

KING & COUNTRY'S

# EIGHTH ARMY



# DESERT WARRIORS

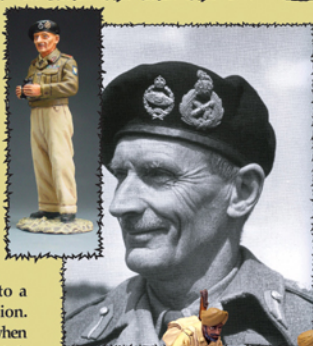
**EA012**  
"Best of  
Enemies"



**S**UMMER 1940... Virtually all of Western Europe has fallen... The British Army has escaped, by the skin of its teeth, from Dunkirk... Behind it, on the beaches, fields and roads of the French port city lie virtually all of Britain's tanks and most of its artillery. Elsewhere, Goering's Luftwaffe is about to launch its own aerial offensive against Britain as a prelude to a full-scale invasion.

Then, just when the British think the situation could not get much worse... The Italians attack Egypt!

**EA011**  
"Alex"



**EA008**  
Field Marshal  
Montgomery



Mussolini's orders to his troops were simple and clear, "Great Britain is finished... her North African Empire is virtually unprotected... our destiny demands we grasp it to our bosom. The world is watching... the Italian people expect it!"

With these stirring words still ringing in their ears more than 300,000 Italian troops marched from Libya into Egypt. With a ten-to-one numerical superiority over the opposing British forces a "walk-over" seemed a dead certainty.

## EARLY SUCCESS

At first the Italians swept all before them. In just four days they advanced almost 100km (60 miles) supported by

**EA014**  
Indian Machine  
Gun Set



**EA015**  
Returning Fire

**EA009**  
Advance Under Fire



swarms of aircraft and plenty of artillery and armour. And then... they stopped!

The British used this pause to reconnoiter the Italian positions and find the huge gaps that lay between the different enemy locations. Then utilizing their own meagre forces the

**EA017**  
**Major David Stirling**



British struck... here, there and everywhere. Soon, the Italians were reeling *and*, over estimating the numbers of attackers, began to fall back in ever increasing numbers.

What began as an orderly withdrawal soon degenerated into a disorganized rout!

Rapidly Mussolini's soldiers were ejected from Egypt with the British following close on their heels into Libya. A whole string of coastal port

**EA018**  
**'The Watchers'**



fell into British hands—El Adem... Tobruk... Benghazi and finally... El Agheila.

In a few short months a potentially desperate situation for the British had been reversed into a stunning series of military victories... Hundreds of enemy tanks...

**EA025**  
**SAS**  
**'Recce' Jeep**



**EA024**  
**LRDG 30cwt. Chevrolet**  
**(Camouflaged)**



**EA023**  
**LRDG 30cwt. Chevrolet**  
**(Uncamouflaged)**



even more artillery and... over 130,000 Italian soldiers had been destroyed, killed or captured.

For Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, the humiliation was complete. However, desperate though the situation was, help was about to come his way in the shape of... General Erwin Rommel and the

first advance elements of what would become known as...

*The AFRIKA KORPS!*

## **ENTER THE FOX**

WITH THE ITALIANS in retreat in Libya, the Axis forces needed a genius to swing the battle in their favour. Lt. General Erwin Rommel (1891-1944)

*Field Marshall*  
*Harold*  
*Alexander*



**EA019**  
**'The Imposter'**



was that genius and he rapidly earned his nickname... *'The Desert Fox'*. Rommel was a soldier who believed in two things—rapid action and leading from the front!

Within weeks of arriving in North Africa the German general was already planning to counter-attack the British.

On March 24, 1941, Rommel launched his first assault on the



## EA020

## The Attackers

British forward positions at El Agheila. Using three separate mechanized columns he attacked the British frontally... also on their southern flank and in a wide outflanking move in their rear to trap the retreating troops.

For the next 18 months the German and Italian forces were in the ascendant. A rapid succession of British commanders came, saw and were defeated by Rommel's superb battlefield skills and his expert use of the limited forces he had at his disposal. During this time the battlefield spread across the Western Desert, sweeping back and forth as Rommel's Afrika Korps ran out of supplies and were forced to withdraw. As the British advanced they fell into expert traps Rommel had set and then they

EA021  
On Guard

too were forced back and the Afrika Korps moved forward once more.

During this same period the British, unlike their opponents, were steadily building up their forces... all they lacked was a general of Rommel's calibre.

\*Hitler's preoccupation with the Russian Front made it

Africa was  
diversion!

just a petty

## EA030

Eighth Army  
Tank Riders

## AT LAST... A LEADER!

In August 1942, the British finally found a general who was aggressive, determined and had the ability to inspire his men... Bernard Law Montgomery.

## EA028

## Desert Stretcher Party

virtually impossible for Rommel to get all of the men... material... and supplies needed to guarantee a German victory. For the Führer... North



## EA022

## SAS Mortar Team



## EA029

## Crusader Tank



# PARADE

EA026

"Monty" as he became known was not the first choice to lead Britain's desert forces—the Eighth Army. His chosen predecessor had been killed when his aircraft was shot down by German fighters.

However, as soon as he was appointed he began to make his present felt... Incompetent officers were either sacked or demoted... more able ones promoted and practical realistic battlefield training was stepped up.



**Black Watch  
Pipes & Drums**

EA031(1SL)

**Churchill & His Generals  
(Strictly Limited)**



**EA034  
Saluting Gurkha  
Officer**

**EA035  
Standing Gurkha  
Soldier**

down to just 35 panzers and less than 30 Italian tanks.

"Monty" put his own losses at a little over 13,500 with about 600 of his own tanks "knocked-out" of which 350 were repairable.

"Monty" also believed in getting to know his troops and for them to get to know him. He exuded confidence and inspired both devotion and determination in his men.

"Rommel and his Afrika Korps were", he firmly declared "going to be soundly defeated and thrashed by himself and the Eighth Army!" No ifs... but... or and... it was a foregone conclusion. Needless to say his men loved it.

## **VICTORY AT EL ALAMEIN**

On October 23, 1942,  
a thousand-gun

artillery barrage announced the beginning of the Eighth Army's offensive at a little Egyptian railhead called... El Alamein.

Many weeks of detailed preparation had gone into ensuring that the British had an overwhelming superiority in men, tanks, artillery and aircraft.

Montgomery left nothing to chance.

Within days, after bitter fighting, the German line began to crack and they began an orderly withdrawal.

By the end of a week 50,000 men, almost half of Rommel's force, had been killed, wounded or captured. The Afrika Korps was



**EA036  
Indian  
Army Officer**



**EA037  
Sikh Indian  
Soldier**



**EA032  
Saluting Scottish Officer**



**EA033  
Presenting Arms Scottish Soldier**

church bells to be rung in celebration. This great desert victory was a major turning point not only for the British but for the whole Allied cause.

**EA026(B)**



**Pipe Major**



*Led by the Pipes & Drums of the Black Watch (EA026) the Prime Minister's Staff Car passes by men from Scotland, England, India, Nepal and Australia*

**EA026(C)**



**Piper**

**EA026(D)**



**Big Drummer**

**EA026(E)**



**Bass Drummer**

**EA026(F)**



**Side Drummer**

**EA026(A)**



**Drum Major**

**EA038**  
**Guards Sergeant**



**EA039**  
**Guardsman**  
**Shoulder Arms**



# HARD KORPS!

**AK043**  
Marching AK Corporal

**AK048**  
Marching AK Rifleman



**AK037**  
Opel Blitz Truck  
(Afrika Korps Version)



**AK044**



**AK045**



**AK044**  
AK Vehicle Passengers  
(3-man set)

**AK045**  
AK Vehicle Passengers  
(2-man set)



**AK041**  
Marching AK Officer



**AK042**  
Marching  
AK Sergeant

**S**INCE 2002 King & Country has produced almost 50 different sets of figures and fighting vehicles portraying Erwin Rommel's famed AFRIKA KORPS in miniature.

These have proved incredibly popular with collectors all over the world who are interested in a campaign that was fought cleanly by the soldiers of both sides.

At present our existing Afrika Korps sets are eagerly awaiting fresh reinforcements of additional infantry in action and, most importantly, extra armour... Don't worry they are both on their way!



**AK049**  
AK Tank Riders Set



**AK040**  
Afrika Korps Panzer IV

KING & COUNTRY'S

# AFRIKA KORPS



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