

1983 KING & COUNTRY 2022

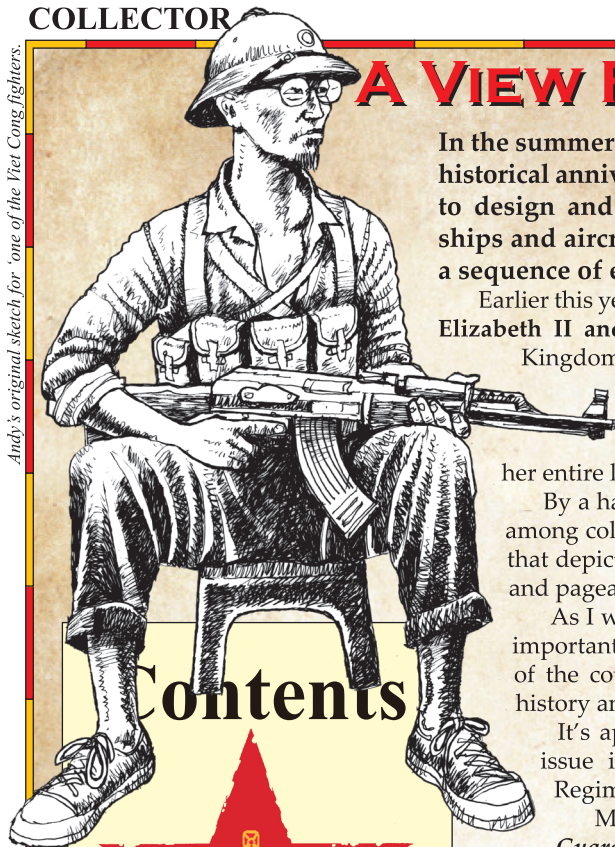
COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Seasonal Look at Our World in Miniature



MARCHING TOWARDS CHRISTMAS



A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES...

In the summer edition of 'COLLECTOR' I wrote about the importance of historical anniversaries and how often they have inspired King & Country to design and produce figures, fighting vehicles and sometimes even ships and aircraft models that capture in miniature a moment in time or a sequence of events that have shaped the world we live in today.

Earlier this year, Britain celebrated the 'Platinum Jubilee' of our beloved Queen, Elizabeth II and her 70 years of unique service to the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in virtually every corner of the globe.

It was a joyous occasion and showed Britain at its very best and most colourful. Alas just 8 months later the country and the world mourned the passing of this same, gracious lady who for her entire life and reign had been such an important part of ours.

By a happy coincidence the last few years have seen a growth in interest among collectors all over the world in our 'CEREMONIAL' series of figures that depict the most spectacular and colourful side of British military pomp and pageantry.

As I watched Her Majesty's funeral I was once again reminded just how important tradition is and what a vital role the British military play in the life of the country and the special pride they help instill in our long island history and the spirit of the nation.

It's appropriate perhaps that among the main features in this new issue is an extended look at one of Her Late Majesty's Regiment of Foot Guards and its Regimental Band.

Marching alongside this brand-new, 21 piece *Coldstream Guards* band set are fifers and drummers of the regiment's own 'Drum Corps'.

Elsewhere in this 'Yuletide' issue you can view the '1997 edition' of K&C's 'Black Watch' Pipes & Drums and even some soldiers from the *Royal Danish Life Guards* who perform similar ceremonial duties protecting Denmark's sovereign as those foot guards serving Britain's own monarch.

On the active service front other K&C soldiers have left the parade ground far behind and can be seen battling their way along the *Kokoda Trail*... fighting in *Normandy*... climbing a hill in *Korea*... and hunting for tunnels somewhere in *Vietnam*.

As if that's not enough we're also heading out west before stopping by a Bavarian city called *Munich* in September 1938. So, as you can see we are almost going to as many destinations as *Santa Claus* but that, as they say, is another story...

Talking of Christmas... may all of us at King & Country wish all of you around the world a very, merry *Yuletide* and a happy, healthy *New Year*!

Andy C. Neilson

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



Contents



2

THE UNHAPPY
HOUSE OF HAPSBURG

3-4

DIGGERS ON PATROL

5-6

HOME ON THE RANGE

7-8

BETRAYAL IN MUNICH

9-10

TEENAGE TERROR IN NORMANDY

11-14

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS
& HIDDEN TREASURE

15-16

TUNES OF GLORY

17-24

COLDSTREAM GUARDS BAND

25-26

KOKODA SKETCHES

27-28

WATERBORNE WARRIORS

29-30

TUNNELS, TOWNS & RATS

Headquarters Room 2301, No. 3 Lockhart
Road, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2861 3450
Fax: (852) 2861 3806 Shop 245, Pacific
Place, Queensway, Hong Kong Tel: (852)
2525 8603

Email: sales@kingandcountry.com

Website: www.kingandcountry.com

Three Viet Cong soldiers kneeling, sitting and crouching. As they have no cumbersome bases they can easily fit onto one of our V.C. Sampans or any other small boat or even... on dry land.



The Unhappy House of Hapsburg

By the end of World War One three of the greatest monarchies of Central Europe; Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary had fallen.

Of this trio, *Austria-Hungary* was ruled by the ancient *House of Hapsburg* and was a multinational state which contained several different ethnic minorities which rarely got on with each other and were frequently at odds with the central government.

From 1848 until 1916 the ruler of this fractious empire was the *Emperor Franz-Josef*. Not only did he have difficult subjects and their violent demonstrations to contend with he had other more personal problems much closer to home.

In Vienna, although passionately in love with his wife, *Elisabeth*, his feelings were not reciprocated and she very much led her own life avoiding the capital and travelling abroad extensively for long periods of time.

To add to the Emperor's sadness their only son and heir, *Crown Prince Rudolf* and his lover were found dead in an imperial hunting lodge, the victims of an apparent murder-suicide pact in 1889.

Just nine years later in 1898 the *Empress Elisabeth* was stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist while on a visit to Switzerland.

Alas Franz-Josef's personal tragedies were to continue and yet another violent incident was to shake the Austro-Hungarian throne to its very foundations and ultimately plunge Europe into the great maelstrom that was *The First World War*.

The Emperor Franz-Joseph
(1830-1916)

TR008



FRANZ FERDINAND & SOPHIE

After the death of Emperor Franz-Josef's son the ruler chose his nephew *Archduke Franz Ferdinand* to become the heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

On 28 June 1914, the Archduke and his wife *Sophie* were on an official visit to *Sarajevo*, the provincial city of *Bosnia-Herzegovina*.

Unknown to them a gang of nationalist extremists, part of a revolutionary student group, were waiting to attack the royal couple.

Six assassins placed themselves along the main route of the motorcade while waiting for their victims.

One of the assassins, *Gavrilo Princip* had his opportunity and jumped onto the running board of the Archduke's automobile and shot him and his wife at point-blank range. The royal couple were both fatally hit with the Archduchess slumping onto Franz Ferdinand's legs.

Within a few short weeks Europe would find itself at war and Austria-Hungary about to be swept into the dustbin of history.

Emperor Franz-Josef himself would only live another two years and die in November 1916 after a long reign of 68 years and... a very unhappy one.

TR009



Diggers on Patrol

From mid 1966 until early 1972, Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province was the headquarters and main base of the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) stationed in South Vietnam.

Located almost 400 kilometres southeast of Saigon and on the main highway, Route 2, it was also conveniently close (just 30km) to the coastal port of Vung Tau which handled all of the ATF's logistics support and supplies from Australia.

Once established at Nui Dat the 'diggers' began active patrolling in and around their base of operations and further afield in the province to deny the local Viet Cong the freedom of movement they had previously enjoyed before the Australians arrived.

Active, regular patrolling was also an effective use of the ATF's relatively limited military resources and enabled the Aussies to achieve their twin objectives of protecting local towns and villages while denying the VC access to them.

The Australian approach was in direct contrast to the heavier American reliance on air and artillery firepower which was certainly more expensive and much costlier in both lives and property.



However there was still a price to be paid and casualties to be counted especially with the widespread use by the Viet Cong of mines and boobytraps.

WATCH WHERE YOU GO!

Of all the many dangers involved in active patrolling perhaps the most dangerous and most feared by the diggers were the abundance of mines and booby traps the Viet Cong laid all over their operational areas.

The VC were highly skilled and inventive in their use of these devices which even if they did not

kill would often inflict the most hideous of wounds and injuries.

The men of the 1ATF soon learned to move with extreme care through the dense jungle, across the paddy fields and in among the rubber plantations always on the lookout for the hidden tripwire or carefully camouflaged trap just waiting for the unwary or the careless.

Even with the greatest care and caution casualties on a patrol still happened. Around half of all Australians killed and wounded in the Vietnam conflict were as a direct result of Viet Cong mines and booby traps.

Going on a foot patrol was definitely 'no walk in the park!'



VN101

Aussie Mine Clearing Set

CHECKING THE MAP

In the scene shown here a patrol of 'diggers' has come to a temporary halt as the platoon sergeant goes over his map with one of his machine gun teams.

Providing some welcome local heavy artillery support for these infantrymen from the Royal Australian Regiment is one of King & Country's mighty 'Centurions' part of the additional contingent of armoured vehicles which arrived in Nui Dat in the aftermath of the massive TET Offensive of early 1968.

If you are interested in the Vietnam War in general and the Australian participation in particular take a closer look at K&C's latest 'Diggers on Patrol'.



The cap badge of
The Royal Australian Regiment.

The Aussie Centurion

VN065

VN062

VN064

VN031

VN067

VN132

VN030

VN158



GATHERING A HERD

During the early years of the '**CATTLE DRIVE**' it was fairly common for Texan cowboys to cross the *Rio Grande* into Mexico to buy (or sometimes steal) cows from there and bring them back to Texas to expand their own herds before moving them all up northwards.

Some of the cowboys taking part in these raids were also Mexican themselves and called '*vaqueros*'.

This Mexican cowboy tradition stretches all the way back to the original Spanish '*Conquistadors*', who first introduced beef cattle and horses into North America in the 17th Century. The men who herded these animals were the first '*Vaqueros*' or Mexican cowboys.

They developed their own extra-special skills for roping, branding, bronco busting and rounding-up cattle. Even today these skills are still practiced and show-cased in '*Charredas*', a special kind of Mexican rodeo held every year.



The glory days of the 'Old West' cowboy lasted just two short decades, but during this brief time the cowboy's unique image and reputation became a fundamental part of one of the greatest American legends.

Home on the Range

King & Country's 'CATTLE DRIVE' series delves deep into the world of these American 'Icons'. It portrays in miniature the rough and tough working conditions of these cowboys *on the trail, in the bunkhouse...* and eventually when they arrived at the *wild and woolly cattle towns* that sprung up along their way and at their final destinations.

The 'Cattle Drive' also examines the many different kinds of people who were drawn to this hard life in an often harsh and hostile environment; former *Civil War soldiers... freed slaves... Mexican 'vaqueros'... would-be adventurers*



and even recently-arrived *immigrants* from Europe.

All of them would soon discover that the working life of an American cowboy was often dusty, frequently dangerous and usually underpaid!

In addition, you fried your brains under a prairie sun, rode endless miles in rain, wind and storms to mend fences, look for lost cows and, at the same time, protect your herd from the predations of wild Indians and ruthless cattle rustlers.

Despite all of these dangers, drawbacks and hardships there was no shortage of volunteers to climb into the saddle and follow a 'trail boss' and join his crew.



Most cowboys were surprisingly young, the average age being just 24 and the majority already fair to excellent horsemen who came with their own personal mounts.

About one cowboy in every six or seven was Mexican and a similar proportion were black (*usually freed slaves who had previously worked with cattle*).



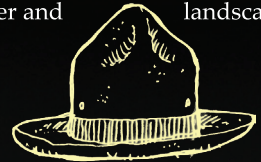
For all of these men who led this tough, hard life in the saddle the pay was around **\$25 to \$45** a month depending on individual experience and skills.

Few were literate but most could handle a gun and were equally useful with their fists if and when necessary or provoked.

Their working days and nights were long and sometimes deadly. Every cowboy knew to beware of sudden stampedes, snakes, droughts and a dozen other dangerous disasters that could easily befall even the most experienced cowhand. *Death was always a constant companion.*



It was also not uncommon to be thrown off your horse or possibly kicked to death by it. The second most likely cause of death on the trail however was from *pneumonia*, hardly surprising considering the cowboy's outdoor working life and living conditions in all kinds of weather and landscapes.



Through it all however, the mix of myths and realities of the Cattle Drive and the Cowboy himself still endures and endlessly fascinates many millions of people the whole world over thanks to legions of books, movies, television series and now... *a range of 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-painted miniature figures.*



From left to right:
Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier,
Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini pictured
before signing the Munich Agreement.



ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1938, British and French prime ministers, Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier signed one of the most ignominious documents of the 20th. Century... *The Munich Pact*.

Their two co-signees were the German chancellor, Adolf Hitler and his Italian axis partner, Benito Mussolini.

What all four men had agreed to was the effective dismemberment of a fifth country, Czechoslovakia in order to avoid a possible European war...



Betrayal In Munich

At least that was what the two democratic leaders believed they had agreed to.

THE BACKGROUND

In the spring of 1938, Adolf Hitler began openly supporting the demands of the majority German-speakers then living in the *Sudetenland* region of Czechoslovakia for union with Nazi Germany.

Hitler had recently annexed Austria

into what he called the '*Greater German Reich*' and already had political designs on the neighbouring Czech republic. The Czechoslovak Government meanwhile had hopes that *Britain* and *France* would come to their assistance in the face of this naked German aggression.

Alas for them both the British and French leaders were determined to avert, at almost any cost, the threat of another European war especially with

memories still fresh of the terrible horrors and cost that the previous 1914/18 conflict had inflicted on both nations just twenty years before.

Chamberlain previously had made two trips to Germany earlier in September attempting to offer Hitler favourable terms while the German '*fuhrer*' kept '*upping his demands*'.

On 22 September, 1938 Adolf Hitler again announced his impatience was exhausted with the ongoing discussions and demanded the immediate cession of the *Sudetenland* and its 3,000,000 German-speaking population to the Reich.

He further ordered that all of its Czech residents were to be forced to evacuate the region before the end of that month.

The next day, Czechoslovakia mobilized its armed forces. War now seemed imminent and France began a partial mobilization two days later.

ADOLF HITLER (1889-1945)
Austrian-born supreme German leader (*fuhrer*) from 1933- 1945. WW1 veteran and ultra nationalist with extreme right wing, anti semitic beliefs who led a brutal and evil regime. Committed suicide in the ruins of his '*Thousand Year Reich*' in Berlin, May 1945.

Europe appeared poised on the edge of an abyss!

FLYING TO MUNICH

Greatly alarmed by this rapid escalation of events both leaders of the two great democracies immediately decided to travel to *Munich* in Germany to meet with *Hitler*, now joined by his friend, the Italian dictator, *Mussolini* in one final attempt to avoid a general European war.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN (1869-1940)

British prime minister from 1937 until 1940. He is best known for his foreign policy of appeasement towards Hitler. Led the UK for the first 8 months of WW2 until succeeded by Winston Churchill.

Incredibly no Czech representatives were invited to take part in these confidential meetings even though it was the fate of their country and people that was the grave matter under discussion.

Over two long, exhausting days a deal was eventually reached whereby the Czechs

were forced to hand over to Hitler the *Sudetenland* and de facto control over the rest of their country as long as Germany promised to go no further.

On 30 September, Chamberlain flew back to Britain.

EDOUARD DALADIER (1884-1970)

French prime minister from 1938-1940. Fought in WW1 and became a politician afterwards. Imprisoned by Vichy after the Fall of France and later by the Germans. Survived and remained in politics until 1958.

On his return he delivered his controversial '*peace in our time*' speech to crowds of jubilant supporters in London. For the moment he believed that war had been averted.

Less than twelve months later however Britain and France would, once again, find themselves at war with Germany!

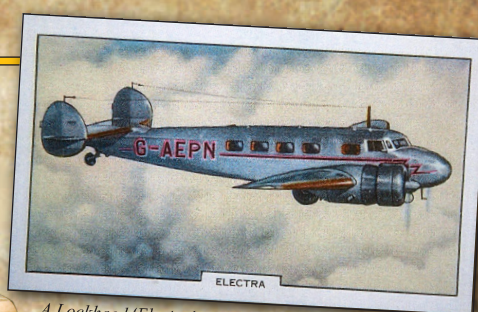
"If you have sacrificed my country to save the peace of the world, I will be the first to applaud you. But if not gentlemen, God help your souls!"

CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER

Jan Masaryk

Speaking to Lord Halifax in Munich 1938

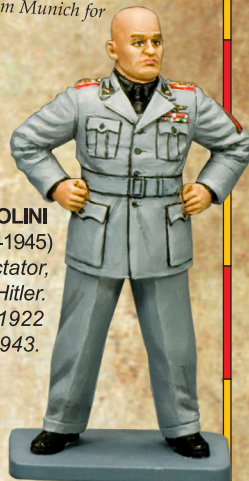
King & Country's latest 4-figure 'personality' set complete with a conference table and map of pre-war Czechoslovakia with the *Sudetenland* areas marked in green on its borders.



A Lockheed 'Electra' carried the British Prime Minister to and from Munich for his meetings with Hitler.

BENITO MUSSOLINI (1883-1945)

Italian Fascist Dictator, Axis partner of Hitler. Came to power in 1922 and ruled until 1943.



KING & COUNTRY'S

Münich 1938

©2022

To British prime minister Neville Chamberlain, shortly after his infamous appeasement of Hitler in Munich on 29 September 1938:

"You were given the choice between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour... and now you will have war!"

Winston Churchill



AUTHENTIC HAND - MADE HISTORY

"Swift as a greyhound, as tough as old leather and...
as hard as Krupp steel!"

ADOLF HITLER
Talking about the Hitlerjugend

Teenage Terror In Normandy



The idea to form a regular *Waffen SS* division with 16,17 and 18 year old boys from the *Hitlerjugend* was first proposed by Artur Axmann, Leader of the Hitler Youth in early 1943. It was not until June of that same year the first young recruits arrived at a military camp in Belgium to begin their training.

WS364

It had already been decided that the new divisional commander and his principal officers and NCOs would all be provided by 2,000 veterans from the premier *Waffen SS* division '*Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler*'.

All of these men were battle-hardened veterans and heavily experienced after fighting on the Eastern Front since '*Operation Barbarossa*' began in June 1941. They brought with them a ruthless and often merciless professionalism that they indoctrinated



WS370

and infected their youthful recruits with.

By March 1944 this new division was fully-trained and given the title *12th SS Panzer Division 'Hitlerjugend'* and transferred to *Caen* in Normandy even before the ailey

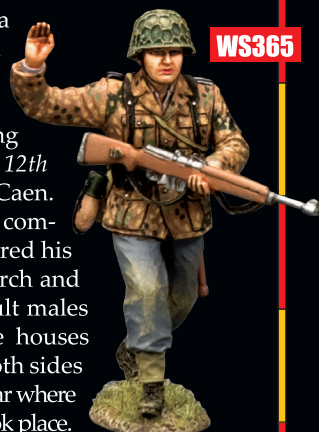
MASSACRE AT ASCQ

En route to Normandy, before the Allies had even invaded, the new division committed its first '*war crime*'.

86 *Frenchmen* were shot as a reprisal for a sabotage attack on one of the trains that was carrying elements of *12th SS* towards *Caen*.

The train commander ordered his troops to search and arrest all adult males found in the houses located on both sides of the track near where the attack took place.

Altogether, 70 men were shot next to the railway line while another 16 were killed in the nearby village of *Ascq*.

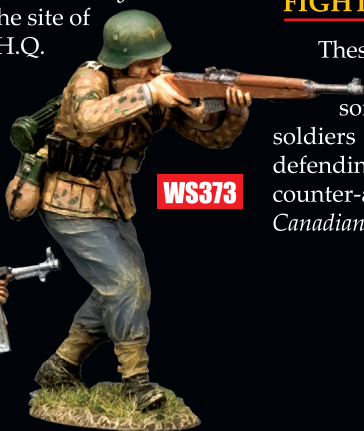


WS365

THE KILLING CONTINUES

On the early morning of 6 June 1944 Allied Forces successfully landed in Normandy and within hours the *12th SS* was fully engaged trying to throw them back into the water. Their primary opponents were the British and Canadian troops who had come ashore at *Sword* and *Juno Beaches*.

D. Day +1, saw another massacre take place when 11 Canadian prisoners-of-war were shot in the grounds of *Ardenne Abbey*, which at the time, was the site of the divisional H.Q.



WS369

WS373

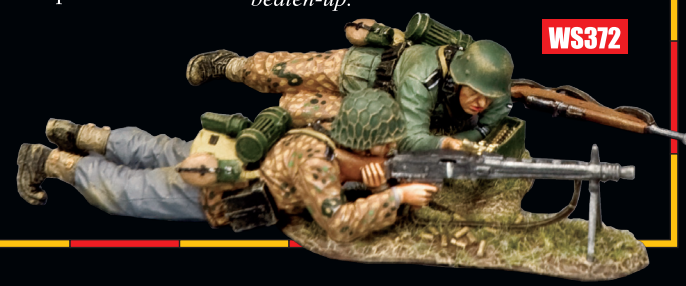
THE COST OF BATTLE

Throughout all of this the '*Hitlerjugend*' still enacted a terrible price. 34 French civilians in the towns of *Tavaux* and *Plomion* were murdered as the '*HJ*' withdrew through them.

By early September, after three months of unrelenting combat the division had lost nearly half of its soldiers (*just over 8,000 men and boys*), more than 80% of its tanks, 70% of its armoured vehicles, 60% of its artillery and virtually all of its transport vehicles, both motorized and horse-drawn.

FIGHTING IN THE BOCAGE

These 12 all-new King & Country fighting figures illustrate some of these fanatical young soldiers in various '*action-poses*' defending their position or perhaps counter-attacking advancing British, Canadian or Polish troops.



WS372

10

WS371

OUR WORLD IN MINIATURE

WS367

Over the coming weeks the '*Hitlerjugend Division*' saw plenty of action and continued to provide fierce and determined opposition despite the overwhelming superiority in the air and on the ground of the British and Canadian forces.

Eventually however sheer weight of numbers and lack of supplies and reinforcements forced the Germans to retreat.

By August 1944, the battered remnants of the division were involved in the fighting around *Falaise* against the *Free Polish 1st Armoured Division* who were trying to close the '*Falaise Pocket*' which had trapped over 100,000 Germans.

Despite the best efforts of the Poles the fanatical men and teenage boys of the *12th SS* were instrumental in holding open a narrow corridor which allowed somewhere between 20,000 to 50,000 German soldiers to escape the Allied net and live to fight another day.

All of the figures shown here are in '*mixed-rig*', a combination of typical *Waffen SS* camouflage with the more traditional field grey uniforms. In addition they carry an assortment of late-war German weaponry.

Already in development are more '*Hitlerjugend*' reinforcements for release in 2023...

Look out for them!

WS362



This wounded teenage *SS-Panzer Grenadier* was captured in early July 1944. He is wearing the *M44 'Dot'* pattern camouflage jacket on top of his field grey trousers.

Following the news of the killing of Canadian soldiers in *SS* custody any *Waffen SS* that fell into the hands of British and Canadian units were liable to be shot out of hand or at the very least beaten-up.



XM022-01

*Santa &
The Polar Bear Express*



Christmas Crackers & Hidden Treasure

Welcome once more to a bumper collection of Yuletide suggestions of King & Country figures that will look great under anyone's Christmas tree on the morning of December 25!

VN157

General William C. Westmoreland in January 1964, he arrived in South Vietnam and in June took charge of the MACV (Military Assistance Command Vietnam) and was responsible for all American and Allied Forces in the country.

Westmoreland's war strategy was based on attrition of the communist enemy fully employing America's massive superiority in Artillery and Air power.

Under his leadership the number of American troops rose from 24,000 in 1964 to almost 540,000 in 1968.



VN157

HK301

Street Food
Hawker Stall



12

OUR WORLD IN MINIATURE

MRDG005

MRDG004



Marching Drummer and Guardsmen of the Danish Royal Life Guards.

AE095

The Ancient
Antiquities Dealer



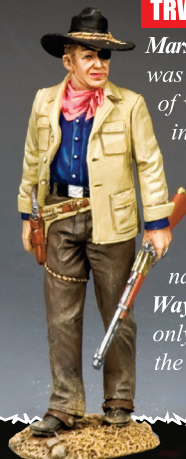
SANTA'S Little Helper

KM022-02



TRW186

Marshal 'Rooster' Cogburn was the fictitious creation of writer Charles Portis in his 1968 novel 'TRUE GRIT' which in turn was made into a hit 1969 movie of the same name starring John Wayne, who won his only 'Oscar' for playing the title role



US NAVY Honor Guard

These US NAVY sailors, under the command of a young officer are dressed in their winter dress blues and are standing at attention at the 'present arms'. Each sailor is carrying the M1903 Springfield rifle and wearing the canvas web waist belt and leggings. This type of uniform was worn from the WWI era all the way up to the 1960s.



USN029

Saluting U.S. Navy Officer

USN031

U.S. Navy Bluejacket Presenting Arms

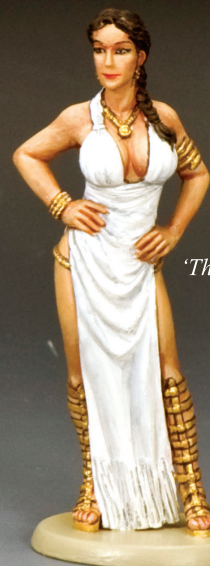
Special Note: Five other US NAVY sailors in various poses are also available.

SGS-XM003

Santa's Workshop
Cottage
Special Gift Set



The wife of the Emperor Claudius was 'bad, beautiful and dangerous to know!' She was said to have literally hundreds of lovers including her cousin, the previous emperor Caligula. Her reputation for promiscuity made her notorious and she has been featured in many films and television series based on life in Ancient Rome.



RnB042

Messalina
'The wickedest woman in Rome'

USMC059

'The most decorated
U.S. Marine Officer
of all time.'
Lewis "Chesty" Puller
(1898-1971)

Lewis Burwell 'Chesty' Puller, whose barrel chest and blunt manner inspired his nickname, was a 37 year veteran of the United States Marine Corps who rose to the rank of lieutenant general. The most-decorated Marine in Corps history, he won 5 Navy Crosses, the US Navy's second highest decoration for fighting in Nicaragua, at Guadalcanal and in New Guinea during WWII and at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War (1950-1953).



NA501

The Emperor's Own
Imperial Guards' Fifes &
Drums
(7 figure Box Set)



Napoleonic French Foot Dragoons



NA506

NA505

NA504

Two colourful Victorian children
under the Christmas Street Lantern...
a little Snowman and another of those
'North Pole' signs. Together at a very
special price!

SGS-XM004

Christmas Carol
Singing Celebration
Special Gift Set



Look out for more information and
the availability of this battling
Churchman later this month.
'The Fighting Bishop of Durham'
Promotional Figure



The last British Army regiment to be stationed in Hong Kong was *The Black Watch*. Here is their Pipes & Drums wearing the 'Tropical Parade Dress' tunics in white on the final parade as the former territory was handed back to China in June 31, 1997.

This 13 figure set comes in its own colourful presentation box.

BLACK WATCH

Pipes & Drums

1997 Edition

The history of British military bands goes back many centuries to a time when trumpets and drums were the main means of communication on the battlefield between a commander and his soldiers.

Sometime later these instruments would be augmented by regimental bagpipes and even fifes performing the same function.

In the case of the bagpipes with their strange and ferocious-sound another major advantage was that they could both inspire and terrify



The Coldstream Guards is the oldest continuously serving regular regiment in the British Army.

That year marked the formation of the **Royal Artillery Band** which brought together a small, select group of musicians to provide a musical accompaniment while the gunners and their guns were 'on the march' or on parade and taking part in 'garrison duties'.

By the 17th and 18th centuries, most British 'redcoats' marched to the beat of the drum from the first day they were recruited until they drilled on the parade square or journeyed and fought in virtually every corner of the globe as Britain expanded and conquered its Empire.

bands for its **30** cavalry regiments and **69** infantry regiments as well as a substantial number of bands for the **Royal Artillery**, **Royal Engineers** and other attached Corps.

At that time, each Infantry regiment maintained a military band and a **Corps of Drums** (fifes and drums). Rifle and Light Infantry battalions had 'bugles' without drums.

Scottish regiments however had in addition to their military band, 'Pipes & Drums' in place of a Corps of Drums. Some Irish regiments also had 'Pipes & Drums' together with their own military band.

Within the British Army during this period only the **Cavalry** and the **Royal Artillery** maintained mounted bands.

These particular bands were considerably smaller than the foot regiments and had as their centerpiece magnificent 'Drum Horses' with two kettle drums, one carried



18th Century Guards are one of the few regiments which form the 'Majesty's Brigade of Guards'. No army in the world can boast of finer troops than are to be found in this magnificent regiment. Whether accompanying the parade movements of a ceremonial procession, or holding, as in their own in wartime, the position of greatest danger, the Coldstream Guards live up to their proud name, 'Hell Grenadiers'.

BRITAIN

on either side of the saddle.

The military size, style and fashion of the British Army's regimental bands was copied in many far flung parts of the Empire with **Canada**, **Australia**, **South Africa**,

India and **New Zealand** being the most numerous and distinctive.

It's interesting to note the great enthusiasm regiments of Britain's **Indian Army** as well as its many **Gurkha** regiments who eagerly adopted and developed regimental pipe bands of their own.



Tunes of Glory

friend and foe alike on and off the field of battle!

Military music, in all its many forms, has that unique ability and has done so for hundreds of years right up until the present day.

THE FIRST OF THE MANY

The title of the oldest military band in the British Army goes back to 1557, the year before **Elizabeth the First** ascended the throne of England.

STRIKE UP THE BAND!

As Britain's far flung Empire grew so too did the number and variety of musicians required to fill the ranks of its many regimental bands.

Just prior to the outbreak of World War One in 1914, the regular British Army had over **120** regimental



Officers' Bearskins

These are taller than those of 'Other Ranks' and slightly different in shape. All bearskin caps worn by the Foot Guard Regiments are made from the fur of black bears, which are culled from a very large population in Canada.



The Uniforms

The Coldstream Guards wear red plumes on the right side of their bearskin caps and their tunic buttons are spaced in pairs. A garter star is worn on the collar with a cross of St. George in the centre.

In recent years the Coldstream Guards Regimental Band has performed all over the world including tours of North America, Japan, Australasia and Europe. It achieved international acclaim when it played the American National Anthem at Buckingham Palace after the 9/11 attacks in New York.

Among the annual ceremonial events the band takes part in are:
Changing of the Guard
The Festival of Remembrance
Trooping The Colour
Beating The Retreat

COLDSTREAM GUARDS BAND

NULLI SECUNDUS – SECOND TO NONE

Among the most colourful and spectacular of all the British Army's many military bands are those of the Household Division's five regiments of Foot Guards.

- *The Grenadier Guards*
- *The Coldstream Guards*
- *The Scots Guards*
- *The Irish Guards*
- *The Welsh Guards*

In 1914, the Foot Guards regiments consisted of nine battalions made up of 3 x Grenadier, 3 x Coldstream, 2 x Scots and 1 x Irish Guards battalions.

It should be noted that the 5th Regiment of Foot Guards, to be known as 'The Welsh Guards' was not raised until 1915 and consisted of just one battalion.

Each of these battalions had their own individual regimental band numbering anywhere from 45-60 musicians in addition to their *Corps of Drums* containing 16 x Guardsmen (8x Drummers and 8 Fifers) led by a *Drum Sergeant*.



ON PARADE!

KING & COUNTRY'S most spectacular 'CEREMONIAL' release yet is our large 21 piece *Coldstream Guards Regimental Band Set* which comes in its own specially-designed presentation box and contains 20 individual musicians (mostly in pairs) and led by a magnificent and colourful *Drum Major*.

Each boxed set contains:

- 2 x *Trombonists*
- 2 x *Trumpets* (inc. 1 x Corporal)
- 2 x *French Horn Players*
- 2 x *Saxophonists* (inc. 1 x Corporal)
- 2 x *Large Bass Tubas*
- 2 x *Medium Bass Tubas*
- 2 x *Clarinetists* (inc. 1 x Lance Sergeant)
- 2 x *Flautists*
- 1 x *Bass Drummer*
- 1 x *Cymbalist*

2 x Side Drummers

1 x Drum Major

EXPAND YOUR BAND

Also available are **nine individual musicians** that can bring your 21 piece band up to an actual regimental band strength of anywhere between **40-50** musicians.

On show in this article is the **full 21 figure K&C Coldstream Guards Band** together with a **Fife & Drum Corps** band from the same regiment.

Again, all of the Coldstream Fifers, Drummers and Drum Sergeant can be purchased as single figures to make the Drum Corps as small or as large as the collector requires.

Among the other figures taking part in this parade are **Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II** mounted on her favourite horse 'Burmese', a gift to her from the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**.



Sitting alongside the three 'Royals' is the mounted Guards Parade Commander and in front of him the standing figures of Her Majesty's

late husband, **Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh** and the Queen's uncle the former **King Edward VIII**, the monarch who abdicated his throne and later became The Duke of Windsor.

ABOUT THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

The Regiment was formed at **Berwick-on-Tweed** in 1650 by **Colonel George Monck** from regiments of **Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army**.

Its early years were spent on garrison duty in the village of **Coldstream** on the Scottish border. After the death of Cromwell in 1658, Col. Monck gave his support to the restoration of the monarchy and the return of **Charles II** to Britain as its King.

In gratitude Charles chose the regiment as his second senior regiment of Household Troops after the first, the Grenadiers.

It was at this time that the regiment also chose as its motto... **'Nulli Secundus'...** 'Second To None'.

Since those days the Coldstream Guards have had a long and glorious history protecting the monarch at home and fighting Britain's enemies in virtually every corner of the globe where battle has taken place. In both World Wars the regiment put 5 x battalions into the field (3x regular and 2 x War Reserve

Btns.) After WW2 the **1st** and **3rd** Battalions served in Palestine while the **2nd** fought in **Malaya** against Communist insurgents.

By 1960 the regiment was reduced to two battalions but still saw plenty of active service in **Kenya**, during the **Mau Mau Rebellion...** in **Aden** and also **Cyprus** fighting **EOKA** terrorists.

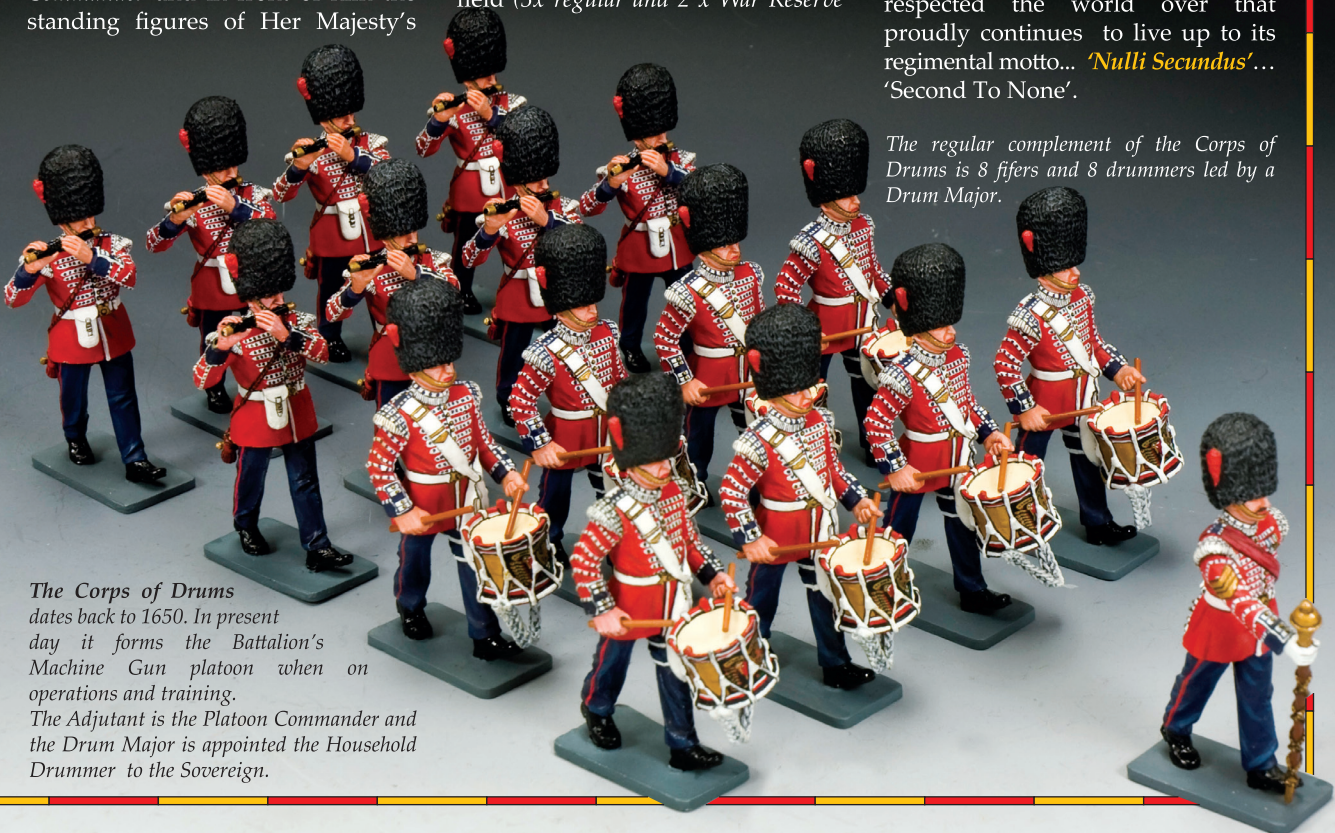
The 'Coldstreamers' continued their military duties helping to keep the peace in **Northern Ireland** from 1969 up until the 1990's when the present 'Troubles' ceased.

In between all of this the regiment still took part in the first **Gulf War** in 1991 and on **UN Peace-keeping** duties in **Bosnia**. Throughout the first 10 years of the 21st Century the regiment has also been deployed and seen action in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan**.

The last few years have been, so far, quite peaceful however as the **British Army** has been under almost constant reviews and reductions those troops like the Coldstream Guards have been tasked with ever more demanding missions with fewer resources and reserves to back them up.

Add to all of that their '**public duties**' and amazingly you still have a superb military force that is totally professional, dedicated and well-respected the world over that proudly continues to live up to its regimental motto... **'Nulli Secundus'...** 'Second To None'.

The regular complement of the Corps of Drums is 8 fifers and 8 drummers led by a Drum Major.



The Corps of Drums

dates back to 1650. In present day it forms the Battalion's Machine Gun platoon when on operations and training.

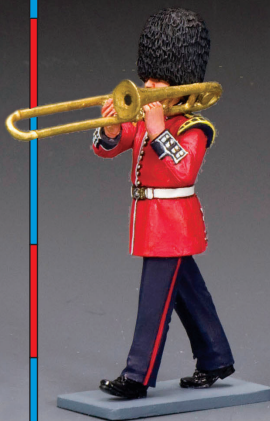
The Adjutant is the Platoon Commander and the Drum Major is appointed the Household Drummer to the Sovereign.



Please Note:
The Regimental
Drum Major is
only available
with the complete
21 figure band set.



Please Note:
The Regimental
Cymbalist is *only*
available with the
complete 21 figure
band set.



CE085
Trombonist



CE083
French Horn
Player





CE087

*Large Bass
Tuba Player*



CE086

*Small Bass
Tuba Player*



CE082

Saxaphonist



CE081

Clarinetist



CE080

Flautist



CE084

Cornet Player



CE079

Drummer



Please Note:
The Regimental
Bass Drummer is
only available
with the complete
21 figure band set.

COLDSTREAM GUARDS

ENLIST
NOW



TO-MORROW

YESTERDAY

TO-DAY

John McCALL

FOR FULL PARTICULARS APPLY NEAREST RECRUITING OFFICE



CE006

*'Corps of Drums'
Drum Sergeant*



CE007

*'Corps of Drums'
Drummer*



CE008

*'Corps of Drums'
Fifer*



CE065

*'Corps of Drums'
Bugler*

Each Battalion of the Foot Guards has its own '**Corps of Drums**' usually between 16 and 20 strong comprising 8 drummers and 8-12 fifers.

When parading with the Regimental band the Corps of Drums will always march at the rear.



Rodney Player
98

'MATES'

THE
BREN-GUNNER

PEN & PAPER

Once I had gathered all this reference information around me I began to draw some of the figures, nearly all of them inspired by actual photographs taken during the campaign.

As you can see the men were often haggard and disheveled and that is well-reflected in their torn, battered uniforms with unbuttoned shirts and generally 'rough' appearance... Who would not be considering

Kokoda Sketches

Before King & Country begins sculpting any figure for a new series I start to research background information, photo reference and if possible any documentary or film material about the relevant battle or campaign. I also make a point of examining any examples of what other military miniature companies have produced on the same or similar subject matter.

In the case of 'KOKODA' there was only a miniscule number of manufacturers who had already ventured into this particular campaign so there were not that many figures to study however there was a wealth of excellent pictorial and video references that proved essential and extremely useful.

Most of what I viewed showed the great differences in uniforms between Australian 'diggers' who had fought in the Western Desert as part of the 8th Army and those blokes who had taken part in the Kokoda Trail Campaign.

In New Guinea with its hot, humid jungle terrain the sand khaki drill uniforms of North Africa were totally unsuitable and were rapidly

replaced by 'jungle green' shirts and trousers fastened around the lower legs by either short ankle gaiters or the longer U.S. style leggings.

Further research showed that the soldier's webbing equipment went from light khaki to a similar shade of jungle green colour as the rest of his uniform and helped provide better camouflage.

The 'diggers' famous slouch hats also remained much the same but the almost continual heavy tropical downpours soon dampened and bent them into all kinds of unusual shape and styles.

the extremely brutal conditions of living and fighting in the hot, steaming jungle of New Guinea...?

These are just a few of the many black and white illustrations I provided our leading sculptor with for him to begin his amazing work. I also sent him a portfolio of actual 'Kokoda' photographs as additional backup for him to study.

Putting all of that together with our expert 'master painter' in Hong Kong has, I believe, resulted in a new and more authentic depiction of WW2 Australian fighting men that not only look realistic but also look like they actually just stepped out of the jungle yesterday.

Additional KOKODA figures are already in development for release in 2023.



VN149
The Sampan
Soldiers Set



VN154
Viet Cong Sampan

Waterborne Warriors

THE MEKONG DELTA, where the Mekong River fans out and empties into the South China Sea, was one of the most economically and strategically important areas of all of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.



Six million people, almost 40 percent of South Vietnam's population, lived and worked in this humid wetland region south of Saigon.

The Mekong Delta was, considered to be *'the rice bowl of Vietnam'* and yielded much of the fresh produce for the entire country. From 1960 onwards it also provided a myriad of hidden sanctuaries for the Viet Cong as well as numerous waterways and canals for the VC to transport men, munitions and other essential supplies throughout the region in relative safety away from the attentions and patrols of the **ARVN** (Army of the Republic of South Vietnam) who tended to stay on the country's basic road network and in the nation's urban areas.

JUNKS & SAMPANS

To move their forces safely and secretly across the delta the VC relied on hundreds of locally-made small watercraft that could easily navigate their way through its myriad of slow moving canals and tributary rivers.

During the day these junks and sampans would be busy ferrying people, animals and vegetables to and from markets or perhaps going fishing within the region's inland waterways or along its extensive coastline.

After nightfall many of these same vessels might be uploading a shipment of arms and explosives or carrying a squad or platoon of Viet Cong irregulars from one area to another ready to lay an ambush or perhaps attack a lonely, isolated government outpost.

By avoiding regular roads and most towns and villages the VC had the opportunity and ability to strike whenever and wherever they wanted.

K&C's VIET CONG SAMPAN

King & Country's latest sampan shows a typical small hand-made watercraft moving some Viet Cong soldiers onto their next destination and mission.

Each sampan **VN154** includes a sitting VC *'Skipper'* manning the tiller... the three VC passengers shown here are sold separately as a 3-man set, **VN149**.

Sitting alongside the sampan is one of a small number of custom-made, all-wood Chinese junks of a type that were still a fairly common sight all over Southeast Asian waters in the 1960s.

The diorama featured here was designed and built by K&C's own *Andy C. Neilson*.

IN 1965, soon after the first American combat units arrived in South Vietnam several vast networks of underground tunnel complexes were uncovered.

Constructed by the Viet Cong these tunnels allowed the VC to hide from enemy troops and be 'invisible' to any observation aircraft. They also provided safe havens for the VC to store all kinds of weapons,

VN156
The Tunnel Rat Team
(3x figures &
1x entrance)



periods in absolute darkness.

Third, they must be able to avoid and ignore their very likely encounters with all kinds of bugs, snakes, rodents and other vermin that usually inhabited these tunnels.

And finally Fourth, it helped if a 'tunnel rat' was physically small and compact, while still having the agility, strength and ability to

Tunnels, Towns & Rats

ammunition and explosives as well as offering them subterranean barracks accommodation and even underground field hospitals complete with basic operating theatres that could conduct major surgery.

It did not take long for the U.S. Army to decide that these tunnel systems had to be explored, cleared and destroyed.

To successfully do that required the services of a very special kind of soldier with a very unique combination of physical and mental attributes and skills.

Squeezing into a small, cramped, pitch-black hole, no wider than a man's shoulders, to face to a frightening array of booby traps, claustrophobia

and possible suffocation demanded extraordinary courage and determination.

Those who took up this hazardous challenge were all volunteers and came to be known as 'tunnel rats' and underwent specialist training back in the States before shipping out to Vietnam.

Most tunnel rats came from the U.S. Army's infantry and engineer units and had several unique qualities...

First and foremost they had to have no fear of claustrophobia.

Second, they must be able to crawl through narrow, cramped spaces and spaces for prolonged

difficult tasks in very small spaces.

TUNNEL RAT TEAM

King & Country's first-ever 'Tunnel Rat Team' VN156 shows a typical 3-man section of U.S. Marines having just uncovered the camouflaged entrance way to a Viet Cong tunnel complex.



Two standing Marines, one carrying a shotgun while his buddy has both an M14 rifle and a shovel look on as the crouching 'tunnel rat', pistol in one hand and flashlight in the other peers into the open tunnel entrance.

Before descending into the abyss the tunnel rat will have removed all of his web gear and most of his 'surface uniform'. Wristwatches, dog tags and even rings might also be removed to prevent 'snagging' on any underground obstacle.

Most tunnel rats descended bareheaded so as to have unrestricted vision and hearing. In addition, it was fairly common practice to douse oneself with insect repellent in order to ward off leaches, mosquitoes, spiders, fleas and any other 'creepy-crawlies'.

WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT

Standard infantry weapons were useless and unwieldy in small confined spaces so most tunnel rats would only carry a standard issue Colt .45 M1911 Automatic Pistol with the 7 x round magazine.

A handy alternative was either the

Smith & Wesson Model 10 or Colt 'Police Positive' Special revolvers.

Some tunnel rats also carried a fighting knife for any 'close encounters' where silence was required.

The most common flashlight was the military issue **MX-991 Right Angle Flashlight**.

Meanwhile Above Ground

Elsewhere in King & Country's '**VIETNAM**' series several very useful and colourful additions have been added to our collection of Vietnamese civilians...

Among these are two more of our '**Vespa Girls**' on their Italian-made popular motor scooters and a slightly revised '**Miss Papillon**', the ever popular Saigon Bar Girl.

All of them are joined by a brand-new, young girl figure taking care of her baby brother. As usual, all of these civilian figures work well in both rural and urban South Vietnamese settings and situations.

VN163



VN165



1983 KING & COUNTRY 2022

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Seasonal Look at Our World in Miniature



A HILL IN KOREA