

KING & COUNTRY'S

Remember **THE ALAMO**



THE BUILDING we now call "The Alamo" was, in fact, just part of a walled compound originally named the "Mission San Antonio de Valero". It served as home to Spanish missionaries and their Indian converts for almost seventy years.

Building on the mission began in 1724... By 1793, the Spanish Government had decided to secularize this mission along with four others in and around San Antonio and to distribute their lands to local Indian converts.

Sometime in the first decade of the 1800's, the Spanish military established a small garrison of cavalry at the former mission. These troopers originally from *Alamo de Parras* in Coahuila province "christened" their new post "The Alamo" in honour of their own hometown.

San Antonio and the Alamo remained a fairly quiet backwater for many years until the events of 1835 and the Texas Revolution.

THE FLAME OF REBELLION

In December, 1835 a group of Texian and Tejano volunteers attacked the Mexican troops garrisoned in the city. After five days of house-to-house fighting they forced General Cos and his troops to surrender.

The victorious volunteers then took over the Alamo... previously fortified by Cos and his men... and began to strengthen its defences.

Just two months later on February 23, 1836 a much larger Mexican Army led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna arrived on the outskirts of San Antonio. Determined to avenge Cos' humiliation and deal the rebels a crushing blow Santa Anna lost no time in laying siege to the

RTA033A

James Butler Bonham, SC
(with 1824 Republic Flag)



little mission and its handful of defenders. An almost constant cannonade — day and night followed together with a series of probing infantry assaults to assess the defenders' strengths and, more importantly, weaknesses.

"WHO WERE THE DEFENDERS?"

Although the men defending the Alamo were few they came from almost every corner of the then United States and from even further afield... England, Scotland, Ireland, even Germany and Denmark!

They were led by a young lawyer from South Carolina — William B. Travis. Among their number was the renowned knife fighter, Jim Bowie and a former congressman and frontiersman from Tennessee, David Crockett. In all there were less than 200 men and they were prepared to sell their lives dearly... they had no choice.

Not long after Santa Anna invested San Antonio he ordered his troops to hoist the red flag of "no quarter" so the Alamo defenders were under no false illusions as to what their intended fate might be.

Still they remained...

THE FINAL ASSAULT

In the early hours of March 6, the thirteenth day of the siege, before daybreak, columns of Mexican soldiers rose to their feet and silently marched towards the Alamo's walls. For the first time in many days and nights the continuous artillery bombardment had ceased... Most of the defenders lay asleep and those on guard duty were lulled into a drowsy wakefulness.

Suddenly out of the predawn darkness a lone Mexican infantryman cried out, "Viva Santa Anna!". In an instant the Alamo's forward pickets were overrun and the defenders aroused themselves from sleep to find the Mexican Army almost at the walls!

Cannon and musket fire from inside the Mission beat back several assaults. However, regrouping, the Mexicans brought up their scaling ladders and forced, by sheer weight of numbers, their way onto the north wall of the defence perimeter. The few defenders holding this area were soon killed or driven off the parapet in vicious hand-to-hand fighting. It was here, on the North Wall, that the Alamo's commander, Colonel Travis is believed to have fallen... fatally wounded.

THE LAST DESPERATE FIGHT

Mexican troops now poured over and into the compound... As they advanced the defenders retreated into the Long Barracks and the old chapel itself. In control of the parapets now Mexican soldiers turned around the Texian cannon and began to



Most of the Alamo's defenders carried their own choice of weapons - axes... knives... pistols and, of course, particularly the Kentucky Long Rifle.



blast their way into the defenders last refuge. A desperate struggle now ensued until, finally, the last of the rebels was overwhelmed. As dawn broke Santa Anna himself entered the Alamo to inspect his bloody victory. Some reports state that apart from some women and children, who were spared, there were five or so volunteers who were captured wounded but still alive. These same reports mention that a tall man named Crockett was among the survivors - Santa Anna had all them put to death with sword and bayonet!

THE LASTING LEGACY

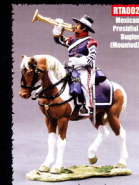
While some of the facts surrounding the Battle of the Alamo remain contentious there is no argument about what the siege has come to represent...

All over the world people remember the Alamo as a doomed, heroic struggle against tyranny and over-whelming odds... a battle and a place where a few brave men paid the "ultimate price" for freedom. For this reason alone America and the rest of the world will forever "Remember The Alamo".

RTA001
General
Santa Anna
(Mounted)



Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna (1794-1876)
A general at just 27 years of age and President of Mexico no less than eleven times between 1833 and 1855, Santa Anna dominated Mexican politics for over 35 years. Possessed of great charm and charisma he was also proud... ruthless and totally amoral in the pursuit of power.



RTA002
Mexican
Presidential
Bugler
(Mounted)

"Viva Santa Anna!"

THE MEXICAN ARMY

Following independence from Spain, the Mexican Army was reorganized into three types of soldiers - The Regulars... the Active Militia or "Milicia Activa" and ... the Civic Militia or "Milicia Civica".



RTA003
Mexican Presidential Lancer (Mounted)

In 1825 British consular officials reckoned the actual strength of the army to be around 30,000 strong... although the

Mexican Minister of War had plans to double that number.

Many of the arms (and even uniforms) for the army

were purchased (with loans from British banks)



RTA005
Mexican
Flagbearer

from Napoleonic era surplus stocks from Britain itself.

In spite of all of this, the Army was still ill-equipped and poorly clothed at the time of the Texas rebellion.



RTA006
Mexican Drummer



RTA007
Mexican
Pioneer

RTA004
Mexican
Officer
w/ Sword



RTA008
Mexican
Kneeling
Firing



RTA012
Mexican
Infantryman Marching

Although many of the enlisted men were recruited by force they could prove to be tough, reliable and brave... if well led.



RTA009
Mexican
Standing
Firing



That was the problem - the army's principal weakness was its officers. The Generals were too caught up in political intrigue and corruption. The Regimental and Battalion officers although often physically brave were sadly lacking in even the basic military knowledge and skills.

It is then remarkable that considering all of these significant limitations, the army fought as well as it did...

For many years there has been disagreement about the actual number of Mexican troops who fought at the Alamo. Most experts agree that

RTA029
Mexican
Advancing
w/ Rifle



RTA013
Wounded Mexican



RTA010
Running
Mexican



RTA030
Mexican Artillery



RTA01A Standing Mexican (No Moustache)

RTA01B



the likely size of Santa Anna's force was between 2,800 and 4,000 men... and that around 600 were killed during the assault.

Whatever the actual number the defenders were certainly well outnumbered!

RTA031
Mexican
Artillery Officer



RTA01B

Standing Mexican (with Moustache)

VICTORY OR DEATH!

RTA034

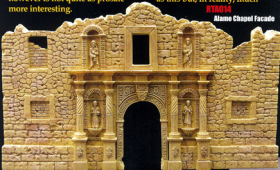
Bowie's Last Battle



THE DEFENDERS of *The Alamo*, in popular myth, are often portrayed as a collection of coonskin-cap, buckskin-clad frontiersmen perpetually looking for a fight... The truth however is not quite as prosaic as this but, in reality, much more interesting.

RTA014

Alamo Chapel facade



The men who fought and died at the Alamo were fairly typical representatives of the America of 1836... former soldiers, sailors, farmers, clerks, storekeepers, a few lawyers, a doctor or two and, of course, those frontiersmen.

RTA015

Davy Crockett, TN



The clothes they wore reflected their backgrounds - mostly civilian... some uniforms and a few in buckskin.

Their weapons were as motley as their appearance - most were fortunate in having American-made long rifles... others made do with British and French muskets.

Nearly all carried some kind of knife or axe... a lucky few even had bayonets for their muskets. In addition some of the wealthier defenders carried a brace of pistols to add to their firepower.

RTA016 Jesse B. Bowman, TN



WHERE THEY CAME FROM...

A small number of these men were Texas-born and those were mostly "Tejano" or Texans of Mexican/ Spanish descent. The remainder came from all over the United States and from overseas - many from Great Britain.

As a garrison they were a fairly disparate (as well as desperate) bunch. A multitude of reasons brought them to Texas and the Alamo. Some sought adventure and a new beginning... others came to seek their fortune and for personal gain. Most however came to fight for liberty and for the promise and opportunities that Texas offered in abundance.

All of them, in the end, came together to defend, to the death, Texas and its freedom from the tyranny of Santa Anna.

All of them would meet their end at a little mission called... "The Alamo".

RTA017



Robert Allen, MA

RTA018

William Johnson, PA



RTA019
Col. William B
Travis, SC



THE THREE IMMORTALS

Of all the heroes who fought and died at "The Alamo" there are three whose fame has spread far and wide. James "Jim" Bowie, William B. Travis and, of course, Davy Crockett.

RTA020

Dolphin Ward
Troy, NC



Colonel James Bowie

Adventurer... entrepreneur... duelist... and land speculator. Bowie was already famous, even notorious, long before his "Alamo" battle. His design of the fighting knife named after him became a "classic" and literally helped him carve his reputation in history. He was said to be a courteous even tempered man whose quiet

RTA023

Juan Seguin, TX



RTA024

John Forsyth, NY



RTA026

James Davis, LA



Lt. Colonel William B. Travis

Just 27 years old at his death he hailed from South Carolina and by profession was a lawyer. Somewhat flamboyant in appearance he had a tendency to

dramatise events but was unwavering in his beliefs and loyalties. He could also be an abrasive character and initially conflicted with Bowie, however they settled their differences and met the same ultimate fate on the morning of March 6, 1836.

RTA028 John Davis, KY



RTA021

Joseph Korr, LA



RTA022

John
McGregor
Scotland



bearing belied his lethal skill with his knife.

Legend has it that he was seriously ill during the siege but still fought to the bitter end.

RTA027

Juan A. Badillo, TX



William B.
Carey, VA

RTA032

Texas Artillery



Tapley
Holland, OH

"Davy" Crockett

The most famous frontiersman of his day he established a great reputation as a hunter... Indian fighter... wit and general good all-round character. Some reports suggest that Crockett was captured however it's much more likely that he died fighting...

RTA038

James Butler
Bonham, SC
Twelfth Texas
State Fligi



THE LEGEND LIVES ON

With these latest King & Country additions the heroic battle of the Alamo continues more than 17 decades after the heroic event itself.

Today, the Alamo serves as a shrine to Texas independence and a beacon of inspiration to visitors as well as film-makers. More than a dozen feature films have been made... with the 1960 John Wayne directed epic "The Alamo" being the best known and most popular.

In San Antonio itself King & Country's own "Kings X" toy soldier store is located just one hundred yards from the Alamo in the historic "Menger Hotel" on Alamo Plaza. There you can see a giant 24 square foot diorama of the battle.

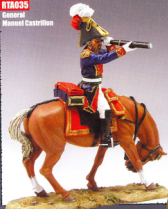
The remaining structures with the world-famous chapel and its facade lie at the very heart of San Antonio -- both literally and figuratively.

Expert guides, first class displays, a small park and an excellent gift shop provides visitors with plenty of information and souvenirs about the battle. During any visit to Texas and San Antonio

RTA035

General

Manuel Castillon



it is one location not to be missed.

THE ALAMO TODAY

In the years since 1836 countless songs, stories and

myths have grown up about the Alamo and its defenders.

More recently up-to-date research has been able to paint a fuller and much more detailed picture of the battle and the men (and women) on both sides. All of that has contributed greatly to the historical accuracy of K&C's "Remember The Alamo" series.

Might I also whole-heartedly suggest a reading of author Stephen Harrigan's "The Gates of the Alamo"... the best novel I have read on the events leading up to and including the battle itself. Simply superb!

Andy C. Neilson

Andy C. Neilson

Co-founder & Creative Director
King & Country



RTA036Mexican Soldier
Scaling w/ Ladder

K&C's newest additions
bear witness to those last
desperate moments...

AFTER THE BATTLE

Though the fighting
lasted just over thirty
minutes, the killing went on

RTA037Wounded
Mexican
Soldier

for almost an hour. Mexican soldiers
continued to hunt and search for Alamo
fugitives in and around the old mission.
During the fight about fifty defenders
had made a break for the surrounding
town and countryside. All of these men
were rounded up and killed where

RTA038James McGee, Ireland
Fighting Bear #1**KING & COUNTRY HEADQUARTERS**

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The Final Battle...

Before dawn on the morning of March 6, 1836 four columns of
about 500 men each began silently to move towards the
Alamo's outer walls...

As the first scaling ladders were placed against the walls
several shots rang out which instantly alerted the exhausted
garrison. Although cannon and musket fire tore gaping holes in
the Mexican ranks the "soldados" soon began to pour over
the walls.

The first breakthrough came at the north wall... then
the southwest corner gave way. Within minutes the battle
broke down into dozens of fierce hand-to-hand struggles.

RTA039

Naval Cannon & Musket Set

William
Wells, GAGeorge W.
Tumlinson, MO

they were found. Any wounded
defenders inside the Alamo were
brutally put to death there... and
then. Finally a small group of about
5 or 6 (including it is rumored Dacy
Crockett himself) were brought
before Santa Anna.

"I do not wish to see these men
alive... kill them!" was his order.

RTA035General
Manuel
Castrillon**RTA042**

Mrs. Dickinson & Daughter

**RTA040**James
Buchanan, AL

Only a few women and
children were spared and one
black slave, Joe, whose

RTA041Andrew
Kent, KY

Fighting Bear #2

master was Colonel
William Travis. Mrs.
Susanna Dickinson and
her infant daughter
were also among the
few survivors.

RTA003Mexican Presidential
Lancer (Mounted)**KING & COUNTRY SHOP**

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