

昔日香江
HONGKONG
All Our Yesterdays

蒐集者
COLLECTOR

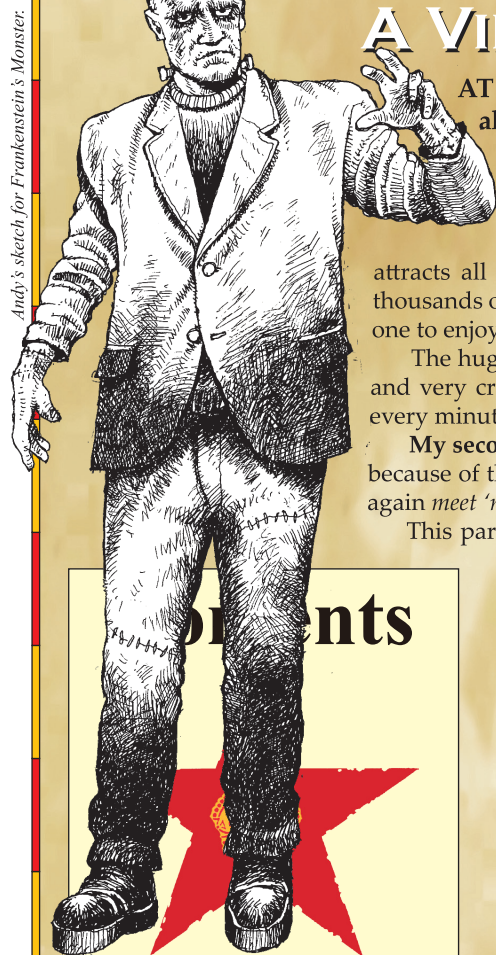
A Seasonal Look at Our World in Miniature



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Background photo by Redge Solley from his book 'Life in Hong Kong in 1969'





Andy's sketch for Frankenstein's Monster.

A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES...

AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR as well as looking forward to 2024 it's also good to look back at where we have been in the last ten months or so.

First of this year's highlights involved travelling to Japan to visit the largest and most exciting model figure show in Asia...

Held each May, in *Shizuoka*, about 2 1/2 hours from Tokyo, this amazing event was started by the leading Japanese model kit maker 'TAMIYA' and attracts all kinds of model miniature kit companies from all around Japan as well as thousands of Japanese hobbyists who come to exhibit their handwork and skills for everyone to enjoy and admire.

The huge amount and sheer variety of the work on display was simply awe-inspiring and very creative. Myself and two K&C colleagues stayed for 4 whole days and loved every minute of it... *and can't wait to go back!*

My second trip was down to Australia in July for one of my annual 'Oz Visits', which because of the dreaded covid, we had to cancel for the last 3 years! It was terrific to once again meet 'n' greet lots of old friends and make quite a few new ones too!

This particular 'Oz' visit also provided a number of fantastic 'new series' suggestions that I'm delighted to say I am already working on. So, a very big THANKYOU to all our great K&C Dealers down under and the large and growing band of dedicated Aussie K&C Collectors. Your support and enthusiasm is never taken for granted and I'm very grateful.

Still on the travel front... In a few weeks time, as I write this, I will be in *Chicago* for the new 'CHICAGOLAND' Toy Soldier Show being organized by our K&C Dealer, *Matt Murphy* of *Hobby Bunker* fame. As this is a brand-new show in an all-new venue I am not exhibiting on behalf of *King & Country* this time, just going along for a 'look-see' and to link up with some of our U.S. dealers and collectors who will also be attending.

After that, it's down to *Texas* and *San Antonio* where we hope to have a little collector gathering at our great new 'King & Country Texas' store and preview a few new items there.

However, this being the 'Winter Issue' of 'COLLECTOR' may I take this early opportunity to wish all of you out there from all of us out here in Hong Kong...

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year in 2024!

Andy C. Neilson

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

ABOUT OUR DOUBLE COVER:

K&C's latest look at street life in busy, bustling Hong Kong moves much closer to modern times with 'All Our Yesterdays', a new series which captures in miniature the everyday existence of ordinary Hong Kong people during the tumultuous 1960s and into the exciting 1970s.

Providing the perfect photo backdrop for these new figures and characters is this panoramic street scene taken in 1969 by *Redge Solley* which features in his excellent book 'Life In Hong Kong In 1969'.

BELOW: A fruit vendor in Wan Chai, another classic image from *Redge Solley's* book.



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Santa, Snowmen & Teddy Bears

It's become an annual *King & Country* tradition to release one or two special Festive figures each year and 2023 is no exception.

Allow us to present 'Santa & His Snowman' together with 'The Teddy Bear's Snowman'.

Both of these happy little Christmas sets will be available from this November.

Order yours today to avoid disappointment.



XM023-01



XM023-02

Meanwhile, K&C still has available a few examples of some of our previous 'Christmas Crackers!'

XM018

Christmas Eve Santa



XM022-01

Santa & The Polar Bear Express



XM017-01

Christmas Tree w/Christmas Presents



XM020

The Young Carol Singers



XM019-02

Santa's Christmas Cottage



XM022-02

Santa's Little Helper



XM008-01

Last Christmas of The War



XM012-01

Christmas 1914



Towering high above the streets of Scotland's capital city stands a fortress that has been at the centre of many historical events and dramas for more than 900 years!

Edinburgh Castle sits on top of *Castle Rock* and was, for many centuries, the most important military stronghold in the *Kingdom of Scotland*. During that time the Castle was involved in countless conflicts throughout the *Wars of Scottish Independence* all the way up to the *Jacobite Rebellions* of 1715 and 1745.

Today, the castle houses the '*Honours of Scotland*,' sometimes known as '*Scotland's Crown Jewels*' in addition to being the *Scottish National War Memorial* and Scotland's *National War Museum*.

Edinburgh Castle Gateway

The castle is also still garrisoned and has soldiers from the *Royal Regiment of Scotland* performing daily ceremonial duties in and around the fortress.

THE EDINBURGH TATTOO

In addition, *The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo* is an annual series of military tattoos performed by the *British Armed Forces, Commonwealth* and other *foreign military bands and units* which takes place on the *Esplanade* of the Castle opposite the Main Gate.

One of the most spectacular and colourful events of the Tattoo is the arrival through the Main Gateway of the '*Massed Pipes & Drums*' involving at least 12 or more different *Pipe & Drum Bands* and well over 225 musicians.

K&C's EDINBURGH CASTLE GATEWAY

This superb, hand-cast and hand-painted *polystone (marble dust & resin)* structure has many of the original features that visitors can see when they enter through the Main Gateway.

Flanking the entrance are two life-size metal statues of *King Robert the Bruce* and *Sir William Wallace*, heroes of Scotland's *Wars of Independence*.

Shown above the entrance itself is a painted shield bearing the Scottish *Coat-of-Arms* with the *Lion Rampant*.

This new '*Edinburgh Castle Gateway*' measures...

Dimensions: Length: 345mm / 13.6"
Height: 252mm / 9.9"
Width: 60mm / 2.36"

Just **300** of these unique replicas of the castle's historic entranceway have been produced and each comes with a *signed and numbered certificate* and a *special full-colour presentation box*.



SP125(SE)

'*Edinburgh Castle Gateway*'

Please note: All figures and guard boxes are not included.

Her Late Majesty *Queen Elizabeth II* stands in the gateway of the Castle together with three of her beloved *Corgis* and a small detachment of the *Yeomen of The Guard*.

Throughout her long reign the *Queen* was a frequent visitor to Scotland's capital and, whenever possible, enjoyed visiting the Castle and attending its world-famous *Military Tattoo*.

Operation Wacht am Rhein

BBG125 MG34 Machine Gun Team Set



BBG126

The Squad Leader



BBG128

The Combat Photographer



BBG127 MG42 Gun Team Set



BBG129 The Scout



BBG119

Winter Jagdpanzer IV



BBG130 Winter Tank Crew



In this winter edition of 'COLLECTOR' we are presenting our latest K&C 'Battle of The Bulge' American GIs preparing to face up to the massive German assault that began on *December 16, 1944*.

Here, by contrast, are some of the elite soldiers from Hitler's dreaded *Waffen SS* that formed the spearhead of the surprise attack.

As they move stealthily through the snow-covered forest of the *Ardennes* they are quietly confident that their American foes have little or no idea of their presence.

For days now the extreme winter weather conditions have 'grounded' every Allied aircraft and even prevented the Americans from carrying out routine regular foot patrols in this huge forested area.

And so, they trudge forward through the snow alongside some of their armour moving ever closer to the American positions.

In a few hours time a mighty artillery barrage from over 1600 German guns will descend upon their enemies and the battle will begin.

MOVING FORWARD

King & Country present 11 brand-new additions to our 'Battle of The Bulge' German forces.

All of these soldiers are dressed in an assortment of uniforms typical of this late war period and carry a variety of different personal weapons.

Among the sets and solo figures shown are a 3-man *MG34* machine gun set, backed up by another *MG42* gun duo plus a single *Squad Leader* and a greatcoat-clad 'Scout'.

A *Waffen SS Combat Photographer*, a pair of dismounted *Armoured Vehicle Crew* figures plus a lone *Panzer Grenadier* complete the release.

Providing the vital armoured support is K&C's own superb, mixed-

media *Jagdpanzer IV* self-propelled gun armed with the long, powerful 7.5cm anti tank gun which blends perfectly into the scene and the story...

*'Wacht am Rhein' translates as 'Watch on the Rhine', and is adapted from an old German patriotic anthem. The song's origins are rooted in the historic French-German enmity beginning with the *Franco-Prussian War* of 1870 and continuing through the *First World War* 1914-1918.

It was also the codeword for this last German Offensive in the West.

M48A3 'Patton' Main Battle Tank

By 1965 the military situation in South Vietnam was only getting worse! Despite the best efforts of thousands of American advisors and huge amounts of U.S. military equipment the ARVN (South Vietnam's own army) remained a largely ineffective fighting force except for a few elite units.

Back in Washington the decision was made to commit major American ground forces to stabilize and reverse this worsening situation.

FIRST TO FIGHT

Among the first troops to be sent were the men of the Ninth Marine Expeditionary Brigade which landed near the city of Da Nang on March 8, 1965.

With the Marines were their own M48A3 main battle tanks which had just entered service with the U.S. Army and USMC two years before.

The four-man M48A3 was officially named after Gen. George S. Patton, the legendary World War Two commander.

The M48 or 'Patton' rapidly became one of the main fighting vehicles of the Vietnam War and did

everything from convoy escort duties to search and destroy missions and even mobile base protection.

The tank's 90mm main gun fired a powerful HE (High Explosive) round that could easily destroy enemy bunkers and other defence works. It could also fire two types of anti personnel rounds.

In addition the M48 mounted the venerable .50 calibre Heavy Machine Gun in a special armoured cupola on top of the turret and main gun.

INTO BATTLE

During the TET Offensive of 1968, Marine Corps 'Pattons' provided much-needed armoured support and played a vital part in

VN159-1

M48A3 'Patton'
Main Battle Tank
'Witch Bitch'



VN159-2

M48A3 'Patton'
Main Battle Tank
'Mad Dogs'

Above Photo:

This photo shows the rear view of a Marine Corps M48A3. Clearly visible is the vehicle's stowage basket which was normally used to carry the crew's personal gear as well as sleeping bags and field rations.

Also shown is the tank's main armament, the 90mm gun. This had a maximum firing rate of 8 rounds per minute with a well-trained crew.

the successful retaking of the old Imperial City of Hue from the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) regulars and locally-recruited VC (Viet Cong) volunteers.

King & Country is offering two individually numbered (and nicknamed) M48A3s... "Witch Bitch" and "Mad Dogs". Each tank includes a driver and vehicle commander figures and is painted in standard USMC olive drab with a light covering of Vietnamese dust.

Just 200 of each vehicle are available.

Below Photo:

'On the road from Phu Bai to Hue.' US Marines and their tanks make their way along the main route to retake the old city from the NVA and VC at the beginning of the TET Offensive.



As the *TET Offensive* exploded across South Vietnam in the early hours of January 31, 1968 virtually every major city, town and provincial capital came under intense attack from *Viet Cong* units. At the same time, regular *NVA* (*North Vietnamese Army*) units also began to assault many *U.S* and *South Vietnamese* military bases, airfields and other installations all over the country. Even the *American Embassy* in the heart of *Saigon* was

breached by a 20 x man squad of *Viet Cong* who blew open a perimeter wall and began to pour into the embassy compound.

Outside *Saigon*, at *Tan Son Nhut Air Base*, fuel depots and parked aircraft went up in flames as they were destroyed by mortars, *RPGs* (*Rocket Propelled Grenades*) and demolition charges planted by two battalions of *VC sappers and infantry*.

Further north, in *Hue*, Vietnam's third-largest city and its ancient capital, *NVA* and *Viet Cong* units captured most of the city expecting a general uprising of the civilian population which did not happen.



VN017 USMC M274 'Mules' in action. Although both of these great little vehicles are sold out at K&C in Hong Kong collectors should check with other dealers or on Ebay to find examples.

'HOUSE BY HOUSE... STREET BY STREET'

Within hours more than 10,000 *NVA* and *VC* entered *Hue* and captured most of their objectives with the exception of a few small pockets of *South Vietnamese* and *U.S.* forces still holding out and anxiously calling for help from outside.

RELIEF IS ON THE WAY

US Marines stationed at *Phu Bai* airbase some 16km southeast of *Hue* were ordered to move out and retake the city almost immediately.

The first units began soon reached the outskirts of the city all the time coming under a hail of ground attacks with sniper fire, rockets and mortar bombardments slowing their advance.

Using a combination of armour and infantry the *Marines* finally entered the city from the south by mid afternoon of January 31 but this was just the beginning of a month-long battle to root out the *NVA* and *VC* troops from *Hue*.

In the days and weeks that followed and hampered by foul winter weather conditions, which prevented *U.S.* and *South Vietnamese* air power support, the *Marines* had to clear each building *one-by-one* and each street... *street-by-street*.

Slowly but surely progress was made but at a very high cost. For the enemy... for the *Marines* and especially *Hue's* civilian residents caught in the middle or hiding in their basements.

ABOUT OUR DISPLAY

Here you can see part of a typical street in *Hue's* commercial district with its mix of ground-floor shops with living quarters above.

A platoon of *Marines* having 'cleared' these buildings are taking shelter behind some stone walls while continuing to return fire on their well-entrenched opposition just a few yards away.

Very welcome 'fire-support' was come up with the arrival of one of their own *M48A3 'Patton'* tanks.

Using the *M48* as cover some 'Grunts' bring out some of their own casualties as well as a young wounded *Vietnamese* girl.

Meanwhile fresh supplies of weapons and ammunition have also come forward using the ever-versatile 'Mules' which in turn will carry the wounded back to safety.

DISPLAY DETAILS

The four 'Vietnamese' buildings were built from a mix of *foam board*, *card* and *corrugated paper* adorned with photos from the internet and advertising signs also sourced from the same place.

The wall sections are from K&C's own 'Vietnamese Walls' set and you can guess where all the figures and fighting vehicles come from!

'Trucks & Grunts'

The Setting: A village road on the outskirts of the massive USMC Base at Da Nang on the east coast of South Vietnam.

Two USMC *M35A2 2 1/2 ton Cargo Trucks* pass each other on the narrow roadway as they ferry troops and supplies between the main base and outlying posts protecting the perimeter of the nearby *Da Nang Regional Airfield* now transformed into a major air base used by both the *South Vietnamese* and *U.S. Air Force*.

Everyday trucks like these and thousands more carried troops, supplies and ammunition all over the war-torn country and were a familiar sight to friend and foe alike... *from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ*.

K&C's M35A2 'Deuce and a Half'

This great new 1:30 scale, mixed-media truck is painted in USMC markings and comes complete with a *seated Marine driver* together with his helmet and M16. A *detachable canvas cab roof* is also included.

In addition, three separate 2-man sets of sitting 'Grunts' are also available

VN170 *The USMC M35A2 Cargo Truck*



Photo Above: As you can see a squad of Marines, a load of military supplies or even a combination of both can easily fit into and onto this latest and useful addition to our 'Vietnam' collection.



VN172

'Sitting M14 Rifle Set'



Please Note: All of the benches are not included.

VN173 *'Eating & Drinking'*



'Sitting M60 Gun Team' **VN174**





13



14



LD IN MINIATURE

The wind forces open a curtained window...
Candles are snuffed out and the room descends into darkness...
Suddenly a blood-curdling scream rings out...
Welcome to the terrifying world of the horror movie!

Horror Stories



HS004

HS002

HS005

HS003

HS001

'Igor'
Frankenstein's
Assistant

'The Bride of
Frankenstein'

'The Monster'

Doktor Frederik
Von Frankenstein

'Count Dracula'

THE WONDERS OF SEEING the unknown up on the big screen has always been one of the alluring temptations of the cinema from its earliest beginnings.

Starting in the silent film era 'Horror' movies have never had a problem finding and frightening audiences with a whole range of villainous monsters in all shapes, sizes and disguises.

It was however in the 1930s with the addition of 'sound' that the 'Horror' movie really came into its own with successful film adaptations of two of its greatest creations... 'Dracula' and 'Frankenstein'.

'Dracula' was originally a novel by Irish author, Bram Stoker, first published in 1897. It begins with a young Englishman travelling to Transylvania to meet a Count Dracula to finalize a business transaction. It does not take long for him to discover that the Count is actually a vampire with an insatiable thirst for fresh blood.

After many adventures (and misadventures) Dracula comes to a gory end after decapitation and then having a wooden stake thrust into his heart before finally being exposed to sunlight and crumbling into dust.

MONSTERS ON SCREEN

Many actors have portrayed Dracula in the movies. Perhaps the most memorable have been the Hungarian actor, Bela Lugosi back in 1931 and his British counterpart Christopher Lee who began his 'Vampiric' career in 1958's 'Horror of Dracula'.

Both actors brought out that thin line between 'alluring' and 'frightening' while still looking very stylish in the late Victorian fashion of smart, formal gentleman's evening wear together with long, dramatic capes.

K&C's own 'Dracula' figure owes a debt of gratitude to these two unique actors and their original 'Vampiric' look which provided our visual inspiration. 'Young Frankenstein' meanwhile was a 1974 comedy/horror film

directed by the great Mel Brooks. The film itself was a parody of the classic horror movie genre in general and the 1931 'Frankenstein' directed by James Whale in particular.

In 'Young Frankenstein', a descendant of the original Baron Frankenstein, Dr. Victor von Frankenstein played by Gene Wilder is told he has inherited a castle and an estate in Transylvania to which he must go in order to obtain his inheritance.

Once in Transylvania he encounters several different characters who have worked for his dead relative including a bug-eyed, hunchback called 'Igor' played by Marty Feldman. He also discovers a secret entrance to Baron Frankenstein's original laboratory and decides to resume his late relative's experiments in re-animating the dead.

Talking of the 'dead' how could we forget the 'Monster' himself, a towering figure, almost 7 feet tall, wearing cast-off clothes and massive shoes. He also has an enormous 'Schanzstucker' which is very popular with some of the ladies... but that's another story.



Andy's sketch for 'Igor' played by the irrepressible, late, great British comedian Marty Feldman

Well, there's a whole lot more I could tell you but, why spoil a great and very, very funny movie. Seek it out on the internet or on DVD it's not to be missed!

In tribute to Mel Brooks, the late Marty Feldman and Gene Wilder this is King & Country's 'homage' to all three of them.

THE BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Our final 'Horror Stories' release is the principal character from the 1935 science fiction horror film and sequel to Universal Picture's own 1931 'Frankenstein'...

Simply called 'The Bride of Frankenstein', this film stars the British actress Elsa Lanchester as the titular lead. Taking place immediately after the events of the earlier film it also brings back some of the same characters.

The plot centres around creating a female partner for the monster to befriend. Thanks to highly creative make up and dress design the finished creature was also very unique and striking in appearance.

The K&C 'Bride' is shown in her white dress costume but still wearing, from her feet almost to her neck, long lengths of bandages covering up her surgical wounds.

And on that cheerful note...

Let's look forward to seeing what other horrific 'Horror Stories' K&C will tell you in 2024 and beyond...



Revenge of the Scorpion

On 2 April 1982, in an act of unprovoked aggression which shocked the world, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. One day later, British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher announced that Britain would send a Task Force down to the South Atlantic to liberate the Islands and their people from a cruel Argentinean military dictatorship.

To accomplish this mighty task Britain dispatched more than 100 ships and over 28,000 service men and women down south.

ON TRACK FOR WAR

Among the vital support units for the British Force were two reconnaissance troops of 4 x 'Scorpion' and 4 x 'Scimitar' light tanks from *The Blues* and *Royals* together with a single 'Samson' armoured recovery vehicle.

At 0500 hours on 21 May, 1982 both troops left the landing ship *HMS Fearless* to go ashore at San Carlos Bay and provide ground support for 40 *Commando*, *Royal Marines* and the 3rd Battalion of the *Parachute Regiment*.

Following this *The Blues* and *Royals* with their light tanks moved across East Falkland to join 5 *Infantry Brigade*. From that point on until the end of the campaign on 14 June this small band of tracked armoured



world including, most recently... *Ukraine*.

THE K&C 'SCORPION'

Our 'Scorpion' is painted in the two colour (olive drab and black) camouflage typical of most British Army vehicles of the 1980s and includes a 3/4 figure tank commander plus a head'n'shoulders driver sitting in the hull.

If you collect K&C's 'Falklands' figures you will definitely want this remarkable armoured reconnaissance vehicle in your collection. . .

vehicles performed an amazing variety of military tasks using their 76mm guns and 30mm Rarden cannon to take out dozens of enemy bunkers, dug-outs and other defensive positions.

AFTER THE BATTLE

Both *Scorpions* and *Scimitars* made a significant contribution to the final battles of the Falklands campaign.

Since their battlefield success in the Falklands substantial numbers of these armoured vehicles have been supplied to many countries around the



TF006

Falklands War Scorpion



The *Scorpion's* 76mm gun could fire a HESH (High Explosive Squash Head) round, which was effective against all but the heaviest tanks up to a range of 1500 yds.

Built by *Alois of Coventry*, all the many variants of the CVR (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance) are based on the standard *Scorpion* chassis and made maximum use of interchangeable parts.

One of the major British military equipment successes of the Falklands War was the *Scorpion* and *Scimitar*... fast, flexible and very useful gun platforms.

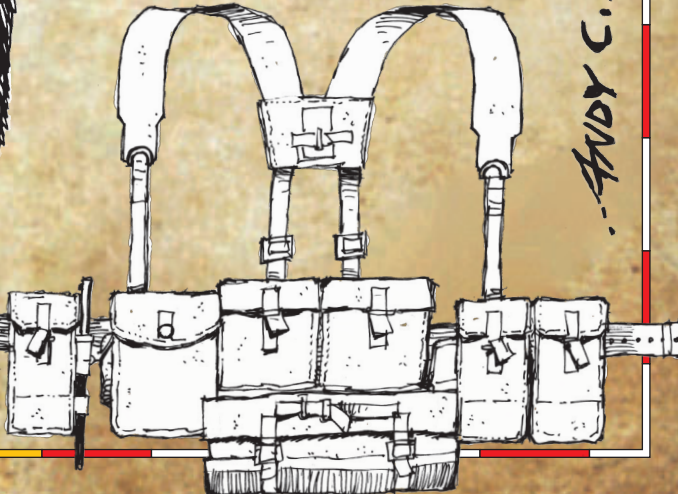
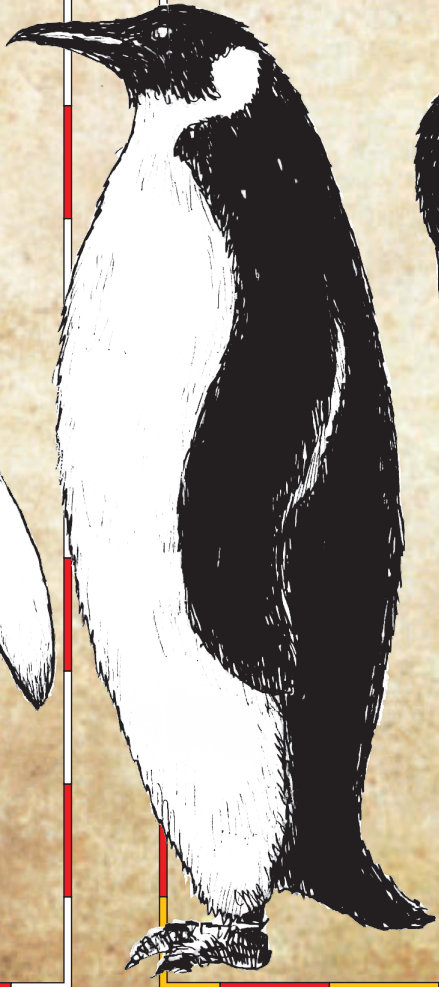
Falklands Sketches

FREE THE FALKLANDS
—
LIBERATING THE PENGUINS

DON'T CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA

ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO

ANDY C. NELSON



THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MOUNTED REGIMENT, is comprised of two squadrons of the Life Guards and one of the Blues and Royals and spends much of its time in the public eye as it carries out its main ceremonial duties in London.

Based at *Knightsbridge Barracks* it is one of the most high-profile regiments of the British Army. Its soldiers appear magnificent in their full-dress cavalry uniforms and are instantly recognized.

What is less well known is their other operational role within the wider Army.

Based at *Bulford Camp* on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire the



CE096

maintaining strict historical traditions that are reflected in the clear distinctions of their dress uniforms.

Members of the *Life Guards* wear red tunics with white plumed helmets, while the *Blues and Royals* wear blue tunics and red plumed helmets.

Left and below:

K&C's brand-new figure of a Mounted Officer of the Blues and Royals leading a parade of his troopers.

Regiment is trained to carry out surveillance and intelligence gathering ahead of the battlefield using light, reconnaissance armoured vehicles.

In 2026, the soldiers of this unique regiment are poised to spearhead a modern *strike brigade* when their new *Ajax* armoured vehicles come into service.

Until then members of the public will continue to see these superb cavalymen performing their ceremonial duties throughout the year in London.

ORIGINS & TRADITIONS

Resplendent on parade in their red and blue tunics, the *Life Guards* and the *Blues and Royals* provide the mounted escort to the monarch on many state events.

These two unique formations honour their military pedigree by

Right:
An early K&C version of the Edinburgh Castle main gate from the 1990's.

Compare this to the new and improved replica on pages 3&4 of this magazine.

Blues & Royals

The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons) is the second most senior regiment of the British Army and was formed by amalgamation of the two original cavalry regiments in 1969.

The Blues can trace their origins back to *Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army*. Following the restoration of *Charles II* in 1660, they were renamed the *Royal Regiment of Horse* (later the *Horse Guards*) more popularly known as *'The Blues'*.

The *1st Dragoons* were initially called *The Tangier Horse* as they had been raised by *Charles II* to form part of the garrison at *Tangiers* in Morocco, which he acquired on his marriage to *Catherine of Braganza* as part of her dowry.

Known as *'The Royals'* the regiment saw plenty of active service in the centuries to follow. Fighting against Napoleon the regiment served throughout the *Peninsula War* before, in 1815, taking part in

the *Battle of Waterloo* where they seized one of two French *'Eagle'* standards captured by the British.

The capture of this *'Eagle'* is remembered today by its inclusion in the centre of the regimental badge and a small, embroidered eagle on the left arm of the dress uniform.

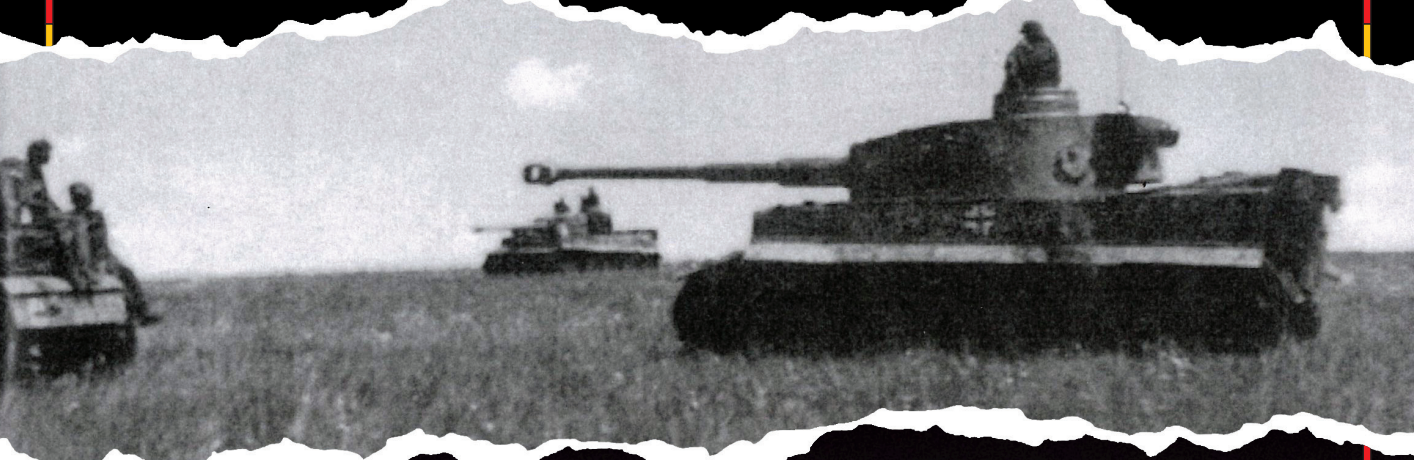


The badge of The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment with the Royal Cypher of the new king, His Majesty Charles III.



The badge of the 'Blues and Royals' with the 'Eagle' of the 105th Regiment of French Infantry in the centre.

'TIGERS' at The Battle of Kursk



The **BATTLE OF KURSK** was a major *World War II* Eastern Front large-scale engagement between the forces of *Nazi Germany* and the *Soviet Union* near *Kursk* in southwestern Russia during July 1943.

It ultimately became the largest *tank* battle in history and resulted in a *Soviet* victory.

The battle began with the launch of the German offensive '*Operation Citadel*' on 5 July, which had the objective of pinching off the *Kursk salient* with attacks on the base of the salient from north and south simultaneously.

After the German offensive stalled on the northern side of the salient, on 12 July the Soviets commenced their own *Kursk Strategic Offensive Operation* with the launch of '*Operation Kutuzov*' against the rear of the German forces on the same side.

Meanwhile on the southern side, the Soviets also launched powerful counterattacks on the same day, one of which led to a massive armoured clash, the *Battle of Prokhorovka*.

On 3 August, 1943, the Soviets began the second phase of their counter attack.

The Germans originally hoped to weaken the Soviet offensive potential for the summer of 1943 by cutting off and enveloping the forces that they anticipated would be in the *Kursk salient*.

Hitler believed that a victory here would reassert overall German strength and improve his prestige with his *allies*, who he thought were considering with-drawing from the war.



WS396(SE)

'Tiger1' Hull #S32



WS397(SE)

'Tiger1' Hull #S33

The *SS-Panzer Grenadier Division 'Das Reich'* was a *Waffen SS* division from 1940 onwards. In December 1942 it began to receive its first *Tiger* tanks and by July 1943 was an integral part of *II SS Panzer Corps* and fought in the southern sector of the *Kursk* battle.

THESE K&C 'TIGERS' INCLUDE:

ALL-METAL HULLS, TURRETS AND 88MM GUNS •
MOVING FLEXIBLE METAL TRACKS • ROLLING WHEELS WITH FULL SUSPENSION •
FOUR OPENING HATCHES • PLUS TWO ORIGINAL CREW FIGURES
FOR EACH 'TIGER' •

ABOUT THESE 'KURSK TIGERS'

THE PANZERKAMPFWAGEN VI much better known by its nickname '*THE TIGER*' was one of the most powerful tanks to see action during the Second World War.

Conceived as a response to the heavily armoured Soviet tanks the Germans encountered after their invasion of Russia in June 1941, the '*TIGER*' completely outclassed all its opponents at the time of its introduction. Its formidably thick, frontal armour was almost impossible to penetrate with all existing anti-tank weapons systems of the period.

Armed with a superb tank version of the *88mm KwK 36 Flak Gun* it was capable of destroying enemy targets at well over 2 kilometres.

There were even some reports of '*kills*' at almost 4 kilometres!

Being a heavy armoured '*break-through*' vehicle it was often employed as the spearhead of many German offensives.

Our latest two '*KURSK TIGERS*' are from the *Heavy Tank Company* of the *2nd. Waffen SS Division 'DAS REICH'*.

Painted in the two-colour camouflage scheme typical of *Das Reich* vehicles during the Battle of Kursk this model comes with all of the above unique features.

Each of these '*KURSK TIGERS*' comes packed in a sturdy, full-colour presentation box with a *numbered certificate* limiting each model to just 250 pieces.



The '*Runic*' Symbol of '*Das Reich*'

BBA104 'Chow Time'



Ardennes 44

BBA100 The Four-Man Patrol



HITLER'S LAST-DITCH offensive into Belgium and Luxembourg in December 1944 was an almost suicidal attempt to split the Western Allies apart and force them to seek a separate peace deal with the Nazis.

This mighty struggle, later to become known as 'The Battle of The Bulge', ranks as the largest and most important battle ever

BBA101 Sitting, Smoking & Waiting



fought by the U.S.

Army in Europe during all of WW2!

It's also one of King & Country's most popular and widely collected ranges of Second World War military figures

and fighting vehicles.

Here is the latest batch of G.I. reinforcements to boost the American troops battling the advancing Germans in the snow-blanketed landscape of the Ardennes Forest during that bitterly cold December of 1944.

15 American infantry soldiers are split into *two* four-man sets along with *two* individual figures (a radioman and

a medic) plus another *two* GI's about to enjoy some hot food. Finally, the much-requested return of a *trio* of GI's taking a welcome and warming break around a home-made portable heater!

ARMoured SUPPORT

Providing these infantrymen with some much-needed, mobile artillery is K&C's own M36 'Jackson' Tank Destroyer BBA087.

Mounting a powerful 90mm main gun the 'Jackson' had the ability to hunt down and knock out even the latest German 'Panthers' and 'Tigers' whenever and wherever they could find them.

All of these fresh G.I. reinforcements bring added realism and authenticity to any 'Battle of The Bulge' collection. Take a closer look and see how well they will fit into yours.

STAYING WARM & DRY?

As can be seen in our photos all of our G.I.s are wearing the standard-issue 'Melton Overcoat'.

This heavy, wool cloth overcoat was originally thought to be unsuitable for combat however due to a serious lack of more practical cold-weather clothing it was often used by front-line troops during this winter battle.

One of its major drawbacks was that although warm it could also become very heavy when wet or encrusted with snow.

Finding it difficult to move through deep snow some soldiers even resorted to hacking a foot or more off the length of the coat for ease of movement.

Our soldiers have not, so far, adopted this drastic, home-made method of altering their standard-issue G.I. overcoats...

BBA108 Staying Warm!



'ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY...'

**STOOD A LOWLY CATTLE SHED
WHERE A MOTHER LAID HER BABY
IN A MANGER FOR HIS BED**

This is How the Birth of Jesus came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband to be was a righteous man an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said...

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son who will be called Jesus and he will save his people from their sins."

When Joseph awoke, he did what the angel of the Lord told him and took Mary home as his wife.

At the same time *Caesar Augustus* issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world and everyone must go to their own home town to register.



And so Joseph left the town of Nazareth in Galilee to journey to *Bethlehem*, the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David.

He went there to register with his betrothed Mary who was expecting a child when they arrived in Bethlehem all of the inns where they had hoped to stay were full and so they had to shelter in a lowly stable.

While there, the time came for the baby to be born and Mary gave birth to her first born, a son whom they called '*Jesus*'.

After the birth, Mary wrapped her son in swaddling clothes and gently placed him in a manger surrounded by the beasts of the stable.

THE SHEPHERDS & THE ANGELS

Nearby, in the hills around Bethlehem, a small group of shepherds kept watch over their flocks during the night.

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them saying,

"Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy for you and all people.

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is *Christ the Lord*. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Then, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying...

"*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all people on whom his favour rests.*"

When the angels had gone the shepherds said to one another,

"*Let us go to Bethlehem and see this child who has been born and whom the Lord has told us about...*"



Some of K&C's own *Desert Palm Trees* provide a touch of greenery to this scene set in the town of *Bethlehem* at the time of Jesus' birth.

This *Desert Village* structure is just a prototype building designed and built by K&C's own creative director.

A small but colourful part of the Christmas story featuring our 2nd Generation *Three Wise Men*, some of their camels, several shepherds and a large flock of their sheep.

Building Dimensions:

Length: 17.5cm (6 7/8")

Breadth: 11.5cm (4 1/2")

Height: 19.5cm (7 5/8")

Approx.



SP132

Desert Village Manger

KING & COUNTRY'S 'DESERT VILLAGE' series has for many years, provided collectors with a number of buildings and structures that have been the perfect backdrop for a wide variety of different historical eras as well as many different ranges of military and civilian figures.

This latest design borrows several architectural features from typical towns and villages found throughout the *Middle East* and even into the countries of *Southern Europe* bordering the Mediterranean. As you can see it is also the perfect setting for any of K&C's own 'Nativity' figures from our popular 'Life Of Jesus' series.



SP128

The Camel Set

At the same time as we are releasing this new 'Manger' we are also introducing two more '2nd Generation' sets featuring a more colourful rendition of our 'The Three Wise Men' and their trio of much-requested and long, out-of-production 'Camels'. All of them just in time for the Festive Season!

Having journeyed to Bethlehem these three decorated Camels enjoy a well-earned rest.

Another side of our new 'Desert Village Manger' building.



'The Three Wise Men' complete with their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

LO1057

'The Three Wise Men'



Desert Village MANGER



THE BOYS OF SAN ANTONIO ACADEMY Being The Best You Can Be

The SAN ANTONIO ACADEMY is a private school for young boys located in the heart of San Antonio, Texas almost halfway between the iconic 'Alamo' and our own 'King & Country Texas' store.

Founded in 1886 it has educated and guided many generations of young Texans who have gone on to forge successful careers in business, the law, medicine and the military.

Among its most noted alumni are Brigadier General 'Tex' Hill who became a 'double ace' while flying with the AVG (the American Volunteer Group) more popularly known as 'The Flying Tigers'.

Another former pupil is the NASA astronaut David Randolph Scott who was the 7th man to walk on the moon and the commander of the Apollo 15 mission.

CLOSER TO HOME

One more former pupil of 'The Academy', as it is known to all its pupils past and present, is young Jamie McAllister Johnson, the son of K&C's own Cofounder Mrs. Laura McAllister Johnson. Jamie attended the Academy from 2006 - 2016.

While he studied at the school I was fortunate to visit San Antonio on many occasions and went to several of the graduation parades and other major events where the boys in their full-dress uniforms paraded in front of their proud parents,

other family members and friends.

Their pride in their school and performance on the drill field was a joy to behold... which this former Royal Marine thoroughly enjoyed.

ABOUT THESE FIGURES

During my own extended stay in San Antonio back in 2022, Laura suggested that she would like to commission a small series of cadet figures of the Academy as her special 'thankyou' for the excellent education they provided her son Jamie with and as a tribute to the many friends he had made while there.

Now, all three of these exclusive San Antonio Academy Cadets are available as single figures in their own individual, custom-made boxes and can be purchased direct from:

KING & COUNTRY TEXAS
5945 Broadway, San Antonio, TX78209
Tel: (210) 226-7000
www.kingandcountrytexas.com
sales@kingandcountrytexas.com

Working on this little project has been great fun and brings back many happy memories of Jamie's time at 'The Academy' and all the life-long friends he made there.

This is our little tribute to a fine school with a long, proud tradition exemplified in their school motto...

**'BE HONEST. BE KIND.
BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE.'**

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



ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN civilization goes back nearly 5,000 years the period we normally think of as 'Ancient Egypt' is the time when the 'Land of The Nile' was ruled by the Pharaohs, some-time around 3100 B.C.

The Egypt of that period consisted mostly of desert with barely 10 per cent of the vast land viable for cultivation and habitation. That meant the great majority of the population lived, worked and died on or near the banks of the one great river that flowed through it, *The Nile*. This area bordering the river and beside the man-made canals that led from it was known as 'Kemet', or the 'Black Land'.

Here, the rich, dark silt on which Egypt's farmers grew their crops provided the fertility that created and built one of the world's greatest civilisations many of whose monumental relics still survive to this day.

To rule this amazing land and harness the strength and ingenuity of its people a special kind of leader was required with very special talents and abilities...



AE099

The Pharaoh's New Sedan Chair Set

In Ancient Egypt they were known as 'Pharaohs' and combined the qualities of supreme political and religious leadership.

As such and in their role of 'High Priest of Every Temple' it was the Pharaoh's duty to build all kinds of temples and monuments celebrating not only their own achievements but also to pay homage to the *Gods of The Land* who bestowed on them the power to rule in this life and guide them into the next.

BECOMING A GOD

Occasionally in Ancient Egypt some of these pharaohs chose to see themselves as Gods primarily because they were all-powerful and held exalted status.

Two of the most famous God/Pharaohs were *Ramesses II* and *Queen Hatshepsut*. This female Pharaoh ruled Egypt for almost 20 years.

Originally, acting as regent for her young stepson she rapidly took over the government for herself.

Soon, she wore the pharaoh's crown and even the royal 'ceremonial beard'. Being an all-powerful, self-appointed deity there were few people who would question her decisions or authority.

Life & Death On The Nile

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY

As written earlier, all of the Pharaohs throughout their lives, whether long or short, employed many thousands of architects, engineers, skilled craftsmen and legions of slaves to build their monuments, temples and, of course, tombs.

Here you can see two different Pharaohs visiting a building site somewhere on the edge of *The Nile* as teams of workers strive to complete the entrance way to a Royal Tomb.

Whether it's for themselves or perhaps a recently departed member of their own family we do not know.

What we do know is that it makes for a spectacular scene and a very fine collection of K&C's own 'Ancient Egyptian' figures and accessories.



AE101

Queen Cleopatra's Sedan Chair Set



It's relatively easy to build your own spectacular ANCIENT EGYPTIAN display especially if you utilize any or all of the following K&C diorama accessories:

- AE075 The Scaffolding Platforms
- AE078 Egyptian Sandstone Blocks Set
- AE087 Tutankhamun's Monument

... and the AE figures too of course!

'Death On The Nile' was a 1978 British mystery film based on Agatha Christie's 1937 novel of the same name which features the further adventures of the famous Belgian detective *Hercule Poirot*.

As the action takes place sometime in the 1930s its cast of characters seemed exactly like the kind of wealthy people who would have visited the boy pharaoh *Tutankhamun's* tomb after its discovery by Howard Carter in 1922.

THE PLOT THICKENS

Much of the film's action takes place on an ancient paddle steamer gracefully making its way along the *River Nile*. Several famous Egyptian historical sites are also visited in the film or seen in the background such as *The Great Pyramids... The Sphinx* and the magnificent temples at *Abu Simbel* and *Karnak*.

Apart from these historic vistas and monumental relics of a bygone age another of the film's most notable attractions is its unique collection of first-class veteran actors and actresses.

Chief among them is the multi talented actor, filmmaker and writer *Peter Ustinov* as *M. Hercule Poirot*, the fictional Belgian sleuth and one of Agatha Christie's most famous and long-running creations, appearing in no less than **33 novels, 2 plays, 51 short stories** and many other films and television series.



The original 1978 film poster.

Supporting *Peter Ustinov* was the equally talented actor, author and former soldier *David Niven* playing a retired British Army colonel, which in fact *Niven* had actually been during *World War Two* before he returned to Hollywood and acting. As a tribute in miniature our 1:30 scale figure is simply called 'Colonel *Niven*'.

Among the other fine 'thespians' on board the paddle steamer you can find the imposing figure of *Miss Bette Davis* as *Marie Van Schulyer*. *Bette Davis* acting career spanned **5 decades** and among her many awards were **2 Oscars** along with **9 more nominations**.

Another superb actress sharing the screen on this Egyptian adventure was *Maggie Smith*, the superb English actress with a long career on stage and screen that has lasted even longer than *Bette Davis... 7 decades!* More recently she has portrayed the acid-tongued *Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey*, here she portrays the tall, rather-mannish '*Miss Bowers*'.

One other character worth noting is the rather rotund figure wearing a European suit together with a red Egyptian fez... *Signor Ferrari*.

Now, this gentleman did not appear in either the original Christie book or any of the film adaptations of '*Death On The Nile*'.

Instead he is from another great classic movie... '*Casablanca*'.

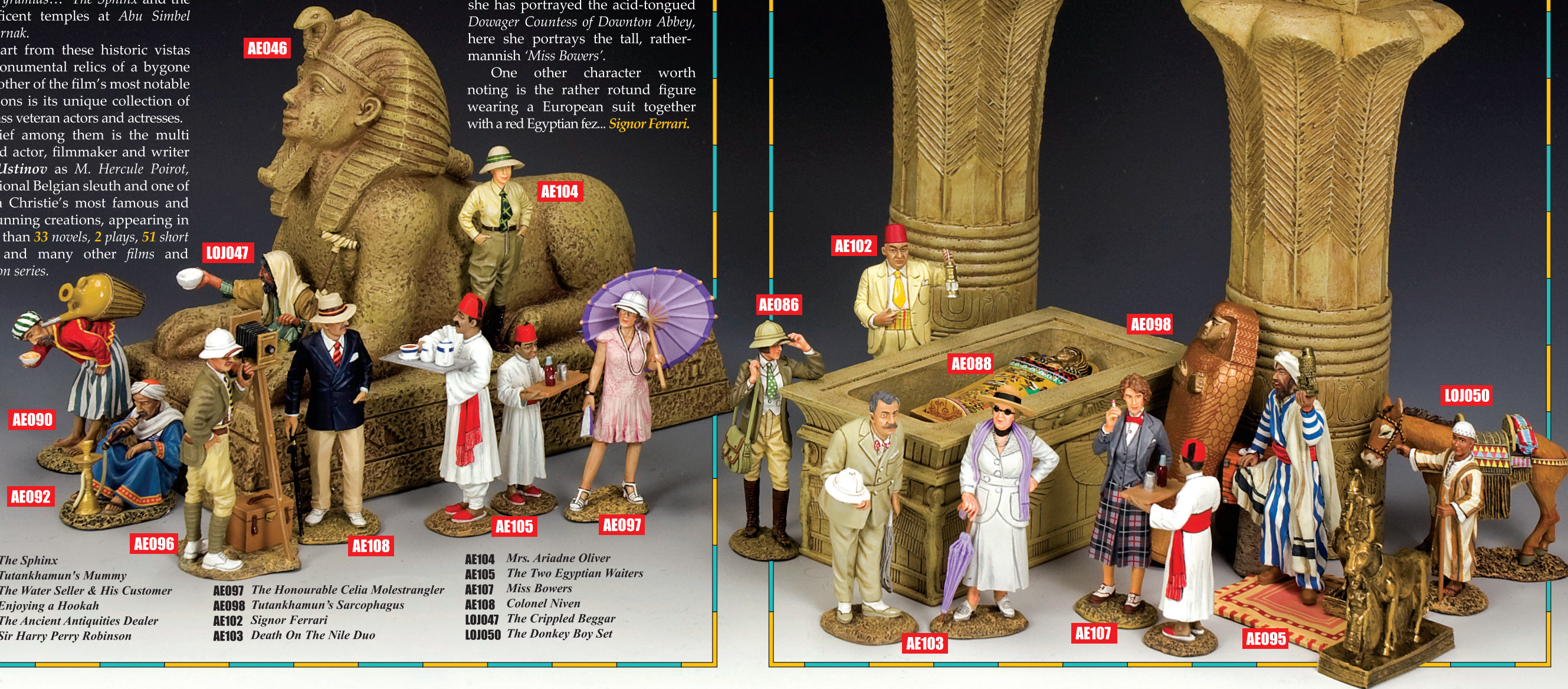
Ferrari is a café owner involved in all kinds of black market activities and a business rival of Humphrey Bogart's *Rick Blaine*. In '*Casablanca*' *Ferrari* was played by the large figure of screen villain, *Sidney Greenstreet*.

A Mystery, A Movie, and A Mummy!

In that film we know nothing of his past but it's certainly possible he might well have been in Egypt, during those prewar years,

selling *Ancient Egyptian* antiquities to all kinds of rich and colourful tourists.

Anyway, that's my story and I'm sticking to it!



- AE046 *The Sphinx*
- AE088 *Tutankhamun's Mummy*
- AE090 *The Water Seller & His Customer*
- AE092 *Enjoying a Hookah*
- AE095 *The Ancient Antiquities Dealer*
- AE096 *Sir Harry Perry Robinson*

- AE097 *The Honourable Celia Molestrangler*
- AE098 *Tutankhamun's Sarcophagus*
- AE102 *Signor Ferrari*
- AE103 *Death On The Nile Duo*

- AE104 *Mrs. Ariadne Oliver*
- AE105 *The Two Egyptian Waiters*
- AE107 *Miss Bowers*
- AE108 *Colonel Niven*
- LOJ047 *The Crippled Beggar*
- LOJ050 *The Donkey Boy Set*

- AE086 *Signor Ferrari*
- AE088 *The Mummy*
- AE095 *The Antiquities Dealer*
- AE103 *Signor Ferrari*
- AE107 *Miss Bowers*
- AE098 *Tutankhamun's Sarcophagus*
- AE099 *The Water Seller*
- AE104 *Mrs. Ariadne Oliver*
- AE105 *The Two Egyptian Waiters*
- AE107 *Miss Bowers*
- AE108 *Colonel Niven*
- LOJ047 *The Crippled Beggar*
- LOJ050 *The Donkey Boy Set*

U.S.M.C. OV-10A 'BRONCO'
SOUTH VIETNAM 1968



AirShow

BACK IN 2008 and Issue #22 we wrote about how and why King & Country began to make a whole range of hand-carved, hand-painted, all-wood 1:30 scale aircraft in the Philippines.

At that time, virtually all of our models were

based around *Second World War* aircraft... mostly *British*, some *American* and, of course, *German*.

Since then K&C has gone on to produce even more of these iconic wooden models and expanded into other wars, in other times and, importantly, other areas of conflict... particularly *South East Asia*, *The Pacific* and even

down in the *South Atlantic!*

Seen in this special *4 page* section are just a small selection of the many fine 1:30 scale wooden aircraft we have produced and keep in stock.

In addition to these models we provide collectors with the opportunity to have specific individual aircraft custom-made to their own requirements complete with colour schemes and special markings for a certain

aircraft that, perhaps, may have been flown by a close relative or even a famous pilot or squadron.

MANUFACTURING

All of these model aircraft have been hand-carved out of *solid, kiln-dried mahogany* by skilled craftsmen. The wood itself is sourced

from reliable and renewable sources in *The Philippines* and then expertly painted by a talented team of

of artists backed up by solid and exhaustive research into the detailed paint schemes and markings of each individual aircraft.

BELL HELICOPTER U.S. ARMY AH-1 'COBRA'
SOUTH VIETNAM 1968



*Figures shown are for scale purposes only not included with the aircraft.

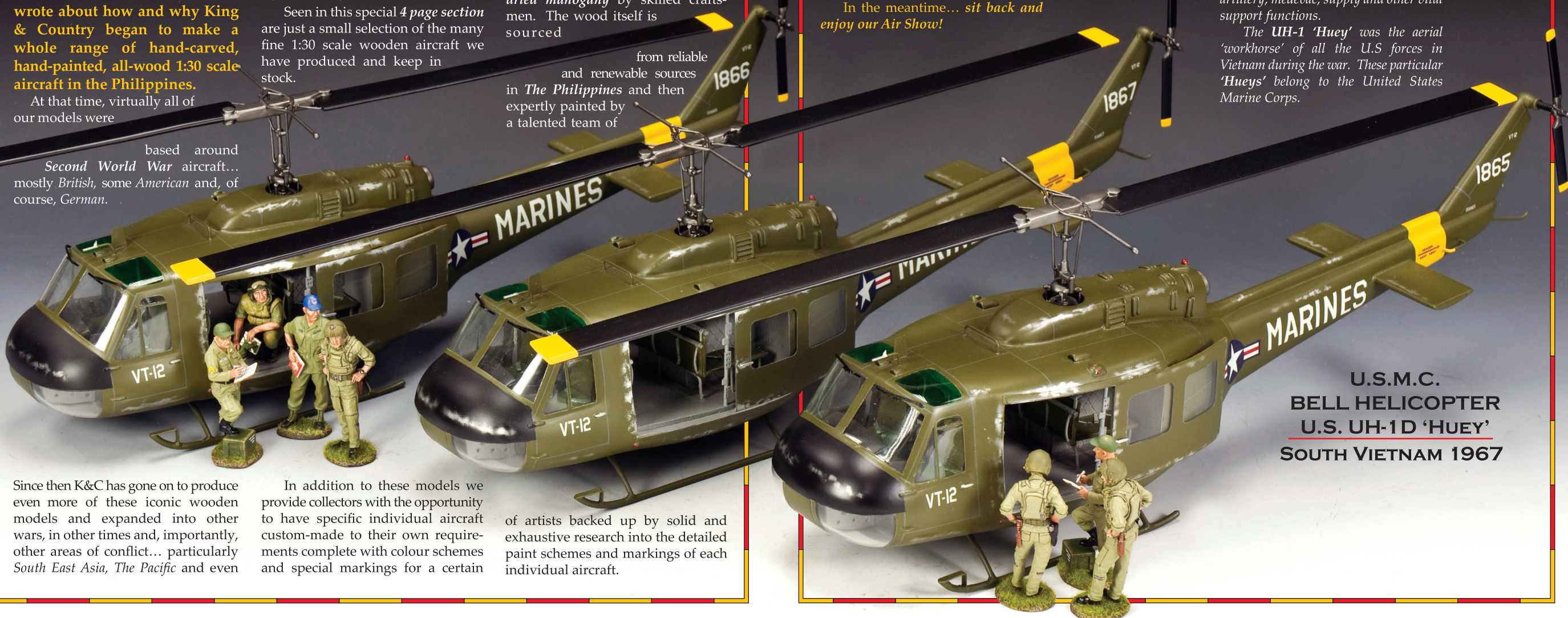
AIR MOBILITY

Helicopters enabled American commanders to move large numbers of troops over rugged terrain in a short space of time. They also provided air artillery, medevac, supply and other vital support functions.

The UH-1 'Huey' was the aerial 'workhorse' of all the U.S forces in Vietnam during the war. These particular 'Hueys' belong to the United States Marine Corps.

If you would like to find out more or have any questions about any of these amazing aircraft models simply contact **KING & COUNTRY direct** for more information.

In the meantime... sit back and enjoy our Air Show!



U.S.M.C. BELL HELICOPTER U.S. UH-1D 'HUEY'
SOUTH VIETNAM 1967

MITSUBISHI F1M2 'PETE'

IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY
FLOATPLANE



The Mitsubishi F1M2 'Pete' was a Japanese reconnaissance floatplane of WW2. It was also the last biplane type of aircraft for the Imperial Japanese Navy with 944 built between 1936 and 1944.



**Figures shown are for scale purposes only not included with the aircraft.*

KAWASAKI KI-45 'NICK'
 IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY
 TWIN ENGINE HEAVY FIGHTER



NAKAJIMA B5N2 'KATE'
 IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY
 TORPEDO BOMBER



KAWASAKI KI-45 'NICK'
 IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY
 TWIN ENGINE HEAVY FIGHTER

