender on 14 June 1982 and the return of the islands and their inhabitants once more to British sovereignty.

Throughout this mercifully short, undeclared war the ships and men of the *Royal Navy* sailed and fought their way down and through the treacherous waters of the *South Atlantic* battling the approaching winter weather and wave after wave of fierce enemy air attacks from the Argentine mainland.

THE COST OF WAR

Among the **255** British casualties lost during the conflict were **86** from

the *Royal Navy*, **27** *Royal Marines* and **5** *British ships* with many more being seriously damaged in combat.

This is our **KING & COUNTRY** tribute in miniature to all those, past and present, who have served and continue to serve under the flying *'White Ensign'*.

THE NAVY ON PARADE

King & Country's latest addition to our colourful *'CEREMONIAL'* range of figures now includes **7** *Royal Navy Officers* and *Seamen* in the parade dress and style of the 1980s complete with naval swords and the British SLRs (Self Loading Rifles) with fixed bayonets.

Among these new figures are three officers: a *'Commander'* marching with his sword drawn, a saluting *'Lieutenant'* standing-at-attention



CE110



CE112

and a marching *'Sub Lieutenant'* carrying the *'White Ensign'*.

Also marching are two senior *Petty Officers*, the first is the *'Chief Petty Officer'*, Master-At-Arms, complete with his Drill Cane under his left arm. He is responsible for discipline and drill both at sea and on land.

Our second *Petty Officer* is more junior to the C.P.O. and forms part of the escort to the flagbearer and carries an SLR with fixed bayonet.

The final two figures depict a pair of *'Naval Ratings'*, one standing at attention *'Presenting Arms'* while the other is *'Marching'* with his SLR rifle by his right side.

All of these new *Royal Navy* personnel look fine on their own but combined with a few multiples they can look a whole lot better!



CE113

POST SCRIPT & STATEMENT

Although Britannia no longer *'rules the waves'* there was a time, not so long ago, when the *Royal Navy* was still a formidable fighting force...

Up until the end of the 1980s, after the successful outcome of the *Falklands Campaign*, the *Royal Navy* maintained a substantial surface fleet of more than **50** *Destroyers and Frigates* a trio of *'Invincible'* class *Light Aircraft Carriers* plus a pair of *Amphibious Assault Ships*.

Below the waves were more than **30** *Submarines* including **4** *Nuclear* armed boats.

TORPEDOED BY A THOUSAND CUTS!

Today's *Royal Navy* pales in comparison to that fleet of the 1980s with just **16** major surface combatants, made up of **Two** very large, very expensive *Aircraft Carriers*, **Six** *Destroyers* and a paltry **Eight** *Frigates*.



CE114



CE115

These drastic reductions in both quantity and quality have been driven by a long succession of short-sighted, mean-spirited politicians and highly incompetent British governments of both left and right who have almost destroyed the *Royal Navy* and its long history and proud heritage.

No longer alas is Britain one of the *'Masters of The Seas'*.

Today we can barely defend and protect the home waters of our once great, sea-faring, island nation!



*'Heart of Oak'

*'Come cheer up my lads! 'tis to glory we steer,
To add something more to this wonderful year;
To honour we call you, as freemen not slaves,
For who are so free as the sons of the waves?*

*Heart of oak are our ships, heart of oak are our men;
We always are ready, steady, boys, steady!
We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again.'*



CE111

*'Heart of Oak' was written in 1759. The song was originally performed on the London stage and became very popular. Later it was adopted as the official *'Quick March'* of the *Royal Navy* and remains so to this day.

The cattle drive: a helluva way to earn a hundred dollars*

* During the heyday of the great 'Cattle Drives' the average cowboy could earn between **US\$35 and US\$40** a month and so most cowboys earned about **US\$100** for a typical drive up from Texas to railheads in Wyoming or Kansas, a task that might take anywhere from **10-12 weeks**.

To the cowboys of the 'OLD WEST', nothing was more challenging or more miserable than the unique and short-lived phenomenon that was called the 'Cattle Drive'.

This was the climatic event of their working lives, the opportunity to prove their prowess by driving massive herds of *Texas Longhorns* all the way from their home range in Texas, where the cattle were worth just *four dollars a head*,

to a point of sale up north where they might bring as much as '**US\$40 a steer**.'

The high time of these 'Cattle Drives' lasted a little over 20 years, from the end of the Civil War to the mid-late 1880s.

During that brief era more than **10 million cows** slowly walked the trails from Texas to the great railheads in *Kansas* and *Missouri*. Some of these went further, all the way up to *Wyoming* and even into *Canada*, to be sold as '**brood stock**' rather than beef for the rapidly expanding Eastern food markets of the northern cities.

HERD SIZES & DANGERS

While a small herd might number no more than **500** head of cattle; the biggest ever recorded hit the trail with more than **15,000** animals when it moved out of Texas in 1869.

Once, during the spring floods of 1871, when a great many herds got jammed up at a river crossing, no fewer than **60,000 beasts** were crowded together in a single milling, mooing mass of *Texas Longhorns*.

Whatever the size of the herd, each 'drive' seemed to generate its own special measure of toil and trouble. Some steers could drown in sinkholes at river crossings while various Indian bands would also try to beg or steal cows along the route.

Newly-arrived settlers and home steads also often drove the herds away from their fields and pastures with guns.

In addition to all of that, a clap of thunder might set off a stampede during which a dozen calves (or more) would be trampled underfoot.

Then, there were the '**Rustlers**', these were rogue cowboys who had become outlaws themselves preying on unsuspecting herds to steal cattle for themselves.

Add all of this up and you have a hard, hard life that was full of incidents with no shortage of danger and sudden death around every bend or over every hill.

All of that for just a hundred dollars a month and all the beans you can eat!



A VERY BLACK DAY IN MOGADISHU

BLACK HAWK DOWN

SOMALIA in East Africa during the early 1990s was a 'basket case' of a country. Years of tribal warfare between rival clans had caused a famine on a truly biblical scale. Already more than 300,000 civilians had died of starvation.

One clan leader, **Mohamed Farrah Aidid**, the most powerful of the Somali warlords, ruled the country's capital **Mogadishu**. From there he had been seizing international food shipments as they arrived by sea and air donated to Somalia by a sympathetic outside world.

Angered by this the **United Nations** and the **United States**

sent troops to the beleaguered nation hoping to ensure that this life saving food reached the millions of people who needed it most.

America alone dispatched a force of some **20,000 U.S. Marines** to Somalia to protect this humanitarian effort... and for a time it seemed to work.



APRIL 1993

Then, in April 1993, the Marines departed leaving a small, multinational UN peacekeeping force to oversee the food distribution.

Aidid now saw this opportunity to reassert his power and declare war on the few remaining

United Nations peacekeepers.

In June, that same year, Aidid's militia ambushed and killed **24 Pakistani** soldiers while also targeting American and other international aid workers.

By August that same year, as the situation worsened, the **United States** again sent a much smaller combined task force to stabilize the situation.

Included were some of its best and most elite fighting units among them **Delta Force** personnel...

U.S. Army Rangers and the **160th SOAR** (Special Operations Aviation Regiment). Their destination was **Mogadishu** and the mission... **Remove Aidid from power and restore order!**

A LUCKY BREAK

On September 21, 1993 one of Aidid's top lieutenants, **Osman Ali Atto** was captured and information was obtained about a secret meeting to be held in the centre of Mogadishu that would include most of Aidid's senior militia commanders and, perhaps, **Aidid himself!**

The meeting was scheduled for Sunday, October 3, less than two weeks later. A plan was soon drawn up that would include men from all the main elements of the U.S. Task Force.

First, helicopters, including '**Black Hawks**', would insert a **Delta Force** team who would be tasked with raiding and capturing the top commanders. At the same time a group of **U.S. Army Rangers** would fast-rope down into the area to

BHD017**BHD024****BHD018**

secure the 'target' site.

Simultaneously, a ground force of a dozen 'HUMVEES' plus a truck with more rangers would arrive at the target location to extract the *Delta* team, their prisoners and all of the other *Rangers* and then return to base. The whole operation was projected to last a mere *30-40 minutes*.

As many or all collectors already know, especially if they have read Mark Bowden's excellent book '*BLACK HAWK DOWN: A Story of Modern War*' or seen Ridley Scott's epic film '*BLACK HAWK DOWN*' (2001) everything that could go wrong... *did go tragically wrong!*

Two '*Black Hawks*' were shot down by *RPGs* (Rocket Propelled Grenades) and what seemed like the whole of Mogadishu descended on the crash sites with the *Delta Force* operatives and *Rangers* now finding themselves fighting for their lives.

A very bad situation was about to get a whole lot worse!

TELLING THE STORY IN 1:30 SCALE

Both the book and the movie tell in great detail and amazing action scenes how a 'raid' that had been predicted to last *30-40 minutes* now erupted into a full scale urban pitched battle that would eventually go on for over *14 hours!*

For some time now I have been fascinated by this story and have read several different accounts of it, viewed the movie a number of times and watched a slew of documentaries based on the dramatic events of that day in Mogadishu.

As usual I start by studying all of the visual information in books, movies, documentaries and, these days, the internet.

Over many weeks I gathered plenty of info and references and started to sketch out some rough figure ideas and think about how a mini series might develop.

I also looked around to see if any of our competitors had produced anything similar but came up with very little except a few plastic figures that featured in a number of vignette dioramas.

There was also a number of large, *1/6th* scale figures and even a few *75mm* figurines depicting *Rangers* or *Delta Force* guys but importantly, nothing in *1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-painted miniatures!*

That meant there was a 'gap-in-the-market' that *King & Country* could hopefully fill.

**BHD024****BHD015****BHD023**

BHD025



BHD026



BHD022



BHD025



BHD027



SKETCHING & SCULPTING'

Virtually all of our figures first begin with a series of highly detailed, black and white, sketches that portray exactly what we want our figure to be doing and how they will physically look in relation to the other figures that are featured in the range.

From our research material we already knew that the U.S. fighting man's uniform and even many of his weapons and equipment in the 1990s had been drastically altered from what he wore and carried in the 1960s in during the Vietnam War.

There was an all-new helmet, improved 'Flak' jackets, different boots and an entirely new camouflage pattern uniform. Importantly, some of the weapons had been upgraded and improved while others were completely original.

From years of trial and error, plus a fair bit of experience I believe that when sketch figures appear on the page effortlessly and unforced they turn out to be the most natural poses and to realistically represent 'soldiers-in-action'.

That proved to be the case with these 'BHD' figures.

The next stage was to brief K&C's leading and most experienced sculptor who would convert my 2D drawings into 3D reality. To assist him with his work K&C always prepares an extensive file of background information and photos of the relevant uniforms, equipment and weapons for each of the figures.

Throughout the sculpting process K&C are in constant internet contact with the sculptor reviewing, amending and approving each and every figure as they are worked on.

Finally, some time later we will meet up in person, face-to-face to review each finished figure one-by-one for final approval or that last little amendment. Once full approval is given these 'masters' will go to one of our factories in China for mold-making and metal casting. A few weeks later unpainted metal castings

arrive back in Hong Kong for 'Master-Painting' at our Head Office.

Once complete these 'Masters' go back to the selected factory for production. Before full delivery to HK our own Quality Control Team will have inspected a large number of fully-painted samples to ensure they

are an exact replica of our own original ones.

In the case of 'BLACK HAWK DOWN' the quality of this new range is, in my humble opinion, *Outstanding!* I honestly think these U.S. Army RANGERS are among the very best 'action' figures King & Country has ever produced.

AIDID'S ADDITIONS

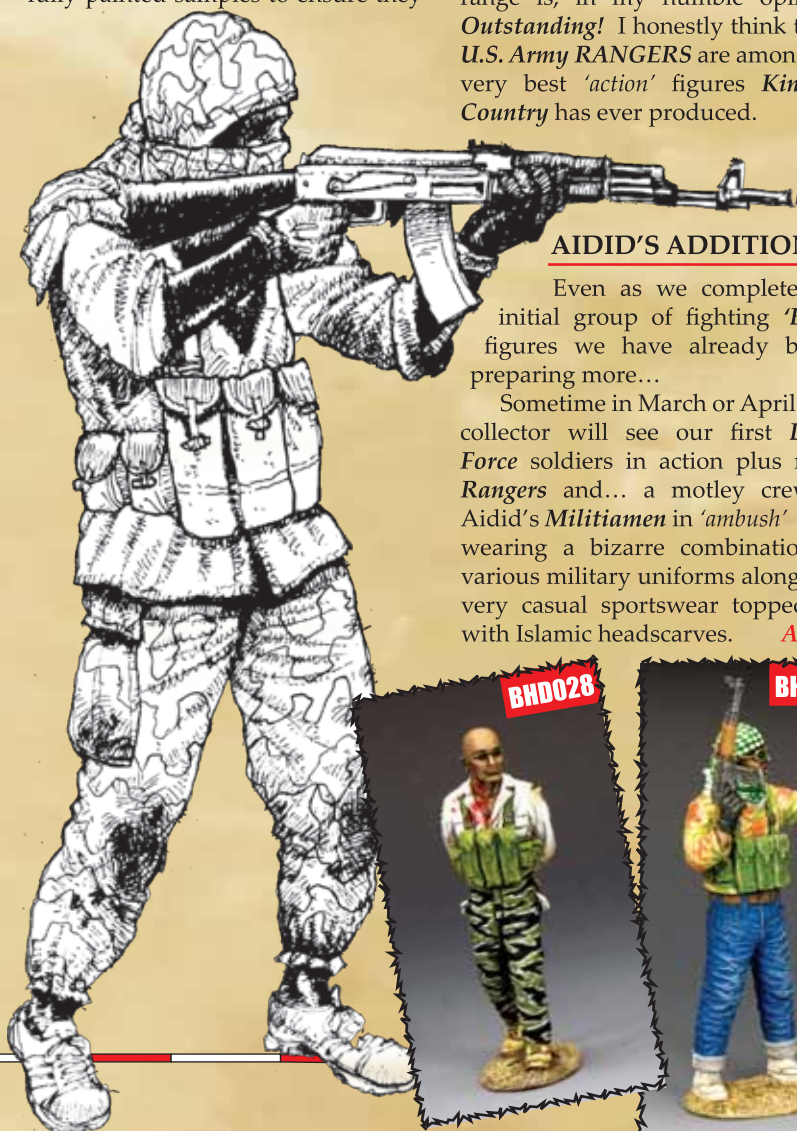
Even as we complete our initial group of fighting 'BHD' figures we have already begun preparing more...

Sometime in March or April 2025 collector will see our first *Delta Force* soldiers in action plus more *Rangers* and... a motley crew of Aidid's *Militiamen* in 'ambush' poses wearing a bizarre combination of various military uniforms alongwith very casual sportswear topped off with Islamic headscarves. **A.C.N.**

BHD028



BHD021



For more details about any of our happy French civilians please go to our King & Country website at:
www.kingandcountry.com



Liberation 1944

Battling through this difficult yet beautiful countryside were those 3 Allied Armies – *British, Canadian and American.*

Please Note:

This trailer is part of **DD318** and only available with the Diamond 'T' Tank Transporter Set



D-DAY is one of the greatest landmarks in modern history and a major 'turning point' of World War Two.

Following the successful Allied landings of 6 June 1944 there followed a long and bitter 85-day campaign to battle through the rest of Normandy and defeat the German forces opposing them there.

To the *British, Canadian and U.S. troops* fighting on the ground Normandy

itself presented a series of sharp contrasts. Around *Caen* and *Falaise* the countryside appeared open with large spacious fields and lush green pastures.

Elsewhere, near *St. Lo* and the surrounding area, the infamous '*bocage*' meant a chequerboard of small fields bordered by sturdy, thick hedges firmly attached to high earthen banks connected by a network of sunken roads and lanes... *perfect for defense!*

All determined to destroy their German opponents while, at the same time, happy to liberate hundreds of small and medium-sized Norman towns and villages.

Portraying a number of these Allied '*liberators*' are some of our most recent K&C collection of *U.S. Army Tank Crew* figures along with a pair of *K&C M4 Shermans* and a

DD387

DD386

DD385

DD381(SE)
 Sherman M4
 (#17)

DD382(SE)
 Sherman M4
 'Tonto'

DD392

squad of *GI 'Tankriders'*.

As you can see both of the *M4 Shermans* belong to that very select group of all-metal diecast, special edition, fighting vehicles which K&C first introduced in 2023.

Each of these *M4 Shermans* comes with 3 x *separate tank Crew Figures* and either a set of 6 *sandbags* or a *pack of supplies* to place on top of the rear engine compartment.

captured a trio of *Wehrmacht Officers*.

Elsewhere on these two pages are two older K&C items of which a few are still available... The first is the mighty

DD388

DD104(SL)
 M26 Armoured
 Recovery Vehicle
 (inc. 4 figures)



A WARM WELCOME

Greeting these *GI 'Liberators'* is a colourful selection of *French Civilians* as well as a couple of the local *Maquis (French Resistance)* fighters who have

M26 Armoured Recovery Vehicle DD104(SL) which here is pulling the trailer from the *Diamond 'T' Tank Transporter* set **DD318**.

Put all of these items and figures together and you have the centrepiece of any D.DAY collection!

DD384

ON THE 18th OF JUNE 1940, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered one of history's most famous speeches...

"What General Weygand has called the Battle of France is over – The Battle of Britain is about to begin!"

Hurricane Summer

Included with
RAF099



After the Fall of France, the Low Countries and following the evacuation from Dunkirk it was expected that Germany would soon try to invade and occupy the British Isles using its armies based in the newly conquered Western Europe.

First, Hitler and the Nazis would have to destroy Britain's *Royal Air Force* and that task was given to Germany's own formidable air force... *The Luftwaffe*.

that would change the course of aviation history... The sleek and swift *Supermarine Spitfire* and its rugged, resilient, hard-working, stablemate, the *Hawker Hurricane*.

TOUGH & STURDY

King & Country's latest WW2 'Warbirds' are brand-new versions of the *Hawker Hurricane Mk.I/II* and come in the personal markings of two of *RAF Fighter Command's* most

Included with
RAF093



famous and successful air aces of the Battle of Britain.... *Sqdn. Ldr. Douglas Bader* of 242 Squadron and *Sqdn. Ldr. Robert Stanford-Tuck* who commanded 257 Squadron.

RAF100

"A Flight Scramble!"

(A set of 4 running fighter pilots head for their aircraft alongside their squadron mascot 'Daisy' the Border Collie)

For its many thousands of experienced and battle-tested fighter pilots and bomber crews this operation should not be so difficult.

After all, in just six weeks, they had 'blitzkrieged' their way over most of Western Europe and now flew from air bases that stretched from the north of Norway to the borders of Spain in the south.

With a feeling of supreme confidence the *Luftwaffe* prepared to do battle against a bruised and battered *Royal Air Force* and a pair of unique British fighter planes



RAF067(SL)

Hawker Hurricane GNA
Sorry, sold out and
no longer available

RAF095

Royal Navy
Fleet Air Arm Pilot
(Available
March / April 2025)

Each of these two superb 1:30 scale, hand-painted, mixed-media aircraft comes with a standing figure representing *Squadron Leaders Bader* and *Stanford-Tuck* respectively.

In addition both aircraft come carefully packed in a full-colour presentation box and have been produced in an edition of just **200 pieces** for each model.

RUGGED & RELIABLE

The *Hurricane* was a low-wing, single-seat fighter designed by *Sir Sydney Camm* and developed by the *Hawker Aircraft Co.*

The prototype first flew in November 1936 and soon became the most numerous fighter aircraft in RAF service during the Battle of Britain with no fewer than **1715** Hurricanes in action – more than all other British fighter types combined. Their pilots were also credited with some 4/5 of all enemy aircraft destroyed during the summer of 1940.

The *Hurricane* has entered popular mythology as the plainer, older 'sister' to the more glamorous younger 'sibling' *Spitfire*.



Certainly the *Hurricane* was much heavier and not so fast as the more nimble *Spitfire* but it could turn more tightly and its stronger construction meant for a steadier gun platform and much harder to shoot down!

Many an RAF pilot would be forever grateful for the *Hurricane's* ability to endure considerable punishment and yet still successfully land a badly-damaged aircraft.

ABOUT THESE ACES

DOUGLAS BADER (1910-1982) one of the most famous British air

RAF100 "A Flight Scramble!"



Canadians where he continued his successes.

aces of the *Battle of Britain* was a double-amputee following a pre war flying accident in 1931.

After the outbreak of war in 1939 he applied to rejoin the RAF and by February 1940 was posted to *No. 19 Squadron*. In April 1940, Bader was promoted to flight commander and transferred to *No. 222 Squadron* where he shot down an Me.109. Less than two days later he destroyed a Dornier 17.

By the end of June 1940, Bader was made Squadron Leader of *242 Squadron*, a Hurricane unit of mostly

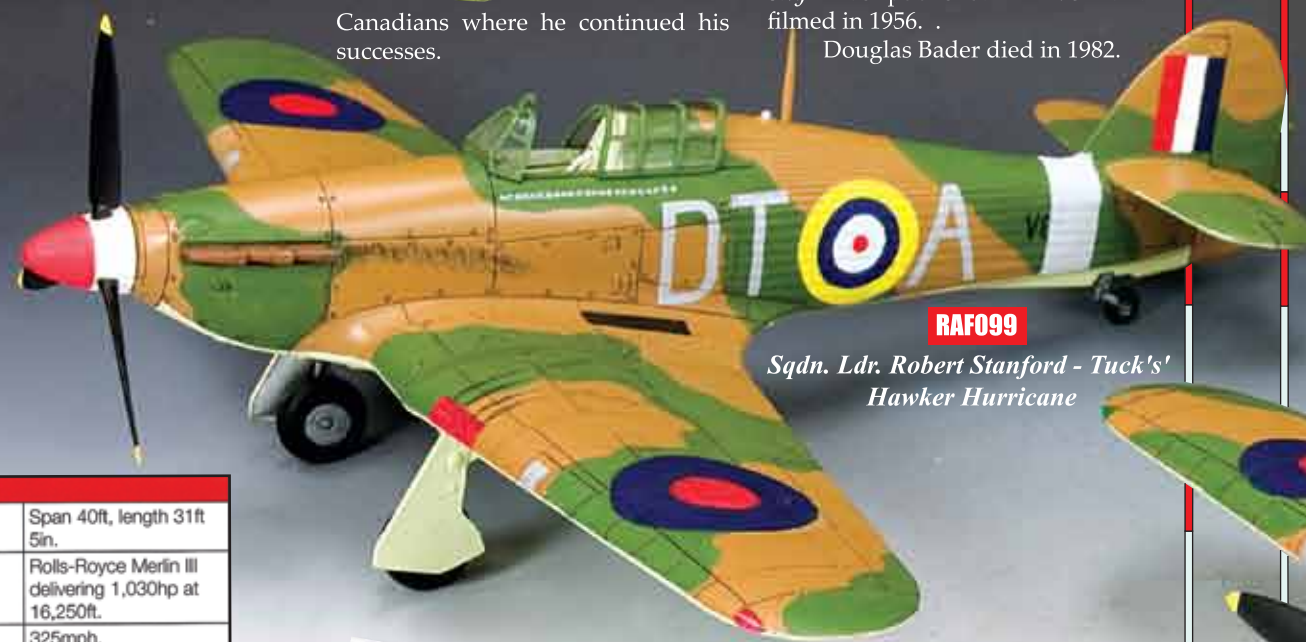


By August 1941, Bader, now a Wing Commander, could claim **22 enemy aircraft** shot down the fifth highest total in RAF Fighter Command. That same month Bader's luck ran out and he was forced to bale out over occupied France.

For the next 44 months Douglas Bader was a *Prisoner-of-War*. Finally, in the infamous *Colditz Castle* in Germany before being liberated in April 1945.

His life story '*Reach For The Sky*' was published in 1954 and filmed in 1956.

Douglas Bader died in 1982.



RAF099

Sqdn. Ldr. Robert Stanford - Tuck's' Hawker Hurricane



Bob Stanford-Tuck in the cockpit of his Hurricane.

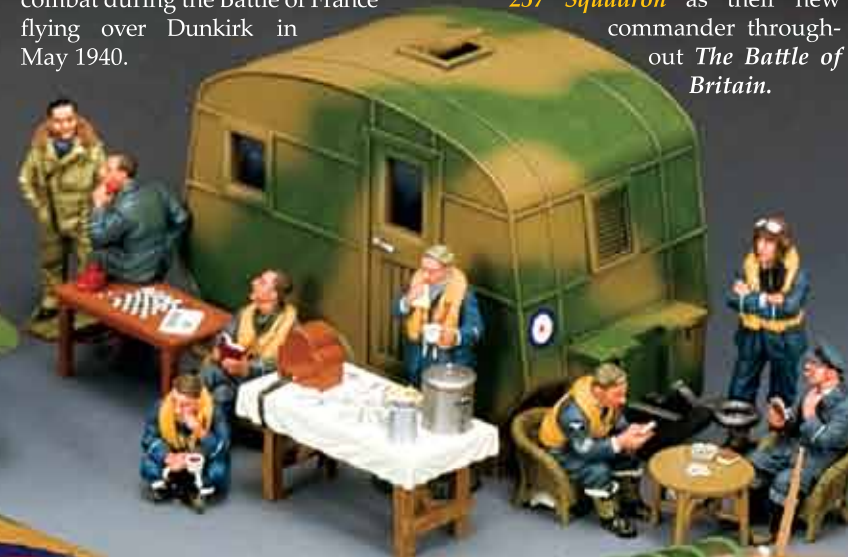
ROBERT STANFORD TUCK (1916-1987) Wing Commander Robert Roland Stanford - Tuck was a British fighter pilot, flying ace and test pilot who joined the RAF in 1935 and first saw combat during the Battle of France flying over Dunkirk in May 1940.

Over the next few weeks Stanford - Tuck shot down a large number of German fighters and bombers and assumed temporary command of his squadron before being posted to *No. 257 Squadron* as their new commander throughout *The Battle of Britain*.

In July 1941, Stanford-Tuck was once again promoted, this time to acting Wing Commander and appointed *Wing Leader* at RAF Duxford where he led major fighter sweeps over Northern France.

On 28 January 1942 he was shot-down over France by which time his final tally of 'kills' was **27** (plus two shared), 6 'probables' and another 6 'damaged'.

Following Stanford-Tuck's retirement from the RAF he was a test pilot on the *English Electric Canberra* jet bomber.



RAF093

Sqdn. Ldr. Douglas Bader's Hawker Hurricane

The 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN' Movie

In 1968, Bob Stanford-Tuck along with Douglas Bader were hired by United Artists as technical advisers on the epic '*Battle of Britain*' aviation film directed by Guy Hamilton and starring Michael Caine, Robert Shaw and Sir Laurence Olivier.

Technical data	
Dimensions	Span 40ft, length 31ft 5in.
Power plant	Rolls-Royce Merlin III delivering 1,030hp at 16,250ft.
Maximum Speed	325mph.
Initial rate of climb	2,420ft/min.
Service ceiling	34,000ft.
Armament	Eight .303 Browning machine guns.



The legendary American film director, *John Ford* directed over 50 'Westerns' during a prolific career that lasted more than a half a century.

Among those fifty 'Western' films were three in particular that became known as his '**CAVALRY TRILOGY**'. Produced in successive years (1948, 1949 & 1950) and dealing with the life of the **U.S. Cavalry** in the 1870s, fighting hostile Indian tribes and helping to open up the West to waves of American settlers.

In order of general release these films were: '**Fort Apache**' (1948) ... '**She Wore A Yellow Ribbon**' (1949) and '**Rio Grande**' (1950).

Directed by **John Ford**, all three starred **John Wayne** and a cast of Ford's favourite character actors such as **Victor McLaglen** and **Ben Johnson**.

These films hang together with their subject matter, landscape, including Utah's stunning **Monument Valley**, and the attitudes of their time.

In addition, the uniforms of each film are as are the virtually identical classic wooden replica frontier forts where

FORT JOHN FORD

much of the action takes place.

INSPIRED BY JOHN FORD

Here at King & Country the visual style and look of all three films has influenced and inspired all of the figures in our '**John Ford's Cavalry**' series as can be seen once more with these 10 most recent releases of

dismounted **U.S. Cavalrymen** in action.

As well as figures, K&C has also been inspired by the equally classic wooden 'Frontier' forts designed and built by Ford's

favourite Art Directors **James Basevi** and **Frank Hotelling** along with their skilled set builders.

The cavalry stockades both men designed usually included wood and adobe block houses as well as long wooden ramparts and watchtowers at each corner

The model fort featured in this article was designed and built in sections by K&C's own creative director **Andy C. Neilson** over a period of about 6 weeks and is mounted on a base measuring almost 36" x 24" x 15"

Comprising 9 x individual sections it was designed to be displayed at the **Round Top Antiques Fair** in Texas this past October where King & Country had a stand to present some of their most popular ranges to a whole new audience of prospective collectors, many of whom had never even seen a toy soldier figure in their lives!

TRW202



TRW195



TRW201



TRW204



TRW203



Shown here on these two pages are the ten latest John Ford Cavalry dismounted figures.

TRW198



TRW196



TRW199



TRW197



TRW200





TRW136

Left to right: Actors Harry Carey Jr., Ben Johnson and John Agar in 'Fort Apache' (1948)



TRW171



TRW133



TRW172



TRW137



TRW169



TRW138



TRW170

Take a closer look at all of these John Ford-inspired mounted U.S. Cavalry Officers, Troopers & Flag Bearers as shown in the 'Fort John Ford' diorama on the previous two page spread.



TRW135



TRW140



TRW146

FAR LEFT

Three of John Ford's Movie Cavalry, actors *Harry Carey Jr.*, *Ben Johnson* and *John Agar*. All three appeared together in "*She Wore A Yellow Ribbon*" (1949)

* These particular figures have moveable & detachable heads.

Britain's last defeat of World War II

The Battle for Arnhem

OPERATION 'MARKET GARDEN' was one of the boldest and ultimately most controversial, military operations of World War II – a double penetration by an armoured column and a massive airborne assault to secure key river bridges and major rail junctions in occupied Holland... a decisive breakthrough could punch a hole in the German defences...

If successful, it might have ended the war in late 1944. Unfortunately, this audacious and ambitious Allied battle plan came unstuck in a small Dutch town on the banks of the River Rhine called... **ARNHEM**.

Back in 1994 King & Country began working on a brand-new, WW2 range of figures (and soon military vehicles) that would become one of the company's longest and most popular series of 'in action' figures – '**ARNHEM '44**'.

Although, in previous years, K&C had designed and produced a number of WW2-themed figures covering several different Allied and Axis units the company's creative director **Andy C. Neilson** had decided to concentrate on just one particular unit fighting in one clearly defined area.

The chosen unit was the **British 1st Airborne Division** under the command of **Major-General Roy Urquhart**.



This division included three brigades of infantry (two parachute and one glider-borne), supporting light artillery batteries and engineer units plus several other support elements.

Urquhart also had the **1st Independent Polish Parachute Brigade** bringing a total strength of just over **11,500** airborne soldiers.

RESEARCH & PREPARATION

Fortunately for Andy and K&C there was no shortage of information, photographs, books and even films about **Operation 'Market Garden'** and to some extent he already had a 'head-start'.

"As someone who has always enjoyed 'war movies' I had already seen Richard Attenborough's 1977 '**A Bridge Too Far**' several times over both at the cinema and on home video." He recalls.

In addition, Andy had also read both the

original **Cornelius Ryan** book on which the film was based and '**ARNHEM 1944**', one of the finest and most authoritative accounts of the battle by **Martin Middlebrook**.



Finally, he had watched the excellent '**Theirs Is The Glory**', made in 1946 and filmed on many of the actual locations in the still battle-scarred town of Arnhem. This semi-documentary styled film used both original wartime footage together with staged reenactments. Many of the latter involved hundreds of real British airborne soldiers and Dutch civilians who had actually taken part in the fighting just barely two years earlier.

From all of these sources and other books, magazines and photos a large file of references were available to King & Country that allowed Andy to sketch out the first dozen or so figures that would be released in two sets.

MATT NOT GLOSS

One very important decision that had to be made at this early stage was to paint the figures with a **matt-paint finish** which at that time, in the mid 1990s, was 'not-the-norm'. Back then the vast majority of toy soldiers and many military miniatures were painted in a traditional high-gloss finish.

MG087

MG092

MG085

MG086

MG093

MG091

MG094

MG090

MG084

MG088

For Andy, these new WWII figures could only be painted in **MATT**... As he said at the time, and still says now, *"The Second World War was not like the colourful wars of old such as the Napoleonic Wars or even later conflicts like the Zulu War and Rorke's Drift."*

He also remembers seeing First World War miniatures painted with a high gloss finish. *"They were fantastic figures, beautifully sculpted but, alas, smothered with a gloss lacquer!"*

To the K&C guy's eyes WWII **had** to be **MATT**. And, so they were.

CHICAGO & ARNHEM

By September 1995, Andy had the first two sets of K&C's **"ARNHEM '44"** range ready to present to the public at that year's **'Chicago Toy Soldier Show'**, the world's premier toy soldier event held, at that time, in The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg on the outskirts of Chicago itself.

"For this event, "Andy says, "I could only carry the first two sets of our limited edition British 1st. Airborne soldiers... A grand total of just 60 boxes, split evenly between these initial two releases."

He also brought along one of the first dioramas that he and his brother **Gordon** produced to display their figures on.

FEAR & JOY

Looking back on that early Chicago Show, Andy admits to a small degree of trepidation.

"At the time I knew I really liked our small matt-painted warriors but how would they stand up against the armies of traditional, high-gloss competitors?"

For many years, before the entry of the internet, Toy Soldier Shows



A nostalgic look back at just a few of our many Arnhem 44 figures, vehicles and sets.

were the primary source for collectors, especially in America, to see and buy their favourite figures.

Toy soldier enthusiasts from all over America and Canada as well as some from further afield in Europe and elsewhere would journey in their hundreds to major shows like **'CHICAGO'** and spend several days and nights at the event.

Being held in a major hotel exhibitors like King & Country and other manufacturers and dealers would set up displays and products in their rooms and open their doors to welcome visitors to come in and inspect their various offerings. Most rooms would open up shortly after breakfast time and remain open well into the evening allowing collectors ample time to make their inspections and purchases. Andy's room was no exception.

"I arrived in Chicago late on the Wednesday evening, too late to open up my room but at least not too late to enjoy a beer at the bar!"

The next morning he was up bright and early, had a quick breakfast and then began opening up several large boxes that contained the **60** sets of British paratroopers and glider troops. Also included were K&C brochures, leaflets and a pair of full colour posters to stand outside Andy's room in the open doorway.

Almost immediately, the first potential collector came in with an enquiry, *"Any Zulu War or American Civil War?"*

"Sorry my friend, only these British Airborne soldiers," Andy replied. With only a cursory glance at the K&C display, the collector turned around and walked straight out again.

"Not a great start", Andy thought, *"but, what the heck let's see what happens next."*

Over a few hours, several more collectors came and went with little or no interest in the new figures and then, just after lunch, a younger



guy burst in saying *"Hey, are you the guy with the WW2 figures?"*

After excitedly examining each piece carefully and exclaiming, *"I love everything about World War Two and have been wanting somebody, anybody to produce these kind of figures... Can I buy these first two sets?"*

A delighted Andy let the collector inspect the two open boxes, popped them in a K&C bag, answered quite a few questions about what was coming next in the series and other queries about King & Country in



general and the happy customer went on his way promising to tell his friends about K&C and their great little British paratroopers.

"That first little sale really lifted my spirits and set a pattern for the following days."

On that first Thursday afternoon and evening a total of **12 sets** were sold. The following day, Friday another **19** flew out the door. On the Saturday

began once more. Within an hour there were just **2 sets left**, one of each of the first two releases. At that point who should appear once more at the table but the young man who had bought the initial two sets on the previous Thursday afternoon. Beside him

and *'Operation Market Garden'* series of figures and fighting vehicles while simultaneously building up the largest and most diverse collection of other series based around WWII and the many battles and campaigns fought all over the world between 1939-1945.



the total was **16**, collectors buying one of each available set.

Finally, it was the Sunday, which in those days was the day when most of the general public came to the show as opposed to only dedicated toy soldier collectors.

In those far-off days K&C had just one small individual table located in the centre of the hotel's ballroom and with just **13 sets** left to sell out of the original **60** Andy was quietly confident that most if not all would be sold on that final day.

When the show officially opened at 10am a flood of collectors and interested visitors poured into the ballroom and adjacent annexes and walkways.

Pretty soon there was a small crowd around the K&C table and the sales

was another youngster, *"Hi, are you sold out of those Brit Paras? He anxiously asked.*

"No," Andy responded, "I'm down to the last two... One of each set.



"We'll take 'em!" was the swift reply."

And so, at just after 11:00am at the 1995 Chicago Toy Soldier Show the *ARNHEM '44* series was well and truly launched and Andy himself could step back, relax a little and think, *"Maybe K&C might just be onto something here!"*

Since those days King & Country has expanded and developed many more additions to the *'ARNHEM '44'*

THE LATEST RELEASES

To mark the *Thirtieth Anniversary* of King & Country's uniquely original *ARNHEM '44* K&C has produced **14** brand-new *British 1st. Airborne Division* soldiers battling their way towards the famous bridge through that small Dutch town on the banks of the Rhine.

All of these dramatic reinforcements were inspired by the some of the original airborne soldiers we designed back in 1995 but now include many improvements in both sculpting, casting and painting.

And K&C are not finished yet, plans are already in hand for more releases in 2025 and beyond. Andy enthuses.

"When it comes to the battle of Arnhem" Andy says, "King & Country are not finished yet!"





A popular misconception still exists that the mighty 'TIGER' was produced to provide an answer to the Soviet T34 and the heavier KV-1 which the Germans first encountered when they invaded Russia in June 1941.

In actuality, the order for the production of what would become known as the *Panzerkampfwagen VI*, better known as 'THE TIGER' was issued in May 1941, before 'Operation Barbarossa'.

At the same time another order was sent out for a second tank... the medium *PzKpfw V* which became 'THE PANTHER'.

By companion, the 'Panther'

Africa in November 1942.

Now, Rommel's *Afrika Korps* was caught between a joint British and American force advancing from the

AK155(SE)

PzKpfw VI ausf. H
Tiger 1 #813

AK156

AK157

AK160

must rate as one of the best tanks of WW2 there is no doubt that the 'TIGER' was the most feared!

TIGERS IN TUNISIA

British and American troops first encountered the Tiger in Tunisia following 'OPERATION TORCH', the Allied invasion Vichy-held North

west and another British and Empire force rapidly attacking from Egypt.

To help stem these Allied moves more German reinforcements were brought in from Italy which included a small force of 'Tigers' and other fighting vehicles to build up the *10th Panzer Division*.

At the time a company of heavy Tigers included just 9 x 57 ton 'monsters' plus about 8 x *Panzer MK III* tanks. Eventually, a grand total of 31 Tigers fought in Tunisia split into 3 individual companies of 9 Tigers each with the remainder going to two battalion staff units.

IN ACTION

With their powerful 88mm main gun, supplemented by two 7.92 machine guns, the Tiger soon struck fear into the hearts of most Allied tank crews.

The tank's formidable front armour was 100mm (nearly 4") thick making it virtually impenetrable to

every Allied tank gun of that period.

In addition, this same gun could knock out its opposition at ranges in excess of 900 metres (almost 1,000 yds) or even longer allowing the Tiger to keep its enemies at a safe distance thus not allowing them to return fire.

In late 1942 and early 1943 only the British 17 *pdr. Anti Tank Gun* was capable of actually destroying or disabling a Tiger but alas it was a towed weapon.

Only later was that same gun installed in a British M4 'Sherman' creating the highly successful and deadly 'Sherman Firefly'.

FIGHTING IN TUNISIA

Even though the Tiger's fierce some reputation went before it in Tunisia and created a kind of 'Tiger



AFRIKAN TIGERS

phobia', among Allied tank crews it had its problems...

The first and most important was its mechanical reliability... It was over-engineered and a complex machine to handle requiring a large degree of experience and practical knowledge which was not always available.

In addition, the harsh and demanding landscape of Tunisia coupled with the intense heat and clouds of desert dust played havoc with the tank's engines and other moving parts.

Finally, a lack of spare parts and the scarcity of tank recovery and repair units allowed many Tiges to be abandoned on the battlefield almost intact with little or no actual battle damage.

Having said all of that the Tiger was still a very dangerous enemy especially when cornered... On one particular day in Tunisia, at a little place called *Sidi Bon Zid* a handful of Tigers destroyed 20 x M4 *Shermans* in just a couple of hours!

ABOUT OUR AK TIGERS

Each of these 2 all-new desert Tigers comes with 3 original crew figures and is an all-metal diecast model with moving metal tracks and full suspension.

In addition, all of the crew hatches open and close. And as usual each Tiger comes in its sturdy, full colour, presentation box with a numbered certificate. Just 250 of each tank has been produced.

INFANTRY SUPPORT

To help create a scene or desert display King & Country have

also released an extensive range of all-new Afrika Korps figures including an extra two Tiger tank crewmen sitting on the vehicle plus a pair of AK mechanics inspecting different parts of the tank.

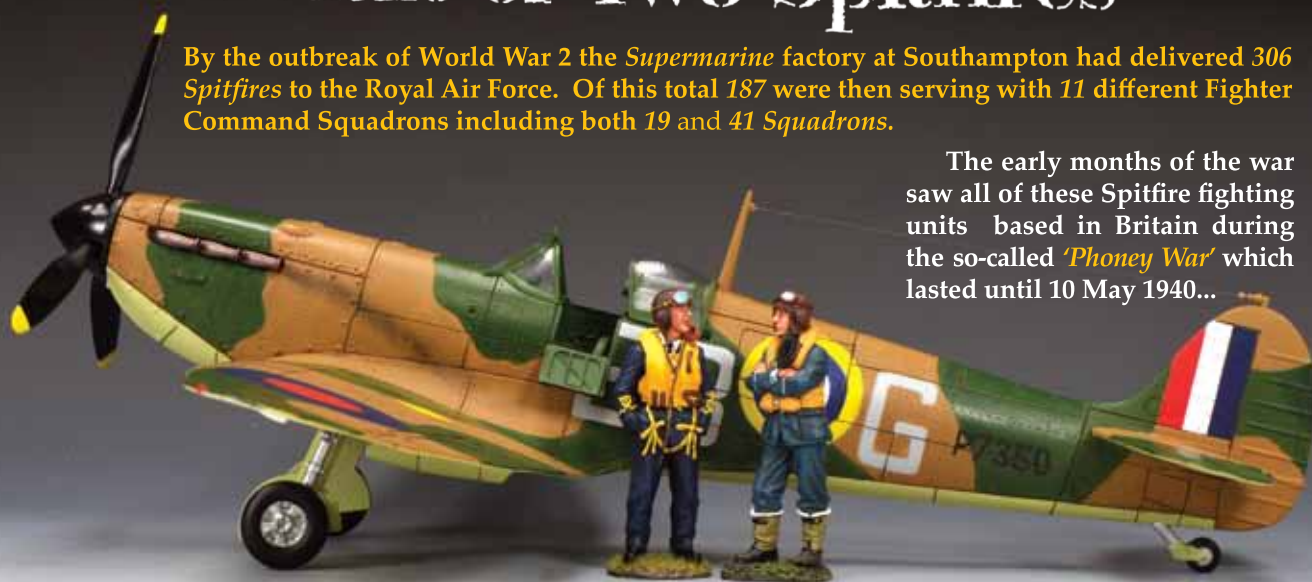
AK159

Achtung Spitfeuer!

A Tale of Two Spitfires

By the outbreak of World War 2 the Supermarine factory at Southampton had delivered 306 Spitfires to the Royal Air Force. Of this total 187 were then serving with 11 different Fighter Command Squadrons including both 19 and 41 Squadrons.

The early months of the war saw all of these Spitfire fighting units based in Britain during the so-called 'Phoney War' which lasted until 10 May 1940...



This operation covering the Dunkirk evacuation lasted from late May until early June 1940 and saw the first large scale commitment of Spitfires into action with 72 Spitfires being lost to enemy action.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

After the withdrawal from Dunkirk and the Fall of France in June 1940 there was a lull of a few short

weeks before Hitler's Luftwaffe turned its full attention on beleaguered Britain.

On 10 July 1940, a number of German attacks were mounted on coastal shipping in the English Channel. Over the next three months even heavier Luftwaffe assaults were also made on RAF airfields, radar posts and a wide variety of other targets mostly across southern Britain.

To combat these attacks and raids RAF Fighter Command, under the

leadership of Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding carefully 'husbanded' the relatively small force of Spitfires and Hurricanes forcing them to often take to the air against vastly greater enemy numbers.

At this time, there were twice as many hard-working Hurricanes flying into action as opposed to the faster, more glamorous Spitfire.

It was the 'Spitfire' however that won the hearts of the British people and the admiration of even its fiercest enemies and loyal friends around the world!



With the beginning of the German 'blitzkrieg' assault on Western Europe, most of the aerial combat took place in the skies above France, well beyond the range of the various Spitfire units based in southern

Britain, but that situation was about to change.

BATTLES OVER DUNKIRK

On 25 May, as the first British troops began to be evacuated from the port of Dunkirk

Spitfires joined Hurricanes in the skies over the French port battling the Messerschmitts, Stukas and Heinkels attacking the British and French forces below.



No. 41 Squadron Badge

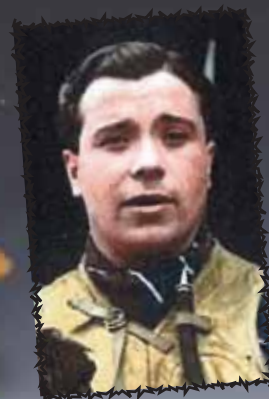
ABOUT THESE MODELS

Both of these upcoming 1:30 scale Spitfires will come with a standing figure of the relevant pilot and additional details such as opening and closing cockpit hatch doors.



Sqn. Ldr. Brian Lane

K&Cs SPECIAL SPITFIRE DUO



Plt. Off. Eric Lock

King & Country's latest Spitfire MK I/II models are brand-new sculpts with lots of enhanced detail and will be due for release in a few months time.

Both aircraft are in the markings of two Battle of Britain pilots – Sqn. Ldr. Brian Lane of No. 19 Squadron who shot down 6 enemy aircraft plus 1 'shared' another 1 'probable' and 1 more 'damaged'.

The other Spitfire belongs to Pilot Officer Eric Lock from No. 41 Squadron who went on to become the RAF's top-scoring Spitfire pilot during the battle. By the end of 1940, Lock had shot down no less than 23 Luftwaffe fighters and bombers.



No. 19 Squadron Badge

Just 250 of each aircraft are available and all come in a full-colour presentation box with a standing pilot figure.

Royal Salute

When it comes to portraying iconic *Kings, Queens* and *Emperors* from history in miniature K&C has few equals.

Even a casual inspection of our past, present and upcoming royal figures confirm this.

Now, here's a fun little quiz... *How many of these famous 'Royals' can you name...?*

CE073

TR014



AE110



TR008



TR009

TR018



TR017



TR005

TR003

TR019



TR004

TR007

