

★ KING & COUNTRY ★

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature

"Oh What A
Lovely War!"18 PAGES!
Biggest Edition Ever!



Original sketches for FW010 Standing Riflemen and FW011 Standing Officer

View From The Trenches...

It's another whirlwind tour around the world for you in this latest issue of "COLLECTOR". We begin on the battlefields of Europe but I'll wager you a refreshing mint julep that you never expected to be "South of the Mason-Dixon line" before the day is done... with a stop or two along the way.

I am sure it has not escaped your notice that here at King & Country we focus heavily on World War Two. But, as historians will tell you, many of the root causes of that war go back twenty five years to the outbreak of the First World War... "The Great War". Now, for the first time, we explore and discover that tragic and terrible conflict that begins with K&C's 1914... "The March on Paris".

While still in Europe we go back another 100 years to the "Age of Napoleon" listen for the thundering hooves of the Emperor's own heavy cavalry... see our all-new "Cuirassiers" go charging by.

From Europe we go south... to the Middle East... First, to take a closer look at our latest (and most colourful) new Crusader and Saracen figures. Then we leap centuries forward to the desperate battles in the North African desert between 1940 and 1943. Not the massive battles of Tobruk and El Alamein but the fierce struggles waged by two small independent British units of highly irregular forces; the famed Special Air Service (The SAS) and the Long Range Desert Group (The LRDG). For three years both of them waged a daring and lonely battle behind Axis lines attacking convoys... raiding airfields... destroying supply dumps and generally being a very annoying thorn in the side of Rommel's Afrika Korps.

After North Africa it's across the Atlantic to America and the most divisive time in its history...

The Civil War. As Southerners are fond of saying "The South will rise again!" And, so it does with K&C's long-awaited return to the soldiers of "The War Between The States". Our new range of Confederates await your inspection... Union forces along with more Confederates will appear in 2008.

Finally we return to Europe once more to show off our latest "Fields of Battle" releases and some very welcome reinforcements of "Coldstream Guards" for our hard-pressed "British Napoleonic".

So, as you can see there's all of this plus much, much more in this "expanded" issue of "Collector". Sit down... relax... fasten your seat belt and enjoy this flight of fancy...

Best wishes... bon voyage and... happy collecting!



Marching to Paris... Three German riflesmen

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

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Lobby of the Hunt Regency
Woodfield, location of 'The
'Old Toy Soldier Show'

AT THE DAWN of the 20th Century, the nations of Europe were growing increasingly hostile to one another. Great Britain, France and Germany competed for trade and influence on a global scale. Meanwhile Austria-Hungary and Russia both tried to dominate the many Balkan states of south east Europe. This is turn, led to alliances being forged between Germany and Austria-Hungary on the one side and France, Russia and Great Britain on the other.

Simultaneously a naval arms race added to the political tensions... Germany, under the autocratic rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II was determined to compete for the century-old naval dominance Britain had enjoyed since Nelson's victory over the French at Trafalgar in 1805.

By 1914 the situation in Europe was tense but few could have predicted that a political murder in faraway Bosnia would plunge the world into chaos and four long, terrible years of war...

THE FATAL SPARK...

On 28 June 1914 the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, *Franz Ferdinand* and his wife were assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in *Sarajevo, Bosnia*.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia and, a month later declared war on the small Balkan state.

Russia in turn, supported Serbia. Germany backed Austria-Hungary thus forcing France to support Russia. To avoid fighting on two fronts the Germans attacked France first forcing their way through neutral Belgium. Great Britain however, was pledged by treaty to defend Belgium and... on 4 August 1914 declared war on Germany. *The Great War had begun...*

MARCHING TO PARIS...

King & Country's newest series focuses at first on the early stages of the conflict... the German invasion of Belgium and France.

Here, *Kaiser Wilhelm's* grey-clad infantry with their distinctive cloth-covered "*pickelhaubes*" march past their monarch on the way to the front. Proud and confident in themselves (*and their commanders*) all of them hope for a quick, decisive campaign to crush

1914



Original sketch for King & Country's figure of The Kaiser.



their French opponents and, in the Kaiser's own words, "*that contemptible little British Army!*" After dealing with the British and French they could turn their attentions to the slower-moving Russian bear.

All of these first early-war Germans are sold individually except for *The Kaiser's Staff Car Set* which includes two figures — a seated driver

and a standing Military "*Feldgendarme*" bodyguard.

In among the pieces are some very special "*Personality Figures*" including the Kaiser himself... General Paul Von Hindenburg... Crown Prince "*Willi*" (the Emperor's Son) and... an obscure Austrian volunteer in a Bavarian rifle regiment... *Adolf Hitler*.

Many of the other figures can be collected in multiples to make a parade or even a column of troops on the march. The choice, as ever, is yours...



THE NEXT STAGE...

Later this year King & Country will be releasing even more German World War One figures... *this time in action!* Design and sculpting of these dynamic and exciting figures has already begun.

At the same time we're not forgetting their opponents... British and French soldiers of the period are also "*in the works*".

The Great War we believe has all the makings of a great new series for K&C and our collectors that will run and run for many years to come... look out for it!



All of King & Country's initial First World War releases are shown in this scene.

THE GERMAN ARMY OF 1914

The German Empire in 1914 consisted of 26 states: four kingdoms, six grand duchies, five duchies, seven principalities, three free cities and the former French provinces of *Alsace* and *Lorraine*. It possessed an Imperial Navy but no Imperial army. In fact there was no such organization as the German army until after the 1918 armistice. Up until then Germany had four armies, those of the kingdoms of *Prussia*, *Bavaria*, *Saxony* and *Württemberg*. Before the war these were organized into 217 infantry regiments, of which 166 were Prussian, 24 Bavarian, 17 Saxon and ten *Württemberg*. The Prussian Guard, the historic bodyguard to the king of Prussia, provided a further 11 regiments. Their activities were co-ordinated by the *Greater German General Staff*.

The army

enjoyed enormous prestige thanks to the Kaiser's position as commander-in-chief and his personal enthusiasm for all things military. It was also in many ways independent from control by the civilian government. The general staff's responsibilities covered all military requirements,

most obviously the preparation of war plans and mobilization. It possessed powers, for example, to direct railway construction programmes. Six main railway lines stretched across Germany, allowing the rapid transfer of forces between its eastern and western borders. Between 1909 and 1914 the Germans undertook a major construction programme along the borders with Belgium and Luxembourg. Many of the stations there were built with platforms longer than the villages they ostensibly served. Thanks to this planning — and more powerful locomotives and larger rolling stock — Germany was able to mobilize some four times faster in 1914 than in 1870 — some 11,530 men per day compared to 2,580 at the time of the

Franco-Prussian War.

In 1912 Germany's armies had a peace-time establishment of some 646,000 officers and men. The law of June 1913 made provision for a much larger army of 870,000 with 669 infantry battalions, 550 cavalry squadrons and 633 artillery batteries. This planned increase was to be implemented over three years. In the event, with the use of first-line reservists, Germany was able to put 1,750,000 officers and men into the field in August 1914. Other reservists totalled 1,800,000 officers and men and, in addition, Germany had some 4,250,000 untrained men of military age, a reflection of the fact that before 1912 Germany had conscripted only 53 per cent of eligible manpower.

FW010



Standing Rifleman

FW006



Marching Officer

An obscure Austrian immigrant who would one day lead Germany.





"Clash of Arms"

"CUIRASSIERS", Napoleon once remarked to Marshal Bessieres, "are of greater value than any other type of cavalry!"

To that end Cuirassiers were seen by themselves, as well as others, as an elite corps of horsemen. Large men, at least 1.8 metres tall, they must have served in at least three campaigns and have a minimum of twelve years active service before being even considered for entry.

For their officers it was the most honoured service, second **NAI17** "Charging Sword Downward"



were usually held in reserve or in the "second" line ready to exploit any weakness in their opponents.

Others in Napoleon's army called them "Les Gros Freres" or the "Big Brothers". Usually they were formed up in brigades... divisions... or even entire corps. At Waterloo no less than eight Cuirassier Regiments were "brigaded" into two divisions that formed the 4th. Cavalry Corps which, although under-strength, presented almost 3,000 armour clad horsemen... a glittering and powerful sight.

EQUIPMENT & WEAPONS

Cuirassiers were easily recognized on the Napoleonic battlefield by their horse plumed helmets and the cuirasse each man wore. This was the front and back breastplates (these weighed about 10 pounds). All heavy cavalry wore a blue

NAI14 "Charging Sword Forward"



NAI16 "Advancing Forward"

coat with different coloured facings for each regiment and white or cream coloured overalls and high black boots.

Their weaponry included a heavy, straight bladed sword best used for slashing or thrusting. Until 1812 the only firearms carried by a cuirassier were a brace of pistols but in that year they were also issued a cavalry musketoon complete with cross-belt and bayonet.

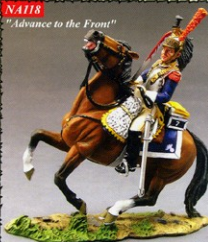
Cuirassiers were also no strangers to fighting on foot. After the Battle of Borodino in 1812 over 6,000 horses were killed... many more died within days of the retreat. This meant that most of the Emperor's best heavy cavalry fought and died on their feet!

K&C's CUIRASSIERS

No less than eleven superbly mounted figures are available in this latest Napoleonic release plus three dismounted individual pieces that complement the action poses.

NAI11 "Cuirassier General"

NAI18 "Advance to the Front"



only to the Imperial Guard itself. The selection process was rigorous and sometimes eccentric in the extreme... but at the end of the day it produced a magnificent and frightening military fighting machine.

A fully armed and equipped cuirassier wearing full body armour weighed about 309 pounds. He had to be mounted on a powerfully built horse (usually from Normandy). His main aim (along with his comrades en masse) was to smash through a weak enemy line or formation and wreak havoc among the opposing forces. For this purpose they

NA112 "Wounded Flagbearer"

NA113 "Charging Trumpeter"

NA114 "Charging Sword Forward"

NA115 "Falling Off Horse"

An unfortunate rider falls under the hooves of his galloping charger.

NA116 "Advancing Forward"

NA117 "Charging Sword Downward"

NA118 "Advance To The Front"

NA119 "Slashing With Sabre"

NA120 "Dead Cuirassier"

NA121 "Cuirassier Firing Pistol"

Here, one of our men resorts to "pistol"ing an opponent.

NA122 "Standing With Saddle"

A dismounted Cuirassier retrieves his saddle.

NA123 "Cuirassier Drinking"

NA124 "Cantiniere"

Providing welcome refreshment to a thirsty Cuirassier.

War service of the 7th Cuirassiers

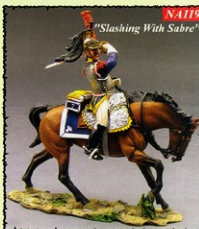
- 1805: With the Armée d'Italie at the crossing of the Tagliamento.
- 1806: Part of d'Espagne's division of the Grande Armée.
- 1807: With the Grande Armée at Heilsberg.
- 1809: With the Armée d'Allemagne at Essling and Wagram.
- 1812: With the Grande Armée, Doumer's division of Oudinot's corps, at Polotsk and the crossing of the Berezina.
- 1813: Fought at Reichenbach, Dresden and Leipzig.
- 1814: Fought at Champaubert and Vauchamps.
- 1815: Fought at Ligny and Waterloo.

NA122 "Standing With Saddle"



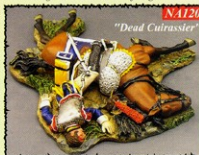
NA123

"Cuirassier Drinking"



A Cuirassier In Close Combat

In individual combat the cuirassier did not necessarily have the advantage over other types of horsemen. His chest and back were fairly immune from cuts or thrusts, but the weight was tiresome and the armour restricted his arm movements. A fight against a more agile light cavalryman did not always go the cuirassier's way. An effective method of securing a decisive advantage over such a heavyweight was to



kill or maim his horse. Once thrown in the mud it was a slow struggle to get up. Even on his feet the big boots and heavy armour



rendered him an easy victim. Private Cotton (later sergeant-major and battlefield guide) of the British 7th Hussars witnessed a fight between a cuirassier and a hussar. He described what happened: 'A hussar and a cuirassier had got entangled in the mele,

and met in the plain in full view of our line; the hussar was without cap and bleeding from a wound in the head, but that did not hinder him from attacking his steel-clad adversary. He soon proved that the strength of cavalry consists in good swordsmanship... and not in being clad in defensive armour... after a few wheels a tremendous fencer made the Frenchman reel in the saddle... a second blow stretched him on the ground, amidst the cheers of the light horsemen's comrades [the 3rd Hussars KGL], who were ardent spectators of the combat.'



CRUSADERS & SARACENS

CROSS & CRESCENT

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES...

The newest collection from our highly popular *Crusaders & Saracens* line features several new figures... from both camps. This release focuses on the *Third Crusade* or the *King's Crusade*. After the loss of Jerusalem to the Saracens in 1187, Pope Gregory VIII called for a new campaign to retake that holy city. Holy men... Knights... and even Kings themselves traveled half way around the world to confront the invading forces... and their first stop was Acre.

THE SIEGE OF ACRE

To the Christian army besieging the walled Muslim city of Acre in 1189, the situation appeared nearly hopeless. A relatively small Christian force had found the highly fortified city impossible to storm and had therefore embarked upon a lengthy siege.

As they besieged the city, the entrenched Christians were themselves beset upon by a Muslim relief force under the command of *Saladin*, the great Saracen general. Stubbornly clinging to the ground between the city walls and the Muslim army, the Crusader army

was in dire need of both reinforcements and quality leadership. The siege, which already had lasted nearly two years, had allowed disease... starvation... and enemy attacks to dwindle Crusader numbers.

The spring of 1191 brought relief to the beleaguered Christian ranks in the form of two Kings... The *Third Crusade* is also known as the *King's Crusade* because several reigning monarchs took part in it. Ships carrying badly needed supplies arrived at the camp in April and were followed shortly by King Philip II of France in a fleet of ships crammed with additional supplies... war engines... and fresh troops. Seven weeks later, King Richard I of England hove into view with 25 ships worth of men and materiel of his own.

Richard, known as the 'Lionheart' for his unflinching

bravery, assumed command of the city siege. While his brazen attempt to scale the city defenses were repulsed, his engineers successfully tunneled beneath one of the city wall's great towers... which collapsed under the stress. This created a breach in the fortifications and the opportunity that the Crusaders had been waiting for. The fierce fighting that ensued left the Saracen forces within the city in sore need of reinforcements. *Saladin*, even with his much larger army, was unable to breakthrough the ring of determined besiegers in order to relieve the ailing city. Acre's defenders... incapable of manning the breach... surrendered to the Crusaders on July 12, 1192.



MK047
Man-at-arms
with Dagger

DIVINE INTERVENTION

Although far from the role of a modern 'man of the cloth', in the Middle Ages clergymen were sometimes directly involved in warfare... especially during the Crusades period. The religious basis of these conflicts led the members of the church to see it as a duty to uphold their beliefs physically when called upon to do so.

One such warrior priest was the Bishop of Salisbury, Hubert Walter, who on the Third Crusade served as King Richard's chief advisor. Like most men of the Church at the time, Walter came from an aristocratic background and had the advantage of education. These skills were called upon... he was Richard's representative in his negotiations with *Saladin*.



MK052
Bishop of Tours

MK051
Fight to the Death



MK046
Knight
with Axe



MK043
Mounted Saracen Lance Down

'LE COEUR DE LION'

Richard I, King of England, nicknamed "Coeur de Lion" or "Richard the Lionheart", was the third son of King Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Born in September 1157, Richard's early life was spent at the court of his mother in France. Destined to rule, he received at the age of eleven the Duchy of Aquitaine, and soon became heir to England and Normandy as well.

However, his pledge to Pope Gregory VIII to take part in the Crusades took him far from these domains. Richard set off for the Holy Land early in 1190, stopping in several locations along the way including one foray in which he conquered the island of Cyprus. He finally arrived in the Holy Land later that year, joining his fellow Crusaders at Acre in June. The reduction of that stronghold was largely due to his energy and skill... but his arrogance gave much offense.

After the fall of Acre he inflicted a gross insult upon Duke Leopold of Austria by removing his standard from the city walls... a move that would later prove to his detriment. Nonetheless Richard, who became the undisputed leader of the Crusader armies, upheld the failing Christian cause with color and tenacity. He won a brilliant victory over the forces of Saladin at Arsuf (1191), and twice led the Christian host within a few miles of Jerusalem. However, internal dissensions and the general weariness in his ranks made it hopeless to continue the struggle. Richard was also alarmed by the news of his brother John's intrigues in England and, lustily patching up a truce with Saladin, began his journey home in 1192.

His return was far from uneventful as his enmity with the Austrian Duke resulted in his capture and imprisonment while passing through Vienna. Early in 1193 his captor, Leopold, surrendered Richard, to the emperor Henry VI, who aggrieved by the support Richard's family had given to a political rival, refused to release the King. Although the detention of a crusader was contrary to papal mandate and earned his captors excommunication from the Catholic Church, Richard was compelled to purchase his release by the payment of a hefty ransom, raised primarily through the efforts of his mother... and heavy taxation in England.

After buying his own freedom, Richard returned to England in March 1194... but his stay there lasted only a few weeks. The remainder of his reign was entirely devoted to his interests in France. During Richard's imprisonment, his one time ally, Philip II of France, had seized the opportunity to attack the English territories on the continent. While Richard was still popular in his "French" territories and although he proved himself consistently the superior of Philip in the field, the difficulty of raising and paying his forces was significant. Richard's need for money is what led him to the castle of Chalus in 1199 where a supposed horde of gold was being stored. It was while laying siege to this fortress that he was seriously wounded in the shoulder by a crossbow bolt.

The wound, mortifying from unskillful treatment or his own want of care, caused his death on the 6th of April 1199. Although he had ruled England in name for nearly ten years, he had spent less than six months on English soil in his lifetime. By his request he was buried at his father's feet in the church of "Fontevault Abbey" in Normandy.

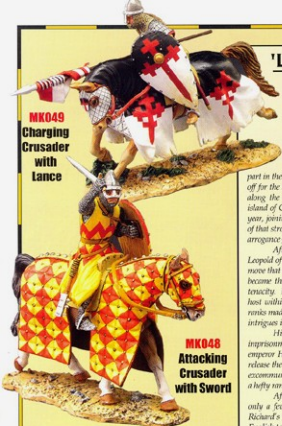
the Third Crusade... the holy city of Jerusalem, remained in Muslim hands.

In this epic 'dash of cultures', both sides fought long and hard... but the occasional victories for the Crusaders could not stem the overall tide of battle... which decisively went in favour of Saladin and his warriors.

The limited successes achieved by Richard the 'Lionheart' in the Third Crusade were one of the final victories for Christianity during the Crusader period. Over the next century, several more campaigns would be launched... all of which ended in failure. Richard's mighty efforts secured only a small strip of land along the Mediterranean coast for Crusader forces. Yet even this modest prize was, little by little, chipped away until the entirety of the 'Holy Land' had been recomposed under Islamic rule.

MK050 Gruesome Trophy Set

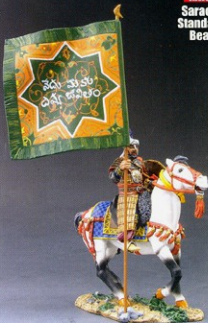
MK049 Charging Crusader with Lance



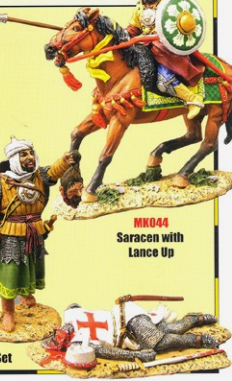
MK048 Attacking Crusader with Sword

The siege of Acre had taken nearly two years and is estimated to have cost more than 100,000 Christian casualties. That victory nevertheless proved to be the jumping off point for Richard's campaign deep into the 'Holy Land'. He and Crusader forces were able to recapture several major Arab cities from the Saracens... including a crushing victory against Saladin at the city of Arsuf. However, their ultimate prize... and reason for forming

MK045 Saracen Standard Bearer



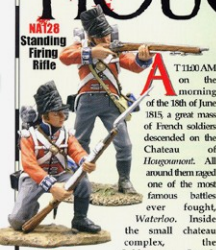
MK053 Richard the 'Lionheart'



MK044 Saracen with Lance Up

AT THE CHATEAU OF HOUGOUMONT

NA128
Standing
Firing
Rifle



NA130
Kneeling to
Repel

fought to protect the flank of the British force... and their very lives.

The *Coldstream Guards* are one of the premier regiments in the British Army. An essential part of the *Household Guards Brigade* they have been in continuous active service since the mid 17th century. During the Napoleonic wars, the *Coldstream Guards* joined the battalions of two other *Guards* regiments and played a vital role in many of the most famous battles of the Napoleonic

era... including of course... *Waterloo*. The British commander at *Waterloo*, the Duke of Wellington, saw a small French chateau, called *Hougoumont*, as the key to his right defensive flank. He subsequently ordered a force consisting of his elite *Coldstream Guards* to occupy and defend this place.

An initial French attack was driven back by heavy British artillery fire. The British guns were then distracted into an artillery duel with the opposing French guns. This allowed for a second French assault that managed to create a small breach on the south side wall. The French were not, however, able to exploit it before it was plugged.

Under the command of *Jermone Bonaparte*, Napoleon's younger brother, an advance on the north side of the building was more successful and led to one of the most famous skirmishes during the *Battle of Waterloo*. About 30 French troops managed to break through the north gates of the chateau and poured into the courtyard. In a heroic struggle, the *Coldstream Guards* forced the gates shut, trapping the French soldiers inside. All of the French who entered, apart from a young drummer boy, were killed in a desperate hand to hand struggle. The importance of this action was later

"Closing of the Gates at Hougoumont"

by Robert Gibb



NA135
Dead
Guardsman



NA133
Kneeling
Firing Rifle

commemorated by Wellington when he wrote, "The success of the *Battle of Waterloo* turned upon the closing of that gate."

The final French attack on the chateau was repulsed by the welcome arrival of British reinforcements. Heavy fighting, however, continued around *Hougoumont* for nearly eight hours, creating a raging 'battle within a battle'.

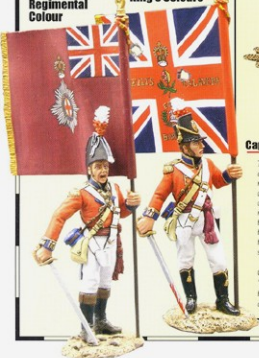
The troops at *Hougoumont* acted as a painful thorn in the side of Napoleon's left flank throughout the entire day causing death... delay... and diversion among his forces. It's estimated that 3,500 British and German soldiers, the *Coldstream Guards* among them, kept almost 15,000 French troops at bay. Over 8,000 French soldiers are said to have lost their lives trying to capture the chateau but were ultimately unable to do so... despite their best and bravest efforts.

NA129
CG Standing to
Repel



NA126
CG Officer with
Regimental
Colour

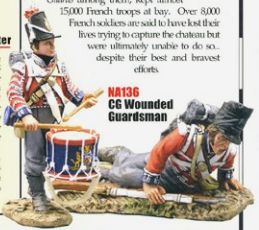
NA127
CG Officer with
King's Colours



Capstar of the Order of the Garter

The Order of the Garter is an extremely exclusive group of 25 members who represent only the closest personal friends and advisors of the monarch. Obviously not members of this inner circle themselves, this pendant is worn by the *Coldstream Guards* to symbolize the regiment's close ties to the sovereign.

In the centre is the cross of St. George surrounded by the Latin words "Honi soit qui mal y pense", which translated means "Evil be to him who evil thinks".



NA136
CG Wounded
Guardsman

NA132
CG Drummer Boy

The Phantom Major AND OTHER DESERT RAIDERS



EA017

Major David Stirling

The soldiers of the SAS operated with tremendous stealth, moving in and out of enemy territory with ease. They appeared silently from the desert and frequently under the cover of darkness... struck swiftly and decisively... only to withdraw as rapidly and quietly as they had arrived.

From the time of their first missions in 1941 until they received their own vehicles in the Summer of 1942, Stirling and the SAS utilized the men and vehicles of the Long Range Desert Group, with whom they also often shared bases, as transport for their raids.

THE 'LIBYAN DESERT TAXI SERVICE'

Initially made up largely by Empire troops from New Zealand, the Long Range Desert Group was formed as a completely separate entity from the SAS in June 1940.

The group was first known as the Long Range Patrols which was a literal reference to their function as a reconnaissance and intelligence gathering operation. LRDC patrols were arranged into groups of about 40 soldiers each and were issued 'Chevrolet' 30 cwt vehicles for transport. However, even with these vehicles, the tremendous expanse of the territory they traversed meant that these groups would sometimes go for weeks without encountering anyone.



EA021

'On Guard'

EA024

LRDG 30cwt.

Chevrolet

(Camouflaged)

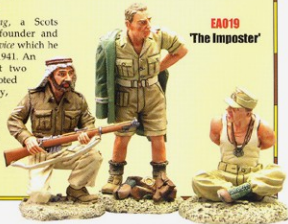
EA023

LRDG 30cwt. Chevrolet (Uncamouflaged)

The fierce fighting during the Desert Wars in the vast expanses of North Africa led to the creation of two irregular units aimed at exploiting the unique conditions of that region. These units, the *Special Air Services* (SAS) and the *Long Range Desert Group* (LRDG) were independent... highly mobile... and deadly efficient. The soldiers of these groups were 'tough as nails'... forced to fight against a hostile environment as well as a hostile enemy. Still these 'desert raiders' shot up enemy camps and installations, sabotaged aircraft and generally wreaked havoc behind German and Italian lines.

THE SAS

Major David Stirling, a Scots Guards officer, was the founder and leader of the *Special Air Service* which he formed in the summer of 1941. An imposing man of almost two meters tall (6.6ft), he was noted for his unusual bravery, unorthodox command style and calm demeanor British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described him as 'the mildest mannered man that ever scuttled a ship or cut a throat.'



EA019

'The Imposter'



Therefore, the function of the unit was reevaluated and the LRDG was reassigned to be used in conjunction with the SAS. Using their characteristic open topped 'Chevy's, some brightly painted in distinctive desert camouflage, the LRDG provided the SAS with transportation to and from their raiding missions. It was from these operations that the group acquired its humorous nickname, the 'Libyan Desert Taxi Service'. When in the summer of 1942 the SAS received their own vehicles, the LRDG began being used in the same capacity as that unit... conducting raids and attacks of their own.

A DUAL MENACE

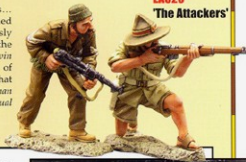
Operating from the *Jalo Oasis* in southwestern Libya, the two groups captured supply trucks, mined roads, derailed trains and destroyed supply depots. Their most successful period came in December 1941, when in a two week time they destroyed over 90 aircraft on several different Axis airfields. Their successes were noted even by the highest members of the Allied military and in 1942, the SAS was transformed into a fully fledged regiment, the 22nd Air Service.

By the end of 1942, the 27 year old Major Stirling had earned quite a reputation within the Axis camp. His furtive combat style had garnered him a distinct name on German radio, the 'Phantom Major'. The damage these two 'guerilla' groups were causing prompted the German High Command to form a special team of their own tasked solely with hunting down the members of the SAS and LRDG. It was a jubilant group of these men who finally captured the 'Phantom' near Tunisia in January 1943.

Although one of the most prominent members of the raiding groups had been captured, by that time the damage had already been done to the Axis war effort in Africa. By the conclusion of the desert war in May 1943, the LRDG and SAS had



destroyed over 250 enemy planes... captured dozens of trucks... raided countless supply depots and seriously disrupted Axis operations on the continent. Even Field Marshal *Erwin Rommel*, the 'Desert Fox' and leader of the famed Afrika Korps, admitted that 'these groups caused us more damage than any other single British unit of Equal Strength'.



'Bad Boy' Prison

After being placed in an Italian Prison camp... and escaping from it four times... Major David Stirling was transferred to the high profile Oflag IV-C Prison Camp. This prison was in reality Colditz Castle in Northern Saxony and had been designated as a detention facility for captured officers, politically important and generally problematic POWs. Known jokingly as the 'Bad Boy Prison', the camp gained a reputation among the Allies as the place where challenging prisoners were sent. Home during the war to nephews of both Queen Elizabeth II and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Colditz differed sharply from other Nazi prison camps of the era. Due to the political importance of the inmates and proximity to the observing eyes of the neutral Swiss, the administration at Colditz was ordered to follow the articles of the Geneva Convention of 1929 to the letter and did so... at least for a time. However, as the war began to progress badly for the Germans, the treatment of the prisoners at Oflag IV-C also deteriorated. Still, despite their relatively decent treatment, Stirling and his fellow inmates operated a subversive element within the camp. He became a lead organizer of the so-called 'Escape Academy' that aided the flight escapes from the castle during the War. None, however, did so more famously than Patrick Reid (pictured here third from the left) who would later record this experience in his highly popular memoir, *Colditz: The Colditz Story*. David Stirling himself never attempted escape and was liberated by US troops when they took the castle on April 16, 1945.



Colditz Castle, known as Oflag IV-C prison, during the Second World War



Several Colditz inmates, including Patrick Reid



In the early morning hours of May 10th, 1940 the German army descended on Western Europe. Hitler's attack on Holland, Belgium and France in May and June of that year had devastating consequences for all three nations... and the rest of the world.

Within days Holland and Belgium had fallen. The French and British armies meanwhile were reeling from a succession of well timed blows from their strong, powerful and confident German foes. Throughout the six week campaign that humbled France, the Germans consistently showed themselves to be masters of a new, fluid and fast moving battle strategy called *Blitzkrieg* or 'lightning war'.

In a devastatingly ill conceived plan, the French army relied almost entirely upon a static defensive line built along the German border in order to counter the onslaught of Nazi aggression. This *Magnet* line was a series of bunkers and fortifications designed to combat the type of warfare that had been utilized so successfully during the First World War. Unfortunately, this proved utterly ineffective against this new German *Blitzkrieg*... the enemy simply maneuvered around it.

The German army took huge risks with this strategy but was able to exploit French and British weakness and

FRANCE 1940

FoB036
Surrendering
Senegalese B



FoB035
Surrendering
Senegalese A

SAVE PARIS!

In deciding not to defend Paris, the French Government aimed at sparing the legendary 'City of Lights' from the potential devastation which a battle would have involved. The French command considered 'that no valuable strategic result justified the sacrifice of Paris'. The following is an eye witness account to the fall of the city, first published in a British Newspaper on June 15, 1940:

"It was a strangely empty Paris that awaited the arrival of the Germans. Only a few police were to be seen in the streets. A handful of soldiers and some civilians wandered about aimlessly. Some housewives were doing their shopping at the only baker's shop still open in the West End. A mobile guard was posted at the door of the shop, a gun slung over his shoulder. There was no sound of gunfire or of exploding bombs.



A weeping French soldier captures the mood of the nation

Blitzkrieg was a masterful way of coordinating relentless air and ground attacks in unison to break through and take advantage of a confused and demoralized enemy.

LE MOIS TERRIBLE

'Le Mois Terrible', the terrible month... was June 1940. Although devastated by a succession of crushing blows, French and British troops on a few rare occasions did provide the Germans with fierce and determined opposition. Tragically however, the overall tide went heavily in Germany's favour.

FoB024
Kneeling Officer
with Binoculars



FoB032
French Standing
Firing Rifleman



FoB028
British
Kneeling
Firing
Rifleman

FoB038
Stug III Ausf B
(Battle of France)



Interesting Fact:
The popular Stug III
went through eight
production models,
culminating with the
Stug III Ausf G.



FoB033
French Lying
Rifleman



The main German forces entered the city at noon yesterday. They came from the north-west and by the Aubervilliers Gate from the north-east. From the north-western suburbs they marched through the west end down the Champs Elysées - tanks, armoured reconnaissance cars, anti-tank units, and motorised infantry. Machine-gun posts were set up at important points, and the wireless stations were seized.

The people left in Paris watched the entry in silence. Small groups of people still sat along the terraces and boulevards and in the cafés. Shops were boarded up. The Paris police still patrolled the streets. Occasionally could be heard the drone of an unmolested plane.

The German occupation of their capital on June 14th was a bitter blow to the entire the entire French nation. Under their newly appointed President,

Marshal Pétain, the legendary 'Hero of Verdun', France sought an armistice on June 20, 1940.

Even amidst the defeat of their ally, Britain, under new Prime Minister Winston Churchill, was determined to fight on. One of the few bright points during this crushing defeat was the almost miraculous evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk. Nearly 350,000 British and French troops were successfully brought back to Britain... many of whom would return to France on another June day... four years later.

FoB034
French
Officer
In Action



FoB025 British Vickers
Machine Gun Set

A SPECTACLE OF HUMILIATION

On June 20, the French Government sent a delegation to negotiate an armistice with the Germans. Hitler, determined to humiliate the French, insisted on meeting in the same railway carriage at Compiègne where Marshal Foch, Supreme Commander of the Allied armies during the First World War, had accepted the German surrender in 1918. When the French delegates entered the car, they found the Nazi leaders already there and... Hitler seated in the very same chair as Foch had been twenty years earlier.



Inside the Railway Car at Compiègne

Hitler himself handed each delegate a copy of the crippling armistice terms then turned and left the carriage. After his departure it was made plain to the French that there would be no discussion of the armistice document. The French delegates insisted on consulting their government but the following afternoon received an ultimatum: they had precisely one hour to sign; if they did not, the German army would advance further into France. With no alternative, the delegation signed the document. The next day, the French party was flown to Rome to reposit the whole humiliating process before Mussolini.

The Armistice site, which had been made into a monument by the French government after the end of World War I, was demolished on Hitler's orders on June 24, 1940. All evidence of the site was obliterated, with the one notable exception being the statue of Marshal Foch. It was Hitler's direct order that it be left standing... to honour only a wasteland.

FoB031
The French 75mm
Gun Set



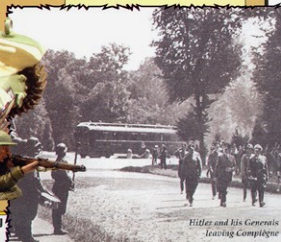
FoB037 French
Renault R35 Tank

"This is not a peace. It is an armistice for 20 years!"
~ Words spoken by Marshal Foch after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919



FoB026 British Lying firing Bron Gunner

FoB027 British Lying
Firing Rifleman



Hitler and his Generals
Leaving Compiègne

Confederates



CW005

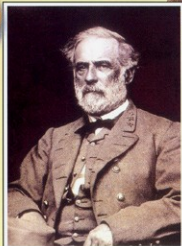
It was to the sound of gunfire that the South Carolina city of Charleston awoke on the morning of April 12, 1861. At 4:30 am... from the pitch black of the Carolina coast... Confederate artillery opened fire on the Union held Fort Sumter which lay in the city's harbour. After 34 hours of bombardment... the Union colours fell. It could no longer be delayed or denied... the American Civil War had begun.

The cause of the conflict was not as 'cut and dried' as it might at first appear. Although the most visible issues concerned slavery and how to handle the expansion of the practice, there were also older and more complex disagreements over some basic principals... chiefly the limitations of state's rights and federal intervention.

The debate over these matters had already spanned decades and included various compromises and concessions... all of which had failed. The attack on Fort Sumter was merely the last and most dramatic in a long series of events that lead to the outbreak of the civil war.

During the campaigns and battles which raged from 1861 to 1865, over 620,000 Americans died. Some of the most famous and bloody battles ever fought...

Antietam...
Shiloh...
Gettysburg... took place during this conflict. The American Civil War proved to be the most significant turning point in the young



nation's history.

King & Country's first *American Civil War* figures focus on the Army of the Confederacy. This release features men in camp, recovering from one battle and already preparing for the next. They, like their northern brothers, fought tirelessly for their land... culture... and very way of life.

THE COMMANDERS

With its armies led by the charismatic **General Robert E. Lee CW011**, the Confederacy was not short of capable generals. **Stonewall Jackson CW003**, the hero from the *First Battle of Bull Run*, was one of Lee's most renowned commanders. When Jackson was killed in 1862, General Lee is said to have lamented, 'I have lost my right arm'.

Lee's Cavalry officers were no less impressive. **Jeb Stuart CW010**, was considered one of the best. However

CW012



CW004

in arriving at the battle of Gettysburg was a significant factor in the South's defeat there. Considered by some to be the Confederacy's most capable cavalry General, **Nathan Bedford Forrest CW001** was certainly a man of military genius. However, for some these qualities are overshadowed by his actions at Fort Pillow, where troops under his command massacred a Union garrison stationed there.

THE SOLDIERS

Motley in appearance but still proud and defiant, the Southern army was largely a civilian force. It was not unusual to see professional military men fighting along side farm hands, all in order to uphold the principles of the Confederacy...

King & Country has produced a number of individual soldiers for our first collection. The mismatched uniforms of **CW002 Soldier Pointing**, **CW005 Confederate Bugler**, **CW007 Rebel on Guard**, **CW008 Confederate Drummer Boy**, and **CW012 After the Battle** are a testament to their various regimental backgrounds. These soldiers are easily distinguishable from the smartly dressed **Standing Officer CW009**.

While they may have lacked some of the equipment and uniforms of the Union army, there was no shortage of Southern spirit. The Confederate Flag, depicted on our **CW004 Mounted Flagbearer**, continued to be a source of pride long after the war was over. Several former Confederate states incorporated this emblem into their state-flags upon their re-entry into the union. Although most have since been removed, *Mississippi* remains the sole exception 140 years after the war's end.

Back in 1985 a little start-up toy soldier company based in Hong Kong decided to take part in their first-ever international toy soldier show...
Now read on...

CHICAGO STORY



The Hyatt Regency Woodfield, site of the Old Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

ONCE A YEAR, usually in late September, an unusual pilgrimage takes place that leads, eventually, to a large hotel on the outskirts of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Pilgrims come not only from most of the fifty states in the Union but from all corners of the world... Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, China, Australia, New Zealand, South America and many points in between. Most, but not all, of these travelers are male however there is a fair sprinkling of wives, girlfriends and assorted children who get to come on this "once-a-year" trek to America's "Windy City".

What brings these people, young and old, rich and not-so-rich to this place year after year after year? The answer... is deceptively simple... "The Old Toy Soldier Show"... the biggest and best event for enthusiasts of military miniatures and toy soldiers in the world today.

Now, more than 25 years old, this show has grown steadily over time to dominate the hobby and business of making and collecting toy soldiers. Its humble roots though go back to a small group of collectors in the Chicago area who decided it might be a little fun to organize a show for like-minded individuals to get together and sell, swap or buy these little pieces of history. The original founders of the show had also

started their own small publication called, surprisingly enough, "The Old Toy Soldier Newsletter". This turned out to be the ideal vehicle to spread the "gospel" about how much fun collecting toy soldiers really could be. At the same time it would also publicize their fledgling show. This is how I came to hear about and discover the "special magic" of the show for myself.

The year was 1985... King & Country was just celebrating its first birthday and we were looking at how we could grow and develop this little hobby/past time of mine. The "we" in question was my "then" wife Laura and me, a free-lance graphic artist who collected toy soldiers as a hobby. Both of us had arrived in Hong Kong eight years before (in 1977). During that time we had worked for the Hong Kong Police and Government... for other people and, eventually, started our selves... Laura had set up and was very successfully running two of the Colony's

most famous "watering holes" - "Mad Dogs" and "Joe Bananas". I meanwhile was operating a freelance Graphic Design Studio. My toy soldier hobby was, one day, turned round when Laura suggested we make our own little "army-men" as she called them right here in The British Crown Colony of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong being Hong Kong within a few months we were actually producing whole battalions of Scottish Highlanders ready to do battle or march up and down a parade ground. One small problem however... where to sell them? We obviously tried Hong Kong first... with little or no result. We then tried the U.K. only to be met with a mixture of apathy and downright rejection. "Who wants to buy traditional toy soldiers made in Hong Kong?" was a common refrain.

However, on one of my unsuccessful selling forays into Britain I saw a little piece in an edition of "Military Modelling" - the UK's leading military hobby magazine about "The Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago". Intrigued I cut it out and, on returning to Hong Kong, contacted Jo and Steve Somers, the husband and wife team who, along with Don Piein, were the show organizers. They could not have been more encouraging or enthusiastic about us coming over to the States and taking part in their Show. After the indifference and disappointment elsewhere the American welcome was like a breath of fresh air. It must have been February or March 1985 when we first contacted our "new" Chicago friends so we had at least 6 months to prepare for that year's Show. And prepare we did...



THAT FIRST EVENT

Quite frankly neither Laura nor myself knew what to expect when, six months later, on a cold, blustery day we touched down at Chicago's *O'Hare Airport*. With us, as part of our luggage, were 3 large packing cases filled with various sets of our newest toy soldiers.

With the address of the venue... *The Hyatt Regency Woodfield* in the Chicago suburb of *Schaumburg* we piled into a taxi and headed towards our destination. When we arrived at the hotel, about 45 minutes later, we could see vans and cars already disgorging their contents onto the pavement atmosphere the Show encourages.



As we and our taxi driver unloaded our boxes we could feel the excitement and anticipation right there on the sidewalk. As the driver struggled to lift one of our large, heavy packing cases he remarked, "What have you got in here... gold bullion?"

"I sure hope so!" I replied...

SURFING THE ROOMS

Once we had registered and been given our room we hurriedly unpacked, showered and excitedly started to explore the hotel. Although this was Thursday it became obvious that quite a few of the "dealers" had already arrived a day or two earlier and were set up in their rooms and doing business... "Room Trading" as it's called, is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the "Chicago Show". Dealers and more than a few collectors rearrange their rooms to accommodate displays, dioramas and boxes and boxes of every kind of toy soldiers you could ever imagine... *Old ones... New ones... Metal... Plastic... Composition...* You name it... you can find it at Chicago. Once they've set themselves up doors are opened for all and sundry to survey the goods. From early morning (usually after breakfast) till late at night (when the bars closed) collectors and dealers (many of whom started as collectors) wander up and down the maze of hallways in the Hyatt, in and out of rooms exploring long lost treasures of the toy soldier world or discovering great new bargains brand new manufacturers.

Anyway back to our story... That very first evening in Chicago, Laura and myself just walked and walked around: the hallways, in and out of dozens of rooms for what turned out to be several hours. Both of us were so excited by the sheer scale of the event and the incredible variety of what was on offer. We were equally impressed by the warm welcome we received wherever we went and introduced ourselves.

When dealers and collectors heard that we were the "new kids on the block" they immediately wanted to see what we had brought with us... That first evening we fended them off by saying that we had just arrived and had not "set up" in our room (which was true) but would be up and open for inspection the following morning.

THE NEXT DAY... FRIDAY

At first light the next morning we opened our packing cases... inspected the contents for damages (fortunately none) and laid out our little blue *King & Country* boxes on the spare bed, put a *K&C* sign on our door and headed downstairs to the Hyatt Cafe for breakfast.

At breakfast we saw and greeted a few of the friendly faces we had met the previous evening on our "travels" around the hotel. Many of them promised to stop by our room later. As we sat enjoying our meal we also experienced niggling concerns about exactly what kind of reception our first attempts at toy soldiers might receive... "What happens if they don't like what we've done...? What if we're too expensive...? What? What? What?" The questions piled up in both our minds as we finished our meal and returned to our room.

Well, I'm happy to say, our fears were groundless... That first day we had a steady stream of visitors to our room, so much so, that we forgot about lunch and any pangs of hunger. Both of us were just so "buoyed up" by the positive reaction our new figures were receiving. Not only that but we were actually selling some and... *making money!* And thereby harks a tale... Back in the mid nineteen eighties the credit card revolution was just beginning in Hong Kong... Likewise paying by cheque for something was a lot rarer than it is now. In our naivety we did not realize that Americans then, as now, had fully embraced payment by credit card and cheque... we expected and were used to... *CASH!*

Fortunately for us quite a few of our new customers had sufficient cash to pay us there and then while others went out to a bank specially to get us the required amount. It was a valuable lesson in doing business overseas that we quickly learned.

By the end of that first long, tiring, exciting day we had sold just over US\$1,000 worth of our toy soldiers and



were

"over the moon". What, we wondered, would the next day, Saturday, bring?

SATURDAY...

The following morning I awoke bright and early. To be truthful I had not slept much the night before. The reason was not because I was worrying too much about our "reception". The previous day had easily dispelled that... the reason for my lack of sleep was just pure excitement and exhilaration!

Lack of sleep has followed a pattern that was set that first Chicago Show right up to the present. For me the OTSN event provides such an inexhaustible supply of inspiration and feedback from dealers and collectors alike that is second-to-none. In Chicago my brain is continually buzzing with concepts... conversations... and creative ideas that *K&C* can explore and develop in the coming months. At the same time I get the chance to evaluate and consider the products of our competitors... and compare what directions they are going in and reevaluate what destinations we should reach out to. All of this combines into a body that wants to sleep but a brain that refuse to...! Although this leads to a level of physical tiredness the adrenalin of the show keeps you on your feet, alert and working hard.

That Saturday was another busy day... quite a few families turned up and filled our room on several occasions. I'm happy to report that our sales that evening easily beat the previous day's. Finally, just before midnight, we ushered out our last guest and collapsed onto the bed. Tomorrow, Sunday was the "main event", where all dealers closed their rooms... transferred their stock downstairs and into the hotel's main ballroom. There, tables had been carefully laid out in rows with aisles in between for the collectors to stroll along. Everyone, including us, had been allocated tables (*K&C had just one*) and our specific location in the ballroom. All of us had to be up early, at the crack of dawn, to move our displays and be ready for the public when the show opened its doors at 10:00AM sharp. It would only last 5 hours and would end promptly at 3:00PM... This is what we had been preparing for... for six whole months... In a few short hours, our "Longest Day" would begin.

THE BIG DAY...

The early morning wake up call shook Laura and me out of sleep at

precisely 5:30AM. Outside our room window all was quiet and dark as we stumbled out of bed and into the shower. Within 15 minutes both of us were showered and dressed and ready to go. As I stretched out my arms Laura began to load me up with box after box of K&C soldiers to carry downstairs to the ballroom. This was going to be the first of several trips to and from the Hyatt's main function room with *King & Country's* offerings. As I entered the packed elevator to take me downwards

in miniature. In this case a *Colour Sergeant of The Seaforth Highlanders* complete with kilt... khaki tunic and red sash.

So, after completing "dressing" the table I returned to our room and "dressed" myself. I came back downstairs to the ballroom twenty minutes later as a fully "kitted-out" *Seaforth Highlander Sergeant!* To say I attracted attention would be a slight understatement... Already crowds of collectors were beginning to form a line to get into the show... and this was a full

hour before opening. I was stopped several times to be photographed and inspected by a few curious onlookers.

LET BATTLE COMMENCE.

As the tenth hour of the morning approached

Laura and myself nervously

watched the main doors of the ballroom open and the first collectors of the day enter... "the day of judgement" had at last arrived.

Now, if you have ever been to a toy soldier show yourself you will know that most collectors usually like to do a complete "run-through" of the entire hall before making any purchases. This allows them to see what's on offer. And that's exactly what happened. For the first hour of the show we did not sell even one single piece. We got lots of nice compliments and comments and, yet again, several people took my photo but not a single sale... a big, fat zero. Both Laura and myself were more than a little concerned that our room sales were just a figment of our collective imaginations when just after 11 o'clock, someone bought a box of khaki highlanders. That was the sale that broke the ice and for the next five hours we sold... and sold... and sold.

I remember looking at my watch just twice... the first time it was about ten minutes before noon... the next it was almost three in the afternoon! *Where had the time gone?* By three o'clock the show had officially closed but we were still selling. Not a lot mind you but by this time there was not a lot left to sell. It was the most wonderful feeling and... a huge relief. After our last "official" show sale at twenty past three Laura and myself began to pack up our display... our flag and the few remaining boxes of toy soldiers and wearily headed back to our room... exhausted and exhilarated all at the same time.

THE SHOW FINALE...

Our first "Chicago" show was finally over or so we thought... we closed the room door behind us and collapsed on the bed... or at least I did. As I began to close my eyes Laura began to "tota" our sales receipts and count the cash. Ever the astute businesswoman... *cash first... sleep later.*

Just then the phone rang... it was

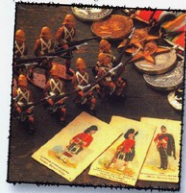
one of our first customers of the day... he wanted to know *did we still have anything to sell?* This was to be the first of several phone calls that afternoon and evening where a few collectors (and a couple of dealers) bought out the last remainders of the merchandise we had brought over all the way from Hong Kong.

Later that same evening, as we sat down to dinner, we could not believe our good fortune. We had come to Chicago knowing virtually nothing about the toy soldier hobby and business. We had been welcomed with open arms and had sold virtually everything we had brought with us. I actually could have sold my uniform and the "Union Jack" flag as well but we decided to take those home with us for possible future use.

Even more importantly however we had made lots of new friends and important business contacts for *King & Country* that would prove invaluable in the years to follow. During those years *King & Country* continued to grow and develop and much of that growth and development was directly inspired and influenced by attending and taking part in that very first show.

For anyone who loves toy soldiers in all its many styles and varieties I cannot recommend the Chicago Show highly enough. If you like to eat, sleep, drink toy soldiers almost 24 hours a day for a few magical moments... once a year... *The OTSN Show in Chicago is for you... and it's getting even bigger and better...*

Today the hotel's ballroom is bursting at the seams and the shows have spilled out into surrounding hallways and other annexes. Guest rooms in the hotel at showtime are usually sold-out months in advance so it pays to book early. Collectors and dealers come from all over the world to attend this event and I heartily encourage you to find out more. By the time you read this the 2007 show will have taken place. As I write this little story it's now less than four weeks away. *Personally speaking, as you might expect, I can't wait to get there...*



Andy C. Neilson is the co-founder and creative director of *King & Country*. He has lived and worked in Hong Kong for over thirty years, has one wife, one daughter, five dogs and a very large collection of toy soldiers!



I realized that I was not the only dealer who wanted to get an early start. All around me were other dealers, traders and distributors carrying... pulling and, in a few cases, dragging their wares for sale.

By the time I reached the ballroom the place was already bustling with other traders setting up their tables. I quickly found our K&C space in the center of the room and unloaded my first delivery before heading back upstairs for more.

Six round trips later we had all of our available stock, brochures and boxes either on the table, on display or neatly stored underneath.

In those early days of the company our range of figures was very modest indeed... At that first Chicago Show we only had *Scottish Highlanders of the late 19th-Century Colonial Era* in two basic styles... "Action" or "Parade". "Action" meant exactly that... firing rifles, carrying ammunition, fixing bayonets and so on. "Parade", as you might imagine, required lots of marching and standing at attention figures. In addition, we also had "Colour Parties" with flagbearers and "Pipes & Drums" sets which could be used with both variations. We also offered collectors a choice of either khaki "Foreign Service" uniforms or scarlet "Home Service" style. *What a huge selection to choose from...*

Although the show organizers and the hotel had provided large white table cloths to cover the wooden trestle tables we had decided to bring our own table cover as well... a giant red, white and blue "Union Jack". This we felt would at least make us stand out from some orangier and more established neighbours. The final touch was that I would be dressed up in a replica of one of the Scottish Highlanders we had depicted

First ever King & Country
brochure from 1985



KING & COUNTRY — ORIGINAL TOY SOLDIERS —



By the beginning of this century one small island kingdom held dominion over vast stretches of the globe.

Its flag flew from the distant shores of Australasia to the plains of North America; over the jungles of Africa and the jungles of South East Asia to the jewel in the imperial crown — India.

This was the richest most powerful empire the world had ever seen, yet it was held together and policed by mere handfuls of men in hundreds of far off garrisons.

Now, 'King & Country' proudly present a limited edition series of traditional toy soldiers of the British Empire.

Handsomely crafted and cast in the finest quality white metal, each figure is hand painted in a high-gloss, protective finish and comes packed in our own distinctive presentation box.

King & Country's first series is "The Highland Brigade," a tribute in miniature to the brave soldiers of Scotland. Trusted and relied on by their allies, feared and respected by their enemies these proud Highland men have a fighting reputation second to none.

The figures in this first series represent typical Highlanders of the late 19th and early 20th century. Dressed in the dust-coloured khaki of foreign service order or the bright scarlet tunics of the British Army these figures will prove an essential and valuable addition to toy soldier collections all over the world.

To place your order for this unique series, please complete the enclosed order form.

The Highland Brigade.



Look out for more distinctive 'King & Country' toy soldiers coming soon.