

# COLLECTOR



A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

JUNE 6 1944 JUNE 6 2004  
**60 YEARS**  
THE NORMANDY LANDINGS

**D-DAY 6th OF JUNE**





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# A View From The Beach...

THE FOCUS OF this quarter's 'COLLECTOR' is very definitely on the Second World War. June 6, 2004 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the greatest seaborne invasion in history...D.DAY.

To commemorate this famous day King & Country are launching our very own invasion in miniature – over twenty individual sets of figures, fighting vehicles and defense work features will be released over four months – May, June, July and August 2004.

Among these new releases are several very unique set pieces... for US Armour enthusiasts our first-ever American tank destroyer – the M18 HELLCAT (with 4 crew figures). Look out for some heavy German opposition – the mighty Prime Mover with its powerful towed 88mm gun and a whole crew of German Artillerymen.

Also being highlighted in this edition are our latest additions to our controversial Berlin'38 series. Among the new pieces are notorious SA Chief Ernst Rohm and Wehrmacht Field Marshall Gerd von Runstedt. A range of Hitler Jugend boys have also been redesigned, resculpted and reintroduced. Two all-new SS Headquarters building facades make the perfect backdrops for this thought provoking series.

In this issue are also details about our exciting King & Country Online Collectors Club... and how to join.

No 'COLLECTOR' is ever complete without some of our latest 'Streets of Old Hong Kong' visitors – wait till you see them.

Well, that's the story so far... now prepare to enter our world in miniature.

HAPPY COLLECTING!

*Andy C. Neilson*

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

Ranger  
Radioman  
from DD48



Hitler Jugend boys listen intently  
to the Fuhrer's speech, Nuremberg 1934.





# D-DAY 6TH OF JUNE

**'OK, Let's go.' With these words General Eisenhower set rolling the D-Day assault on Normandy. Some 5,000 ships and 150,000 men were launched across the English Channel as the Allies returned, at last, to north-western Europe.**

ON JUNE 6, 1944 the greatest amphibious and airborne operation in history set sail and took flight for the shores of Northern France.

Codenamed 'OVERLORD', the operation was incredibly complex involving three separate Airborne Divisions as well as major divisional assaults on five different beaches.

Six decades later KING & COUNTRY is proud to commemorate the skill, courage and tenacity of the men who fought on both sides of the Normandy bocage during the long, hot summer of 1944.

Over a four-month period – May, June July and August 2004 we will launch over 20 individual sets of D-Day military

In DD46 two 82nd troopers link up with two from the 101st. The 'Mohawk' sergeant using the 'handie-talkie' seems to be saying, 'I know we're in France – I just don't know where the hell we are!'

## BAND OF BROTHERS

Currently in production are five other K&C sets that contain US Paratroopers. Among the most popular is DD31 'D-Day Minus One'.

This depicts three 82nd Airborne troopers preparing themselves to board their C47 transport. Equipment is being checked... weapons carefully stowed... and most importantly, parachutes given a final 'once-over'.

## DECEPTION

To catch the Germans by surprise and create the utmost confusion were essential to the success of D-Day. For months, the Allies had done their best to make the Germans expect a major assault against the Pas-de-Calais. On D-Day they carried the deception to its limits.

As the real invasion fleet steamed for Normandy, naval launches headed across the Channel towards Calais and Boulogne. Each towed balloons with special reflectors that produced radar echoes similar to those of large troop ships. Overhead, Lancaster bombers dropped streams of 'window' – strips of aluminium foil which also created false radar images. Dummy parachutists dropped early on June 6 at points along the French coast added to the confusion.

The deception worked. German radar operators reported vast air and sea fleets approaching the Pas-de-Calais. Even after discovering this error, German commanders remained convinced until early July that the Normandy landings were a feint, and expected the real blow around Calais.



figures... fighting vehicles... artillery... and defense works.

Here is just a taste –



## 'DEATH FROM ABOVE'

Three Airborne Divisions (two American, one British) took part in 'OVERLORD'. Spearheading our new releases is DD46, 'D-Day Paratroopers' – the latest addition to K&C's US Airborne Forces.

This set accurately reflects some of the confusion that took place on the actual 'dropzones' in Normandy in the wee, small hours of June 6.

Some units overshot their DZ's... others fell short... while many got totally mixed up with other platoons, regiments – even divisions.

Tonight is the 'Night of Nights'

Seen talking to our Paratroopers is DD29 Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander. Although never a field commander 'IKE' was a born leader and a great organizer.

It was widely recognized, even at the time, that no other general could have molded so many

different units and nationalities under his command into a greater fighting force than the quiet Kansan.





# A DAY AT THE BEACH

**OF ALL THE landings that took place on June 6, 1944 only one almost collapsed into failure... OMAHA BEACH.**

The American assault there met with fierce resistance. The Germans had built up a formidable defense to protect it – eight large calibre guns...35 anti-tank guns...85 machine gun

landed their troops on the wrong beach locations.

At the same time, accurate enemy machine gun and mortar fire soon pinned down those survivors that did get ashore. Subsequent waves of landing craft offloaded their troops into this total confusion.

After several desperate hours General Omar Bradley was almost at the point of ordering a withdrawal.

On the beach itself Col. George A.

those who are going to die! Now, let's get the hell out of here."

Finally, some brave infantrymen managed to breach the enemy line and the battle began to turn. By nightfall almost 35,000 GI's were ashore at 'Bloody Omaha'.

## RANGERS TO THE RESCUE

K&C is putting two sets (DD47 and DD48) of US Rangers on Omaha Beach... Eight superbly animated figures

**CONT'D P.7**



positions and thousands of trained infantry from the 352nd Division – battle hardened veterans of the Eastern Front.

Preliminary bombardment had left the German positions virtually intact.

In addition, heavy seas offshore swamped and then sank many of the landing craft. Others got mixed up and

Taylor rallied his men "Two kinds of people are staying on this beach... the dead and

**DD50**  
Hellcat Tank  
Destroyer  
and Crew



## On the other side of the Channel

**T**he Germans waited while the Allies prepared for 'Overload'. They knew that an invasion had to come – there was no other way for the Allies to achieve victory – but they did not know where or when.

As early as December 1941, the Führer had ordered plans 'for the construction of a new West Wall to assure protection of the Arctic, North Sea and Atlantic coasts.' Work began on the Atlantic Wall in 1942, and by early 1944 block house and gun emplacements dotted the coastline of occupied Europe from the tip of Norway to the western end of France's border with Spain. Mines and obstacles covered the beaches.

The defences from the Dutch-German border to the Loire river were particularly formidable. This was the sector of Army Group B, commanded from January 1944 by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. He planned to lay a belt of mines, nearly 1000m (over half a mile) deep, all along the coast, backed by a deeper 8 km (5 mile) belt farther inland; it would need 200 million mines. Rommel boasted that

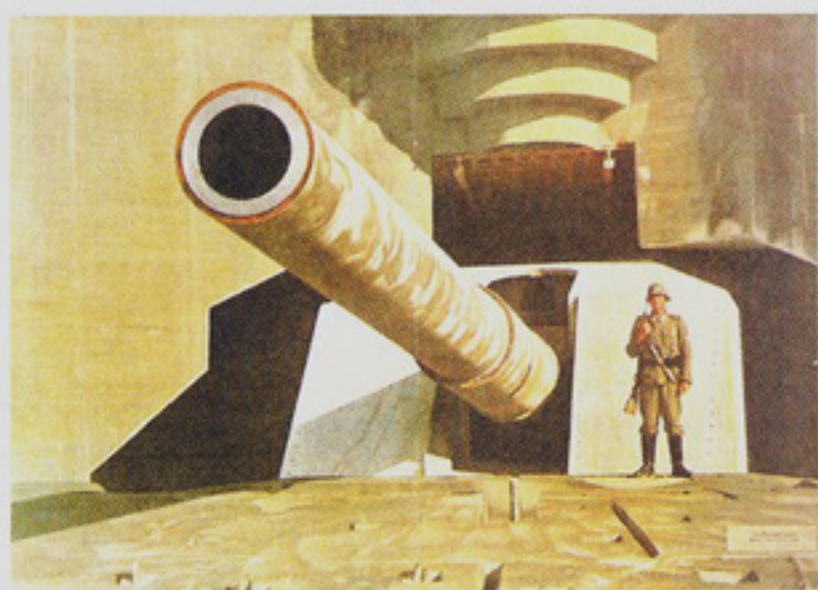
the beaches would be a 'zone of death'.

But the Atlantic Wall was still far from complete in mid-1944, and many doubted its value. 'The Wall is a myth,' asserted Rommel's superior, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, Commander in Chief West. 'Nothing in front of it, nothing behind – a mere showpiece.'

The coastal front was also too long. Rundstedt lacked the resources to defend every beach and port, yet neither could he ignore any – for the Allied attack might fall at any point. The result was that no single area was adequately defended.

To make matters worse, Hitler kept moving divisions from the west to reinforce the Eastern Front, until Rundstedt's forces were largely made up of the over-age, the unfit and recruits from prisoner-of-war camps.

Among the few effective troops were the six divisions of Lt General Geyr von Schweppenburg's Panzer Group West. He and Rundstedt wanted them held in



**MENACING MONSTER** A giant camouflaged German gun points towards the Channel.

reserve near Paris, able to counterattack 'when the enemy is deeply committed'. Rommel argued that this would be too late; the only way to defeat the Allies was on the beaches. In the end Hitler ordered four divisions to stay near Paris, to be released only on his orders. It was an unsatisfactory compromise bound to delay any counterattack.

But as low-flying reconnaissance Spitfires spotted the build up of Rommel's beach defences in early 1944, the Allies began to worry. They had little need. The Germans denied aerial reconnaissance of most of southern England by Allied air supremacy and blinded by deception measure were as ignorant as ever of the time or place of the invasion.



# TANK KILLER!

**NO OTHER PIECE** of German artillery was as feared in Normandy as the awesome Eighty-Eight!



WS56



WS57

Two 3-figure sets of Waffen SS gunners are also available to man the gun.

## THE MIGHTY 88.

Originally designed in 1933 as an anti-aircraft gun that could fire heavy flak more than 9 miles high (14km), the German 88mm gun first proved itself in the Battle of France in 1940.

Its fearsome reputation was further enhanced in the desert war when Rommel skillfully deployed it in the anti-tank role.

and halt a succession of British, Canadian and American armoured thrusts.

### K&C's NEW '88'

This is our second version of WWII's most famous artillery piece. The K&C 8-wheel towed model comes complete with rolling wheels, 360° turn-around... and elevating main gun.

### THE FAKE INVADERS

Strange things were happening in south-east England in early 1944. At Dover, the shore sprouted elaborate but phoney jetties, oil storage tanks, pipelines and anti-aircraft guns – designed by the eminent architect Basil Spence. Fake landing craft and planes appeared.

It was all part of Operation 'Fortitude', an Allied campaign to simulate a build-up of forces opposite Calais, while disguising the real concentration opposite Normandy. The first US Army Group was created, largely of fictitious units, and the air buzzed with its signals. The Germans were deceived, and the build-up continued in the Pas-de-Calais.

WS54

WS53

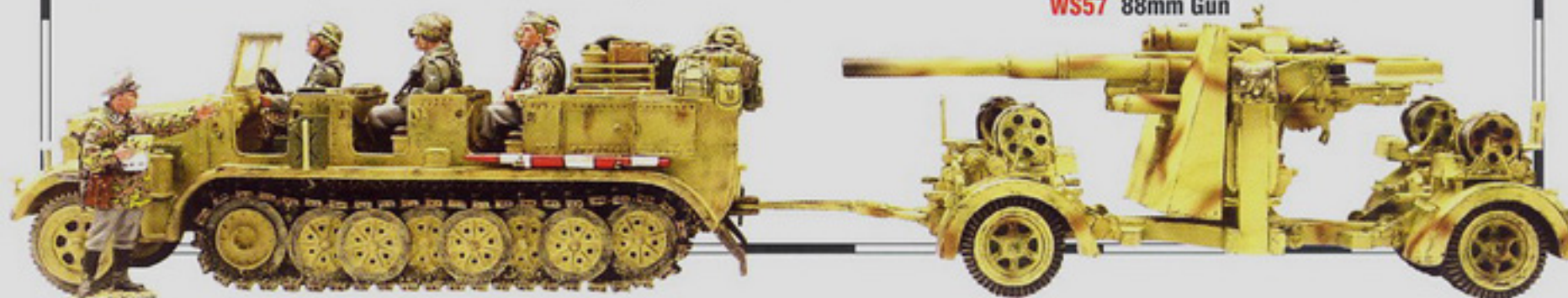


The '88' could unleash 20 high-velocity rounds a minute either against enemy aircraft or armoured vehicles. With an effective horizontal range of 6 miles (10km) its devastating fire power could destroy any Allied tank or fighting vehicle.

During the Normandy campaign it was used with deadly effect to break up

Painted in a battle-worn late war colour scheme our all-metal '88' can either be towed behind our new SdKfz7 Prime Mover or put directly into action.

- WS52 Prime Mover Halftrack Set
- WS53 Sitting Sergeant & 2 Riflemen
- WS54 3-Seated Riflemen
- WS55 88mm Gun Crew (Set A)
- WS56 88mm Gun Crew (Set B)
- WS57 88mm Gun





# The Rise and Rise of the Third Reich 1933 - 1939. The Nuremburg Years.

**P**RIOR TO WORLD WAR 2 few people would have denied that the Nazis certainly knew how to make a spectacle of themselves.

Images of that era show huge Party Rallies where the

# NAZIS

## A Warning in Miniature

LAH45

Ernst Rohm,  
leader of 2 million  
SA men



faithful came to worship. Rank upon rank of brown-shirted stormtroopers... row after row of eager young Hitler Jugend...and long marching columns of sinister, black-clad SS.

Who among the cheering crowds could have predicted that Hitler's Thousand Year Reich would lie in shattered ruins in just twelve?

How many of the marchers themselves, a few years later, would leave their bones on the scorching desert battlefields of North Africa and the frozen steppes of Russia?

Did anyone believe that the endless

parades and rallies would all too soon lead directly to a world war...the deaths of over fifty million people...and a holocaust?

LAH53

### LEST WE FORGET

World War Two ended almost sixty years ago. For some the memories of it are as fresh as the day before yesterday.

For others however, especially the young, it is ancient history. Here, at KING & COUNTRY we believe it is important to remember not only what happened but how it happened...and why.

In our own special way we can help illustrate those turbulent times and the people and personalities that shaped them.

### BEAT THE DRUM! RAISE THE FLAG!

The focus of these new releases are the SA or Sturmabteilung - the brown-shirted, bully-boys of the Nazi Party. Led by the notorious Ernst Rohm, the SA provided the Party "muscle" and was infamous for its street brawling battles with the Communists and Social Democrats.

The Hitler Jugend meanwhile were the "boy scouts" of the Nazi movement. Behind the happy, healthy outdoor pursuits of the movement lurked the "lethal poison" of Party doctrine and racial superiority.



LAH21A



Mussolini

LAH48

LAH47

LAH46





## ROGUES' GALLERY

In addition to both of these groups are several important individual figures. Foremost among them is a standing, saluting Hitler dressed in a simple, brown-shirt uniform.

Another is the SA Chief Ernst Rohm. Once a close confidante of Hitler his political and military ambitions and growing power posed a direct threat to Hitler's leadership. In 1934 Rohm and many of his SA Leadership were arrested and shot in what became known as "the Night of the Long Knives".



LAH51

Also included in this release is General of the Army, Feldmarschall Gerd von Rundstedt, standing stiffly to attention while giving the traditional army salute.

Two other "personality" figures are available - Reichsmarschall Hermann Goring, Chief of the Luftwaffe and "Il Duce", Benito Mussolini, Italy's Dictator and Hitler's "partner-in-crime".

Finally, an SS motorcycle escort rider completes the lineup.



LAH55

## SS BARRACKS FACADES

A dramatic backdrop to the figures is provided by the new SS Barracks Facades. These two polystone frontages comprise a Leibstandarte Headquarters façade, with entrance way and balcony plus a building annex that offers extended display possibilities.

Both facades were based on actual plans for a new Leibstandarte Headquarters that was to have been built in Berlin in 1942. Both are available singly.

LAH19B



LAH52



LAH56

LAH42

## A FINAL REMINDER...

Inevitably, Nazi figures are controversial - there are some who would ban them... forbid anyone to buy or sell them... or even to collect them.

At KING & COUNTRY we disagree, a healthy interest in all aspects of history - even the Nazi era does not mean any sympathy with their perverted ideals and evil doctrines.

We believe a wide and deeper understanding of all aspects of the past - good and bad - provides important lessons for both today and tomorrow.

As Winston Churchill memorably remarked, "Those who would ignore certain unpalatable aspects of history are doomed to repeat them over and over again!"

LAH50

HJ Youth

Leader

LAH51

HJ Boy

Marching

LAH54

LAH52

HJ National Flag

Bearer

LAH53

Standing HJ Drummer

LAH54

Standing HJ Bugler

LAH55

Motorcycle Escort

LAH56

HJ Black  
Flagbearer

## NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

By 1934 the Nazi stormtroop force, the SA or Brownshirts, had become dangerously powerful, and Hitler decided to destroy it. In the early hours of Saturday, June 30, SS officers under orders from Goring and Himmler burst into a hotel at the Bavarian lake resort of Bad Wiessee, where SA leader Ernst Rohm and a group of his men were spending the weekend. The SS men dragged Rohm away to Stadelheim Prison in Munich, where he was shot the next day. Other SA officers were shot on the spot. The slaughter continued elsewhere on the Sunday. The Berlin SA leader, Karl Ernst, was seized but died loyally, shouting 'Heil Hitler'.

LAH50

Other scores were settled when radical Nazis, such as Gregor Strasser, and prominent anti-Nazis were eliminated. Hitler later told the Reichstag that 58 had been 'executed' and another 19 'lost their lives', but other estimates of the dead exceed 400.



LAH44



LAH49

SA chief Ernst Röhm

LAH19B Reichsmarschall Hermann  
Goring

LAH21A "Il Duce" Benito Mussolini

LAH42 SS Headquarters

LAH43 Headquarters Annex

LAH44 The Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler

LAH45 SA Chief Ernst Rohm

LAH46 SA Man Marching

LAH47 SA Standard Bearer

LAH48 SA Officer Marching

LAH49 Feldmarschall von Rundstedt

LAH43







DD47

# A DAY AT THE BEACH

CONT'D FROM P. 3

The Dodge Weapons Carrier has a driver, a full load of ammunition (which is removable) and is hauling a BEN HUR water trailer. An additional US

with an assortment of Garands... BARs... carbines and Tommy guns all ready to return enemy fire.

The details on these new figures is especially good...right down to the combat assault vests and black rubber respirator bags on their chests.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Providing much needed transport and armour support is our 3/4-ton Dodge Weapons Carrier and Water Trailer plus the M18 HELLCAT Tank Destroyer. On the HELLCAT you can see 4 crew members

manning this fighting vehicle.



DD50

paratrooper goes with the set.

DD49 3/4 Ton Weapons Carrier and Water Trailer

# Postcard from Hong Kong...

REGULAR COLLECTORS of "Streets of Old Hong Kong" always know to expect something a little different in this colourful series of traditional Chinese figures.

These two new releases fulfill that promise easily... both sets illustrate a favourite Chinese interest - the buying and selling of beautiful songbirds.

HK119 shows a wealthy young 'mandarin' about to examine a hand-made birdcage, its cover and its feathered occupant.

HK120 portrays a bird-merchant about to offer his prosperous client an alternative choice. On the table next to him are three other cages and an assortment of finely detailed

water bowls to refresh the thirsty songbirds.

Next to the table sits a birdcage maker working with slivers of fine bamboo to skillfully make a traditional Chinese birdcage.

## LATER IN THE YEAR

Later this year we will be releasing a new building to accompany these two sets... 'The Bird Shop Building'.

This will be a polystone and metal construction to fit alongside any of our other Chinese style buildings, tea houses and shophouses already available. Look out for it.



HK120

HK119

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
THE ALL-NEW  
KING & COUNTRY  
ONLINE COLLECTORS CLUB  
GO DIRECTLY TO  
[www.kingandcountry.com](http://www.kingandcountry.com)