

KING & COUNTRY'S

VETERANAM WAR



AUTHENTIC HAND - MADE HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

AFTER THE END of the Second World War, communism was firmly established in Eastern Europe. By the end of 1949, communist forces led by Mao Tse Tung had seized control of China and North Korea was also in its orbit. The Soviets meanwhile had exploded their first atomic bomb, ending America's nuclear weapon monopoly.

Afraid of mutually assured destruction, both east and west settled into an uneasy 'Cold War' that frequently erupted into indirect military conflict, through the use of 'proxies'... especially in Asia. One particular area of Asia proved vital to the interests of both East and West... *Indochina*.

Comprising *Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*, Indochina had been under French colonial rule since the 1880's. After France's defeat by the Germans in 1940, the Japanese were quick to seize control of the area from the weak and compliant *Vichy* regime.

In 1945, after Japan's defeat, nationalist revolutionaries under *Ho Chi Minh* fought a long and ultimately successful guerrilla campaign that culminated in Colonial France's military defeat at *Dien Bien Phu* in 1954.

Soon, Laos and Cambodia achieved independence and Vietnam was divided between a communist North and a capitalist South. Tensions between the two Vietnams rapidly began to escalate in the late 1950's and early 1960's leading to the United States increasing their aid to the South while Soviet and Chinese weapons and equipment flowed into the North.

LET BATTLE COMMENCE...

The stage was now set for a mighty conflict that would not only engulf all of Vietnam but would spill over into neighboring countries... *often with dire results.*

United States involvement now began to rapidly increase from just a few thousand military and civilian advisers in the early 1960's to a massive military presence of more than 500,000 men (*and some women*) by 1968.

As more advisers and then combat forces were sent in to support South Vietnam, some American citizens began to question the country's involvement in a foreign war in a distant land far from home.

Every evening on the television news Americans watched in shocked awe at the death and destruction their soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines had to face... As well as the same death and destruction

that U.S. Armed Forces dealt out in reply. Vietnam became the first true 'Television War'.

Up until late 1967 the majority of the American public supported the U.S. effort in Vietnam and then, in early 1968, during the *TET Lunar New Year Festival* all of that changed.

It was then that the *North Vietnamese* and their *Viet Cong* allies in the south launched a massive surprise offensive throughout South Vietnam that attacked virtually every major city, town and military complex throughout the country.

This dramatically important year forms the basis of this recently-launched collection of *Vietnam War* figures and fighting vehicles that has proved to be one of the most exciting and dynamic historical ranges King & Country has ever produced in its 35 year history.

Journey with us back to 1968 and join the Americans, Australians and Vietnamese that help tell that story in miniature...



US Military's Vietnam War service medal.



VN001

The Radio Operator



VN002

USMC Sniper



VN003

Standing Ready



VN004

Standing Firing



VN005



Shotgun Ready

VN006

Looking Back



VN007

M60 Machine Gunner



VN008

Decoy Marine



VN009

Navy Corpsman & Wounded Marine



VN-S01

The TET' 68 BEGINNERS BONUS Set

7 great figures at a great price!



VN010

Marine with 'Blooper' M79 Grenade Launcher



VN011

Kneeling Firing Marine



VN013

Covering Firing



VN012

Marine Lying Prone Firing



VN014

Marine NCO with Binos



VN015

The USMC M50 A1 'ONTOS'

The 'ONTOS' officially known as the Rifle, Multiple 106mm Self-Propelled M50 was a light armored, tracked anti tank vehicle.



VN016

Marine Loader w/106mm round



Produced exclusively for the USMC it provided direct fire support against enemy infantry and fixed positions during the Vietnam War.

VN017

The USMC M274 'MULE'



This small 1/2 Ton, 4x4, Utility Truck was classed as a light weapons carrier many were used in Vietnam.

COMBAT CASUALTY SET VN018



VN021

VC Kneeling firing AK47



Lying Prone Viet Cong Sniper VN019





VN020 NVA Lying Firing AK47



VN024 Crouching Uncle Ho



VN025 NVA Casualty



VN022 **VN023**
Kneeling NVA
Firing RPG



Running NVA
w/ SKS Rifle



VN026 Dead Viet Cong



VN028

Moving Supplies



VN029

NVA Flagbearer



VN030
Australian Patrol Section
4 - man set

VN031
Aussie Patrol
Commander



VN051
Aussies on Patrol
additional 4 - man set



"Winning The Firefight"

Marines take cover behind a concrete wall as they open up with a fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire to keep the enemy's heads down.



VN032

The Vietnam Walls Set

Three separate wall sections that can be used in a variety of different ways to tell a story.



VN033

M42A1 'Duster'

The M42 40mm Self-Propelled Anti Aircraft Gun, or "Duster" was a U.S. armoured light air-defense gun that entered service in 1953. Although obsolete by the time of the Vietnam War it proved a valuable asset in the ground support role.



VN042

'Duster' Add-on Set



In Vietnam it was utilized for point security, convoy escort and perimeter defense. During the TET Offensive US Army – crewed 'Dusters' provided much-needed fire support for the Marines fighting to retake Hue.

VN042



VN033

'Duster' in action

VN034

Saigon Embassy Trio



VN035 *'Gunny' John Canley*



VN036
Running For Cover



VN037 *Shouting Instructions*



VN038 *Kneeling Marine Rifleman*



VN039 *Marine Grenadier*



VN040

The Scout



Standing Firing V.C.



VN041

"What's around the corner?"



VN043



VN044

"Hold on!"



Crouching LAW Gunner

VN046



VN045



Kneeling LAW Gunner

VN047 *"Take 5"*



VN048



*Don McCullin
British Photojournalist*



"Returning Fire"



"Jungle Patrol"

Over 60,000 Australians fought alongside US, ARVN and other allied troops during the Vietnam War. Their resilience, courage and good humour were legendary and they proved themselves in battle time and time again.

Here you see infantrymen from the Royal Australian Regiment make their way across and through a jungle river somewhere in South Vietnam.



VN049

"Dead or Alive..?"



VN050

Vietnam Marine War Dog



VN054

VN055

"Winning Hearts & Minds"
Set #1



Vietnamese
Mother
& Baby



"Storming the Citadel"
NVA troops storm the Citadel's Ngo Mon Gate
at the beginning of the TET Offensive.



"Bringing up the heavy metal!"

The M42A1 'Duster' provides much needed
additional fire support for these Marines
taking the fight to the enemy.



BY NOVEMBER 1967 half a million US combat troops were serving in Vietnam and more bombs had fallen over that country, North and South, than had been dropped on occupied Europe during all of WW2.

General William Westmoreland, the commander of American forces in South Vietnam felt confident enough to proclaim... "The end begins to come into view!"

Elsewhere however other leaders had vastly opposite opinions. In North Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, the leadership there were planning a major military offensive that they believed would win the war with one final mighty blow!

Their plan was to combine the regular NVA (North Vietnamese Army) and locally-recruited South Vietnamese VC (Viet Cong) militia to attack ALL important cities, towns and military bases across the length and breadth of the country simultaneously...

Their carefully-chosen date was the first day of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year called TET... 31st January 1968.

THE BATTLE OF HUE

One of the primary targets of the

NVA and NVC was the city of Hue in central South Vietnam. Once the former imperial capital it was also one of the country's most important cultural centres and a major supply and logistics base for both US and ARVN (Army of the Republic of South Vietnam) forces.

Within hours of launching their attack on the ancient city most of its urban areas were firmly in enemy hands. Just two small military

TET '68

compounds remained defiantly in US and ARVN control.

In nearby Phu Bai air base, about 15kms from Hue, American and South Vietnamese commanders began to prepare troops to counter attack and eject the enemy forces from Hue and, at the same time, reinforce and relieve the besieged US and ARVN troops still holding out at their compounds.

Little did they immediately realize the size and strength of the enemy force they were about to come up against.

Among those first combat troops rushed forward into the

battle to retake Hue were men of the *United States Marine Corps*. Over the next 24 days these marines would take part in one of the fiercest and bloodiest chapters in Marine Corps history that ranks alongside *Belleau Wood... Iwo Jima...* and Korea's *Chosin Reservoir*.

KING & COUNTRY IN VIETNAM

This is King & Country's *second* venture into the Vietnam War. Back in 1998, we produced



ABOVE: This 4' x 2' battle diorama was designed and built by Gordon and Andy C. Neilson and appeared at both the 2018 Chicago and London Toy Soldier Shows.

our first soldiers and marines in action fighting in the jungles and countryside of South Vietnam.

Today, we have relocated our troops and show them moving into and fighting through the rubble-strewn streets and bomb-blasted buildings

of the city of Hue during the TET Offensive to tell a different kind of story... a brutal, bloody story of *urban warfare*.

Already available are a fine selection of dynamic and realistic looking Marines in a broad spectrum of 'all-action' poses.

In addition, a number of fighting vehicles, some unique to the Marines, have already been launched to provide fire support in their battle to recapture the city, with more on the way.

At the same time, a range of enemy figures (both NVA and VC) are also on hand to provide the determined opposition!

Inside this brochure you will discover the first Vietnamese civilian figures that represent the poor, innocent peasants caught in the middle of this horrific conflict.

AIRBORNE SUPPORT

Seen in this diorama display is



British photojournalist Don McCullin, whose photos of Hue inspired many of our K&C marines.

one of the most iconic war machines of the Vietnam War... *The Bell UH-1 'Iriquois'* (better known as 'The Huey').

This single-engined troop-carrying helicopter first saw active service (and plenty of it) during the Vietnam War.

Our K&C hand-carved, hand-painted, kiln-dried mahogany 1:30 scale 'Huey' is in Marine Corps markings.

A limited number are also available from K&C direct...

Contact us for more details.



"COURAGE UNDER FIRE"



VN035 "Gunny John Canley"

Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Canley served multiple tours in South Vietnam between 1965 and 1970. In January 1968 he was with *Alpha Co., 1st Btn., 1st Marine Regt., 1st Marine Division* stationed near the old Imperial Capital of *Hue* in central Vietnam.

While serving as Company Gunnery Sergeant, he was part of the USMC forces sent into Hue to help recapture the city and relieve the beleaguered American and South Vietnamese troops then being besieged by the joint NVA and VC offensive which had captured most of the city.

On numerous occasions, despite being wounded himself, 'Gunny' Canley ran across fire-swept terrain to rescue and recover other wounded Marines and bring them to safety.

When his own Commanding Officer was seriously wounded and no other officer was available the 'Gunny' took command of the company and continued to lead it forward.

For three whole days he continued in command of *Alpha* and at the same time, led a number of assaults on enemy bunkers and defences often exposing himself to direct enemy fire.

On February 6, 1968, on two separate occasions, the Gunnery Sergeant climbed over a wall, in full view of the enemy to drag and carry casualties to a more protected position.

For this kind of inspired and dedicated leadership and courage 'Gunny' Canley was at the time awarded the Navy Cross.

Many years later, in 2017, this award

was belatedly but well-deservedly upgraded to the *Medal of Honor* when in 2018 President Donald J. Trump presented John Canley with his medal.

Although a Gunnery Sergeant in Vietnam in 1968, John Canley eventually rose to the rank of *Sergeant Major* before retiring from the USMC in 1981 after 28 years of loyal and courageous service to his country and his beloved corps.



King & Country is proud and privileged to dedicate this special 'Vietnam' figure set to a very special and heroic Marine.



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