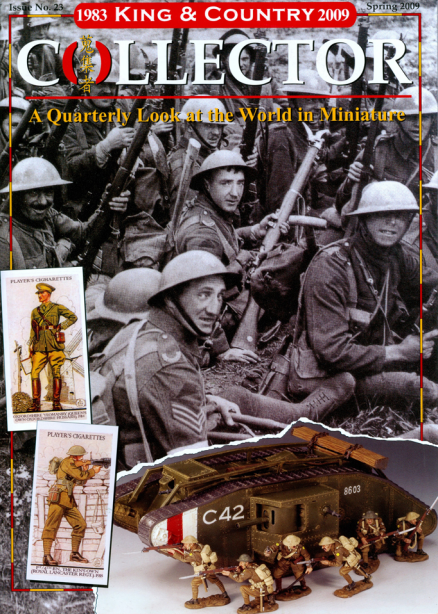


# COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at the World in Miniature



PLAYER'S CIGARETTES



PLAYER'S CIGARETTES



THE KING, THE QUEEN, THE ROYAL LANCERS, THE ROYAL LANCERS, THE ROYAL LANCERS



# View From The Trenches...

BY THE TIME most of you will be reading this issue of "COLLECTOR" myself and some of the King & Country team (Patrick and Helen) will be in Los Angeles (Irvine to be exact) taking part in the annual "WestCoaster" toy soldier show.

This is one of two major US events in the K&C calendar where we preview some of our new and upcoming products. It's also an ideal way to see what the competition is up to and even more importantly meet up with K&C collectors and dealers. We get to hear what people like... sometimes what they don't like... and, of course, what they would like to see coming out.

It's a terrific and extremely valuable few days of very intense "toy soldiering" for all of us. This particular year the economy is bound to be a major topic for dealers, collectors and manufacturers alike.

*"How will it affect the hobby? What will it do to collecting habits? How will it impact on manufacturing and retailing?"*

Writing personally, I don't know... pure and simple. But I will definitely have a few more insights after the show and that is always useful... in good times as well as bad.

Overall though I'm always an optimist... at K&C we're still designing, manufacturing and, I'm glad to say, selling. So, we watch our costs... control our spending... and get on with the job. What more can any of us do?

Anyway back to this quarter's "COLLECTOR"... There's a few old favourites being added to and, I'm happy to say, a few little surprises which I hope you'll also like.

On that cheerful note I'll bid you all a fond adieu until next issue... all the best and... happy collecting!

*Andy C. Neilson*

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

Picture below:  
Gurkha officers in Burma 1944



Two of Andy's original sketches for our new Gurkha soldiers



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**W**INSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL spent almost sixty years of his long life in British politics. During the Second World War his tireless determination and boundless courage helped fortify and inspire Britain against Nazi tyranny...

On May 10, 1940, as German armies invaded Belgium and Holland, Winston Churchill became *British Prime Minister*.

He was to prove an inspiration not only for millions of people in Britain and her Empire but also for even more millions in occupied Europe and, the still neutral, America.

As a statesman he went on to forge a unique bond of trust and friendship with Franklin D. Roosevelt that built the closest-ever Anglo-American wartime partnership. He was one of the principal architects of the joint Allied strategy that enabled Britain to survive its darkest days and go on to achieve the great democratic victory over



In our scene the great man himself is perched on the back of a *Humber Staff Car*, saluting his troops with the familiar "V for Victory" sign.

Alongwith the Prime Minister are two of his favourite Generals... General Bernard Montgomery, only recently appointed commander of the British and Empire 8th Army and Chief of the

To further complement Mr. Churchill's visit we're releasing these other individual soldiers... on parade.

**EA032** "Saluting Gordon Highlanders Officer"

**EA033** "Presenting Arms Gordon Highlander"

Plus these other famous regiments

# Winston at War



fascism after five and a half long, brutal years of war.

## A GREAT TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN

KING & COUNTRY'S latest "Strictly Limited" edition honours the greatest Briton of the 20th. Century... Winston S. Churchill.

We've chosen a unique moment when Churchill visited the men of Britain's Eighth Army in North Africa's Western Desert in August 1942.

Imperial General Staff, General Sir Alan Brooke. Driving the vehicle is a Corps of Military Police sergeant.

Just 999 of this superb new SL set are being produced and it's sure to be eagerly sought after by both military miniature enthusiasts and collectors of "Churchilliana".

## 8th.ARM.Y ON PARADE

To set the scene for Churchill's inspection and visit K&C have also produced some additional 8th.Army "scene-setters"...

**EA026** "The Black Watch Pipes & Drums"

A superb 12-piece pipe band of one of Scotland's most famous regiments... The Black Watch. These 8th.Army figures are in "shirt-sleeve" order but they still proudly wear their regimental kilts. The men are all members of one of Monty's finest fighting units... the 51st Highland Division.

In addition to the complete band single pipers and drummers are also available.

from the 4th Indian Division...

**EA034** "Saluting 7th. Gurkha Rifles Officer"

**EA035** "At Attention Gurkha Rifleman"



**EA036** "Marching Sikh Regiment Officer"

**EA037** "Marching Sikh Rifleman"

And, finally from the British 78th Division's, 1st Infantry Brigade...

**EA038** "Slope Arms Coldstream Guards Colour Sergeant"

**EA039** "Slope Arms Coldstream Guardsman"



4th Indian Division and 8th Army shoulder patches

*Prime Minister Churchill along with General Dwight D. Eisenhower test fire the famous "Tommy-Gun" during war game training somewhere in Southern England in 1943.*



EA034



EA035



EA032



**EA031(SL)**  
Churchill &  
His Generals







# THE REAL WEST

**F**rom 1833 to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 the Great Southern Plains of the United States were patrolled, policed and garrisoned by just five regiments of U.S. Cavalry... the most famous of these were the men of the 1st. and 2nd. U.S. Dragoons.

Scattered widely across the Plains in lonely and isolated forts and outposts these men did their best to protect travelers, immigrants and home-steaders from marauding Indians and, occasionally, Mexican bandits.

Military service on the Southern Plains was rough, the land was

rugged and the enemy clever and unpredictable. This life took its toll on the men, their equipment and uniforms.

Soon, the Dragoons learnt to adapt to their environment (or perish) and adjust even their

regulation uniforms to the practical necessities of everyday frontier existence.

By the 1850's most of these Dragoons were veterans of the recent Mexican War. They were a tough, hard-riding bunch of mounted soldiers who quickly adapted to their conditions... and enemy. This, despite always being under strength and frequently out numbered by their Indian foes.

At the time, Dragoons



signed on for a minimum 5 year enlistment for the princely sum of just US\$8.00 a month. *Uniform, food and lodging, weapons and ammunition and, of course, your horse where thrown in for free!*

And then there were the Indians... Many tribes could be found in the Great Southern Plains but the most powerful and numerous were... *The Comanches.*

Spreading far and wide over this frontier territory Comanches called themselves "The Lords of The Southern Plains". Brave, cunning and resourceful warriors, the Comanches were never afraid to put up a fight against the hated "Long Knives" as they called the sabre-carrying cavalymen.

While other tribes would avoid a skirmish with regular forces preferring instead to attack small isolated groups of civilians the Comanche fought differently. Expert horsemen themselves, they fought like light cavalry and specialized in ambush

Already in the works for a future release are the next batch of fighting Dragoons, Comanches and display accessories.

Illustrating this article is a custom-made, scratch-built diorama designed and built by Gordon C. Neilson of King & Country's Workshop.

#### ABOUT THE COMMANCHE...

Known for their ferocious raids across the Southern Plains they were equally feared by other Indian tribes as well as white settlers! Comanche war parties ranged far and wide over this vast frontier territory even venturing south into northern Mexico.

The tribe itself was sub divided into 12 separate "clans" which usually only came together for war. In normal summer times they trailed



the huge buffalo herds which sometimes numbered into the millions. To cover the maximum area each of the clans would split into small independent hunting groups rarely numbering more than 100 warriors, women and children.

Amazingly, at this time in the 1850's, when Comanche power was at



and surprise attacks on small patrols or columns.

It was said by Dragoons of the time that "they appeared out of nowhere, made their attack and disappeared into nowhere!"

#### The First Figures

King & Country's newest release of figures of the American West portrays the US Dragoons and Comanches in the turbulent times just before the outbreak of the Civil War.

This first group comprises just three mounted Dragoons and five Comanches (one of them on his war pony)... All of them in action!



its peak their total numbers were estimated at somewhere between 20-25,000.

When winter came and the great buffalo hunts were over the Comanche bands settled along streams and rivers in the Great Southern Plains in semi permanent camps with the warriors staying close to home. As winter moved into spring and the prairie grass began to sprout the Comanche warriors prepared to go raiding once more.

For settlers in their small isolated ranches and for immigrants moving across the frontier in their wagon trains this was the most dangerous time... Their only help and protection... those precious few U.S. Dragoons.

# MUD, BLOOD AND BARBED WIRE

**T**HE YEAR 1917 was one of the pivotal years of the First World War... After three long and terrible years of trench warfare and futile offensives some of the Allied Armies were beginning to fall apart...

There were military mutinies in France and Italy and the first serious rumblings in Russia which would, all too soon, announce a revolution!

Elsewhere, on the Western Front, the British and German armies remained relatively stable and still capable of mounting large-scale offensives against each other. It was fortunate for the Allies however that the Germans did not realize, at this time, the full extent of the military demoralization of their foes. If they had it would have been the perfect time to strike!

The British though had plans of their own...

## REMEMBER BELGIUM



### ENTER THE TANK

1917 saw the trench lines of the Western Front form a continuous and deadly scar across the landscape of Europe from the Swiss border to the English Channel.

Since September 1914 millions of casualties (on both sides) had resulted from almost suicidal frontal assaults by infantrymen against the triple barriers of deadly barbed wire, murderous machine gun and artillery fire.

There had to be a better way... and by 1917 there was... the TANK. Originally conceived early in the war this mobile armoured gun platform had been used in small, dispersed numbers in 1916 during the Somme battles... to very mixed results.

As 1917 dawned Britain's fledgling Tank Corps, under the command of Brigadier General Hubert Elles, had been looking for an opportunity to show what their force could really do if used properly. Elles found an ally in General Sir Julian Byng, commanding the British Third Army. Together they selected the perfect location to launch a large



FWD44

armoured assault... the chalk-filled plains around Cambrai in Northern France.

Their plan was relatively simple... make a surprise attack with hundreds of tanks leading the infantry instead of supporting it from behind. Immediately prior to the tanks and infantry going forward British artillery would "lay-down" a short, sharp bombardment of the German frontline trenches. This would temporarily stun the enemy and allow the British to get close up to their objectives without going through the usual "gauntlet" of machine gun and artillery fire.

#### THE CAMBRAI OFFENSIVE

324 British Mk IV tanks were to take part in the assault. In their support would be

FW052



8 infantry divisions. Providing the artillery element would be another thousand guns of varying calibers.

To ensure the maximum surprise a method of registering guns by electronic means enabled the commander to be confident that his batteries would hit their designated targets without any preliminary registration which, in the past, had always alerted the defenders to an imminent attack.

All began well. A "hurricane" of artillery fire descended on the German trenches in front of the Cambrai sector

at precisely 6:20 AM on November 20, 1917.

Ten minutes later, shocked and stunned surviving German soldiers who looked over the parapets of their shattered trenches were terrified to see hundreds of "metal monsters" crashing through their barbed wire defences and heading straight for them! Following close behind were the accompanying British infantry... Within four hours the attackers had broken through in many

**Come into the ranks  
and fight for your King  
and Country—Don't stay  
in the crowd and stare**



**YOU ARE WANTED  
AT THE FRONT  
ENLIST TO-DAY**

places up to a depth of almost four miles... with minimum casualties.

#### BRITISH REJOICING

Later in the day, when word of the early success reached Britain church bells rang out for a victory! Sadly, the celebration was premature...

Although general success along the front had been achieved there was disappointment in the centre where progress had been slower and much more costly. As the British consolidated their gains the Germans, as usual, prepared to counter attack... by November 30 they were ready to hit back...

#### GERMAN REVENGE

During the ten days following the British assault, a massive force of twenty divisions had been brought together by Crown Prince Rupprecht, the local German commander of the Cambrai sector. Unleashing them on the morning of November 30 they recaptured some but not all of the British successes.

As the battle subsided it became obvious that a "double salient" had emerged in and around Cambrai. Both the British and the Germans each had a salient in the other's territory with neither side having a clear advantage over the other.

It was an all-too frequent reminder of the precarious balance of military power on the Western Front at the close of 1917.



FW046





### 1914-1917

WHEN KING & COUNTRY first began to design and produce its "GREAT WAR" range of figures it was decided to "open" the series with "1914"—those early battles in Belgium and France when the British and French forces were attempting to halt the German onslaught...

K&C's Creative Director Andy C. Neilson explains, "One of my grandfathers was a regular soldier in the King's



FW051

Oven Scottish Borders and he was in the British Expeditionary Force that was rushed to France to try and stem the German advance".

It seemed obvious to Andy to cover this initial period because of the family historical connection and also because so few toy soldier companies had ventured into this particular early

war era. Andy also had another reason... "Because we planned to produce Germans first I also like those early war uniforms and helmets they wore... especially the cloth covered Pickelhau".

FW045



After those first few successful releases Andy once more returned to "The Great War" and began to consider some extra additions to the series.



FW056



"Many collectors thought that K&C would continue to work on more 1914-themed subjects such as the French Army or even Belgian soldiers. For a while no did all of us at K&C in Hong Kong", Andy says.

"However as I went around the world attending toy soldiers shows, meeting collectors and talking to dealers I could see that there was a great deal of interest in later periods of the war... especially 1916 and 1917".

That got him thinking...

"Why not", he thought, "treat the First World War just like the way K&C do the Second World War". I.E. Move between early war... mid war and... late war... back and forth.

This also gave the creative team a lot more scope to learn about the war itself and the important differences between how soldiers looked in 1914 and how they had changed their appearance by 1917.

"Yet one more factor came into play", Andy says, "I wanted to produce a classic British tank of the First War!" After doing plenty of research Andy and the team selected the British Mk. IV, the most produced tank of World War One.

"Several other companies have also produced some first class WWI tanks", Andy continues, "particularly Britains and Old North West. I felt however K&C could and would produce a British Mk. IV in our own special style that would be the perfect centerpiece of any collection".

### INFANTRY SUPPORT

Just as important as the tank was the choice of fighting infantrymen to accompany it.

"I'm sometimes accused of producing too many Scottish-themed soldiers by a few collectors. So, this time I decided on portraying the men of an English County Line unit... The Gloucestershire Regiment".

"I chose to do a section's worth of action figures going forward in a bayonet attack led by their officer, pistol in one hand, walking stick in the other. All of the men are wearing their full battle order (minus their gasmask) for his big push".

K&C has also included two casualties... one lying dead, the other one wounded, being evacuated to the rear, on the back of his mate. A lying prone Lewis Gunner provides extra fire support.

### GERMAN OPPOSITION

In addition to the British forces in attacking mode, K&C are also releasing a very useful selection of German defenders. Again, these new

figures are dramatically different in appearance from their earlier "1914 Kamasuter".

The most obvious of these differences is the "Stalheim"... the famous "caskettle" shaped steel helmet first introduced by the Germans in 1915. Based on an original medieval design this new helmet sharply reduced the number of head wounds suffered by German soldiers in the frontline trenches. With their newly acquired steel helmets many

FW054

FW053

FW057

FW050

*Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?*



Special Diorama note:

The large 44" x 22" First World War battlefield featured in the centre spread pages can be seen in person at the 2009 "West Coast" show in Irvine CA, between March 5-8.

Come along and see it for yourself! Designed and built by King & Country Workshop HK.

FW053



FW048



FW043



# Portfolio

**T**HERE ARE SOME collectors who can never have too much (or too many) of a good thing!

Australian Bob Metcalfe would probably put himself in that category. As a former engineer and currently Head of Faculty for Industrial Arts at a large High School in Sydney, Bob has always been keenly interested in history... particularly the Napoleonic era.

Like many toy soldier and military miniature enthusiasts he loves great historical movies such as "Zulu"... "Gettysburg"... "The Light Horsemen" and, of course, "Waterloo".

His enjoyment of that particular motion picture and his love of Napoleonic miniatures (particularly K&C) combined to inspire him to create a massive diorama with a "Waterloo" theme. In

Bob's opinion, "Although many toy soldier companies produce very good Napoleonic pieces I believe K&C excels

when it comes to dynamic animation... excellent sculpting... realistic painting and natural faces and plenty of choice."

However, as Bob himself readily admits figures, no matter how good they are look a little bit lost without the proper setting. And this is where Bob's very own modeling and painting skills come into play...

## BOB'S BATTLEFIELD

As Bob says, "For my Waterloo display I designed a large board layout in my head just by visualizing different groups of figures and their positions on the field of battle as they might relate to each other".

After finally deciding on the finished board size... 1450mm long x 850mm wide (approx. 60"x36") Bob started building up the topography and landscape. Different height levels allowed for artillery and command positions to be accurately incorporated.

The field of battle was painted with a mid green acrylic paint after which roads and tracks were created with granulated cork. The landscape was then selectively sprayed

and dusted with different grades and shades of grass fibre before trees, bushes, shrubs and other foliage were carefully positioned.

Once Bob had completed his "landscaping" it was time to "bring in the troops"...

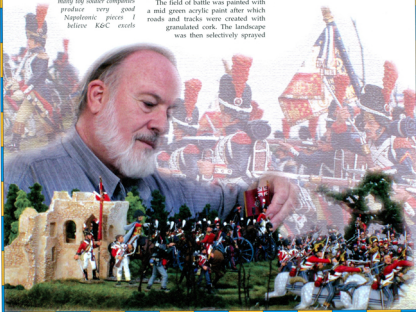
## MARCHING TO BATTLE

Bob's battlefield at present accommodates over 230 individual Napoleonic K&C figures... included are more than 40 mounted pieces alone, with more on the way!

The result is... simply spectacular.

## YOU GET WHAT YOU PAID FOR

In Bob's own words, "These pictures, most of which were taken by my friend Clinton Harn, show just how effective K&C pieces are at "grouping" and working







Top picture: British Infantry  
form up against a French attack.

This picture: Royal Horse  
Artillery gun line.





together either in small numbers or large groups to "tell a story".

"The historical accuracy of K&C pieces", Bob goes on, "very quickly lets you see that you get what you pay for!"

For Bob that means a considerable investment in both time and money but as other K&C collectors can easily see this man's passion and energy has resulted in a layout that is truly

magnificent... Well done Bob... But beware my friend there's even more great Napoleonics coming your way... I think you might need an even bigger battlefield next time!

**Picture below:**

*Napoleon's Old Guard prepare to repulse an attack by K&C's Scots Greys.*



*Hitler does a little sight - seeing  
in Paris...June 1940.*

# Paris under the Swastika



FeB059

FeB055

FeB054

FeB056

FeB057

FeB058

**A**S THE GUNS fell silent and the last British ships left Dunkirk, Hitler turned his full fury on a despondent France...

The failure of the French Commander, General Maurice Gamelin, to stem the Nazi advance led to him being replaced by



Germans marching through the streets of Paris on June 14, 1940.

little offshore island. *Europe was theirs!*

K&C's latest "Fields of Battle" releases capture these fateful days in amazing detail and authentic historical accuracy.

No less than 11 different sets of figures, fighting vehicles and individual soldiers help illustrate those dark days of June 1940.

For the Germans there was glory and triumph... a time to parade their supremacy and award themselves for doing it.

For the forlorn allies there was only survival... The Battle of France was now over. The Battle of Britain was about to begin!

**Fo8096**



Loire and Rouen was swiftly captured. On that same day the French Government abandoned Paris and moved first to Tours (150 miles away) and then, four days later, to Bordeaux.

On the morning of that fateful day, June 14, 1940 the Germans marched into Paris and

**Fo8040**  
Austin K2  
Ambulance



**Fo8041**  
Stretcher Party

**Fo8060**



General Maxime Weygand. Alas even this new chief could do little to avert a series of debacles from combining to become a major disaster.

Although some French units still fought bravely, even brilliantly, the die was already cast... Many more regiments and even whole divisions simply gave up and faded away. The military and the government were riddled with the cancer of defeatism and apathy.

#### PARIS...OPEN CITY

On June 10, 1940 the first German forces crossed the River

unfurled their huge swastika banner from the highest radio mast on the Eiffel Tower... Paris was theirs! The rest of France would swiftly follow...

#### VICTORY & DEFEAT

For the German soldiers as they paraded down the Champs Elysees the victory was sweet... In just a handful of weeks they had humbled their ancient enemy and thrown the British back on to their



Luftwaffe Breast  
Eagle

**Fo8061**



"For you Fritz  
the war is over!"

# ROUGH RIDERS



RTA046

## Adding to The Alamo...

EVERY MARCH 6 is the anniversary of the 1836 storming of The Alamo by the soldiers of Mexico's General Santa Anna.

For the last few years it has also been the occasion when King & Country announce their latest releases for their extensive "Remember The Alamo" collection.



RTA045

This year is no exception... Six new pieces—3 Mexican "soldados" and 3 Texans make up the release.

RTA043 shows a wounded lying prone American rifleman with bayonet fixed.

RTA044 is a dead Mexican

RTA045 "Kneeling firing defender", taking careful aim.



RTA043



RTA047

SOMETIME AGO, back in the last century, K&C produced one of our first "Exclusive" series of figures for KINGS X of San Antonio, Texas.

At that time the owner of KINGS X wanted to celebrate the fact of the store's unique location... In the lobby of the historic Menger Hotel, in San Antonio, just a hundred yards away from The Alamo.

However it wasn't The Alamo connection he wanted to honour it was The Menger's association with Teddy Roosevelt and the men of the 1st. U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, better known as

"The Roughriders".

When war broke out with Spain in 1898, Roosevelt used the Menger as his personal recruiting station to raise his regiment. Many of the men who enlisted journeyed from all over the US to Texas to volunteer at the Menger.

Over the years KINGS X has produced quite a few Roughrider figures and now, it's time to introduce a few more...

**"FORWARD THE COLOURS!"**

These new KINGS X releases feature four EXCLUSIVE designs.

KX005 "Colonel Teddy Roosevelt" in field dress as he would have appeared at

RTA046 the attack continues as this Mexican soldier reaches for a fresh cartridge

RTA047 "Another Duel to the Death!"

Mortally wounded, this Tejano finds the strength to take one last

"The Charge Up San Juan Hill".

KX006 "Marching Roughrider".

With bedroll over the shoulder and "Crag-Jorgensen" carbine.

KX007 "National Flag Bearer"

A sergeant proudly parades with the "Stars 'n' Stripes".



KX008

"Regimental Flag Bearer"

Another NCO carries the Regimental Banner.

These new figures are sold individually and can be obtained exclusively from... KINGS X,

206 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205, U.S.A., Tel: 210 226 7000, Email: sales@kingsx.com

pistol shot at his Mexican opponent!

All of these new pieces add even more colour and drama to this great historical series... look out for them!

RTA044

