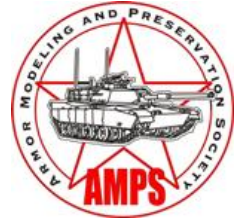




Sabot Away!



AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

Volume 12, Issue 8

August 17, 2008



From the Turret



2nd Tank Battalion "Masters of the Iron Horse" - Ace in the Hole. USMC.

After being chained to your workbench for three months, I bet you're eager to go anywhere for a show. Well, here are two events you don't want to miss in September: IPMS/Fort Worth's SuperCon on the 13th and ASMS's Annual Show on the 27th. I have always enjoyed SuperCon. It's not a big show, but it's

always well attended by both vendors and modelers. I plan on going with my usual entourage, and I hope I'll see you all there.

This year ASMS decided to move their annual show to the fall, and this sure has given us more time to get our models ready. (Are you ready, my friend?) Just in case you haven't heard, AABS is entering a club entry in the collection category titled "**Road to Berlin,**" and we are asking every member to participate with at least one of his WWII armor models. Subject and scale do not matter, but we prefer Allied and 1/35th scale. For more information, please contact **Worth Haggerton**.



4th Tank Battalion "53 Days" - USMC.

He is the man to talk to for this project.

Speaking of shows, it's time to start planning for ours in 2009. With the upcoming remodeling of the Museum at

Special points of interest:

- A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM COALITION FORCES.
- ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION TO BE HELD AT SEPTEMBER MEETING.
- PANZER GUNNER BOOK REVIEW
- ACADMEY REVISED SUSPENSION PARTS COUPON FOR LEE / GRANT KITS

Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM COALITION FORCES	3
ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION TO BE HELD AT SEPTEMBER	3
PANZER GUNNER BOOK REVIEW	4
ACADMEY REVISED SUSPENSION PARTS COUPON FOR LEE / GRANT KITS	8
NEW KITS	9

Austin Armor Builders Society Membership Dues

Dues are collected in January. This will make it easier for us to track and easier to maintain the membership cards.

As always, membership is \$12.00 USD per year. The membership cards will be presented to members at the January meeting.

The card will be valid for one year and a new card will be created each year as long as your club membership is in good standing.

New members will be given a card after they pay their dues. Dues will be prorated based on the month they join.



Sabot Away!

From the Turret - Continued

“SO NEXT TIME WHEN SOMEONE CRITICIZES YOU FOR BUILDING YET ANOTHER “BORING” ARMOR MODEL, SURPRISE HIM OR HER WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR MODELING SKILL. “



Troy Ogilvie, a Pearl Harbor veteran of World War II embraces a Marine at a Memorial Day event. Photograph by Military.com

meeting.

Don't forget the program for September is our **Annual Auction**. Bring *beaucoup* of kits and money. By the order of this president, nobody, and I mean nobody, is allowed to go home empty-handed!

von Erich (Eric Choy)

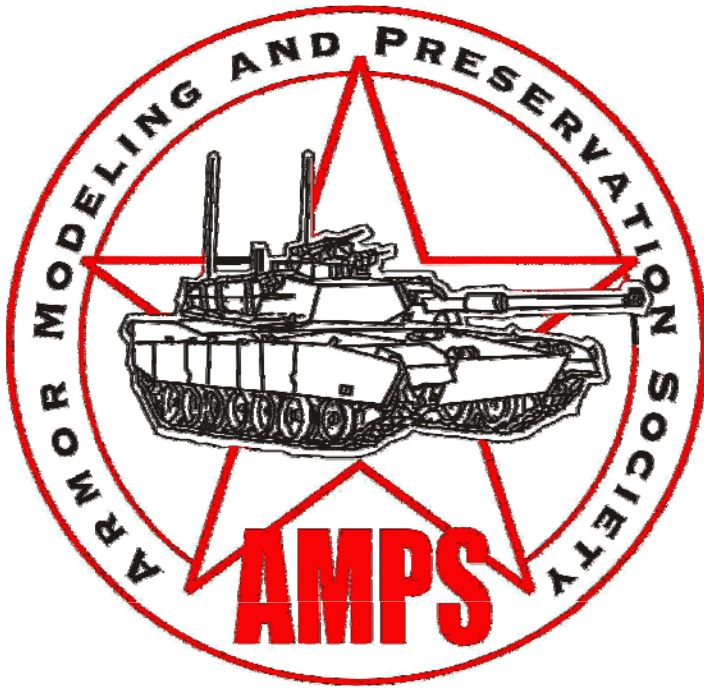
Camp Mabry, I anticipate there'll be tons of work and obstacles to overcome. We might as well start now so it'll be less painful down the road. Two important issues we need to decide first are

the **Show Theme** and the **Commander in Charge (CIC)** of the event. If possible, I would like to settle them as early as possible, so please give them some thoughts between now and the next

Calendar of Events

- ◆ **September 3, 2008** - Club Meeting; **Annual Club Auction**.
- ◆ **September 27, 2008** - Austin Scale Modelers Society Show
- ◆ **October 1, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Worth Haggerton**
- ◆ **November 5, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Ted Paone**
- ◆ **December 3, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **Bob Bethea / Quarterly Contest (TBD)**
- ◆ **December 6, 2008** - Club Christmas Party
- ◆ **January 7, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **John Hernandez**
- ◆ **February 4, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ◆ **March 4, 2009** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ◆ **April 1, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**
- ◆ **April 17-18, 2009** - *AMPS International Convention, Havre de Grace, Maryland*
- ◆ **May 6, 2008** - Club Meeting; Seminar: **TBD**

A Special request from Coalition Forces



By Roderick Bell

A special request from our Coalition Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan: M1 Tank kits and modeling supplies.

The AMPS organization has

sent over 1500 model kits to the coalition forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of you have already donated kits to this cause and we thank you.

This is the first time the Soldiers and Marines have

asked us for kits and supplies. They are looking for M1 Abrams kits, Hummers, Strykers, Bradley's, sanding sticks, paint brushes, cement, and acrylic paint, and M1 Abrams tank kits. ☺

You can send the kits to the following AMPS representative (2009 show chair):

John Gazzola

188 Laurel Point Road

Dayville, CT 06241-1522

(860) 617-1413

Jgazzola12@aol.com

Or you could bring the kits to the club meetings and I can send them to John. Again, these guys want to model their ride.

Roderick Bell

2nd Vice-President AMPS, US Central Region

“THE AMPS ORGANIZATION HAS SENT OVER 1500 MODEL KITS TO THE COALITION FORCES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.”

Annual Club Auction to be held at September Meeting



By Roderick Bell

This is a friendly reminder that we will be having our annual club auction at the September 3, 2008 meeting. This is the clubs primary fund

raising event and we have done very well in the past.

There are two ways you can help with the auction:

1. Donate your kits you don't want or can't build or buy a few new kits.
2. Bring your cash and or checkbook to the meeting and buy a few kits.

If everyone would do this we could raise quite a bit of money for the club. All proceeds are for the club treas-

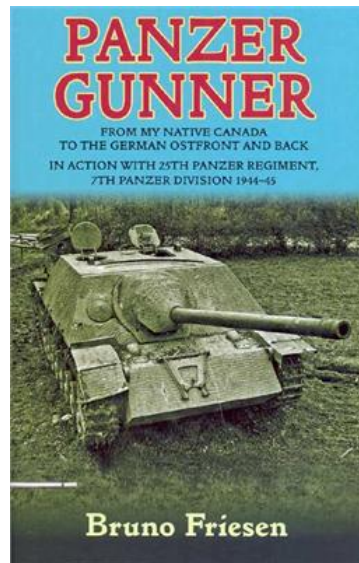
ury and it is usually put to our biennial AMPS Centex show.

So, bring in your kits and bring your cash and bring a friend to the September Meeting.

Roderick Bell

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Panzer Gunner Book Review



“BORN IN MANITOBA TO MENNONITE PARENTS IMMIGRATED FROM UKRAINE, BRUNO FRIESEN GREW UP IN KITCHENER, A QUIET SUBURB OF TORONTO, LEADING THE LIFE OF AN AVERAGE CANADIAN BOY.”

By Eric Choy

PANZER GUNNER

*From My Native Canada To
The German Ostfront and
Back*

*In Action With 25th Panzer
Regiment, 7th Panzer Division
1944-45*

By

Bruno Friesen

Helion & Company

\$49.95, ISBN-13:
9781906033118

Born in Manitoba to Mennonite parents immigrated from Ukraine, Bruno Friesen grew up in Kitchener, a quiet suburb of Toronto, leading the life of an average Canadian boy. Two months before his fourteenth birthday in March 1939, his teenage life in *Amerika* came to an abrupt end; his pro-German parents decided a better future awaited them in the Third

Reich, and Friesen was sent away to Germany along with his brother. Thus begins this unique story of a Canadian fighting for Nazi Germany in WWII.

Upon his arrival in Germany, Friesen found himself a stranger in the new “old world.” He had never been outside of Canada, and the few German words he knew were learned from Sunday School back in Kitchener. After a brief stay with his foster parents in a farmhouse, Friesen reunited with his family in Wilhelmshaven and started an apprenticeship as an electrician.

In November 1942, Friesen was drafted into the German Army. After receiving training as a tank driver, he was sent to the seaport of Trieste as part of the occupation forces when Italy sided with the Allies. Aside from guard duties, the only action Friesen saw there was in the brothel. The good life, however, did not last long. In late 1943, his unit, 25th Panzer Regiment, part of the 7th Panzer Division (*Heer*), was deployed to the Eastern Front. During the next twelve months, Friesen, now a Panzer IV gunner, was fighting delay actions against Soviet tank units in Romania and Lithuania. His performance in Lithuania earned him the Tank Battle Badge (Silver) and the first of his two Iron Crosses.

By early 1945, Friesen was already a hardened veteran with a number of T-34/85

and IS-2 kills. Much of the fighting of his regiment was relegated to ambushes and counterattacks in Prussia. During one of these actions in March, his tank, a late war Jagdpanzer IV, was disabled by an anti-tank mine, and while escaping on foot, he was wounded by a mortar round. He spent a month in a military hospital in Altenburg, and by the time he recovered, the war was over.

After the war, Friesen found work as a mail courier/interpreter/translator in the British Sector. Meanwhile, he repeatedly applied to the Canadian Consulate for his return to Canada. His effort took him five years, and he was finally able to return home to Kitchener in 1950.

Reading Friesen’s autobiography *Panzer Gunner* is both enjoyable and a bit puzzling. I like the way he augments his wartime travels and battles with the official history of the 7th Panzer Division for authentication. While I have no doubt about his whereabouts during the war, I have reservations on his assessment of the Panzer IV and his seemingly invincible panzer regiment. If the Panzer IV was so mighty and superior to the Soviet T-34/85, how come the Germans still bothered to develop the Panther and Tiger tanks? Isn’t it a bit strange that fuel and ammunition shortages in the late war years are never mentioned in the book? Finally, is it a fact or just the author’s

Panzer Gunner Book Review - Continued

“cherry-picking” that every tank engagement he elects to mention in his book always ends with the Germans as the victors?

Throughout the book Friesen never complains about his parents’ decision of relocating to Germany. Nor does he resent his days of fighting with his German comrades. However, he occasionally does show his distaste towards Nazi ideologies and propagandas. With the exception of an episode of a fellow panzer crewman threatening a Russian farmer with a pistol, the book is devoid of any mention of mistreatment of the civilians by the German invaders. Maybe the 25th Panzer Regiment was exceptionally gentlemanly, or maybe it is a sensitive subject the author tries to avoid getting into, I feel his stories are somewhat “white-washed” for the fainthearted readers.

Aside from his war stories, Friesen includes much technical information on the tanks he fought in and with. Some of them are quite interesting, such as the chapter on panzer gunnery and the blind spots of a panzer, while the rest post no surprise to any armor modeler like me. Obviously influenced by “zee” Germans’ bureaucratic tendency, the author kept every single piece of *Wehrmacht* document that has his name on it, and he put them all to good use in the book. The same thing, however, cannot be said about the photos in this book. Other than his teenage

and family pictures, only a handful of photos of him in uniform are present, and none of them shows any of the tanks he was assigned to. Instead, the interior and exterior shots of Panzer IV and Jagdpanzer IV are all taken from the archive of The Tank Museum (Bovington, UK).

Panzer Gunner is really not a bad book per se, and Friesen’s life story is truly unique and fascinating. But I can’t help the feeling of watching a wartime newsreel while reading his book; everything in it is filtered and sanitized. Not bad for a light read I suppose, but if you want the “reality show” version of the war on the Eastern Front with all the blood and gore, I suggest you look elsewhere.

Many thanks to my friend Phil Marson for sending me this book.

Eric Choy

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Academy Revised Suspension Parts Coupon For Lee / Grant kits

By **Bob Bethea**

I was reading on Missing-Lynx.com about a deal that MRC is offering to people who have purchased the M3 Lee "Bolted Hull" (Kit No. 13206) and the M3 Grant (Kit No. 13212). MRC Academy will send you a new

sprue with the **CORRECTED** Bogies that everyone has been complaining about. These were handed out at the IPMS Nationals earlier this month.

They also have a coupon (see below) to print out or you can see here on their website:

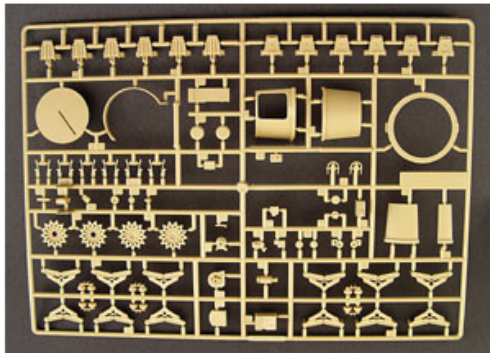
<http://www.modelrec.com/plastic-models/spruecrew.asp>.

They mention about reserving the right to suspend this offer at anytime. So, hurry up. I sent off for mine. 😊

Bob Bethea

Revised Suspension Parts Coupon

New Suspension Parts for Kit #13206 M3 Lee and Kit #13212 M3 Grant tanks by Academy Model Company.



Please print out this coupon along with a proof of purchase (UPC bar code or sales receipt) and mail them to Model Rectifier Corp., Attn Customer Service Dept. M3 Offer, 80 Newfield Ave., Edison, NJ 08837.
No email orders will be accepted.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

_____ for kit 13206 M3 Lee "Bolted Hull"

_____ for kit 13212 M3 Grant

Maximum of 2 trees per customer.

MRC reserves the right to suspend this off at anytime.

Please note: Due to international restrictions, this offer is for USA customers only! Please contact the Academy distributor in your country

New Kits

By Roderick Bell

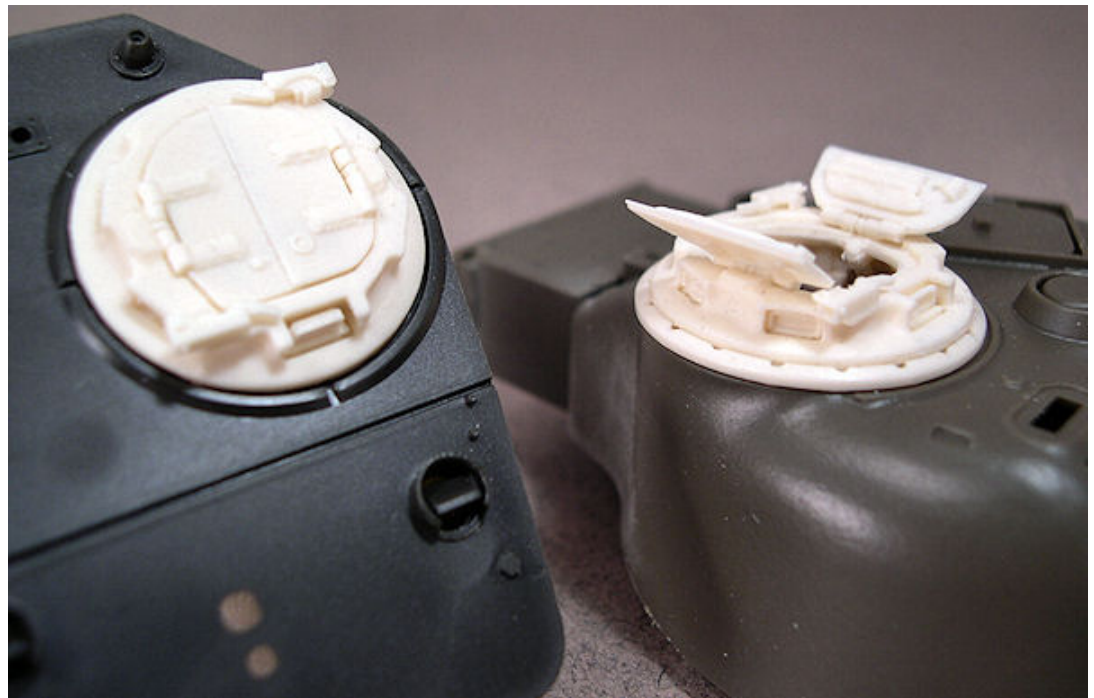
Here are a few more new kits that have recently arrived or will arrive later this summer.

The **AFV Club** Stryker M1128 MGS (Mobile Gun System) in 1:35th scale (Kit No: AF35128) should be reaching hobby shops and mail order vendors this September. This kit represents the Stryker variant that will provide Gun support to the Stryker Brigades that are now deployed in the United States Army.

Formations has released a 1:35th scale British Vision Cupola (with an adapter for the Sherman). This cupola can be seen on late war Cromwells, Churchills, Comets, and as mentioned above Commonwealth Shermans.



AFV Club's long awaited Stryker M1128 Mobile Gun System (MGS) in 1:35th scale will be available in September.



Formations 1:35th scale British Vision Cupola with adapter for Sherman. This kit has 20 parts with interior detail, positional hatches, inner and outer periscope parts, and adapter ring to fit Sherman turrets. This can be used on Churchills, Comets, Late Cromwells, and Commonwealth Shermans. Photograph provide by Formations.



Seek, Strike, and Destroy

AUSTIN ARMOR BUILDERS SOCIETY

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The Austin Armor Builders Society is an organization where members gather and share information on building scale armor and figure kits. The Austin Armor Builders Society was founded in 1997 and has about 25 active members. The Austin Armor Builders Society is the local chapter for the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS). Every two years the organization host an AMPS Regional show known as AMPS Centex. This show attracts armor and figure modelers from around the state of Texas and is one of the Premier AMPS Regional shows.

We are on the web: AustinArmorBuilders.com

Support our Troops



A US Army (USA) M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank (MBT) is marshaled away from the aircraft, after being offloaded from a US Air Force (USAF) C-17A Globemaster III aircraft at Balad Air Base (AB), Iraq, during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

DoD Photograph by TSGT Keith Brown, USAF Date Shot: 28 Apr 2004