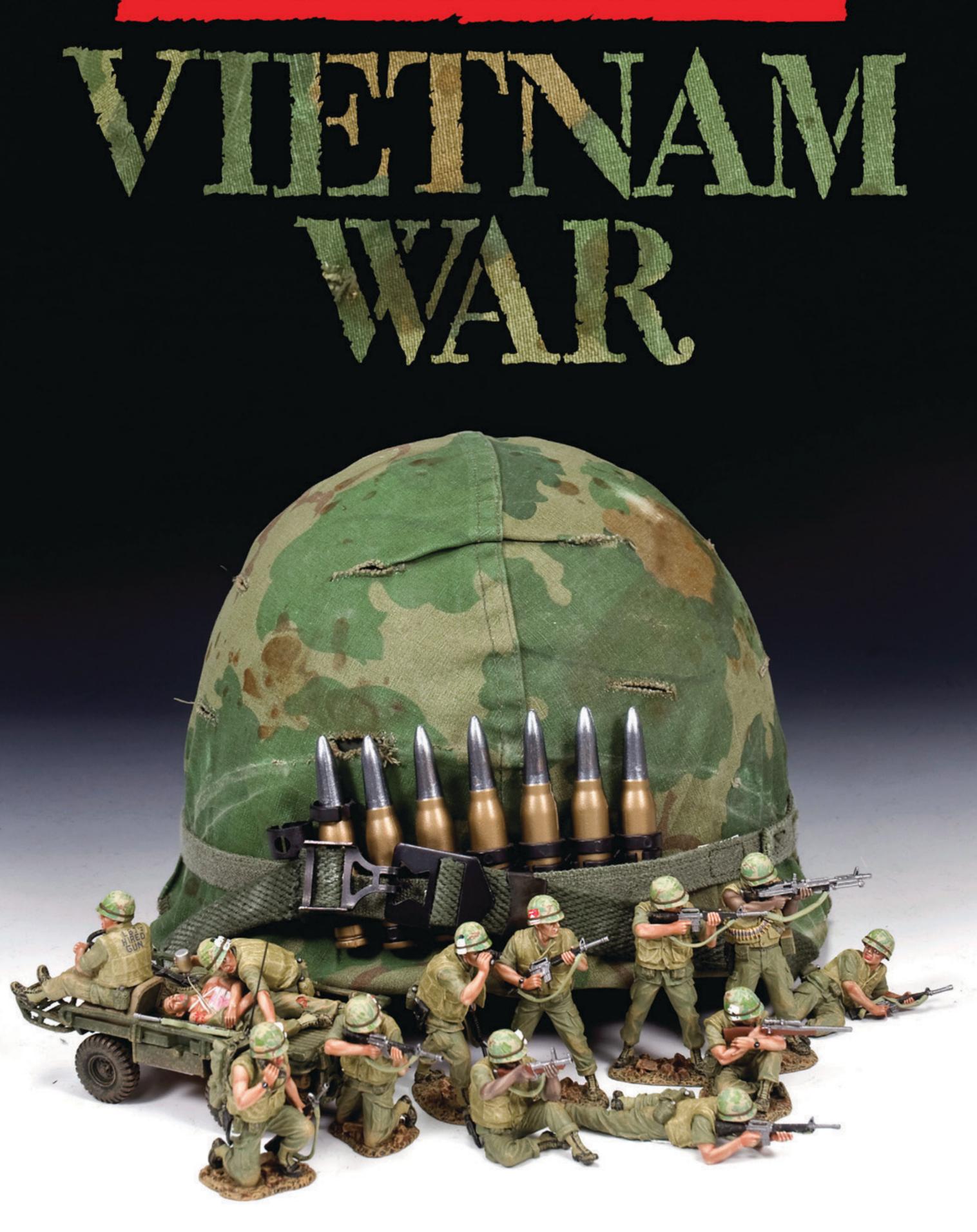
KING & COUNTRY'S



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 guerrila 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









VN003

Standing Ready



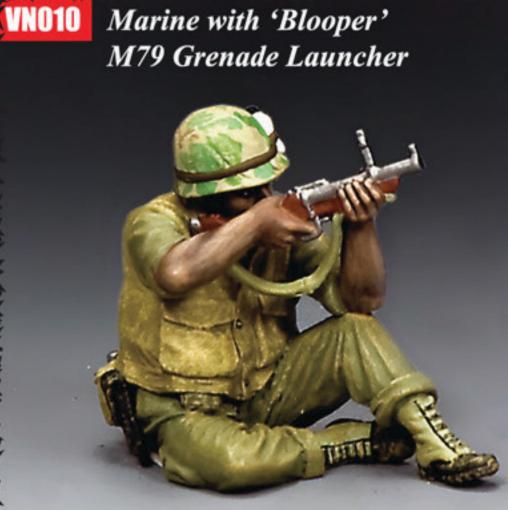


VN-S01

The TET' 68 BEGINNERS BONUS Set

7 great figures at a great price!

















BY NOVEMBER 1967 half a million US combat troops were serving in Vietnam and more bombs had fallen that country, over 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...

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!

"The end begins to come into

view!"

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

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 force they were about to come up

the size and strength of the enemy 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

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 Just two small military hands.

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.





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.

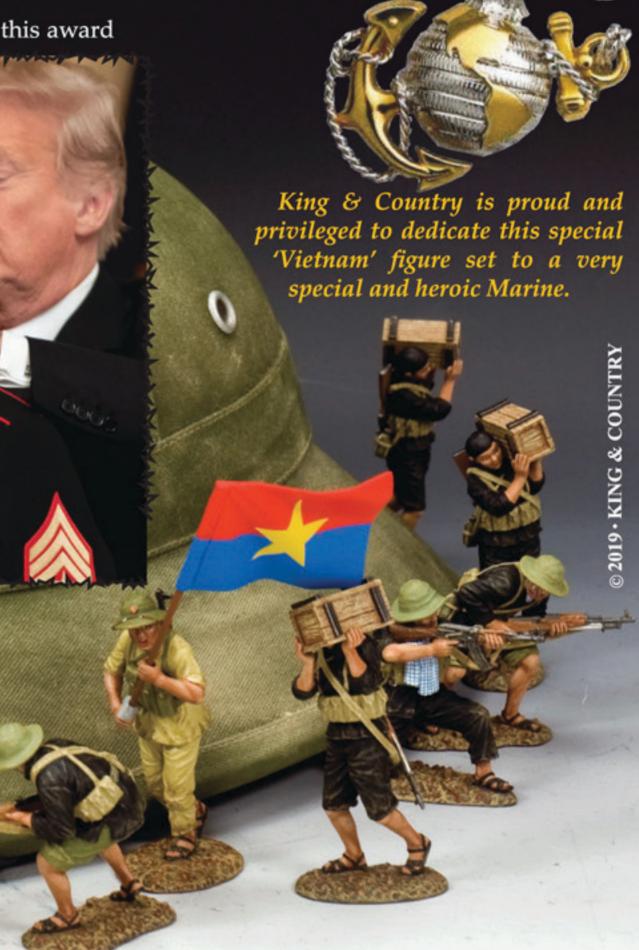
On February 6, 1968, on two separate occasions, the Gunnery Sergeant climbed over a wall, in full view of the enemy to drag and carry casualties to a more protected position.

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.



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