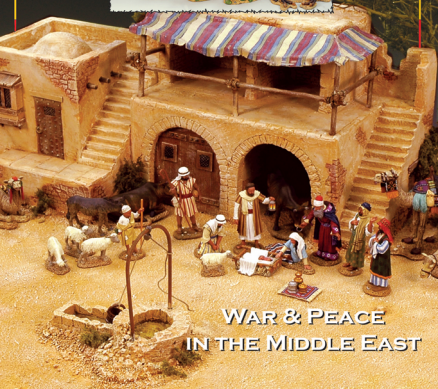


1983 KING & COUNTRY 2009

COLLECTOR

蒐集者

A Quarterly Look at Our World in Miniature



WAR & PEACE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A View From The Trenches...



A trench walking stick of a US Marine from the trenches

EVER SINCE I can remember I've been passionately interested in three subjects... *History, The Military and... Art.* Throughout my working career these three things have constantly come together to influence what I did... where I went to... and what opportunities I took up.



HISTORY was always important to me even as a small boy. Growing up in Britain you are surrounded by it. At school (at least back in the old days) you learnt it from teachers who had actually lived and fought through it. My History teacher in secondary school in Paisley was a guy called Bill Steel Brownlie. During the war he had been in tanks and saw action in France, Holland and Germany. When we were learning about the Second World War we were taught by real veterans!

As for my interest in "The Military"... Well, I come from a generation whose fathers, uncles, grandfathers and great uncles had all served their country during the First and Second World Wars. Although mostly in the Army I also had close relatives who had been in the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

Capt. Steel Brownlie, 2nd FIF-6 Forster Yeomanry receiving his Military Cross from "Monty", March 1945.

I sometimes think I joined the *Royal Marines* only because there had never been a Marine in the family! So, for me the lure of a military life (at least for a wee while) plus lots of travel and adventure was a huge draw... and talking of drawing...

Finally, we come to... "ART"... For some unknown reason (maybe God knows) I have always loved to draw and in all modesty, been reasonably good at it. My old Mum used to love telling all the relatives, "Thank God, oor Andra can draw a wee bit... he's bluddy useless at everything else!" So, very fortunately for me, that led to Art School and becoming a Graphic Designer and Illustrator.

Somewhere along the line I also became a toy soldier collector and that wound its way down a long and winding road to... KING & COUNTRY. And that's where we are today, here in Hong Kong, doing what I love... and being paid for it. Imagine getting money for having so much fun... It's almost criminal!!!!

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



Capt. Steel Brownlie's Comet tank somewhere in Germany, early 1945.

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SHANGHAI 1927

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"Sons of the Empire" introduces a brand-new range of figures featuring some famous and some not-so-famous regiments of British and Empire forces during the high noon of Queen Victoria's reign... 1897... the year of her diamond jubilee.

SONS of the EMPIRE

The first regiment to be featured is also one of the best known and most colourful... *Skinner's Horse (1st. Duke of York's Own Cavalry)*.

James Skinner (1778-1841) was the Anglo Indian son of a Scottish father and a Rajput Indian Princess mother. After running away from home at 16 and having many adventures he eventually joined the British Indian Army in 1801.

In 1803 he raised his own irregular cavalry regiment aptly named "*Skinner's Horse*" or nicknamed "*The Yellow Boys*" on account of the colour of their uniforms. The regiment saw action almost immediately and within a few years was expanded to three Corps of 1,000 men apiece.

By 1828 James Skinner was finally promoted to *Lieutenant-Colonel* and his regiment was recognized as probably the finest light cavalry in India... or indeed elsewhere.

His personal life was just as colourful and eventful as his regimental and military one... *It is said that he had fourteen wives and countless children!!!*

He died in 1841.



ABOUT OUR FIGURES

Our three cavalry soldiers portray a British officer (in full dress uniform) escorted

by his Indian counterpart and a lance carrying trooper of the Regiment. All of them are dressed as they would have appeared in the great jubilee parade in London celebrating the Queen Empress' 60th year on the throne.

THE REGIMENT TODAY

Following independence from Britain in 1947 *Skinner's Horse* was one of the regiments retained by the new Indian Army and became fully motorized. Originally using British and American WWII vintage armour the regiment, since 1965, has been equipped with Russian-made T.55 and T.72 tanks and at present the newer T.80's.

It is still very proud of its original British and Indian Army heritage and retains a full squadron of mounted cavalry in the famous uniform of the "Yellow Boys" for parades and occasions.



'TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH'

FOR OVER 20 YEARS KING & COUNTRY has been designing and producing aviation-related figures, vehicles and, of course, aircraft. In January 2010 they will be doing even more...

If you are the kind of collector who is also a World War Two aviation buff then January is going to be a great month for you! K&C is releasing no less than eleven *United States Army Air Corps* figures and a superb new **P51B "MUSTANG"** in the personal markings of Major James H. Howard of the 354th Fighter Group of the U.S. 9th Air Force based at Lashenden in southern England in May 1944. Major (later Lt. Colonel) Howard was a "double-ace" ... Prior to America's entry into WW2 he had flown with the American Volunteer Group (better known as the *Flying Tigers*) in China and shot down six Japanese aircraft.

After rejoining the U.S. Forces he added a further six German "kills" to his total and in January 1944 single-handedly defended a formation of B17's against an estimated 30 German fighters over Halverstadt in Western Germany... he succeeded in downing several of the enemy aircraft during the battle. For this action he was awarded the *Congressional Medal of Honor*.

AF011
P51B Mustang

Maj. Howard was the only fighter pilot in northwestern Europe during WW2 to receive America's highest military honour.

BACK AT BASE

Coming back down to earth let's take a closer look at the other Army Air Corps releases...

AF003 "Captain Brett Cutler"... A classic image of an Air Force officer in his *Burberry Trenchcoat* standing on a windswept and probably rainswept airfield "somewhere in England" during 1943/44.

AF004 "Air Force MP's"... Enforcing security and helping to keep the boys in line! A standing saluting MP and a "snowdrop" complete with shouldered carbine.

AF005 "Crew Chief"... This senior NCO is in service dress with clipboard in hand... awaiting orders.

AF006 "Army Air Corps Mechanics" Three different GI's going about their business on a busy airfield.

AF007 "Lt. Dick Rabb"... of the 359th Fighter Group. By D. Day this young flyer had 12 "kills" to his credit flying a Mustang called "**HOT PANTS**".

AF008 "The New Boy"... Joining a new squadron is never easy... this newly qualified pilot might just be a little nervous as he arrives at his new station.

AF009 "Flying Cowboy"... Captain Nick "Cowboy" Megura (11 confirmed kills) illustrates with his hands how he

shot down his last victim. "Cowboy" flew with the 4th Fighter Group out of Debden during 1944.

AF010 "Pointing Snowdrop"... Nick-named "snowdrops" because of their white helmets and accoutrements, this MP tries to be helpful.

AF011 "P51B Mustang"... Our 1:30 scale "near-back" P51 was a familiar sight in European skies from 1943 until the end of the war. This K&C model (just one of 500) is in Maj. Howard's markings of AJA and bearing the Chinese slogan "DING HAO!" (The Best)... It comes with landing gear down and includes a seated pilot figure of Maj. Howard himself.

RAF014 "RAF Nissen Hut/ US Air Force Quonset Hut"... To help recreate any accurate and realistic airfield scene during WW2 you really do need a typical *Nissen/Quonset* hut (or two) standing around the perimeter of the tarmac.

The K&C model is constructed in sturdy polystone and measures approx. 11 1/2 inches long by 9 inches wide. Alternative front and rear entrances ensures that two huts put together can make a great display!

All of these new aviation releases will be followed through the coming year with more classic WW2 Warbirds and plenty of exciting air and ground crew to service them.







PRODUCTION

The film was produced by Twentieth Century Fox with the full cooperation of the United States Air Force who generously provided 16 vintage (but obsolete) B17's to play the part of the 918th.

One of the major highlights of the movie was the actual crash-landing of a "wheels-up" B17 by Paul Mantz, then Hollywood's leading stunt pilot.

Another interesting point is that virtually the entire movie was shot in Florida... Eglin Air Force Base which, amazingly, had some surrounding countryside that could reasonably resemble eastern England in 1942.

A large crew was transported from Hollywood and built an accurate reproduction of a typical WW2 British airfield complete with control tower... Quonset huts... and hard stands for the Flying Fortresses.

CRITICAL RECEPTION

"12 O'CLOCK HIGH" premiered in Los Angeles on December 21, 1949 and was an instant hit. Many Army Air

Corps veterans praised it for its accuracy and realistic portrayal of both men and machines at one of the most critical points in the air war. At the 1950 "Oscar" awards it won several and was nominated for even more.

Today it is still used in both the civilian and military worlds to teach the principles of leadership in the most difficult circumstances under enormous amounts of stress.

AND THE TITLE...

"TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH" refers to the aircrew's habit of calling out positions of attacking enemy aircraft by imagining their own plane at the centre of a clock face. Thus "twelve o'clock" meant dead ahead... "high" or "low" indicated whether the enemy was above or below your own aircraft.

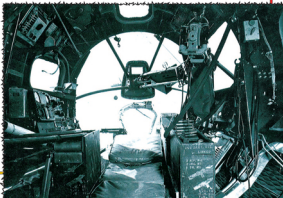


ABOUT THE MOVIE

AS MANY K&C COLLECTORS know here at King & Country we love the movies especially classic "war" movies... and "12 O'CLOCK HIGH" is one of the finest.

First released in 1949 it tells the story of a particular B17 BOMB GROUP... the 918th... during the 1942 daylight bombing offensive by the United States 8th Air Force based in Britain at that time.

A new commander (Gregory Peck) is put in charge of a badly demoralized group and tasked with pulling them together. His methods often seem cruel and hard but ultimately successful.



Inside the nose of a B17 from the bombardier's position.

LEGENDS

Paddy Mayne

WORLD WAR TWO produced many legendary soldiers but few could have equalled the amazing exploits and heroism of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne DSO and 3 Bars.

"Paddy" Mayne was born in the town of Newtonards in Northern Ireland on January 11, 1915. After attending the local Grammar School he studied law at *Queen's University* in Belfast where he was selected to play for the *British Lions Rugby Team* in 1938 as well as the *All-Ireland* squad. His legal and sporting careers were cut short by the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Before the war "Paddy" had joined the *Territorial Army* first with the *Royal Artillery* and then transferring to the *Royal Ulster Rifles*.

After the Fall of France and the evacuation of Dunkirk he volunteered for the newly-formed "Commandos". It was with them that he was involved in a major action in Lebanon that resulted in the loss of around a third of his unit.

Convinced that his commanding officer had been both inept and arrogant "Paddy" assaulted the C.O. and was put under arrest and ready to be court-martialled.

STIRLING TO THE RESCUE

Elsewhere in the Middle East a young Scots Guards Captain,



David Stirling heard about "Paddy" and recruited him as one of the founder members of the *Special Air Service (SAS)*.

At last "Paddy" had found the kind of unit who valued his skills, fighting prowess and leadership qualities. From November 1941 until the end of 1942, the young Ulsterman took part and led many raids deep behind enemy lines in the deserts of Egypt and Libya. These raids disrupted enemy transport and supplies as well as destroying hundreds of German and Italian aircraft on their landing fields.

Following David Stirling's capture in 1943 Paddy commanded the *Special Raiding Squadron* and was promoted Major while leading the unit with great distinction and valour during the campaign on the Italian mainland.

In January 1944 he was promoted once more, this time to *Lieutenant-Colonel* and given command of the entire *1st SAS Regiment* which he led until the end of the war in Europe.

During the war Mayne became one of the British Army's most decorated soldiers receiving no less than four DSO's... He pioneered the use of "attack jeeps" to conduct "hit-and-run" surprise raids. At war's end it was said he had personally destroyed over 130 aircraft.

HIS REPUTATION

Like many warriors "Paddy" had difficulty returning to a peace-time existence... He could be reckless and dangerous (especially with a drink in him). While on leave in Cairo during the war he, on one occasion, smashed-up several bars and restaurants and beat up a squad of Military Police "Redcaps" and a Provost Marshal before being subdued and spending a night in the detention cells!

DEATH

"Paddy" was tragically killed on a road accident near his home in Northern Ireland in 1955 aged just 40. His wartime exploits and achievements however have never been equalled.

DESERT RENDEZVOUS

Under a clatch of palm trees Major "Paddy" Mayne (EA949) stands between K&C latest 8th. Army Universal Carrier (EA041) mounting a Vickers Machine Gun and one of the SAS's more unusual acquisitions...

"The Desert Bentley" (EA042). It was rumoured that this vehicle was won in a poker game in Alexandria and "customized" for desert operations by SAS mechanics...



They did what they were told...

They didn't know it was impossible.



The LIGHTHORSEMEN™

An RKO Pictures - FGH Presentation of A PICTURE SHOW Production
THE LIGHTHORSEMEN

JON BLAKE • PETER PHELPS • TONY BONNER
BILL KERR • JOHN WALTON • GARY SWEET • TIM MCKENZIE
SIGRID THORNTON as Anne and ANTHONY ANDREWS as Meinertzhagen

Director of Photography DEAN SEMLER Production Designer BERNARD HIDES Editor ADRIAN CARR
Music Composed by MARIO MILLO Screenplay by LAN JONES Executive Producer ANTHONY L. GINNANE
Producers LAN JONES & SIMON WINCER Directed by SIMON WINCER



AVAILABLE ON VIDEO CASSETTE

PARAMOUNT

gpc pictures

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KING & COUNTRY'S

AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

K&C'S, ANDY C. NEILSON TELLS THE STORY BEHIND
THE ALL-NEW SERIES BASED ON ONE OF THE WORLD'S LAST
GREAT CAVALRY CHARGES...

FOR MOST TOY SOLDIER COLLECTORS outside of Australia their first awareness of the amazing exploits of the Australian Light Horse during the First World War was Simon Wincer's epic movie *"The Lighthorsemen"* made in 1986.

This film told of the adventures of four young Australian troopers serving in what was then called Palestine during the latter part of 1917. The climax of the picture was the dramatic charge of two Light Horse Regiments (the 4th and 12th) to capture the water wells and town of Beersheva.

The spectacle of hundreds of horsemen bearing down on the trenches of the Turkish defenders was, quite simply, awe inspiring. Right then and there I thought, "Some day, King & Country will try and replicate this battle in miniature!"

At that time K&C was still a very young, inexperienced company. We lacked the necessary skills... knowledge... and quite frankly... the ability to take up such a large complex project. So, sadly we put our "Lighthorse Project" off to one side and got on with learning the business and building up all of those very necessary attributes you need to design and manufacture first-class figures.

SOME TIME LATER...

Just over 22 years later in fact we did eventually return to that "Lighthorse Project"... and here's why...

For quite some time Australia has been one of the fastest growing



markets for King & Country.

This has primarily been due to the hard work and extra efforts put in by our two principal K&C dealers in Australia... Peter Nathan of Peter Nathan Toy Soldiers in Sydney and Brett Williams of The Military Workshop in Brisbane. Both dealers have gone out of their way to promote K&C and our products while at the same time introducing many first-time buyers to both toy soldiers/military miniatures in general and K&C in particular.

On several occasions both men had suggested that perhaps a K&C-designed and produced Australian-themed

subject would go down extremely well with their local collectors. Here in Hong Kong H.Q. we thought long and hard about it and came to the obvious conclusion that our friends down under were absolutely correct and we should get to work on it ASAP!

As many of you know that's the easy part... just saying "let's go!" The more difficult part is deciding exactly what K&C should do and, importantly, how

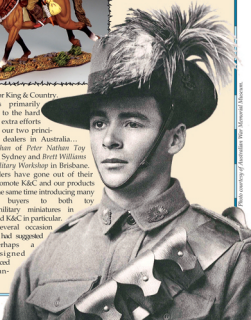


Photo courtesy of Australian War Memorial Museum

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



we should do it. The first thing we did, of course, was to consult with both Peter and Brett and get their views and opinions. The next thing we did was to consider how well a particular subject will "travel" around the world. I.E. will collectors in other countries, outside of Australia, be interested in an Australian-themed series? Several interesting and varied Aussie ideas and suggestions were looked at... picked over and eventually discarded... "Ned Kelly & The Bushrangers", "The First Fleet & the Early Days of Australia the Colony" we even considered a series on "Cricket"!!!

Finally, though we settled on two special favourites, "GALLIPOLI", the brave but doomed attempt to force a passage through the Dardanelles and capture Istanbul thereby

forcing Turkey out of the First World War.

OR... Our old favourite from over 20 years before... "The Lighthorsemen".

For myself and the Design Team at K&C, "The Lighthorsemen" offered a wealth of exciting possibilities... First and foremost, the charging Australian mounted infantry going at full gallop! Then we had to have the Turkish defenders... riflemen... machine guns... artillery.

At the same time we were already thinking about our "DESERT VILLAGE" series of Middle Eastern buildings which could form the perfect backdrop for the action. The final "clincher" in our decision-making was the fact that the Light Horse's dramatic charge resulted in a resounding victory!

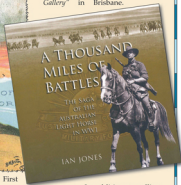
Sadly, "GALLIPOLI" although a heroic test of endurance and bravery was a strategic and tactical failure...

"The Charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba" had, decisively, won the day.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Towards the end of 2008, after our visit to the annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show we got down to work in earnest...

Our initial research was drawn to two recently published books-Ian Jones "A Thousand Miles of Battles" and an official Australian Government publication aptly called "The Australian Light Horse". Both books provided a huge treasure trove of vintage photographs and information that was to prove invaluable. Another important source of visual material was our friend Brett of "The Military Gallery" in Brisbane.



In addition to selling lots of toy soldiers and military miniatures Brett also has a very important "side-line" in framing military prints



promoting the work of Australian military artists.

Fortunately for K&C among Brett's roster of artists were a very talented husband and wife team, Jennifer and Ron Marshall, who specialized in painting... *The Light Horse!*

After closely studying their superb work we realized that what they were achieving in two dimensional form K&C was going to try and capture in three dimensional sculptures!

THE DESIGN PROCESS

When K&C embark on a major project like this we try to establish, in our own minds, a "story-line".

We attempt, wherever possible, to imagine a specific part or event in an action and design our figures around that. In this case, it had to be that climactic charge at the very moment when the Australians breached the Turkish Lines of defence. That allowed us the maximum of artistic and historic freedom to portray exciting... dramatic and... extremely animated poses for our men and horses.

It was at this point I went back to that 1986 movie and watched it time and time again. *One of the great joys of the modern age is the DVD player!* Sitting in front of the TV screen I could stop... pause... rewind... go forward... pause again and capture images that I could then sketch for possible use as figures.

Using this method I eventually produced over two dozen basic ideas for individual mounted figures. These were then studied, discussed and finally narrowed down to the first eight pieces. In this case an officer... a bugler... two flagbearers... a trooper carrying a rifle... a dismounted trooper and his dead mount... and, of course, the iconic image of two different Lighthorsemen with drawn bayonets!

Our decision to include two flagbearers, one with, what was then the Australian red ensign and the other with a Squadron guidon was, I will admit, a wee bit of "historic license". To be perfectly honest I cannot say they actually did carry these flags on the great day but as the famous movie director John Ford once said, "By God,

Firing a Lee Enfield rifle from a galloping horse cannot be easy!



they should have!"

OFF TO AUSTRALIA

With the project now well under way King & Country HQ, began to think of ways and means to promote it and build up anticipation in Australia itself.

Some time before Brett in Brisbane had kindly

extended an open invitation to come down to Oz and "meet 'n' greet" as many of his K&C collectors as possible. At the same time Peter in Sydney had also wanted us to visit with him in his "neck-of-the-woods".

Original idea for charging mounted officer.

Uniform sketch for a Light Horse officer.





AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE



SPECIAL AUSSIE TEASER

As a little "souvenir"
of our upcoming visit



Now, we had the perfect reason for going with our "Light Horse Project". At the same time as we were planning our long trip to Australia we were also busily carving and sculpting our original clay masters. As many of you already know these are produced in our studio in mainland China although all the original sketches and drawings are completed in Hong Kong.

It takes many weeks and months of hard, dedicated work to complete a series of figures and



these "Light Horsemen" were no exception. But eventually by June 2009 the clay masters were ready for final approval and conversion into polyurethane figures suitable for mold-making.

It was not a moment too soon either... we (K&C's Managing Director Helen Mok Sargent and yours truly) were scheduled to fly out to Australia the following month... July.



and as a promotional teaser we designed a *standing Light Horse trooper*. This was initially sent off to Australia and then other K&C dealers around the world. The other purpose of this first "painted piece" was to give collectors a little taste of what was coming up.

Originally we had hoped to show all eight of the first figures fully painted but time, as usual, had run out. And so on July 23, 2009, Helen, myself and our eight unpainted Light Horse "masters" flew off to the *Land of Oz*.

WHAT A WELCOME!

In Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney (we had added Canberra to our schedule) the response to the figures was tremendous. Above and beyond what we ever expected. ...And these were only the unpainted P.U. versions not even the fully-painted, all-metal ones!





In Brisbane and Sydney we had a series of "Meet 'n' Greet's" with a wide range of K&C collectors at both Brett and Peter's stores. We even had collectors saying, "Well, I only collect Napoleonic but I definitely want all of these Light Horse!" Following our store promotions both Brett and Peter had organized three excellent dinner evenings for collectors to talk and discuss toy soldiers with K&C and for us all to get to know each other better.

*Helen with K&C collectors
Bob Medcalf and Gallipoli's Mark Lee
in Sydney.*



Following each superb dinner I was invited to give a short talk about K&C... our upcoming Light Horse series and then open up the evening to "field" questions from the assembled guests. It was excellent fun and in every case our evenings went on much, much longer than any of us anticipated.

In Sydney, at the historic Officers' Mess in Victoria Barracks, they eventually had to kick us out because the Mess Staff had to get home... it was well past midnight!



*Peter Nathan and his
author in Peter's shop in Sydney.*

*Analy, Helen and Mr. & Mrs. Brett Williams in
The Military Workshop in Brisbane.*

Earlier in this little account of our trip down under I mentioned Canberra, the Australian capital. Our purpose in going there was two-fold... first to meet a great bunch of collectors but also to pay a visit to the Australian War Memorial. This museum is one of the world's great museums and a fantastic repository of military hardware of all the wars Australians have fought in... From South Africa through WW1 and WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and now, Afghanistan.

We were fortunate in being able to spend an entire day exploring and discovering the Museum with several K&C collectors who have since become very good friends. Here I must mention two in particular, Air Commodore John Meier, of the Royal Australian Air Force and Mr. Howard Woods.

John, who has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan took some time off from a very busy schedule to personally guide us around part of the Museum.

Howard meanwhile was our guide... driver... companion in both Brisbane and Canberra. A dedicated K&C enthusiast, he is ex Australian

Army himself and an "official friend of the Museum". He even arranged a "behind-the-scenes" visit and guided tour of the AWM's huge stores and reserve collection where massive amounts of other superb exhibits await their turn to go on display.

Alas, all good things must eventually to come to an end and Helen and myself had to sadly depart Australia and get back to Hong Kong... and work.

Both of us though felt strongly that the success of our visit was ample proof, if any were still required, that the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba would be a worthy and popular addition to any King & Country collection... not just in Australia but anywhere in the world.

SPECIAL NOTE:

"The Charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba 1917" will officially be released on December 12, 2009



General Sir E. B. H. Ashmead, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

HISTORICAL

BACKGROUND

THE ACTUAL BATTLE of Beersheba was just one important part of a wider British offensive in Palestine during the latter part of 1917.

The aim of the British and

Australian forces was to break through the Turkish defence line that ran from Gaza on the Mediterranean coast to Beersheba, a major regional centre some 50 km. inland.

General Edmund Allenby, the British commander-in-chief, allotted a large force of British and Empire cavalry and mounted infantry to carry out the task of attacking and capturing Beersheba itself.

In and around the town were almost 5,000 Turkish infantry supported by 60 machine guns and 5 batteries of field guns. Between Gaza and Beersheba there was virtually no water only what could be found in the wells in both towns. The Turks believed that because of this lack of water the Imperial forces would be limited in their scope of offensive operations against them.

Allenby and his generals thought otherwise. Their plan was to capture Beersheba quickly using maximum force and gain immediate access to the important water wells in the town.

THE ACTION BEGINS

At 5:55am on the morning of 31 October 1917, British artillery opened up with a fierce barrage on the outlying Turkish defences.

Later at 8:30am the first infantry moved forward... this was followed at noon by more British infantry attacks which captured all of the Turkish forward positions. At this point the Infantry commanders could see that the way into Beersheba was clear and they requested permission to push on.

For some unknown reason the British commander failed to act quickly and this early opportunity to take Beersheba was lost. The delay and confusion was not lost however on the Turks.

Quickly they rushed troops into

the line and the manned their defence works.

To the Australian Commander General Harry Chauvel it was obvious that an attack should be initiated. He confirmed this with his British superior, General Allenby, who now recognised his own earlier error of halting his infantry forces prematurely.

Chauvel had at his immediate disposal the 4th Light Horse Brigade containing the 4th (Victoria) and the 12th (New South Wales) Regiments. He gave the order to put them into the attack immediately!

THE CHARGE

Led by Lieut. Colonel Bouchier both regiments lined up in three long consecutive squadron formations. At exactly 4:30pm the Brigade commenced to move forward with about 500 yards between each line. As the commands, "Walk... Trot... Gallop!" were shouted the troopers drew their bayonets or unsling their Lee Enfield rifles from their backs.

Seeing the Australian horsemen in the distance starting to advance Turkish artillery began long range fire using air and ground burst shrapnel. This fortunately had little effect. Some Turkish machine guns on the left of the Australians now opened up... however they were quickly silenced by a battery of British horse artillery.

By this point the Australians were going at the full gallop and their buglers finally sounded "Charge!" Within minutes the Lighthorsemen were within range of the Turkish riflemen and began to take casualties. Unfortunately for the defenders as the Australians got nearer and nearer the Turks in their excitement neglected to alter their rifle sights... Although their rifle fire was continuous the vast majority of their bullets flew harmlessly overhead!

This kept the Australian casualties

remarkably low... even for a full scale frontal attack.

As the Lighthorsemen finally reached the Turkish trenches the battle reached a new intensity. Horses and riders leapt over the defence works only to wheel around and attack the Turks from the rear. Other troopers who had dismounted or had their horses shot from under them fought ferociously on foot with rifle and bayonet.

Rapidly many Turks began to surrender or retreat back into Beersheba itself hotly pursued by the mounted Australians. In the town other enemy soldiers were fleeing in panic dropping their weapons and



leaving equipment strewn everywhere.

By nightfall the last sparks of Turkish resistance had surrendered.

Amazingly the majority of the town's waterwells (15 out of 17) had been captured intact.

After the capture of Beersheba, the 4th Light Horse Brigade took 38 Turkish officers and over 700 men prisoner. Their own casualties amounted to just 31 killed and 36 wounded... A mercifully small price to pay for such an important prize.



HOLT GETTERMAN'S EGYPTIAN *Portfolio*

Collecting toy soldiers as a hobby began for me in the early 1980's as a response to my growing interest in History. My wife, always a student of History herself imbued in me a burgeoning desire to study more about the past. After my Father gave me a gift of World War I hollow metal figures which he played with as a child, collecting toy soldiers and creating appropriate dioramas seemed to me to be the perfect outlet for my new found interest in all things past.

My first purchase was a set of 24th Foot Zulu War figures by Imperial out of New Zealand followed closely with a selection of the *Charge of the Light Brigade* by Derek Cross of *All the Queen's Men*. My

collection, being quite varied, encompasses a large number of manufacturers,



Ramses III

however I particularly enjoy *King & Country* because of their attention to

detail and the quality of their workmanship. I also appreciate the wide variety of unusual subjects covered by *King & Country*.

Best estimates of my collection number the amount of soldiers at around 3,500, including dioramas, individuals plus a few 90 to 110 mm figures *all with their original boxes of course!* The collection also includes a number of figures which I have built and painted myself. Over the years my wife and I have enjoyed building our collection while on various travels throughout the United States, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. I have purchased a figure of a mounted Napoleon at *Waterloo* in Belgium, and a mounted Robert the Bruce at *Bannockburn* in Scotland, to name but a few. Additionally, I enjoy finding figures pertinent to a particular town, region or interest. For example, being an avid cyclist,





I have enjoyed a boxed set of the *Tour de France* I purchased while on vacation there. In fact, I purchase most any cycle mounted figure I can find whether it be a mounted band, a World War I soldier or *Tour de France* riders. My collection includes items I have studied first, then sought out as well as items my wife and I found to be attractive and interesting when we studied them. Such items include *British Colonials*, *Knights*, *American Revolution*, the *Alamo*, *Teddy Roosevelt*, and *American Civil War* figures. My interest is always sparked by a visit to a region which pertains to a particular set or series of toy soldiers.

MY EGYPTIAN PLAN...

The idea for the featured *Egyptian Pharonic Tomb* started 5 years ago while on a visit to that incredible land. The process of constructing the diorama began with intense research upon our return to the United States. Hours of study go into the construction of each diorama I create, *this one being no exception*. Because no photography is permitted in any of the tombs in Egypt, my first step was to recreate, through research, a reasonable facsimile of a tomb of the mid-Pharonic period.

To supplement this information I purchased many reference books which helped guide me as I designed the interiors and the hieroglyphics which decorate the

tomb. The detail in the diorama extends to the sand on the floor which I actually brought back from the base of the Great Pyramid at Giza.

I was especially inspired by the quality and detail of the *King & Country Ancient Egyptian* figures. These are supplemented by plastic *Preiser* kit figures (my only plastics) many of which I repainted and redressed to make certain elements I needed. The Cheetah bed, the painted chests, the chariot and the miniature boats were all scratch built and painted by me. The six figures painted on the walls of the tomb are my wife and myself and our two sons and daughters in law, complete with respective cartouches bearing each person's name in hieroglyphics. The walls, columns and ceilings were all hand painted by me. The design of any diorama for me begins with a basic concept and then as I proceed, begins to "create itself" as it grows. There is a lot going on in the tomb that would not have typically taken place during the reverent ceremony of the preparation and wrapping of the body for burial, however I don't think I'll be cursed for a little artistic as well as historic license.

FUTURE PLANS

At present, I am working to find additional toy soldiers to coordinate with my collection of authentic military headgear from various periods in history. My interest in headgear came with the gift to me of a World War I *picklebush* brought back to the United States by my Grandfather after his service in that conflict. I am presently very excited about the *King and Country's World War I* figures. Right now though most of my collection is in storage as my wife and I transition to a new home, however I am eagerly looking forward to many more hours of research and enjoyment as *King & Country* continue to expand their offerings.

GUY MEIRE was born in Belgium in 1945 just after that country's liberation from the Germans. As a little boy growing up during the 1950's he heard lots of stories about the war whenever there were family reunions (*One of his uncles was a member of the Belgian Resistance*).

Like many of us Guy was fascinated by the war and began to build and paint plastic model kits. Soon, however, he discovered that if he really wanted to make something different and original he would have to "scratch-build-it" himself!

As his skills and abilities increased Guy began to concentrate more and



more on WW2 metal figurines. At first converting existing kits before finally making his own. Now, his collection exceeds more than 500 pieces (mostly 1:32 scale!!)

Over the years he has also amassed an impressive collection of books, pictures, DVD's (both feature film and documentary) focusing on

his WW2 interest.

DIORAMA BUILDING

For Guy, the next natural step in the creative process was

GUY MEIRE'S BELGIAN

Portfolio

something that I can fill into a new display."

SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM...

The three original vignettes Guy has created focus on K&C's "Battle of the Bulge".

Each of the American GI's has been partially repainted and given some extra "weathering". Landscaping and structures have all been "scratch-built" using a mixture of balsa wood... plaster... and even cat litter!

Trees and bushes were made from natural materials such as hedge cuttings and different kinds of mosses and herbs. Only a discarded ammunition box was not hand-made (that came from a supplier in England).

General debris on the floor was creative from leftovers of previously built models and that other old favourite... cat litter (unused).

Guy says his one "golden rule" for collectors wanting to build their own displays and vignettes is... "Think twice before you throw anything away... you might just need it sometime!"

"The Battle of the Bulge". It was in Belgium where most of the fighting took place in that cold, cold winter of December 1944.

"Not that long ago", Guy says, "I discovered King & Country on the internet. I was delighted by the quality and originality of the figures... I especially liked their natural poses and animation and... even their facial expressions... They seemed so real!"

"I believe this combination is unique to K&C and maybe that's the main reason my K&C collection keeps growing every month!"

"I always look forward to reading K&C's Dispatches in case there is

to combine figures into displays, dioramas and vignettes where they could "tell their own story".

Here his two favourite areas to concentrate on were "D. Day" and, naturally enough for a Belgian,



THE LIFE OF JESUS

"You must be joking! Are you serious?"

These were just two of the many, surprised reactions when K&C announced the introduction of a brand-new series based on the life of Christ.

To most toy soldier collectors around the world King & Country is known for their many series depicting some of the darkest periods in human history... Everything from Ancient Egypt and Rome up through the bloody Crusades and into the mud and blood filled trenches of the First World War and beyond...

Probably their most important and best selling ranges portray several important campaigns and battles of the Second World War. Here, Andy C. Neilson, K&C's cofounder and creative director, answers a few of the questions raised by this new series...

COLLECTOR: "Why the life of Jesus. Why now?"

ACN: Well, for some time now, both Laura Johnson (K&C's other cofounder) and myself wanted to produce a series that was not violent... not military... and had a positive, upbeat message.

COLLECTOR: "Yes, that's all very nice but... why Jesus?"

ACN: Both Laura and myself and our families are committed Christians... We believe in the power of good and for us the purest essence of that is Jesus Christ... his teachings... his example and his life

COLLECTOR: "Why not a life of Buddha... or Mohammed or Gandhi or whatever..."

ACN: For a start neither of us is Buddhist... or a Moslem... so we



couldn't do justice to them. I suppose we could have done Gandhi or even Nelson Mandela but quite simply we knew (or think we know) more about Jesus than any of those other guys.

But another important factor is that, in our humble opinion, Jesus sells!

COLLECTOR: "Wait a minute... that's blasphemous!"

ACN: Hold on a wee bit and I'll explain... Over the years both Laura and myself have been truly blessed in our lives and careers. In all modesty,

we've been reasonably successful and very, very fortunate.

We've both been given an awful lot and... we're grateful for it. Now, we want to give something back.

COLLECTOR: "How so?"

ACN: Just as we have been very lucky we also realize that there are many people out there who have not been so lucky in their lives. By giving to certain charities both in the U.S. and



Andy's original sketch for Mary and the infant Jesus.

here in Hong Kong we can use this series to help others.

COLLECTOR: "How will you do that?"

ACN: Both Laura and myself selected a charity each. A substantial

COLLECTOR: "Ah so there is method in your madness..."

ACN: You betcha! Look K&C is a business and we like to make money... We want to be successful... We want collectors to buy these pieces whether they are believers or not... By buying more we can give more... That's the whole idea!

COLLECTOR: "That brings me very nicely to the Desert Village... What's the story on that..."

ACN: Originally we thought about just making a little model of a typical Middle Eastern stable. Once I had designed it and my brother Gordon had built it we both thought "that's great"... Let's do some more.

Before we knew it we had six different buildings. We also recognized the versatility of the designs. They could be arranged in a multitude of different settings to suit a wide variety of historical eras. From ancient times right up to present-day Iraq and Afghanistan.

COLLECTOR: "What's the timeline on these?"

ACN: The first four are available now and the last two will, I believe, be coming out in March 2010.

COLLECTOR: "And the Palm Trees?"

ACN: Glad you mentioned those... By the time our readers see this copy of "COLLECTOR" they should already be released.

COLLECTOR: "Getting back for a moment to 'The Life of Jesus', How did you research the clothing and so on?"

ACN: I'm very fortunate that both Gordon and me still have illustrated books of Bible Stories from our childhood over 50 years ago! These old books had some amazingly accurate drawings and paintings giving us some fantastic and accurate representations of costume and dress of that period.

donation from the sale of the series will go to them. We also felt that "The Life of Jesus" would have strong international appeal and that could help drive extra sales and, of course, increase our donations.

COLLECTOR: "OK let's get back to the actual figures themselves... What was your starting point?"

ACN: For most Christians, and even me as a wee boy back in Scotland going every week to Sunday School, the Story of Jesus begins with "The Nativity"... the birth of Christ.

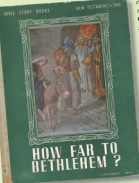
So, that's what we focused on... Mary and Joseph in the stable in Bethlehem with the infant Jesus in a Manger. We wanted the Shepherds of course and the three Wise Men.

COLLECTOR: "You also did the animals... the sheep, the oxen, even the ass..."

ACN: And don't forget the camels! We wanted a complete scene and the animals really helped. We also realized that collectors might want those very same animals to use in other historical displays they might set up... Say Ancient Egypt or the Crusaders or even the war in North Africa between Rommel and Monty.



Another of Andy's sketches... this time for the young shepherd boy.



At the same time there are great movies, docudramas and mini series on the Life of Christ that have been made in the last 40 odd years... I've watched and studied a lot of them on DVD. Finally, I love the work of many European artists of the late 19th Century who traveled and painted throughout the Middle and Near East in those days... Their work was a huge source of inspiration.

COLLECTOR: "So, where will the series go from here..."

ACN: Next for us will be the childhood of Jesus... Helping his father in Joseph's carpentry shop... Visiting the Temple... Talking to the elders and so on.

COLLECTOR: "Any Romans?"

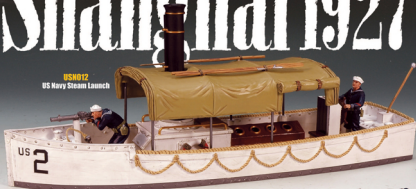
ACN: Well, the Romans were certainly a formidable presence in Palestine at that time... An occupying force... so I'm sure they will appear.

COLLECTOR: "What else would you like to say about 'The Life of Jesus'?"

ACN: This story has been told many, many times in many different and fascinating ways. It's never, ever been told in 1:30 scale all-metal, hand-painted miniatures... until now. I like K&C to be the first to do it and it's great to maybe, just maybe do a wee bit of good as well for people less fortunate than ourselves!

Shanghai 1927

USN012
US Navy Steam Launch



THROUGHOUT MOST OF the first half of the 20th. Century China was "the sleeping giant of Asia"... Beset by civil wars... threatened by a dangerous neighbour (Japan) and at the mercy of competing warlords and marauding bandits the ancient country was in a state of constant turmoil.

Within this huge land law and order was a rare commodity... Only in a relatively few major cities was there any semblance of normality, peace and prosperity. And even that was only provided because of the stationing of foreign forces on Chinese soil.

Located in and around these "Treaty Ports" could be found British, French, Italian and American soldiers, sailors and marines. They did their best to "police" at least some of the surrounding areas and keep the major waterways safe and free.

Their principal reason for being there was to protect each country's own commercial interests and nationals.

STORM OVER THE YANGTSE

Back in late 2008 King & Country launched its first series of US Naval figures depicting this turbulent period in China's recent history.

Now, we're bringing in reinforcements... Foremost among these is our "US Navy Steam Launch" (USN012). Patrolling coastal waters, harbours and rivers as well as ferrying men and supplies between larger ships were the principal duties of these small "work-horses of the fleet".

First constructed at the turn-of-the-century these useful craft loyally served the U.S. Navy until well into WW2.

Our craft comes complete with a cox'n and a standing Lewis Gunner.

USMC002



Filling out the benches inside are a three-man Landing Party (USN013). Actually, the launch can accommodate two seated three-man sets as well as other standing figures.

"HERE COME THE MARINES"

Where the Navy goes so do the Marines! Ten heavily armed US Marines provide a little "extra muscle" and firepower for the American forces.

An Officer (USMC001) leads a Tommy-Gun toting Gunny Sergeant (USMC008)... a rifle-carrying Staff Sergeant (USMC006)... three different Marines with rifles (USMC004, 007 and 010)... one Marine with a shotgun (USMC002)... another with a Lewis Gun (USMC005)... a seated Marine with the Browning .30 cal machine gun and, finally... a Marine Pistol Marksman (USMC003).

All of these new pieces are suitable for the troubled era between the end of WW1 and the beginning and early stages of WW2 in the Pacific.

USMC001



USMC004



The Thompson submachine gun with its heavy firepower was a favourite weapon of the "China Marines".



THE CHINA MARINES

During the 1920's and 30's the U.S. Marines had a major presence in China and faced many unique challenges.

In the late twenties and early thirties their main challenge was protecting American lives and properties against marauding bandits and competing warlords. The Marines were involved in many of what today would be called "police actions".

By 1937 when the Japanese began an all-out war against China relations between Japan and the United States rapidly deteriorated. The "China Marines" themselves became the subject of a debate between different parts of the U.S. Government. Some wanted them removed in order to appease Japan... others wanted them to stand firm and remain to uphold American prestige and power in the region.

During this period 1937-1941 the Marines were stationed in several parts of North and Central China protecting American interests. Their largest single

detachment was the 4th. Marine Regiment, which had been billeted continuously in Shanghai since 1927. Their principal assignment was not only the American Concession within the greater International Settlement but also the Yangtze River valley as well. Often the marines would clash with local bandits

and warlords and even some rogue elements of the Nationalist Forces. All of these various factions seemed much happier fighting each other rather than taking on the invading (and far more dangerous) Japanese Army.

EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL

By mid 1940 however the Marines' situation in Shanghai was getting precarious... Although in the past other Western delegations could provide additional military support if necessary that had dramatically changed.

France had 4,000 troops in Shanghai but France had now fallen and the new Vichy regime was more pro German and unreliable. Italy meanwhile had 750 soldiers but, of course, their government was Fascist and allied to

Japan. That left the British, but after Dunkirk, most of their troops departed Shanghai.

As 1940 moved into 1941 the situation continued to deteriorate and finally the Marines were ordered to pull out. On November 28, 1941 the last US Marines with colours flying and band playing "Semper Paratus" marched down Nanking Road to Shanghai's dock side



USMC010

USMC006

USMC008



to board ship for Manila in the Philippines. Most of those "China Marines" would go on to fight valiantly in the doomed defence of the Philippine Islands. Many, alas, would die in action or in brutal Japanese captivity over the next 3 1/2 years... never to see the American again.



JOINING UP!

WHEN WE BEGAN The King & Country Collectors Club... a few years ago little did we realize exactly what direction it would go in!

We were also a little bit unsure what kind of figures we should design and release that would appeal to a wide range of international collectors... and so... we experimented...

Even now, we still experiment, however one aspect of the Club figure series has remained constant... we want each one to be unique and... very collectable.

Over the years we've produced Napoleonic Grenadiers... French Foreign Legion paratroopers... German Sailors... Indian Lancers... German Cossacks... Australian Diggers... and even the occasional "personality" piece.

THE LATEST ARRIVALS

Our two newest offerings are, we believe, two of the best... **Cofouel T.E. Lawrence** (CF022) the famous "Lawrence of Arabia" dressed in the uniform of senior British officer albeit wearing traditional Arab headgear. Lawrence is as he appeared at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 as a member of Prince Feisal's official delegation.

Although awarded a considerable number of medals Lawrence's uniform is decidedly plain and unadorned. The only colour comes from his Arab headdress which announced to the world exactly where his sympathies lay.

FIELD MARSHAL "BILL" SLIM

K&C's second new Club Figure is none other than a British Commander many consider to be the finest of WW2... **Field Marshal Sir William Slim** leader of Britain's XIVth Army in Burma between 1943 and 1945.

"Uncle Bill" as he was known affectionately to his troops was an outstanding tactician and leader who achieved great results with the minimum of battlefield losses. After the war, he had a long and distinguished career.

Our Club Figure shows "Uncle Bill" in a classic pose... legs apart... hands on bins and prominent chin jutting forward under his tropical slouch hat.

FUTURE SERIES...?

As many K&C collectors know we also like to use the Club figures to "test the waters" for any potential future range or series that we might envision.

It will be interesting to see just how popular these two very different soldiers fighting and leading two very different campaigns prove to be. **What do you think?**

We would like to hear from you...

THE BURMA STAR

This medal was awarded to all British and Empire soldiers who fought in the Burma Campaign.



CF022



Colonel T.E. Lawrence

HOW TO JOIN

If you are interested in joining simply click onto our King & Country website WWW.KINGANDCOUNTRY.COM or write to us for more details at... Suite 2301, 23/E, No.3 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong SAR CHINA

CF018



CF021



Madras Lancers

CF020



Australian Digger



Skinner's Horse Trooper

CF023



Field Marshal Slim

